

Council to decide

# Omit Focal land from plan?



TRAPUNTO QUILTING

Laura Ditrich stands with a display of trapunto quilting which she had for sale at the Acton Arts and Crafts annual sale in St. Albans hall Saturday.

(Herald photo)

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formation of an industrial strategy in the town, but that these meetings were curtailed because of the shortage of available, serviced industrial land in the town. One of his priorities in a secondary plan for the Silvercreek area would therefore be the inclusion of industrial land in the area.

**MASTER PLAN**  
"We have to have in a master plan a large component of serviced industrial land," he said. "When you look at the cost of gas, and the fact that housing in Georgetown is now about the same price as it is in Brampton and Mississauga, it's obviously essential that we provide jobs people can get to inexpensively, and we haven't got them now."

"If the sewage capacity is resolved, then council must decide if it wants a comprehensive plan for the area," Mayor Pomeroy said. "A secondary plan must be produced, and there are provincial grants available for secondary plans. That's when you negotiate for costs, and I can think of a few, like the crossing of Hungry Hollow, the roads, a library, fire halls, recreation, lot levies. That's when you figure out who pays, how much they pay, and when they pay it."

Mayor Pomeroy said he would like to see the secondary plan reflect the town's industrial strategy, and he would like to see a large part of the industrial land in the Silvercreek area decided to the town. "Unless we can plan the

whole area comprehensively, build an industrial component in, and solve the sewage problem, the town will go back to its original position, which we have been assured is a defensible one," the mayor said. "But there's no future in that. It will tie up development in the town for years if we go back to court and to the Ontario Municipal Board. It will cost the town tremendous sums of money in legal fees, and we could lose."

"I'm not prepared to put the town in the position of having to carry the additional tax burden of even a partial settlement by the court, or of having to pay for the building of the development," Mayor Pomeroy added. He said that he recommends that any proposed development on the Silvercreek land be approved only if it can be done at no cost to the taxpayers.

**GREAT MISCONCEPTION**  
"There's a great misconception about this development," Mayor Pomeroy said. "People think if it's approved, they'll turn around tomorrow and see all those houses. Depending on a number of factors, this plan wouldn't begin for a couple of years anyway, and the staging would be done over the next ten or 15 years, depending on market values. Based on our experience, we would want the development phased in, and totally under the control of the community."

Mayor Pomeroy said he had not brought this proposal out before because when the town

got the final bill for the sewage treatment plant the Ministry of the Environment ordered it to build, the final cost was \$5.5 million, instead of \$1 million, as was originally budgeted. He said he didn't want to bring the town's sewage debt burden to the attention of regional council while it was debating uniform sewer rates. As it was, the motion for uniform rates passed by only one vote.

"This motion would put the ball in the court of the developer to resolve the sewage problem with the Ministry of the Environment, and then we'll think about going on to the next step," the mayor said. "I don't feel the town should be spending any more time working on this with the staff of the Ministry of the Environment. We have other projects to work on. It's to the benefit of the developer as much as the town, so let them share an equal portion of the burden."

The notice of motion was presented last night at planning board, and will be discussed and voted on next Monday at the meeting of council's general committee.

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## Safety concerns bring Christmas bus ban

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es three days a week for two months, Mr. Corney said, there is some concern among residents about the anticipated "noise, air and visual pollution" and about the possibility that bus passengers might be injured by snowballs, which he claimed caused \$5,000 in damages to Brampton buses last year.

Mrs. Corney added later that the principal of Park Public School admitted he was unaware of the Chamber's bus route until last Wednesday. With no preparation or safety planning, she noted, youngsters would be walking through the area each lunch hour at the same time four buses traverse the neighborhood, passing the yield sign at Mary and Hillside and emerging from a No Exit route near the hospital.

Mrs. Corney challenged the contention of some general committee members that honoring the citizens' request could set a costly precedent since, as Coun. John McDonald said, "your neighborhood is no different from any other in town".

