

News digest

Car wash variance

Minor variances for front and sideyard setback changes were approved recently by Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment for Les Pelletis who will build a three bay car wash at his Queen St. Achilles Motors and BP service station operation.

Tyler runs ActiVan

Last Tuesday Halton Hills council passed a by-law to execute a contract with Tyler Transport to run ActiVan, the trial transit service for the physically disabled in Halton Hills.

Write-off taxes

Sitting as court of revision last Tuesday night Halton Hills council wrote-off \$21,430.92 in taxes which couldn't be collected because of bankruptcies, receivership, property destroyed by fire, errors, appeals against assessment, business quit operating or changed hands. Of the over \$21,000 in taxes written off \$6,283.57 was Halton Hills taxes, the balance was region or school board taxes. The amount of Acton taxes written off was \$1,369.33.

Auto wrecker licensed

Johnson Auto Wreckers, RR 2 Acton, has been given a Halton Hills licence for all of 1981. Earlier in the year council gave Johnson Auto Wreckers only a temporary licence so the business could keep operating while the property was cleaned up to meet the town's bylaw and a fence repaired. The work was completed earlier this month so last Tuesday council approved a 1981 licence.

Mammography study

Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society is asking local women between the ages of 40 and 59 to participate in a study of mammographic screening at Mt. Sinai Hospital on May 19. Transportation will be provided and those wishing to participate are asked to call the Halton Hills cancer unit at 877-1124 by this Friday. Mammographic screening is a new approach to detecting breast cancer sooner than through self examination. Screening by mammography means an annual examination of breast tissue by low-dose x-ray, but it is expensive and before it can become a nationwide program for all women its value must be proved. The study will involve 90,000 women for a period of five years.

Small business week set

Small Business Week in Halton Hills is set to start October 25, after town council passed a resolution last week. The request for a special week for small business originated with the Federal Business Development Bank.

Fence viewers raise

The town is going to give its fence viewers and livestock valuers a raise. Their pay will be bumped up to \$25 from \$20 for each day of work and report they submit to Halton Hills.

Hire summer workers

Halton Hills plans to hire 22 students to work in the engineering and works departments this summer and pay them wages ranging from \$4.43 to \$5.38 an hour depending on their education and the number of summers they have worked for the municipality.

Fire alarm pacts

Halton Hills general committee Monday night approved a bylaw which will set out agreements with the municipality for firms which will hook into the fire alarm panel the town will buy this year.

Dog offense fines

Halton Hills general committee approved a by-law Monday which will allow the animal control officer to give tickets to dog owners for failing to buy a licence or allowing their animal to run at large. Both fines can be settled out of court. The fine for not buying a dog licence is \$23 and for letting a dog run at large is \$13.

Eramosa school display

Eramosa Public School will be one of several Wellington County Schools with displays at Stone Road Mall this week. Wellington Board of Education is marking its Education Week from April 27 to May 1.

Rockwood opens

All Grand River Conservation Authority parks, including Rockwood Conservation Area will open this weekend.

Rent part of park

Halton Hills will pay Beardmore \$764 this year and \$817 in 1982 for rent of part of Prospect Park. The land was reclaimed after dredging of Fairy Lake and the municipality has rented it since, 1970. Monday Halton Hills general committee approved a bylaw increasing the rent seven per cent each of the next two years.

New Acton officer

Constable John Lyver has been assigned to patrol Acton by the Halton Regional Police. He takes the place of Bill Cunningham, who was recently promoted to Sergeant, as one of the 12 officers assigned to cover Acton this year. A Hillsburgh resident, Constable Lyver was with the old Georgetown Police before it was disbanded to become part of the Halton Regional Police.

Science fair winners

Melanie Bray, Sonja Amstaeffer, Sheryl Soper, Mike Nellis and Jason Inglis were all McKenzie-Smith science fair winners. Bray won the grade seven prize for a display of molds and fungi, Amstaeffer and Soper made a cancer display and Nellis and Inglis did a project on water conservation.

