sun only encouraged frequent wet breaks from the hunt. The youngsters from the Sarah-King Streets neighborhood in Georgetown are (left to right) Ernie John Pearce, Andy Pearce. John Butler, Marie Butler and Kelly Armstrong.

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).

Kevin McLauchlin, Russ Bairstow and Trevor Hoy, the three local youths working in conjunction with the OMDA to organze the "dance-athon", were told Tuesday night that council could not consider waiving the arena rent until the town's recreation department had negotiated an agreement for its use.

No new date has been set for the event.

Mr. McLaughlin, 18, told councillors that a former arena employee advised the group a few months ago they could use Memorial Arena Friday and Saturday nights, as well as Sunday, for \$600.

But recreation department director Tom Shepard said his office had only recently been

made fully aware of the danceathon proposal and no contract outlining the arena's use, staffing and liability of parties had been signed between his department and dence organizers. In fact, he added, arena rent for one day's use is \$275.

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 sald he had no ides that the town would have to have a staff member there. Initially, organizers hoped of to have their own people look after the arena during the dance-athon.

By Tuesday night's council meeting, organizers said they had about 50 to 60 people who had picked up pledge sheets in anticipation of participating in the event and hoped to raise more than \$600.

Normally, requests to waive rental costs at municipallyowned facilities are discussed when councillors and staff

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budget. But the policy on sudden, mid-year requests "isn't that clear", Mr. Shepard

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 off the arena's snack bar facilities, PA systems and extension cords if needed. The associatlon, Mr. McLauchlin said, was prepared to underwrite the terms of the contract,

Lamenting what he described as "a terrible situation here." Mayor Pete Pomeroy sald council could not consider the request to drop the arena rent for the dance athon until it properly planned.

"You've got to get the whole program set up and organiz-ed," he said. "I think the idea is super but it's got too many problems now."

Along with a member of CKMW radio (Brampton) per-

Despite the confusion which led to the dance athon's postponement, the three teenagers are hoping to hold the event later this year, possibly in the Georgetown and District High Meanwhile, people who collected pledge sheets of the kind

sonalities, organizers had

planned visits by Mr. Mc-

Lauchlin's uncle, folk-rock

musician Murray McLauchlin

and Edmonton Oilers hockey

super-star Wayne Gretzky.

School cafetorium. with two stapled papers are asked to return them to Mr. McLaughlin (42 Raylawn in Georgetown) or Mr. Bairstow's home at 39 Stevens

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Consultants examine our downtown cores

BIAs look ahead to future

Continued from page 1 ial impact of having a foodstore in the district, consultants' report suggests. However, a large department store like Simpson's or The Bay locating outside the downtown area could deplete trade and it is unlikely these mall-

inside the BIA. Acton's picture la quite different, although foreseen or current problems such as parking and shopping variety are similar to ones in Georgetown. In fact, Mr. Walker said, Acton residents even use their BIA as a great open-air social centre.

oriented outlets would build

A more narrowly defined downtown area, largely limited to the community's Mill and Main Streets, Acton's BIA enjoys one commercial advantage Georgetown doesn't: there are no large plazas outside of town arresting shoppers' interest before they get into the core and the Fread-Kassian IGA mini-plaza proposal for the old Dominion Hotel site fits in nicely with the surrounding downtown area, as well as encouraging better foodstore services.

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

"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."

Downtown merchants should further promote the community's "Leathertown" image, a campaign already endorsed and boosted by a number of local businesses. The town might consider locating some of its administrative services in the BIA to encourage trade, but Mr. Walker stressed, Acton's lack of municipal offices would be far less harmful to its downtown area than the effects on the Georgetown BIA If the new headquarters is estab-

lished elsewhere. The study notes that Actors Mills 15 miles westward. could probably make use of a

Nevertheless, Mr. Walker community centre, attributing loitering problems experienced by merchants to youngsters not having a place to go. PRESERVE PAST "We should also attempt to preserve old buildings," Mr. Walker said, referring to Acton's current community effort to preserve its century-old

town hall. "But if it doesn't work at the retail standpoint than the whole thing is for naught."

