

Mercuri faces perjury charge

Cosimo Mercuri, convicted of second degree murder two years ago, will face perjury charges September 19 in Milton Provincial Court.

Mercuri, 45, pleaded not guilty to the charge when he was arraigned last Wednesday in front of provincial court Judge Douglas Lallimer.

Mercuri is accused of perjuring himself March 29 and 30, 1982 during his trial for murder in connection with the death of Howard Gibbons, who died when the century old Dominion Hotel burned down in August, 1979.

A bid for an appeal by Mercuri last month was denied in the Ontario Court of Appeal.

Tannery lay-offs?

There may or may not be a lay-off at Beardmore.

Murray Stewart, of Beardmore's parent company, Canada Packers, said notice of lay-off were sent to 35 to 40 workers recently, but nobody has been laid off yet.

He explained a shortage of orders would be the reason for any lay-offs, "but the shortage may or may not happen."



Firefighters removed debris from the home of Roman and Anna Kuczkuda after a fire Friday afternoon which caused about \$40,000 damage. Mrs. Kuczkuda is staying with neighbors and her husband is staying in a back room of the couple's home to be near the cattle.

\$40,000 rural fire

Deep snow was only one obstacle firefighters had to contend with during a fire which destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roman Kuczkuda of RR 3 Acton, Friday afternoon.

Halton Hills fire chief Bill Cunningham said the fire was well underway by the time the volunteers arrived on the scene at 3 p.m. on the First Line North of Five Sideroad. He blames a faulty chimney for the blaze which caused about \$30,000 to the house and an estimated \$10,000 to the contents.

Cunningham pointed out the piping from an old wood cook stove in the kitchen runs into a brick chimney, which, through age, became faulty. The fire started in the chimney, going into the walls, quickly spreading from the first floor to the second and into the roof.

Attempts by the Kuczkudas to extinguish the fire failed and they eventually called the department, Cunningham said. When firefighters arrived the fire "had a good hold on the inside walls" and the men had to tear down the walls and open up the roof to get at the fire. There were no visible flames, he said.

The fire spread into some of the rooms, completely gutting one room, and causing extensive smoke and water damage throughout the rest of the house. The fire

chief questions whether the home can be repaired.

Besides the fire being in the walls, Cunningham said, the fire trucks could only get within 400 feet of the house because of the drifted snow in the driveway. Hoses had to be strung from the pumper and dragged up to the house, he said. That, compounded with the wind, made firefighters' operations difficult, he said.

Firefighters were on the scene for about three hours fighting the fire and another hour cleaning up, the chief said. The Hillsburgh department was also called.

A neighbor of the Kuczkudas, Anne Leslie, says the couple maintain the fire started in the furnace, and then spread to the chimney. Anna Kuczkuda, according to Mrs. Leslie was watching television in the living room and got up and walked through the kitchen when she heard the fire in the chimney. She looked up the stairs and saw smoke.

Another neighbor, Mrs. J. Artem called the fire department, Mrs. Leslie reported.

Mrs. Leslie was watching television in the living room and got up and walked through the kitchen when she heard the fire in the chimney. She looked up the stairs and saw smoke. Another neighbor, Mrs. J. Artem called the fire department, Mrs. Leslie reported. Mrs. Kuczkuda is staying with the Leslies, while her husband is staying in makeshift quarters in the house. Mrs. Leslie explained he has to stay near the barn because of the cattle.

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Skating star Kevin Parker will be one of the guest skaters at this Saturday's "Bob Voyage" Acton Figure Skating Carnival shows. See sports for more on the carnival.

Delegation to V.P.

Formal bid for VIA starts

Acton's official bid for VIA passenger train service starts tomorrow (Thursday). Councillor Rick Bonnette, Acton Chamber of Commerce president Steve Dawkins, Mayor Russ Miller and Halton Hills clerk-administrator Ken Richardson are scheduled to go to Toronto tomorrow and meet with Ray Borden, VIA's vice-president for the Great Lakes Region.

Bonnette said this is a preliminary first meeting and predicted both sides will just be "feeling each other out."

The Acton delegation will be going armed with a lot less data than they'd like.

Because of the March break only 89 of the 216 surveys distributed by students in an Acton High School marketing course have been picked up, and six of those weren't filled out properly and can't be used in tabulating results.

Bonnette said he's heard from some people who have surveys at home and wondered what to do with them, and he asked them to turn them over to him. The Acton councillor urges anyone else who has a survey to drop it off at his store, Acton Travel, as soon as possible.

Response in the form of letters from people who didn't get a survey has been strong, over 30 at last count.

While analysis of the letters and surveys hasn't been completed at this writing, Bonnette says it looks like there's at least 50 people planning to use VIA regularly if trains stop here.

When this issue first came up Halton Hills council was going to ask VIA to send a representative to discuss the request that trains

stop here. However, Bonnette said, they aren't bothering with this step, at least not at this stage.

Inside this week

Sports reporter Mark Holmes had a busy weekend covering the rep and house league hockey windups. In all he has 77 award presentation and team photos. Publication of all these photos begins today in sports and will continue all of next month, or until we finally run out.

The Acton heart fund drive hit \$5,300. Turn to page 3.

Frances Cutis turns 90. Story and photo on page 2.

Our Golden Age Club is 20-years-old. See page 2.

NDP leader Bob Rae visits Halton-Burlington riding. Turn to page B1.

There will be a study to see if we need a United Way campaign. See Newsmakers.



Rotary help finance new soccer field

Acton Rotary Club is helping Halton Hills get a new soccer field this year.

