

Consultants examine our downtown cores

BIA's look ahead to future

Continued from page 1
ial impact of having a food-store in the district, the consultants' report suggests.

Acton's picture is quite different, although foreseen or current problems such as parking and shopping variety are similar to ones in Georgetown.

"Acton has a thriving downtown," Mr. Walker said. "There is a tremendous potential for creating what is needed to enhance shopping variety."

"We should prevent the competitiveness of urban malls from coming into Acton," Mr. Walker said. "There should be a strong policy commitment to the downtown area."

hes as far as Brampton's city limits to the east and to Eden Mills 15 miles westward.

Nevertheless, Mr. Walker indicated that both groups of merchants will have to work closely to ensure the retail success of their downtown cores in the future.

Planners should also seriously consider trimming the elongated-size of the Acton BIA, of which its Mill Street section stretches for almost a quarter mile eastward to a railway crossing.

"Some people will have to bite the bullet," Mr. Walker said, "and realize that some areas are best for retail and others are not. We need to provide a focus for Mill and Main Streets and then build on what you have."

Like a mathematical Venn diagram, Acton's BIA trade area is entirely contained within the wider sweep of Georgetown's influence which stretches

the street wouldn't be too bad if merchants saved those spaces for the shoppers. Despite some displeasure expressed to consultants during the study about meter fees and parking fines for violating them, at least one Georgetown merchant maintains they are needed, paying for snow clearance and other maintenance costs.

The study also maintains that it would be pointless to spend money on large-scale landscaping plans for both areas. Acton needs greenery, the report notes and, architecturally, merchants would do well to improve both the exterior and interior designs of their stores.

There appears to be enough parking in Acton, Mr. Walker told Tuesday night's meeting; it just happens to be in the wrong places. More off-street parking is needed to ease the traffic squeeze on Mill Street.

There have been suggestions that the parking situation on

town's BIA may well depend on its character as a "neighbourhood" centre and Mr. Walker said municipal planning decisions may have to look more favorably at apartment developments near the downtown core.

Ironically, it appears that Acton, the community many of its long-established residents claim has sincerely suffered under regional government and the Halton Hills marriage, which has the most important "commercially" viable downtown section.

Georgetown already has a unique "openness" and visual appeal, the study acknowledges. Store owners should be encouraged to develop an improvement program which enhances the downtown area's character.

The survival of Georgetown's BIA may well depend on its character as a "neighbourhood" centre and Mr. Walker said municipal planning decisions may have to look more favorably at apartment developments near the downtown core.



CREDIT CRAYFISH CATCHERS

"Splash, splash we wuz takin' a bath-down at Cedarvale Park" might be an appropriate tune for these youngsters caught by the camera's eye stirring up normally sedate Silver Creek. Catching crayfish, they'll admit, can be hot work and Friday's sun only encouraged frequent wet breaks from the hunt.

Arena use misunderstanding delays dance-athon, Gretzky

Misunderstanding about the use of Memorial Arena in Georgetown has forced the postponement of a dance Marathon planned this weekend to raise money for the Ontario Muscular Dystrophy Association (OMDA).

While the recreation department was told on at least two occasions by people involved with the dance-athon that the event had been cancelled, Mr. McLaughlin said he had no idea that the town would have to have a staff member there.

Arrangements with the St. John's Ambulance and the Halton police department hadn't been settled for the dance, nor was there any agreement covering the use of the arena's snack bar facilities, PA systems and extension cords, Mr. McLaughlin said.

sonalities, organizers had planned visits by Mr. McLaughlin's uncle, folk-rock musician Murray McLaughlin and Edmonton Oilers hockey super-star Wayne Gretzky.

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