

No damage was reported by Acton Firefighters who responded to Sunday's chimney fire on Westcott

### Churchill publishes book

Churchill Community Church long known as "the church that wouldn't close" is immortalized in a book, "History of Churchill Community Church" put out recently by the church's hisorical committee and printed by Herrington Printing and Publishing, Acton.

The cover picture, a pen and ink sketch of the church, was done by Hazel Lightle, an Acton resident who spent most of her life living close to Churchill.

The committee, spearheaded by Irene Swackhammer, Vera Denny and Harold Griffin, have a produced a charming 36 page edition telling the 150 year old history of a church that has seen days a Congregational Church, a United Church, and now a Community Church. "The church that wouldn't close" was so named by the United Church Observer in September 1973 after the 1968 crisis of closure by the United Church of Canada. The church has continued as nondenominational ever since.

# News digest

#### Senior Citizens' week

June 15 to 21 has been proclaimed Senior Citizens week in Halton Hills. Following a request by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Town recently made the pro-

#### Tennis court surfacing

The town is going to spend \$6,630 to surface the Acton Tennis Courts. Monday night Halton Hills council awarded the contract for the job to Country Club Tennis Court Co. of Mississauga. There were five tenders for the job, which Acton Tennis Club will pay half of, the highest being \$15,310 and the winning bid of \$6,630 the lowest. Halton Hills will apply to the province for a 25 per cent grant to cover the town's half of the paving job. Recreation director Tom Shepherd noted the work is the last stage in the construction of the courts and not being done because the present surface is in bad shape.

#### Beer garden approved

One of the attractions at the Back to Acton Days celebration will be a beer garden in Prospect Park sponsored by the Acton Chamber of Commerce. Monday night Halton Hills council approved the beer garden provided the Chamber meets Liquor Licence Board regulations and Halton Regional Police, Halton Regional Health Department and town fire department requirements. Works department will review a request to close Mill Street from Main to Elgin Friday June 27 and Saturday June 28 from 10 a.m. to midnight.

#### Fair thanks town

Words of thanks to the town are far and few between. So Halton Hills council was delighted Monday night to receive a letter of appreciation from Acton Agricultural Society for the organization's grant from the municipality. This year's (air will be September 19, 20 and 21 and with many improvements should be bigger and better than ever.

## Car stolen burned

Halton Regional Police and firefighters were called to the scene when a stolen car was reported in flames in a Fourth Line Nassagaweya ditch, south of 25 Sideroad.

The 1974 Chrysler Newport, owned by an Acton man and parked in front of a Mill Street home, was found Saturday. The fire in the front end gutted the vehicle, police say.

# Youth charged in theft

A 16-year-old Acton youth who stole a Honda motorcycle from a John Street residence has been charged following an investigation by Halton Regional Police.

The youth stole the 1974 bike in April and was arrested last week, according to police.

### Board to sell school

Halton Board of Education says it has no use for the Sunshine School property on the Seventh Line, and has asked Halton Hills council if they are interested in buying it.

Council asked for a staff report on the school.



The Acton District Council conducted a season's closing ceremony for all the Guides, Brownies, Pathfinders and Guiders last week. About 150 girls showed up on the grounds by the library. Many parents also attended. "A Brownie, Guide, Pathfinder and Guiders' Own provides an occassion for all of us in the Guiding

entirely true."

mall containing the

theatre a review was

started, but no meeting of

the development com-

mittee took place with

The plans Rosart

brought to the eventual

meeting Venditti

described as having been

"substantially revised."

"What they brought

was plans for an ex-

panded AB Foodland

store, from 6,500 to 13,000

square feet, and a row of

Stores at the rear. There

clients for a larger

development, including

was no longer a theatre.

Venditti declared.

the theatre."

declared.

Rosart or McLaughlin.

Movement to express our feelings about the values we believe in," states a council release. Many skits, songs, poems and stories unfolded during the evening under

# Downtown mall development collapses

(Continued from page 1) Mario Venditti tella a this saying the "most food store as it is," Lums- Business Improvment Doug Rosart, who was unavailable for comment. and McLaughlin came up with plans for a 25,000 square foot food store, a major chain drug store, restaurant, bowling lanes, a theatre and other stores and offices.

McLaughlin claims negotiations were progressing nicely with a major theatre chain for a small cinema in a semienclosed mall when the plans went down the drain. Other firms interested in locating in the mall included Baskin Robbins and Tim Horton Donuts he said. Canada Trust, which was going to assist in financing the project, was going to loc-ate an office in the mall.

"It was a really good looking plan," cLaughlin declared, noting there would have been walkways, special store awnings and other decorative features. There was parking for over 100 cars.

He pointed the finger of blame for this proposal falling through at Halton Hills development committee, consisting of town planners and municipal department heads, who met with Rosart to review the plans.

