

The Acton Free Press

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Sprackman proves it again he doesn't care about Acton

It's an old tune. We've played it before, but it bears repeating. Jerry Sprackman and his Landawn Shopping Centres shouldn't be allowed to build a plaza on the east side of Acton, if for no other reason than he has conclusively demonstrated he doesn't care about this community one little bit.

Just a little over a month before developer Doug Fread had hoped to break ground for the new IGA plaza downtown Landawn has filed an appeal with the OMB over Halton Hills decision to rezone a small part of Fread's site for commercial.

It is just another in a series of objections Sprackman has lodged with the OMB against projects approved since Halton Hills decided to turn thumbs down on his plaza plan.

The planning and economic reasons we oppose Landawn's plaza proposal have been stated clearly in the past. In a nutshell, we agree with council that commercial development priority should be given to downtown before there is any further commercial development along Highway 7.

It is interesting to note the recently publicized Acton Heights Development Plan which would, if ever approved in its entirety, add over 3,000 people to Acton's population states there is already ample commercial areas in Acton and left room for just a small convenience store in its plans.

Sprackman has gone on record with us as being interested in answering the desires of residents to have more supermarket facilities in Acton. He points to his survey which showed strong community support for his plaza.

Yet, he turns around and throws up a roadblock in front of a project which would provide Acton with a new IGA supermarket substantially larger than the existing store.

His tactic, as we have said before, isn't new.

Developers who see their projects rejected by the town oppose everything else council approves while awaiting their own OMB hearing. It's designed to wear down and frustrate council.

Sprackman's firm has opposed a number of projects in the past year, most notably an Official Plan amendment which would create more industrial land for Acton.

His argument has been that Acton supposedly is short of sewage allocation so if a project approved after his was rejected goes ahead it could take sewage plant space away from his plaza which might still be approved by the OMB.

However, we can't see that argument holding water this time.

The IGA plaza is definitely infilling. It is within the existing urban servicing boundaries. And it is being built where development once was, the Dominion Hotel and an old house. These buildings had sewage service and just because they aren't there now doesn't mean their sewage allocations were removed. Sewage allocations were done a few years ago and are based on formulas, not on precise gauging of effluent from a building.

