

No Sprackman plaza hearing until late spring

Halton Hills and Landawn Shopping Centres won't battle it out before the Ontario Municipal Board about plans to build a plaza on the east side of Acton until at least late May or June.

After council rejected his application for a zoning and official plan amendment for a large plaza to be built on land at the corner of Churchill Rd. South and Highway 7 in 1979 developer Jerry Sprackman, president of Landawn Shopping Centres, asked Queen's Park to send the case to the OMB.

Halton Hills planning board chairman Mike Armstrong said in an interview this week he has been talking to Sprackman and the developer has decided to ask the OMB to defer the hearing until at least the spring.

Halton Hills earlier attempted to have the province rule there shouldn't be a hearing, but lost that bid to clear up the matter.

The minister of housing decided there should be a hearing and referred the matter to the OMB. The OMB has yet to set a hearing date.

In previous conversations with Armstrong in the past couple of months Sprackman hinted he might withdraw his case entirely the regional councillor said, and the developer also wrote and asked if it would be of any use for him to appear before council to discuss the matter. Council declined to invite Sprackman for another discussion of the issue.

Sprackman has objected to some rezoning the town has approved since turning him down, including rezoning of a parcel of land on Acton's north-west fringe for industrial development.

Armstrong said he talked Sprackman into asking the OMB for a deferral until late May or June in the event the hearing is called for this winter because the town is in the process of conducting an urban boundary and planning study for the Acton area through a consulting firm.

Planning board chairman noted unless there are changes made by Queen's Park with regard to Acton's sewage treatment plant limits then existing

(Continued on page B 11)



The Burns' Supper, the second annual Scottish celebration in Acton after an absence of many years, will take place this Saturday night at Knox Presbyterian Church. In this photo from last year's Burns' Supper John Watson and Ian Findlay bring in the honored haggis with help from piper Linda Pilgrim.

Police open house set for February 6

Halton Regional Police will hold their big open house to meet Acton and hear the community's opinions and concerns about police service on Friday, February 6.

The open house will be held at the Acton Legion from 10 a.m. to noon and 7 to 8.30 p.m.

Chief James Harding, deputy chief Bob Middaugh, Inspector John Barratt, District Commander Duncan McPherson, crime prevention officers, safety officers, and other high ranking officers, as well as members of the Halton Police Commission, are expected to be on hand for the open house.

In addition the 12 police officers assigned to cover Acton in 1981 will attend the open house.

The police also plan to have a num-

ber of displays and slide presentations explaining crime prevention and force operations.

Police are hoping for a large attendance at the open house. Harding says the force needs to hear from the residents of Acton so the police service can be tailored to the community's needs.

The open house is the result of complaints about police service in recent months, particularly concerns voiced by local businessmen, and a sort of community spokesman on the issue, Lorne Doherty.

Local politicians also want to hear from the community about policing and hope to move the Ward Two Councillors' drop-in to the Legion from the Community Services Centre for February 6. The drop-in runs from 1 to 3 p.m.

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New, larger IGA

New plaza downtown

Doug Fread unveiled plans this week for a two phase major commercial development which will include a substantially larger new IGA supermarket to be built on the site of the Dominion Hotel and adjacent property.

Fread, who owns Fread Construction, and his partner in the project, Toronto architect Roman Kassian, hope to get started with construction of phase one by this May.

Fread-Kassian Investments Ltd. have approached Halton Hills regarding rezoning to commercial part of the package of properties they have put together.

The anchor of the development, which would

involve two commercial complexes built in two phases, is a brand new IGA supermarket which would be three or four times larger than the existing store. This new IGA would be built on the site of the Dominion Hotel which burned down in August of 1979 and Fread-Kassian acquired last October at a public auction.

The first phase would also involve several retail stores.

Phase two, which would be built to the north of the hotel site now used by the BIA for a parking lot, would be a strip plaza of stores.

Fread estimated there would be 10,000 to 12,000 square feet of stores for rent when both sections of this development are completed.

Drawings have been done and some square footages for the IGA and stores established, but not nailed down because the configuration of the development could be changed still during discussions with the municipality regarding rezoning and site development.

There would be parking for 96 cars when the entire development is completed.

"It's a whole new start towards rejuvenation of downtown Acton," Fread said, agreeing the project is a very major commercial development for the town.

While it will be something of a strip plaza, Fread noted the architecture will reflect an older style, its character will fit in well with downtown, and it won't be a cheap looking strip plaza. He very much wants the development to be a quality project.

Through Fobert Real Estate negotiations have begun with three prospective tenants for the stores, including a trust company. Fread said the size and number of stores is flexible, based on how large tenants want their stores to be, but expects there will be about eight outlets in addition to the IGA. Fread said they are looking for quality businesses for the plaza and the firms they are talking to are well known names.

Besides the Dominion Hotel site Fread-Kassian have acquired property from adjacent landowner Dave Lindsay as well as the old boarded up home to the north. They have made arrangements to purchase another piece of property to the north of the hotel site where lawyers offices are now located.

Phase two of the project won't proceed until the first is finished and completely leased.

Fread said he hopes Halton Hills council will expedite the rezoning so work can begin in the spring.



