

# Police to crack down on cyclists

By BEN DUMMETT  
Herald Staff

Cyclists riding on Acton sidewalks will be charged with unlawfully using a bicycle, which carries a maximum of \$2,000, starting Aug. 1, Acton Village Constable Bill Riddle says. Until now they have only received a warning.

The clampdown comes in the wake of several pedestrian complaints of having to dodge cyclists while walking along the sidewalk, Constable Riddle said.

Although no one has been injured, there have been some close calls, he said. Most of the complaints have come from pedestrians using Mill Street in Acton.

The Halton Hills bylaw states that "no person shall drive a motor vehicle or bicycle along a sidewalk or boulevard except at a driveway."

Const. Riddle said it's more than likely the maximum fine wouldn't be imposed. Offenders would prob-

ably be issued a fine of about \$50. The exact fine is determined during a court appearance. A court date is necessary because the province's Chief Judge Hayes has yet to approve set fines for the offence. But the town recently submitted a proposal to Judge Hayes that the fine be set at \$53.75, Const. Riddle said.

Offenders under the age of 12 will receive a caution, while their parents will be notified of the offence. He hopes this will encourage parents to remind their children of the bicycle safety rules.

Being out of school during the summer months, youngsters don't get the safety lectures they do in school, Const. Riddle said.

He said youngsters are the main culprits, however, cyclists of all ages are using the sidewalk rather than the road.

Const. Riddle acknowledged parents' fears that Mill Street, being so narrow, is dangerous for cyclists.

But instead of encouraging their children to cycle on the sidewalk, parents should be telling them to walk their bikes.

Const. Riddle said cyclists who lay their bikes on the sidewalk instead of using a kick stand or wall to prop them up, will also be fined.

Fines will also be issued to double riders, and any cyclist who disobeys the general rules of the road.

# Beardmore property may get services

A 17-acre property in Acton, owned by Canada Packers, could soon hook up to Halton Hills town services.

A lawyer for the old Beardmore Tannery property south of Agnes Street and east of Highway 25 in Acton told Halton Hills town councillors Monday night that the spray and lagoon system used on-site at Beardmore is "a very archaic, primitive way to treat sewage."

Given the choice, Canada Packers would get rid of the system "yesterday," he said.

The property spans 296 acres in Acton and is the site of a former leather tannery. Town council said some of the chemicals produced from tanning might have led to a bylaw restricting the Beardmore property from using the town's sewage system.

The application by Canada Packers to change the bylaw applies only to a 17-acre lot of industrial land at Beardmore.

Monday night's public meeting attracted several nearby residents who questioned Canada Packers' lawyer, asking him if the company would sell the land after sewage hook-up was approved.

"The property is not for sale, at this time," Mr. Wearing said. The solicitor added that future use of the property would be determined by Ontario Ministry of Environment guidelines.

The Beardmore Tannery property has been the hotbed of con-

troversy as town council recently described the property as "contaminated." But the Ministry of Environment allows the industrial use applied for by Canada Packers and has no objections to connecting the property to the town sewage system.

Local residents and tenants with industry on the Beardmore property say the town's sewage system should be hooked up on the site.

One merchant said the Beardmore buildings have been in Acton since 1844 and have "contributed to the economic health of Acton."

Tenants at Beardmore said they hoped the lagoon system and the smell coming from the property, would disappear with a town sewage connection.

"I think it would be nice to see the smell go," said tenant David Chapman.

A report from Halton Hills staff on the sewage system issue at Beardmore will be complete Aug. 21 for a town council meeting.



Acton's village constable has decided to clamp down on cyclists using the sidewalk rather than the road. Riding on the sidewalk is an offence under the Halton Hills bylaws. Starting Aug. 1, Const. Riddle will be issuing fines to those caught riding on the sidewalk. The bylaw requires people walk their bikes along on all sidewalks. (Herald photo)

# Remove blight of AIDS — Scholtens

In an emotional outburst at Halton Regional Council last week, a Burlington councillor questioned the use of \$114,000 on AIDS education in the Region.

"The \$114,454 is perhaps not being used properly," Ralph Scholtens told his colleagues.