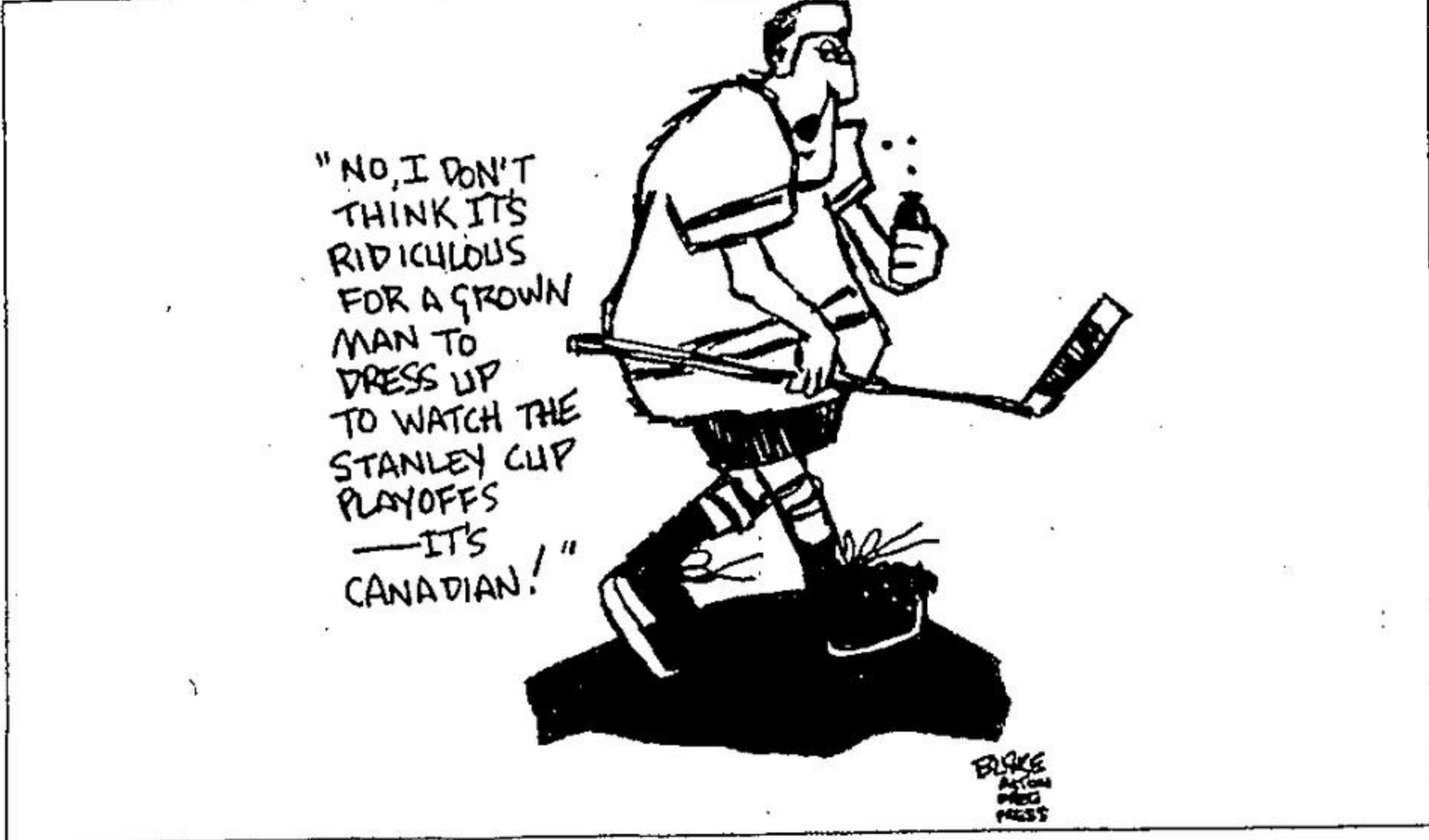
We can't see how the IGA plaza will take sewage allocation from the proposed east side plaza.

And even if it would it should still take priority because it is in our opinion a much sounder idea from an orderly development standpoint and it is on land where servicing already exists.

It is difficult to determine what Sprackman's case will be on this objection, or any other for that matter. He doesn't return our calls. The only time we have heard from him was when he wanted to tell us he didn't agree with our stance against him. We'd welcome his telling us some other reason he has for opposing the IGA plaza other than to prevent any commercial development here if he can't proceed with his plan.

Yes, we've said it before, but it bears repeating.

Sprackman has shown in our opinion, that he doesn't have Acton's best interests at heart. We'd be better off suffering without any further commercial development rather than allow him to build his plaza in light of the attitude he has demonstrated.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Who says you can't mix business with pleasure? Albert and Irma Schupp, of R.R. 4 Acton, just returned home after almost three months of doing just that, and they had a ball.

The couple left in early February for Auckland, New Zealand, where Albert, an employee of Goss Press in Chicago was to install two units of a press. En route however, they stopped for a week in Hawaii, where they soaked up the sun and relaxed. When they finally arrived in Auckland, they found themselves in the middle of a strike of pressmen, resulting in a lot of unexpected free time on that island.

Once the strike was settled, Albert set to work doing his thing. Pictures appeared in two Auckland newspapers of him hard at work.

In a few short weeks his work was done, and the Acton couple visited Australia for two weeks.

But their travels weren't complete there. From their jetted to Germany to visit relatives for a week before returning home on Good Friday.

Just when we thought it was over—I got two calls last Wednesday night just after this column reached the front doors of many homes in town. Seems the "proof" related to me concerning the location of Frank Prouse's garage was incorrect (I never saw it, just took the word of an informant).

Anyway, Fred Allan was the second caller. He took Ted Tyler's side in saying that Prouse was never at the L and L Ford site. He knows, because he talked to Fred Garner, who was located there. Fred tells me Garner was in the process of selling the property to Prouse when Ray Thompson

scooped it up before the Prouse deal was made. It never belonged to Prouse, Fred states.

