



Alma Sweetman admires one of the two dolls donated for a draw to raise funds for the Yaworsky family trust fund. The dolls are on display in downtown stores. Donations are also being accepted for the trust fund. Jackelene and Jennifer Yaworsky were killed recently in a tragic accident in Indiana.

Council next for Force rezoning

Next step in the rezoning process for the Force Electric land is next Monday's Halton Hills Council meeting. Halton Hills Planning Board last night (Tuesday) passed a rezoning recommendation which would see the industrial land become commercial-general. The board held a public meeting for citizens to present their views. There were no objections.

Full passage of the rezoning application would push the commercial district of town to the CNR tracks from the Main-Mill intersection.

Town planner Mario Venditti reminded planning board members the Force Electric land is part of a larger proposed scheme for a plaza. That idea would incorporate the A-B Foodland Store and Canadian Tire.

If that proposed package fails to materialize, Venditti informed the board the Force Electric site could be built up. It could have one large store or two or three stores, he said.

The Force Electric building, which was built by the old town of Acton to attract industry, has recently been levelled.

Councillor Ed Wood declared a conflict of interest on the Force Electric question, because he is a downtown merchant.

land, along Church St. has been zoned commercial for about 22 years.

From the audience Don Gordon told the board he believed Mr. Dewhurst confused the Force Electric plant property with the old Force home on Church St.

The application to change the zoning to commercial from industrial came to the town about a year ago. Mr. Venditti said the town staff recommended proceeding with the rezoning.

Georgetown Councillor John McDonald inquired about the status of the Jerry Sprackman proposal on Acton's east side. He also wanted to know if there would be any effect on it by what planning board was considering Tuesday.

The planner indicated he thought there would be no effect on the Sprackman proposal by the Force Electric change. He also said no date has been set for the Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

Ontario Hydro. The town of Halton Mills asked both the Acton and Georgetown commissions to pass the motion. Commission members say the delay in raising the rates will give Acton residents a reprieve through the worst part of winter.

Police gun club gets shot down on crest

The Halton Regional Police Revolver Club will be denied the use of the Halton Regional Coat of Arms.

The club, which is comprised of police officers who want to meet for target practice, had proposed a "crest" showing the official coat of arms adorned with two pistols.

Regional Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid told the Administration and Finance Committee he was against the use of the coat of arms by the club as it would be a "distortion of the registration and detracts from the importance and dignity of the crest itself."

There are stringent limitations to the use of the coat of arms.

Planning Board entertained questions from the public including the concerns of Harvey Dewhurst, Church St. E.

Mr. Dewhurst was concerned about, among other things, the effect of the rezoning upon property value.

Planner Venditti said that the effect of a commercial designation on a nearby residential property would be to increase its value. However, he later pointed out that most of the nearby

Hydro rates frozen, at least until spring

Acton residents can leave a sigh of relief knowing hydro rates won't rise, at least until April.

The Acton Hydro Commission voted unanimously in favor of a motion to freeze rates at the January 1, 1980 level until the new Halton Hills commission is born April 1.

Rate increases will then be decided by the new commission, a combination of Georgetown and Acton members. Until then Acton hydro will absorb rate increases handed down by

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Vacform to close

Vacform Plastics will be closing its doors and moving to Brampton soon. The firm expects most of its employees will move with the company.

In an interview this week Vacform general manager, Roy Topelko, said the firm is not going out of business but is instead undergoing an expansion and relocation.

Topelko revealed the firm's Acton operation will be closing after three years here. Vacform is on Commerce Crescent in the industrial park.

The general manager said he isn't sure when the closing and move to Peel will take place, but the firm is aiming for sometime in April or May.

The eight year old company, which also has a tooling branch in Rexdale, employs about 14 people in Acton and Topelko expects most of those people will accept work at the new Brampton facility. Most of the firm's employees at the Commerce Crescent plant are local residents he noted.

"We hope the bulk of our staff will come with us. The employees were a great concern to us. We have some really good people," Topelko noted the news of the move, which was decided upon in mid-December, was kept from the workers until this month so it wouldn't upset them over Christmas.

The local plant, which Vacform owns, is up for sale or lease. Talks and negotiations with possible new occupants of the 13,000 square foot building have begun, but nothing is positive yet.

Topelko observed with most of Vacform's employees will likely be accepting jobs at the new Brampton plant and "absolutely" the new occupant at the Commerce Crescent factory will be hiring workers so there should be no "appreciable adverse effect on jobs."

Vacforms merged last September with a company called English Plastics, which is in Brampton, and the merged firm, which is keeping both company names for marketing purposes, will be moving into a new 35,000 square foot building.

