

More aggregate needed

Town objects to listing of local pits



HERE TO GREET THE '80s

(Herald photo)

Alfred Michael Roffel was the first baby of the decade in Halton Hills. Weighing in at seven pound, fourteen ounces, he is the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Roffel. Young master

Roffel was born at 1:37 p.m. New Year's Day in Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. His older sister, Leanne, is waiting at home patiently for her new brother to come home.

Town's 'favorite cop' is convicted of assault

Halton Regional Police Constable Joe Prasad pleaded guilty last Wednesday to a charge of common assault and was given an absolute discharge.

Halton Police Chief James Harding said he doesn't believe it will be necessary to take severe disciplinary action against Constable Prasad. He said he will review the case to decide if further action is needed, but verbal discipline may be sufficient at present.

Constable Prasad, 36, was charged with common assault following an incident September 25. He pleaded guilty to the charge in provincial court last week as Crown Attorney Owen Haw read the facts of the case into the record.

Constable Prasad, who five years ago was named Halton Hills' "favorite cop", was on routine patrol in a police cruiser the day of the incident when he passed another vehicle, driven by Don Harding of Acton.

Mr. Haw said Constable Prasad thought he heard a racial insult from the other car. Defence counsel John Bellegem later told the court the phrase Constable Prasad heard was "F--- off, Paki".

"I understand he has been a police officer for 14 years and has suffered a lot of these racial insults; his wife and child have suffered these insults, and it was probably the last straw," Mr. Haw said. "He turned the cruiser around, pursued and stopped the car. He then slapped the driver, Mr. Harding, in the face."

Constable Prasad called his duty sergeant immediately after he had struck the man. He then apologized to Mr. Harding, who was not injured by the blow. He also advised Mr. Harding that he could lay a charge against him if he wished.

DENIED INSULT
 Halton Regional Police investigated the incident, and decided to lay the charge against Constable Prasad. Mr. Harding denied making the insult, but Mr. Haw said the Crown Attorney's office believed the remark was made because "a police officer

wouldn't just turn his car around and go after someone for no reason."

"Were it two normal, everyday people and they had settled the incident between themselves, it wouldn't be brought to court, just to muddy it up again," Mr. Haw told the Herald after the hearing. "But because a police officer is supposed to be above reacting to these kind of remarks, we brought it to court. It was thought that even though Constable Prasad had expressed his remorse to Mr. Harding, that he should be brought before the general public in

court, and admonished in court, to show that a police officer isn't treated any differently than anyone else."

Provincial Court Judge Gerald Young, who described the stunts as "scurrilous and reprehensible", granted Constable Prasad the absolute discharge. This means the court will not punish the accused, and there will be no record of conviction.

Constable Prasad was born in British Guyana and served there as a police officer for five and a half years before coming to Canada. He joined the Georgetown police force in 1972, and now lives in Oakville.

Council's trapping approval posing hazards for pets?

By RICHARD PETRASHEK
 Herald Staff Writer

Representatives of the Ontario Humane Society and the Canadian Association for Humane Trapping (CAHT) have advised town council that trapping is not an effective way to control nuisance animals and does, in fact, pose a threat to pets and domestic animals.

"The problem isn't with the professional trapper, who knows how to properly set traps," Marietta Lash, executive secretary of CAHT, told council Monday. "The problem is with people who

find abandoned traps and set them near their property for their own use, without knowing how to do so."

"For example," she said, "two years ago, just north of Barrie, two children stood helplessly while their Labrador Retriever was strangled to death in a killing trap."

"Most pets just don't have the native cunning of the wild animals to avoid these traps that have been set up near built up areas."

Tom Hughes, executive director of the Ontario Humane Society, suggested the council should pass a bylaw

regulating trapping within the town.

NEED BYLAW

"If you don't have a bylaw, sooner or later you will see one of your pets in one of these traps," he warned.

Coun. Roy Booth commented that the town appreciates concerns expressed by the speakers, but added that the town has a problem in the spring with beavers who build dams that caused flooding on some roads.

