



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

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 proclamation.

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 fair 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 occasion for all of us in the Guiding

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 the trees.

Downtown mall development collapses

(Continued from page 1) Mario Venditti tells a much different story. He said he has met with both McLaughlin and Rosart and urged they bring plans to the town as soon as possible. He says his department is eagerly awaiting a site plan.

He says when he and other town staff received the plans for the mall containing the theatre "we were anxious to proceed as soon as possible. We were really excited by the proposal." Venditti stated that McLaughlin's version of the original proposal "is not entirely true."

When staff first received the plans for the mall containing the theatre a review was started, but no meeting of the development committee took place with Rosart or McLaughlin.

The plans Rosart brought to the eventual meeting Venditti described as having been "substantially revised." "What they brought was plans for an expanded AB Foodland store, from 6,500 to 13,000 square feet, and a row of stores at the rear. There was no longer a theatre," Venditti declared.

He said the developers "felt they couldn't get the clients for a larger development, including the theatre." "They said they made the revisions based on economics," the planner declared.

McLaughlin counters this saying the "most economical and attractive plan" is the one containing the mall, large supermarket and theatre. He maintained the plan fell apart because of municipal objections.

"We bent over backwards to help them. We have said give us a site plan," even though the whole project appears dead now, Venditti stated. "Maybe (if there is an approved site plan) someone will come forward and take it (the project) over."

With the first deal down the drain McLaughlin and Rosart came up with the second plan, a row of stores and much smaller supermarket.

However, that plan has also collapsed. McLaughlin says they approached 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, who is no longer with the firm, with a proposal for an expanded store.

Lumsden never initiated the expansion of the supermarket. "The last I heard they were going to proceed with the rest of the project and just leave the

food store as it is," Lumsden said, adding he "objects" to his firm being brought into the issue. Lumsden and hence AB Foodland, have 18 months to run on the present lease and an option for five more years. Lumsden observed the developer would have to buy the building from the present owner for plans to proceed.

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 and will be subject of an 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

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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 low-income 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 bill 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)—Acton 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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