

Halton missed out on car plant — Branch

The Honda automotive plant bringing 350 new jobs to Alliston could just as easily have been located in Halton Hills, according to a local farmer and former planner who visited the Tecumseth Township site last week.

For his sharp criticism of Halton Region's recently-completed Rural Industrial Land Needs Study Monday night, Norval area sheep farmer Peter Branch, a member of the Region's Agricultural Advisory Committee, received the accolades of Town Council.

Urged by Council members to become an unofficial ambassador in Halton Hills' fight against the regional study's constraints on rural industrial development, Branch will present his views to Regional Council.

A second assault on the study's findings takes the form of an elaborate resolution from Town Council that lists ten different reasons why the Town rejects its con-

clusions about locating industry in the rural area.

A former planning administrator at Queen's Park, Branch contended that Halton Hills needs between 1,100 and 1,200 acres of rural land designated for self-serviced industry, to be split in three phases to accommodate immediate, near-future and distant-future demand.

The Regional study recommends designating 100 acres of Halton Hills land for rural industry.

"Why are we so constrained?" Branch asked. "Why are services such an issue? How are we supposed to hold the tax rate down without new assessment? These are the answers we need. I hope I can take this issue to the Region and tell them in a little more blunt terms what I've told you."

Branch said he will attempt to verify information he received that Halton was

among the 100 locations examined for the Honda plant. He'll also check on the approvals process at work in Simcoe County and Tecumseth Township which obtained swift clearance for Honda's plant.

The plant will occupy 500,000 square feet of a 371-acre site featuring better agricultural land than anything Halton has to offer, Branch said. Yet Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture and Food curtails such land uses in Halton because it says the land is needed for food production, he added.

Branch said he is most upset by development restrictions placed on Halton Hills land along the Highway 401 corridor in recent years.

He recalled the province's development plan for Toronto Centre region, prepared by former Premier John Robarts, which recommended orderly growth for municipalities with Highway 401 considered ideal

for industrial siting.

"It was my impression that the 401 corridor would be the most attractive place to put industry," Branch told Council. "So it came as a shock to see the report from the Region says the 401 corridor should not be developed at this time."

"Before the Region was formed, Halton Hills land along the 401 was zoned industrial, being part of Oakville then. Our forefathers in their wisdom saw its potential. Why have we gone backwards instead of forwards?"

Council's resolution, being sent to the Region in response to the Land Needs Study, supports its conclusions regarding urban industry: that Halton Hills has a serious shortfall of designated urban industrial land; that the 401 corridor has long-term potential for urban industry; and that at least 560 acres should be founded in corridor locations.

The resolution rejects the study's conclusions about rural industry in Halton Hills for the following reasons:

- historical trends are not a sound basis for long-term planning;
- the given demand-supply ratio is not valid as policy;
- the study failed to consider on-site water storage for firefighting purposes;
- the given basis for average annual demand for rural industry is premised on invalid assumptions;
- the study fails to weigh Georgetown's lack of new industrial growth capacity in the next five to ten years;
- the study fails to consider the interim role which rural industry could play while sewage treatment plants are being expanded to accommodate urban industry;
- industry that can rely on wells and septic tanks was not adequately considered.

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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1984

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One Hundred and Ninth Year — Issue 50

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1984

Fifty-Four Pages — Thirty Cents

Survey shows

'Bums' bother merchants

by Pam Douglas

Acton's downtown area would be a nicer place to work if the "bums" were not allowed to loiter on the street, say local merchants.

"People are really intimidated by them," said Sharon Vincent, part-owner of Freezer Frezzy.

"They should pass no-loitering laws," said Juanita Morenez, owner of Milk Plus.

Cheryl Corson of Desmond's Tack Shop suggested work programs to "get the bums off the street."

"Give kids a place to hang out that isn't a dump," Corson also suggested.

A Free Press survey of 11 local businesses found a majority of people (10) who said the main street could use improvement.