McLaughlin claims Rosart was told by town staff that their proposal "Wasn't practical." It was a much larger development than Acton needed downtown, McLaughlin says they were told by staff, and there would be numerous traffic problems. He sald

store with a row of shops, like a strip plaza, at the rear of the property on Church Street. Planning director

staff urged a smaller food

much different story. He said he has met with both tractive plan" is the one McLaughlin and Rosart and urged they bring supermarket and theatre. plans to the town as soon He maintained the plan as possible. He says his fell apart because of department is eagerly municipal objections.

awaiting a site plan. "We bent over back-He says when he and wards to help them. We other town staff received the plans for the mall containing the theatre we were anxious to dead now, Venditti plans to proceed. proceed as soon as possstated. "Maybe (if there ble. We were really is an approved site plan) excited by the proposal." someone will come for-Venditti stated that

McLaughlin's version of ject) over." what happened to the With the first deal down original proposal "is not the drain McLaughlin and Rosart came up with the When staff first resecond plan, a row of ceived the plans for the stores and much smaller

> supermarket. However, that plan has also collapsed.

McLaughlin says they approaced the Lumsden Brothers, who lease the Foodland building and sublease it to the owners of AB Foodland, and they rejected the expansion

plans. William Lumsden said the developer (he couldn't remember McLaughlin's name) wants too much rent for the expanded store. He recalled the developer came to a vice-president, He said the developers who is no longer with the firm, with a proposal for "felt they couldn't get the an expanded store.

Lumsden never initiated

"They said they made supermarket. the revisions based on "The last I heard they exists. economics," the planner

were going to proceed

economical and at- den said, adding he Area and had planned to containing the mall, large ing brought into the issue. Lumsdens and hence

AB Foodland, have 18 months to run on the present lease and an option for five more years. Lumsden observed have said give us a site the developer would have plan," even though the to buy the building from whole project appears the present owner for

McLaughlin says Lumsden rejected the expansion plan. He says ward and take it (the pro- he has an option to buy the present store, but Lumsden is blocking it with the existing lease and option. He has options for all other necessary joining properties

> The developer needs a "covenant", sort of a cosigner or a major store which will guarantee to remain in the development for the life of the

mortgage. "If we had a covenant we would go ahead with either plan. I would say it is dead tine entire project) until we find a covenant. We're in a box," McLaughlin declared. He added he and Rosart have been searching for a new covenant. with no luck.

McLaughlin said all leases and negotiations for the other stores in either proposal were conthe expansion of the tingent on a larger supermarket than currently

He said he received with the rest of the pro- strong support for his McLaughlin counters ject and just leave the plans from the Acton

"objects" to his firm be- invite local merchants to expand their present operations by locating in the semi-enclosed mall.

> McLaughlin said it is obvious there is a need for business expansion in Acton or else Zehrs wouldn't be interested in locating here and plaza developer Jerry Sprackman wouldn't want to build on the east side of town. Sprackman's plans were rejected by council who was going to put up and will be subject of an the monies for the pro-Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

When the whole subject was raised briefly at Halton Hills council Monday night Councillor Ed Wood said he thought the development was delayed but not dead.

It came up when council reviewed the minutes of the May 14 Acton BIA Board of Management meeting.

Those minutes said the Lumsden expansion project at the east end of town is apparently dead. Negotiations have broken down and they have

run on their tenancy in the present building. Space would have been available for a 10,000 sq. ft. building, and options have been taken on all the adjacent properties. Apparently Canadian Tire will expand their store only if this other project proceeds as originally conceived, such plans including a small cinema and office space for Canada Trust. ject. The property is in the hands of Rosart in Oakville, but it seems they are lacking the five year tenant commitment

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Trust. We have had a

quiet assurance from

Town staff that Council

would approve such a

development quickly

once commitments are

received."

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2) JOBS-Increased business activity provides more full and part-time job opportunities for local people. Your money stays in Acton.

3) LOW COST HOUSING-Most business establishments have low cost upper storey apartments. They provide affordable rental accommodation, which is not otherwise available to lowincome earners, young couples and people with children. When you shop in Acton, you encourage expansion and upgrading of these facilities. Your money stays in Acton.

4) SPORTS & OTHER SERVICES—Most Acton businesses support many sports and social programs in many ways, such as: sponsorship of the team, advertising in their prospectus, donations, and many give of their time for coaching and other activities. Support your local merchants and invest in your children and your community, as a full till is bound to be more generous to the canvasser than an empty one. -- What do you get from out-of-town stores?

5) B.I.A. (Business Improvement Area)—Actor merchants and professionals pay additional taxes-above and beyond those imposed by the municipality. This money is being administered by the B.I.A. Board of Management and is spent for such things as hiring students for downtown clean-up, planters, benches and flowers, improved sidewalks (we used to have asphalt sidewalks), parking facilities, Santa Claus parade, free bus service during the Christmas season, to name only a few. When you spend your shopping dollar in Acton, it stays in Acton. IT IS NOT SENT TO SOME HEAD OFFICE.

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