

Few objections to garden centre

Few concerns were registered at a public meeting held Monday to rezone and legalize a commercial nursery and garden center on Regional Rd. 13, north of Five Sdrd.

Councillors heard that the garden centre has been operating on the five acre property for over two years.

The owner of Willow Creek Nurseries and Garden Centre, H. Cano, has been growing his products and selling them out of a building on the property. But, recently, products not grown on the farm were being sold, and that contravenes the zoning of the area, councillors were told.

Representing Cano at the meeting was lawyer Monty Hyde who told Town officials that his client has been in the landscaping business for 20 years. Hyde contended the nursery is a "compatible use" in a rural area and, since Cano wishes to continue selling stock not grown on the property, rezoning is necessary.

And he said a lone, written objection to the zoning change came from a neighboring resident more concerned with the rezoning procedure than with the intended use of the property.

Later, Georgina Matthews, representing her father who lives adjacent to the nursery, expressed concern that the business would bring unwanted traffic by neighboring homes if Cano decided to change the access to his property.

Deputy Planner Bruce McLean, however, assured Matthews that access to the Cano property would be controlled through the Town's Site Plan process.

Following a staff review of the public meeting, council will determine if the rezoning should, or should not occur.

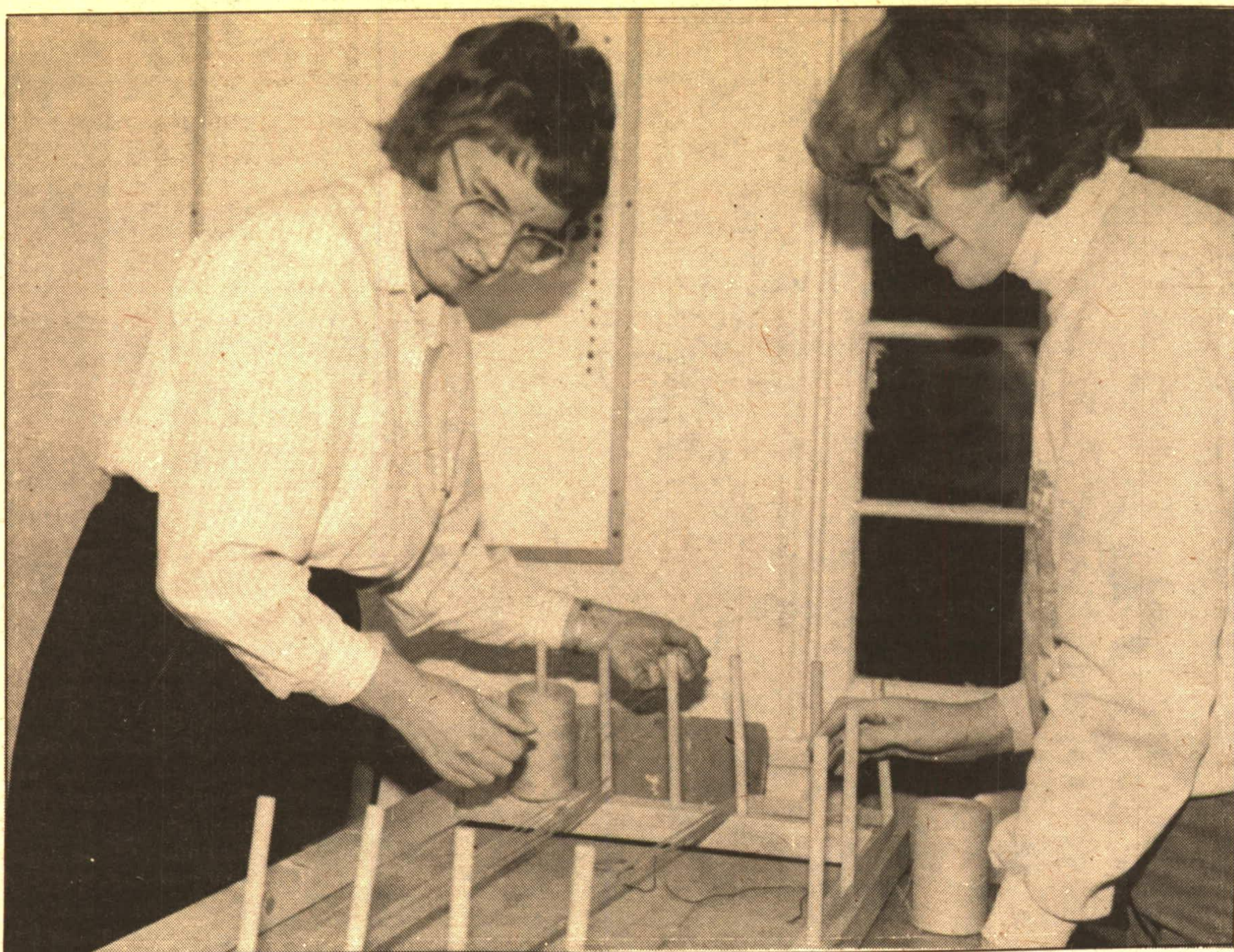
Keep Main St. parking restrictions

Concluding that current two hour parking restrictions and a stopping ban on portions of Main St. Acton are adequate, no changes will be made to local bylaws, General Committee decided Monday.

The controversial stretch of roadway has, for the past eight months, been a source of complaints by both motorists and business people because motorists want better traffic flow while businesses demand parking space.

Results of traffic studies by Town staff encouraged council to reapprove last September's recommendations banning Main St. parking between St. Alban's Dr. and Mill St. in Acton between 4 and 6 p.m., and to keep no stopping restrictions on the west side of Main St. from Knox Ave. to Mill.

The parking restrictions were initially recommended after the IGA plaza was completed, bringing more traffic to the already congested area.



Joanna Dobbin shows Rita Hilliard of Brampton how to measure out and prepare some thread in the first week of a six week course on weaving in Georgetown. Dobbin is with the Credit Valley Artisans and she is teaching the course to about six women in the group's cottage at Cedarvale Park.

New standards prompt X-walk improvements

