



Good housekeeping helps prevent fires

Food for thought during fire prevention week: Over two-thirds of all fires in Canada occur in the home, more than 50,000 a year, that's almost 1,000 a week. Homeowners are encouraged to maintain proper housekeeping habits to avoid fires. Homeowners should clean up their basements, attics and garages and keep oily rags in air tight containers. Gasoline should never be stored in glass containers.

# Safety of disabled concerns chief

Fire Prevention Week - October 4-10.

Fire safety for the disabled is being stressed this week which is Fire Prevention Week.

Fire Chief Mick Holmes explained that because this is the Year of the Handicap, it was only fitting this year to aim this special week to those less fortunate.

"The problem of disabled persons in fire emergencies has become more visible and our attention to their problems must be increased by those responsible for providing fire safety," Holmes said.

He noted neighbors should be made aware if there is a handicapped person living nearby. In this way "disabled persons can increase the likelihood of their receiving assistance" in case of emergency.

Holmes also pointed out construction features that provide access and egress from public buildings, such as ramps, could be built. This would ensure that no matter where a handicapped person is, they will always be able to make a rapid exit. It also ensures the disabled of a fairly normal life, i.e., attending hockey games, visiting the library, etc.

Holmes also suggested installation of features that encourage self protection. He noted railings, and signalling lights for the deaf are examples.

Staff, owners and tenants of buildings should be assigned specific responsibilities in case of emergencies, such as internal fire drills. This too, he said, relates back to having someone aware a handicapped person may be trapped in a room or building.

"The fire department is asking the support of all concerned people to provide a rational and flexible solution to a difficult fire safety problem," the chief said. "We (the fire department) will endeavor to assist you, the public, in your endeavors to make our community a fire safe place to live," Holmes stressed.

Because the local department is between fire prevention officers, there is nothing special planned for Fire Prevention Week this year, which runs until Saturday. Larry Brassard left his post in August to train to be a policeman, and while someone has been hired to fill his position, he has not yet started his job.



A total of 73 years of firefighting experience is represented by Wayne Kelly (1953-80), Ken Hodgson (1960-81) and John Krapek (1956-81) who were honored Saturday night at an Acton firefighters retirement party.

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## Leathertown proposal Acquire town hall and start repairs

A proposal which would see the Leathertown Association acquire the town hall from Halton Hills has been discussed informally with a few councillors and could be developed into a complete plan in the next week.

Preliminary discussions about this idea have already taken place between Leathertown organizers and representatives of Acton and the Town Hall Restoration Committee. More discussions are planned for this week.

Leathertown will only proceed with formal presentation of its plan if it has the complete backing from the two local volunteer groups which have been raising funds for town hall restoration.

Leathertown, which has made every citizen a member of the association, would acquire the building from the municipality for a nominal sum

on behalf of the entire community. Monies allocated by Halton Hills for restoration and raised by Acton and the Restoration Committee would be used to begin repair work on the exterior and maybe on some of the interior of the town hall as soon as possible under the Leathertown plan. The town hall is a stop on the Leathertown walking history tour.

If all involved parties in Acton agree to the proposal it will be presented formally to Halton Hills council next Tuesday.

Monday night councillor Terry Grubbe, chairman of the municipality's town hall restoration committee, said information has come to her attention which is important to the whole town hall issue. Her request that final council approval of the \$11,000 feasibility and structural analysis study of the town hall be deferred one week was agreed to by council.



Acton organizers had a lot of fun Sunday afternoon when they presented Wilo tario workers shown here are Ted Tyler, Yvonne Rosenquist, Stella Brunelle, Near, far right, with his early bird draw prize, a live Thanksgiving turkey. Ac- Kathy Sanford and Kay Dills.

### This Friday

## Vandalism drop-in topic

Vandalism, a concern of many residents and businessmen, will be the main topic of discussion at this Friday's ward one councillors' drop-in.

Dave Whiting noted a crime prevention officer from the Halton Regional Police will be in attendance as well as a representative from the Oakville Community Vandalism Committee. There are citizen vandalism groups operating in both Oakville and Burlington and the police and region would like to see a similar organization established in north Halton, Whiting said. He noted their programs of helping make citizens aware of how to combat vandalism have met with some success.

Councillors know vandalism is an issue with Acton and area residents, like the police the politicians hear voters complaints and concerns about this

growing problem. Vandalism even forced the town to phase out illuminated street signs and switch to metal plate signs.

Whiting noted the councillors have also been hearing from residents concerned about vandalism at Fairview Cemetery.

