

## Acton merchants seek support for improvements

Acton merchants agreed to ask council to designate the downtown core as a business improvement area (BIA) following a presentation by a ministry of industry and tourism official on beautification of retail streets Tuesday.

Bob Pollock was involved in the original BIA, as a merchant on Bloor Street West in Toronto in 1969, following legislation of the plan with Bill 361.

Each store owner or professional businessman located in the BIA zone pays additional taxes to the municipality.

Money is transferred to the merchants' board of management on request, and spent on promoting the downtown area. One third of the businessmen involved have the power to

veto the BIA project.

In a slide presentation, Mr. Pollock illustrated the success of BIA through "before and after" pictures of participating retail areas. Examples included Yorkville in Toronto, Sparks Street in Ottawa and the downtowns of smaller centres in Ontario.

Streets with cracked sidewalks, congested traffic, few pedestrians and no aesthetic appeal were improved with the addition of flower planters, decorative street lights, benches, new signs and trees. Other ideas included cleaning up and painting alleys connecting the main street with parking lots, eliminating on-street parking and laying attractive sidewalks of interlocking brick or multi-coloured stone.

Implementation of BIA activities used by other community merchants will be feasible in Acton pending approval by town council and the Ontario Municipal Board.

A committee headed by Henry Stachyra will make a presentation to council, requesting endorsement of the BIA plan on Oct. 18.

Businessmen in the designated BIA zone opposed to the project have 60 days to announce their opposition to council prior to the final reading of the BIA bylaw.

If two thirds of Acton merchants and professionals are in favor of the BIA plan, a board of management including one councillor will be elected to co-ordinate BIA beautification and promotion projects.

Mr. Pollock pointed out that when the appearance of the downtown core improves, so does business.

A former merchant of Bloor West Village he said a neighbouring jewellery store owner there claimed his business increased 100 per cent over a six year period after the establishment of BIA. Others enjoyed comparable success.

There were 265 merchants in Bloor West Village, and each contributed \$2.65 weekly which compounded to \$47,000 annually for the BIA project, said Mr. Pollock.

He added that physical improvements made the Bloor West Village attract customers who were shopping at Cedarvale Mall, eight miles away, back to their stores.

A developer also became interested in Bloor West Village and built a shopping complex on the site where a fire-gutted building stood adjacent to a closed gas station.

Mr. Pollock stressed the BIA has worked in Bloor West Village and other areas only because of co-operation by the municipality with the merchants and the merchants with themselves.

He showed one slide of a downtown business area, aesthetically appealing with freshly-painted store fronts, and greenery, marred by a building destroyed by fire. This eyesore was owned by an absentee landlord who refused to unite with the local merchants

to make the BIA plan work.

Mr. Pollock also emphasized unity in advertising, using downtown Ottawa as an example. There the shopping-centre like slogan "Oshawa Square - where the merchants care" appears on badges worn by all downtown employees and plastic bags used by all downtown stores.

Another idea, staging a downtown carnival to attract shoppers, originated in Coburg, Ontario, as a collective promotion to benefit all retailers.

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## Protest will succeed, labor spokesman says

Brampton and District Labor Council (BDLC) spokesman says the Oct. 14 Day of Protest will be a successful "historic" achievement as more than one million Canadians leave their jobs to protest anti-inflation controls.

Vai Bjarnason, spokesman for the BDLC says the figure on the number of workers supporting the protest is "the best estimates" available.

Gallup Polls show Trudeau's support down to 29 percent," he said. "For his double-cross in bringing in controls and for his loading the blame and burden on wage-earners - it should be zero percent."

Standard Products, of

Georgetown, as well as American Motors and Northern Telecom in Brampton will be shut-down by the voluntary walkouts, Mr. Bjarnason says.

Other walkouts will occur at Canadian Admiral Bundy David Archer, president Casting, Tung Sol Wagner, Shelley Globe, Stearns and Foster, Benson and Hodges and by Brampton outside civic workers.

David Archer, president of the 800,000 member Ontario Federation of Labor and vice-president of the Canadian Labor congress will be among the many speakers attending a rally at Chinguacousy Park,

Brampton Oct. 14.

