Acton's Development, Progress Greatest in Past 10 Years

The municipal development of the past 10 years can be recorded as the greatest in the history of the community. The completion of the sewerage system, the street paving program, the replacement of the educational buildings and the growth of the town all give support to the theory that this decade has been unparalleled in the municipality's history.

From a spanking new town in 1950 with the inauguration of its town's status, from its one hydro substation, single public school and crowded high school, its much smaller municipal budget, there have been many changes all of which contribute to this decade of development.

Turn Back Files

Perhaps the best way to analyze this record is to turn back the pages of the Free Press files to 1950 and look at the town at that time.

The first town council was inaugurated with Mayor Amos Mason heading the group. At the inaugural meeting various groups and industries presented gifts to the town.

In the hydro department one substation supplied the town's needs. The only water supply was the spring on Main Street south.

Plans had been prepared for the sewerage system and in 1950 the first work on installation began. The first progress payment on the sewers was paid early in the year and $350,000 worth of debentures were sold to cover the cost.

Vote for School

The Acton Intermediate hockey club was still active and this was one of the few years they didn't make the playoffs. The public school board, after considerable investigation asked the voters to approve construction of an addition to the Robert Little School. The voters in a plebiscite at the municipal election voted 441 in favor.

The North Halton High School District Board was administering the high school in Acton, Milton and Georgetown. They were at their time considering the erection of a central school at or near Speyside.

Railway crossing signals were installed during the year at the Mill Street crossing. With no paved streets in town, the municipality purchased a used grader to maintain the gravelled streets. Highway No. 25 between Acton and Milton was still unpaved but tenders were called during the year for grading and paving of the highway.

Continuing Problem

Council began a water search which has continued and been one of the main projects and problems of each succeeding council.

The Fire Underwriters Inspector came to town and called the fire brigade to a test during noon hour and after the arrival of the brigade he ordered the high pressure fire pumps at the Main Street pump house turned on. The pressure on the main rose to 100 lbs. and leaks sprang up all over town. Council sent the underwriters a bill for $512! (We can't remember if it was ever paid.)

The fire brigade was equipped with the old Studebaker pumper.

Industrial Growth Starts

At Micro Plastics the company was prospering and it was necessary to build a new addition doubling their existing floor area. Across the road from Micro the A. P. Green company moved into the plant formerly owned by the Armaco Company. When this company came to Acton they filled the last remaining unoccupied industrial building.

Council at the time was highly conscious of this need for additional industries in the town and issued a promotional brochure outlining the advantages of locating in Acton.

The total school enrollment in both the public and high schools reached 513.

1,384 Missing

When a municipal nomination meeting was called in mid-year to fill a vacancy on council, caused by a resignation, the headlines of the Free Press tell us 1,384 eligible electors didn't show up. If memory serves correctly about 12 did. At the elections in December 1,473 voters were eligible to cast ballots.

The merchants ran Christmas draws to keep citizens shopping in Acton. We mailed our Christmas cards that year for one cent.

Of course since that time more than postage rates have gone up.

37% Population Jump

The population stood at 3,030. A steady growth continued until 1955 and 1956 when the Glenlea, Lakeview and Cobble Hill subdivisions started to be occupied.

Since that time the increase has been less spectacular but none the less sure. At the decade the population rose to 4,204 or almost a 37% increase.

Assessment Climb

The 1950 taxes were based on the new assessing method and the total expenditures of the town were raised on an assessment of $2,034,000. Once again the figures showed a steady increase until mid-decade when the subdivision assessment resulted in an accelerated rate of increase until it reached the 1959 figure of $5,226,000.

At 34 mills the tax rate in 1950 reached its lowest figure in years. Since that time councils have found it necessary to increase this figure to raise sufficient to meet increased operating and debenture costs. In 1959 it was 68 mills on residential and 72 on industrial and commercial. Municipal expenses rose from $97,903 in 1950 to a high of $480,092 in 1959.

Schooling Increase Biggest

Perhaps the biggest single increase was registered in the cost of education. In 1951 the amount spent on education reached an estimated figure of $136,023. This was in comparison with the 1950 figure of $32,924.

To finance these expanded municipal services of the decade the municipal unmatured debenture debt of $87,461 in 1950 has grown until at the end of 1958 the figure had reached $1,466,000.

Once again it has been proven that when we want additional services and facilities we must pay for them. No one gets anything for nothing.

Annexation In '55

In 1955 an annexation hearing was held and the Municipal Board agreed with the town's application and allowed the annexation to the town of 458 acres of the Township of Esquesing. This increased the area within the municipal boundaries to the present 972 acres.

