

The Acton Free Press

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Sprackman must drop IGA objection before new plan is reviewed

One thing you can say about Jerry Sprackman, he's full of surprises.

Sprackman heads Landawn Shopping Centres and last week brought a scaled down version of his original plaza proposal for the east side of Acton to Halton Hills council.

We're puzzled as to what he thought council was going to do with his new plan.

As one councillor put it you can't sit down and have a talk with a guy who is suing you.

Sprackman has referred a number of appeals and objections to the Ontario Municipal Board.

When he appeared at council Landawn's president made no mention of what his plans were regarding these matters, despite the fact Mayor Peter Pomeroy pointed out council couldn't review his new proposal with the OMB matters hanging over the town's head.

In our view his new proposal has no more planning merits than the larger project.

It is still outside the urban servicing boundaries of Acton, far removed from the main commercial area. There appears little chance there will be residential development around the site.

Sprackman makes the point that the town rejected his proposal back in 1979 because council wanted to direct commercial development downtown.

Two years later he observes nothing has been done downtown yet.

He is partly right.

One major piece of land to be developed, the Force site, is still vacant and the last word we heard was there weren't any immediate prospects for development.

However, one major site, which became vacant after Sprackman came up with his plaza plan, the Dominion Hotel land, would be a lot closer to being developed today if it weren't for Sprackman.

Fread-Kasson Investments, who are planning to build a plaza with a large supermarket on that property and some adjacent land they've put together had been aiming for a ground breaking this

month if Sprackman hadn't thrown a big roadblock in front of their plans.

He's objected to the new IGA plaza to the OMB.

He'd agreed to withdraw his objection if Doug Fread and Dave Manes, owner of the IGA, agreed not to object to his proposal before the OMB.

They went for that solution, but he didn't like their letters. They didn't care for his letters.

It's a stalemate at last word from Manes and Fread.

Bringing a new plaza plan and making no mention of his intentions regarding the OMB only complicates matters. It removes no roadblocks for the downtown plaza.

Sprackman says a new IGA plaza doesn't worry him or the major supermarket he wants to bring to Acton, Zehrs.

He doesn't act like that's the case.

It would appear to be all academic anyway.

Unless there's a change in provincial sewage regulations or a final consultant's report on the urban servicing boundaries of Acton is much different than the preliminary report, Sprackman, and no other developer, will be able to erect even a tent on the fringes of town.

A Zehrs store and small plaza could be a fine addition to Acton's commercial stock if it was built inside the urban boundaries.

Possibly Zehrs and Landawn will eventually decide to build within the existing urban servicing boundaries, for instance on the Force site even though it's small compared to what they've been aiming for.

If Zehrs is as interested in coming to Acton as they appear to be a less than perfect situation would be preferable to never being able to locate here because of the severe limits to growth.

In any event Sprackman must clarify his position regarding objections to the IGA plaza and other matters he's sent to the OMB before his new proposal can be taken seriously.

Canada needs U.S. type of budget cuts

It would be heartening to think Finance Minister Allan MacEachen and his federal cabinet colleagues, including Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, have taken note of Gallup Poll results released over the weekend.

The poll shows the vast majority of Canadians would favor government spending cuts of the order brought in south of the border by President Ronald Reagan.

Most Canadians would be hard pressed to explain the Liberal's anti-inflation policy beyond record high interest rates to cut the use of credit.

Throughout the rise in interest rates the government has repeatedly rejected calls for financial aid for farmers, home owners and small businessmen on the basis it would be too costly and only add to the federal deficit.

They readily acknowledge government spending and the growing deficit contributes heavily to the inflationary spiral.

They've been admitting it for several years now and in fact they have made token efforts to trim the budget.

But they haven't done anything on the magnitude the new Republican administration in the United States has.

The poll has properly gauged the mood of Canadians.

Times are tough, and getting tougher.

While making sweeping budget cuts is unpleasant, and difficult in this day of special interest lobbying, Canadians like Americans are prepared to bite the bullet and live with government doing a lot less for them.

It remains to be seen if Reagan's marriage of budget and tax cuts will solve the ills of the American economy. Canadians must surely be pulling for them to succeed because if they do there will certainly be spill-over benefits to us.

It's true that Reagan's budget cuts are hurting social programs the most. The same would be true if similar action was taken in Canada.

Social program chops would be painful to swallow, but it appears it's a bitter pill Canadians are prepared to swallow.



On the Leavell

With Helen



The marriage of former Actonian Mary Jane New and Tony Gabelish is almost like a fairy tale come true.

Two years ago Mary Jane gave up her nursing job at Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto, and headed to Australia where she took up a similar post at Princess Margaret Hospital in Perth. Using short wave radio, she kept in touch with her parents Mr. and Mrs. F. New of Acton regularly.

This past March, Mary Jane telephoned home and told her parents she was heading north to Darby to nurse for a while and then heading home to continue her nursing studies at York University, Toronto. Meanwhile, she had six weeks between jobs, so she got a job shucking oysters at Shark's Bay Pearling Co, 700 miles north of Perth. Her parents jokingly told her to watch her fingers. The oysters didn't catch her fingers, but Tony Gabelish did. He is a partner in the company.