And, guess who should be the first caller but an irate Ted Tyler (I don't like having that man angry with me—he's twice my size!). Ted says last week's informant is full of—I'll let your imagination wander. He wants to settle the matter once and for all (don't we all). He is prepared to next week offer positive proof that the Prouse garage was never at the site of L and L. He has a surprise witness, who really should know.

Stay tuned next week for another chapter in the continuing saga.

Meanwhile, my informant, who shall not be named, is desperately trying to present me with this "proof" that Prouse was at both sites (Achilles and L and L).

A sad note in all this controversy.

The Prouse subject came up after Kay Dilis brought me in a short piece on how newly re-elected Ontario Bill Davis had family ties in Acton. His mother use to live here, and she was related to Frank Prouse. Well, sad to say, Mrs. Davis suffered from a stroke Thursday and is in hospital.

We all hope she gets well, and who knows, maybe she is following all this malarkey.

Two suggestions this week on how to keep the dryer from eating socks. One comes from Fred Ailan, who suggests pinning them together.

Another comes from my father-in-law Jack Murray in Brampton, who says by pinning them to a large article, they don't get lost. (I'd just lose the larger item also).

Schneiders candy factory in Rockwood was the subject of a lengthy feature story in the Globe and Mail Saturday. The story delved into the past, present and future of the busy place.

If your pocketbook says this isn't the year you'll get to Las Vegas, I'm sure you're wallet will be happy to learn of Monte Carlo night, a night of gaming and fun to raise money for Leathertown.

Mark May 1 on your calendar.

Not only will the evening have a Vegas feeling, but also you will be playing with authentic cards from the Nevada gambli-

ing city.

Chip Petrillo, one of the organizers of the evening, is so determined to make the night fun for all that he telephoned down to Circus Circus, one of the more famous casinos, and actually managed to talk them into sending eight dozen decks specially for the evening.

These cards are bigger than usual, for what reason I don't know, never having been to Vegas.

Forten bucks, you get black-jack, crown and anchor, and over and under, plus a buffet and great door prizes. Some of the bigger prizes are a trip for two to Las Vegas, donated by Acton Travel, a leather wing back chair from the Olds Hide House, a side of beef, from Lovell's Meats, a 35 mm camera from North American Piggy-back, two sets of 4 Michelin Radials from Queens Tire, and a 20 inch color TV plus an AM/FM cassette with turntable and speakers from Halton Hills Furniture. There's over 100 door prizes altogether, and an evening ending auction.

A live band will be playing throughout the evening.

Because of the nature of the evening, admittance is restricted to persons 19 years of age and over.

Fun starts at 7.30 at the Acton Community Centre. I'll see you there!

If you're a golfer, you may be interested in reading Diana Waltmann's round-up of where to play in the area in this week's sports section. Might be a good idea to cut it out so you can keep referring to it over the season.

Ever notice at the Actario draws that the colder the day the more people come out, and the nicer the day, the sparser the crowd. This past Saturday was, according to my chilled bones, freezing. Yet, both sides of the sidewalk on Mill St. was lined with hopeful ticket holders. But the week before, with the sun shining and most of us in spring jackets, hardly anyone showed up, as compared to the usual crowd.

Remember the breast examination clinic at Glenlea clinic this Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 853-3646 (evenings) or 853-3310 for free transportation or babysitting.

Back issues

10 years ago
Wednesday, April 21, 1971

"Jane Watson Day" ended the high school curling season. She won all the top awards. Winning rink consisted of Jane, David Cunningham and Sharon Ellerby.

Halton faces its highest welfare bill in 15 years due to high unemployment, an increasing number of deserted wives and persons with physical disabilities.

Construction began Monday on a new sewage plant for Boardman.

Don Price and Joan Morris won the finals of the Badminton club. Flia Vanitem and Norm Aitken were runners-up.

Daughters stole the limelight at the Y's Menettes spring fashion show.

Rockwood is split on the water and sewer issue.

20 years ago
Thursday, April 20, 1951

The plans for the new county building will not be approved until the price is cut to one million dollars.

Acton Agricultural Society has agreed to canvass the rural areas for the \$60,000 arena project. Phil Caddick and high school pupils are building a model and the firemen are decorating windows downtown. Alec Johnson and Johnny Goy have made speeches to groups this week.

