

# Safeway . .

(Continued from page One) and former clerk had opposed the application. "We have an excess of commercial zoning and we have an excess of leasable commercial space," he pointed out. New stores in the past year have added 154,000 square feet of commercial floor area and this year the town will have about 100,000 square feet of excess retail space. There are substantial vacancies in Milton Mall and the downtown area now, he said.

**Won't die**  
Lewdith's store won't die, but it could be "seriously damaged" by another food store in the area, McCready said. "Can you imagine what our downtown would be, without Lewdith's?"

The Safeway site is definitely not included in the area known as the downtown core, he suggested. "Decentralization is a problem, and the Safeway store is decentralization," he added.

The site does not lend itself to walk-in shopping, it will have to be reached by cars, the councillor continued. "Foot traffic will only be one-tenth of one per cent. Very few will walk to that location."

If Safeway goes there is "wipes out any possibility" of a major food store locating in the downtown core.

He said the area is zoned for residential use, and "people we need". He admitted high-rises don't sell well right now but times and markets change and there will be a better market for that type of accommodation in the future.

**May drop out**  
The councillor explained it takes about two years for a rezoning approval and all the other necessary approvals to be obtained. In the meantime if someone else builds a good size food store in the core area, the town's food store limit would be reached and Safeway might drop out of the competition, leaving the commercial land vacant.

Senior citizens, many of whom live in their own homes, won't walk far for food shopping. "This location is anything but attractive for senior citizens," he said.

In conclusion, McCready suggested "the health and vitality of our downtown operation will not be stimulated by this development."

Councillor Brad Clements then moved a motion that was later endorsed, calling for the project to be referred back to the Planning and Development Committee for a report. He also wanted to know the ultimate disposition of the earlier request for a rezoning on Market Dr. for the same firm; asked for an update of the 1974 study of commercial space available in Milton; and an update on the "ring road" proposal for the downtown area which he felt was more possible, now that Commercial St. has been opened to Derry Rd.

**Ask future**  
The councillor also suggested some indication should be obtained from Robin Hood Multifoods about the future of its Martin St. mill buildings. That report could be confidential if necessary, he said.

Councillor Gord Krantz said "at the present time I am convinced it (Safeway) will be an asset to the downtown" but he supported a further committee study before a final answer is given.

Councillor Art Melanson said despite the objections, he had to support the Safeway site. "I am sure National Grocers (Lewdith's) would gamble on a new lease and many will continue to shop there."

He called the Millside site "perfect" for a supermarket and suggested council had to "do what is best for the town of Milton." The Safeway market could be "the stepping stone for future development in Milton's downtown."

Noting two Main St. merchants are completely opposed in their thinking on the subject, Councillor Jim Kerr said that was all the proof he needed that the project must have more study.

**It IS downtown**  
Harvey Mellon, representing Milton Downtown Group, said the MDG is "strongly in favor of Safeway coming to the downtown area. The Millside Dr. site is definitely part of the downtown area."

He argued with Councillor McCready's statement about low pedestrian traffic for

such a store, claiming there are no facts on which to base such a statement. A lot of people walk downtown and an extra block or two wouldn't bother shoppers, he felt.

"No doubt Lewdith's was hurt when Loblaw's opened, but I understand business is picking up again," he said. "If a Zellers-type store opens, I would be hurt too."

Mr. Mellon said if the town deters a major international merchant from opening a store here when they think it would benefit them, the town won't get any more business from major stores.

**Anchor**  
Food stores are "anchor stores" and they usually sit on the fringe of core areas, not right in the middle, he added. A store on Millside and another at the former Milton Inn site (corner of Main and Brown) would be ideal "anchors", he said.

"We need development in downtown Milton, I feel we need the start of new development and Safeway is a good strong contender," the merchant concluded.

Blanche Hinton disagreed with him—the site is not an integral part of the downtown area, she said. People go shopping for food in their cars and they'll shop at Safeway and drive home. "It won't generate any walking traffic on Main St.," she warned.

Milton needs more family-type rental accommodations, she added.