Joan Todd of Todd Associates, is a new member of the Acton Chamber of Commerce. In fact, she was the first new member signed up in this year's Chamber membership drive. Mrs. Todd, 141 Acton Blvd., runs a bookkeeping service. Here Chamber official John Allinson presents her with her 1981

membership decal and Janet Fleming gave her a copy of the Chamber's 1980 directory.

Photo by GORD MURRAY

Board postpones decision on firing of convicted teacher

Keith Black's future as a teacher is in the hands of the 20 Halton Board of Education trustees.

Trustees will decide next Wednesday (January 21) whether Black, who was convicted of theft in a case which has nothing to do with his school work, will continue to hold a job with the Halton board.

The Black matter is the first major test of the new Halton Board of Education since the fall election.

Trustees postponed a decision concerning Black's job at Acton High School Thursday. However, they listened behind closed doors to arguments from three representatives of 250 or so Acton and Rockwood residents who drove to the Burlington meeting.

Crowd members talked quietly, standing elbow

elbow, in the foyer of the board's central administration office for about an hour before the board invited ministers Charles Beaton, John Robertson and Black's lawyer David Smith into the meeting.

All of the board's hour long private meeting was devoted to the Black case.

The board listened to the advice of its lawyer during the meeting. At least one trustee had a copy of the court transcript dealing with Black's sentence.

Three days before Christmas Black was given a suspended sentence and placed on three years probation by Wellington County Court Judge J.D. Sutherland for a technical theft of cattle. Black, who

ran a feeder lot farm in Eramosa Township, sold about \$100,000 worth of cattle which belonged to another man.

Black, who is head of the social science department at Acton High School, learned by registered letter on December 30 that the board's staff is recommending the board fire him and also that he lose his teacher's certificate.

Halton Superintendent of Instruction Ray Stoness, over whose signature the recommendations were made, said Thursday his decision was based on a legal interpretation of the Education Act. Moreover, he told reporters, his decision was supported by members of the board's executive

(Continued on page B 11)

inside

Another Halton Hills asparagus farmer has been hauled into court. Details on page 3.

Halton Hills is setting up a task force to work out the official plan. More on page 5.

Julian Reed has challenged cabinet minister Jim Snow on his recent hydro corridor statements. Turn to page B12.

Halton region is taking Harry Norton to the provincial cabinet. See story on page B5.

An Australian exchange teacher is living in the Rockwood area. Turn to B5 for district news.

Denis Scallen hopes to appeal his fraud conviction to the Supreme Court. More on page 3.

OPP murder trial begins

The Ontario Supreme Court trial of Robert Mitchell, 33, accused of murdering a former member of the Acton and Milton OPP detachments, began as scheduled in Newmarket Monday.

Mitchell, of Simcoe, is on trial for the first degree murder of Constable Duncan McAleese last January outside a sandwich shop in Delhi.

The jury of six men and women began hearing testimony in the trial, expected to last two weeks on Monday.

The officer, who was a member of the OPP detachment in Acton when it closed down in the fall of 1975, was shot numerous times and his fallen body was then dragged under the truck his assailant fled the scene in.

12 pack of crime prevention

Halton Regional Police have assigned 12 officers to handle policing here in 1981 and most of the faces won't be all that new to residents.

All of the dozen officers have worked in the Acton area at one time or another and have lived in Halton Hills.

Last month in a move to stabilize the force's presence in Acton, Chief James Harding announced 12 men would be posted to work here for the entire year. He cautioned that on occasion, because of days off, court appearances, training sessions and sick days an officer not normally assigned here may have to work in one of Acton and area's two policing zones for a shift. However, Harding promised, generally residents will see the same 12 officers all year.

Police are hoping residents will get to know these dozen men and the officers will get to know Actonians.

Following is a brief bit of information about each of the 12 policemen:

First Class Constable RODNEY BEAUMONT is 24 and has four years police experience. A resident of Halton Hills most of his life, he now lives in Hillsburgh.

Second Class Constable DONALD COUSENS is 23 and has 3½ years police experience. He lives in Georgetown.

First Class Constable WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM is 33 and has policeman for 14 years. He lives in Georgetown.

First Class Constable ALEX FISHBEIN is 29 and has a decade of police experience. He has lived in Georgetown for four years.

First Class Constable GARRY GEORGE is 27 and has 5½ years of police experience. A resident of Halton Hills most of his life he recently moved to Hillsburgh.

First Class Constable ARTHUR GODDARD is 28 and has 5½ years police experience. He has lived in Georgetown the past two years.

First Class Constable NICHOLAS LEONI is 35 and has six years police experience. He has lived in Georgetown six years.

First Class Constable WILLIAM PARRY is 34 and has 25 years experience as a policeman. He has lived in Halton Hills for 2½ years.

First Class Constable JACK POOT is 37 and has been a policeman for 13 years. A Halton Hills resident.

(Continued on page B 11)

Alex Fishbein	Thomas Roduck	William Parry	Robert Ustrycki	Arthur Goddard	Donald Cousens
Nicholas Leoni	Rodney Beaumont	Jack Poot	William Cunningham	Keith Woudstra	Garry George