

Halton police ready to lay charges against stores opening Sunday

By MARIANNE TAKACS

Local police have been instructed to begin prosecuting, as of this Sunday, any stores that remain open in violation of the Ontario Retail Business Holidays Act.

Those instructions came from the provincial Ministry of Policing Services after Wednesday's Ontario Court of Appeal decision upholding the act. The law prohibiting Sunday and holiday shopping had been struck down by the lower courts nine months ago, and retailers had been free to open since then.

Head offices for the major food and department store chains have said they will abide by the court's ruling and remain closed this Sunday. Locally, many supermarkets and the Zellers store at Georgetown Marketplace had been operating on Sundays.

"We had been been planning to open Good Friday," said Zellers associate manager Darryl Cox. "But now we're closing because of this decision."

"It really is a mess," said Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy of the situation now that the Sunday closing law has been upheld. "The difficulty with all of this is you never know where you're at. We know that there's going to be an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada - at least that's what they've

been saying - and so it could be that this farce will be reversed again after that appeal."

The chairman expressed concern that this latest court decision will mean more policing, legal and administrative costs for the region, and suggested it might have been better to leave the status quo (Sunday openings) in place until the whole issue is finally settled once and for all. (Provincial officials have stated they will soon be introducing changes to the Retail Business Holidays Act to protect workers and make it fairer to all.)

"It really is a mess that never needed to happen," said Pomeroy. "I don't know where we go from here. I'd just as soon have all the appeals heard or new legislation passed. The (old) legislation wasn't worth the paper it was written on. Why not just rewrite it. We've got a new government with a new point of view. Let them write their own legislation."

The chairman added this latest twist in the province's Sunday shopping saga will just create more problems for retailers in the southern part of the province, who are already under extreme pressure from competition in the northern U.S., where prices are lower and shops are open on Sunday.

Steve Dawkins, president of Acton's Olde Hide House, echoed

Pomeroy's concerns.

"You really have to question what kind of collective masochism or madness we are all party to," said Dawkins, noting this latest blow to southern Ontario retailers comes just a few days after a move by the federal government to make shopping in the U.S. easier for Canadians by shortening the process required to come through customs.

Dawkins said the olde Hide House's Sunday sales as a proportion of total sales have held up well during recent months despite the presumably increased competition created by wide-open Sunday shopping for all retailers over that period. (The olde Hide House and its two associate stores in Acton, Leathertown West Warehouse and Flight-Line Leathers, will be able to continue opening of Sundays because they have been granted tourism exemptions by the region.)

"I really don't think this (court decision) is going to have too big of a positive impact on our Sunday business," he said.

Dawkins added that there would probably not be much of an effect either on the smaller shops in downtown Acton that have been remaining open on Sunday, such as Forever Christmas and The Doll

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Senior Centres

Duignan, Pomeroy promise to help

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like to incorporate a seniors' centre."

Miller said there is not yet any plan for use of the revenue from the eventual sale of the old arena (which is considered run-down and as having a limited lifespan) because it is an issue which council has "never addressed".

"My feeling is if you were selling it to some other use," he added, "you may get a buyer who would buy it and let you use it for the winter while you built the other one."

At its March 11 meeting, town council approved the allocation of \$250,000 in the town's 1994 capital forecast and \$250,000 in the 1996 forecast for seniors' centres in Acton and Georgetown. The Georgetown and District Seniors Association has estimated the cost of a centre in Georgetown at \$1 million, if the municipality donated the necessary land. The province is expected to fund 30% of the cost of building the facility, with the rest expected to come from the town and fund-raising by the seniors' group.

In order to be eligible for funding

from the province, the town must still complete feasibility studies for the two centres. Miller said Wednesday those might be underway next fall.

During a question and answer session at the meeting, Miller took considerable heat from some members of the audience over the fact that Halton Hills does not have a seniors' centre while Burlington and Milton each have one and Oakville has two. Questioners also criticized the town for not even starting on a centre here yet when the need for it was identified as far back as 1987.

Miller replied that Halton Hills is in a "unique situation" with its main population divided between Georgetown and Acton.

"We have to provide two (centres) because there's just no way the seniors can travel back and forth," he said. "We're going to have double the costs."

Miller added that seniors' needs would be met years sooner if only one centre was required.

"You can only afford so much," he said. "We're doing the best we can. We're spending your money, we're not picking it off a tree."

Miller promised council would work "aggressively" to get a seniors' centre in place within five years, though he added the five years was not a deadline he could commit council to.

The meeting was also addressed by Halton North MPP Noel Duignan and Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy.

After complaints from some audience members about the cost of the feasibility study required by the Ministry of Community and Social Services - when two studies for the centre have already been done - Duignan promised to discuss the need for the new study with the ministry.

