

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Expedite IGA plaza rezoning

Council has established a track record the past couple of years of strongly supporting commercial development in the core area of Acton.

We certainly hope the town fathers don't change this stance. We can't imagine any reason why they would.

Plans were unveiled this week for a major commercial plaza development on the site of the Dominion Hotel and adjacent property.

We join local contractor Doug Fread in urging council to expedite rezoning of some of the property so the project can proceed in the spring.

The sooner construction begins the better, not just for the residents who hopefully will shop there, but also for the municipality. A major project downtown will help the municipality in its case before the Ontario Municipal Board against Landawn Shopping Centres and developer Jerry Sprackman's plans to build a plaza on the east side of Acton. Fortunately it now appears this matter won't go before the OMB until Fread's project is hopefully off the ground.

Fread and his Toronto architect partner Roman Kassian have come up with an excellent proposal. After buying the Dominion Hotel site at a public auction last October they set out and acquired some adjacent properties, assembling them into a terrific parcel, prime for a major development.

The core of their plan is a brand new IGA supermarket. Nobody could say Acton couldn't use a large supermarket and downtown is the perfect location.

Besides the new IGA, three or four times larger than the present store, phase one of the project on the Dominion Hotel site will include a few stores. Once it is built and leased the developers plan to proceed with construction of a strip plaza to the north of phase one which will house several more stores.

Fread has pledged this project won't be a cheap looking strip

plaza. It will be designed so it fits in with the character of downtown. He is aiming for an attractive development.

This is welcomed news. It also makes good sense.

It will be easier to rent stores, probably eight of them in all in addition to the IGA, if the project is attractive.

They have already spoken to a few firms about locating in this plaza. Fread says they are aiming to bring in established, quality businesses. They want firms with well known names and proven records of quality.

After a few disappointments in recent months, such as the collapse of plaza development plans for the old Force Electric site and the slowness in getting downtown refurbishing off the ground, this project is just the kind of news the Acton BIA needs to hear.

This project could be the need catalyst to get downtown refurbishing really going. If this plaza is the success we suspect it will be, especially as it becomes increasingly more expensive for residents to shop out of town because of rising transportation costs, then it might be just the nudge that's needed to get planning for development of the Force Electric site back on the rails. Success breeds success they say.

Fread wants to get started on his project this spring, which tosses another ball in the BIA's court.

Right now the Dominion Hotel land is being used as a downtown parking lot. In the holiday season particularly shoppers made good use of it for parking.

Now that shoppers are used to extra off street parking in the core area the BIA will have to move as quickly as possible on plans for more off street parking and have it ready as soon as possible after this project gets going.

True there will be over 90 parking spots at the IGA plaza when its completed, but they'll be needed for the crowds that will be flocking to shon there and won't be useful for downtown parking spillover.

Our readers write

Why cemetery survey?

January 5, 1981
Re: American Firm to study Cemetery, Acton Free Press, Wed. Dec. 10, 1980.

Dear Sir:
Now that the "Ho! Ho!" Season is over I feel compelled to comment on the above headline which appeared in the Free Press on the above-mentioned date.

Following discussions with other citizens who have personal concerns regarding Fairview Cemetery, one begins to wonder if Halton Hills Council is prepared to pay the piper every time engineer Bob Austin calls the tune. One also wonders why an American firm through Creative Memorials of Milton is being considered. Shades of the descendants of United Empire Loyalists who rest under the stately pines which stand guard over the old section of Fairview!

At the time when it first became necessary for our family to become personally concerned with the affairs of Acton cemetery, some 33 years ago, the need for more land was even then becoming apparent. In the ensuing years, and in particular between 1963 and 1972, swampy low land was filled in and more land purchased from adjoining landowners in order that there should be enough plots available. The cemetery gates were also moved to the present location off Cobblehill Road.