Acton's crosswalks are due for some improvements following the release of new Provincial standards and reports from Halton Hills engineering staff.

Calling a staff prepared report on the Main St. and School Lane crosswalk "good," councillor Norm Elliott said "it confirms many things that we (Town councillors) expected."

Acknowledging that at least three of Acton's crosswalks could be upgraded, General Committee Monday night approved improvements on the Main St.-School Lane crossover that'll include

new parking prohibition signs on both sides of Main in the vicinity of School Lane.

As well, signs warning of pedestrian traffic will be posted on the curve approaching the crosswalk from the north. And Ministry officials will be invited to review the area for consideration of speed limit reductions from 60 km to 50 km per hour on Hwy. 7 at the northern entrance to Town.

Elliott said he likes the recommendations, especially since he has advocated speed reduction in the area for

some time.

"People exiting Elizabeth Dr. do so at their own peril," Elliott commented.

In a report from Town Engineer Ted Drewlo, council was told the new Ministry standards include an overhead illuminated crosswalk sign outfitted with flashing amber lights operated by a pedestrian-activated push button.

Town Engineer Bob Austin told Councillor Gerald Rennie that flashing

red crosswalk lights are illegal in Ontario.

Drewlo pointed out that the Main St.-School Lane crossover is constructed to new provincial standards, but crossovers at Queen St. and Acton Blvd. and at Mill and Willow St. intersection are not.

Engineering staff will study the two other Acton crosswalks as well as Georgetown crossovers as possible candidates for upgrading.

Nominations open for Seniors' awards

The provincial government will again honor individual seniors with Ontario Senior Achievement Awards, it was announced recently. Nominations are open until March.

"Through these awards, we express our deep appreciation to seniors who continue to use their talents and energies for the benefit of their communities, and for society as a whole," says Mavis Wilson, Minister for Senior Citizens' Affairs.

Individuals as well as community organizations are invited to nominate senior achievers in their areas. Nominees must be 65 years of age or older, residents of Ontario, and be contributing significantly to their community during their retirement years.

An impartial selection committee will review the submissions and choose the winners. The awards will be presented at a special ceremony in June—the annual celebration of Senior Citizens' Month in Ontario.

"When we celebrate Senior Citizens' Month, we recognize the collective wisdom, experience and service of a growing and vital segment of our population," said Wilson. "I invite everyone who knows of a senior who has made a significant contribution to send in a nomination," she added.

