

★ Acton Development Report ★

The Acton Free Press

Vol. 107.—No. 4.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1966

Special Report Section.

Mayor Duby reports on Council procedure

From the Mayor's chair comes this information and far-seeing report.

The Municipal Act, Section 211, gives the duties of a head of council: mayor of a town, reeve of a township, warden of a county, duties are as follows:

(a) To be vigilant and active in causing the laws for the government of the municipality to be duly executed and obeyed.

(b) To oversee the conduct of all subordinate officers in the government of it, and, as far as is practicable, cause, all negligence, carelessness and viol-

ation of duty to be prosecuted and punished; and

(c) To communicate to the council from time to time such information, and recommend such measures as may tend to the improvement of, finances, health, security, cleanliness, comfort and ornament of the municipality.

There are no such duties stated in the Municipal Act for councillors. I would like to interject a personal note here by referring to the duties of a town clerk which has this gem. Among other things the Act says a

clerk is "to perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by council." Let me say, "they are many and varied."

The responsibilities of a Municipal Council are like doing what comes naturally. The people provide the stimuli by their demands and complaints. The most common problem for members of council, is that a council may only do what the statutes of the province say it may do. For most things, there is an act, or a section of an act that grants permission.

It must be understood that council must have the approval, for certain local by-laws, by provincial departments.

For example — (a) a stop street or stop light — by the Department of Transport. (b) money and borrowing by-laws — The Ontario Municipal Board. (c) a health problem by — The Minister of Health, etc.

This could be frustrating and disappointing to a member of council who may have been impressed in election promises.

The head of council should be the Public Relations officer of the municipality. Official statements should be issued only through him, backed by resolutions of council and be founded on fact.

These are all factual statements which may be appreciated by our ratepayers.

A very important responsibility of the head of council is to create an atmosphere in which council can do its best work. Most important of these is the committee structures for the

new term.

There are several ways in which council committees are chosen in this province. I do not recommend tossing coins for committee chairmanship.

It is also not practical to offer a choice of chairmanship to one who may be fortunate enough to head the polls at election time.

(Continued on Page 8)

Development Commission seeks additional industry

Acton Development Commission is particularly interested in future industry. The commission report follows.

In 1964, the Town of Acton established a commission to assist in the future development of Acton.

Council decided that it should consist of ten members, five of whom would be from council and five of whom would be citizens.

The Commission promptly proceeded to take steps to develop the industrial lands in Acton and to encourage further industry.

Acton has an official plan approved by the Department of Economics and Planning of the Province of Ontario, which has zoned as industrial lands, the lands formerly known as the Somerville farm, the Beardmore property, the McCutcheon farm, the Switzer farm, and the Dan Young farm.

Commission and many contacts and meetings have been held with the departments in Toronto.

The chief water supply of the Town of Acton is at Churchill and a main has been constructed across the industrial property to Main St.

Everything is now in readiness to carry on with the plans of any future industry. The commission was originally called the Acton Industrial Commission and in 1965 the name was changed to Acton Development Commission.

The members of the commission in 1964 and 1965 included John Gov, Paul Nielsen, Robert Drinkwalter, Mayor Les Duby, Aldo Braida, Bert Wood, Ray Arbie, Albert Irwin, Reeve Bert Hinton, Fred Salt and Neil Bowles, and the 1966 members are Charles Leatherland, Q.C., chairman, Paul Nielsen, vice-chairman, John Gov, Neil Bowles, Aldo Braida, Fred Salt, Earl Masales, Deputy-Reeve Bob Parker, Joe Hurst and Mayor Les Duby. Ham Peal was a member of the commission for five months in 1966, at which time he moved to Sarnia and Mr. Hurst was appointed as his successor.

Although Acton has a 49 per cent industrial and commercial assessment, the commission feels that Acton must advance with the rest of Ontario and at the same time, maintain the present ratio of assessment.