On checking old records, I verified that a complete survey of the Acton Cemetery was completed on December 22, 1972 by the firm of: Black, Shoemaker & Robinson, 351 Speedvale Ave. W., Guelph, Ontario. The survey was listed as: Town of Acton, Project 72-3146 and was signed by R. L. Shoemaker, Ontario Land Surveyor. Has this survey become obsolete in just eight years? If so, why is it necessary to secure the services of an American firm for a further survey, when I understand there is an engineering department in the offices of Halton Hills which should be perfectly capable of performing any small planning tasks or layout of future plots.

In his inaugural address, the Mayor—for whom I have great respect—stated it would be a year of hoped-for restraint in spending. Therefore, it hardly appears to be logical to plan on spending \$6,000 on additional planning of a cemetery, which to many of us who visit it regularly, gives the appearance of being rather well planned.

Periodically, in the press, we have been made aware of petty feuding between a particular pair of citizens and those in charge of the care of the cemetery regarding bits of garbage lodged against private fences, maintenance, and in particular the lament of one adjacent owner over a small pool being filled in. Since I have been a frequent visitor to the cemetery since before the last mentioned complainant reached school age, let me assure you it was no pool, but a foul smelling swale covered with green slime. It added greatly to the natural beauty of the area when at least half of this swale was filled in, contoured and seeded. There may have been an ecological loss—mostly to the turtles and small slippery slimeys which lived in the swamp.

Finally, it was encouraging to read that it was admitted there might be a mosquito problem due to the above mentioned swamp. Recalling the very lengthy discussions between professionals in the habits and habitats of mosquitoes and Mr. Austin last summer regarding the voracious appetites of the mosquitoes in the Churchill Rd. N., Acton area, it is hopeful to hear it admitted that a mosquito problem could possibly exist in the Acton area.

Let I be accused of sending a letter to the press over the heads of council, I am sending a copy of this letter to Mayor Pomeroy, May 1, at this time, commend the Mayor and his Council on a term well served, and wish for them wisdom and success in guiding the affairs of Halton Hills in the coming term.

Alice A. DUBY



I laugh at Canadians' whining, we're spoiled



It's difficult to peer ahead into 1981 with wild enthusiasm. Unless you live in Alberta, where the taxes are low and the living is high.

Inflation is almost guaranteed to increase from 10 to 15 per cent. Our prime minister, in his infinite wisdom, had some advice for poor people and pensioners who dread such a forecast.

In effect, he said if they can't afford bread, let them eat cake. The last person who uttered those sentiments wound up with her head in a basket. Yes, Mr. Trudeau has much in common with Marie Antoinette, and is just about as close to the people.

Peace and goodwill seem like a hopeless cause for the coming year. The Russians are still in Afghanistan keeping the peace. The situation in Poland, as I write, is very dicey. The Middle East is on the verge of catching fire, literally and figuratively. There are wars and rumors of wars around the globe.

And our country is not exactly in glowing health, politically, although that's nothing new. Barely has Rene Levesque had his ears pinned back when out of the West gallops, not young Lochinvar, but fairly serious threats of separation from Canada, airily dismissed by our PM as "hysteria."

It's anything but. If everybody west of Ontario went along with it, The West would have one of the biggest countries in the world, with a small population, great resources. And it's about time Ottawa, and Ontario, the fat cat of Canada since confederation, did more than pooh-pooh the idea.

Meanwhile, let's get back to the trivia that is so much more important to the individual. It's still a gloomy outlook.

Young people, unless they have a double income or inherited wealth, might as well

forget about buying a house, with mortgage rates so high that even the Lord can smell something rotten in the state of our economy.

Donald McEachen, a wealthy bachelor who happens to be minister of finance, is so eager to de-index our income tax that he's dancing about like a kid who has to go to the bathroom. If he were allowed to get away with it, no matter how hard you worked, or how bright you were, your income would melt like a snowball in you-know-where.

Pollution and acid rain are attacking this beautiful country like the bubonic plague, while government talks tough and does nothing, and industrialists, in sincere surprise, ask, "What pollution?" while our lakes are killed of fish, our soil is poisoned, and our health is threatened.

These may seem pretty gloomy thoughts, but there are even more horrible prospects for 1981. Every one of us is going to be one year older, and not one whit better.