Other speakers will include Keith Robins, vice-president of district 10, Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation and Frank Fairchild, assistant to Dennis McDermott, Canadian director of the UAW.

Public is invited to attend the rally which will feature entertainment in addition to the speakers from 9:30 a.m. to the noon rally.

Later the BDLC and district 10 OSSTF will co-sponsor a public meeting at the Bramalea Lions Community Hall on Avondale Boulevard.

An as yet unnamed prominent political party spokesman will also attend the rally.

## Booth seeks regional council seat, as three candidates vie for election

Town Coun. Roy Booth has announced his intention to run for election in Ward 3 as a regional councillor.

Mr. Booth served as area councillor for Ward 3 for the past three years and as a councillor in Ward 1 with the

former Georgetown council prior to regional government. During his term on council he was vice-chairman of the legislative committee, served on the select committee to form Halton Region. He has also served as chairman of the

general administration committee.

He is a council representative on the Georgetown and district Memorial Hospital board, sits on the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and is a director of the Highland Games Committee.

Mr. Booth is "most concerned" with the formation of official plans for both Halton Hills and Halton Region, local town planning, revitalization of the downtown core and "recreation (with a capital R)."

Not originally in favor of regional government, Mr. Booth believes it is here to stay and it's up to us to make it work.

"There are only four councillors and the mayor from Halton Hills, the weight of numbers is in Burlington, so it's up to the people to send councillors who will make themselves heard and who are conversant with planning and legislative needs of North Halton."

Mr. Booth resides with his family in Ward 3 and operates a family business in two retail stores in the ward.

## Sykes to run

Coun. Ernie Sykes announced Tuesday he will seek re-election in Ward 3 as regional councillor.

The announcement came shortly after Roy Booth announced his intention to seek the seat. Another candidate "Tut" Harrison also seeks election in the ward.

Mr. Sykes has served on Georgetown and Halton Hills councils since 1970. He has also served on Halton County council for one year.

He said he sees a need for a

continued local voice in regional government to follow those projects he has been involved in as a member of the regional public works committee. These include: expansion of both Acton and Georgetown water pollution control plants, Norval water servicing and the selection of a waste disposal site.

Mr. Sykes said effective communication must be maintained between local council and the region.

## Real estate broker seeks Ward 2 seat

Stephan Saxe, a real estate broker and appraiser, has announced his intention to seek the Ward 2 regional council seat.

Mr. Saxe, 31, is married with two children and lives on the Maple Avenue extension west of Georgetown.

Although he has no previous council experience, Mr. Saxe has been a director of the Brampton and district real estate board and is a charter member of the Credit Valley chapter of the Appraisal Institute of Canada.

He sees "effective communication between the area municipality and the region

and the region and an election issue.

Mr. Saxe explained that many electors seem confused over the role of separate levels of government because of an over intention of government to decentralize while many local services such as water and sewer have been taken over by the region.

Running in the former Esqueping Township, Mr. Saxe also expressed concern over long-range deficit spending because of the unknown impact of some proposals contained in the provincial government's property taxation.



**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Isobel Watson beams with pride as Acton Chamber of Commerce President Louis Charlebois presents her to 122 dinner guests as the community's 1976 Citizen of the Year. For more details of the honor bestowed on Mrs. Watson see Page 3.

## Red Cross sets \$15,000 goal for 1977 residential canvass

The Georgetown and District Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society has set its 1977 campaign goal at \$15,000.

The residential canvass, scheduled to start March 8, 1977, will take place in Georgetown, Acton and Esqueping.

"Industry, businesses and professional businesses are seriously asked to budget for their 1977 donation to the Red Cross," a branch spokesman said.

Campaign organizers also urge residents to give generously in this area since there is no United Way campaign in the area.

The goal was set at a meeting of the Campaign for Funds committee held last week at the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

Local Red Cross officials released the following statement after the meeting: "The importance was again made clear to all at the two meetings, which have been held recently with the Oakville United Way, that those Georgetown residents, who work in the city, should seriously consider giving towards the various services and charities in Georgetown."

