

## Acton merchants must do their homework

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with those visitors but other businesses would have to move from the main street. Maybe some of those businesses would have to move and have tourism-related businesses move in. That's easy to say but the BIA can't tell the building owners who to rent to."

BIA member Cliff Evans of the Town Friar said Quinn's suggestions are "food for thought" for the group.

"We haven't had a meeting since John Quinn spoke to us so we haven't talked about his suggestions," Evans said in an interview last Wednesday.

"Obviously we are restricted as far as budget is concerned, with the amount of money that comes to us from the business taxes we pay to the Town. Some of the suggestions concerning beautification, like decorations and flowers, we have done already. But his suggestion to hire an architect to design downtown buildings is beyond us," Evans said.

"It's one thing for the BIA to say this is the direction we are going but it is another thing to get the shop owners to head in that direction. It's pretty tough to tell a landlord this is the type of business that we want in their building when their major concern is getting the rent paid.

"Because of the limited amount of moneys coming in, and I'm not saying we should be taxed higher, there is only so much that this particular BIA can do, because of the size of the town."

## MUNICIPAL DIGEST

### Winter parking crackdown

Implementation of Halton Hills plans to crack down on on-street parking this winter in Acton and Georgetown have been put on hold while staff investigate sharing a parking bylaw enforcement car with the Acton Business Improvement Association committee.

In an effort to make sure money isn't wasted on snowplowing, the Town plans to ban all on-street parking between 2 and 7 am. Town staff say snowplow operators often can't clear the snow until people move their cars in the morning and that means doubling back to some streets, which wastes time and money.

Staff wants to spend \$15,000 to buy a vehicle with a police radio so staff can patrol the streets and issue \$10 tickets to illegal parkers. That plan was put on hold when Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie suggested the Town share a car that the

BIA only uses in the spring and summer months.

"If we are trying to save money then staff should talk to the BIA which stores this car, for \$40 dollars a month, all winter. This is just a pilot project to see if the parking ban saves us money. Why spend \$15,000 on a vehicle for the parking enforcement when the Town already owns a car that is not being used?" Rennie said.

General committee voted not to notify residents of the new parking bylaw until the issue of the vehicle is settled.

The over-night parking ban is slated to go into effect Friday, Jan. 1.

### Rural land severance appeal

Halton Region is taking a recent land division committee decision to grant a farm severance to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Halton politicians will follow their planning staff's advise and appeal the decision which granted a one-acre severance from Don and Doris Lindsay's Sixth Line and Highway 7 property.

Halton staff said over 20 severances had been granted from the original 23-acre farm and that is contrary to local and Regional planning policies.

The Lindsay's lawyer argued the property has been in the family since 1854 but until recently it was in Mrs. Lindsay's name and that Don Lindsay is a bona fide farmer and deserves the severance.

Plans for a new Mill Street Restaurant and the re-location of the Salvation Army's Mill Street thrift shop have been approved by Halton Hills General Committee members.

There was no debate as approval was given to Steve Brunelle to convert his house at Mill Street and Wilbur Street into a 30-seat restaurant.

Staff have concerns that the proposal does not include adequate parking but also said if Council is satisfied with the proposed six spaces, then staff have no objections to the plan.

There was also no debate as

General Committee approved Salvation Army plans to move its thrift store to 110 Mill St. from the existing store at 120 Mill St.

Both applications are expected to be approved by Council Monday night.

