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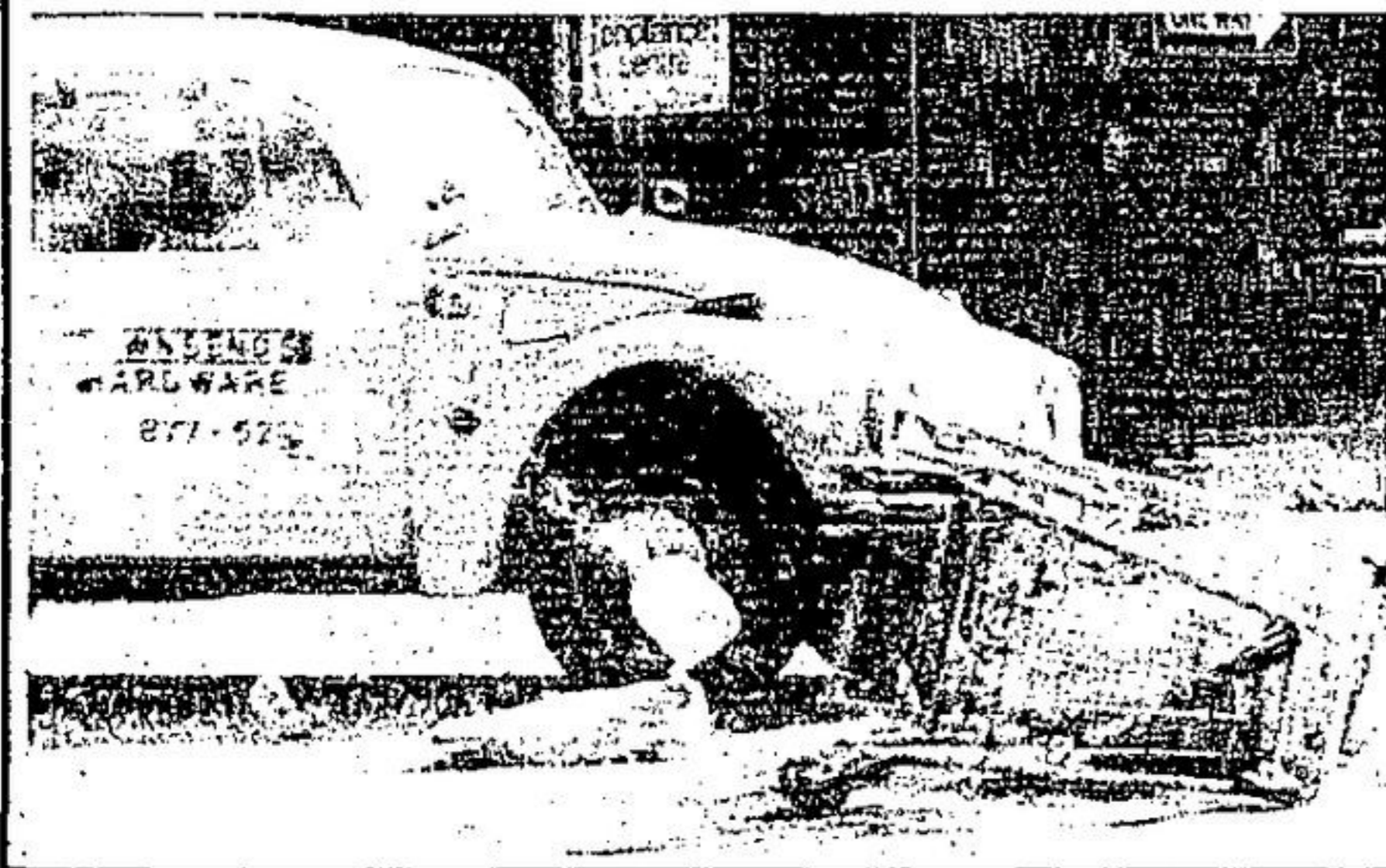
With a long squeal of tires and a sudden crash, the beleaguered Volkswagen driven by pantyky hardware merchant John Townsend claimed its first "victim" last Tuesday during filming of *Never Trust an Honest Thief* on Georgetown's Main Street.

Movie buffs of all ages lined the street (top left) as the slate snapped to synchronize sound on film and to signal the start of the take.

Seconds later, Townsend's beetle came screeching around the corner from Mill Street (top

right), raced past the McGibbon Hotel and narrowly missed an extra pushing her shopping cart full of groceries across the road. The groceries were not so fortunate, as the cart shot into the air on impact throwing debris everywhere (bottom left).

The youngsters looking on were delighted, needless to say, and with the directions to "cut" the take, raced into the street to help round up the groceries for another shot (bottom right). (Herald photos by Paul Dorsey)



Georgetown's businessmen want zoning changes stopped

Advised that Georgetown has "more than adequate commercial space for its present population", town council has taken into consideration a recommendation by local business people to halt all commercial rezoning of industrial lands.

