

Complaints . . .

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irate residents, Mr. St. John, municipal staff and urban councillors to come up with some solutions to the problems.

As well, council refused Mr. St. John's application for a zoning amendment which would have seen him marginally increase the size of his parking lot at the rear of the restaurant. Municipal staff will also conduct an investigation of parking regulations near the restaurant.

Houses surround Fat Freddy's because, while the homes were there first, the Main Street frontage has long been designated for commercial use.

Parking in the area is at a premium and Mr. St. John now appears to be a victim of his own success in that patrons for his and other nearby establishments wedge their vehicles into almost any available space within comfortable walking distance. Most of those spaces are in front of homes.

Residents forcefully voiced complaints indicating they had endured a summer in which Fat Freddy's patrons drank in public, urinated in public, swore loudly and drunkenly at all hours of the night, drove dangerously and parked without regard for traffic movements or traffic regulations.

The situation is "deplorable," said 80-year-old Fred Johnson, a longtime resident of the area. "I'm sure if any one of the council lived on the street there would be no bar there."

Another resident, who owns a home sharing a fence with the restaurant, said he kept an eye on his small children because he feared for their safety due to the antics of drivers on the other side of the fence, at Fat Freddy's.

Elaine Rendy, another homeowner in the area, said, "we put up with a very bad summer. Mr. St. John is responsible for what is going on here. The situation is very dangerous. It's quite out of hand."

Marlene Kawalez called her experiences "horrific" and said over the summer "if I managed to get two hours sleep, I was lucky." Many homeowners in the area are ready "to pack up and leave," she added.

Fred Bakes, a friend of Mr. St. John's and the man whom the restaurant is named after, told council, "I can appreciate people in the area's concern as far as parking, however I cannot see where that is the responsibility of any businessman in town. It does not happen in Toronto and it does not happen in Milton."

Mr. St. John said "we don't condone the actions" of some patrons and pointed out that "the problems today are a lot less than three months ago."

Stressing the rules under which his staff operates, Mr. St. John said anyone who fights in his establishment is banned for life. Also, "we don't serve drunks," and "we probably cut people off a lot faster than other bars." Fat Freddy's encourages designated driving by serving those drivers free coffee and pop and orients all restaurant advertising toward garnering family business, the owner added.

Mr. St. John had appeared at council in hopes of gaining the small parking lot expansion so he could replace the three front parking spaces lost when he obtained a temporary patio licence. Mr. St. John wants the front patio to become a permanent fixture during warm months.



Photo by STEPHEN UHRANEY

On the band wagon

Visitors to Mountsberg Wildlife Centre on Sunday had a chance to jump on the bird-banding wagon. The annual "Birds of a Feather" program featured bird banding demonstrations by David Brewer (left), as well as bird watching hikes. Alex Jackson, 10, had a close encounter with one of the tiny feathered friends that were banded that day.

Maplehurst strike is possible . . .

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paired drivers or are minor offence repeaters she said.

"The inmates Maplehurst used to get are in different programs now," said Mr. Gillies. "They have changed to Community Resource Centres where they leave daily to go to work. Some inmates at Maplehurst have been convicted of crimes up to manslaughter and have served penitentiary time," he added. Mr. Gillies claims there are numerous examples of this type of inmate presently at Maplehurst.

"Manslaughter convictions can carry significant jail sentences to probation," said Gary Commeford, Maplehurst superintendent.

"Ours is a very complex system with minimum, medium and maximum security institutions at every level," Mr. Commeford said that the inmate must be judged not the crime.

"We have an assessment committee. If an inmate's behavior deteriorates, or he is not suitable for this institution I'll have him

moved," Mr. Commeford said.

A recent tentative settlement in contract talks lost a union ratification vote. The union recommended to accept the contract which called for a 6.5 per cent salary increase but 66.5 per cent of the membership voted against accepting the contract.

Mr. Gillies said management has refused to negotiate certain issues, among them, pensions, staff reductions and an increase in the inmate population.

"These are escalating problems that aren't being dealt with, he said. "We are a frustrated group."

The contract is a provincial issue through the Ministry of Correctional Services.

"I think we enjoy a positive relationship with the community. I don't think that people need be concerned. We are quite comfortable with the situation, Mrs. Newman said.

"We are involved with Rotary Club, we raised \$25,000 for the Timmy Skate-a-thon and

we are helping with the new Alliance Church. We do a lot around the community," Mr. Commeford said.