"You don't control animals by killing them," Mr. Hughes responded. "Animals have tendency to fill in gaps when

By RICHARD PETRASHEK
 Herald staff writer

To the apparent delight of the many Sixth Line residents on hand, town council Monday night formally objected to the inclusion of three local wayside gravel pits on a new source list for aggregate needed in Toronto area construction projects.

While residents objecting to ongoing pit operations near Limehouse looked on alongside ministry of transportation and communications (MTC) officials, council anticipated the MTC's response to its resolution by listing several conditions it wishes imposed upon any future operations.

Several unofficial meetings preceded Monday night's council session, bringing together a group of rural home-

owners who want the pits closed and MTC officials seeking municipal sanctions for use of the gravel in the extension of Highway 400 north of Toronto.

Coun. Russ Miller headed a special committee of council which reportedly met with town staff for two hours last Wednesday, with MTC representatives for three hours Friday and with concerned residents for two hours Sunday.

By Monday night, the issue was clearly far from resolved. "We're damned if we do and damned if we don't," Coun. Harry Levy said in describing the town's predicament.

HARD DECISION
 "It's going to be hard to make a decision tonight," Coun. Russ Miller commented. "The Odiorco, Cohoon and Vincent pits are the existing

aggregate sources included on a new MTC list released two weeks ago.

The council chamber was filled to capacity Monday by Sixth Line residents denouncing their support for Tony Harborow, another Sixth Line resident who presented their arguments at the meeting.

Mr. Harborow said that the MTC had still not answered residents' questions regarding the amount of aggregate in the pits and how long they would remain open.

Coun. Roy Booth questioned the MTC's method of pit selection.

"Why, when there are 24 pits listed, are the only three wayside pits in Halton Hills?" he asked. "Certainly there must be some wayside pits closer to

the job."

"The pits are listed as information for the contractor and they're interested only if the types and quality of rock they need are close to the job," MTC aggregate supervisor Dale Gunter responded. "These were the only wayside pits we could find within a 25 mile radius of the job site."

Mr. Harborow raised the question of responsibility for possible depletion of area wells from the pits. Mr. Gunter responded that maintenance of groundwater supplies is the responsibility of the contractor working the pit.

"After several contractors have worked a pit, it would be like trying to trap smoke in a vice to find the one responsible for the damage," Mr. Harborow commented.

WATER STUDY
 Coun. Marilyn Serjantson asked if any study had been conducted to determine what damage had been done to area wells.

Ken Richardson, town clerk administrator, said that the ministry of environment had been conducting tests, but that results have not yet been received.

The town listed seven conditions it wishes imposed, should its objection to the listings be overruled by the MTC.

The first was a request to grant municipal approval of the work sites in question. The town also requested opportunity to approve the truck route to be used. Work in the pits would be limited to the hours between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The trucks would only be allowed to haul loads from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday. The safety procedures to be used on site would have to satisfy the town engineer. Road restoration to be done when the job is completed would also have to be approved by the town engineer.

The town further requested the MTC to provide a liaison officer at the site to handle any questions the public might have.

Mr. Harborow said that he was pleased with the town's resolution, but was still concerned that the MTC had not provided the information his group sought regarding the eventual closing of the pits.

Mercuri released on \$50,000 bail

Two of the three men charged with second-degree murder in connection with last August's Dominion Hotel fire in Acton have been released on bail.

Toronto "super-lawyer" Arthur Maloney, the former Ontario Ombudsman who returned to private practice two years ago and recently represented Keith Richard during the Rolling Stones guitarist's drug possession trial, has been retained as counsel to Cosimo Mercuri, owner of the historic Dominion Hotel, charged with murder December 28.

Mr. Mercuri, 41, and co-defendant Leonard Cripps, 54, who is being represented by Halton solicitor Peter McWilliams, Q.C., were released from Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre Monday night. Michael McCrystal, 46, the third man charged, is not represented by a lawyer and has not been granted bail.

