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'HOMETOWN PAPER, NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS!'

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1995

Neighbours mull over mill expansion plans

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
 The Acton Tanner

Neighbours of the Halton Flour Mill are carefully considering a Town staff report on mill expansion plans and, in the New Year, will take part in debate about the mill's proposed growth in the Mill Street-Church Street residential neighbourhood.

Halton Flour Milling Inc. — Business of the Year in 1993 and employer of 34 people — wants to turn a Church Street house it owns into an office and rezone its entire property for industrial use.

Town staff recommend the rezoning be rejected, in part, because the long-term vision of the area is as a residential neighbourhood. The mill currently operates as a legal non-conforming use because it was there before the Town approved its Official Plan.

Debate on the mill's plans was

halted at a recent Town Council meeting when some mill neighbours and some councillors complained that there had not been enough proper notice that the issue was on the agenda for debate.

Before the issue was deferred, mill lawyer Bill Kort criticized the neighbours' on-going opposition to the mill operation and proposed expansion as mid-directed.

"As a matter of law my client is entitled to carry on the business he is on that site and, with further possible consent from the (Town's) Committee of Adjustment, he could expand the facility, almost indefinitely," Kort argued.

Mill Street resident Geraldine Armstrong was one of several area residents who presented Council with a long list of mill-related problems, including increased and unsafe truck traffic and noise.

Armstrong questioned the wis-

dom of the Town approving numerous previous mill expansions and suggested that the mill should have been relocated to an industrial area.

"As a resident living in a residential zone I find myself in the position of having to fight the owner of an industrial enterprise

for the right to live in a quiet, peaceful, fume-free, industry-free and heavy truck traffic-free neighbourhood," Armstrong argued.

Town Planning Director Bruce MacLean said that the staff recommendations would give Council more authority to deal with issues on the property.

"With site plan approval on this property, Council has the ability to introduce things that may mitigate some of the issues that are affecting the property" MacLean explained.

The mill expansion report will be back on the agenda at Town Council's Jan. 15 meeting.

Acton truck bypass idea to be restudied

A two-decades old idea for an Acton truck bypass resurfaced recently during a Town Council update on Halton Region's transportation study.

Staff noted that a possible Norval bypass was being dis-

cussed, prompting Acton Councillor Gerald Rennie to ask if an Acton bypass could also be included in the study.

Staff reported that it could be part of the study and after the meeting Rennie said that past suggestions have included bypasses running from the Fourth Line, both north and south of Acton, over to Highway 25.

"The best idea, I think, is to take Highway 7 through the (Beardmore) tannery lands, cutting off by the railway tracks at Queen Street and Young Street and then over to Highway 25," Rennie said.

Rennie said he would raise the issue at an "opportune time" as a way to alleviate existing problems with large trucks using narrow Mill Street through Acton.



WHO IS THIS BEARDED MAN?

Nine-month-old Trisha Rowsell looks like she's not sure quite what to make of the whole idea of Santa Claus. Trisha met up with Santa last Sunday at the Legion's annual children's Christmas party. (Eve Martin photo)

Once again this year, The Tanner will shut down for the week between Christmas and New Year's. Our office will close this Friday and reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2. Due to the New Year's Day holiday, our next edition hits the streets on Thursday, Jan. 4. Please have a safe and happy holiday!

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