

Changes Needed . . .

One of the most disturbing features of municipal government in Ontario today is the dominance of appointed committees and commissions over the elected municipal council. Too often the council seems little more than a machine for rubber-stamping measures and legislation prepared by these non-responsible (in the sense that they are not elected by vote of the electors), commissions and boards, with little or no effective powers of criticism or control.

How did this perversion of the democratic system come about?

A large part of the responsibility rests in the Ontario Municipal Act. The Act, as our growth of the Baldwin Act of the 1920's, has done little to keep pace with the conditions in Ontario in the last 30 years. There have been some amendments, but in the Act in the last 30 years. The creating of these commissions, committees and boards, by the Act, has been a result of the rulings of the courts, the decisions of the red tape. We do not suggest that it is necessary to go back to the 1800's to find a model for the present system.

The present system in Halton and other municipalities is not a good one. It is a system that does not give the electors a real voice in the government of their municipalities. It is a system that is not democratic. It is a system that is not efficient. It is a system that is not economical. It is a system that is not progressive. It is a system that is not a credit to Ontario.

Act will be virtually impossible. The provincial government will undoubtedly put forth with great verbosity the importance of, and great respect for, local autonomy. The eventual conclusion, if there is one, will be a political saw-off suited to today's expediences, rather than a common sense or straight forward approach to the problems of today and as they will undoubtedly arise in the very near future.

It would be our hope that a regional form of government will be established in which the role of the county will be enlarged. We would expect to see county councillors elected directly under a party system. We would expect the regional government would be run by full time, well paid politicians operating under the same conditions as we would like to see the regional government of the County of Halton, Ontario, provide.

Editorial Page



Royal Oak's Rinaldo Slead

The Good Old Days...

20 YEARS AGO

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Jan. 31, 1946.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Feb. 3, 1916.

At a special meeting of Acton council on Friday evening, Councilor H. Creighton, W. J. O. Onkes, Claude Cook were present and reeve C. L. Kirkness presided. The estimates for the year were carefully checked and the final result was estimated receipts of \$25,154, with estimated expenditures of \$64,249.51, leaving an amount of \$39,095.51 to be raised by taxation. This will require a tax rate of 46 1/2 mills. The rate is the same as in 1944 and only slightly higher than last year.

A checker match between Acton and Milton players was held in the rooms of the Acton Checker Club. In the 78 games played, Milton won by three. Acton players were A. B. McLean, H. S. Holmes, John Leishman, S. M. Lashby, Geo. Barber, D. Henderson, E. A. Storey, Nell Patterson, Robert Laing, E. J. Hassard, J. Matthews, John Locker and Wm. Leishman.

The annual meeting of the United Church of Canada, held at the Hotel Cecil, Toronto, on Monday, Feb. 1, 1946, was a successful one. The annual conference of the United Church of Canada, held at the Hotel Cecil, Toronto, on Monday, Feb. 1, 1946, was a successful one. The annual conference of the United Church of Canada, held at the Hotel Cecil, Toronto, on Monday, Feb. 1, 1946, was a successful one.

Mr. John L. Cripps is now at Kola, Lapland, Russia. He has taken a position in connection with the building of the new railway from Petrograd to Ekaterina, to give Russia access to an ice-free port all year.

The canvassers with petitions praying the government to prohibit the sale of liquor in Ontario were highly gratified with their week's work in Acton. In the rural sections, the petitions were almost unanimously signed. At Crewson's Corners, not a single vote was refused.

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