Building permits issued in 1955 during the construction of the housing subdivisions reached an all time high of $1,755,100.

Looking back to 1954 we find that it was in that year council's approval was given for the construction of the Glenlea, Lakeview and Cobble Hill subdivisions. Work on these projects noticably affected the assessment and building permits of 1955 and a 400 increase in population was registered that year.

Vote Thumbs Down

A civic centre project to house the municipal offices, town services and library was presented to the ratepayers and was turned down in a plebiscite at the elections in December, 1955. It was during this year that the small municipal well in Warren Grove was turned into the system.

Continued on Page 22

Co-Operating for Better Town Chamber of Commerce is Active

A co-operative effort for better community living performed by private citizens, businessmen, industrialists and farmers is the function of the Acton Chamber of Commerce, which was organized in October, 1954.

During the last five years the membership has increased from 35 to nearly 100. Various committees such as civic, retail, industrial, publicity, membership and program have formed sub-committees to carry out various projects, investigation and action.

Build Pride

One of the foremost aims of the chamber in Acton, as with most Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade units, is to build up local pride in present citizens and stimulate interest and attract prospective citizens and industries.

Means to meet this end take many shapes. The projects, large or small, momentary or continuing, all figure as accomplishments to enrich the community's well being.

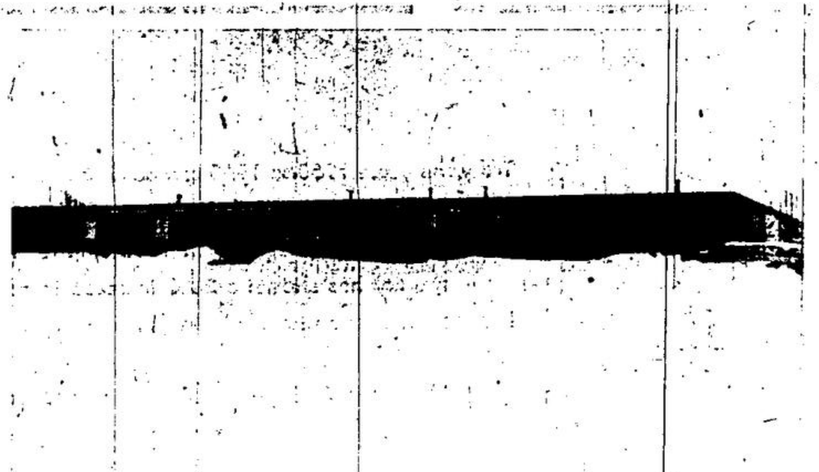
E. G. Tyler Sr., who was responsible for the organization of the Acton Chamber, today heads it as president with Norm Braida, first vice president, Bill Benson, second vice president, Walter Woodburn, treasurer and J. Bert Wood, secretary.

Also assisting as directors are W. MacKay, F. Gordon, D. Manes, J. Ledger, E. Tyler Jr., J. Holmes, O. Chapman and H. Deveau.

