

# Branch 197 celebrates torching of the mortgage



Albert Irwin, left, and Alex Waldie, right, join the building committee, left to right, Bob Angell, Ed Footitt, Fred Allen, Gord McCutcheon, Gord James and John Goy, in watching the mortgage on the Branch 197 Acton Legion building burn at a ceremony Friday night.

The 38 men who co-signed the \$350,000 mortgage for the new Acton Legion, Branch 197, in 1974 were honored at a mortgage burning ceremony Friday night. The mortgage was paid off in less than six years.

Over 100 invited guests and dignitaries witnessed the torching of the mortgage which was paid off earlier this year. The ceremony was repeated the next night at a dinner-dance for Legion members and Saturday afternoon the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary hosted an afternoon buffet and entertainment. The entire weekend of activities was a huge success.

Chairman of the building committee, Gord McCutcheon, reviewed the history of the construction of the new building for the audience.

He recalled the first meeting was held at the

home of Edward Footitt and the men at the meeting concluded they could never accomplish what they envisioned for the future of the Acton Legion in the old building on Main Street.

A half a dozen sites for a new Legion were examined on March 5, 1973, and the notice went out to the membership a meeting would be held March 19 to discuss a new building.

At that meeting 57 members turned out and only three were opposed to moving the Legion.

Eventually the choice was narrowed down to three sites and the Nellis property in the country, though in fact just a quarter-of a mile from downtown Acton, was selected.

That was the start of innumerable problems, McCutcheon recalled. The Legion began the project dealing with Acton and Esqueving staff

and councillors and wound up completing it under the first council of being the first draft plan of subdivision approved by the new town of Halton Hills.

Once it was determined if golf courses could be in the country so could a Legion the architectural firm of Tawadros and Otho was chosen for the job. McCutcheon noted the architects' original plan and the actual building were very much alike.

The plans were presented to the membership September 25, 1973, and the next day the building permit was issued and construction started.

Less than a year later, September 14, 1974, after many "crisis" had been overcome, the new Legion was opened. Chairs didn't arrive until 5 p.m. the day the building was to be officially opened with an evening function.

To help pay for the pro-

ject the Legion developed a 30 lot subdivision and had the distinction of being the first draft plan of subdivision approved by the new town of Halton Hills.

Ladies' Auxiliary presidents during the time of planning, construction and paying off the new building, Mary Daigle, Helen Fowler, Lucy Synott and Ruth Courtney, were introduced as well as executive members from 1972-80: John McHugh, Gordon James, Norman Price, Robert Angell, Albert Footitt, Kevin Conroy, James Higgins, Alex Waldie, Fred Allen, John Goy, Gord McCutcheon, Arthur Moss, Earl Waller, Joan McKnight, Alvey Gordon, John Chapman, Micheal McMillan, Brian McDonald, Max Storey, William Greer, Len Stone, Harry Norton, Maurice Petenaude and Albert Irwin.

Each of the mortgage co-signers in attendance were introduced and received a gift. They were Jack Ridley, John McHugh, James Milne, Gordon James, William McKnight, Fred Mellor, Jonas Massey, Victor Patrick, Albert Irwin, Norman Price, John Cooney, Edwin Pope, Arthur Daigle, Robert Angell, Harry Moon, Albert Footitt, Douglas Rogers, Robert Loufett, Herbert Cook, Louis Dick, Kevin Conroy, A. John Pink, William Nicolak, Robert Hanley, James Higgins, Peter McEachern, Hugh O'Rourke, Alex Waldie, Charles Shultis, Frederick Allen, John Goy, Gord McCutcheon, Arthur Moss, Earl Waller, Melvin Jordan, Les Duby, John Manes and William Blanche. The mortgage co-signing took place September 3, 1974.

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## Zehrs in 1981?

by Gord Murray

A reliable source told the Acton Free Press this week Zehrs has definitely decided to open a supermarket here in 1981.

However, Zehrs president Carl Zinkan in an interview Thursday would not confirm the report. Zinkan did not deny Zehrs plans to open in Acton in 1981 either.

