

## Downtown proposals are presented to BIA

The consulting firm of Walker, Wright, Young and Associates and the Acton Business Improvement Area are looking at the possibility of removing parking on the south side of Mill Street between Main and John and widening the sidewalk on the north side for the same two blocks.

No parking spots, about 12 in total, would be removed until after more off street parking is developed off Church St. behind stores on the south side of Mill.

Last Wednesday night six members of the BIA board of management, Steve Houghton from the consulting firm studying downtown Acton and Georgetown for Halton Hills, two members of the BIA and deputy town planner Bruce McLean met to discuss the downtown plan.

The BIA board had previously rejected taking parking off both sides of the street because they couldn't see how convenient off-street parking could be provided for the north side in the foreseeable future.

In addition the BIA rejected suggestions the area of Mill St. between John and Wilbur be designated "residential office" and should remain zoned CIH (commercial) because "this area has significant potential for commercial development and that this potential will more likely occur under the CIH holding designation."

Houghton said the consultants feel that even if Acton's population

reaches 10,000 people there isn't a need for more commercial space. He said they believe retail activity should be concentrated in the Main to John area of Mill.

The best way to market downtown is as a concentrated area with many shops, the Main to John area, and Houghton said they think more shops can locate in that area.

He allowed there are traffic problems downtown and they are being investigated by their traffic engineer. While a bypass around Acton isn't feasible they are urging the town develop a truck route, something which has been discussed many times in the past.

Before parking can be taken off the south side of Mill St. off-street parking must be developed. It was noted three merchants, who weren't identified, have acquired property on Church St. where a 45 space lot can be developed. It is also suggested off-street parking be developed behind the old Legion, behind stores on the north side of Mill, including beside the town hall.

Removing the parking on the south side will relieve some of the traffic problems and make the streets more inviting to pedestrians. The north side of the street is just a solid face of buildings so that walk should be widened; there are some building setbacks on the south side resulting in some areas where the sidewalks are already wider. In addition land for off-street parking can be acquired behind stores on the south side soonest. Costing of sidewalk widening has been started.

Some stores don't have rear access for deliveries and the traffic engineer is examining this problem so trucks parked on the street can be reduced as much as possible.

McLean explained the study is really four studies, two in Acton and two in Georgetown. One study in each town involves developing policy for the future Halton Hills official plan and one study in each urban area is designed to come up with a redevelopment plan for the BIA's, parking and beautification plans. The town will apply for a loan of up to \$150,000 for each BIA from the province and the loan is paid back at 10 per cent interest over the entire term.

Houghton noted the province, municipality and BIA each participated financially in redevelopment and the final phase of the study will involve a plan of attack and suggested financial allocations.

Councillor Ross Knechtel, who is also a BIA board of management member, said he doubts the province will agree to a wider sidewalk and noted delivery access problems must be solved as well as off-street parking developed before parking spaces are removed.

He pointed out the consultant's study is just a first step towards redevelopment and it will be a long time before anything is done. Knechtel added no decisions are being made at this point, ideas are simply being discussed. The BIA and council will have some major decisions to make "down the road."

Houghton said efforts must be made to make downtown "pleasing for people," especially since Leathertown is getting a lot of publicity not just in Acton but outside the town too.



Michael Loskosky, of Nassagaweya township was selling his wares at the Nassagaweya Women's Institute Homefest in Brookville Hall Saturday. The blind man weaves baskets and other items for the home.

## Homefest held Sat.

by Katharine Garwood, Brookville hall on the Guelph Line captured the festive gaiety of Thanksgiving on Saturday as the ladies of the Nassagaweya Women's Institute introduced neighbors and visitors to their work. The beautifully decorated hall was alive with pumpkin-headed scarecrows and harvest arrangements. The history, the many accomplished by the ladies

## Whoops

It was incoherently reported in last week's Free Press that Green County Investments is in partnership with Doug Fread and Romain Kassian in the IGA plaza project. There were negotiations to bring Green County Investments in on the project but they fell through. The Free Press regrets the error.

## Two charged

Two Acton youths have been charged with break, enter and theft in connection with two weekend house break-ins.

A home at 65 Elizabeth Drive was entered through a basement window overnight Friday and a tennis racket was stolen. About \$80. was reported missing from a Frederick Street entry the same evening.

The two suspects will appear November 2.

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1972-73	Nov. 1, 1984	\$378.43	1978-79	\$1,394.46	\$1,666.38
1973-74	Nov. 1, 1985	\$451.70	1979-80	\$1,277.80	\$1,526.50
1974-75	Nov. 1, 1983	\$212.90	1980-81	\$1,364.17	\$1,367.28
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## Meads on fire staff

It's easier, safer and cheaper to prevent a fire than to try and put it out, Bob Meads can tell you that.

Meads has just been named the new Fire Prevention Officer for Halton Hills, replacing Larry Brassard who recently left to pursue a career with the Halton Regional Police.

Meads has been to the Ontario Fire Marshall's Fire College in Gravenhurst and has been a member of the volunteer force for 3 1/2 years. "All my interest stems from my experience as a volunteer before joining I didn't know much about the fire department," he says.

Meads says he is looking forward to the new job handling building inspections and educating the public on fire prevention. "Fire prevention is definitely the biggest part of the job. It is easier to prevent a fire than to try and put it out," Meads said.

Originally from Durham, Meads moved to Georgetown seven years ago and will be leaving his job at Rite-way Autobody to take the job as Fire Prevention Officer for Halton Hills beginning October 13.

Visit friends or relatives out of town for the weekend. Tell Rockwood all about it. Call Barb Funk at 856-4801 or drop off a note at R&M Shoppette.

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Hamilton Automobile Club.

Weather conditions can have secondary effects. Traffic slow-downs because of bad weather can waste fuel. Winter means snow and snow tires deliver fewer miles-per-gallon than comparable regular tires. And bad weather can cause deterioration of the regular road surface, which in turn cuts fuel economy.

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