The Region should educate people to warn against homosexuality and intravenous drug use, he said, adding homosexuality is "disgusting" and "an unnatural habit."

"Taxpayers are perhaps getting half a bang for their dollar," the councillor said.

Several councillors agreed that AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome - is "a very serious problem."

A program was set up in 1987 to inform residents about AIDS and the AIDS virus.

There were a few chuckles around the Regional table during

Mr. Scholtens' speech, but Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy said the Region's health department was concerned with health and not with morality.

"We have to keep in mind that AIDS kills people, no matter what their sexual orientation is," Oakville Coun. Kevin Flynn said.

But Coun. Scholtens was not satisfied with the response from Regional health commissioner Dr. Graham Pollett that the program is educating Halton residents.

"Rather than window dressing the situation, let's get right to the source and find out how we can remove this blight (of AIDS) from our society," Coun. Scholtens said.

# CONE is hollow — Bonnette

The CONE that put local Coun. Joe Hewitt under fire in a recent report is "thin and hollow," says Acton Coun. Rick Bonnette.

The Acton councillor spoke in defence of Coun. Joe Hewitt at a Halton Hills town council meeting Monday night. Coun. Bonnette responded to a recent newspaper article that said the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (an environmental group), said Coun. Hewitt opposed the Niagara Escarpment Plan "most of the time" in his five months as a Niagara Escarpment Commission member.

"I've sat with Coun. Hewitt for four years now. He's always acted very professional and fair," Coun. Bonnette said.

"To me, CONE is an object that is thin and hollow. That's the way I see this group that has judged Joe (Hewitt)."

CONE is a Niagara Falls based group and knows little about Halton Hills, Coun. Bonnette added.

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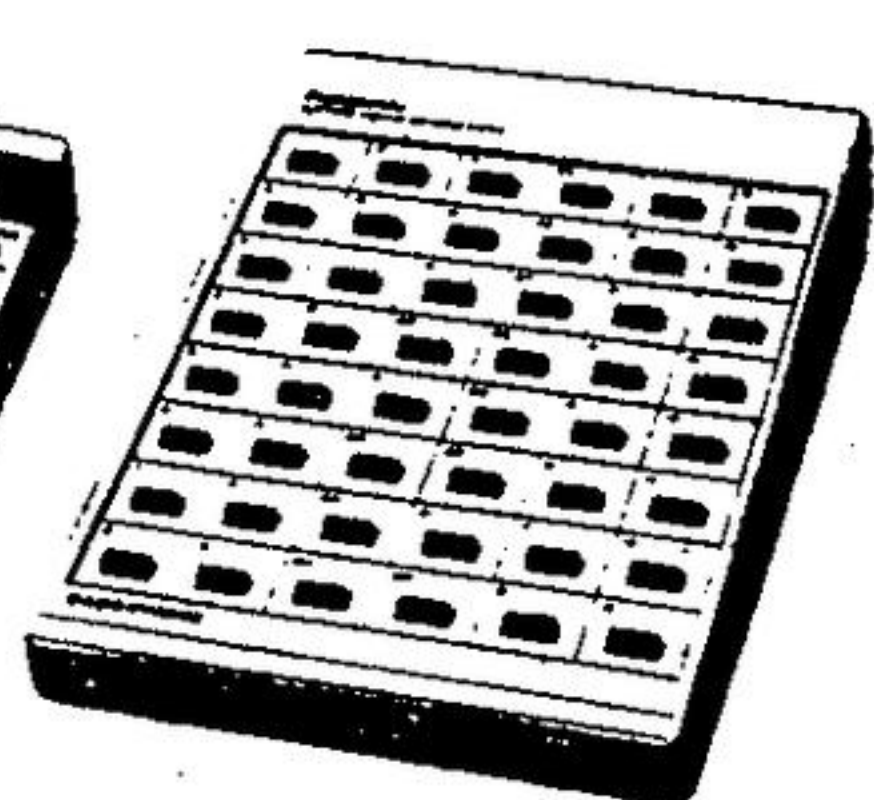
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