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36 PAGES

Tourist application delayed

Acton wants to be a tourist town

By **BEN DUMMETT**
the Herald

The Acton Business Improvement Area group has decided to delay applying to Halton Region for a tourist designation allowing its membership to open Sundays, says BIA chairman Dan Dolliver.

Those businesses granted a tourist designation are allowed to be open Sundays under the province's Retail Business Holidays Act.

Before the BIA applies for a designation, members want to know the outcome of the Burlington BIA application to the Region for a similar designation, said Mr. Dolliver recently. The Region has scheduled a public hearing on the application for early May to get public input on whether the Burlington BIA should be granted a designation.

"We're not sure how to proceed," said Mr. Dolliver.

He said the Region's director for business development, Brent Kearse, recently told the membership's executive it had two options. Members could apply for a tourist designation allowing all BIA members to open their businesses Sundays; or it could apply for a designation that applies only to tourist-oriented businesses, said Mr. Dolliver.

Mr. Kearse said a third option would be not to make any applica-

tion. Most of the businesses in the Acton BIA are small enough in size that they can currently be open Sundays under the legislation, he said.

But Mr. Dolliver said the BIA intends to make some sort of application. A lot of business owners are concerned about being charged if they open their stores Sundays, he said.

The Burlington BIA wants a designation that would apply to its

entire membership, said Mr. Kearse.

The Region recently granted Acton leather specialty stores, Flight-Line and Leathertown West Wearhouse, tourist designations. Both businesses are divisions of the Olde Hide House, which also has a designation allowing it to be open Sundays. The president of the Olde Hide House, Steve Dawkins, had argued for the designations for Flight-Line and Leathertown West Wearhouse on the basis they catered to tourists.

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Town approves 9.9 per cent tax hike

Halton Hills town councillor Pat McCarthy literally stood alone at Monday night's council meeting in opposition to a 9.9 per cent tax hike for urban area residents in 1990.

In a recorded vote Councillor McCarthy was the only councillor who opposed the 1990 operating budget.

Besides the tax hike for urban residents the budget calls for an 8.4 per cent tax increase for rural area residents. Those who live in the rural areas don't have to pay for Regional services such as garbage disposal so their tax hike is lower.

In response to budget committee chairman Rick Bonnette's claim the 1990 operating budget is "realistic, reasonable and responsible", Councillor McCarthy said the budget isn't an example of "restraint".

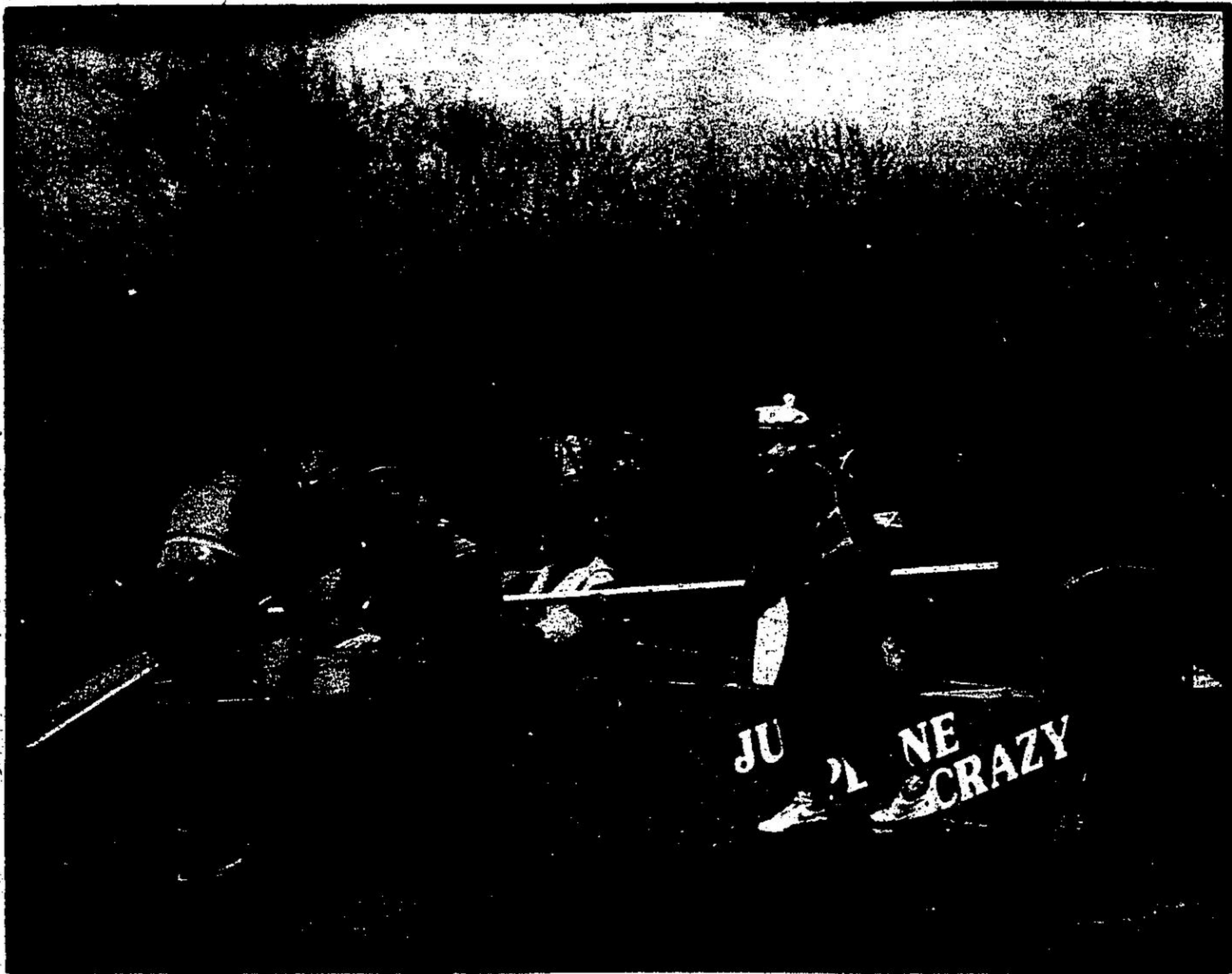
The tax increase could have been lower without reducing the level of town services, said the councillor, arguing the town's total budget expenditures have increased by 30 per cent over the past two years.

"The voters are saying enough is enough and I don't think 9.9 per cent (tax hike) is responsible to them".

The 1990 operating budget contains just under \$16.1 million in expenditures with a total tax bill of \$541 for the average urban area resident and \$412 for rural area residents.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeanston told Councillor McCarthy he was being "unfair" to council members for leading the public to think council is acting irresponsibly. The tax hike is 9.9 per cent because of several costs incurred by the town that are beyond its control, said

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Modern day barnstormers

The "Just Plane Crazy" won the best presented boat award in the annual Crazy Boat Race on the Credit River on Saturday. Entrants this year dropped from 100 to 55, but the amount raised jumped to \$15,700 thanks to McDonald's and Mold Masters donations. Here, the crew of the "Just Plane Crazy" seems to try a little barnstorming. The

crew is Steve Dance, George Blahitka, Chris Haug, Dean Scallen, Same Kern and Danfel Cappon. The first canoe over the finish line was guided by Andre Ouimet and Tim Desjardin. (For more photos see page 11) (Herald Photo by Brian MacLeod)