

Leishman park maintained; decision reserved by O.M.B. on other appeals at hearing

In a five-hour-long hearing which filled the council chamber to capacity last Wednesday, two officials from the Ontario Municipal Board heard 14 applications for changes in the town's new zoning bylaw.

Chairman D. Jameson and vice-chairman N. Greenwood upheld only one objection: that of Mill St. ratepayers to maintain parkland opposite their home. A written decision or simply reserved decision on other appeals was reserved for the O.M.B. bylaw for others.

A written judgment from the O.M.B. will be received by the town, and then an amending by-law may be passed by council. Next step: another O.M.B. hearing.

Although decisions were reserved, the questioning and officials' subsequent remarks indicated the direction decision would take. Some changes have already been approved by council; they will be approved by other officials.

Extra seats were carried into the council chambers to accommodate the unusually large group of about 40 spectators and interested parties. The hearing began at 11 a.m., adjourned for an hour, and continued until nearly 5 p.m.

O.M.B. chairman was D. Jameson, and the vice-chairman N. Greenwood.

Bruce Payne appeared as solicitor for the town, assisted by Paul Smith, both of the firm of Payne, Smith and Smith.

Charles Leatherland appeared on behalf of various Acton ratepayers, Douglas Lattimer for the Seynuck estate and T. Holden for Dills Printing and Publishing.

Project Planning Associates Ltd. have acted as planning consultants to the town since 1963 and their representatives present were Martin Dake, head of the municipal planning department, and Dennis Flood.

Jack McGeachle appeared as a witness for the town of Acton.

Formal objections were filed by a group of Mill St. homeowners anxious to maintain a strip of parkland opposite their homes; Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. with four zoning categories on one piece of its property;

Trinity United Church, concerned about parking requirements when a Christian Education building is built;

E. Marks and Roy Goodwin, Mill St. merchants who wished to be zoned commercial;

Mrs. Edith McEachern, Mrs. Ben Rachlin, Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Rogers who wished to be zoned commercial;

John Goy, Jack Ridley and James McGladroy, Eastern Ave., who wished to be zoned commercial;

Tom Branciewicz who objected to property being zoned O2 on Elizabeth Dr., backing on the lake;

A.P. Green Co. who objected to being zoned M1 and M2 (industrial) with the line bisecting the plant;

Post mortem reveals death due to accident

Acton had a fatal accident in 1967 - although it wasn't officially reported to the police until 1968.

Acton O. P. P. detachment learned Tuesday that a post-mortem following the death of Janet Wilds of Galt showed she had died due to injuries in a car accident.

Mrs. Wilds was a passenger in the car of her son-in-law,

Charles Leatherland Q.C., counsel for most of the objectors, took the stand himself to protest the rezoning of Mill and Arthur Sts. from R2 to R1 (the highest residential category).

Project Planning Associates Ltd.'s concept of "conservation" zoning was reviewed several times during the hearing as owners of private property objected to the restriction on their property.

The Seynuck estate, Dills Printing and Publishing and Tom Branciewicz all own land adjoining the school creek or Fairy Lake.

Mr. Dake explained the original intention was to maintain the conservation of park zoning all along the creek but this had been changed by the planning board when it was thought to be impractical. Later the Community Planning Branch reverted to part of their original suggestions.

The zoning was to protect the flow of the creek and allow the creek bed to centre an "open space" system to penetrate as much of the community as possible. He visualized footpaths along the creek where there was not room for play areas. He said a footpath could be created, perhaps from the library right through to the Seynuck property.

Chairman Jameson asked what plans council had for use and acquisition of the land in question.

He said if there is no intention of purchasing the land and putting it to some use, and if it is suitable land for building, its use should not be restricted.

The first objection, voiced by Charles Leatherland on behalf of John McHugh and neighbors, Mill St., was at having a public park in an R1 zone. All other parks are zoned O1.

The parkland in question is a strip 50 feet deep and 580 feet

Fire destroys home, contents last night



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS COULD DO NOTHING TO SAVE THIS NEW CEMENT BLOCK HOUSE ON 30 SIDEROAD, JUST NORTH OF THE GUELPH LINE

Fire completely destroyed the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Cook, R.R. 1, Rockwood, near Edon Mills last night (Tuesday) while the young couple was away in Toronto.

