

Beacon - Historical Notes

[Staff: From our dusty archives we dredge up what was a major story of 1970... amalgamation. What goes around, comes around. So, to fill out an extra page we offer the following news clips.]

Beacon #4 - May 28, 1970

from Municipal Affairs by Marj Aitken

"A joint meeting of the Council members of Bath, Ernestown and Amherst Island was held Monday night at Odessa Town Hall. Mr. Kidd of Ernestown chaired the informal meeting on amalgamation and it was felt by those attending on our behalf that the meeting was a good start on discussions, and that Mr Kidd a capable chairman for these sessions. The three townships agreed on pursuing the discussions further. Perhaps this will result in an election to see how the taxpayer feels in each township. It will be interesting to follow in our district papers, some of the exploratory meetings in other parts of the county."

Beacon #5 - June 11, 1970

from Municipal Affairs by Marj Aitken

"Reeve Aitken was pleased to report to County Council Monday, at their regular monthly meeting that Amherst Island Council wished to further explore the pro's and con's of amalgamation. Some of the Reeves from other townships gave a flat "not interested in any direction from Queen's Park" answer from their councils. But when the time comes when one refuses direction from higher qualified, trained leaders, then it would seem that progress will surely 'bog' down. Administering to rural and suburban communities is no longer the simple matter of receiving tax moneys and spending them to the best advantage, and enacting simple by-laws, etc. It has become impossible to live in the vicinity of other municipalities without the businesses of each inter-relating. One cannot stand aside and aloof from others on many issues. Even the least interested parties should read all available literature on amalgamation, thus to be better equipped to make a decision for or against, when the times comes.

County Council, preceding the meeting toured the new penitentiary. It was an interesting tour, all the newest in kitchen facilities, and special facilities for inmates under psychiatric examination. Inmates entering

the prison will be taken in through a separate tunnel, so as not to be seen by other inmates during this initial entrance.

Local Council will have a report of a pending decision for the next issue.

Beacon #6 - Thursday, June 25, 1970

Municipal Affairs by Marj Aitken

At a special session on June 1st, Council had as its guest, Mr Irvin Anderson, of the Department of Municipal Affairs. Mr Anderson explained many of the aspects of the Planning Act and gave advise, re passing a bylaw to control sub-divisions.

The following night Council met for their regular meeting and discussed, at great length, the pros and cons of such a step. After much serious consideration, a motion was carried to pass a bylaw establishing subdivision control over the entire municipality of Amherst Island. This seems a rather extreme measure but there have been so many examples of poor development of lands where such control was not instituted that Council felt obligated to do so. But it would seem that the choice was not to be Council's for long at any rate. The following appeared in Monday's Globe and Mail and is a direct quote of the article, under the heading ..For Ordered Development... 'Uncontrolled development of land is chaos. Land use plans are designated to avoid that chaos. But in vast areas of Ontario where municipalities have no such plans, extraordinary measures are needed. These measures were taken in the Legislature last week when Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough introduced amendments to the Planning Act. Under the new law, all Ontario municipalities that have no land use plans will have to apply to Queen's Park before they will be allowed to create subdivisions. By putting subdivision controls on all land not protected by bylaws or plans, Mr Keough has, in effect, frozen development until the municipality passes an Official plan. And the plan must meet the standards set down by the Department of Municipal Affairs. Most of the areas affected are in Eastern Ontario. The Minister had no choice. Without the protection of adequate zoning and planning controls, land could be hacked into smaller pieces and dished out to developers without regard to the need for roads, sewers, schools, electricity or water supply.' ...end of quote.