Topelko said his Vacforms company needed to expand, even if there hadn't been a merger, but had no intention of growing in Acton.

A major factor in that decision is that industrial taxes here are much higher than those in Brampton. "We would never have expanded here because of the taxes," he declared.

"If Acton wants more industry then the town has to make it more attractive to locate here. You have to take a long, hard look before coming here. There must be some incentives," Topelko suggested.

He noted he brought Vacform to Acton from Mississauga and found taxes in Halton Hills 30 per cent higher than in the large south Peel city.

Vacform came to Acton because there was economical industrial land available.

There were other drawbacks to expansion here, besides the high assessment. Transportation, the distance from suppliers and markets, and the lack of skilled labor prevented an Acton expansion.

The move to Brampton will not be held up if a tenant or purchaser hasn't been secured for the Acton facility.

The move to Brampton will be the last phase of the merger, the physical joining of Vacform and English Plastics.

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Halton Progressive Conservative candidate Otto Jelinek welcomes Prime Minister Joe Clark to the riding Monday in Oakville. Clark blasted Liberal leader Pierre Trudeau for refusing to participate in a nationally televised debate. More on page 2. Photo by RON TURENNE.

Region plans promotion to bring industry here

A major thrust will be made this year to attract new industry and business to Acton, Halton Business Development officer William Marshall revealed in an interview this week.

"Our success with Acton has been limited in the two years this office has been in operation," Marshall conceded.

Part of the Halton Economic Strategy paper his department will release in February will stress the need to promote Acton and improve the town's business park.

One step he said will be the development of a promotion brochure about Acton.

His department will also encourage land owners in the industrial park to take better care of their land.

Marshall explained it is hard to show off a piece of land in the industrial area to its best advantage when it and the ditches are overrun with weeds.

Another problem has been finding out from land owners what price they will take. Industries which approach Marshall's department want to know costs, but he is unable to tell them because he can't get answers. The firms then look to other parts of Halton which he has more information about.

Just about any industry that isn't too "water sensitive" can settle in Acton. Marshall cited plastics manufacturers, industrial chemical firms, printing operations and auto parts manufacturers as the types of firms most likely to want to come here. He noted there are water and sewer limitations in Acton which would prevent some companies from coming here.

Marshall said he has studied industry which has settled in south Halton over the past decade and found that just didn't need large amounts of water so they could just as easily have come to Acton, Milton or Georgetown.

Labour supply is good in Acton, despite the fact there is low unemployment throughout Halton. Marshall explained many people work outside of town and would possibly work in Acton if there was more industry and business. He cautioned though, that Acton can't attract huge labor employing firms since the population base is so small.

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Paul Nielsen says Landowners doing own promotion

About the only industrial promotion done in the last couple of years in Acton has been carried out by the landowners themselves, according to Paul Nielsen.

Mr. Nielsen is a logical spokesman when it comes to industrial development here. He owns property in the industrial park, has brought some firms here in the past and a pair of companies which will set up shop in Acton this year and was also on the now defunct Halton Hills Industrial Advisory Board, which was quite active back in 1977.

Commenting this week on claims by both Halton Business Development Officer William Marshall and on the closing of Vacform, Nielsen said "the landowners have been doing their own promotion."

He said he and others will welcome promotion of Acton and the development of an industrial strategy this year by the region, observing the community

hasn't received much help from that source in the past.

Marshall says it is hard to sell Acton to prospective buyers because he can't obtain definite land prices and because land isn't properly maintained, it's overrun with weeds.

To these suggestions Nielsen replies "absolute nonsense."

Price is obviously known to the posted real estate agents for the vacant property in the industrial park Nielsen says and all Marshall

needed to do is "bring me a serious offer. We can make a deal in an hour." He went on to say his firm is selling fully serviced industrial property at \$30,000 an acre.

As for weeds in the ditches and on the property, well Nielsen frankly can't understand why anyone putting up a factory would care.

