Acton BIA endorses proposals

Recommendations contained in the final report on the revitalization of downtown Acton were endorsed by the board of directors for the community's Business Improvement Area (BIA) project Wednesday night, but at least one merchant is unhappy with the decision.

Bert Hinton, of Hinton's Five Cent to \$1 Store, was the sole opponent of a motion to adopt the recommendations among the small group of merchants and property owners at the meeting. Mr. Hinton had no objections to the major items suggested in the report, but argued that items such as the installation of bicycle racks and the posting of signs directing motorists to downtown parking lots are either needless expenses or the responsibility of the town.

Mr. Hintons motions to delete the parking lot signs and expensive BIA identification signs from the recommendation list received no seconder. Terrence Gwyer seconded his third motion, however, to delete the bicycle stands, but there were no other support-

According to the list, prepared by Anthrogram Planning Ltd. of Mississauga, and based on a survey of Acton residents, most of the BIA's \$20,000 budget will be saved for the final two years of the five-year program.

Work approved for 1977 but scheduled to be implemented next spring entails the installation of parking lot signs at a cost of \$300, the erection of two BIA signs on Mill Street East and Main Street South (\$900) and the streetscaping of Main Street between Church and Mill streets. Streetscaping involves the installation of benches, small trees and litter containers, at a cost of \$5,900 for the stated area.

A third, more elaborate BIA sign will be erected on Maln Street North sometime in 1978 for \$2,500. The Murray Memorial YMCA building will be beautified with \$1,000 worth of landscaping work and the first phase of creating sidewalk projections will begin with an \$8,000 expenditure. The projections area are extensions of the sidewalk's width into the traffic lanes, an "essential" item because of Acton's narrow walks, according to the consultants.

Next year will also see the hiring of a bylaw enforcement officer, whose job will be the policing of parking lots, at a salary of \$1,000 per year.

Also planned for 1978 is the introduction of a "Leather Theme" into downtown advertising ventures, a move aimed at creating an identity unique to the community that will capture the imaginations of out-ot-town visitors in much the same way that Flora has come become known for its crafts shops.

The Leather Theme will be developed during the next four years at an overall cost of

In 1980, the schedule calls for improvements to open an alleyway near the Main-Mill intersection. The consultants believe that several trees, attractive benches and possibly a wall mural will create a space for pedestrians that is both functional and attractive. Estimated cost is \$4,800.

The Knox Church parking lot off Main Street North is slated for similar beautification in 1981 at a cost of \$6,000. Other ideas in the works but

not yet affirmed include the landscaping of the IGA parking lot on Mill Street, the creation of a farmer's market and the development of the Hotchen's Bakery lot as a parking area.

The proposed unification of downtown store fronts, board chairman Henry Stachyra admitted, poses several problems. Although the Anthrogram consultants have offered to prepare designs for individuel store owners at a cost of \$300; he said, a joint project would need the committments of at least 25 owners before it could be undertaken.

Since only a handful of the merchants favor the idea Mr. Stachyra explained, the board has decided to leave such refurbishing up to the individuais.

Region splits on controls

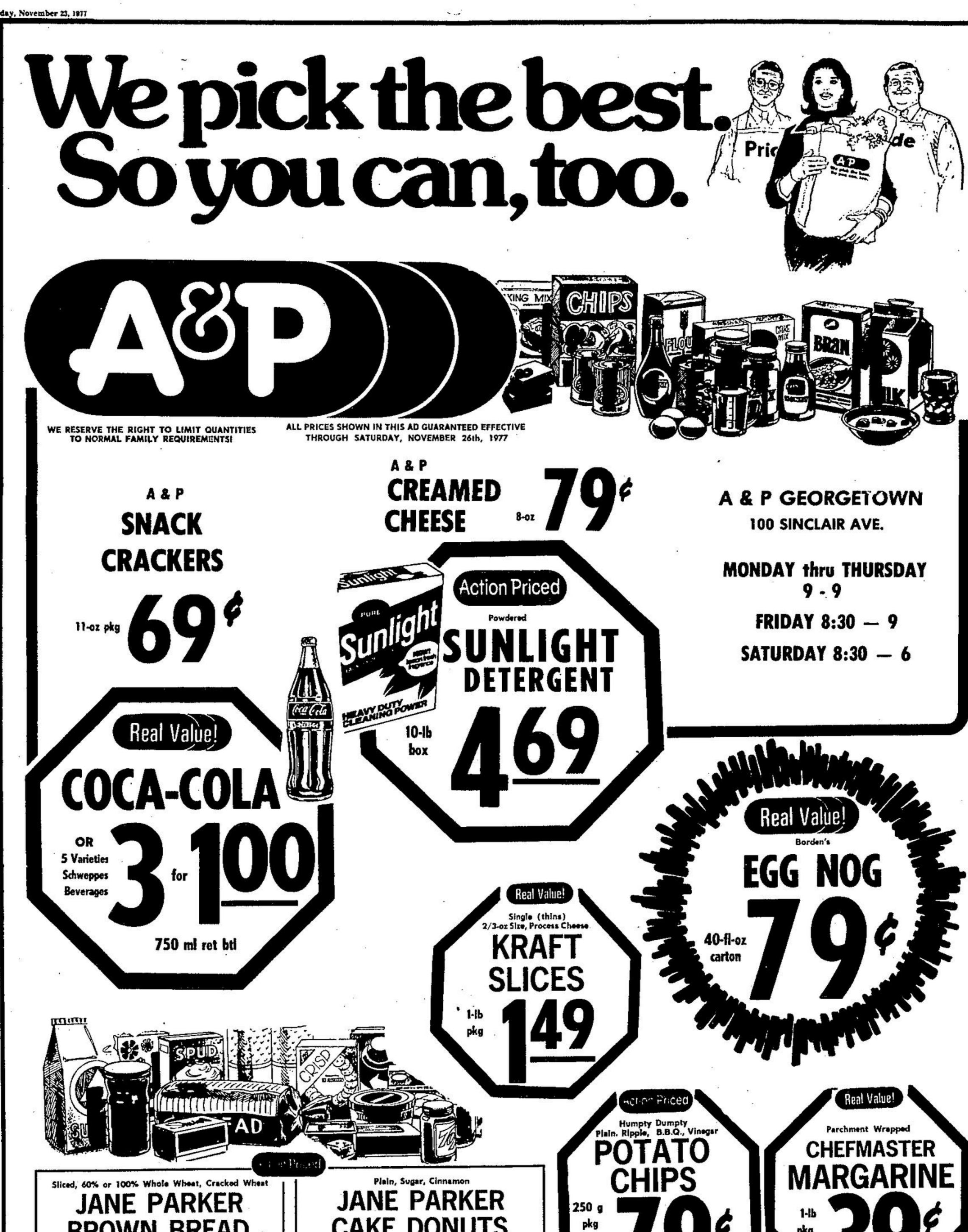
Halton region has split its support of teenage drinking and control of pornography. Council declined to support the Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union to raise the drinking age from 18 to 19 despite a plea by Burlington Coun. Walter Mulkewich that such a move would move the legal drinking age out of high schools.

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But council did enderse a resolution of Etobicoke council that the attorney-generals for Canada and Ontario discuss the control of pornography and its exposure to children.



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