

## Town won't appeal severance

By a vote of 6-5, town council has rejected the advice of its planning staff and decided against joining in an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) over a recent decision by the Halton Land Division Committee (LDC) to grant a severance to a R.R.3 Acton landowner.

The town's 1977-78 council voted to appeal the LDC decision last summer, but according to Coun. Roy Booth, did not at the time have all the pertinent information about the severance application filed by Paul and Elizabeth Jervis of the First Line near Acton.

Coun. Booth said to his colleagues Monday night that the complete information recently made available to council members warrants further consideration and asked that a resolution before council, by which the town's solicitors were to be authorized to attend an appeal before the OMB, be rejected.

### RECORDED VOTE

In a recorded vote, Mayor Pete Pomeroy and councillors Booth, Ross Knechtel, Russ Miller, George Malby and Ed Wood succeeded in overturning the previous council's decision to appeal the LDC ruling. Voting in opposition to Coun. Booth's resolution were councillors John McDonald, Walter Biehn, Harry Levy, Mike Armstrong and Marilyn Serjeantson. Councillors Les Dudy and Pat Patterson were absent.

Mr. and Mrs. Jervis applied last May to sever approximately one-half acre from their ten-acre property. According to a report submitted to council by town planning assistant Brian Murdoch, the half-acre parcel contains a residence, while the 9.5-acre parcel remaining was intended for residential and "hobby farm purposes".

Mr. Murdoch reported that the town planning department, in response to the application, declared the proposed severance to be in contravention to the official plan and zoning bylaw for the former township of Esquesing. Denial of the application was recommended, but on July 4, the LDC voted to approve it.

Coun. Booth complained that the matter served to point out a serious shortcoming in the manner in which council reacts to LDC decisions with which it does not agree. The town's initial reaction, he said, is invariably based upon the information provided by planning staff at the meetings of the town planning board, information which he said is much less comprehensive than that presented to the LDC.

**REVEALS ASPECTS**  
Information about the Jervis application recently placed before council, however, reveals aspects of the matter that council could consider to be mitigating circumstances, regardless of the application's compliance with the town's official plans, he said.

Coun. Miller conceded that council may be taking the best alternative by dropping its plans to appeal the LDC decision and agreed to withdraw his motion authorizing the town solicitors to proceed with the appeal.

Noting that planning staff had already "done a lot of work" on the issue following council's decision last year to appeal the LDC ruling, Coun. Armstrong suggested that the matter should be held over for further consideration by the planning board. A final decision by council, he speculated, could still be made prior to the scheduled OMB hearing date, of Jan. 22.

Coun. Serjeantson agreed that it seemed "very unfair" to contradict council's previous decision after staff had begun work on the appeal. Coun. Levy added that the town must base its decisions on planning and noted that the complete report on the severance application contains some discrepancies.

There was some indication that private citizens will be appealing the LDC ruling at the OMB's Jan. 22 session.

## Varian lands contract

From the Ottawa Bureau of The Herald  
OTTAWA — Varian Associates Ltd. in Halton Hills has signed contracts totalling \$30,269 with two federal ministries, the department of supply and services has announced.

The company has agreed to provide the agriculture department with \$17,316 worth of laboratory equipment, while the fisheries and environment department will pay the firm \$12,953 to repair and overhaul data processing equipment.

They were among 279 unclassified contracts worth \$1,900 or more that were awarded by the supply and services department to Canadians during the week ended Dec. 15. Total value of the contracts amounted to \$13,366,015.

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Sliced Beef Liver lb **98¢**  
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Garbage Bags pkg of 10 **77¢**  
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Gay Lea Yogurt **1.39** (FLAVOURED 1 kg CARTON 1.49)

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