**Arena site?**  
Councillor Powadiuk joked that the Safeway store could go on the Brown St. arena site.

"No, no, you can't have that one," cried Mrs. Hinton, who has been campaigning for several months to get the old arena rebuilt.

John Conway, who was also in the audience, said the Safeway store would create traffic problems in the Millside Dr. area. "People won't walk to Main St.," he warned.

Councillor McCready rejoined the fray, disputing Mr. Mellon's points. He also challenged him on whether or not he spoke with the blessing of the Downtown Group. If he had the group's sanction, "it would have had to have been (given) in the last 24 hours," he said.

**Needs consideration**  
McCready said he had no right or privilege to ask protection for himself against competition, but the Lewdith store "needs some protection, or at least consideration."

Finally council approved Councillor Clements' motion calling for a new report from the Planning-Development Committee.



HIGH SCHOOL BAND trumpeters complained of sore lips and tired backs after the school band staged a 24-hour musical marathon on the weekend. The event, held in St. Paul's Church, drew a large crowd and helped the band raise money.

## MDHS music marathon physical, artistic success

Strange sounds were coming from the basement of St. Paul's United Church during the night Saturday. It was the sound of parched lips and tired lungs, blowing notes from well-used musical instruments for 24 hours.

The concert band of Milton District High School staged a 24-hour music marathon at the church to raise money for a planned trip this May to Kingston and Ottawa. They will be playing at local high schools there, and staying at hotels.

The 60-piece band needs more than \$3,500 for the trip. Members were sponsored for the marathon, but a final total has not yet been recorded for the event. Two hundred and ten dollars was raised on location by selling coffee and sandwiches, however.

**Rabies . .**  
(Continued from page One)

Police are warning people in the Campbellville area to keep their dogs on a leash to minimize the chances of them being attacked by a wild fox. There is no treatment for rabies in animals, they must be killed if they get the disease.

Rabies can also be contracted by farm animals, and these usually die within a week of showing the symptoms. Sometimes, however, the animal is bitten but does not develop symptoms for three to six weeks. Symptoms in dogs may not show up for six months.

Anyone who suspects an animal of having rabies should contact a local veterinarian or the Health of Animals branch of the Canada Department of Agriculture, or the police.

**Big finale**  
The 24-hour music program was designed by Gerald de Koy and Steven Willoughby, knocking off the band's repertoire and ending with their grand finale at 9 a.m. Sunday morning—Jesus Christ Superstar. Those on hand claim the song was quite melodic, despite the 24-hour endurance feat.

Eye-witnesses report that there were still 15 people in the audience as of 3 a.m., and eight still there at 5 a.m. The band hopes to raise

more money Feb. 19 with a concert-dinner-dance. The concert band will play for one hour, then there will be a sit-down buffet and three hours of dancing to Scarlet Fever, the school's jazz-rock band. Price is \$12 per couple.

Another fund-raising effort planned is a record album, if a hall with good acoustics can be found in Milton.

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## Four narcotics charges

Halton Regional Police in Milton charged four people with possession of narcotics in two different cases last week.

Three youths from Milton were charged, and one young woman from Toronto.

In one case police found three bags which contained a plant substance suspected of being marijuana when they investigated a car accident in the parking lot of Memorial Arena on Thompson Road

just before midnight Saturday.

The occupants of the car were charged with possession when the bags were found. They had struck a parked car with their vehicle.

Police described the other incident as a "routine check."

Police this week also investigated a case of a customer driving off from a service station without stopping to pay for more than 11 gallons of

gas. Thefts included five batteries from trucks at a car lot, a newspaper box and \$5 in change from Martin St., a gas can from a residential garage, a CB radio set from a parked truck and a truck battery. A chain saw, rifle, shotgun and shells worth \$300 were taken from a Speyside area farm.

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On this occasion to accommodate the advance bonus drawing ticket sales will cease at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 3, 1977. So get your ticket now, because they're going fast. And watch the special one-hour Wintario show live on TV from the Bowmanville High School in Bowmanville, February 3 at 9:00 p.m. one year claiming period.

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