



Like it? Merv Pryhitka shows off his new look for Acton—a five-store mall aimed at attracting the local family. He's turning a closed hardware store,

right, into the mall, which will carry a consistent leather theme throughout. The first phase is scheduled to open in late March.

## —Five-store mall for downtown—

by Diana Waltmann

At first glance the empty Pro hardware store on the corner of Willow and Mill Streets looks like an ordinary deserted building.

Look again. It's under construction and by spring it will be a five-store mall.

Merv Pryhitka, an Acton resident and a store designer, is

developing the mall, aimed at attracting local families to downtown. "Acton has tremendous potential as a people place," said Pryhitka. "I see it as a community in transition. A lot of interesting, exciting things are happening here."

He cited the commercial development at Mill and Willow Streets, as well as his mall, as examples of this.

Right now though, Pryhitka said, Acton lacks a place where families can shop together. "There is no reason why Actonians should go to outside malls to do their shopping, when local merchants can provide it downtown." This is why he is developing the mall, he added a place the family can go window shopping on a Sunday afternoon.

The mall will be built in stages, with the first three stores scheduled to open in the latter part of March or early April.

The last two stores should open in early

spring. Apartments will occupy the second level. The exterior is designed to carry a consistent, uniform theme of Acton's past—largely the tannery. There will be a "leather-woods" effect throughout, Pryhitka said. He noted he will have control over the interior decor also, to ensure it will be complementary to the theme.

The interior of the existing structure will be totally gutted and new floors, walls, lighting and plumbing fixtures installed. Windows and doors will be cut out of what is now solid brick. The steel shed will be torn down for later construction. The sidewalk around the building will be interlocking brick. Three shops have

already been rented. Pryhitka said Alma Swetman of Swetman's Shoes has expressed interest in opening a "quality" shoe boutique. There will also be a camera center and of course, a leather goods store. "After all," he asks, "what's Acton without a leather shop?"

Several inquiries have been made regarding the remaining stores but Pryhitka says he hasn't made any final decisions. "It's important that each store complement one another," he said. Pryhitka, originally from a small town near Regina, has designed stores all over Canada. Although most of his business is conducted in the city, he says he prefers a small town,

which is why he moved to Acton. He said he had the mall brainstormed three years ago, but didn't actually begin the designs until last June. He says both the community and the BIA was receptive to the marketing study he recently did. Paul Nielsen, a local merchant and chairman of the retail section of the BIA, says the group is totally supportive of the project. "The mall will provide more variety and more competition for the consumer dollar, as well as multiple services for the community."

"We (the BIA) hope to

Halton Hills council registered objection Monday night to the listing of two Sixth Line pits for another Ministry of Transportation and Communications job, but covered themselves by setting conditions if the Ministry goes ahead despite them.

The motion opposing the listing of the Odorico and Vincent pits on the Sixth Lines and the Cohoon pit on the Fourth Line, came in response to a request for comment from the MTC on a listing of these wayside pits and 21 other commercial pits as aggregate sources for an extension of Highway 400.

The conditions sought by the town include a designation of the exact working area, approval

by the town of the truck route, the banning of pit operations before seven in the morning and after eight at night, and none on weekends, the banning of trucks hauling from the pits earlier than seven in the morning and after six at night, road maintenance by the MTC, and MTC liaison officer on the site, and a rehabilitation plan reviewed by the town engineer.

Prior to the vote Tony Harbour, spokesman for the Sixth Line residents, who packed the gallery, emphasized the MTC had not yet answered their main questions, "How long will the pits operate and how much gravel is there?" He urged council to oppose the listing of the

Odorico and Vincent pits to be consistent with their previous unanimous stand against listing the Sixth Line pits as sources of aggregate for MTC jobs.

He emphasized the group simply want council to refuse, not to take the MTC to court, nor to prevent MTC trucks from using municipal roads. "If the MTC wish to overrule you let them do so."

Harbour stated, "At the October meeting the provincial government said they could override the municipal government and are not answerable to anyone not even the Supreme court. If this is correct all of you must feel powerless and even insulted by this type of

legislation." of the MTC and some members of council, they had been told the Spitzer

pit and the Pilutti pit are nearly finished, and there may only be enough for one more job at the

Odorico pit. "But when asked to put this in writing there is silence." (Continued on B 7)

## Water-sewer bills arriving

Residents of the north Halton area have received or will receive their first equalized water-sewer bills this month.

Up until this year the water and sewer charges were based on a percentage of the property tax.

In Acton the percentage was 9.9 per cent; Georgetown, 7.6 per cent; and Milton, 7.9 per cent.

With the new bills there will be two significant changes which may cause residents trouble in calculating whether they are being billed correctly.

The first change is bills will be calculated on the amount of water used by each individual consumer. The sewer rate is calculated as a percentage of the total amount of water used.

The other basic change is the amount of water used will be calculated in cubic meters instead of gallons.

Regional treasurer Don Farmer said most residents of Milton and Halton Hills should see a drop in the amount they pay for water and sewer service.

However, there may be some inequities in the computerized, equalized water-sewer billing so a committee has been set up consist ng of regional councillors who will be sitting on a regular basis to hear complaints and make adjustments.

The committee, chaired by Hurlington's Joan Allingham, had its first meeting on Monday. It is expected the committee will meet regularly in the evenings so that residents can attend more easily.

In Georgetown and Acton the water-sewer bills have already arrived. Each includes a pamphlet with a full explanation of how the bill has been arrived at so consumers can calculate the bill for themselves if they choose.

In Halton Hills for a residential, three-quarter inch water pipe, the water rate will be: \$10.84 for the first 27.28 cubic metres (6,000 gallons), 21.62 cents per cubic metre for the next 63.64 cubic metres (14,000 gallons), and 24.48 cents per every cubic metre used after that.

The annual sewer charge is based on the amount of water used and returned to the system. In Halton Hills there is a 15 per cent reduction for non-sewer water use.

An average annual charge for sewer use in Acton and Georgetown would be: 40,000 gallons, \$69.97 or \$11.50 every two months; 60,000 gallons, \$94.33 or \$15.75 every two months; 80,000 gallons, \$108.29 or \$18.05 every two months; and 100,000 gallons, \$127.85 or \$21.32 every two months.

One of the reasons the charge is slightly higher in the Halton Hills area is most of the sewage system is outdated and in need of repair.

Mr. Farmer said residents will be getting "a break" as the system will have to be upgraded and the cost of this will be carried across the region.

**Lindsay appointed**

J. B. Lindsay of Acton In another move was one of two men appointed Monday by house area resident Halton Hills council to Wilfred Kirkwood to the Committee of Adj. Halton Hills Library Board.

## NOTICE of NOMINATING CONVENTION

A meeting will be held WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9th to elect a Progressive Conservative candidate for the riding of Halton

To vote, new members must purchase 1980 memberships before December 26th, 1979. 1979 members may vote by buying 1980 memberships at the door. Applications for membership are available in Oakville from Mrs. Wendy Rees at 827-7366.

**COUNTRY SQUIRE RESTAURANT**  
OAKVILLE — 8 p.m.  
Social evening to follow — Everyone welcome

## Sixth Line

# Council objects to pits listing

## Correction

It was erroneously reported in last week's Free Press (the issue of January 2) that acting Inspector John Barratt was joining the Halton police detachment in Georgetown and that he had previously been with Joint Forces. Also the story said Constable R. Waller will assume, temporarily, the duties of the District Commander.

In fact it is Barratt who has assumed, temporarily, duties of District One Commander while Constable Waller is joining the Georgetown detachment, coming from Joint Forces.

The Free Press apologizes for the error.

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