

# 'Practicality' catchword in BIA report

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer

Stressing that their plan is as practical and reasonable as possible, consultants attempting to secure the business futures of the Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) presented the final phase of their six-month study before a public meeting last Tuesday night.

"We've tried to be as reasonable and functional as possible," Peter Walker of Walker, Wright, Young and Associates Ltd.—the Toronto planning firm which conducted the \$62,500 review—told BIA reps from both communities and concerned residents who crowded the town council chambers.

"We've come up with what we think is a practical plan... even if it means some buildings may have to go."

The detailed plan, which was enthusiastically received by Acton and Georgetown business people, has predicted substantially different futures for the two BIAs. Since the consulting firm began holding public meetings, it has main-



**DIFFERENT DRUMMER?**

It's with a wistful gaze that Angie Akers, 6, from Georgetown, admires a decorated drum set for sale at the Georgetown Lionesses first-ever toy sale Saturday morning at the Lions Hall. She said she'd like to own the drums, but her mom didn't go for the idea. "I don't want them waking me up in the morning," laughed Mrs. Akers.

(Herald photo by Ani Pedrian)

tained that downtown Georgetown no longer forms the vital retail hub of the community as does Acton's BIA.

However, Mr. Walker reiterated last Tuesday night that downtown Georgetown can become a municipal and professional centre if the town's proposed central administration building is located in the BIA. If office space is encouraged in houses in the area and if a major attraction such as a supermarket is built in the core.

Indeed, Mr. Walker said, downtown Georgetown should be the heart of the community, adding that it "is an easy thing to say and not easy to do."

"We must find other uses besides retailing in the downtown core. We don't think that it's unreal to make those proposals. If anything is going to happen (additional food stores, for example) it should be in the downtown area."

**TOWN HALL**  
A "special development" area has been designated within the Georgetown BIA, bordered by Main Street and Mill Street and partially by Mill

Street. Landscaped with trees in the plan, this, the consulting firm said, would make a good location for the town hall and possibly a new foodstore if the opportunity arises in the future.

Unlike proposals for Acton's downtown core, Georgetown's recommendations encourage high density residential development, in the Mill Street-Park Avenue area already highlighted by the highrise Silver Creek Towers apartments.

Development close to the centre of the community, the consulting firm said, automatically provides the BIA with a local retail base. Although one resident at the meeting expressed concern that high density development might lead to an increase in vandalism, Mr. Walker said his firm had not considered the prospect because it believes that vandalism is more readily attributed to economic conditions and the lack of community attractions which might discourage that kind of activity.

Meanwhile, the consulting firm has defused a potentially contentious issue affecting residents living in the James, George and Draper Streets area of Georgetown northwest of the downtown core. During

the last public meeting Sept. 1, the consultants suggested the area is especially suitable for infilling, or adding houses on some of the larger lots should severance applications come forward in the future.

**SMALLER LOTS**  
Neighboring residents were quick to react to the proposal, drafting a petition to oppose any suggestion that council should support smaller lot sizes and land severances in the quiet, older section of the community. Mr. Walker described the issue as stemming from an "unfortunate choice of words" and assured residents Tuesday night that his firm had not meant to single out the area for infilling.

Other residents were concerned with a proposal to eventually connect Market Street in Georgetown with Draper Street, providing an alternative route for traffic in case of emergencies or when Main Street is closed for repairs and market days.

There is still time for the public to comment, in writing, about the study. Letters should be sent to the town's administrative offices on Trafalgar Road. A final presentation on the proposal will be made before council in about a month.

## Acton BIA 'neat compact'

Acton's Business Improvement Area (BIA) may resemble a neatly compact, multi-component dogbone in the future according to the latest and final part of the \$62,500 study of Halton Hills' downtown cores.

Peter Walker of Walker, Wright, Young and Associates Ltd. told members of the Georgetown and Acton BIAs and concerned residents attending last Tuesday's public meeting regarding the last phase of the study, that Acton's retail heart is in danger of spreading itself too thin between Main Street and Eastern Avenue.

Considerably more robust as a business area than its counterpart in Georgetown, the Acton downtown core, the consulting firm warned, could be crippled if the town allows shopping centres to develop along the community's urban

boundaries. By consolidating Acton's retail area around the Mill Street-Main Street intersection will have the shopping easiness which attracts residents to large malls, the study indicates.

