

Profiles

with Jennifer Barr



When it comes to hockey and little boys, Harold Townsley knows all there is to know. He's been Acton Arena manager for the past 14 years, hockey player all his life and coach since the year dot.

As one of Acton's finest 30 odd years ago, Harold was on the Acton Junior Team in '48-'49 when they went to the all Ontario Junior D quarter finals, one of the youngest players ever. Harold remembers they played the final in Bowmanville where melting snow turned to water on the ice and they lost to Orono.

Harold played well enough to go from Acton to Georgetown Intermediate then to Washington where he and Freddie Kentner played semi-pro on the international team until the team folded. He still plays hockey with the Old-timers in Guelph.

Hockey was less violent in the old days, Harold feels. "I've played 30 years and never lost a tooth or broke a bone," he says with a smidgen of pride.

A feisty fellow, Harold is famous for his outspoken opinions and no-nonsense attitude. But his early hockey years were spent as peacemaker for teammate Freddie Kentner. "When I lost my temper I couldn't see so I decided it was no good not to know what you were doing and I swore I just wouldn't fight."

His teammates though made no such vow and stories of the wild and woolly games played with Kentner and Johnny Mowat are history. "If two guys were going to fight they'd drop their gloves and sticks. Since masks came into use it seems an excuse to get the sticks up and go at it."

Harold was a "scooter," Hartley Coles, then Free Press sports writer, remembers.

"One picture in my mind is of Harold skating like mad up and down the ice with a member of the opposite team after him. He finally cornered Harold, got him down, and sat on him pounding him while Harold protected his face with his hands—no, Harold refused to fight."

Sportswriters did, though. Coles got into a shoving match with a referee in the dressing room after Bowmanville playoff game in '49.

In the early 40's Acton Arena was closed and used as wool storage for the war effort. Harold and his Acton teammates played in the Erin Arena around a pole at centre ice put there to hold the arena roof up!

In 1947, then a member of the Acton Juveniles coached by Doc Sirrs and managed by Les McSwain, Harold remembers a spectacular free-for-all in Hespeler.

"The fans got irate and we got irate—half were trying to get the other half—we went up and down the stands and tried to get the hell out of town. We go to the train at Galt and we couldn't find Jim McKnight." He was found later, somewhat the worse for wear, leaning over the rink boards murmuring "Come on Acton."

"I enjoyed the game every time I put my skates on," Harold chuckles.

Now as Arena manager, Bantam coach for 17 years and old-time player, Harold compares the game then and now.

"Hockey was more individual then, there was more chance for assistance. There weren't as many players and you were lucky if you got enough for a team." Harold recalls the help of Doc Sirrs and Les McSwain. "They were the driving force of the all star team."

"Kids have it too easy today, they have it made. They feel they can do what they want to do. I always believed in "please and thank you," he says.

There are so many over-equipped kids today competing for ice time and trying to stand out in a crowd, Harold feels it was more fun when he and his chums played on ponds with a chunk of coal—made better players, too, he says.

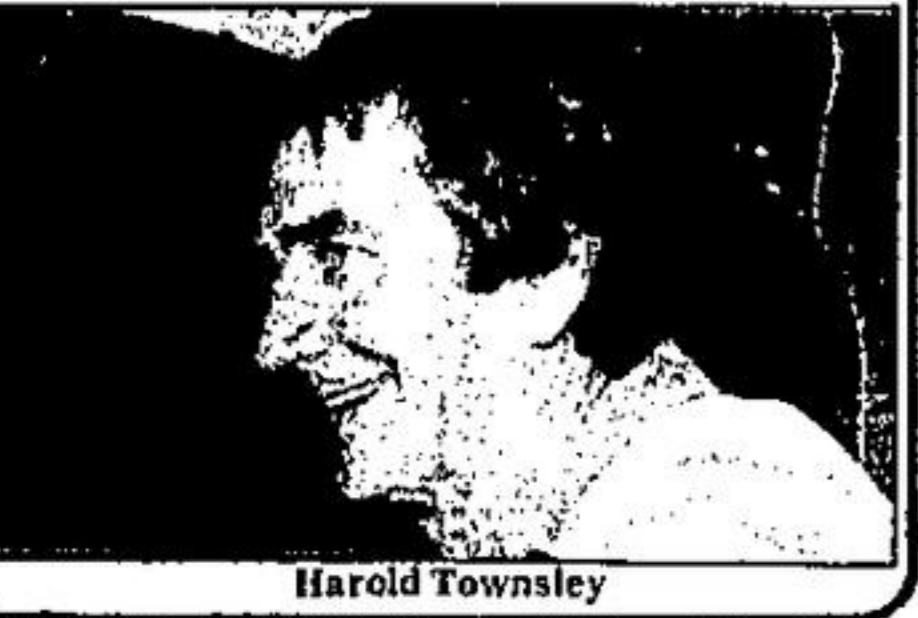
But Harold isn't famous for hockey alone. He was a good ball player and loved the game. He played with the Acton Junior Ball Team and was part of the Intermediate Team when they won the C championship in '47.