"Monies given to Toronto and other United Ways, usually by means of payroll deductions do not, with one or two exceptions, come back to the agencies in Georgetown, that are struggling to provide adequate services in this locality. This would be rectified as and when Halton Hills goes to a United Way, but not until then."

"Residents first priority

should be giving where they are receiving the services, and a simple explanation, stating where they live and that the United Way does not cover their area is all that is necessary."

Judging by the number of participants and quality of prizes, Robert Gougeon chairman of the 1976 Rotary Club Skate-a-thon predicted the second annual event will be "a lot better than last year."

About 500 local people, aged five to 65, will dust off their skates and head to Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena Oct. 16 to raise money for community groups and projects.

The bulk of the anticipated 1976 profit, estimated at

## Site A cut, drilling OK'd on F only

Halton Region last week took a step further toward declaring Site F as a future long-term waste disposal site.

Regional council made the move as it deleted Site A, the present and former Burlington landfill site, from active consideration as an alternative.

Council also reversed its intention one month ago to test drill concurrently on Sites F, B and D. Site F only will be drilled and no further drilling is being considered unless test results prove negative.

The action taken Wednesday was attacked by Oakville Coun. Carl Erikson who said the works committee had "deviated from previous council decisions."

Council one month ago sought test costs for concurrent drilling of the three sites, but public works committee two weeks ago rejected the proposal as being too costly. Cost per site is \$18,500.

In its recommendation of council last week, the committee urged consecutive drill on each of the sites. Burlington Coun. Tom Sutherland moved an amendment Wednesday calling for such action only if Site F results are negative.

"The intention of the previous decision of council," Mr. Erikson said, "is an attempt to get a total program together and not to get it together piecemeal."

"It was not the intention of council to have the drilling done on B and D after F," he said.

Admonishing works committee chairman Coun. Jack Rafits, Mr. Erikson said M.M. Dillon, consulting engineers "understood the intention and responded accordingly."

"I have lost confidence in one public works committee on this item," Mr. Erikson added. "It has not done an objective study and has flouted and disregarded council decisions."

Coun. Terry Mannell also blasted the committee for its efforts saying that only a few weeks ago, it agreed to work with a representative of the Tremaine-Britannia citizen's group on technological studies on Site A. He said the groups should not be disregarded.

"While they (the committee) have the right to make their choice, they have no right to make up the minds of this council," he said.

But the criticism was swiftly rebuked by Mr. Rafits who attacked Mr. Erikson and Mannell for lack of participation in the landfill debates at committee.

"The work is not easy," Mr. Rafits said, "especially when you have to go through the two Bobsey Twins here."

"I would like some mature help. I am sick and tired of hearing from Mr. Erikson and Mr. Mannell when they have not attended a single public works meeting."

What followed was an attempt by Mr. Erikson to clarify his position based on attendance at a closed session of the committee "some

months ago."

But before Mr. Erikson could detail, more than a phrase from the closed session, Mr. Rafits urged him to be accurate and Mr. Sutherland said his revelations of a closed session would make a farce of in camera procedures.

Mr. Erikson said: "... it is going to be a hot potato politically..."

Regional chairman Allan Masson then ruled Mr. Erikson out of order saying "this is going right into the gutter, why don't you sit down?"

Mr. Masson disputed that reference to the closed session was a matter of personal privilege.

Burlington Coun. Mary Munro suggested that members of the works committee may be privy to more information than council because of the close working relationship between the committee and its consulting engineers.

"I am also concerned that other alternatives haven't been explored," she said. Again saying that going to long-term landfill sites will take pressure off council to seek reduction of waste and recycling alternatives.

Mr. Rafits will not have to endure the attacks on the credibility of his committee any further. Council with two dissenting votes, approved a recommendation that in future all debate and decisions be handled by the committee of the whole council.

## Skate-a-thon better than anticipated

\$15,000 by Mr. Gougeon, will be contributed to the Georgetown Memorial arena repair fund.

Fifty per cent of the net amount raised by both the local figure skating and minor hockey associations will go into their own coffers.

Last year 280 skaters raised \$10,000 to install a new sign and trophy case at Georgetown's Gordon Alcott Memorial arena.