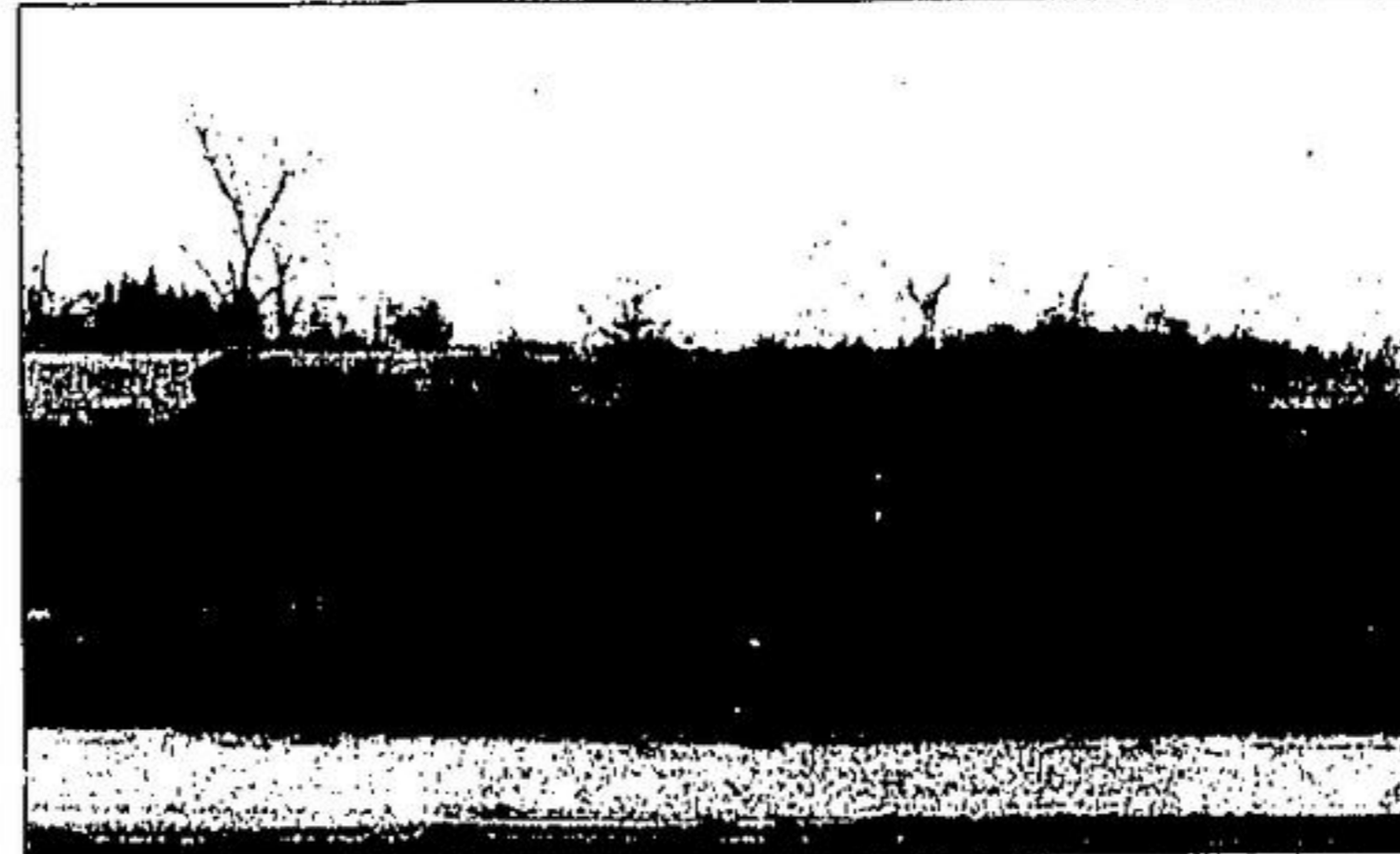
The owner of Vacform which is closing its doors here soon, says there must be incentives if Acton wants to bring in more industry. Roy Topelko claims he has found assessment here is 30 per cent higher than it was in Mississauga, where his firm was located before coming to Acton.

Nielsen rejects this suggestion. He points out assessment is set by the province on an Ontario wide basis. Nielsen says it is nearly impossible to make a comparison between Acton and Mississauga unless you can find an identical piece of property, identical services and an identical building in both municipalities. "I don't believe there is any real difference. Assessment isn't more here than in Mississauga."

Nielsen said he is glad to see there will be a new industrial commission launched in Halton Hills, adding he knows Mayor Pete Pomeroy is "concerned about industrial development in all of Halton Hills. He'll do anything to promote industry in both towns."



Kevin Parker says he is looking forward to skating well in his first senior national championship this weekend in Kitchener. He placed second in the central division championship in Sudbury last month. See sports for story.



Unkept properties like this one in the industrial area make it hard to sell Acton to industry according to Halton Region's Business Development Officer Bill Marshall.

Wood faces theft charge

Ex-policeman Roy Wood returned to Canada from England January 9 to face charges of theft incurred while he was a detective with the Peel Regional Police Force.

Mr. Wood, who was stationed in Acton when he was an OPP officer, is charged with theft over \$200 and possession of stolen goods over \$200.

A trial date has not been set and Mr. Wood has been remanded out of custody. He resigned from the Peel Force.

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