South Pacific was the theme for the annual high school dance. On the committee were chairman Mary Beth Elliott, Janice Gardner, Susan Wilson, Brian Otterbein, Jean Moffat and Andrew Tarrant. Mrs. J. Galloway was staff advisor. Barry Kirkness acted as master of ceremonies.

On May 1 a new parish will be established, including Erin and Rockwood Anglican churches. The parish of Acton will just include the Church of St. Alban the Martyr.

50 years ago
Thursday, April 23, 1931.

The charter night and banquet of Acton Legion was an outstanding success. Over 100 attended the banquet in the club rooms on Frederick St. Vice-President J.M. McDonald was toastmaster.

Col. Picking presented the charter as about 50 members stood. President W.J. Gould, Vice-Presidents J.M. McDonald and B.G. Arnold, Secretary F.L. Wright and executive members F. Roney and W. Eccleshall received the charter and took the vows.

Mr. F. Salt accompanied soloist Scotty Burton. Capt. Bennett of Toronto expressed regret Col. A.O.T. Beardmore was not present. Col. Beardmore has been appointed A.D.C. to the new Governor-General in recognition of his work as commanding officer of the Royal Grenadiers. This announcement was greeted with cheers.

Comrade Padbury made a stirring appeal for members. Rev. Bennie commented lasting peace would come through the efforts of such organizations. There were many speeches made during the evening.

75 years ago
Thursday, April 19, 1906.

The Women's Institute met in the Town Hall when the subject was laundry work.

A real live missionary from Africa, Rev. Walter Currie, spoke at Churchill Church. He has spent 20 years in the dark continent.

At a meeting of the Rockwood W.C.T.U., resolutions were passed concerning the Lord's Day Act and the Liquor License Bill.

Martin McMurchy, a bright young graduate of Acton high school and a school teacher at Craigmont, was feeling badly used up and came home, then walking three miles to Acton to the doctor. Pneumonia turned to typhoid and the weakened system was unable to stand the second attack. He died at the age of 21. With his twin brother John, he passed the Entrance in 1903 under Miss Minnie Bennett, and they attended High School for parts of two terms, their duties on the farm requiring them to be there. They then attended county model school at Milton.

100 years ago
Thursday, April 14, 1881.

Dr. Morrow's horse broke through the ice on the pond, but was rescued by several men after having been in the water for several hours.

The Ontario Deaf and Dumb Institute at Belleville has room for several new pupils. This is the season when all underwraps should be worn as regularly as in January.

A meeting of ratepayers is called to consider the erecting of a town hall.

It is our sorrowful duty to announce the death of Mr. Malcolm Kennedy, one of the first settlers of this village. He was born in Scotland in 1807 and was a stone mason.

Linen dusters have appeared, and straw hats are in demand.

Parents should teach their children bicycle safety

Since the return of warmer weather (except in recent days) it has been obvious Acton children have generally ignored or forgotten what ever they have been taught about bicycle safety.

They're riding double.

They ride three and four abreast down the middle of the road.

They weave from side to side.

They ride with no hands.

They ride out from between parked cars.

In fact, you name a dangerous bicycle riding habit and a good number of youngsters here are doing it.

It's a wonder more aren't hit by cars. It's a wonder there hasn't been a tragedy and some child killed.

It's even more of a wonder more drivers don't die in droves of heart failure behind the wheel.

Driving in this town has been a real nail biting experience, especially in the area of schools, playgrounds and high concentrations of children, like Kingham.

Obviously the schools and police have an important role to play in teaching bicycle safety.

However it can't be emphasized strongly enough the job rests



Easter parade

In our Easter bonnet, with all the trimmings on it... is M-Z Bennett's grade four class in celebration of the holiday. Back row left to right: Teacher Cindy Blades, Lora Warrington, Michael Caspar, Andy Scott, Jason Henderson, Tom Jones, Chris Webster, Greg Auger. Second row: Parris Jago, Brenda Parker, Angela Johnstone, Cheryl Hancock, Nicole Charles, Richard Vranic, Billy Myrea, Mike Gordon and Brian Alexander. Front row: Tracy Smith, Laura Massles, Michelle Heaps, Jason Medland, Carolyn Haha, Blair Gilbert, Tommy Nolan.