According to the Town budget passed recently by councillors, \$4,500 of the \$12,000 cost for a new soccer field to be developed on Elizabeth Dr. across from Lakeview Villa will be picked up as a donation by the Rotary Club.

This land was acquired by Halton Hills a couple of years ago as part of a land swap with a developer.

In his report to budget committee, recreation director Tom Shepard noted building the new soccer field "is related to the future creation of another lighted major ball diamond where the existing soccer pitch in Prospect Park is located. The existing pitch would be moved to Elizabeth Dr. and would be unlit and used primarily by youth soccer in Acton.

May demolish donut shop early as next month

The Canadian Style Donuts building at the corner of Mill and Main streets could be demolished as early as next month and the aim is to have a completed parkette in its place by the end of August, in time for the Leathertown Market and Ciderfest weekend.

Halton Hills doesn't acquire the building and land underneath it until April 4 when the deal closes, engineer Robert Austin explained.

Then, either through advertising for tenders or calling for quotes, the Town will hire a firm to demolish the building. Work could begin by as soon as April, but Austin doesn't know for sure now. All of the "administration" work for the demolition will be done next month.

He emphasized the Town has bought just the building and not the land around it. He explained the owner of the vacant lot beside the building wanted too much money for it. Negotiations were broken off on acquiring the extra land.

Because of provisions in government grant rules, Austin said, the project must be completed by the start of September. "That'll be touchy, but that's the schedule we're working towards," Austin said.

There were originally three parkette concepts examined by Town staff and BIA officials, but two of the concepts are impossible now because the extra land wasn't bought.

The remaining concept is in the hands of a design consultant now, Austin said so more specific details will be known later.

Austin and BIA chairman Ed Wood revealed the concepts will be available for viewing at the BIA's annual meeting on April 2 at Acton Family Restaurant. However, Austin cautioned the preliminary design drawings may not be back from the consultant by then for unvetting.

While the design isn't final, Austin and Wood said they expect there will be plants and/or trees, a trash can, some kind of park bench and interlocking paving stones, in the parkette.

Halton Hills has budgeted \$40,000 for the land purchase while part of another \$15,000 will be spent making that corner easier to turn now that the donut shop won't be there (the balance of the \$15,000 is for pedestrian traffic signals in the intersection).



Halton Hills has acquired the Canadian Style Donut Shop building which will be demolished to make way for a parkette which will be



built on the land underneath. The driveways and vacant land on either side of the building were not purchased by the Town.

Deny liquor permits

Town gets tough with Yugoslavs

Hargrave aid fund hits \$290

The fund started last week in aid of George and Marie Hargrave, whose home was badly damaged in a recent fire has hit \$290.

On March 19 Pat D'Amrosio of the Bank of Nova Scotia said there was \$75 in the benefit account which had just recently been set up. As of the past Monday, Mrs. D'Amrosio said, the account has swelled to \$290.

Besides the benefit fund at the bank, a benefit dance is also planned for the Hargraves at the Acton Legion on April 6.

Requests for liquor permits for three picnics in June and July at the Yugoslav Centre south of Acton on Highway 25 were rejected Monday by Halton Hills council.

Yugoslav official Mike Vucinic requested Town support for permits for picnics June 17, July 1 and July 15, but instead the Town is informing the liquor licence board they object to the permits.

Vucinic said an off-duty policeman will be at the centre for the picnics and promised to keep the noise, a source of continual complaints from neighbors over the past three summers, as low as possible, though they would have a live band and use loudspeakers at the picnics. He said they couldn't not have a band and loudspeakers, it's been part of the tradition of Yugoslav picnics in Canada for 30 years. He added they'd have 200 to 250 people at two picnics and many more at the July 1 event.

Spokesman for the neighbors, Jim Johnson, said the attitude from the Yugoslavs has consistently been that they can't keep the noise down. He noted that even when a condition of a licence was no loudspeakers to be used they were used and a noise charge was laid.

The neighbors have been reasonable over the past three summers and they'd "gone as far as we can with broken promises." Johnson added if local residents went to the Yugoslav neighborhoods and made a lot of noise "it wouldn't be appreciated." He urged no liquor permits be allowed until the Yugoslavs "demonstrate a better attitude." There has been "no indication of a willingness to control the noise."

Councillor Pam Sheldon was against supporting the liquor licence applications based on all the past problems. She recalled charges have been laid several times over

the past two summers and while technicalities, like witnesses not showing up, resulted in no convictions, everyone knew there was still excessive noise.

Halton Hills was encouraging the Yugoslavs to bring their own liquor and break the law, Councillor Mike Armstrong said, council must attack the noise problem and not try to deal with the problem by not granting liquor licences.

However, both Mayor Russ Miller and Councillor Jake Kuiken predicted that with no liquor permit and illegal drinking on the property likely the noise would be kept down so the police wouldn't have to be called to the picnics. Miller added if the picnics are quiet this summer then the Yugoslavs can come back later and apply again for licences.

Sheldon said the only way council had to control noise was by denying liquor permits.

She added if the police aren't called for noise they should go to the property anyway the day picnics are held because if drinking is taking place then another law is being broken and charges should be laid. One of the picnic dates is Father's Day, she noted and rural neighbors were entitled to peace and quiet.

It was time to get tough with the Yugoslavs, Councillor Rick Bonnette said, after all the noise problems in the past. "The trust has been broken." He said liquor licences could be considered next year if this summer is quiet.

Both Councillors Finn Poulstrup and Phil Carney wanted staff to look into requiring the Yugoslavs to post a bond, \$500 was suggested, and if there was excessive noise then they'd lose the bond. This would be an incentive to keep quiet, Poulstrup said, since they

(Continued on page 7)