

Police beat

ice cream store. The baggie containing "grass-like material" was sitting on

House entered
A pair of VCRs and a television were removed from an Eighth Line residence around 2 p.m. Thursday. According to police, someone entered the house by kicking-in a door joining the house to an unlocked garage. Once inside, the culprit removed the electronic equipment and then fled — setting off the home's alarm system. The property was worth about \$1,750 and the investigation continues.

Youths questioned
Half-a-dozen youths, all residents of an open custody facility on Hwy. 25 near 25 Sideroad were questioned following a "disturbance" Saturday night. According to police at 11 Division, the youths smashed some drywall and light fixtures in the facility because of "dissatisfaction with the facility." Damage in the 8:30 p.m. disturbance, estimated at \$100 and no charges have been laid.

Marijuana found
Halton Regional Police are continuing their investigation after a bag of marijuana was found at a Georgetown

top of one of the store's ice cream coolers "readily accessible to the public." The bag was turned over to police and was found to contain about 1/2-ounce of marijuana.

More marijuana
A farmer tending his corn crop made an unexpected discovery Thursday afternoon — 29 marijuana plants. According to police, the stocks were growing amongst the corn crop on the Tenth Line farm. The farmer told police a similar incident took place last year and one officer called the situation "a fairly common occurrence."

Furniture taken
A highback cedar chair worth an estimated \$130 was removed from the yard at a Hwy. 7 residence early Thursday morning. The owner of the chair was alerted to the theft at about 1:30 a.m. when an external alarm sounded. The culprits fled when the homeowner went confront them. The pair fled eastbound on Hwy. 7 in a "two-tone blue pickup truck." Police have no suspects in the case.

Fire briefs

Halton Hills firefighters were busy Sunday responding to three calls in three hours.

A Fire Department spokesperson said the first call came in around 5:15 p.m., when a barbecue at a Lorne St., Georgetown residence caught fire. The fire was quickly extinguished and the homeowner was advised to have his propane tank checked before reusing it.

At 5:53, Acton firefighters were called to Hwy. 25 near 17 Sideroad for a car on fire. By the time firefighters arrived the fire in the 1975 Porsche was extinguished. Fire officials believe the blaze started as a result of an electrical-mechanical failure. No damage estimate has been set.

Finally, at about 8:13 p.m., firefighters responded to the Fifth Line north of 22 Sideroad where a set of hydro wires had come down. Firefighters and hydro workers arrived at the same time and the firefighters were told they were not required.

olde Hide House gets green light for holiday openings

By Dianne Cornish

While the potential for a full-blown debate on Sunday openings existed, Halton Regional Council resisted the temptation and gave speedy approval last week to applications from six Halton business establishments to remain open on holidays throughout the year.

Among the businesses were Acton's olde Hide House and two of its satellite operations, FlightLine and Leathertown West Warehouse. Another application for a proposed museum and factory outlet called Tannery Run, which will be established sometime next year as an associated enterprise of the Hide House, also gained a tourism exemption to remain open on statutory holidays, as well as Sundays.

Others qualifying for tourism exemptions were the business establishments of Village Square in downtown Burlington and the Bronte Improvement Business Area in Oakville.

Burlington Councillor Ralph Scholtens stood alone in opposing the applications. He told regional council that he's concerned about the implications of wide open Sunday shopping, particularly the protection of workers who choose to observe Sunday as a Christian holiday.

"Protection of those who don't want to work (Sundays) is the issue," Scholtens said.

The Burlington councillor also observed that although Sunday shopping was hailed as a cure-all for many of Ontario's economic ills, it has not lived up to expectations. Even though Ontario has had Sunday shopping for the past two months, "...lo and behold, the recession is still here."

Halton Hills Councillor Rick Bonnette spoke in support of the applications.