"There is nothing definite I can comment on. In expansion nothing is ever definite until the shovel goes in the ground," Zinkan said.

This newspaper's source, who must remain anonymous, said Zehrs has decided to open four new stores in the next two years and plans call for supermarkets to be opened in Acton and Ancaster in 1981. Our source could not name a site for the new Acton supermarket.

Zinkan's first reaction to this information was "that's interesting!" He said it with a bit of a chuckle.

He said it is common knowledge that Zehrs has looked at Acton and made a commitment to locate in a plaza planned by Jerry Sprackman, Landawn Shopping Centres Ltd, on the east side of Acton. Zinkan said the firm "still desires" to locate there

and the commitment to Landawn is still in affect. Council refused to rezone the property at Highway 7 and Churchill Road for the proposed 19,000 foot plaza containing Zehrs and five other stores.

The issue will go to an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

Zinkan said he was well aware Sprackman is having "problems" obtaining approval for his plaza. He said the firm would not be opening a store in downtown Acton on the site of the burned Dominion Hotel. That location for a Zehrs store has been rumored recently, as well as in the past. Zinkan said the site on Main Street is too small, even if other properties in the area were also acquired. Nothing he was using ball park figures only Zehrs' president said a 24,000 square foot supermarket would need two-and-one-half acres for the building and parking. He said he was familiar with the property on Main Street and denied the firm ever approached property owners in the area of the burned out hotel.

Zinkan neither confirmed or denied Zehrs would locate in Acton somewhere other than the plaza proposed by Landawn.

"It's not like building a house. You need to find sufficient commercial land," he concluded.

### Prospects not bright

## Heller's hasn't bought Disston

Frank Heller and Co. Disston plant. The situation does not look promising. Rumors have been flying to take over the closed

around Acton for several weeks that a deal between Heller's and Sandvik is imminent.

In an interview this week Fred Dawkins of Heller's said so far an agreement hasn't been reached.

### Refugees arriving

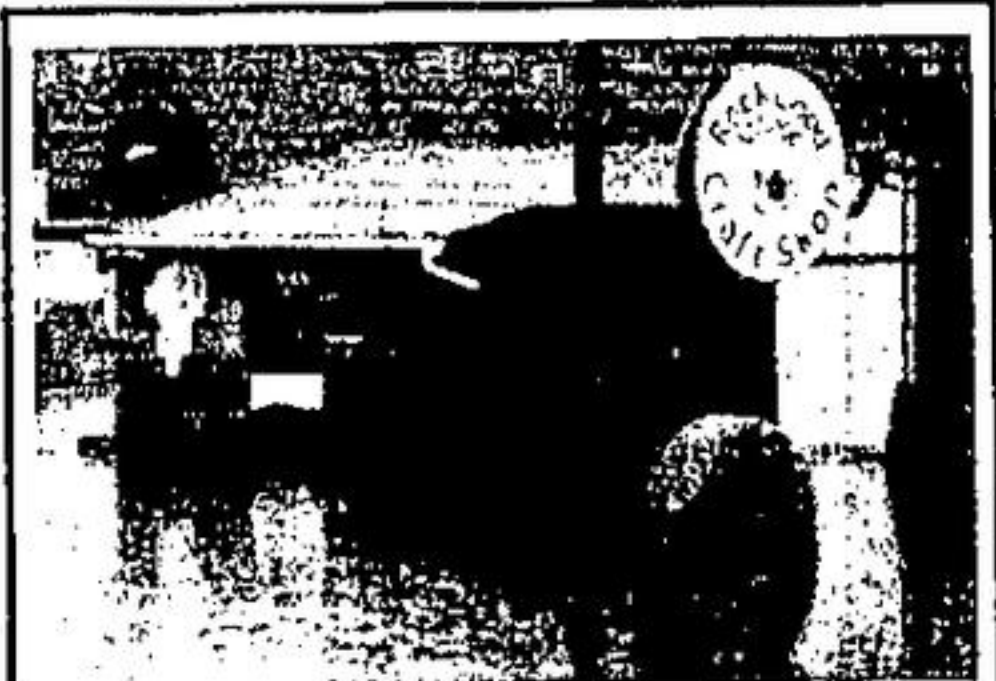
Three families of Asian refugees will arrive in Acton within the week. Word of the arrivals came today (Wednesday).