ADAPT meeting

The Halton Alcohol and Drug Addiction Program (ADAPT) will hold its annual meeting May 12 at Milton District Hospital in the clinical classroom at 8 p.m.

Charged with assault

A scuffle between two Ransom Street men resulted in an assault causing bodily harm charge, Friday. The men, both live in the 24 Ransom Street apartments. A 31-year-old resident has been charged with the attack on another man, 45, who received facial cuts in the fight.

Truck theft

Halton Regional Police arrested a Mill Street resident Sunday in connection with the theft of a GMC pick-up truck from Rockwell International. The 27-year-old Acton man was arrested at his home and the vehicle recovered.

Citizens' Band seeks members

Acton Citizens' Band is seeking experienced male and female musicians.

This Brass and Reed Concert and Marching Band is a volunteer organization which has been in existence since 1872. The Citizens' Band produces three major concerts each year in addition to attend parades for various functions. It has won many awards in competition at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Many of its members have come up through its

instructional program in which instrumental tuition is free. Most types of instruments are available on loan. Learners practise every Tuesday evening from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Bandhall in Acton.

The Citizens' Band rehearses each Wednesday at the same time and place. It is not necessary to be an Acton resident to become a band member.

If interested in joining, contact Bandmaster Dr. George Elliot, 76 Bower Ave., 853-0365 between 6 and 7 p.m.

Plan June 6 soap box derby

The Acton Optimist Club will hold a soap box derby on June 6.

Monday Halton Hills general committee approved the closing of Agnes St. from Frederick St. to Willow St. and Frederick south to Church St. to the Beardmore Gates. The roads will be closed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Optimists will have to allow homeowners on the closed streets to get in and out of their homes, provide barricades and

signs, notify residents in the area at least two days prior to the event that the roads will be closed, receive the approval for the event from the Halton Regional Police and the club clean-up litter and materials immediately after the derby.

The derby is for girls and boys age 6 to 16 and "every safety precaution will be taken." "We expect this to be a fun-filled day for the children and parents," derby chairman Walter Barlow said.



Carl Hymers paid tribute to his colleague Gary Dawkins who died nearly two years ago. Georgetown principal Tom Gibson presented a portrait of the late Gary Dawkins to McKenzie-Smith Middle School last Wednesday night. With Gibson are Rosealee Dawkins, Michael Dawkins and Mark Dawkins.



Gary Dawkins 1939-1979



John Simpson and Em Lavender with the plaque dedicating the McKenzie-Smith Middle School library as the Gary Dawkins Memorial Library.

This week thru the lens

Council locks debate of Section 86 offers study of 'unfair assessment'

Taxpayers are stuck with their "unfair assessment" as far as Halton Hills council is concerned. Next year, however, local politicians may have a happier story.

Halton Hills council sidestepped an invitation by about 25 citizens to reopen the controversial debate on Section 86.

The Acton-Esqueving delegation, led by Rick Smith, Rosemary Rd., hoped to get council to reopen the debate with an eye to persuading councillors to go along with Section 86 of The Assessment Act.

The controversial section of provincial tax legislation was recently rejected by Halton Hills council.

Council agreed Monday to have the town treasurer check on the possibility of the town starting appeals when assessment inequities show up on the rolls.

Councillor Harry Levy cautioned that if treasurer Ray King finds that the town could launch such appeals the cost could run into "thousands and thousands of dollars."

Acton councillor Terry Grubbe, who suggested the study, urged council to "launch an appeal where it's obvious there's

an inequity." She reminded councillors that "we all did agree the system is unfair."

"It's (the study) better than nothing," was Smith's comment after council's decision.

If council adopted the tax reform, assessment for 3,950 Halton Hills properties would have increased; while that of 3,310 would have decreased. There would have been no change for 2,897 properties.

"We feel we're being cheated because of unfair assessment," Smith said during his presentation to council.