Mr. Walker described the corridor running along Mill Street eastward to the area highlighted by the Olde Hide House as a "village link", retaining the historical character of the community and enhancing its already growing Leathertown image.

The "corridor" envisioned in the consulting firm's plans would be ideal for professional offices, he said, but the houses already there should be maintained to preserve the historical flavor of the community.

Municipal development policies in the area should ensure that houses in the corridor aren't "brutalized", Mr. Walker added, ensuring that

they contribute to the overall appearance of downtown Acton.

Early in the six-month study, the consultants noted that Acton is a "walking town" in which residents largely prefer to do their shopping on foot. One of the more startling recommendations for the Main and Mill retail area proposes a parkette at the northeast corner on which a building already stands.

"It's the nicest corner in the winter and summer," Mr. Walker said, adding that the parkette would provide a "focus" for Acton's elongated downtown core.

While not saying outright they support restoring the Acton town hall, the century-old building at the centre of a controversy concerning its future, the consultants have suggested its location is ideal for a community centre of some kind.

Meanwhile, as the debate continues over whether to tear

the hall down, the consultants have stressed that council will have to solve Acton's chronic parking space shortage. Off-street parking is badly needed, Mr. Walker said.

Consultants' suggestions for both the Acton and Georgetown BIAs include rather detailed landscape changes, calling for the addition of trees and other shrubs to relieve the drabness of some of the surrounding buildings. Both downtown areas must have signs, Mr. Walker said, which inform visitors that they are in significant areas of the two communities.

In Georgetown, the consultants have recommended that more unique stores or services should be established at the entrance ways to its downtown core. Acton's Leathertown theme should be presented to visitors as they enter the community and Mr. Walker has suggested tourist information booths should be easily accessible, too.

In the study's list of policy

recommendations for town council, it expresses hope that the town "shall encourage and support the Leathertown theme for Acton", as long as it doesn't compromise the Acton BIA's role as a commercial centre. The "village-like" atmosphere which Acton offers can provide a commercial function for all of Halton Hills, the study notes, and the town should endorse ideas in the community "which generally cater to the tourist market".

Another policy regarding Acton's attraction as a tourist spot suggests the establishment of a local historical architecture advisory committee to look at houses of historical value in the downtown area which may be eligible for restoration grants from the province's Heritage foundation.

## Blood donor clinic Monday

Continued from page A4

to ten units of platelets daily. (1) Less than ten per cent of blood collected is transfused as whole blood, primarily for major surgery involving the vital organs. The balance is broken down into the following components and transfused to several patients, with specific needs.

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## Ashgrove Of Hallowe'en and guesswork

By Mrs. JOHN BELLEBODDY  
Herald Correspondent  
877-3193

Well, Hallowe'en is over and it was a grand night for the witches and ghosts to be out knocking on doors with their bags for trick or treat.

Some very fetching costumes came to our door: a fireman, a football player, a sweet young flapper in a pink-tinted dress (which we discovered was a young boy) and a Spanish dancer with her castanets. They were all lots of fun and we enjoy guessing who they are.

Now we are into November, the most depressing month of the year, everything outside has gone to sleep and once the

Royal is over we must settle down to winter and lots of snow.

Mr. and Mrs. James Carney and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McClure have returned from a three-week tour to England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and they enjoyed it immensely.

One weekend recently Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Wilson and Mr. Alvin Marshall of Erin motored to Rochester, New York, to attend the funeral of their brother in law, Rudy Seils.

On Oct. 24 Mrs. J.M. Wickson and sister Gertrude King were at Gore Bay on Manitoulin Island as guests at the wedding of her great-granddaughter.

## In the Churches

Continued from page A1

"ordinary", or even if you know someone who thinks this way, then come to find out where you went wrong in your thinking. A professional potter, Corrie Booker, will demonstrate the art of making functional tableware and Beth Bickle and Joy Lachia will present a very special form of musical entertainment. Further details from Ruth Butrey (877-4158) or Cathy Lane (877-7257).

