

# Log homes are booming business for Paul Petric



Paul Petric

How does a Queen's University history graduate make a living? By building log and timber houses, of course.

Paul Petric, formerly of Acton, admits his university education is not too closely related to his chosen profession of construction work, but adds that a knowledge of history sometimes comes in handy.

Petric, of Paul Petric Construction, is the son of Lucy and Louis Petric, Lake Avenue. He originally entered university with his sights set on a law career, but after a few years realized he preferred to work outdoors rather than behind a desk.

Now, after being in business for four years, he has helped build various log and timber style homes from as far away as South America and as close as just north of Ballinafad, even though his home base is in the Haliburton area.

Petric's set up is a bit different than other businesses. He belongs to a co-operative guild, but maintaining his own company at the same time. He explains he

and several other friends each have their own business, but work for each other on various jobs. If Petric has a job and needs help, he enlists the help of other guild members. If one of them has a job, Petric will go work for them.

Business is booming in the log and timber home construction field and Petric is busier this year than he was last.

The majority of his customers do not have any set style or plan in mind when Petric is first approached. He sits down with each client and designs the home (unless the customer goes elsewhere for the designs), and works out size and price.

The cost of a log or timber style home is equivalent in price to a conventional home of the same size and layout Petric says, but has a terrific appreciation value.

Some homes, he points out, were built for around \$45,000 and sold a few years later for well over \$100,000.

Petric is responsible for only the actual log frame and staining. Other contractors

look after plumbing, wiring, foundations, etc. Most of Petric's work is done in the Haliburton workshop.

He gets his logs and timber from various suppliers in Parry Sound, Bracebridge and Pembroke. Then, going by the owner's criteria, most of the actual work is done indoors, with just the erecting of the building and last minute jobs done at the work site.

Not all logs are suitable for a log home either. Petric points out. Only about one in 100 red and white pines are good enough quality to be used in one of Paul Petric Construction's homes, so it is not a matter of using the logs cleared from the home-site.

Most of the log homes he builds include a passive solar design feature, taking advantage of the sun, and are space and energy efficient structures. Most of his customers are professional people, and most of the homes are conversation pieces.

(Continued on page 2)



Paul Petric, formerly of Acton has been spending time in town lately to build this log home for David Braida, north of Ballinafad.

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## \$666 councillors' raise mayor's pay up \$1,683

Halton Hills general committee approved a \$666 yearly pay boost for councillors and a \$1,683 raise for the mayor. The town fathers and mothers receive a 10.2 per cent pay boost.

The pay boost must still be approved next month by council and the raises are retroactive to January 1 of this year.

The pay for a Halton Hills' councillor will rise from \$6,530 to \$7,196 while the mayor's pay will jump from \$16,500 to \$18,183.

Last year councillors, in an attempt to defuse the potentially politically explosive issue of their own wages, established a formula to set annual raises. The criteria was that on a December to December basis councillors were to receive the lesser percentage increase of three indices. It turned out the Consumer Price Index soared 12.1 per cent between December 1980 and December 1981; the industrial composite of average weekly wages and salary index increased 11.7 per cent; and the percentage adjustment arrived at by comparing the annual job rate salaries of seven selected municipal employee occupations went up 10.2 per cent, the least amount.

Councillor Harry Levy, who was chairing the meeting and so couldn't vote, advised he will

comment when the matter comes to council. Councillor Ross Knechtel he said would vote for the raise at committee but was reserving the right to change his mind when it comes to council based on the contents of the new federal budget.

There was need for belt tightening, but Councillor Mike Armstrong said that after tax his raise was just over \$6 a week, so he felt it was a raise he could support.

When Levy noticed none of his colleagues voted opposed to the raises he mildly chided them they should be "ashamed". He noted he had opposed the policy which set the councillors raises formula.

Councillors Armstrong, Pam Sheldon, George Maltby, Dave Whiting, Knechtel, Russ Miller and John McDonald voted for the raise. Mayor Pomeroy was out of the council chamber while that item and a couple of others were discussed while Levy, as chairman, couldn't vote. Councillors Terry Grubbe, Walter Biehn, Marilyn Serjeantson and Roy Booth were absent.

In January of last year councillors gave themselves a \$590 raise and the mayor a wage boost of \$1,500.



It looks good enough to eat... and eat... and eat. Over 250 people did just that Saturday evening at the annual Legion Beef Barbecue. Sixteen of the 17 large prime rib roasts were devoured by the hungry crowd, and the leftover roast was raffled off. Compliments to the chefs could be heard all evening. Left to right, Terry Ingleson, Ivan Kilbey, Claire Mathies, Doug Mason, Cal McIntyre and Mick Holmes spent most of Saturday preparing for the meal.

## Council-police talk coming up on parking ticket blitzes

Halton Hills councillors are looking for a way to solve the problem of police suddenly giving out dozens of tickets for overnight parking bylaw violations.

Monday general committee decided to invite Inspector Matt MacPherson, Halton Regional Police commander in Halton Hills, to council for a "frank" discussion of these sudden blitzes even when there is no snow.

The bylaw, which prohibits parking on the street for more than three hours between 12 midnight and 7 a.m. 365 days a year, was passed several years ago. It was aimed at keeping cars off the road dur-

ing the winter to facilitate snow plowing and also prevent people from leaving cars on the road all the time. However, at the time they passed the bylaw, councillors expressed confidence that the police would show discretion and enforce the bylaw generally during the winter or when people complained about cars being continually left on the road. Councillors repeatedly said the parking bylaw wouldn't be a problem for residents having overnight guests during the spring, summer and fall.