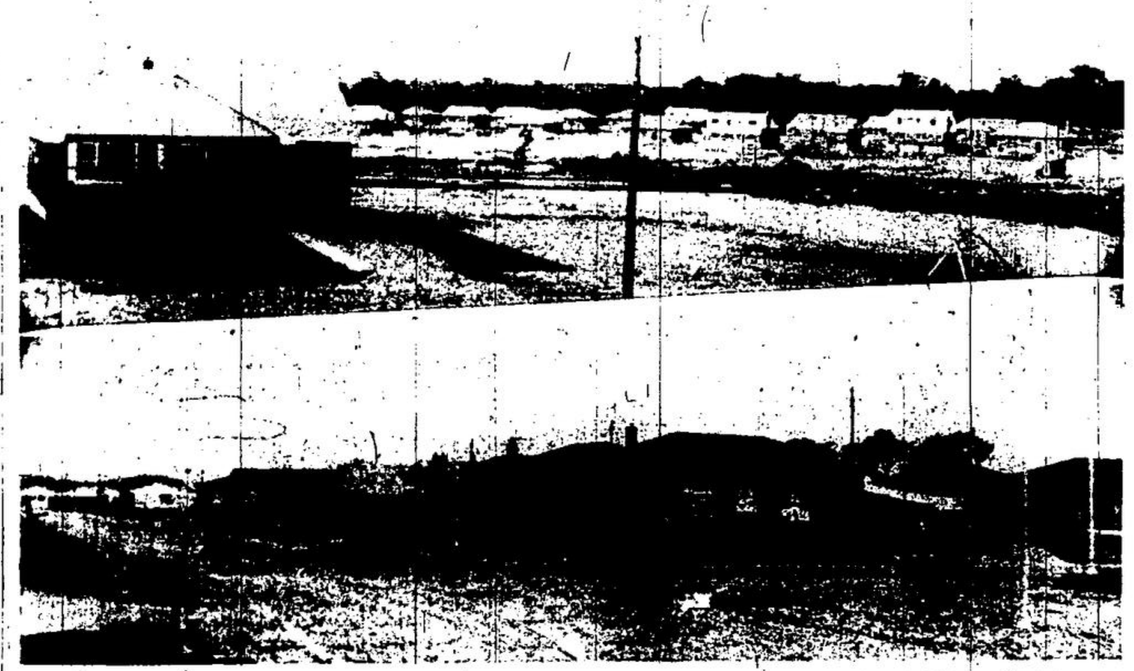
Many Accomplishments

Some of the many accomplishments of the Acton chamber to date include organization under the industrial committee to amass and maintain up-to-date information valuable to potential industry, for chamber or town council's use; building and installation of benches in front of the local post office; formation of an artificial ice committee which has prepared extensive facts and figures to instigate a possible chamber led community effort to add an ice plant to Acton's arena; erection of a community Christmas tree in December; erection of three sign boards at approaches to town; initiation of a canvassers licensing system for the protection of members in business; the extension of colored lights on Mill and Main Streets at Christmas time and many other achievements and projects.

The publishing of this special decade issue is made possible with the co-operation of Acton chamber members who compiled the directory list and distributed extra copies of the paper to many outside towns and cities.



PLASTIC EXTRUSIONS are manufactured and shipped from this modern new plant built in 1957 by the Micro Plastics Company. The new building, situated on a 14 acre lot on Main Street north, occupies 40,000 square feet of space and houses 16 extruders and other modern equipment. The company first formed in 1946 has expanded various times and today owns two manufacturing sites in town and employs approximately 100 employees.



ACTON'S OUTSKIRTS felt the impact of the town's bulging homes which were promptly purchased. Cobble Hill subdivision seams and three new subdivisions have been built during the is a smaller development. In a few years farm land has been past decade. Photographs during construction at Lakeview sub- converted into pleasant streets lined by energetic young trees division (above) and Glenlea subdivision (below) show the trim and neat houses peopled, mostly, by energetic young families.

ACTON BUSINESS AND SERVICE DIRECTORY

This Directory has been prepared by the Acton Chamber of Commerce in co-operation with the Acton Free Press as a service to the Citizens of Acton and District.

All listings are unpaid for, unsolicited and have been prepared to best of our knowledge. We suggest you keep this Directory and Town Map (see reverse side) as a handy reference.

TOWN OF ACTON

Mayor, W. H. Cook 746
Acton Hydro Commission, Chairman E. Tyler Sr. 133
Acton High School District Board, J. H. Creighton, Chairman 105
Assessor's Office 75
Clerk-Treasurer-Administrator, J. McGeachie 82
Acton Public School Board, M. Smith, Chairman 181
Hydro Office 70
Board of Parks Management, Mrs. G. Fryer, Secretary 681J
Ontario Provincial Police 351
Hydro Electric Workshop 81
Sewage Disposal Plant 421W
Water Dept., Sewer Dept., Welfare Dept. and Committee of Adjustment 82

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance — Guelph ..... TA 4-4312
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Fire 300
Police 351
United Gas Service 774J

PUBLIC SERVICES

Acton High School 454
M. Z. Bennett Public School 575
Children's Aid Society, Milton ..... TR 8-2375
Halton County Health Unit, 16 Mill St. 193
Robert Little Public School 73

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Acton Agricultural Society, Mrs. Irene Swackhamer, Secretary 730J12
Acton Chamber of Commerce, J. Bert Wood, Secretary 585
Acton Rotary Club, F. Prouse, President 703
Acton Women's Institute, Mrs. G. Fryer, President 681J
Amalgamated Home & School Association, C. Landsborough, President 211
Canadian Legion Branch 197, M. Storey, President 399
I.O.D.E. Duke of Devonshire, Mrs. K. Knox, Regent 662
I.O.D.E. Lakeside, Mrs. R. Spielvogel, Regent 157
Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. R. Angell, President 554R