Mary Jane telephoned home ten days later to tell her folks she was getting married to her boss. They planned to tie the knot while Tony was on a business trip here.

Sadly Mrs. New died suddenly, and Mary Jane once again changed her plans and they were married while on a few days' stopover in Honolulu.

Now back in Canada they stayed a few days honeymooning in Niagara Falls, and have had a good visit with Mary Jane's father and friends. They head down to the United States next week and then on home. It was her first trip home since moving to Australia.

Melo Bray of Elizabeth Drive got a big surprise while doing her gardening last week—a huge turtle, which showed its annoyance by snapping at her. It weighed ten pounds and was 15 inches long.

The turtle is now back in Fairy Lake, from whence it came (presumably, as their house backs onto the lake).

Saw the movie Escape from Iran: Canadian Caper and got a laugh when one of the escaping Americans was stopped at the airport by an Iranian customs official. He was asked where he was from, and he used his cover of Guelph, Ontario. The official wanted to know about the place, so he explained it was a small town in an agricultural centre, surrounded by wheat fields. Matter of fact, it is the wheat capital of Canada he said. I've been in Acton seven years and while there are some pretty nice farms in this area, I don't think I've ever seen a wheat field.

Don't forget to mail your census today.

Was watching the Sunday night sports and saw the Monte Carlo car race. Usually it is of no interest to me, but this year, I was scanning the crowd for Free Press sports writer Diana Waltmann. She left Thursday to see the race live. Gives somebody or other won, but I'll have to wait three weeks to hear all about it from Diana.

It's a small corner of Guelph General Hospital where some of us meet three times a week, for however long we're told

to meet there. People come from all over the area, all at different times and for different treatments, but we're all there for essentially one thing—to get our bodies back to normal.

In the six weeks I've been regularly attending physiotherapy (to tend to an old ski injury), I've seen a fair number of people come and go with different problems. Everyone there has their own success story in varying degrees, but McKenzie-Smith Middle School student Eddie Robinson is a story in himself.

Eddie is undergoing therapy on his knee damaged while playing sports. Eddie works hard at the hospital and again at home in an attempt to bring his sore knee back to normal.

He lifts weights, practices walking and lately pedals on the bicycle in the physio department. His hard work makes it easier for everyone to endure whatever is being done to them.

He's our tough cookie. Our therapist, Marla Howarth, of Rockwood is also a tough one, bending knees, twisting legs, and generally making a hard job look easy.

She's helped people learn to walk all over again, seen the pain of arthritis ease a bit, and encouraged her patients to try just a little harder. Eddie and I both thank her.

The Georgetown Legion Royalleites an extremely successful baseball team, recently put out a small booklet with team picture, schedule, and other statistics.

The book was an advertising supplement a few weeks back in Georgetown Independent, sister paper to the Free Press.

However, the book wasn't totally Georgetown. There were a few faces which would be recognized in Acton. Pat Wood of Family Cleaners was the first one I spotted. Jennifer Linton, recreation co-ordinator for Acton a few years back, and now in Georgetown had a short story about her in the book. Other names which might be known in Acton are Nancy Shortill and Barb Curry. There were also short stories written about both of them.

Happy Anniversary greetings go out to Ted and Dolores Tyler who celebrate their 28th tomorrow.

The well known Acton residents were married in Acton. They celebrated their 25th last year in Vancouver. So far, they are still in town to mark this year's. I hear their friends have pooled their money and are sending them to Hawaii as a gift-

booked through Acton Travel and Rick Bonnette of course.

And speaking of Tylers, Ted's cousin Lorene Babe Grittman (nee Tyler) is visiting in the area for a week, up from Arizona.

Babe moved south when in her 20s, after training in the Bank of Montreal here in Acton. Now she is one of the few women bank managers in Arizona.

Babe is the daughter of Edna Tyler and the late Matt Tyler, formerly of Acton, now of Arizona. She and her husband Dick head home on Saturday.

Noisy helicopters flying overhead are getting to be a weekly event in Acton lately.

For the second Friday night in a row the choppers were seen flying overhead. I heard them the week before but didn't see them. This week I saw them, flying from east to west—two of them.

I saw another one the next day flying the opposite direction.

Last September, four squadrons of four flew overhead (making a terrible racket), heading northeast, presumably to Base Borden near Barrie.

Does anyone know anything about these guys? Where they're going? Where they are coming from? Who owns them? They certainly are a curious sight. Ask any of the drivers who crane their necks to watch them.

And Saturday afternoon a half dozen jets whizzed over town. They appeared to be military aircraft and were performing some tricky manoeuvres, including flying upside down.

In honour of Mr. and Mrs. D.F. Wilds 45th wedding anniversary a surprise dinner party was held recently by their children Mrs. Norma Titus and husband Bill, Mr. Don Wilds and wife Marlene, Mrs. Mary Hepburn and husband Bob at the home of their daughter Mary.

