

Committed to Clark Institute

Doris Jones found innocent

Doris Jones has been found not guilty by reason of insanity in the fiery deaths of her son and mother-in-law April 13. She will be detained at the Clark Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto for an undetermined period of time.

Mrs. Jones was charged with two counts of murder after the two victims, Brian, 10, and Blodwin Mary Jones, 82, perished in a house fire at R.R. 4, Acton.

Since her arrest, Mrs. Jones has undergone extensive psychiatric examination at the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital and the Clark Institute.

The Honorable Mr. Justice Lawrence Pennell described the case as "unusual." He said for the first time in his 12 years on the bench, he was voicing agreement with the jury's verdict.

After listening to statements by two top psychiatrists, confirming the fact Mrs. Jones was extremely mentally ill at the time of the fire, and is still a sick woman, the Ontario Supreme Court jury of six men and six women deliberated for

only 10 minutes before making their decision.

Mrs. Jones sobbed silently throughout the trial which lasted only a few hours last Wednesday in Milton. She dabbed her eyes continuously while Constable Bruce Richards, of the Halton Regional Police, was questioned by James Treleaven, counsel for the crown.

After speaking to over 50 witnesses, Richards said he was able to piece together the last few weeks before the fire, including leading up to the explosion in the house.

In the early part of April Mrs. Jones purchased five two gallon gasoline containers from the Canadian Tire Store in Acton, becoming very "upset" when there were not the proper amount on the shelves, he said. That same week she also purchased more containers at Acton Home Hardware.

One week before the fire, Mrs. Jones had a will drawn up at the law office of Chapman and Mackenzie, making her oldest son Alan, of Tor-

onto, her only heir, Richards testified.

Further investigation revealed, he said, that on April 11, two days before the fatal blaze, Mrs. Jones stopped at L & L Ford and had all the containers filled with gas. The next day, she visited Robertson's Flower Shop and purchased three carnations, and told the salesclerk she had to buy her own flowers because no one else would. She then returned to her farm.

At 10.30 that same evening, the accused's husband, William David Jones left for work at the Canadian General Electric plant in Toronto, where he worked the night shift. When questioned by Mr. Treleaven, Richards testified there was no way Mr. Jones could have returned to the farm house that night. Interviews with other employees and security revealed he was at work the entire time.

Mr. Jones has since died, the victim of carbene monoxide poisoning in his van in Toronto this summer.

With her husband gone, the officer continued, she put two containers between the house and barn and more in the house. She then sat down and wrote letters to close friends and relatives, explaining that Brian was dead and she herself was going to end it all. After leaving the house to mail the letters, Mrs. Jones parked her Jeep station wagon sideways in the driveway between a tree and a fence. Richards noted the driveway was one quarter mile long and the vehicle was parked half way up. When firefighters arrived on the scene, they were unable to get up the laneway to extinguish the flames until the vehicle was moved.

Mrs. Jones then placed a note on the windshield of the Jeep saying the family had gone to Brampton for the Easter holiday and there was no one in the house.

At 1.47 a.m., April 13, Mrs. Jones telephoned a friend and spoke to him for 16 minutes. She spoke of the good times the couple had had together

and how she couldn't take it (the situation at home) any longer. She told him she was "going to end it all." Richards said she was very depressed at this time.

At 4.15 a.m., Grant Van Gills was driving north on Highway 25, nearing 17 Sideroad and saw a red glow in the sky. As he neared the Jones' home, a hysterical woman came running down the driveway and fell onto the highway, Richards testified. Van Gills told the officer he awakened the neighbors, the Lotts, where he took Mrs. Jones. The Lotts told Richards she appeared dazed, and examination in Georgetown hospital showed her right hand, wrist and leg were burned. Her hair was singed also.

Richards testified the burns were consistent with someone caught in a flash fire. He also said the Ontario fire marshal's officer noted signs which were consistent with a flammable liquid being spilled on the floor and ignited.