Mr. Mercuri and Mr. Cripps appeared in a Toronto court Monday morning before Mr. Justice Saunders of the Supreme Court for a bail hearing. The judge granted Mr. Mercuri his released on \$50,000 bail, while Mr. Cripps was given his released on \$3,500 bail. Both men were released on their own recognizance.

Under the Criminal Code of Canada, the accused person charged with murder must apply for a bail hearing, and because Mr. McCrystal is not represented by a lawyer, no application for a bail hearing has been made on his behalf. He remains in custody.

JANUARY 11 DATE

The three men were to appear in Milton provincial court Monday to set a trial date, but scheduling has been set back to January 14, by Judge John Robinson.

Mr. Mercuri, Mr. Cripps and Mr. McCrystal were charged with second-degree murder following a four-month long investigation into a fire which destroyed the Dominion Hotel. Howard Gibbons, 58, a permanent resident of the hotel, died in the fire.

Firefighters were on the scene of the blaze for almost 14 hours on August 19. The alarm was turned in at about 2:14 a.m., August 19, by a passerby, shortly after the hotel had been closed for the night.

The fire was so far advanced by the time firefighters arrived that, although they were aware one tenant was unaccounted for, they were unable

to enter the building to conduct a search. Mr. Gibbons was found among the ruins of the building late Sunday afternoon.

BIA directors set for 1980

Lynn Barnard and Monty Hyde have been re-appointed to the board of directors for Georgetown's downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA), joining new members Terry Baines, George Blasco and Brian Goodhart.

The five 1980 members, selected by the BIA from a list of eight nominees, were officially appointed by town council Monday night.

Also on the 1979 board were Bill Crawford, Betty Monchamp and Bob Gougeon.

Council appointed councillors Walter Biehn and John McDonald to round out the 1980 board after Coun. Roy Booth declined the appointment.

While selecting new direct-

ors through a committee, last week, merchants and professionals in the BIA were also asked to prioritize a list of suggested expenditures for 1980.

Mrs. Barnard told The Herald that results on that section of the ballot have not yet been tabulated.

Voters were asked to consider erecting bases for two directional signs, erecting a sign on Trafalgar Road pointing to the downtown core, planters at the Mill Street entrance to the main parking lot, lights for walkways, painting the light standards on Main Street, putting banners on the light standards, and constructing a pedestrian island on Main Street.

Indiana car crash kills Actonian and daughter

An Acton housewife, her six-year old daughter and her father are dead following a highway collision Thursday near Largo, Indiana.

Dead are Jackelene Yaworsky, 28, her daughter Jennifer, 6, both of Kingham Road, Acton, and Mrs. Yaworsky's father, John Castle, 51, of Lafayette, Indiana.

Hospitalized were Eugene Yaworsky, 32, husband of Jackelene and driver of the car in which the three died, and James Stillwell, 33, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who was driving a truck involved in the accident.

