

Sunday shopping issues still not resolved

Sunday shopping has been happening in many retail outlets across Ontario. One of the two Bills regulating retail store hours, Bill 113, was recently declared unconstitutional by Judge James Southey, an Ontario Supreme Court Judge. Requests by the Attorney General to grant a stay which would deny open Sundays until the original decision was appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada were denied. This is unfortunate because the current law will only be fully tested by that final appeal.

It's unfortunate because the mood of society seemed to be ac-



Walt Elliot
MPP
Halton North
LIBERAL

curately reflected when Bill 113 and 114 were passed about one

year ago. The legislation seemed to be working in most areas of the province. Municipalities were putting in place by-laws which accurately reflected the wishes of the local people.

In border areas, cities like Sault Ste. Marie, decided by referendum to favour Sunday shopping. Several tourist designations under the previous law were re-examined and granted by the appropriate local authority. Most areas stayed closed.

Many allege the law in place before Bills 113 and 114 was working reasonably well. This was not the case. In fact, the previous legislation was almost impossible to enforce. In 1987, this fact was what instigated the drafting of Bills 113 and 114. Large numbers of citizens throughout 1987 and 1988 indicated clearly they were opposed to wide open Sundays. The climax came when North York voted against Sunday openings with the Mayor, Mel Lastman, casting the deciding vote. This vote was followed by a Metro wide Regional Council vote against Sunday openings. This Metro Council

vote was 30 votes against Sunday opening to 2 votes for Sunday opening. Just last month Metro Council rejected even limited Sunday opening by a vote of 22 to 7.

The folks seemed to talk against wide open Sundays. However, some people are shopping at the stores which are newly opened on Sundays. Until the appeal is heard, I expect this will continue. It looks to me like the big guys will do everything they can to increase their share of the market.

This will be done at the expense of the smaller stores, many of which are family operated business. It will also force more of our workforce to work on Sundays. At present, about one-third of our workforce, for various reasons, is required to work on Sunday. How much this percentage increases will depend on the success of Sunday openings from a sales point of view. I expect if a store isn't making money, they will close their doors on Sunday.

The good news for workers is Bill 114 which establishes for the first time in law a retail worker's right to refuse Sunday work. The one-

third of the work force who already do Sunday work will logically continue to do so. However, if stores are opening for the first time, employees do not have to work. If an employer applies pressure, the employees should contact the Ministry of Labour which will assist in resolving the dispute. When taking a retail job for the first time an employee would be wise to discuss the employer's Sunday work expectation in the interview.

Hopefully, in this testing period until the appeal is heard, those who feel strongly about Sunday being a common pause day will refrain from shopping. The clearest indication to the owners of a preference for Sunday closing will be economic. Stores won't stay open if they aren't making a profit.

It was a disappointment when the judge declared Bill 114 unconstitutional. It will be another disappointment if the appeal is lost. The Sunday closing legislation was beginning to work reasonably well across the province and accurately reflected the wishes of the majority of the folks in small town Ontario.

Petition blitz planned by RAIDD members

Members of RAIDD (Residents Against Indiscriminate Destruction and Development) will be hitting the streets Thursday with a petition against the proposed Maple Avenue condominium development.

The petition "blitz" will take place throughout Georgetown and will continue until early next week. "We think that we'll have a good response," said Michele Fisher, RAIDD's Public Information Coordinator. "There are many people against the Maple Avenue condos, and many more who are worried that if this goes through, it could also happen in their neighbourhood."

The controversial fifteen-storey

condominium proposal caused an outcry from area residents after the developers, Zupet and Associates, demolished a 120 year old home on the lot.

RAIDD, an umbrella organization of concerned citizens, was formed shortly after the demolition. The group's mandate is to raise public awareness of proposed developments in Halton Hills that will have an impact on the community.

The group seeks to "maintain the unique character" of Halton Hills by protesting unsuitable developments, preserving valuable buildings, protecting the environment and conserving natural resources.

Canada's Parks and Historical Sites



Sources of wonders!



They're all around you. In every part of the Country. Canada's National Parks and Historic Sites. Very special places where our natural wonders are protected and our ancestors are remembered.

Staffed by friendly, knowledgeable people, these unique places are there for you and your family to discover. To enjoy. And to cherish as part of your own family's traditions. So make them part of your travelling plans this year.

For detailed brochures on Canada's National Parks and Historic Sites please call

(613) 938-5875

or write

Canadian Parks Service
111 Water Street E.
Cornwall, Ontario
K6H 6S3

MY GENERATION



50%
TO
70%
OFF

STOREWIDE

MY GENERATION

115 MAIN ST. S., GEORGETOWN
873-2851 (Across From Knox Presbyterian Church)

SUMMER HOURS:
CLOSED MONDAY
Tues.-Wed. 10:00-5:00
Thurs.-Fri. 10:00-6:00
Saturday 10:00-5:00

Environment Canada / Environnement Canada
Parks Service / Service des parcs

Canada