With the annual Remembrance Day thoughts, for those who gave their lives to give us freedom, spend a few moments thinking of future generations. If those who died in the two great wars and other world skirmishes could see the political and social bindings we have now, would they wonder about their sacrifice? They fought for freedom; let us fight to keep and maintain it.

The October meeting of Halton Gospel Temple women was convened by Mrs. K. Bailey, who encouraged all to participate in the new missionary/craft work available. Ladies had a choice of working on

embroidery, latch hook rugs or Christmas cards being prepared for the various missionary countries.

Following craft time, Mrs. R. Bellsmith opened the business part of the meeting with prayer. Mrs. Bailey then led in song accompanied by Mrs. J. Brouwer at the piano. Mrs. P. Johnston led in prayer after receiving all the requests from the group. Mrs. E. Kronschnabl prayed for all PAOC missionaries.

The highlight of the evening were guest speakers Mrs. R. Hembrae and Mrs. Rowntree from Kennedy Road Tabernacle in Brampton, where Mrs. Hembrae's husband is Pastor. Together they gave a slide presentation and short talk on Mark Buntaine and his work in Calcutta. Many hearts were touched as they saw the extreme poverty and living conditions in India.

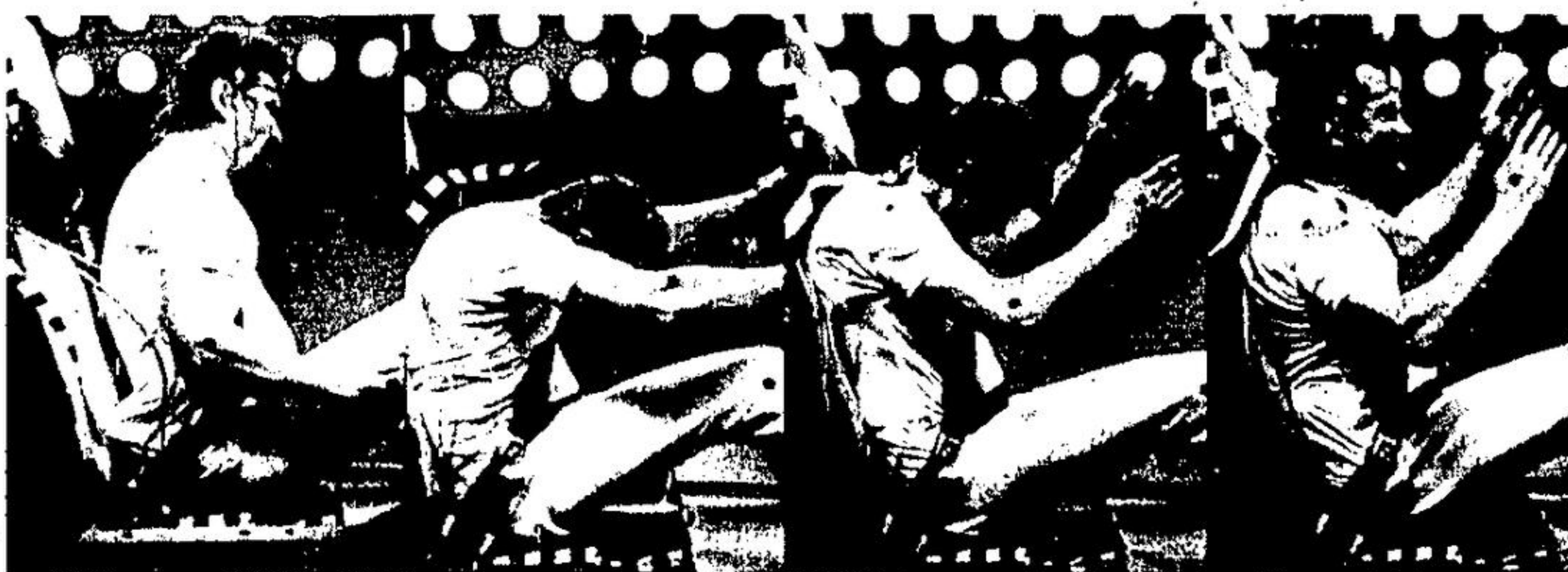
Mrs. R. Nicholson thanked the speakers. Refreshments followed the meeting.

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