

Editor stresses progress need

(Continued from Page 6)

sions will be of interest to all citizens.

Acton's location on the periphery of the sphere of influence of the great industrial and residential complex around the western end of Lake Ontario, referred to as the Golden Horseshoe, its close proximity to the west to the Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph and Galt complex and its relationship to the Toronto-Brampton influence on the east, make Acton an attractive location for certain types of industrial enterprise.

The location close to the interprovincial Highway 401 and the international airport at Malton relates very closely to the Toronto-Hamilton region in which is located almost half the population of Ontario and a significant proportion of the total population of Canada.

The chief physical aspect of the region in which Acton is located is the Niagara escarpment which not only provides a setting of great natural beauty, but also the materials and water potential for great industrial activity of certain types.

Earliest records pertaining to the site on which Acton is located show that patents were issued by the crown on January 28, 1829 to Silas Emes and Esia Adams. It was in 1844 that a post office was obtained for the growing community centre around the mill, the earliest established industry. It was in the establishment of the post office that the first postmaster Robert Swan, suggested the name be changed from Danville to Acton after Acton in England.

From 1844 to 1873 the community remained a part of the Township of Esquesing. During this period of consolidation of the settlement, the more permanent homes and local institutions were established. By 1873 there were "over 750 inhabitants whose residences are sufficiently near to form an incorporated village" and by the County of Halton Bylaw No. 75 passed September 2, 1873, the Village of Acton was incorporated. A steady influx of industry in the years of and immediately following World War II produced a wider base of industrial activity.

On January 1, 1950 Acton became a town with a population of 2880. Annexation of land from the Township of Esquesing in 1948, 1955 and 1959 provided new industrial and residential sites and raised the area of the town to 1077 acres.

The 50's were truly a decade of development during which sanitary sewers were installed, the streets were paved; Highway 25 linking Acton to the south was paved; Glenlea and Lakeview subdivisions with a potential of 400 new homes were started; school additions were constructed; and the municipal well on the Davidson farm was put into service with a daily capacity estimated at over 800,000 gallons.

Setbacks were experienced in industrial activity with the closing of the Wool Combing Corporation and Storey Glove and the removal of Baxter Laboratories. When the A. V. Roe Arrow project was cancelled in 1959, over 600 people in Acton were displaced. In spite of these setbacks, the population continued to grow until today it stands at over 4200. Over the past decade this represents a 43% increase or an average annual increase of 4.3%.

It can be assumed this rate of growth will continue and by the time of the 1981 Federal census, the population of Acton could increase to 9000 people with over 3500 wage earners. It is possible to project to this 9,000 figure bearing in mind the great rate of urbanization within the province and particularly within Halton County.

The studies made in connection with the Ontario Highways development program indicated a population of over 800,000 in

(Continued on Page 11)

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