Neighbors turned in the alarm when they saw flames inside the cement block structure.

Acton Fire Brigade responded quickly but by the time they arrived at the

home on No. 30 sideroad just off the Guelph Line the fire was beyond control. Firefighters could only stand by as the structure and contents burned fiercely.

It was believed a cat was the only occupant of the house.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cook and their infant daughter were away - believed in Toronto - when the fire

broke out and had not been contacted by the time the house was a complete loss. They built the house this summer, moving to the Edon Mills area from Toronto.

Paul Froehlich, a neighbor from immediately across 30 sideroad phoned in the alarm when his son said he saw fire in the Cook home.

Mr. Froehlich's daughter,

Lynn, an Acton high school student, said the fire looked like it could be controlled when she first saw it.

However, it suddenly erupted into intense flame, the roof collapsed and the inside became a roaring inferno. There wasn't time to take anything from the house.

Another neighbor, Harry Koelmel arrived on the

scene early but he could do nothing to stem the blaze - the described a sudden eruption of flames after the fire had been contained inside.

The family pet - a dog - was rescued from a trailer parked in the rear of the house.

Neighbors believe the fire started in the furnace.

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Reeve predicts regional govt. by 1970 at inaugural meeting Esquensing council

"I doubt if there will be many more inaugural meetings of Esquensing council," said newly elected township reeve George Currie in his inaugural address to Esquensing council at their day-time meeting Monday.

Reeve Currie "hazarded a guess" that regional government would be in this area by 1970. "If so, there'll only be one more inaugural meeting in the township," he predicted. "It's coming and it may be here faster than we expected."

Mr. Currie, who was reeve of the township last in 1959, reminded council, who subscribed to the oath of office in a body, that as part of the government they were beginning the second century. He advocated looking back at the achievements of the past 100 years so the next 100 years could be faced confidently.

Reviewing council's work in 1967, he singled out the road needs study for special mention. He asked for the full co-operation

of all on council so matters could be expedited as quickly and efficiently as possible.

"I don't mean for you to agree with me all the time," explained the reeve. "If you do we're not going to get good government."

Starting with Deputy-Reeve Tom Hill, serving his first term in the deputy-reeve's chair each member of council and township staff said a few words to mark the inaugural. The deputy-reeve said he'd go along with the reeve's prediction about regional government in 1970. "You can't stop it... it's progress."

Mr. Hill referred to his new experience on county council as a big jump. "County business is big business," he emphasized.

Councillor Bob Lawson affirmed his support of the reeve in 1968. He said he was concerned with thoughts about full agreement on every topic. "I'll uphold my end," he said. "I'll offer suggestions which I consider thought provoking to render dis-

ussion. I'd be remiss if I didn't say what I considered best for all."

Councillor C.F. (Pat) Patterson said he intended to work purposefully with the group. "The reeve has my every support."

Wilfred Leslie told the meeting he was pleased to be back on council. He assured the reeve of his support. "Esquensing needs roads," he stated. "It's the people's big need." He advocated making it the main aim for 1968.

Clerk K. C. Lindsay predicted there'll be blood on the moon this year. There are a number of controversial things coming up and you'll all get down and scratch.

The veteran township clerk told the meeting he hoped to partially retire some time this year. He said his assistant Mr. French was getting to the position where he can handle things.

Assistant clerk Del French, assessor Art Baston and his two assistants Stephen Saxo and Geoff

Record low temperatures for Jan. 8

Denny also spoke briefly as well as Bud Snow.

In a resume the reeve outlined steps already taken by the provincial government including taking over the complete administration of justice, the jail, increase of grants for the Children's Aid and a recommendation that the Pool and Halton County Boards of Health unite.

The reeve suggested those were actions suggesting regional government was imminent.

Blinded by lights car goes off road

Sunday morning, January 7 at 1:50 a.m. a car owned by Robert Vlotstra, R. R. 3, Erin, ran off the road on Main St. while travelling north. The driver claimed a southbound car was in the centre of the road with high beams, he was blinded and went off the road. The other driver did not stop.

Burning of green draws hundreds

A "happening" that turned into an Acton tradition - the yearly Twelfth Night Burning of the Green - brought hundreds of spectators to Churchill Rd. S. Saturday evening. Hats and shoulders crowned with snow in a driving storm, they ringed the huge bonfire in a picturesque scene all in shades of white, grey and flame.