(Continued on Page 5)

The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Fifth Year - No. 11

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1979

Twenty-Two Pages Twenty Cents

Fair day is near

There's something for everyone at this weekend's 66th annual Acton Fall Fair.

Friday night sees the midway opening, as well as the Miss Acton Fall Fair contest. Various entertainers will be performing in the arena during the evening. Displays of all kinds will be set up.

Numerous horse and cattle shows Saturday draw the crowds Saturday morning, and then the parade, down Mill to Main to Knox Ave. brings in the rest of the town.

The Baby Show is always a popular event for proud mothers and grandmothers, and later in the day a fiddler's contest.

Sunday sees more entertainment, more cattle and horse shows, the firefighters' waterball contest, a tug of war competition, and various other events to thrill everyone.

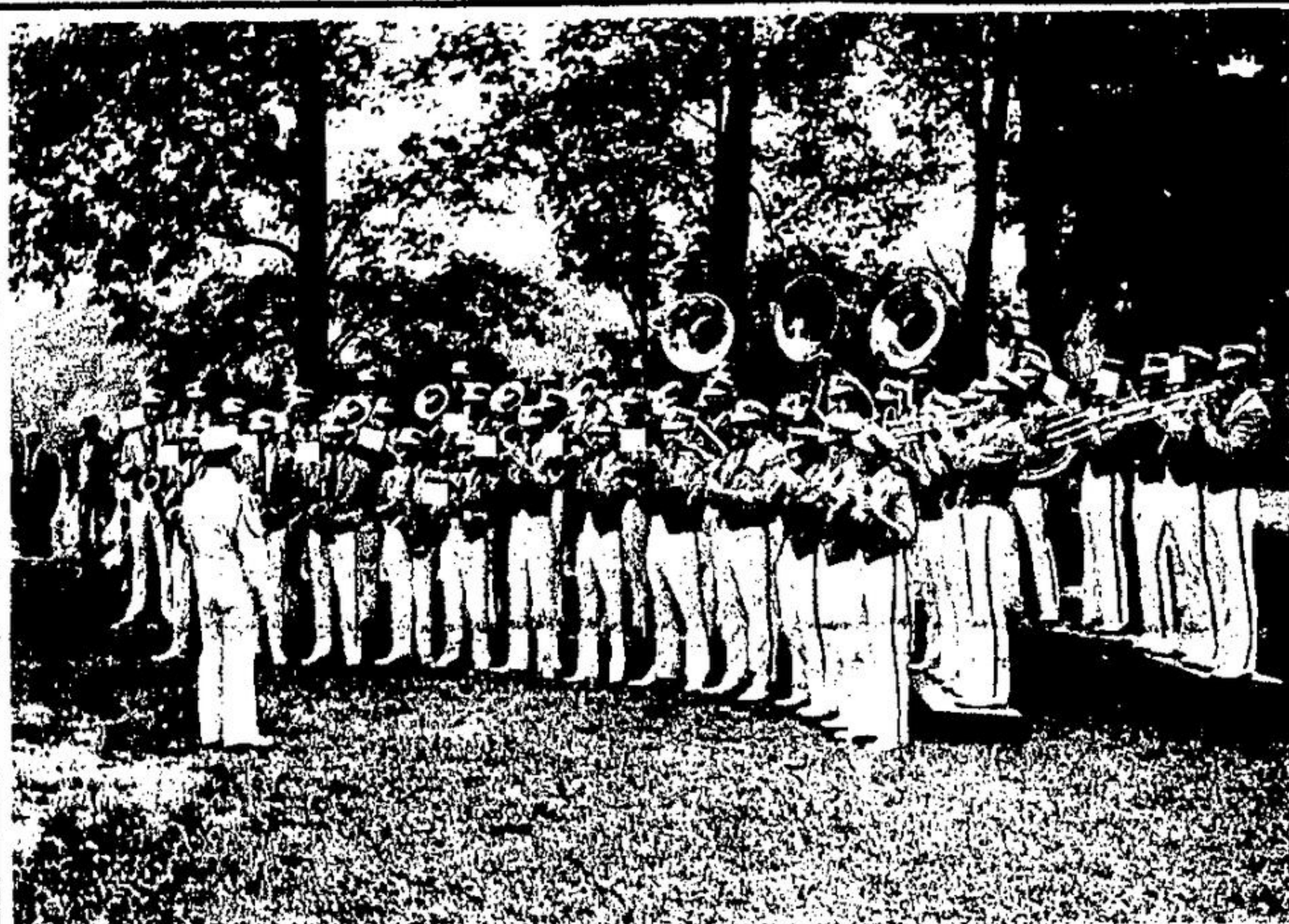
Weekend passes, three days for the price of two, are still available at all Acton banks.