That may be all very well for a kid of 18 who wants to become 19 so he can drink legally. But for many of us, all it means is more aches and pains, new glasses, new teeth, and one step closer to the grave.

Many of us will lose friends and relatives to that old Grim Reaper, and many will desert the sports page or the comics for the obituary columns.

We'll probably have a dreadful winter, a late spring, a short, wet, cool summer, and another lousy fall, like that of 1980. I can feel it in my bones, especially the middle toe-bone of my left foot, upon which I dropped the mickey.

Unless the feds go on priming the pump with our taxes, gas and oil prices will soar, creating dreadful hardships, such as having to wear a sweater in the house, or

walk to work.

Now, everything I've said is true, and you know it. But I can just hear you saying, "What's wrong with Smiley? Who does he think he is?" Cassandra? He's getting into his dotage, and should be put away in an old people's home."

And you'd be quite right. Nobody believed Cassandra either, and it was a good thing. If they'd believed her, the fall of Troy would never have taken place, the great Greek tragedians would have had no material, and instead of working like trojans, we'd probably be working for Trojans.

But inside, I don't feel any of that gloom and doom I've been spouting. I feel like a boy. Rather an old boy, but a boy, nonetheless.

Despite our economic situation, high taxes, inflation on both port and starboard bows, war and violence our everyday diet, we'll survive, and probably have as good a year as we ever had.

We still have one of the highest living standards in the world. We are still a rich country, comparatively. We still have a sturdy independent nation of individuals. Our inflation rate is no worse than most countries, better than many.

So, if you can't buy a house, as Trudeau would say, buy a condominium. If you can't afford the supermarket prices, get out and cultivate your own garden. If you can't afford gas, walk. If you can't afford fuel, drop dead. It'll be warm enough where you go.

When I think of what Canadian pioneers faced, every new year, I just laugh at the whining of modern Canadians, one of the spoiledst nations in the world.

Personally, I'm going to have a great 1981, even if I can't afford teeth and have to gum my grub, have to get around on crutches. And the same to you.

and industries.

Have fun at the fall fair last September? Well the Acton Agricultural Society is holding their annual meeting Saturday, January 24 at Knox Presbyterian Church at 10 a.m. All fair board members are asked to be on hand to hear committee reports, elect a new slate of officers, and hear the financial statement for last year's event. The coming event in last week's paper gave the date as January 21. Please note it is the 24th.

I'm on Cloud Nine these days in anticipation of my meeting my favorite television star, not to mention one of the sexiest men in Hollywood, Patrick Duffy, better known as Bobby Ewing on TV's Dallas who will be in Toronto in a few weeks at the Speedsport and Truckport in the CNE building. Your's truly, and Free Press sports writer Diana Waltmann are heading down for pictures, and hopefully a personal interview. If we manage that, don't expect to see either of us around for a while. After all, if we can get an interview, the chances are just about as good that the three of us will run off together.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, January 13, 1971

The keys of office were handed over by president John Shadbolt to newly-elected Chamber of Commerce president Roy Goodwin at the annual meeting in the Dominion Hotel. The symbol of office was the key to the post office box.

Dr. Frank Oakes, reeve of Acton and well-known veterinarian, was elected warden of Halton county. The election is a high point in 33 years of public service.

High school teacher Mrs. Marlon Reed fell and broke her hip.

Bill Buchanan was elected president of Acton Citizens Band.

Mike Hurst has been appointed marketing planning manager for Labatt Breweries.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warne celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Stylo Acres opened its property for snow-mobblers.

20 years ago

Thursday, January 12, 1961

Over 900 doughnuts and 500 cups of coffee were consumed after nearly 700 residents watched approximately 1,100 Christmas trees reduced to smouldering embers during the Acton Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree burning party. C. C. president E.G. Tyler Sr. and Mayor J.H. Goy applied lighted torches to the trees. The sky was lit up for miles around.

Cement footings were poured for the new addition to the Mason Knitting plant. George Mason says the addition will house a dye and bleach house.

Acton high school board approved a wage scale proposal; principal minimum \$6,000, maximum \$9,300; teachers salaries ranging from \$4,300 to \$8,700. Supply teachers \$20 a day.