That, however, hasn't been the case. From time to time police seem to go around and ticket every car on the street this spring and it has upset many citizens.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy predicted if some kind of deal can't be worked out with the police then Halton Hills will either have to change its overnight parking bylaw so it applies only in winter or find a new way of having municipal parking bylaws enforced without using the police.

Acton Councillor Dave Whiting, who first raised the issue several weeks ago, complained about nights in ward one when officers will suddenly give out 50 or 60 tickets even though there is no snow and no good reason to keep cars off the streets. He said not having parking on the streets in nice weather is a hardship in areas which are heavily populated and off-street parking is at a premium or driveways are

short. He pointed to areas like Kingham, Glenlea, Acton Blvd., and Bovis.

The problem is police enforcement, Pomeroy declared, noting he has received many calls about this problem. The police say the bylaw applies year round and they must enforce it as they are able to year round and can't seem to see the intent of the three hour overnight parking limit is to keep streets clear for snow plowing. He added he "never gets anywhere" when he "challenges" the police for the need to give out "122" tickets in one night.

Whiting said from reading the staff report he concluded the only reason not to change the bylaw so it applies only in winter was because other municipalities in the area have overnight parking limits year round.

The municipality and police receive complaints from citizens about cars being parked on the road overnight and traffic congestion problems year round, clerk-administrator Ken Richardson said. He added some older streets just aren't built to accommodate parking. Richardson warned prohibiting overnight parking only in winter will only confuse the public more, though he knows some municipalities only ban overnight parking during snow season.

Some streets wind up looking like parking lots. (Continued on page 3)

## Mayor won't take over 6%

In the wake of Monday's federal budget calling for just six per cent wage hikes for elected officials and civil servants Mayor Peter Pomeroy announced Tuesday morning he will be accepting just a six per cent wage hike instead of the 10.2 per cent wage boost approved by general committee.

(See story on the councillors' raises above)

He will be making his official announcement at council next month when the raises come up for final approval. Councillors Ross Knechtel and Harry Levy indicated they would be commenting further on the raises at that meeting also.

The Mayor and councillors were to receive a 10.2 per cent wage hike based on a formula estab-

lished last year. With a 10.2 per cent raise Pomeroy's pay would jump from \$16,500 to \$18,183 for 1981.

Now that he is accepting just six per cent his raise shrinks from \$1,683 to \$390 for a total of \$17,490.

He said he won't be accepting more than six per cent, the other 4.2 per cent will simply remain in the town coffers.

In light of the new federal economic moves Pomeroy said "direction" must come from the local level as well.

Pomeroy said he will be leaving it up to each individual councillor to decide if they will take six per cent, or more up to the 10.2 per cent limit.

## Knechtel, Whiting push 6% limit all councillors

Halton Hills Councillor Dave Whiting announced Tuesday he is prepared to either move a motion or second one from another councillor calling for all members of council to receive just a six per cent wage increase.

Councillor Ross Knechtel said it is "entirely probable" he will move the motion, but wants to discuss the matter with clerk-administrator Ken Richardson first. He explained there could be a problem with a motion calling for everyone to take six per cent since council raises are automatically set by bylaw. However, he doesn't expect there will be a problem.

One thing is certain, Knechtel says he won't accept more than six per cent.

He said he thinks a motion calling for all council raises to be limited to six per cent "is in order."

Whiting said there may be a problem with the present council trying to limit next year's council to five per cent in 1983.

Under a formula established in 1981 councillors are entitled to a 10.2 per cent wage hike this year, but the new federal budget encourages elected officials and civil servants to receive just six per cent wage boosts this year and five per cent the following year.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy has announced he will accept just six per cent this year, but will leave it up to councillors to make their own decision.

July 1  
Canada's birthday

With the cancellation of Back to Acton Days there's not as much going on in town for this year's Canada's birthday celebration, but there will still be some fun in Acton.

Sunday night Acton Firefighters will hold their annual fireworks display at Prospect Park.

On Sunday morning the Acton Y's Men will hold their annual Biathlon race starting at the arena at 9 a.m.

Saturday and Sunday men's and women's ball teams will be in action in the annual Back to Acton Days tournament at Prospect Park.

Acton merchants will feature special sales both Friday and Saturday.

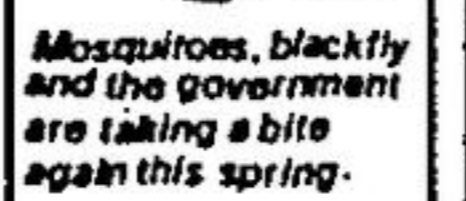
The office, editorial and advertising departments at the Free Press will be closed on Thursday, July 1 and re-open on Friday. News, sports and advertising deadlines remain the same as usual for next week's paper.

inside RRQ

Legal aid pays for Mercuri and McCristall's trial transcripts. Details on page 6.

An Acton man has been sentenced to four months in jail. See page 2.

The hides theft case has been adjourned again. More on page 2.



Rotary Exchange students Stephen Sojka and Alanna Bowen, who leave in a few weeks for Denmark and Sweden, were given triquets from the town of Halton Hills and the Acton Chamber of Commerce to hand out in their new towns. Councillors Terry Grubbe and Dave Whiting (also Chamber president) made the presentation.



Robert Little School students jump and shout for joy as school's out for the summer holidays on Monday afternoon.