Planting more trees and brightening up store fronts were two suggestions made by half the store owners and employees surveyed. An agreement among merchants for the same type of sign to hang in front of the stores would help to get rid of the "junky look," said Cheryl Corson. She would like to see Acton look like a, "quaint, old-fashioned town."

Merchants could, "neaten up" some of the store fronts, said Diane Zmija, an employee of Village Cleaners.

The garbage on the street was also a concern of the merchants, including Danna Coates, a teller for the Bank of Nova Scotia, and Dan McGilloway, an employee of J-T Sports.

McGilloway would like to see students hired again to clean the streets.

"They did a good job last year," he said.

Carmela Zenga, owner of Melina Bakery, and Paul Nielsen, owner of Nielsen's Clothing, think trees and wider sidewalks would give the street appeal.

Nielsen is assisting in the Business Improvement Association's (B.I.A.) plans to give the street more width by prohibiting parking on the south side and relocating it to the Church and Willow St. parking lots recently constructed under the plan. The Church St. lot will hold 51 cars, the Willow St. 39.

The additional space will allow the north sidewalk to be widened, and more tree planters and garbage receptacles to be added.

Bill Yundt, owner of IDA Drug Stores, said the downtown area has to be made attractive for people to shop there, and that can be done by attracting more businesses.

"It can be set in a plaza setting, with a concentrated area of shops to provide what people want with the prices and variety they want," he said. "The only difference would be that it wouldn't be under one roof."

Larry Greaves, owner of Stedmans, said he doesn't know if the town needs beautifying.

"I've taken pictures along here very early in the morning, and this is a very pretty town," he said.

"This is a very helping community," he said, citing generous donations to the heart fund and the Cancer Society as proof.



Speyside's kludergarten class performed fairy tales for parents and friends last Thursday. The tales acted out included Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hood and Hansel and Gretel. Dwayne Blackburn played Hansel and Yvonne Ng Gretel as they tried to find their way out of the forest.

Weeds drop-in concern

Citizens took advantage of the Ward 1 and 2 councillors' drop-in at Acton Library last Saturday afternoon to complain about weeds, dogs and trucks.

A vacant lot on Greenore Cr. bordering on the conservation area has caused complaints over the "noxious" weeds growing on it, said regional councillor and Ward 1 representative Dave Whiting. The concern was taken by the town to Weed Inspector Keith Leslie, but the citizen complaining was not happy with Leslie's response that he would look after it in August, said Whiting.

Whiting contacted town staff on Monday and the owner of the property will be contacted and asked to get rid of the weeds or the town will get rid of them at the owner's expense, said Whiting.

There is also concern over the large trucks which park on Kingham Rd. and use Greenore Cr. to turn around. The trucks take up a lot of the roadway and children can't see around them when they are crossing the road.

With summer has come an increase in the problem of people letting their dogs wander and deface other people's properties. Some citizens want signs posted and the "stoop and scoop" by-law actively enforced.

Crowd hampers Main arrest

A 25-year-old Main St. North man was charged with being intoxicated in a public place early Sunday morning following a scuffle in which a policeman's night stick was grabbed by a bystander.

Constable Brian Crosby was trying to arrest the man for public drunkenness at about 2 a.m. Sunday on Main St. when a crowd converged.

Police say Crosby had to release the suspect when a bystander grabbed his night stick, still attached to his belt. As the suspect fled, Crosby attempted to arrest the bystander for obstruction of justice, but a scuffle ensued and the second man escaped.

Crosby was later able to find and arrest his original suspect, charging him with public intoxication.

"I knew we'd have trouble with the by-law," said Whiting. "I can't see putting signs up."

Another citizen voiced his concern over the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railroads' plans to replace the man in the caboose with a computerized box.