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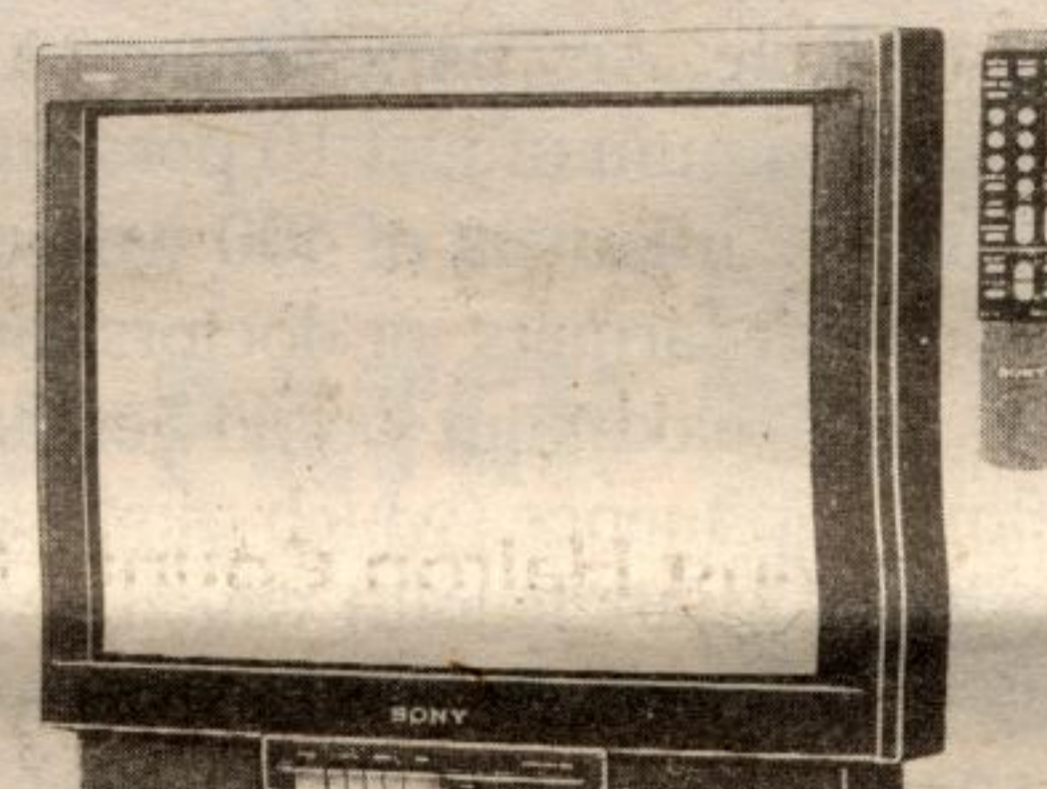
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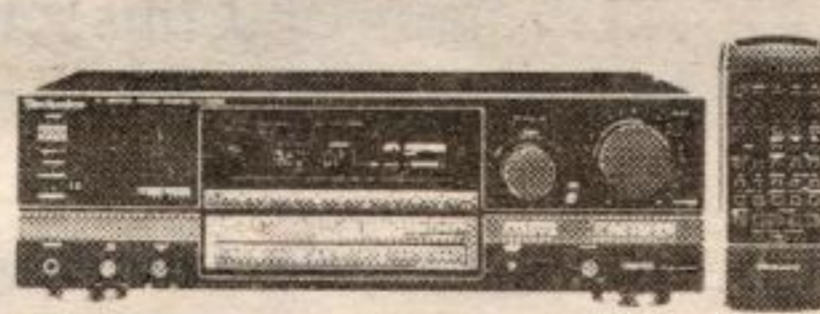
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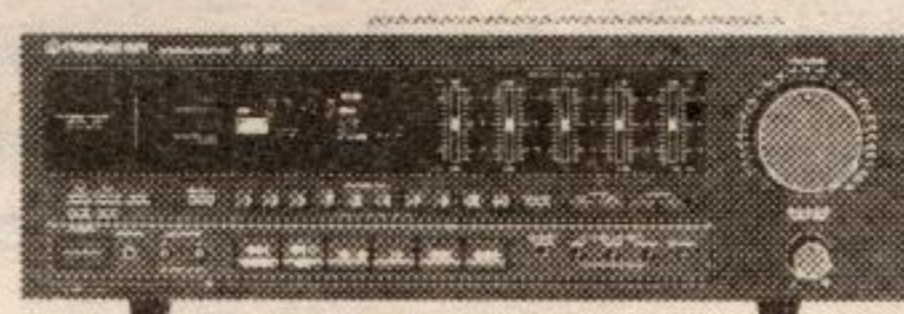
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