See the advertisements throughout today's paper for times of events.

Special section is interesting reading

Interested in the Acton Fall Fair's history? A special section in today's paper shows fairs from days gone by and offers readers interesting and informative stories.

Don't miss this special section devoted entirely to this weekend's fair.



The Ukrainian Youth Association Band plays during the celebration of mass at the closing ceremonies of Camp Westika on the Fourth Line, north of Highway 7, last weekend. PHOTO BY HARTLEY COLES

Ukrainian camp closes

Triplets born to young local mother

An Acton woman has given birth to what could be the town's first set of triplets.

The babies, all boys, were born at McMaster Medical Centre Saturday afternoon to Eilly McIntyre, nee Toebes. Father Dave says he is just now recuperating.

According to the new father, his sons were only the third set of triplets to come out of the Hamilton hospital, and thought the chance at a triple birth were 12,000 to one.

No one in Acton can recall if triplets had ever been born to a local resident before.

The couple found out Eilly was giving birth to triplets in June, and she has been under the watchful eye of doctors

ever since. There is no history of multiple births on either side of the family.

Ten weeks ago, the expectant mother was put in the hospital so doctors could keep an even better eye on her. She comes home hopefully this Saturday, with her sons arriving one week later. They, says the father, must stay behind to assure they are gaining weight, and feeding by themselves.

Brian Calvin, weighed in at 4 pounds, 11 ounces, with Phillip David tipping the scales at 4 pounds, 5 ounces, Derek John weighed three pounds, nine ounces.

The births took place at 4.51 Saturday afternoon, says Dad.

Acton IGA has stepped forward and donated six months free food to the babies.

New jobs should double says officer

Halton Region will have to double its expected number of new jobs if it is to keep pace with population according to a report on business development.

Halton's business development director William Marshall predicts that enough new development will have to be attracted in the next eight years to provide 36,000 jobs.

This is an increase of 47 per cent of the current number of jobs forecast.

Mr. Marshall said in a recent report to region council the number of new positions created

will be substantially outstripped by the 70,000 new residents expected.

Currently, the population to job ratio requires \$36 million a year in industrial-commercial investment. Despite his best efforts, Marshall maintains the slow pace of industrial development in the region is due to investors not recognizing the financial opportunities in leaseable lands.

While Peel Region has been issuing building permits at a clip of \$61.7 million per year since 1974, Halton has trailed far behind at \$16.5 million

per year for the same time period. Since 1974 Halton has attracted 23 industries while Peel has brought in 132.

Inside today

Local school results Page 9
 Residential news Page 10
 School board meeting Page 21
 Various other news Page 22



Rev. John Robertson will be serving the congregation of Knox Presbyterian church.

Knox church has minister

After going nine months without a minister, Knox Presbyterian Church has finally elected Rev. John Archibald Robertson to head their church.

Rev. Robertson, 55, is originally from the Isle of Skye, Scotland, but immigrated to Canada in 1967 after receiving an offer to serve in Parkdale Presbyterian Church in Toronto. His wife Fay, a school teacher, sons Allan, now 23, Colin, 20, Ronald, 17, and daughter Helen, 15 settled quickly into the Canadian way of life.

The new minister is replacing Rev. Andrew McKenzie, who left Acton in January after 23 years at the church. He is now serving a congregation in Perth.