Lands now available for industrial development are the Duval and Papillon property, consisting of 4½ acres; the Van Gils farm, consisting of about 50 acres; and the Hufnagel or Switzer farm, which is now owned by the town of Acton, consisting of 75 acres. There is also 18,000 square feet of building space available in the former Wool Combing building, which is now known as the Acton Industrial Centre.

The commission salutes all Actonites and in particular those who have been forced to move to distant fields and urges them to send for statistics of the town — Box 936, Acton — and to suggest to their friends the advantages of establishing their enterprises in Acton.

The commission points out that every citizen of Acton should be a booster of Acton. The members of the commission would be glad to take any call or lend any assistance with respect to present industries expanding or other industries locating in Acton.

Free Press publisher, David Dills, sees the town's position this way.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of Confederation in Canada, and in 1973 the 100th anniversary of the organization of Acton as an independent municipal entity, it is well to consider and in a small way attempt to project what may be in store for Acton as a community.

Many factors, some of which we as local citizens have some influence over as well as a great many more over which we will have little or no influence, will determine the course for Acton as a local government. Regardless of what form of municipal administration we as citizens may progress under, it remains a certainty that Acton as a community and a home for many of us will continue to be the identifiable area in which we will live and prosper.

Of the many influences over which we will exercise little or no control will be any action in the reorganization of municipal and county government along regional lines. The Plunkett Commission which held public hearings and is conducting an in-depth study of local government in Peel and Halton counties will exert a great influence over Acton's future.

The commission study is sponsored by the Province of Ontario in co-operation with the Counties of Halton and Peel. It is



Mayor Les Duby

Editor stresses need for progress community nears 100th birthday

anticipated the report of Commissioner Plunkett will be submitted to the Ontario Government some time this fall. The date or method by which the public in Halton and Peel will become acquainted with the commissioner's findings will not likely be for some time.

Estimating the publication date and any implementations of its proposals on the Ontario government's performance on a like study and legislation for Metro Toronto it can not be expected any major changes will be forthcoming in the immediate future.

Other important factors which will influence Acton's development include the Ontario Government Transit and the Ontario government's highway development program announced this year.

Development of the Government Transit program to be initiated by a rail commuter system through South Halton could have a very profound influence if the project is successful and is expanded to utilize rail lines radiating from Toronto along the CPR right-of-way through Milton and along the CNR right-of-way through Brampton and Acton to Guelph.

The introduction of a commuter service through Acton would unquestionably upset any present predicted growth projection of Acton. The still veiled Ontario Highways Department plans for highway development in the Acton area could

have a profound effect on Acton's rate of growth if the departments plans are anywhere near as extensive as those announced for the southern portion of the county last week.

The key, we feel, to an orderly, planned and vibrant community of Acton rests on two fields.

First, Acton must continue to plan wisely for its anticipated natural growth which may be predicted relatively accurately from its past performance. We must as citizens and members of the local municipal government display those qualities of foresight and progressiveness that have sparked the progress of our 93 years of development.

Our second objective must be to look at and to attempt to influence, for the benefit of Acton, the developments of the senior levels of government, provincial and county, over which we have less direct control. We must recognize that these outside influences will have a very profound effect on Acton, but we can ensure, through an understanding and participation in these wider developments, the future and progress of Acton as a place to live and work in meets the rosy picture envisioned by all Canadians.

It may well be that in the future Acton, as a municipal governing body, may cease to exist. It will without doubt always be a geographically designated area. Such has been the case of

(Continued on Page 8)



CHARLES LEATHERLAND
Chairman

The first step taken by this new commission was to arrange that the town should purchase all of the Switzer farm, which is also known as the Hufnagel farm, with the exception of that portion thereof which is now used by Micro Plastics and one of the town wells. After the land had been acquired, the town engineers did all the preliminary work, to have it ready for speedy development.

This was completed in 1965 and the commission in 1966 is seriously endeavoring to interest industries in locating on this land, which is now owned by the Town of Acton.

Joseph Hurst represents the town on the County Industrial