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Acton Badminton Club, Mrs. Galloway 6
Acton Citizens' Band, J. McHugh, Secretary 672R
Acton Junior Pipe Band, P. Caddick 653J
Acton Minor Sports, V. Masters, President 479
Acton Night School (arts and crafts), D. Bexton 645
Acton Tennis Club, R. H. Lewis, President 480
Acton Scottish Dance Club, Dr. R. Buckner, President 679
Boy Scout Group Committee, G. L. Haggett 176
Bowling Lanes, K. Hulford 697
Figure Skating (CFSA), N. Braida 114
Hi-Y Club, B. Kirkness 707
Lawn Bowling Club, H. Rogers 28W
Scout and Guide Mothers' Auxiliary, Mrs. T. S. Newton 407W
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Y.M.C.A. Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. K. Graham 56
Y's Men's Club, C. Rognvaldson 239
Y.M.C.A., S. Saltz, Secretary 268
Y Swimming Club, J. H. Buckland 631W
Y's Menettes, Mrs. E. Smith 776W3
4-H Club, N. Braida 139M

ACCOUNTANTS
Davies, Ralph, 3 Main N. 220
Stoller Neville & Co. 3 Main N. 10

AMBULANCE SERVICE
Royal City Ambulance, 799 Woolwich St., Guelph TA 4-4312

AUTOMOBILE AGENCIES
Acton Motors, Volkswagen 17
Franklin Prouse Motors Ltd., Pontiac-Buick-Vauxhall 16
Thompson Motors Ltd. Ford 69

BAKERIES
Hotchen's Bakery, 11 Willow, 100
Lions Bakery, 35 Mill St. 225

BANKS
Bank of Montreal, 21 Mill, 25
Bank of Nova Scotia, 36 Mill, 9

BARBERS
H. Mainprize, 48 Mill, no phone
G. Holloway, 38 Mill, no phone
S. Holmes, Main, no phone

BILLIARDS
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BODY & FENDER REPAIRS
Acton Auto Body, 49 Main, 343

BOWLING ALLEY
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BREWERS' RETAIL STORE
Brewers' Retail Store, 332 Queen E., 692

BUILDING TRADES
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Allen, M., 9 Agnes, 241
Elliott, E., 55 Lake, 393M
Building Products and Materials
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A.R.B. Window Sales Co., 153 Bower, 35
Garnet Building Products Ltd., 341 Westcott, 740
Kinslow Sales, R.R. 1, 751J12
J. B. Mackenzie & Son Ltd., 55 Church, 48
TenPro Distributors Ltd., 126 Main N., 519
Ridley, Jack, (blocks, sand, gravel), 44 Guelph, 251
Carpenters
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Drysdale & Guthrie 118J
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J. B. Mackenzie & Son Ltd. 48
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Electrical Contractors & Service
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Plasterers
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Shortill Sheet Metal, Plumbing & Heating, 184 Churchill N., 464

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Dron's Meats, 5 Mill E., 589R
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CARTAGE & TRANSPORTS — Dump Trucks
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Nicol's Clothing Store, 1 Mill E., 993
Paul's, Men's & Boys' Wear, 37 Mill, 403
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Gordon Hardware Ltd., 22 Mill, 76
Manning Electric, 54 Mill, 230
Symon Hardware, 43 Mill, 49
Wigo TV & Appliances, 77 Mill, 66

FARM EQUIPMENT DEALERS
Kerr, Archie, Farm Equipment, R.R. 2, 41W3
Garner, W. J., R.R. 4, 1080J2

FEED STORES
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J. B. Mackenzie & Son Ltd., Coal, 48
Ray Thompson Fuels Ltd. Oil, 69
United Gas Co. Ltd., Natural Gas, Zenith 71450

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
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FURNITURE
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Adams Furniture, 27 Mill, 1085

GARAGES & SERVICE STATIONS
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GREENHOUSES and NURSERIES
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HAIR DRESSERS & BEAUTY PARLOURS
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Anthony Gas & Oil Explorations Ltd., 427
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Force Electric Products Ltd., Electric products, 316
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H. K. Porter Co. Ltd. Disston Saw Division, 996
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J. Bert Wood Insurance Agency, 124 Mill E., 585
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JEWELLERS
Bexton, Donald S., 54A Mill E., 645
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Leatherland, C. F., 20 Mill, 22
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OPTICIANS
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PAINTERS & DECORATORS
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PARCEL DELIVERY
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PHYSICIANS and SURGEONS
Buckner, Dr. R. D., 39 Wellington, 679
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REPORTERS
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M. Z. Bennett School, W. D. E. Smith, 575
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