After a few years of preaching at Parkdale, Rev. Robertson admits, he became disenchanted with the church. He left the ministry and joined the staff of Metropolitan Life selling insurance. He was a good salesman, he said, bringing in a lot of business for the company.

However, more important than the money he was making, he discovered that the firm's motto applied directly to him: "You are the only problem, and you are the only solution." In his three years away from the church, he was better able to understand people and their problems. Rev. Robertson explained he did not realize how protected he was from life.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Decision reserved on land severance

Chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board, James Haults, delayed his decision on an Acton land severance case Friday.

It'll be some time before Alice Duby and Theo Schmidt know the fate of their property.

Both parties have been attempting to receive permission to sever the rear portion of their Churchill Road lots to form two building lots. However, application was denied as premature by the Town of Halton Hills and received hearing under the OMB Friday.

Mr. Schmidt and Mrs. Duby wish to create two standard sized lots running north-south and fronting on Macdonald Boulevard from the rear portions of their long east-west Churchill Road properties.

Application was originally denied for a variety of reasons the largest of which was a complaint from neighbors south of the lots in question whose back portions of land would then become landlocked if they ever wanted to sell to subdivider.

It was agreed by Mrs. Duby, Schmidt, and the proposed purchasers, Alton Construction Ltd. and ACB Maintenance Ltd. that one lot would be kept for future road allowance.

Further application was rejected as premature.

The OMB heard lawyers for both sides presenting the case at length.

Georgetown lawyer Terry Baines acting for the sellers explaining the lay of the land, sizes of parcels, and ways to satisfy all of the town's requirements.

He stated one parcel created would be a standard 100 foot by 50 foot building lot and the westerly parcel would be 66 feet wide to accommodate any future road allowance. A one foot reserve across the side of the lots for town use was in the plan, he explained.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Witness for sellers, Alf Berry, principal in both Allen Construction and ACB Maintenance, proposed purchasers described a possible concept of subdivision of lands behind Churchill Rd. south of Macdonald Blvd. which would be serviced by a road through the newly created lots in question. Lawyer Baines stressed any plan of subdivision was only a feasibility.

Theo Schmidt, seller of one parcel and principal of ACB Maintenance Ltd. spoke as witness stating all municipal requirements on the lots had been met.

Town of Halton Hills lawyer, Steele said he was satisfied all town requirements were met. Lawyer for the Region of Halton, K. Anderson stated the region had no concerns. Lawyer K. McEachern representing the residents concerned with being landlocked said his only concern was with the road allowance.

Dwayne Hays, resident of property directly west of the proposed road allowance on Macdonald Blvd., gave lengthy discourse concerning his property line. As a regular building lot, his house was constructed six feet from the side boundary. Hays stated, "However, if a street were put in, making his lot a corner lot, he would then be required to have his house a full 15 feet from the lotline, as required by the municipality. He said he was concerned with his property becoming illegal.

Both Baines and Steele commented a variance request could be added to any severance permit taking care of Hays' problem. Baines led witness Schmidt to point out services and sidewalks for any future subdivision would likely be placed on the east or more travelled side of the road thus giving Hays a full 25 feet of buffer zone and lot.

Hays suggested the whole plan be moved nine feet east, thus giving him his required 15 feet but Chairman Haults complained he couldn't expect the sellers to give him their land.

It was also brought out that the road didn't need to be a full 66 feet if merely a small internal road servicing a few houses. Therefore Hays would be even further from the road.

However, Hays stated he was concerned about his legal position becoming in violation of municipal regulations.

"I am the reason we are here today," he commented.

Baines pointed out any plan of subdivision was only a supposition and quite possibly, the lot reserved for road allowance would revert to a mere building lot, thus negating Hays' problem.



Margaret Buchanan of Mapleview Lodge celebrated her 99th birthday on the weekend with a small party at the lodge and another with relatives. Mrs. Buchanan enjoys good health and is looking forward to her centennial year.

Happy 99th