Anyone interested in combating vandalism and learning how to help prevent themselves from being victims of this type of crime should be at the drop-in this Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. Taxpayers with other concerns or complaints are also welcome to talk to councillors, at the drop-in. The drop-in is held at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre at the rear of the Y building (town and police offices) on Mill St. East.

## Fatal hit-and-run hearing adjourned until December

The preliminary hearing of Barry Alexander Wilson of Acton on three charges in connection with a 1979 hit-and-run accident was adjourned in Provincial Court last Wednesday until December 18.

Wilson is charged with criminal negligence causing death, failing to remain at the scene of an accident and impaired driving.

Assistant Crown Attorney for Wellington County, John Meagher, explained the preliminary hearing last week wasn't completed and the next open court day for continuing the hearing is December 18.

A preliminary hearing is held to allow the court to determine if there is enough evidence against an accused to warrant a trial. No details of evidence presented at a preliminary hearing may be published.

Meagher said a charge of being an accessory after the fact to the criminal negligence causing death charge against Joan Montanna Sheppard of Rockwood was withdrawn last Wednesday.

Alexander surrendered to the Guelph OPP in May and was charged in connection with the fatal hit-

and-run accident in September, 1979 in which James Cowan of Guelph was killed. Cowan, police say, had stopped his motorcycle on the shoulder of County Road 27, about a mile north of Rockwood, when a northbound truck left the road hitting the motorcycle and killing Cowan instantly. The truck fled the scene.

The initial police investigation died when police came up with no new leads, then was reopened by two investigators who conducted a two month follow-up investigation and then made the arrests.



Second Acton Brownies visited Fred Archibald's bird aviary last week to have a close up view of various kinds of birds. Jody Archibald holds one of her father's birds while her friends gather around.

## High interest rates delay plaza

High interest rates have delayed the start of construction of the new IGA plaza on the site of the fire destroyed Dominion Hotel until next spring, possibly even longer.

Doug Fread, one of three principals involved in the project, said construction will begin as soon as interest rates drop "to a manageable level."

The Bank of Canada prime interest rate has been dropping for several weeks now, albeit only slightly the past three weeks, as have the rates at the chartered banks. However, Fread says, interest

rates must go "quite a ways lower" before the plaza project becomes economically feasible.

Back in July, after developer Jerry Sprackman, who wants to build a plaza on the east side of Acton, withdrew his objection to the Ontario Municipal Board of the rezoning part of the IGA plaza site, Fread said construction would hopefully begin in September. But, until just recently, interest rates were climbing by leaps and bounds. In fact, when the plan was first proposed to municipal officials last January, interest rates were low enough for the plaza to be built but during the months while the project moved through the planning process rates have steadily gone up. Fread and his partners had originally wanted to get started in May.

Fread says all of the major approvals for the project have been secured. The last few approvals such as a building permit, haven't been sought yet by developers.

They hope interest rates continue going down and are low enough by April or May to get started. If the rates go down enough before spring then they'll get the financing arranged earlier and start construction even during the winter.

However, Fread emphasized, the project is shelved indefinitely until interest rates are "reasonable", about 15 or 16 per cent, again.

He and his partner, Toronto architect Romain Kassal, obtained the hotel site at an auction a year ago this month. This past summer a third partner, Green County Investments, was added.

The plan calls for an IGA store of about 15,000 square feet as well as about six retail stores. In August the developers and Halton Hills nailed down a development agreement.

## THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving. It's a holiday that means many things to many people. It's a time to give thanks for everything that's good in life, a time to relax with family and friends.



Developer Jerry Sprackman has dropped his objection to an industrial park plan. Details on page 2.

**Seniors' apartments**

**Name complex**

**Lakeview Villa**

The beautiful senior citizens' apartment complex on Elizabeth Dr. finally has a name.

The building is now called Lakeview Villa, a name selected by the residents of the complex.

After several delays in completion of the project, the apartment building became occupied in the summer of 1980 and then was officially opened this past June by the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Head of the tenants' association, Tom Nichol, surveyed the residents for their name preference and the winner was Lakeview Villa.

Pat McKenzie took the name to the Halton Housing Authority where it was approved. The name was also okayed by the Ontario Housing Corporation.

McKenzie said it was necessary to have a name for the building because ambulance drivers had difficulty finding 17 Elizabeth Dr.

A name sign went up at the Seniors' apartment complex last week.

McKenzie is also going to urge naming the Holmesway Pl. seniors apartment building Holmesway Place.