

'Canada's Leading Leather Store'



OPEN
10 - 10
DAILY
853-1031

It's Worth the Drive to Acton!

Halton Hills

WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

SATURDAY JUNE 8, 1991

A Metroland Community Newspaper Serving all Halton Hills and District

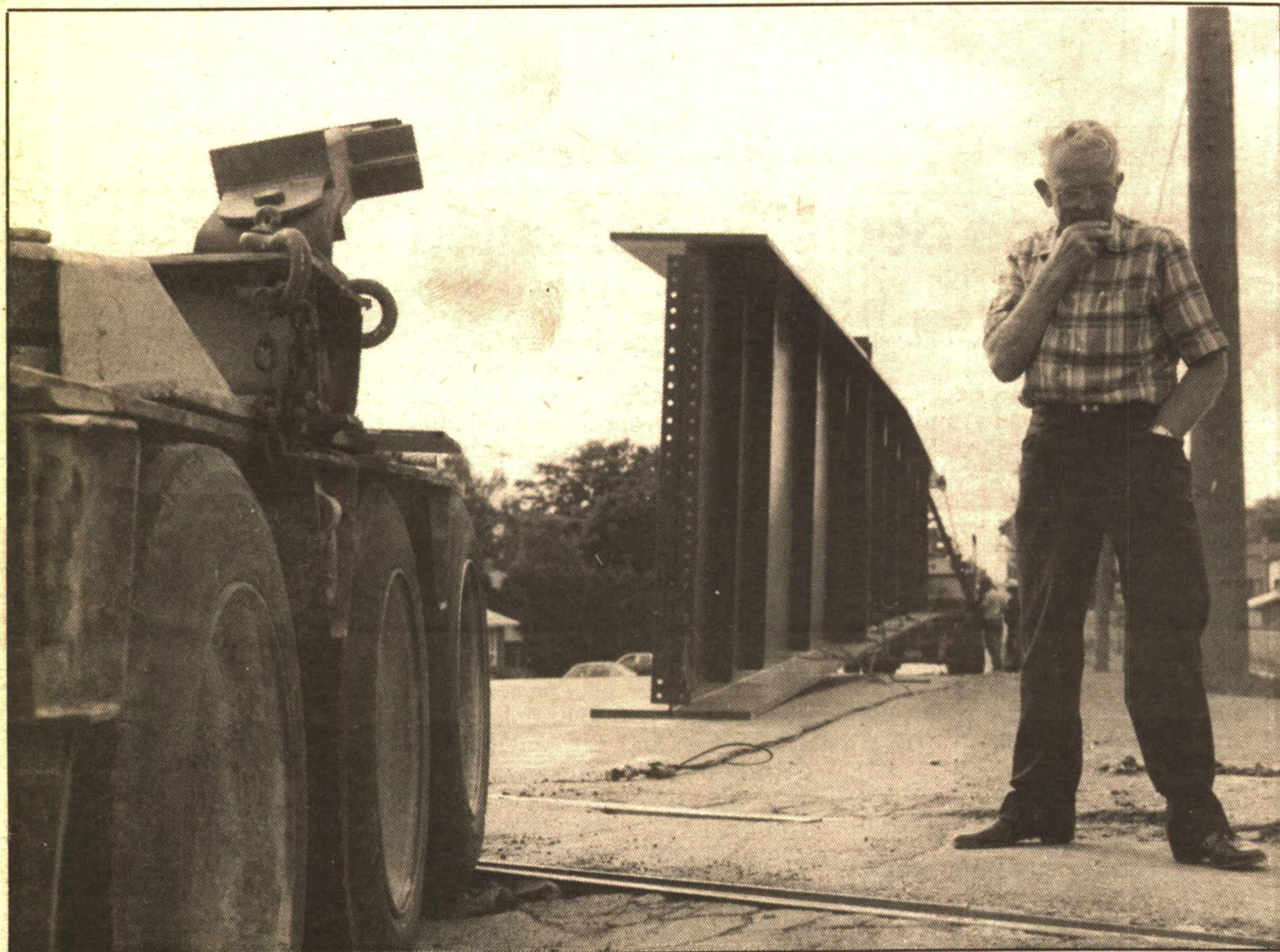
36 PAGES /50 CENTS + G.S.T.

LEATHERTOWN
WEST
ACTON-ONTARIO-CANADA
WEARHOUSE

OPEN 10-8 DAILY
12 Church St. E. 853-0506

VOLUME 7 -- NO. 9

No solution yet for Willow Park residents



Traffic had to be detoured at the railway crossing on Highway 25 in Acton Tuesday afternoon as a truck headed for the James Bay nuclear plant lost its load trying to cross the tracks just north of Highway 7. The 70,000 pound steel beam had to be

loaded back on the truck by crane, blocking the tracks for some time. The front end of the 117 foot long rig was descending the back of the small hill before the back end could get high enough to clear the tracks, causing the load to slip off.

By STUART JOHNSTON

Despite a lengthy meeting with both local and Provincial levels of government Wednesday night, the fate of Norval's Willow Park residents is still up in the air.

