

# Town offers to purchase CN rail land in Acton

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

The town of Halton Hills has submitted an offer to Canadian National Railway (CN) to purchase a 1.6 acre piece of land in Acton bound by the CN tracks and Eastern Ave, which is currently primarily being used by the Hide House for parking.

Town administrator Ray King said the offer, which was approved in a recommendation Monday night by an eight to five vote, is for about \$50,000. The total expenditure approved was \$91,359. King said the difference will cover the costs of capital improvements that the town will make to the property. Money to pay for the purchase will come

from the town's unallocated capital reserve fund.

"Essentially that is a price that we can live with," said King. "There are a number of reasons why it makes sense for the town to purchase it. It could accommodate future road widening and parking in Acton. There has been a demonstrated need for future parking in Acton," said King.

He added the lands could be a valuable asset for the town if GO train service is reintroduced.

"The town has shown an interest in that property for several years, it makes sense to buy it. It is an extremely good price from a



RAY KING

staff point of view," said King.

Opposed to the recommendation were councillors Ron Chatten, Kathy Gastle, Rob Heaton, Gail Rutherford and Anne Currie. Councillors Bill Robson, Al Cook, Marilyn Serjeantson, Gerald Rennie, Rick Bonnette, Pam Johnston, Norm Elliott and Mayor Russ Miller supported the recommendation.

King said the offer to purchase will be considered by the CN board at an upcoming meeting and the town should know sometime in December whether or not CN has accepted the offer.

Regarding whether or not the olde Hide

House will be able to continue using the property for parking King said "we'll deal with that after the acceptance of the offer."

"We'll likely look at some arrangements but we haven't got into that," said King.

Steve Dawkins, president of the olde Hide House, said he would prefer not to comment on any arrangements the company may have with the town about the property until the transaction closes.

Capital works that King said would likely be done on the property include the removal of a fence and concrete loading dock. A portion of the property includes train tracks which King said would also be removed.

Soil tests would also have to be carried out on the property before the purchase is final.

HALTON HILLS

# WEEKEND

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News

Digest

### Miracle for food bank

The strike at Miracle Food Mart in Georgetown resulted in a windfall of fresh produce for the Love in Christ foodbank.

Laura Ellison, coordinator of the foodbank, said she received a call from a Miracle management employee last Saturday morning informing her the food bank could have the store's perishable produce, all they had to do was come and pick it up.

"It was marvelous," said Ellison. "We got between 500 and 600 pounds. It couldn't have been a better Christmas present even if it was Christmas eve."

"It is very rare to get fruits and vegetables in such abundance," said Ellison.

### Gas leak

Downtown Acton was closed off for about 25 minutes on Tuesday at 5:10 p.m. because of a gas leak. The Halton Hills Fire Department was called to 38 Mill St. when construction workers struck a gas line. People were evacuated from the area, and Halton Hills Hydro arrived to close off the valve.



Acton barber Peter Humeniuk is in serious condition at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto after a two vehicle collision on Hwy. 25, north of Acton on Tuesday evening. Tow truck operator Ray Toth surveys the damage .  
TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

## Acton businessman injured in crash

An Acton businessman is in serious condition at Sunnybrook Hospital after an accident which closed Hwy. 25 north of Acton at 5:40 p.m. Tuesday.

Peter Humeniuk, owner of Pete's Barber Shop on Mill St. in Acton, was driving a 1988 Pontiac north on Hwy. 25 when a 1987 Dodge which was eastbound on County Rd. 50 collided

with his car, Guelph OPP Const. Tom Boyd said. The driver of the Dodge, Irena Kunc of Acton was taken to Milton Hospital, where she is in stable condition.

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# 'Twas the month before Christmas and all through the House ...



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