Plans for a new post office in Acton came to light this week.

Mrs. E. Franklin has started rehearsals for the Robert Little school opera.

50 years ago

Thursday, January 15, 1931

About 350 Acton fans attended the hockey game in Georgetown Friday night. There was a special electric train and some went by auto. Some of the stores closed early.

The Jinx has gone! What a changed game the intermediates played! Frank Gibbons moved to the forward line, and there was more determination this time. "Big Boy" Greer scored a beautiful solo goal in the third period. Holloway in goal played up to standard. J. Kentner, F. Kentner, Salmon, Walters, Frank Gibbons, Clarence Kentner and Farlow all played effectively. It was the best exhibition of the game we have witnessed between these two rivals.

The Women's Institute agreed to pay for the fixing of a number of children's teeth, whose parents could not afford it.

Several families are under quarantine for chicken pox.

Meadows Brothers were able to get their rink at the highway in Rockwood going, in connection with their booth.

75 years ago

Thursday, January 11, 1906

The disgraceful drunken row at the door of Lehman's Hotel Saturday was a fine example of what beasts the bar room can turn men into.

J. Ballentine, coal dealer, has secured location for his coal houses between the Beardmore Warehouses and the Noble elevator. He will unload coal this week.

Mr. S. Roberts, manager of Firstbrook Bros. fish hatchery, went to St. John, N.B. last week with 13,000 nine months old trout fish fry. They were deposited in a private fishing ground.

Comparatively few heads of families spend fifty years together, but Mr. and Mrs. John Matthews have celebrated their golden wedding. Their parents were pioneers and esteemed early residents of Acton.

The Acton House was opened to the public on Tuesday.

100 years ago

Thursday morning, January 13, 1831

A valuable imported hog belonging to Mr. S. Elliott, Esquimes, died on Christmas night. He cost over \$100.

On Monday evening after council had adjourned Mr. D. Henderson, who has occupied the position of reeve during the past year, entertained the members of the old council and the new, together with the village officials, and a representative of the Free Press, with an oyster supper at the Royal Exchange Hotel.

Tickets for admission to the debate on Baptism may be had at the stores of Messrs. J.E. McGarvin and C.T. Hill. During the past week the subscribers to the Daily Globe who received their paper through the post office have not received it until the day after publication.

The streets present a lively appearance now. Farmers and others are busily engaged in bringing in cordwood, hemlock bark, railroad ties, fence posts and telegraph poles.

Water in the cisterns is getting low.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Many thanks to Henry Deval for his donation of Dominion food store tapes for the Friends-in-Deed. When the local handicapped organization receives so much in tapes from Dominion and Zehre, they will receive a free wheelchair. Mr. Deval's donation will help reach their goal.

Happy 25th wedding anniversary to Albert and Irma Schupp. The couple marked their silver anniversary January 6, and celebrated Saturday, January 10 at a dinner and dance held by their children Susan McCallum, and Peter and Harry. Approximately 45 guests attended the

celebrations at the Italian-Canadian Club in Guelph.

The NHL Oldtimers will play the B'nal Brith All-stars on Tuesday, January 27 in Willowdale. So what? you ask. Well, fans of former Chicago Black Hawks and Toronto Maple Leaf star Pierre Pilote, (and Speyside area resident) is on the NHL Oldtimer team.

Playing with him will be such names as Andy Balgait (even I've heard of him), Jim Harrison, Keith McCreary, Harry Howell, George Morrison, Pete Conacher, Ivan Irwin, Sid Smith, Norm Ullman and Mike Pelyk and Bob Wall.

All proceeds will help support the League for Human Rights, a national non-profit agency of Canadian B'nal Brith, dedicated to combatting racism and discrimination in Canada.

For more information, contact Carol Zelniker, at (416) 633-6224.

The Chamber of Commerce is seeking members, both old and new. If you haven't renewed your membership, or wish to join for the first time, contact Janet Fleming, 853-0925. Private citizens can join the organization, as well as businesses, stores,