There is a spread of more than \$700 in assessment between some properties in Acton, observed Smith. Yet those properties, on McDonald Blvd., receive the same services.

On Stewarttown's Young St. there's an old home that's assessed at \$595. On the same street a newer home is tagged at nearly \$1,600, according to Smith. And the services? They have a dirt road and a drainage ditch that has not been finished and they have no garbage pick-up, no sewers, and no water, according to Smith.

Halton Hills Mayor Peter Pomeroy agreed with Smith and the del-

egation that "taxation is unfair the way it is set up. But I don't think Section 86 is the solution."

"Taxation is very complicated... no one in this room, including the treasurer, fully understands it," said the mayor.

Pomeroy described Section 86 as being a "politically suicide," "stop-gap measure" which if adopted here would "leave in place another unfair situation."

"It's more of a fair system than what we have now," argued

Smith. He urged council to accept the tax reform, but introduce it gradually.

To Smith's urging Halton Hills to lure industry to Acton, Pomeroy observed that "property cost doesn't seem to be the determining factor for the location of large industries."

Another Rosemary Rd. resident, Bill Johnson, agreed with Smith in suggesting councillors reopen debate.

Johnson, according to Smith, appealed his assessment to the courts and was told—he was

assessed correctly, the balance of the town was not.

"You all admitted," Johnson said to the councillors, "the Present tax system is unjust—yet half of you supported it."

Council's decision to reject tax reform did not follow a hard, cold analysis of the facts, charged Johnson.

Esqueving councillor George Maltby, who voted against Section 86, replied that such an analysis is just what he would like to see.

However, no matter how much prodding from council, provincial officials refused to reveal what the assessments would be after the adoption of Section 86, charged Maltby.

"I can't vote for it until they (provincial tax officials) can give me the cold, analytical facts you're asking for," said Maltby to Johnson.

We need your personals. Call Helen for 'On the Level', 863-3224, 863-2010 or drop off a note at the Free Press office.

Sam Tennant

Obituary Sam Tennant

Acton Legion and Acton Firefighters paid special tribute to their long-time colleague, Sam Weymouth Tennant, on Thursday and Friday. Mr. Tennant died suddenly at his Wellington St. home on April 22. He was 66.

Thursday night Branch 197 held a memorial service and the Firefighters made a visitation. Saturday night there was a minute's silence at the start of the Legion dart and crib leagues' banquet.

A very well known and highly regarded citizen, Mr. Tennant retired in November after 26 years of service to the municipality, first with the Acton and later the Halton Hills works departments.

Last year he also retired from the Acton Firefighters following 35 years of service. He was a former chief of the brigade and served on all branches of the executive. Mr. Tennant was a recipient of the 30 year Ontario Fire Marshal's pin.

As a member of Branch 197 he was known for his excellent gardening and maintenance work around the Branch. Born in Woodgreen, England, Mr. Tennant

came to Canada while still quite young and lived in Stewarttown before settling in Acton for over 40 years.

Left to mourn are his wife Lyla; son Christopher; daughter Ruby (Mrs. Ronald Mansfield) Lindsay; brothers and sisters Belle Garbutt and Albert Tennant, Georgetown, Lenard Tennant of Toronto and Bernard Tennant, England, grandchildren Norma Lee, Kent and Brad Mansfield and great-grandchild James Mansfield.

He was predeceased by his brother William and sisters Ruby Kidd and Jean Fletcher.

He and Lyla Jocque were married March 22, 1940 at St. Alban's Anglican Church.

Funeral service was held at Shoemaker Funeral Home Friday with Rev. Arthur Tribe officiating. Legion executives and members, as well as Acton Firefighters, attended the service. The Firefighters formed an honor guard and pallbearers were Doug Mason, Alf Dudy, Ted Curtis, Randy Ridley, Jim Davies and Norm Price. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery.

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— Save	33	33
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