

Mayor defends smokers' rights

Continued from page 1

will be at least 13,000 deaths from diseases associated with tobacco use. Tobacco will kill five times more people than will die from AIDS, suicide and motor vehicle accidents," Willmott explained.

"The federal statistics suggest in excess of 500,000 Canadians will die in the 1990s from tobacco use related diseases, and I think you have to stop and listen to the numbers."

Halton Hills does have a municipal bylaw that bans smoking in Town-owned buildings and vehicles but it does not cover bingo halls, theatres, food stores or res-

taurants.

General Committee members were told some restaurants in Acton and Georgetown already offer diners a non-smoking section.

Acton councillor Gerald Rennie, a non-smoker, pinpointed a key issue when he asked: "What does a public place mean? You can't call a retail store a public place when it's privately owned and run." Rennie was told that none of the existing Halton smoking bylaws define public place and that issue has to be looked at.

Halton Hills mayor Russ Miller, a smoker, questioned how the

smoking bylaw would be enforced and whether restaurants offering no-smoking areas would be exempt.

"I think that smokers have rights too, and so what we have to do is try and put in measures that will make public spaces environmentally safe for smokers and non-smokers. We need a bylaw that is restrictive but not to the detriment of everybody that likes to have a cigarette," Miller said.

"I'm talking about the restaurants and bars, the business people who are finding it very hard in today's society to keep people coming. If they have restrictions that eliminate certain segments of the population, it could put them out of business," Miller said.

With Council's approval, expected next Monday, a two-phase program will begin to investigate a proposed bylaw. Phase I is a public consultation process designed to obtain input from all segments of the local community.

Phase II would look at the results of the process and could result in a local bylaw to control smoking in public places.

Council will have a final report on the issue in October. ■

LAST CHANCE

ACTON SABRES MINOR HOCKEY (REP.)

REGISTRATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1992 7 - 9 pm ACTON ARENA

After above date there will
be a \$25 late fee

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Shoppe**
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Unit A, 56 Mill St. E.
Acton

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NEWS SHORTS

Police search for slim suspect

Early Sunday morning someone used a board to smash a wash-room window at Reliable Taxi on Mill Street West. The suspect then climbed into the taxi office and took \$200 from the cash register. Police say the suspect has to be slim to have squeezed through the broken window to get in and out of the building.

Quick change artist arrested

A London, Ontario man has been charged with fraud in connection with a short-change incident last April at the Beaver Gas Bar on Queen Street. Police say a motorist bought and paid for \$5 worth of gas and then confused the attendant with requests for change. The daily take was short \$40 dollars. The victim was able to identify the suspect in a photo shown to him by police. Charged with fraud under \$1,000 is 33-year-old Douglas John Maher.

Budding artist warned by police

A 4-year-old Acton boy, armed with a can of spray paint, did about \$125 damage to his neighbour's vehicles Thursday morning. Police say the pre-schooler found the can of gray paint and sprayed the exterior of a pickup truck and exterior and interior of a car. Police cautioned the boy.

Scuba student in hot water

An Oshawa man, taking a scuba course at the Acton Indoor Pool, lost \$100 after leaving his wallet in a gym bag in the men's change room at the pool. After his class Saturday, the man found his bag had been rifled and the money was missing. Halton police warned him in future to leave his valuables locked in his trunk.

Student arrested for purse theft

An student at McKenzie-Smith Middle School appears in Milton Youth Court July 28 charged with theft. Last April a teacher found that her purse, containing \$180, had been taken from a lunchroom cabinet. The empty purse was found in a nearby washroom. Police made the arrest on Thursday.

VCR stolen from McKenzie-Smith

An \$800 VCR was stolen from McKenzie-Smith sometime overnight last Monday. The culprit entered the classroom through an unlocked window. No damage was done.

Rock shatters Variety window

Early Sunday morning someone threw a rock through the front window of the Acton Variety and Grocery store on Mill Street East. About \$400 damage was done to the window and to a neon sign. Police have no witnesses and no suspects.

Smashing spree in Eden Mills

Vandals did \$3,000 dollars damage to three cars in Eden Mills late Saturday or early Sunday morning. The cars were parked in neighbouring driveways and most of their windows were smashed. Guelph OPP have no witnesses or suspects.

Woman charged in accident

An R.R. 6 Guelph woman was treated for cuts and bruises and released from hospital after a single car accident Saturday afternoon on County Road 28 at Guelph Line, south of the Rockwood Conservation Area. Guelph OPP report the driver became distracted, lost control and rolled over in the opposite ditch. The 1987 Pontiac was totalled. Charged with careless driving is Deborah Geisel of Guelph.

INDEX

Comment 6 Petunia Patch 7
Sports 10 Classifieds 14

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"They've got a lot of challenges ahead of them. If we don't equip them with a well-rounded experience and a good education base, they are not going to be competitive in this world."

— Ron Birrell, page 8

DID YOU KNOW?

The male mosquito does not bite — only the female does.