

# Business takes a licking at general committee

By LISA TALLYN  
Staff writer

Doug Turner's request to operate an ice cream business from a house on Rexway Dr. was denied by general committee Monday night.

Turner, who operates Sammy's Ice Cream parlor on Edward St. throughout the summers, was seeking a zoning amendment so he could set up shop in a portion of the Rexway Dr. home he purchased.

Thursday morning Turner said in light of committee's decision he will seek "restitution at the Ontario Municipal Board."

"I am shocked and disappointed our council has denied our community of a small business," said Turner.

Turner was planning on closing his Edward St. shop and operating out of the Rexway Dr. location.

In a report senior town planner Alan Binks recommended the application be denied because the proposal is inconsistent with the intent of the town's official plan particularly regarding criteria to allow for convenience commercial. He added the ice cream parlor use is incompatible with the existing residential neighborhood and adequate parking couldn't be provided on the property.

Bill Kort, a lawyer representing Dairy Queen, spoke against the proposal stressing parking was not nearly adequate on the property, and his client was concerned cars from Sammy's might park on his lot.

Area resident Cor Oosterhof also raised parking concerns and said living directly across from the the proposed ice cream parlor they would have to look at it from their front window.

In the staff report Binks said the town's parking policy for general retail businesses is five spaces for 100 square metres of floor area. He added that same number of spaces would be required even if the floor area was only 50 sq. metres.

Later in his report Binks said although there is not a category for take-out restaurants in the town's parking policy, Brantford (a current policy), requires one space per ten metres.

Bert Arnold, representing Turner, disagreed with Binks interpretation of the town's parking policy. He said the ice cream parlor would operate in a space of only 30 sq. metres so only three parking spaces would be required. Three spaces could be accommodated on the property.

Thursday Turner was upset planning staff referred to the Brantford policy. "I worked hard and patiently with the planning department for the last ten months only to be parachuted with a bylaw from another municipality (Brantford) to be used as a guideline for parking requirements," said Turner.

He added even though he met those guidelines his application was denied.

"This decision will probably discourage other small businesses from opening in town," said Turner.

He said his business is seasonal (summer) and is busy only two hours an evening.

"Seventy five per cent of my clientele are children who walk, ride their bikes or come in team vans from sporting events," said Turner.

Council has to approve committee's recommendation before it is final, likely at Monday's meeting.

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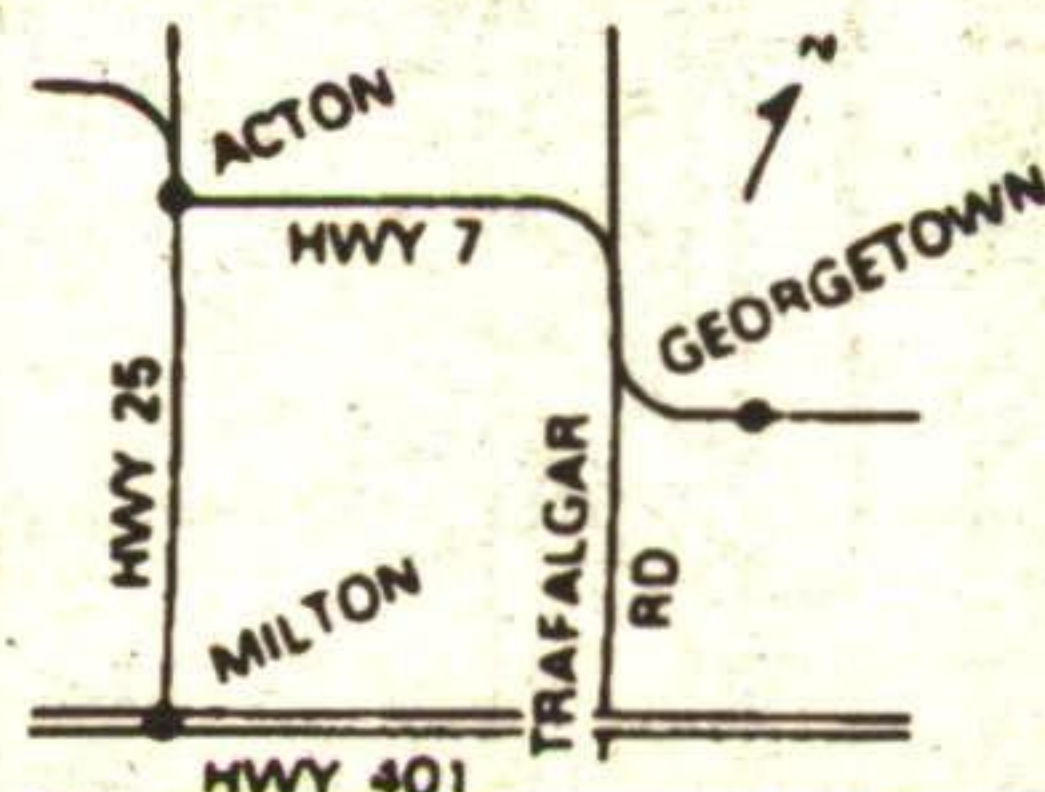
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