All skaters, sponsored per lap, may complete a maxi-

mum of 60 laps in an allotted time period averaging half an hour.

The skater who returns the largest sum of money will receive a trophy, and every boy or girl who participates will get a puck or a pen.

Prizes for the most money returned will be awarded according to age categories. Both girls and boys aged 11 or under have a chance to win a wrist watch (first prize), a cassette tape recorder (second prize),

or a transistor radio.

In the girls and boys 12-year old and over category, first prizes are portable television sets, while the second runners-up will receive wrist watches and transistor radios will be awarded to third places.

Team prizes, for the top boy on each team and the top boys team in each league, are hockey sticks. The top girl on each team and the top team in each girl's group will receive a pair of sport socks.

### TOWNHOUSES ON MAPLE AVENUE

## Morrow charges 'blackmail' over services dispute

Halton Hills Coun. Eric Morrow charged Wednesday that the regional works staff carried out "very bad planning" and its attempt to disconnect an illegal water hook up at a Georgetown development was "nothing short of blackmail."

More than 25 families live in the 40-unit townhouse condominium project on Maple Avenue.

At issue is the \$10,000 cost of the needed oversizing to the Maple Avenue water main. The region is seeking the money from builder Al Pilutti, but Mr. Pilutti argues he had a development agreement signed with the town in 1974 which does not call for the oversizing.

Mr. Morrow argued that the project is "unique" because the town set the selling price of the units at \$32,500. He said appraised

values are as much as \$42,000.

As well he said, internal servicing plans, one of four recommendations made by the public works committee two weeks ago, had been provided.

During the discussions on rezoning and amendments to the official plan, no mention was made of the need for oversized water mains whether by regional council or the works staff, Mr. Morrow said.

"The whole town staff was working for the region to assist it because it (the region) was doing its best to accommodate Oakville and Burlington in 1974," Mr. Morrow said.

Council rejected his request that three of the four works recommendations be deleted from the agenda. Instead council referred the

matter back to committee for further explanation because of conflicting stories.

"This year when the developer asked for a sewer hook-up he found he couldn't have it until he paid for the oversizing water mains," Mr. Morrow said.

"If he had been told earlier he would have been glad to oblige because then the prices could be altered. But now it's too late," he added.

Mr. Morrow argued that it "would have been a catastrophe" for the families if the water services had been disconnected. He said he visited the site when works crews arrived to disconnect the water line and found one family had taken up residence.

"What would have happened to the 40 families moving into that development if

there was no water?" Mr. Morrow said that because of the unique nature of the development more than 300 applications had been received from prospective buyers.

Public works director Bob Moore, however supported the comments of the committee members saying that when the committee action was taken it was believed no families lived in the project. The action was meant to prevent buyers from taking residence.

Committee chairman Coun. Jack Rafits said that committee discussion included two Halton Hills members and each had different comments.

Coun. Ernie Sykes asked for a deferment of the proposal until the developer could speak with council or committee while Coun.

Dick Howitt said more action immediately had to be taken.

"I am sick and tired of Burlington people in their ivory towers making rules in discussion without coming up to see the situation," Mr. Morrow said.

He said he had difficulty in getting permission for the works crews to leave the water service intact because all officials in a position to make such a decision were at a public works conference in Las Vegas.

It is without doubt, Mr. Morrow said, that the hook-up is illegal, but given the same circumstances he would have done the same.

"It is not the region who will pay," chief administration officer Ernest Reid said. "Either the developer will pay, or it will be charged back to Halton Hills (Georgetown

water service area)."

Burlington Mayor Harrington said a six inch main, the required oversizing on Maple Avenue, is standard for adequate services and fire protection.

"Whether he (the developer) has sold his houses too cheaply—and unless he's a novice, I think he would know what he's doing—he's going to have to eat that (the cost of the water service)," he said.

Mr. Pilutti has stated that he is prepared to put the funds in escrow and seek a judicial decision on whether he must pay for the oversizing.

According to Mr. Morrow a recommendation for payment of about \$1,200 in fees for hook-up, meters and engineering fees is not in dispute.