Tyler Transport truck dispensed coffee and doughnuts, and some children, sharp from experience of past years, spent their whole time in the lineup to be sure of getting some.

There were 500 doughnuts and 400 cups of coffee which disappeared just about as fast as the snow on the blazing trees. Assisting with the Chamber of Commerce's outdoor treat were Mr. and Mrs. Ted Tyler Jr., Telford Reid and Orval Chapman.

Mayor Les Duby (when he finally found a parking space in the jam) lit the bonfire which by then was liberally dosed with gasoline.

As the crowd began arriving by car and foot - many towing trees - they found the gates to the field north of the dump locked. Youngsters hopped the fence as a hasty search for a key began. After an emergency run in the cruiser to locate a key, a firefighter, sitting right out on the road in the fire truck, discovered he had one all along, but thought it was for the other dump gate.

Charles Heard fills vacancy on p.s. board

Charles Heard, a former public school board trustee, will fill the vacant seat on the board for its final year.

The vacancy was caused by Bill Hanson's resignation.

Board members decided to list the names of former trustees, draw them from a hat and contact them in order. The third man asked agreed to return, bringing experience to the group for its last term before the regional board of education takes over.

Galt man killed

A young Galt man was killed and a London man seriously injured early Tuesday morning, in an unusual mishap on Highway 401 near Milton.

Dead is 21-year-old Douglas Lawrence Anderson of 86 Cedar St., Galt, an employee of the service centre on Highway 401 near Preston. He was killed as he attempted to assist a stranded motorist.

Few incidents on O.P.P. book

Acton O.P.P. report that from December 31, to January 6, the Acton detachment registered 637 miles travelled during 200 duty hours.

Traffic activities included two motor vehicle accidents involving property damage only.

One resulted in a hit and run accident where the driver responsible fled the scene presumably to escape civil liability. There was one charge laid under the Highway Traffic Act of stopping at the wrong place at an intersection. Ten warnings for less serious offences were issued to motorists.

One domestic assault was investigated, this being the only complaint of a serious nature. There was no court this week due to New Year's Day falling on the scheduled court day.

Five-year-old struck by car

On Sunday, January 7 at 2 p.m. a youngster was struck by a car on Church St.

Art Cooper, Roseford Terrace, was driving west on Church St. when five-year-old Gary Meecham ran out in front of his car, police said. The lad suffered a bruised leg.

The road was covered with snow and slippery at the time. Acton O.P.P. investigated.



INAUGURAL MEETING of Esquensing township council was held Monday morning and afternoon when members took the oath of office. Seated centre is new reeve George Currie, flanked by the new deputy-reeve Tom Hill, left, and clerk K. C. Lindsay, right. Back, left to right, assistant clerk Del French, Councillors Wilfred Leslie, Robert (Bob) Lawson and C. F. (Pat) Patterson. (Staff Photo)

Starts 15th year

Duncan Moffat is installed as last h.s. board chairman

The last year for the Acton district high school board began with the traditional inaugural ceremonies Monday evening in the high school staff room.

Board secretary-treasurer Fred Salt for the first (and last) time administered the oath of office, gave the invocation and declared them duly installed.

There is no change in the board personnel for its final year. Tom Watson was again appointed the public school board's council representative; Ray Arctic as council's representative; Kerwin McPhail as Esquensing representative and Duncan Moffat as Nantagawaya representative.

Chester Anderson is beginning his second year of a two year term as a council appointee.

Possible changes ahead, under the new regional board of education, seldom left the members' thoughts as they considered the agenda of the meeting which lasted until nearly midnight.

Duncan Moffat, who is beginning his 15th year on the board, was unanimously named chairman for the final year of its existence. "It is a pleasure and honor to be chairman for the last year," he said. "With your cooperation I shall do so to the

best of my ability." This is the first time Mr. Moffat has been chairman; he previously refused the honor when nominated.

Tom Watson, last year's chairman, is vice chairman.

On the committees, with the first named as chairman, are Teacher-management, Tom Watson, Ray Arctic, Pinesco, Chester Anderson, Tom Watson, Transportation, Kerwin McPhail, Chester Anderson, Property, Ray Arctic, Kerwin McPhail.

To start the year, the board made routine motions covering the borrowing bylaw, rebrink-

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