The Acton Churches for Boat People can expect two families of Indo-Chinese on Monday or Tuesday, according to Rev. John Cooper of the Christian Reformed Church. No other details are available.

Also a needy family of Vietnamese will arrive on the weekend for the Christian Reformed Church. The church decided March 2 to take in a family.

Application was made to the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

The Vietnamese family consists of a pair of grand parents, one couple and a child.



Water, water everywhere. Spring run-off and Friday's rain resulted in several scenes like this in the rural area north of Acton. More flooding photos on page 10.

### inside

The Acton heart fund hit the \$4,300 mark this year. Details on page 6.

Profiles On the Leavell Rockwood Digest



Kermit and friends

All ready for the Acton Figure Skating Club's annual ice revue Sunday, are several munchkins, a couple of frogs, and a dog. They are better known as, left to right, back row: Dana Petrillo, age 7, Colleen Nowlan, 9, Lisa Samson (Kermit) 10, Tracey Oakley, 10, and Carrie Fritzel, 7. Front row: Tina Oakley 7, Henry

Samson 5, and Kerry Butler 7. The group will be skating in two performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday at the Community Centre.

Photo by DIANA WALTMANN

## Tentative pact keeps teachers on job

Halton's 1,165 high school teachers are on the job this week, and they will remain on the job until after a contract ratification vote is taken.

Mediator Martin Teplitzky imposed a news blackout on the parties after a tentative agreement was reached Saturday.

"I can't deal with that sort of question," Mr. Teplitzky said Monday

when asked if parts of the settlement would be going to arbitration or mediation-arbitration.

Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) District Nine President Ron Ness said Monday no date has been set for a ratification vote. OSSTF is looking at a vote after ten days to two weeks.

"There's a need for information meetings in

the schools," Mr. Ness said.

"They've put a tent over all of us," said Halton Board of Education spokesman Cam Jackson Monday. He said he was not prepared to comment regarding recommendations to the board to accept the tentative agreement.

Board and OSSTF representatives buckled

down to 14-hours of negotiations, with mediator Teplitzky, at the Hotel Toronto Saturday.

A tentative agreement was made around midnight, according to Teplitzky. "The credit goes to the parties. They were skillful in handling the situation," observed the mediator.

Teplitzky indicated he was also pleased the

teachers and board averted what could have been a very long strike. The two sides returned to mediation within 10 days of teachers giving the federation a 93.5 per cent strike mandate.

Saturday's efforts were the second bout of mediation for Halton during this year's contract talks. Earlier mediation, with Teplitzky, failed after seven hours.

Teplitzky then aimed the two sides towards arbitration or a mixture of mediation and arbitration. Both forms are binding. Both were unacceptable to OSSTF.

Halton high school teachers have worked without a contract since August. The main issues separating the two sides have been wages, working conditions and retirement gratuity.



Halton Hills mayor Peter Pomeroy presented Acton town hall restoration committee members Doug Fread and Yvonne Rosenquist with his pledge for \$1,450.

## Pomeroy donates to town hall fund

Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy has pledged half of his 1980 town pay raise to the Acton town hall restoration fund. His donation is \$1,450.

Last week council surprised Pomeroy with a \$2,900 pay hike in the 1980 budget.

Monday night Pomeroy turned the tables and surprised council by donating half of the raise to the Acton project and the other half to the Georgetown library-theatre complex project.

Pomeroy presented his pledge for \$1,450 to chairman of the town hall com-

mittee, Doug Fread, and treasurer Yvonne Rosenquist at the meeting.

He said the credit for his pledges should go to an elderly Acton man who asked him at a meeting during the last election if he would be raising his own pay. Pomeroy answered the man that he wouldn't be interested in a raise during his first term.

After council tripped him up by giving him a surprise pay hike Pomeroy decided he should donate it to the two projects.