Murray Lawton, appearing on behalf of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Business and Professional Committee, presented the recommendation to council last Tuesday night along with a suggestion that a bylaw enforcement officer should be hired to "pursue contraventions of existing by-laws".

A third recommendation, asking council to encourage residential and industrial growth in the Georgetown area, was simply accepted by council in deference to ongoing disputes over the residential development of lands south of Silver Creek and elsewhere.

ON RECORD
As Coun. Roy Booth explained, the town is "on record" as being intent on attracting new industrial assessment, but its residents would be "shocked" to hear that council is encouraging further residential growth.

Mr. Lawton conceded "the situation is not good" and that the Business and Professional Committee does not have "all

the answers". Local merchants and professionals, however, are concerned enough about the town's future development, he said, to be willing to help council... .

The bulk of the committee's submission was prompted by the results of a recent Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing which will see industrial land on Guelph Street rezoned for commercial use by 399982 Ontario Incorporated.

The committee's brief explained that the rezoning had been strenuously opposed by merchants and professionals through their association, but the matter was not pursued at the OMB hearing at the request of the Chamber of Commerce.

"The Chamber did not want the committee or Chamber to appear to be objecting to the application on what might have been interpreted as an individual or personal basis, rather than an objection based on a general principle," the brief said.

"The Committee, however, has not changed its position respecting the general issue

and strongly urges that there be no further rezoning of industrial lands to commercial use until such time as there is a very real balance between the industrial, commercial and residential growth in Georgetown."

CHANGED LITTLE
The brief noted that Georgetown's population has changed little since 1976, although some 70,000 square feet of commercial space has been added during that period. The community now has about 731,782 square feet of commercial space, or 39.5 square feet per capita based on a population of 18,500 people.

Noting that a level of 22 square feet per capita is the suggested ideal according to commercial statistics, the brief contended that Georgetown already has a surplus of commercial space and recommended that no further rezoning should take place until the population reaches at least 33,000.

A ban on industrial-to-commercial rezoning is shown at the top of a priority list drawn up by the Business and Professional Committee.

Other priorities, in descending order, are further residential growth, realization of a "very real" industrial-commercial-residential growth balance, challenging the need for present high utility deposits, more uniform water rates, solving the garbage crisis, and providing complete transit service, including GO and local transit.

Upon presenting the brief to council last week, Mr. Lawton commented that the business people would like to see residential growth stimulated, particularly through the development of more single homes.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson explained that Halton Hills' zoning administrator is basically in charge of enforcing the town's bylaws, but limitations in his duties force the town to rely heavily upon the Halton regional police for enforcement.

COMMITTEE FIGURES
Coun. Harry Levy asked Mr. Lawton whether the Committee's figures took Acton and Esquesing into consideration in terms of available commercial space. Mr. Lawton explained that the Committee consulted Statistics Canada for

figures pertinent to Georgetown alone. Had Halton Hills been considered as a whole, he said, the situation "would be a lot worse".

Mr. Lawton acknowledged that statistics can be interpreted differently, but commented as a merchant that he will not invest further in his business, the Canadian Tire outlet in the Delrex market centre, until the town's population grows.

Coun. Booth pointed out that Canadian Tire has room to expand at its present site, but many other local businesses would need to rezone adjacent property if they were to grow themselves.

Council referred the Committee's recommendation regarding rezoning to the planning department for a report. Mr. Richardson was similarly directed to prepare a report on the suggestion that an enforcement officer should be hired.

Vandalism, thefts continue

A truck cap valued at \$500 was stolen from a vehicle parked on Steeles Avenue last week.

Vandals threw a rock through a window at the Zeller's store in the Georgetown Market plaza on Guelph Street. Burglars attempted to break into a residence on Acton Boulevard through the sliding doors.

Four wooden crates valued at \$320 were stolen from Delta-craft Ltd. on River Drive. Vandals smashed a window at the Delrex Smoke Shop.

Two Bell Canada cables were damaged last week. The cables were located at Maple Avenue and Trafalgar Road.

A Canadian flag was stolen from a residence on Charles Street in Georgetown.

POPSICLE HEIST
A burglary was reported at Neilson's on Guelph Street. A box of Artie popsicles was taken out but it was found outside the building.

Burglars broke into the Hornby Country Fair Fruit market through a screen door at the rear of the building. Nothing appears to have been taken.

A ten-foot aluminum boat was stolen from a residence on quarry property on the 6th Line.

A cassette tape deck and ten tapes were stolen from a car parked on Green Street in Norval.

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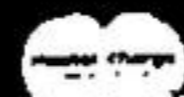
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