Industry concerned with health: survey

Halton has undertaken to promote health in the workplace.

In 1987 Halton surveyed local industries to determine the current level of corporate involvement in health promotion and to see if program expansion was warranted. Interviews with 14 occupational health nurses were conducted in November 1987 in a cross-section of Halton companies.

Companies offered a wide range of programs. Blood pressure screening, occupational health and safety, anti-smoking, nutrition, physical fitness and back care were most common.

OPTOMETRIST

Dr. Strohan

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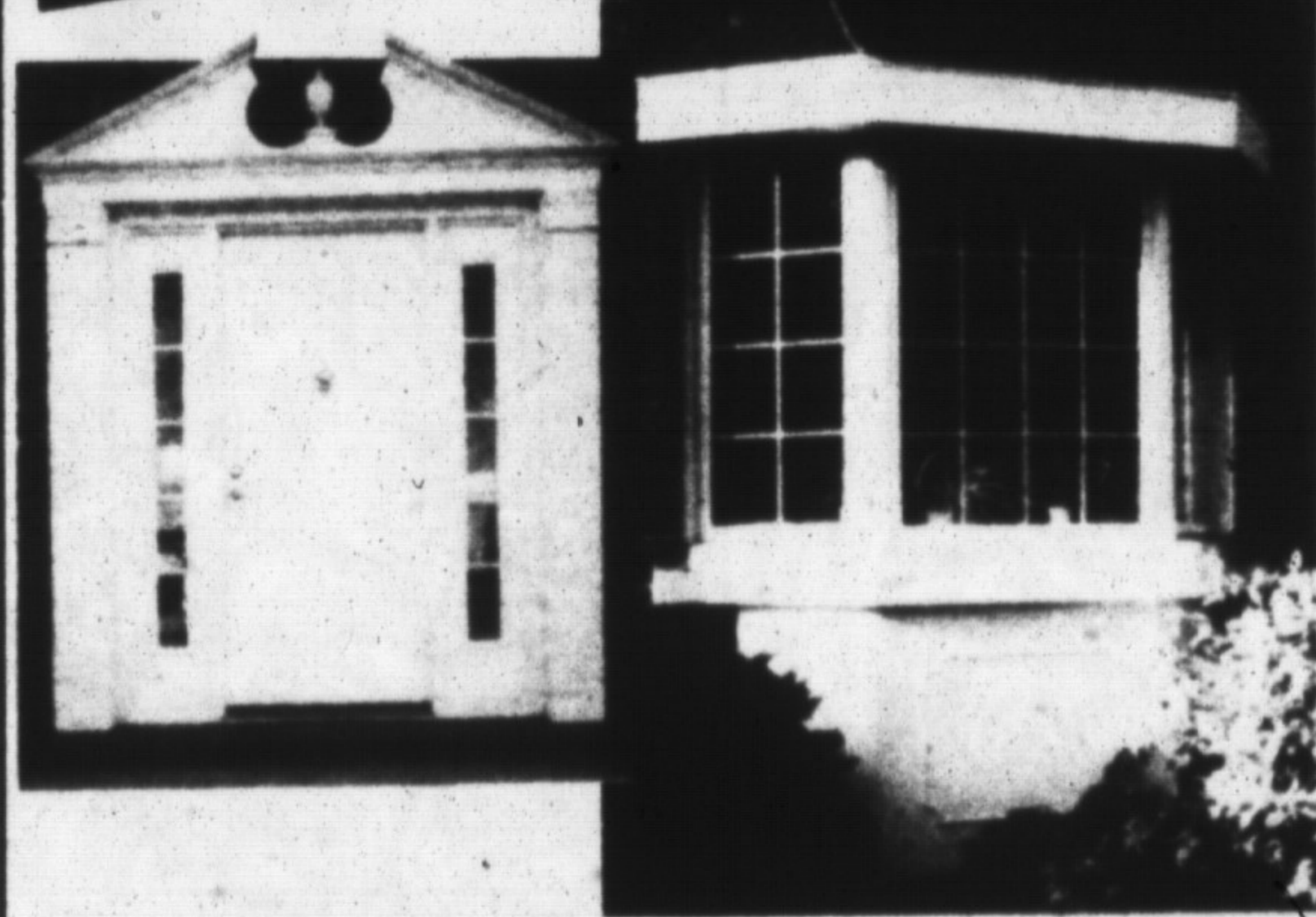
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