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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1994

Butcher shop finally gets green light to move

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Christmas came early for Acton's Al and Janet Cunneyworth when Halton Hills Council approved

their plans to build a butcher shop and apartment at their home on Main Street North.

As Janet Cunneyworth wiped tears of joy and hugged the Acton

councillors who championed the proposal, Al Cunneyworth complained about how long the development process took.

"It takes too long. It shouldn't

have taken so long to get this proposal through Council. It's not that big-it's only a small thing and it should have been Yes or No."

The Cunneyworths currently operate Al and Al's Meats out of a rented store on Mill Street.

The vote Monday night at Council was 11-2 and even the Cunneyworths' agent, Gordon Driedger, was relieved when it was all over.

"It (the vote) was not as close as I thought it would be," Driedger said following the approval.

Driedger had to overcome Town planning staff's opposition to the proposal to build a two-storey 2,500 square foot building behind the Cunneyworths' existing home at 70 Main St. N.

Staff rejected the plan on the grounds that it is an incompatible intrusion into a residential neighbourhood and an over-development of the site.

Deputy planning director Bruce MacLean also rejected a suggestion that the existing commercial core of Acton could be extended north on Main Street.

"You just went through a major exercise to define the residential areas as well as the land uses.

"What you are being asked to do is go back and re-evaluate this site and from our point of view, it's clearly not advisable," Mac-Lean said.

"There is substantial potential

in the downtown core, as well as the areas already identified as commercial, that provide tremendous opportunity for this type of use."

Speaking in favour of the proposal, Acton councillor Norm Elliott dismissed staff concerns about over development of the site saying that the lot was almost the size of two building lots.

Elliott also said that there is not another suitable available location which the Cunneyworths could rent or buy and that all neighbours are in favour of the proposal.

"There is the possibility that if this is not approved, the business would close," Elliott argued.

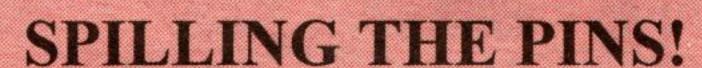
"We're saying that, yes, it doesn't fit and it doesn't meet all the criteria of the new plan, but the aspect of spot zoning allows Council to make an exception."

Elliott also noted that there is commercial development on the east side of Main Street North.

While admitting that the proposal does not meet the letter of the law according to the Official Plan and zoning, councillor Gerald Rennie said that the issue posed a dilemma for the community.

"The Cunneyworths offer the only butcher shop in town, apart from meat counters at the IGA and Foodland," Rennie said.

"This is a specialty meat shop that caters to a very large clientele and they meet a need in Acton."



Acton's Matthew Henry, 4, receives a little encouragement from mom Denise as he releases his bowling ball during the Preschool Playshop Christmas Party at Acton Bowl on Thursday. (Doug Harrison photo)

Diesel spill scare

A gravel truck roared through a stop sign, rolled over and spilled an estimated 50 gallons of diesel fuel last Monday morning on the Fourth Line at 17 Sideroad. The truck is owned by Muscillo Transport of Kleinburg.

Municipal public works supervisor Keith Smiley explained yesterday (Tuesday) that "we had the Ministry of Environment, Halton Region's spill team and our own spill team all out to the spill. We removed 14 tons of contaminated material (mostly topsoil), and we put down absorbants. As a result there is no health risk to area residents."

The soil was hauled to the Region's landfill south of Milton.