If a train breaks down in the middle of town, blocking off traffic and emergency vehicles from one side to the other, the crew from the front of the train will have to work their way all the way to the back of the train instead of meeting the engineer from the caboose in the middle, taking twice as long to look for the problem. This was one of the concerns expressed.

The Acton resident told Whiting if the municipalities of small areas like Acton complained to the railways, they may reconsider, said Whiting.

Proposed country inn main topic as residents organize

The newly-formed Eramosa Residents' Association (ERA) aired their concerns over the proposed Rockwood Country Inn and the aesthetics of the township and village at their first meeting last Tuesday night.

Mort Rapp, a Rockwood resident for seven years, voiced his concerns over the possible disruption of the community's "peace and tranquillity," and, "the future value of our property," if the inn were to have loud entertainment.

He cited an Orangeville's Hockley Valley Inn, and McLaughlin Square, Oshawa, as two inn/residence ventures which turned to loud entertainment to survive lagging business.

"Although consistent with the by-laws (these events) were not intended nor foreseen by the council," said Rapp, who stressed the importance of preventing such circumstances by writing protections into the original enabling by-laws. Mr. Rapp's residence would be right across from the proposed development.

The ERA has been organized by a group of citizens who hope to produce "positive input" to help inform councillors of the people's opinion on such matters as zoning by-laws, future development, police protection, sewer and hydro rates and service, and township and village aesthetics.

"We're a watchdog group. We want to work with the council to help them make decisions for the township," said Michele Dawe, secretary of the ERA.

The main topic of concern was the proposed development.

"We don't intend to encourage loud entertainment," said Bruce Donaldson, representing the owner and developer of the land where the proposed inn will be built. The owner/developer, Andrew McGaw of Oakville, was also present at the meeting.

Peter Briggs, a Rockwood resident for seven years, voiced his concerns over the appearance of some of the buildings in the area. He wants derelict buildings removed and historic buildings preserved.

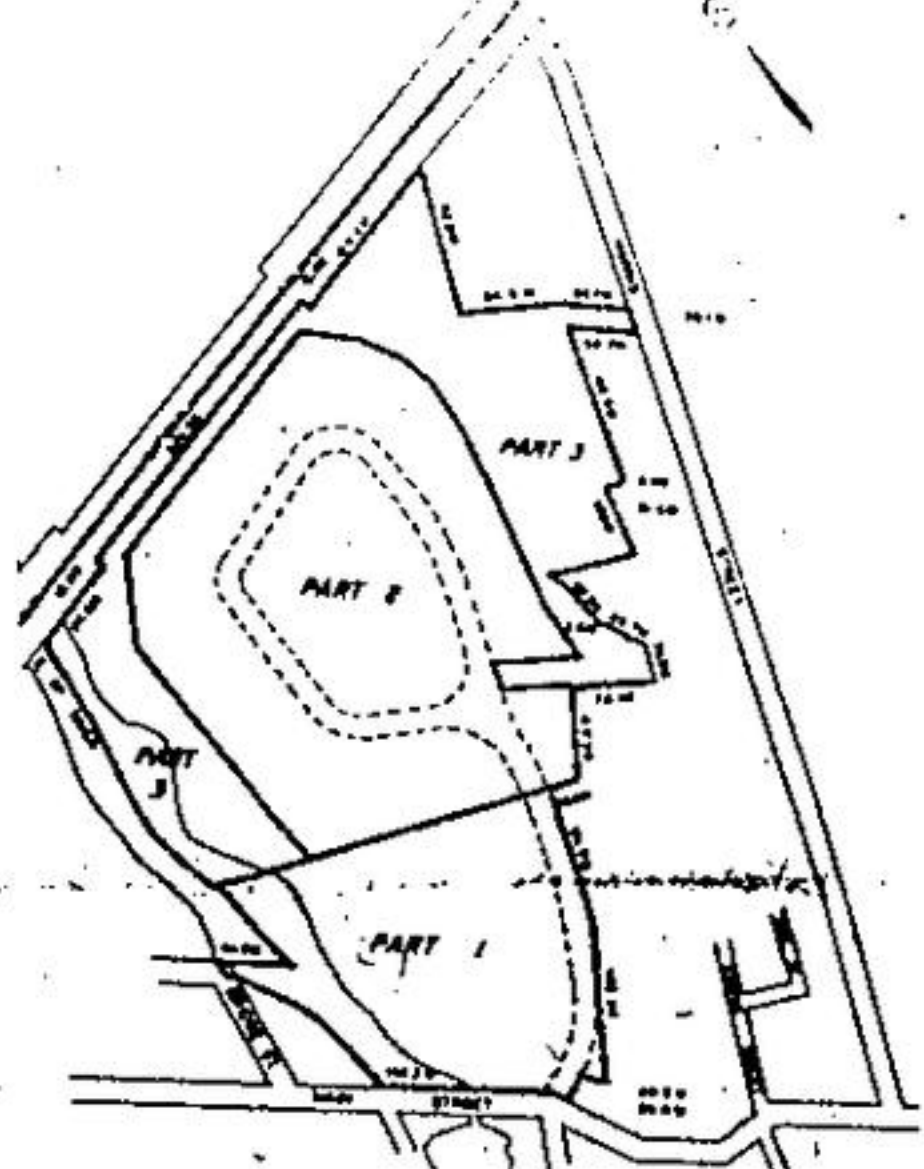
"It only takes one bad apple," he said of the aesthetics of the township.