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 rallway 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 strete- that the parking situation on

hes as far as Brampton's city limits to the east and to Eden

indicated that both groups of merchants will have to work closely to ensure the retail successes of their downtown cores in the future. A broader, Halton Hills thinking is needed, he said; merchants can't be left behind by regarding their community from a ten-

year old point of view. Both downtown areas have parking problems. In Georgetown, while it has a large off-street parking section for BIA shoppers, this may be threatened if the property owners decide to participate in a downtown business boom by developing the lot for commercial uso.

WRONG PLACES 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. Meanwhile, both communities' BIAs are pondering the merita of parking meters.

There have been suggestions

the street wouldn't be too bad merchants saved those spaces for the shoppers. Despite some displeasure expressed to consultant's during the study about meter foes and parking fines for violating them, at least one Georgetown

merchant maintains they are

needed, paying for snow clearance and other maintenance 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 exterior and interior designs of their stores. The "greening"

suggested would help break up

the "barren" appearance of

the downtown core, airing out

traffic conjection. 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. SHOWCASE

town's BIA may well depend on its character as a "neighborhood" centre and Mr. Walker said municipal planning decisions may have to look more favorably at apartment developments near the downtown core. It's the "showcase" image - the aesthetic appeal which encouraged Hollywood film-makers to shoot here - that is one of it's

most valuable assets, he add-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. Here too, yellow caution flags have been thrown up warning against building shopping centres on its fringes. the impression of store and

Merchants wishing to comment on the first part of the study have until the end of the month. The consultants have already tucked into the second phase of the study, a six week period in which they will prepare suggestions on specific changes needed in each of the BIAs to encourage a better

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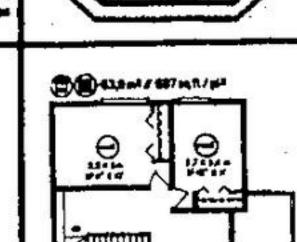
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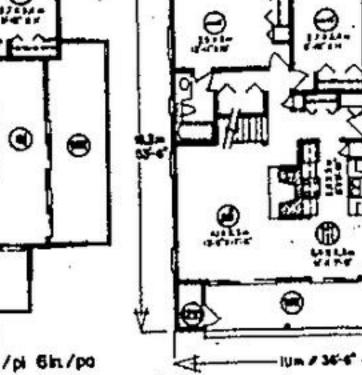
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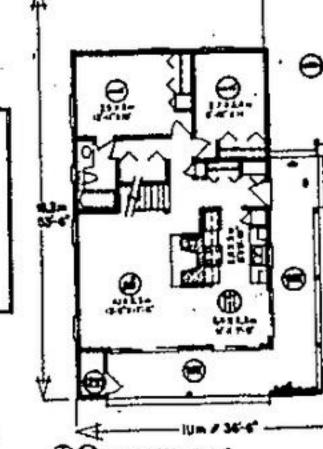
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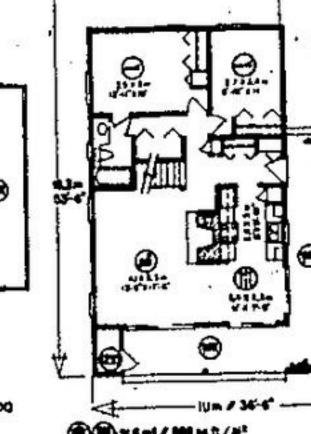
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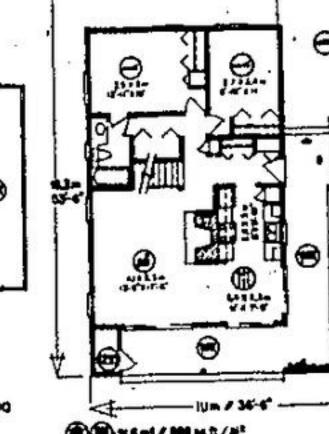








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in chingles. The main entry from the cheltered carport leads into a compact reception fover and outerwear storage area, from whence traffic moves naturally left and into the spacious fiving-dining room combination. The living room features a large, raised-

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