He, Johnny Mowat and Harry Lawson were asked to try out for St. Louis at their training camp in Thamesville, Ontario. He and Johnny didn't make it but Harry did.

Harold was a director of the Figure Skating Club in charge of the carnival and on the recreation commission for seven years. He's also been a volunteer fireman for 29 years and is heading for his 30 year pin.

He and his wife Doris have four children, sons Steven and Jeff, daughters Karen and Julie and three skating grandchildren.

Harold Townsley will go down in Acton history as one of the town's most interesting hockey players but he'll stay in my memory as one super dancer.



Harold Townsley

Study proposes great new look for downtown

New street lighting, planters and trees, parkettes, parking on just one side of Mill St., a wider sidewalk on one side of Mill, and signs incorporating the Leathertown logo will give downtown Acton a great new look in the years ahead.

Last week at a special meeting, Halton Hills council and Acton BIA officials reviewed with interested citizens the final report on a conceptual plan for downtown Acton as well as a core area study which will be incorporated in the municipality's new official plan.

Consultant Peter Walker of Walker, Wright, Young Associates, said action on the first phase of the plan should be started immediately and will take one to five years to complete. He warned one of the most important aspects of the plan involves acquisition of property for parkland and off-street parking and because of the cost it could be as long as 20 years before all these aspects of the plan materialize. He said a long term plan for property acquisition is needed, adding Halton Hills must take a major role in this area.

BIA official Paul Nielsen noted he has been on the steering committee working with the consultants since the study began and complimented them on coming up with something workable and attractive. "You've put the ball in our court and it's up to us to carry it. You have showed us the first steps to take and we should take them immediately."

The plan calls for removal of parking on the south side of Mill between Main and John which will allow the sidewalk to be widened a bit as well as increasing the width of the driving portion of the road. On the north side of Mill in the same blocks the sidewalks will be widened substantially to give more space for pedestrians.

Planters, shade trees and ornamental trees with tree guards are envisioned at numerous locations, where space permits, throughout downtown. New street lighting, at a lower level and smaller scale, will be mounted on stands or on the fronts of buildings. Traffic lanes on Mill should be restriped, allowing for a four foot buffer strip from the sidewalk.

Walkways to the proposed off street parking lots behind stores on both sides of Mill will also need lighting, the report says, with signs showing the way to parking lots, planters where space allows and interlocking paving stone walks.

The three entrances to downtown should be spruced up, at Mill and Bower and Main Streets north and south, including landscaping and signs using the Leathertown logo.

Parkettes around the town hall and at the corner of Mill and Main where the donut shop now stands are envisioned in the plan. Park benches, shade trees, information kiosk and drinking fountains are suggested.

Parking for 51 cars south of Mill and west of Willow will likely be the first off-street lot developed. Parking for another 78 cars near the town hall and behind stores on the north side of Mill west of Willow are also contemplated.

Shade trees, curbing and new sidewalks are urged for Eastern Ave. on both sides of the street.

A truck route bypass of downtown to remove some through traffic from Mill St. should be considered, the study states.