The trailer park families met with Mayor Russ Miller and a handful of councillors, MPP Noel Duignan, representatives from the Ministry of Housing and Credit Valley Conservation Authority general manager Vicki Barron at the Civic Centre.

At the start, the purpose of the meeting was rather vague, as much of the discussion centred around what types of affordable housing could be arranged for the soon-to-be displaced families.

It wasn't until the meeting was well under way that the residents noted it was all very nice to discuss where they could go after leaving the park, but the point is academic until they receive additional financial compensation.

"They want an extension so we have time to get sufficient money before they have to move," solicitor Judy Hendy said. "Once they are in a suitable financial situation it will allow them to consider the alternatives."

Resident Roger Perryman agreed, adding, "I walked in on another useless meeting. You're talking of solutions — that's not what we need. We've been doing that for four years now."

"There's only one solution, and that's financial. If no one talks of compensation...there is no point in being here tonight. All the ideas are

good if we get past the financial problems. We cannot move on until financial issues are resolved."

The residents are living at the park on borrowed time as their eviction deadline of May 15 has passed.

The CVCA expropriated the property over two years ago, after declaring the area the "second most dangerous floodplain in the watershed," citing potential threat to life and property, according to Barron.

In 1989 the Authority paid approximately \$800,000 to owner Norm Guthrie, and gave the tenants until November of that year to vacate the premises. The Town paid 45 per cent of the expropriation costs through lot levies supplied by Georgetown South developer, Halton Hills Village Homes Inc. (formerly, Enterac).

The November deadline was extended until last month in order to give the residents additional time to find a new site for their mobile homes.

They were expected to move to Nor-Halton park in Acton, but owner Merv Barber's application to expand his trailer park was turned down by the Ontario Municipal Board last December.

According to Hendy, the residents are seeking another "unconditional extension" to the deadline so they can appeal to the OMB for additional compensation.

Although they were originally each paid anywhere from \$1,000 to \$8,245 by the Authority, spokesperson Heather Croft said Wednesday many families still have mortgages

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Sunday shopping bill gets mixed reviews in Halton Hills

By JANET BAINE

The new Sunday Shopping bill, introduced at Queens Park on Tuesday, is getting mixed reviews in Halton Hills.

Acton retailers Steve Dawkins of the olde Hide House and Mike Manes of IGA don't have any complaints. But Doug Penrice of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce thinks the government is sticking its nose in where it shouldn't, by regulating store hours.

The bill, which would see both the Retail Business Holidays Act and the Employment Standards Act changed calls for a tourism exemption on Sunday closure in areas which meet special criteria. These areas must have historical, cultural or natural attractions, shopping with a unified concept or theme, access to outdoor recreational activities, or a concentration of hospitality services. Stores can also remain open for fairs, festivals and other special events.

"It would seem that the government has made a sincere attempt to ensure the tourism industry is not collaterally damaged by the new legislation," Dawkins, president of the olde Hide House in Acton said.

Dawkins said he was afraid tourism "might be victimized" by the changed legislation, but he is sure that his business, which has operated seven days a week for the dozen years since it opened, will be able to continue opening on Sundays.

"I'm not affected, so I'm happy," he said.

Mike Manes, manager of the Acton IGA said things are "basically the same as before" with municipalities deciding who will get tourism exemptions.

"As long as it's fair for everybody," and everybody stays either open or closed, he thinks the legislation is a good move. When stores were opening on Sundays, Manes said his store opened up because he didn't

want to lose his market share.

Employees are given "the absolute right" to refuse Sunday and holiday work and are guaranteed a 36-hour rest period every seven days.

As for finding employees to work on Sundays, Manes said they were all clambering to do it, since they got paid time-and-a-half. Dawkins said he doesn't expect any problems because employees work Sundays, since they "understand the nature of the business and they get a shift premium" for working on Sundays. But if employees do refuse to work Sunday, he will work within the new law, he said.

Doug Penrice, manager of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, said he thinks the NDP government has "turned the clock back 20 years".

"We haven't polled the members, but my personal feeling is maybe the government shouldn't be in the business of legislating

store hours," he said. Municipalities will also be deciding which businesses can come under the tourism exemption, he said.

"During the past 10 months of the appeal, Sunday shopping has become a non-issue since stores could make the decision on their own," he said. Municipalities suffering because of cross-border shopping will continue to have that problem, Penrice said.

"It's not so much (a hot issue) in Halton Hills, but in some of the larger municipalities it will become an issue," he said.

A spokesperson from the head office of Miracle Mart and A & P, was not available to speak about the Sunday Shopping issue. Both these stores were part of the Coalition for Fair Shopping which was lobbying for Sunday opening. Following the bill's second reading, the Standing Committee on Justice will conduct public hearings into the changes.

Sunday, June 16th



Jack
TANNERS
TABLE
LLBO

'A First Class Country Restaurant'

Our Best For Dad

Father's Day Brunch

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Traditional favorites include our carving station and the popular create your own omelette station. Plus, fresh made waffles, fruits & berries, pastries, dessert, and more!

Evening Buffet

4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Features carved roast prime rib, flambéed gulf shrimp, chicken, pork and pasta dishes, salad bar, fresh baked breads, dessert buffet and coffee or tea.

Reservations Recommended 853-3440