Those present included grandchildren Don and Sherrie Wilds, Wendy and Wanda Titus, Bruce, Doreen, and Ken Hepburn. As well friends, Mrs. Lula Sinclair, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Van Dam, Mr. Tim Spireal, Acton, and Cindy Hamilton attended.

Relatives Mr. and Mrs. C. Russell, Ottawa, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bruce, Stratford, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bruce and Gord, Acton, nieces of Mr. Wild, Mr. and Mrs. M. Coulson, Milton, and Mr. and Mrs. Al Green, Acton, and Mrs. Blanche Mochrie, Brampton, aunt of Mrs. Wild were at the party.



Tinnie Masasales was on hand to present his award for sportsmanship, perfect attendance and good manners to YBC Bantam Lonnie Patenaude



Date Patenaude improved his average 35 pins over the year earning him the Ken Hulford Memorial Trophy at the YBC Awards night. Regional YBC representative George Archibald, of Georgetown, made the presentation.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, May 26, 1971.

Brian Campbell has been engaged to run the new summer recreation program. Canadian flags were presented to Speyside, Brookville, Limehouse and Stewart-town schools by Hazel Orr, Mary Hinton, Helen Jocque and Jessie Coles of Lakeside IODE.

Mary Debenham is the new program co-ordinator at the Y. Acton hosted the WI's 70th district annual. Mrs. K.C. Lindsay and Mrs. Bert Davidson, who both joined the Institute in 1913, cut the cake.

Athletes setting new marks at the county meet were Maureen Gerth, Phil Morris, Shirley Mitchell and Roger McEuchern. Rain and fog did not deter Rockwood Trail Riders who went ahead with their fireworks display.

20 years ago

Thursday, June 1, 1961.

Acton's eastern skyline was a blaze of twirling lights as the Lions four-day carnival got underway. The amusement centre is located in a field at Mel McCullough's Farm.

A 250 acre resort area is being built on the escarpment at Speyside, called Twin Lakes Resort and Ranch. Special school library hours are finished for the season.

Bruce Andrews finished second behind Bruce Kidd, who set a new record in the interschool race in Guelph.

Superior Glove is operating under new management, Julian Zajac and Frank Geng, in the same location on Main St. N. Former owner Bert Mowat was forced to sell due to illness. Mr. Mowat learned the trade from his father.

A war relic was found by Ricky Henderson and John McNabb when they were preparing a ball field. The bomb was sent to Oakville Army headquarters for disarmament. The shell was loaded but the fuse had burned out.

50 years ago

Thursday, June 4, 1931

The Empire Day concert and presentation of prizes arranged by Lakeside IODE was delightful. After recitations, singing and addresses, prizes were presented to Esther Taylor, Harvey Hassard, Phyllis Mackie, Wilma Hansen, Jack Hillinger, Jean Brown, Walter Sigmund, Margaret Lasby, Alice Gibbens. Regent Mrs. J.B. Adamson presented the prizes for the best boy and girl in high school to Barbara Guthrie and Carney Byrne.

High school students presented Miss Bertha Newsham, who is retiring, with a chesterfield lamp. Oral Chalmers, president of the Literary Society, called on Isabel Smith to read the address. Lakeside chapter of the IODE had a mock wedding and shower of gifts for Miss Newsham.

The UFO clubs honored Miss Florence Johnston and Mr. Chester Allan prior to their marriage with a shower of gifts, and a mock wedding.

75 years ago

Thursday, May 31, 1906

The Methodist Sunday School, under the direction of Miss Amy Doty, London, after seven days training presented a delightful entertainment on Victoria Day. One hundred scholars gave the entertainment.

Mr. James J. Hill of the Great Northern Railway will be in Ottawa next week in furtherance of his plans for building a railway from Winnipeg to Vancouver. Messrs. McKenzie and Mann (formerly of Acton) are also involved in plans for railways.

The demonstration in Rockwood on Victoria Day was under the auspices of the Public Library with a large attendance. The festivities opened with a calliothman parade headed by the Acton Cornet Band. A series of athletic contests followed, between the Rockwood team and the Red Cross team, better known as the Terrers of Everton. The result was a tie. A grand concert was held in the town hall in the evening.

100 years ago

Thursday, June 2, 1881

The meeting called to consider the erection of a town hall was very well attended. Reeve Smith occupied the chair. Plans of town halls were submitted by architects, with costs ranging from \$4,500 to \$5,000. When all who wished had spoken on the subject the following motion was put: Moved by Major Allan, seconded by Robt. Agnew that this meeting recommend the Village Council erect a Town Hall to cost between \$5,000 and \$8,000. Moved by James Matthews, seconded by Edward Nicklin, an amendment that cost should be no more than \$5,000 complete. The original motion was carried unanimously.

A committee was appointed to prepare a petition to present to property owners, and we hope that every property owner will see that it is to the interests of our enterprising village to sign the petition and we trust that those who hold petty differences in the matter will sink their prejudices and go with the majority.