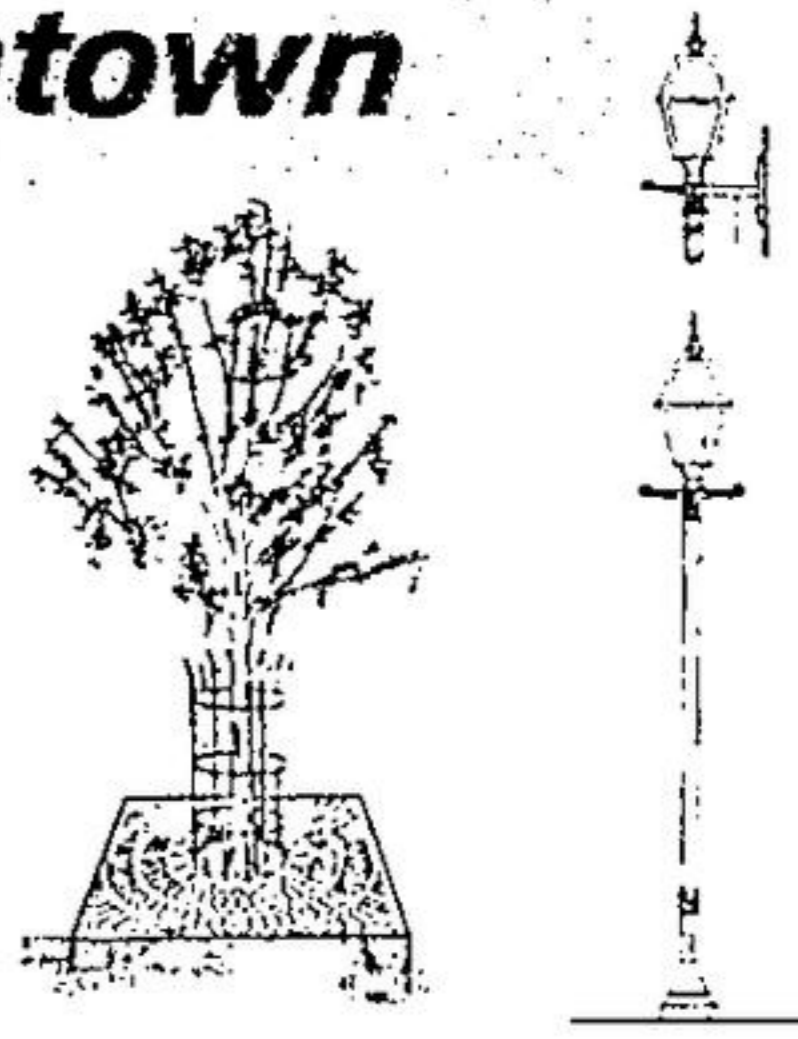
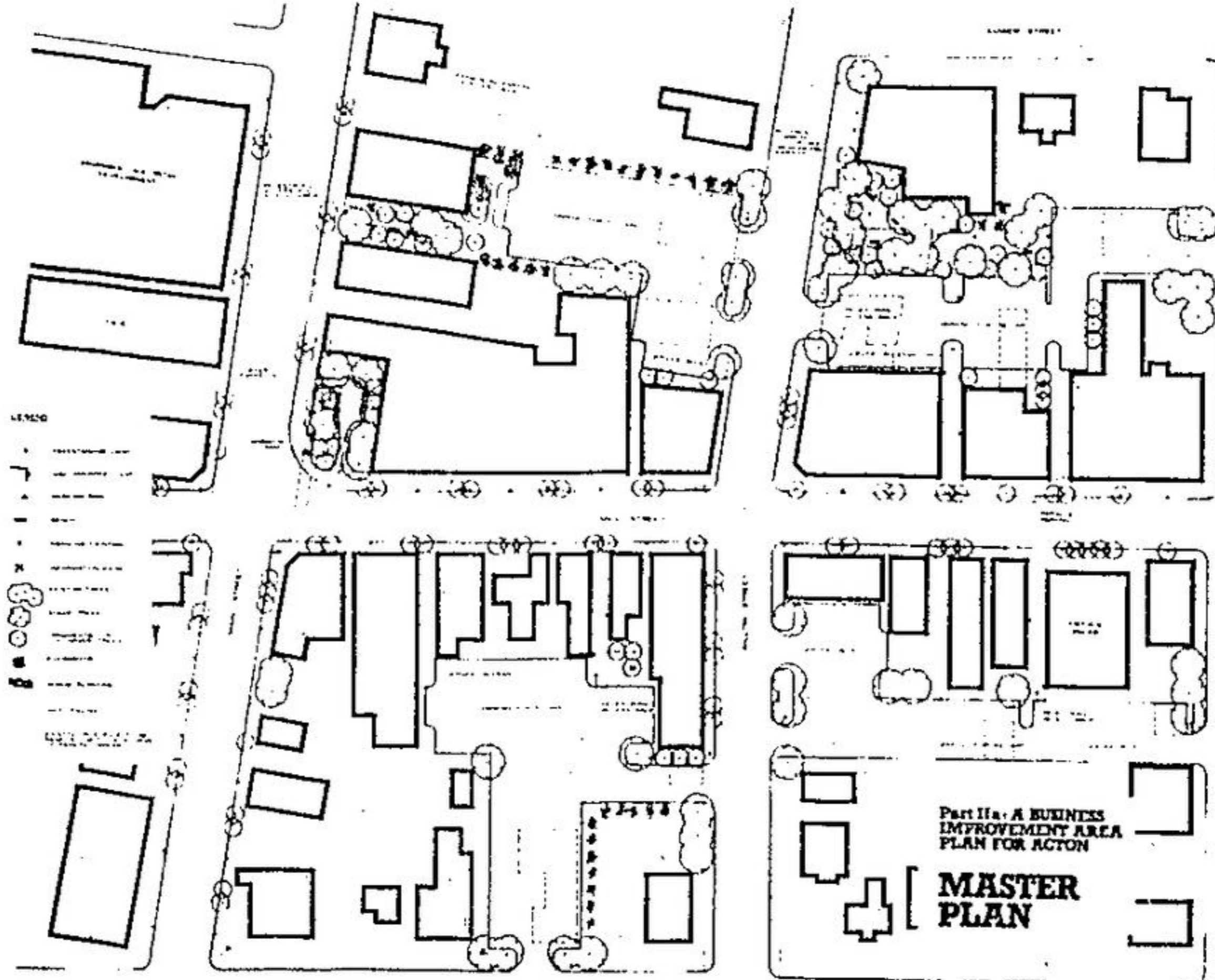
Rehabilitation and redevelopment, including infilling of new buildings adjacent to or between existing buildings downtown are urged in the report. Improvements can be most effective if they are coordinated within an overall design theme, based on the unique character of the downtown area.