Individuals and organizations wishing to nominate seniors may contact the Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs, 6th Floor, 76 College Street, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1N3 or call (416) 965-5106 to obtain a nomination form. The forms are available in English and French. Deadline for entries is March 31, 1989.

Former Acton teen convicted of murder

A former Acton teenager was sentenced earlier this week to a maximum three years in prison for the violent 1987 death of a Toronto derelict.

A North York youth court gave the 18-year-old the maximum sentence allowed under the Young Offenders Act. He was charged with second-degree murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The youth cannot be identified under the Young Offenders Act because he was only 17 years old at the time of the offence.

The conviction has added more fuel to the fire in the recent fight to have the Young Offenders Act changed. Toronto politicians and action groups are crusading to have the act amended to allow identification of young criminals involved in violent crimes

such as murder. They are also pressing for stronger convictions in these cases.

The young criminal attacked a 54-year-old man in a Toronto alleyway in the fall of 1987. The victim was found unconscious in the Bathurst St. - St. Clair Ave. area. He died a short while later from massive head injuries.

The young offender was out on \$2,500 bail for the murder charge when he assaulted a 13-year-old Acton youth last April. He was sentenced to one day in custody and 30 days in open custody for the offense. At the time of the assault the young offender was residing in Acton with his mother. He has a history of convictions ranging from break-ins and assault to manslaughter.

Toys for kids of all ages impress Georgetown mom

Marilyn Stone was so sold on the quality, educational value and price of Discovery Toys that she decided to set up her own business and sell the toys herself.

So she sectioned off a corner of her Georgetown home, set up a desk, bought some of the toys, games, books and cassette tapes, and now she's in business.

With two young children, aged one and four years, she has some experience in the area of buying toys, and the Discovery Toys are some of the best, she says.

Not only will they withstand all sorts of abuse, from bending, throwing, dropping, to being washed off in the dishwasher or thrown in the

microwave, but they are also reasonably priced and they make learning fun for children, she says.

For the youngsters there are unusual rattles, balls, stacking blocks, and other toys which aim to develop eye-hand co-ordination, fine motor co-ordination, and teach children how to identify sequences and colors. Other games and toys, categorized by age, promote creativity, visual skills, language, social-emotional skills, life skills, thinking and learning, she says.

But it isn't just Mrs. Stone's young children who have tested the merchandise. After all, Discovery Toys brags that it has something for kids of all ages — from zero to 99 years. A quiet evening at home provided Mrs. Stone

and husband David with the opportunity to test that theory and they found that some of the games were quite challenging.

"They are a lot of fun, too," she says. "We'd give them to friends as presents."

Strategy, concentration and problem solving are some of the skills challenged by the games.

The prices range between \$5 and \$30, with only a handful in the \$70 and over range.

Originally an American company, the Canadian branch was opened one and a half years ago.

The toys come from West Germany, Spain, Israel, England, the United States, anywhere Discovery Toys representatives see a toy they think is exceptional.

They are sold the same way Tupperware is sold. A home demonstration is set up at someone's home, and discounts are available for the host. After going to one demonstration and finding out what is available and what the toys and games are all about, you don't need to go to another, Mrs. Stone says. A catalogue is available listing all the toys with brief descriptions and prices.

Mrs. Stone's venture is one of the most recent in Georgetown, but she is not new to the local business scene. She and her architect husband founded The Drawing House, a residential design firm. Among other buildings in the area their projects include the new Kentner's Catering building on Mill Street and the Royal City Realty building on Guelph Street.

They still do some design work, she says, but not as much as before, so she was looking for a new project.

She holds a degree in economics and worked in the food services industry for a number of years, she says. The Stones have lived in Georgetown for the last five years.

For more information, or a catalogue, call 877-1047.



Marilyn Stone demonstrates how a spoon made by Discovery Toys can be bent almost in half without breaking. "All the toys are quite indestructible," she says. Mrs. Stone was so sold on the toys — their quality, educational value, and price — that she decided to sell them. She has set up her office in her William St. home and the toys have already been tested by her two young children, her husband David, and Mrs. Stone herself.