A family spokesman told The Herald the Yaworskys had been visiting relatives in

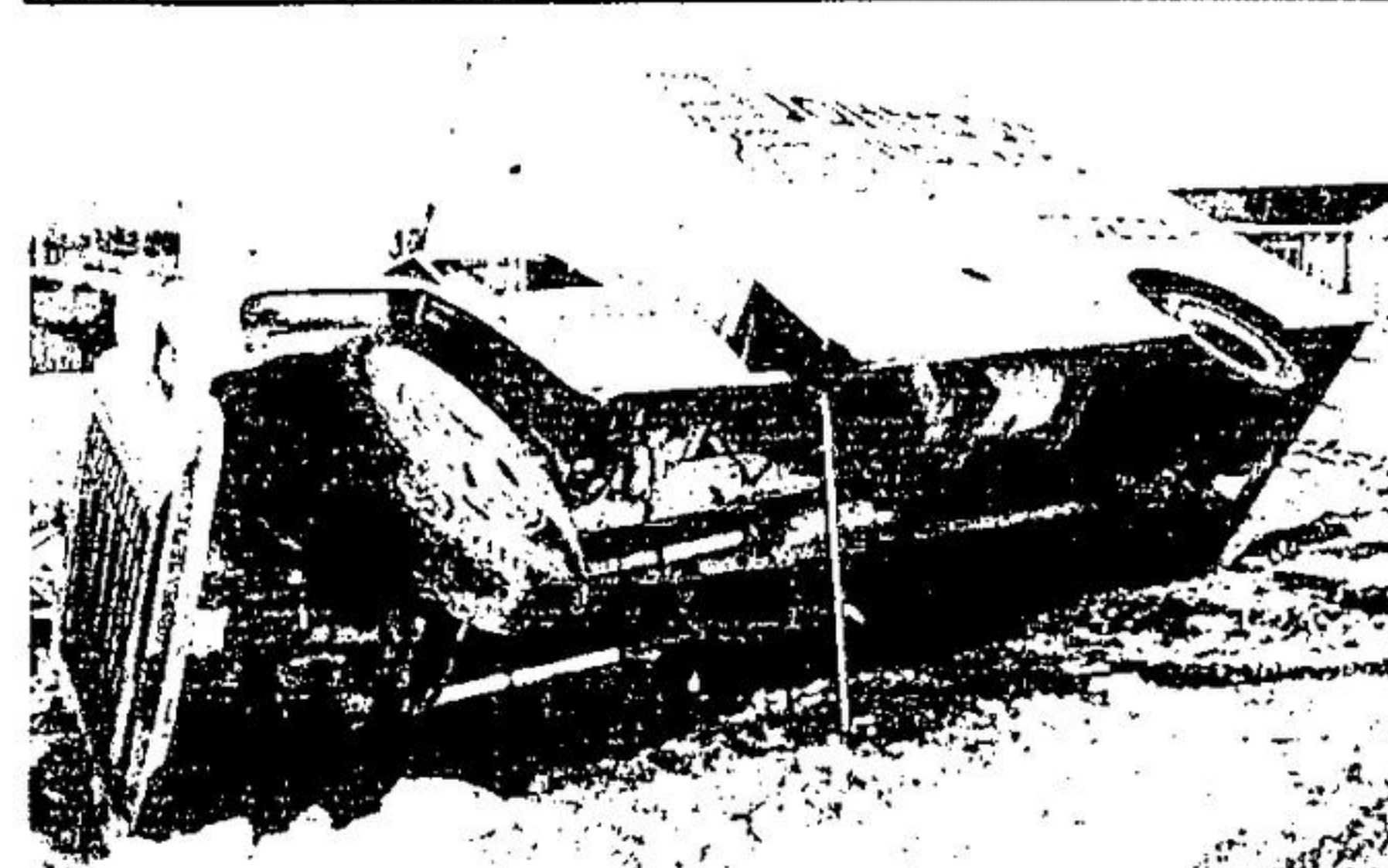
Indiana and were bringing Mr. Castle to Toronto with them to visit his brother when the accident occurred.

According to an Indiana newspaper report, an Indiana deputy sheriff said the accident resulted from a collision between the Yaworsky car and a deer. In trying to avoid the animal, Mr. Yaworsky apparently swerved to the left, into the path of an oncoming truck which struck the passenger side of the vehicle. Both vehicles then went off the road and down an embankment.

Mr. Stillwell was treated in hospital and released. The Yaworskys moved to Acton from Toronto more than seven years ago. Mr. Yaworsky works at General Mills in Toronto; Jennifer attended Robert Little Public School.

The Yaworskys younger daughter, Angela, 5, had remained in Lafayette with Mrs. Yaworsky's mother and was not involved in the accident.

Jennifer Yaworsky and Mr. Castle were killed instantly. Mrs. Yaworsky was taken to Wabash County



JUST NOT HIS DAY

The driver of this truck, Stephen Grimbleby, 18, of Bramalea, was uninjured when the truck went out of control near the corner of River Drive and 17 Sideroad and slid into the ditch Monday morning. Damage to the truck, which is owned by United Services, is estimated at \$600.

(Herald photo by Richard Petrashek)

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