The traditional character of many downtown buildings should be followed and improved on both Main and Mill when there is new development or redevelopment. Most improvements to building appearances will be done by "private individuals" and restoration of the traditional elements of buildings to their original quality and improvement of premises and structures to current standards is needed.

Some buildings simply need some repairs and decorating, changes of signs, and clean up. In some cases removal of enamel, metal panels, tile etc. which have been put on building surfaces over the year is necessary.

Phase one of the plan, to be completed in the next five years, calls for the town to acquire and develop land for parking south of Mill and west of Willow as well as buy property for parking around the town hall. The town should also re-curb and restripe the streets downtown to accommodate street widening.

During phase one the BIA should make streetscape improvements, develop walkways, spruce up the entrance to downtown at Mill and the railway tracks, and start work to develop parkettes.



Acton Photo & Camera
Leathertown Village, Acton
853-0250

TRUST US with your precious pictures

November Special
QUANTITY REPRINT SPECIAL!

SEND A PHOTO WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS AND LETTERS

EXTRA SPECIAL PRICES ON A QUANTITY OF PRINTS MADE FROM ONE NEGATIVE

QUANTITY	CP 854 COLOUR	CP 855 BLACK & WHITE
12	\$ 6.49	\$ 4.69
25	10.69	9.09
50	19.89	18.99
100	37.09	31.49

STANDARD PRINT SIZE, DETERMINED BY THE NEGATIVE

THIS COUPON MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER. OFFER IS GOOD UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1981

We are OPEN MONDAYS

ColorPrint photo SUPERVISOR

We use Kodak paper for the good look.

Phase two is six to 10 years down the road and by that time the municipality should re-construct Eastern Ave. and develop parking around the town hall. During the same years the report suggests the BIA continue street-scaping on Mill St. up to the railway tracks, do some streetscape work on Willow north of Mill and develop an attractive entrance to downtown on Main North.

The last part of the plan, phase three for 10 years from now, and beyond calls for the municipality to acquire land and develop parking north of Mill and west of Willow. The town must also look at tree planting and replacing trees on residential side streets around downtown.

Ten years from now the BIA should develop an entrance to downtown on Main South and complete streetscaping on Main.

Costs of streetscaping were pegged at \$3,000 (in 1981 prices) for trees and \$3,750 for new street lighting. Parking lot development will vary, likely about \$1,200 to \$1,500 per parking space as well as \$200 for each sign directing shoppers

to parking lots. Each of the entrances, for signs and landscaping, will run about \$6,000.

Phase one of the plan, to be completed in the next five years, calls for the town to acquire and develop land for parking south of Mill and west of Willow as well as buy property for parking around the town hall.

The town should also re-curb and restripe the streets downtown to accommodate street widening.

During phase one the BIA should make streetscape improvements, develop walkways, spruce up the entrance to downtown at Mill and the railway tracks, and start work to develop parkettes.

Some buildings simply need some repairs and decorating, changes of signs, and clean up. In some cases removal of enamel, metal panels, tile etc. which have been put on building surfaces over the year is necessary.