Others condemned the "horror on Guelph Street," referring to the multi-colored senior citizen apartments which opened last fall.

The meeting was open to all citizens. Memberships were solicited and an executive was voted in after discussions which centred mainly on the development of the inn.

Long-time resident Harry Bonner summed up what seemed to be the general consensus of the people who spoke at the meeting.

"For the last 25 years we've been going backward. Soon we're going to have to drive miles to buy a loaf of bread, but I don't want



Area one on the above map is the proposed inn site, area two is the proposed subdivision site, and area three is the proposed recreation trail.

300 houses tomorrow. We need growth, but controlled growth," he said.

Johnathan Bamburger is president of the Association, Paul Clark is vice-president, Betty-Lou Clark, Mort Rapp, Lorraine Root, Joan Hill, Gordon Dawe, Andrew McGaw, Don Hills and Lou Hills are directors. All were appointed by acclamation.

Red Cross blood clinic on Tuesday

The Acton Red Cross is again sponsoring a blood donor clinic at the Acton Legion on Tuesday, June 26.

Blood donors are urgently needed and appreciate that one day they may benefit from the service.

Clinic hours are from 5 till 8.30 p.m. at the Acton Legion, on Wright Ave., just off Mill Street West.

Pet pigeons, rabbits stolen and killed

To the Editor,
My name is Aaron Wedemire. I am 10 years old. I used to raise pigeons.

I was going to race them this year. Last Monday night, (June 11th) someone came into our backyard and took all my pigeons, even the babies, and put them into a bag and threw them into the swamp to drown them.

They took my brother Jason's three dwarf rabbits and my sister Laura's white dwarf rabbit.

They killed Jason's black doe. We found her at the side of the road by the swamp where we found my pigeons. The other three rabbits must have got away because we found them in the bush alive.

We found three of the pigeons alive at the top of the bag. When we got home one pigeon died. Now I can't race them, and Jason and Laura are selling their dwarf rabbits.

They're afraid to keep their rabbits because the thieves might steal them again. We don't know how anybody could be so cruel to kill birds and animals like that.

Aaron Wedemire,
54 Cobble Hill Road,
Acton.



Aaron Wedemire (right) lost all his pigeons to a thief after training them for two years to race. His sister Laura and brother Jason lost their dwarf rabbits. Two pigeons and three rabbits were recovered alive, but the children aren't keeping them for fear the thieves will return.

Inside this week

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