"Every one of the stores applying for tourism exemption relies on tourism," he stated. Oakville Mayor

Ann Mulvale made it clear that although she has always been a supporter of tourism exemptions for holidays and Sundays, she remains opposed to wide open Sunday shopping. The latter issue is in the hands of the provincial government, which will also be required to deal with the protection of workers' rights, Mulvale remarked.

No Halton citizens appeared at last week's public hearing to object to any of the applications considered by regional council. The hearing became necessary because of changes made to the Retail Business Holidays Act last fall by Ontario's NDP government. Those changes led to the expiration of tourism exemption bylaws for Sunday and holiday openings in Ontario by December 1 of this year.

Two months ago, Ontario Premier Bob Rae announced that the government would hold a free vote in the legislature on Sunday openings. Until the vote is taken, Ontario stores are allowed to open on Sunday. Last week's hearing at regional headquarters in Oakville was scheduled before the province clarified its plans on the controversial issue of Sunday shopping.

By approving the six applications from Halton businesses, Halton Region has paved the way for all applicants to keep their businesses open on all holidays throughout the year — Sundays included. As a result, even if the legislature does the unexpected and votes against open Sunday shopping, Halton businesses with exemption bylaws will not be affected. The regional bylaws will stand and the businesses will be allowed to remain open Sundays.

No expiry date has been put on the bylaws and they will remain in effect for years to come, although they are subject to review if regional council should so decide, explained Pam Banks-Fayarchuk, the Region's tourism promotions co-ordinator, during an interview.

Walkway requires approvals before construction starts

Continued from page 1

construction costs of the project, while the town will pick up the maintenance costs connected with the walkway, Linn explained.

It is estimated that the cost of building each of the pathways is \$300,000. Maintenance costs are expected to be about \$2,500 yearly.

While King was opposed to both design concepts, Doug Westman of Eaton St. stressed the importance of "getting our children safely from our subdivision to the main core of Georgetown."

At present, bicyclists and pedestrians are walking along the shoulder of the road to reach the built-up sections of town to the north.

"We need to do something, today—now," Westman stated. Later, he and King clashed when the latter insisted that the pathway would not be used and pedestrians, most of whom are students, would continue to go straight through the

valley.

"You're worried more about your property, sir, than my children," Westman said to King.

In answer to a concern by one of the female audience members about how the walkway would be policed, he said that similar walkways exist in Oakville and Burlington and "the police have ways of policing areas like this."

Linn explained that the town needs a decision on the design of the walkway soon because a footbridge over the creek, west of Mountainview Road, needs approval from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) before August 31.

The footbridge would be part of the proposed pathway and could be constructed this summer with the remainder of the pathway being built this fall.

Halton Region Public Works Department and the CVCA have

agreed in principle to the concept of a walkway through the valley, a town staff report stated.

Further complicating the situation, the Region plans to reconstruct the heavily travelled road to a four-lane roadway in 1994.


It is not possible or feasible to build the walkway too close to the road because there is the danger that passing vehicles will throw stones into the air and possibly hit pedestrians, Linn said.

At the close of the meeting, town councillors Marilyn Serjeantson, Ron Chatten and Al Cook urged residents at the public meeting to contact their neighbors, talk to them about the proposals and report back to them.

"If people don't want the walkway, we need to know that," Chatten said.

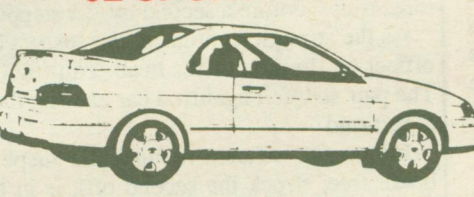
Council is scheduled to consider a staff recommendation about the proposal at its meeting July 27.

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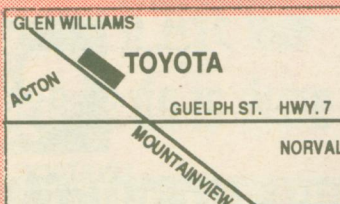
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