Phase one of the plan, to be completed in the next five years, calls for the town to acquire and develop land for parking south of Mill and west of Willow as well as buy property for parking around the town hall.

The town should also re-curb and restripe the streets downtown to accommodate street widening.

During phase one the BIA should make streetscape improvements, develop walkways, spruce up the entrance to downtown at Mill and the railway tracks, and start work to develop parkettes.

Some buildings simply need some repairs and decorating, changes of signs, and clean up. In some cases removal of enamel, metal panels, tile etc. which have been put on building surfaces over the year is necessary.

Phase one of the plan, to be completed in the next five years, calls for the town to acquire and develop land for parking south of Mill and west of Willow as well as buy property for parking around the town hall.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
Authorized as Second Class Mail
Postal Registration Number - 0515

The LUCKY BROOM CHIMNEY SWEEPS
Chimney Sweeping Price

for most single flue Fireplace or Wood Stove Chimneys \$30

CALL NOW 877-8857

2 are great 4 are tops

With the kind of weather we get in winter, you can't afford to compromise on safety.

So don't put just two winter tires on your car. Put on four Michelin winter radials. When you brake, your car's weight shifts forward, taking the load off the rear wheels. And if that's where your winter tires are, suddenly you have less traction.

With four Michelin winter radials you'll get better grip, better braking and better roadholding. And a much safer ride. We know, we're tire specialists. So don't compromise. Get four Michelin winter radials and get more of what you need in winter.

MICHELIN

QUEEN'S TIRE SERVICE LTD.
287 Queen St. E., Acton
853-3940

24 HOUR TOWING & SERVICE
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SILVERCREEK SERVICE CENTRE
R.R. 1 877-9042 877-1392 Georgetown

Where service is our business • Towing • Tune-ups • Brakes • Major & Minor Auto Repairs • Wheel Balancing • Auto Transmission Service

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Switch to **MICHELIN**

A-B WOODLAND MARKET

CHECK OUR SUPER FOOD VALUES IN OUR FLYER DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR THIS WEEK!!

BY THE FREE PRESS CARRIERS!

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR FLYER CALL THE FREE PRESS OFFICE AT 853-2010

MOLLY MAID HAS ARRIVED

YOUR MOLLY MAID IS CONVENIENCE

MOLLY MAID fits your time schedule and provides their own transportation, bringing with them all the required cleaning materials, even their own vacuum. Your worries are over as all personnel are trained, bonded and insured. The problem of trying to hire and manage your own cleaning woman is solved.

YOUR MOLLY MAID IS SERVICE

MOLLY MAID services include dusting of baseboards, pictures, lampshades, nic-nacs, window-sills, furniture, fixtures and, of course, vacuuming throughout. Your kitchen and bathrooms are sanitized, walls are spotcleaned, cupboard fronts and floors professionally washed. Your home, professionally cleaned at reasonable prices. We guarantee it.

YOUR MOLLY MAID CAN SOLVE YOUR CLEANING PROBLEMS

Call MOLLY MAID for a Free Estimate on your home. You'll be pleasantly surprised at our reasonable weekly and bi-monthly rates.

CALL 876-1672

INVITATION to Milton residents
Wards 1 & 3

I would be pleased to discuss any problems or opinions you may have regarding the school system on either of these dates:

Monday, November 16
Percy Morry School 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18
Brookville School, 7-9 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION 878-9769

Ivan Armstrong
Your Trustee

Lilly Chinchilla Ranch

Quality Livestock For Sale

Feed Supplies Equipment

Cliff and Audrey Lilly

4th Line, R.R. 2 Rockwood, Ont. Telephone (519) 856-9151

FACTORY OUTLETS

Children's TOQUES 1 ⁰⁰	Children's GLOVES 1 ⁰⁰
CLEARANCE	
DRAPERY FABRICS 72", 84" wide 1 ⁰⁰ yd.	UPHOLSTERY FABRICS
Quilt BATTING 1 ⁰⁰ yd.	Tapestries 7.97
COTTON PRINTS 1.49 yd.	Prints 5.97
DENIM FABRIC 1-3 yds. 2 ⁰⁰ yd.	Flats 4.97
PLACE MATS 1 ²⁹	Checks 2.00
	FIBRE FILL 1 ⁰⁰ yd.
	Printed FLANNELETTE 1.79 yd.
	Borg PILE PIECES 3 ⁰⁰ yd.
	TEA TOWELS .97

LEN'S MILL STORES
ONTARIO & ARTHUR
GUELPH
UNION & MOORE STS.
WATERLOO