

LACAC to have more say in building demolitions

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

Changes to the Town's demolition permit process will help balance the wishes of property owners and the preservation of historic structures, says LACAC.

Town council passed a motion Monday that saw the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) formally included as a commenting agency for demolition permits to historic structures.

"We want to have a good relationship with property owners in the community, but we also want to ensure that the Town's interests are protected," said Councillor John Challinor, acting chair of LACAC. "This ensures that we deal with the issue of demolition fairly."

While the Town is mandated to circulate LACAC on permit requests for the town's 25 designated heritage sites, there was previously no formal structure for LACAC to comment on the town's 1,400 historic sites.

Though circulation for the historic sites wasn't a part of the formalized structure, LACAC was frequently consulted.

"What we now have in place is a timely process that is of benefit to the property owner and of benefit to the town," continued Mr. Challinor. "It wasn't always timely before."

Upon circulation, LACAC will consider whether or not to seek a heritage designation for the structure under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Should the designation be sought, a 180-day demolition moratorium is enacted, giving time for the Town and property owner to negotiate the issue.

However, in the end, the decision to demolish ultimately remains in the hands of the property owner, added Mel Iovio, Milton's director of planning and development.

"We have to make a decision (on permit issuance) based on the situation and Building Code requirements," he said.

The Milton Historical Society — which originally asked the Town to review its demolition permit policy following the dis-

mantling of 198-200 Main St. for a new Milton Bible Church structure — called the policy change a step in the right direction.

"I think the Town wants to see historical sites preserved as much as we do," said Mirella Marshall, president of the Milton Historical Society. "We're certainly in agreement with it (policy change)."

Tickets approved

Smokers caught lighting up in public places may soon be facing a \$155 ticket.

Town council approved the tickets Monday. However, should the Town decide to place formal charges on an individual or an establishment, a court trial could still lead to a \$5,000 fine.

"It allows our officers or health inspectors to give out a ticket, much like parking in a no parking spot," said Town Clerk Helen Lisi, who oversees the bylaw enforcement office.

The same \$155 fine applies to establishments and workplaces that permit smoking, fail to post no smoking signs or fail to prohibit ashtrays and like paraphernalia.

Ticket levels will now be forwarded to the Ministry of the Attorney General, Chief Judge, for consideration. Chief Judge approval is required to permit ticketing under the Provincial Offences Act.



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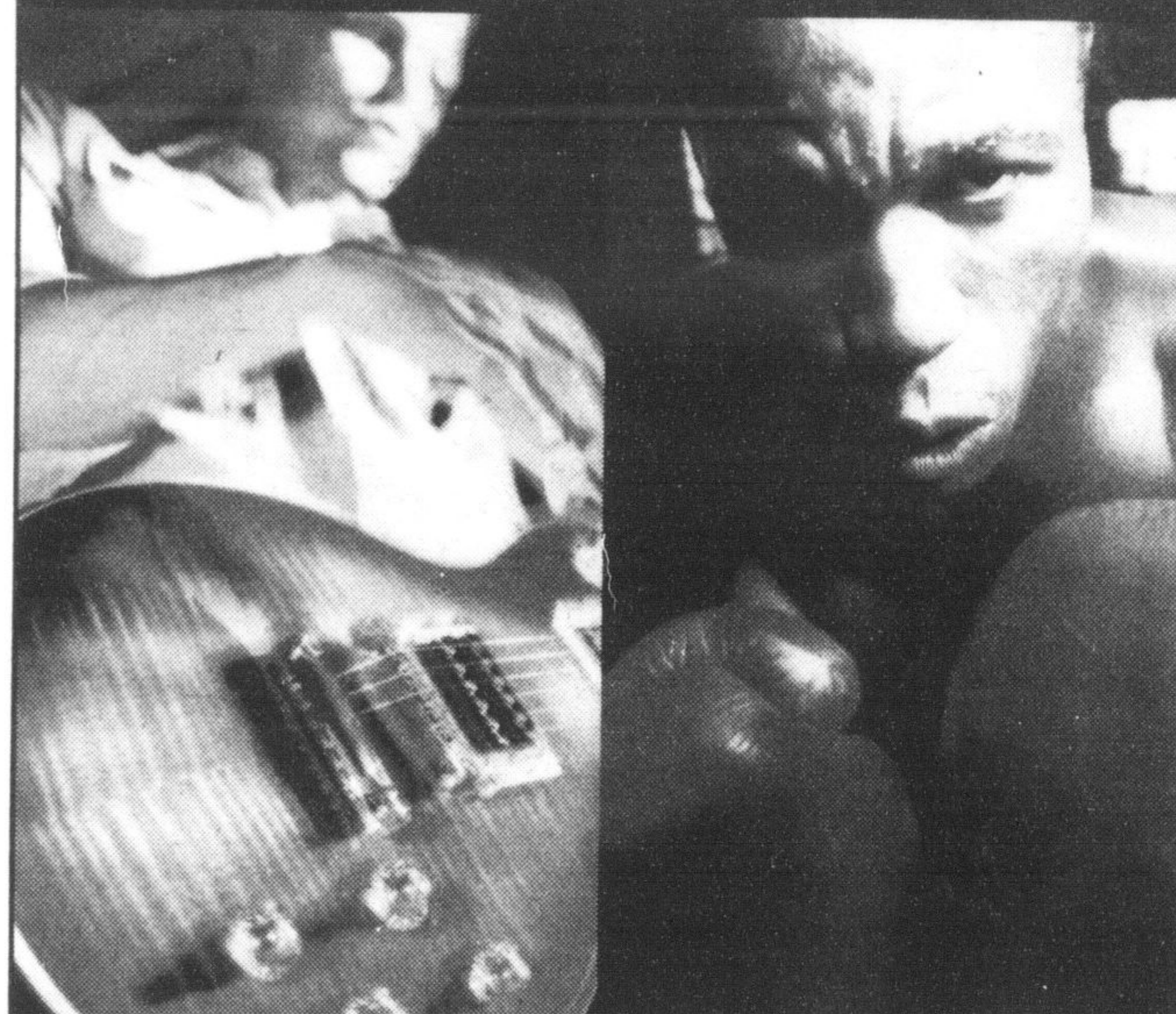
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