Pomeroy said it is not Region policy to provide funding for seniors centres, noting no money had been provided by Halton for the other centres in Oakville, Burlington and Milton.

Pomeroy did commit himself however, to serving on the fundraising committee for the centre, which he added would also receive help from local councillors.

"I think we could help you raise some significant dollars," the chairman told the assembled seniors.

Food banks in dire need ...

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Acton Food Share co-ordinator Joan Waldie.

"We are really down in the amount of food, but we're getting more and more people coming to us for help," she said. "People who are skilled, with good jobs, but laid off or they can't find work... We are helping about 180 people - it's a very serious thing. It's an awful, awful feeling to be so desperate - my heart really goes out to them. And things will get worse before they get better."

A poll recently conducted by Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank, which Acton Food Share is affiliated, has discovered nine per cent of food bank users are university or college graduates, while 40 per cent are high school graduates.

This year, the Toronto centre served approximately 2,600 people, up from the 1,600 in 1990.

As Easter fast approaches, people may begin to feel the need to help those less fortunate, Ellison added, but come summer, donations will all but disappear.

She noted her experience shows that people's lifestyles change during this season - they buy less groceries, they eat out more, go to the cottage, so they forget that people are still out there hungry.

"They don't think about people who are hungry - that's not to say they are callous or anything, but they are in a totally different frame of mind," she added.

FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES

For now, a small food drive began Monday, March 18 for 10 days. Donation centres are set up in both Georgetown arenas, the Cultural Centre, the Post Office and Penniesworth downtown.

In addition, the Cranfield Chiropractic Clinic on Guelph St.

will be accepting donations and on Wednesday, March 27 regular fees will be waived for those who bring in food and other items for the food bank.

People are being asked to bring any and all food, perishable and non-perishable, including canned meats and vegetables, baby formulas, eggs - anything that can be spared.

The Love In Christ Food Bank is located at Mountainview Baptist Church, and is open Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Thursdays 6 to 7:30 p.m. The phone number is 873-1328.

Acton Food Share is situated at 100 Elgin St. in the former Beardmore building, and will accept donations Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, and all day Tuesday. For more information about the Acton centre, call 853-0457.

Georgetown

FOOD NEWS

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Halton Hills IGA's Easter Eggstravaganza!

We will be closed on Sundays and Good Friday. Thank You.

<p style="text-align: center;">LE MENU DINNER</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">323g-345g Assorted Varieties</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">2⁹⁹</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">TOMATOES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 3em;">69¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">lb. 1.52 kg</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">GREEN CABBAGE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">49¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Product of Ontario ea.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">COUNTRY MANOR BACON</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">1⁵⁹</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Limit 3 per customer 500g pkg.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ALLEN TETRAS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3x250 mL ea.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">or case 9x3x250 mL 7.99</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">TIDE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 3em;">7⁹⁹</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10 litre box</p>

YOUNG TURKEYS

Canada Utility Grade, Frozen, Under 15 lbs. Limit: One Turkey Per Family Purchase

.89

1.96 kg lb.

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">E.D. SMITH GARDEN COCKTAIL</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Regular or Zesty</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">.69</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">20-fl. oz. glass btl.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">IGA PLU 2636 VALUE .30</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">MAXWELL HOUSE GROUND COFFEE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">REGULAR, FINE OR EXTRA FINE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">1⁴⁹</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">300 g VAC PAK PKG.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SEALTEST PARLOUR ICE CREAM</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Assorted Flavours, Regular or Light</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">2⁹⁹</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2 L drum</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">IGA PLU 2653 VALUE .30</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">KRAFT CRACKER DARREL CHEDDAR CHEESE STICKS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">MILD, MILD LIGHT, MEDIUM, OLD, MARBLE OR OLD LIGHT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">1⁶⁹</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">227 g pkg.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DEL MONTE FANCY VEGETABLES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Assorted Varieties, Regular or No Salt</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">.69</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">12 - 14 oz. tin</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">IGA PLU 2635 VALUE .60</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">CHRISTIE COOKIES</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">CHIPS AHJOY CHUNKY CHIPS AHJOY STRIPED CHIPS AHJOY OREO OREO DOUBLE STUF OR FUDGE-O DOUBLE STUF</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">1⁹⁹</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">350 g bag</p>

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">F.W. FEARMAN SMOKED HAMS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Whole, Cooked Done In, Hock, Rind & Excess Fat Removed</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">1⁹⁹</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">or halves or quarters 5.05 kg 2.29 lb.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">HONEYDEW MELONS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Product of Honduras</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 3em;">.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">ea.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DEL MONTE JUICES & COOLERS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Assorted Varieties</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1 L ctn. or sleeve or 3 x 250 mL tetra boxes</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">BANANAS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">From The Tropics</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">.49</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">1.08 kg lb.</p>

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