Mrs. Corney pointed out, though, that the Marywood Meadows subdivision is one of the newest areas in town, providing homes for many young couples with small children. More importantly she said, the Chamber's proposal to cross the neighborhood has little bearing in meeting the service's objectives, which are

primarily to transport passengers to the hospital and medical centre.

**HUMAN BARRICADE**

Hours after the committee meeting, Mrs. Corney had begun organizing a protest which would have seen residents parking their cars along both sides of their residential streets and mothers and their children forming a human barricade to stop the buses from entering the neighborhood.

Also being planned prior to the Chamber's concession were a busy schedule of street activities such as football and other recreation aimed at keeping the roadways crowded on Saturday, a return visit to council next Monday, and a phone-in campaign by which residents would register their protests with council members.

Mrs. Corney said that she and other petitioners had even offered to cover the cost of re-advertising the Chamber's revised route, one of the main concerns raised by Mr. West at the meeting.

The committee meeting saw Coun. Booth question the feasibility of prohibiting bus traffic along in the neighborhood, while his Ward 3 colleague, Coun. McDonald, called the petition "very, very negative".

"I'm sorry that this petition has even come to us," Coun. Mike Armstrong commented. "Logically speaking, I don't think there's a darn thing we can do about it."

**SCHEME COLLAPSE**

"I honestly think these objections could apply to any other section of town," Coun. Walter Biehn, another Ward 3 representative added. "I'm afraid if we heeded this petition, the whole (Christmas bus) scheme could collapse. The petitioners have made their point, and possibly the Chamber will avoid their area in the future."

"I'm shocked to see so many names on this petition," Coun. Harry Levy said. "I'm sure if a full-time transit system for the town, more than half of the people on this one would sign it, too. So, although we sympathize with you, the petition is simply out of place; it's not warranted."

Coun. Ross Knechtel advised Mr. Corney that the Acton Chamber of Commerce has operated a similar service each Christmas for the past several years with no serious problems.

The committee voted to ignore the petition, then rejected a motion by Coun. Booth which would have seen town staff study the feasibility of stationing special crossing guards at all "dangerous" points along the bus route.

## Gravel trucks face tougher time limits

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**MAYOR'S PRAISE**

The mayor praised officials of the Indusmin quarry near Acton for their co-operation in helping the town respond to citizens' wishes. Recent discussions with the firm, he said, had led him to conclude that an 8 a.m. starting time for truck movements, as Coun. Miller had hoped to impose, would be unfair to companies such as Indusmin, which have posed few problems for the town. He suggested an earlier closing time rather than a later starting time.

"I think 7 a.m. is a reasonable hour to start," Mayor Pomeroy said. "I know I don't live out there, but they used to run trucks by my place all hours of the night and I never complained."

In response to one citizen's remark that problems persist because of wayside pit operations despite the town's "gratifying" efforts thus far on the residents' behalf, Mayor Pomeroy agreed that homeowners in the area would be "crazy" not to appeal their tax bills next year. He maintained, though, that the town will continue to seek ways of imposing "severe restrictions" on the wayside pits while at the same time avoiding any "injurious" effects upon operations such as Indusmin's.

investigate the situation further.

After Mr. Austin admitted that the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. time limits he had initially suggested were "arbitrary" and subject to revision, Mayor Pomeroy commented that he was "a little worried" about

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## Town intends to restore old Acton hall

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other provincial sources, as well as the town's contribution. "If (the Acton town hall committee) had been more positive about their efforts we'd probably have been a lot more hardy in our support of them," Coun. Marilyn Serjantson commented.

Ward 1 councillors Ed Wood and Ross Knechtel were adamant that the onus is still on the citizens' committee to salvage the town hall by raising sufficient funds.

**MORE MONEY**  
"If Acton can't raise a whole pile more money, I'll move a

motion to forget the whole thing," Coun. Knechtel vowed. "Just remember, without this Wintario grant, there can be no restoration."

"It's a monumental task to raise \$200,000, but to deny this resolution would just close another door in Acton," Coun. Wood added. "This would be another step toward breaking down the parochial doors in this community. Let's give them a chance to prove they can do it. Ross has said it and I said it before: I'll personally sign a motion to tear the building down if they can't find the money."

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