

Mall idea runs into opposition

News that the Chamber of Commerce and council will try to implement the proposed mall along the Mill St. business section between John and Main Sts. wasn't long in drawing reaction. Businessmen opposed to the idea immediately drew up a counter petition. They apparently got more signatures on the document opposing the idea than the Chamber of Commerce had supporting it. Chamber officials were indignant at first. They agreed however, that although preliminary plans were discussed for the benefit of all concerned at meetings open to all there should be another meeting to fully discuss plans for the mall as well as make public the solutions they had in mind. The mall meeting will take place this Thursday night, May 23, at 7:30 p.m., under the auspices of the Chamber. Both pros and cons will be heard. In the event cons outnumber the pros, the Chamber of Commerce reluctantly intends to scrap the proposal. In the meantime a letter has been sent to all interested parties and chamber members outlining the proposal. Following is the text of the letter:

Acton, Ontario.

To Chamber Members and Other Interested Parties: Regarding the proposed temporary Mall.

It is unfortunate that a controversy has developed in regard to the proposed Mall before all facts and plans were known and considered.

The idea was to transform Mill Street, between John and Main Street into a walking mall with live flower beds, trees and bushes, benches and tables for a two week period. We hoped for sidewalk cafes and, in fact, designed part of the mall for this specific purpose.

We have arranged for a bandstand which would have a background of live trees and shrubs where the Acton Citizens' Band would give a concert. Also, we hoped to have the Golden Age Club Rhythm Band perform. Certainly we would have several dances. We saw a moccasin dance by Project Action, etc. We were also promised two older cars for a psychedelic painting competition and if anyone can think of more fun than a group of youngsters letting their fantasy run wild with watercolours and a car, they have a lively imagination indeed.

We also hoped to have local artists do some sidewalk painting. We planned to ask local service clubs to contribute to our objective of keeping the Mall alive with people. In short, our intention is to have the total community involved.

We expected the merchants to run special sales, do special decorating on an individual basis, and perhaps extend their business hours.

It has been stated that no one would oppose the Mall if we have sufficient parking. We had planned parking on Willow and John with parking attendants working during peak hours. This is a very valid objection since we would be hard pressed to make up for all spaces lost, but we believe that proper planning of events and merchandising would make the Mall so attractive that some parking inconvenience would be overcome.

The Mall would have meant an enormous amount of work for many people. A few have already put many hours into the project. It also would have meant total involvement in a community project and a lot of fun.

We think everyone would have profited. Certainly good will and community betterment plus a desire to gather facts was what motivated the people who expected to do the work, particularly Councillor Ted Tyler's interest is purely one of betterment for the town as a whole.

We feel we have received co-operation in full measure from the Town Council and provincial agencies. We feel the Free Press have co-operated and would have given us lots of publicity if we would have created the Mall.

The Chamber of Commerce has as one of its goals to assist governments at all levels and also to help its community to attain the highest possible standards in all respects.

The Mall could have been an important experiment from which the Council, the Businessmen, and the individual citizens could have obtained valuable data.

Everyone is entitled to his opinion and that is all anyone can express at this stage since in the absence of experiment, no facts are available.

Since at this point, it seems we have more people against the Mall experiment than we have for it, we reluctantly prepare to rescind the entire plan.

What is your opinion? Won't you please write to say if you are for or against this two-week Mall Experiment?

Write to:
THE ACTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P. O. Box 899,
Acton, Ontario.

Churchill, Acton United churches to amalgamate

The congregations of Trinity United Church, Acton, and Churchill United Church will be amalgamated effective June 30.

A letter to this effect, received by the recording stewards of both congregations from Halton Presbytery, was read during the morning service at each church Sunday morning.

The present board members of both churches will form the board of the new congregation and it is hoped that members and adherents of both congregations will

form the body of the new congregation.

At Trinity, in the absence of George Bowman, the recording secretary, the letter was read by Orwell Johnston, the clerk of session.

In the past few years, the minister of the Acton church has taken a second service each Sunday morning at Churchill. The Churchill congregation paid a set amount per year.

Before that, the Churchill congregation shared a minister with Ballinacree.

Harley knocks railway's methods

Dr. Harry Harley, Halton M.P. told the Free Press this week he strongly disapproved of the methods used by Canadian National Railways to "class" stations.

He referred to cases like Acton's where services were cut or taken away entirely so people and plants had to make other arrangements, whether or not they were suitable. Then the railway advertises that no one is using nonexistent services.

"They should get facts and figures first, then make the de-

cision," he said.

Referring to the Acton station which was very profitable when full services were available, Dr. Harley recognized the railway's system at work here.

The C.N. has applied for a hearing to close the Acton station but no date has been set yet. Meanwhile a committee of three is digging up facts and figures to present Acton's case when the hearing is held.

Only station agent Charlie Perry is left in the station and he

has no duties to perform. At first the telephone was taken out along with books and ledgers but it was returned weeks later.

Other communities where stations have been closed or attempts made to close them, have warned about the system. It leaves no work for those left in charge, a weapon for the prosecutor when the question, "How much business are you doing there?" is asked.

The C.N. proposes to run the entire Acton operation from a master agency in Guelph.



THERE'S NO DOUBT in this youngster's mind, even though he is too young to cast a ballot. Young Brian McWilliams was one of many supporting his father P. K. McWilliams at the P.C. nomination meeting in Oakville Thursday night. McWilliams and his son pose in front of a John Roberts picture and a large balloon with a McWilliams sticker on it. (Staff Photo)

Tories jam Oakville auditorium

Elect Peter McWilliams standard bearer

Peter K. McWilliams, who resigned as crown attorney, was declared the Progressive Conservative candidate for federal representative of Halton County, after a single ballot last Thursday night.

His victory in the two-man contest with Oakville's reeve, Allan Day, marks his first venture into politics.

It was standing room only for late-comers, as an estimated 850 people jammed Blacklock High School auditorium in Oakville, for the first Conservative nomination meeting in the new federal riding of Halton. Erin Township and Village in Wellington County are included, with the exclusion of Burlington and Nassagaweya.

Party chairman Doug Latimer of Georgetown, explained that the selection of delegates was based on the Conservative vote in the 1965 election, one delegate for every 20 votes. He listed the breakdown of the 531 delegates as follows: Oakville 297, Milton 35, Georgetown 59, Esqueping

42, Acton 29, Erin Village 12, Erin Township 27, all former presidents, members of the legislature and former candidates 30.

The McWilliams' victory was evident even before the vote was cast. Throughout the crowd, not a single flag waved for Day, amid hundreds of McWilliams' hats, buttons, balloons and placards.

Flanked by two giant banners bearing the portrait of leader Robert Stanfield, and the slogan "The Man with the Winning Way" both candidates took swings at Trudeau and the Liberals.

Said Day, "We have been told that Mr. Stanfield looks like a mortician. Well, what else do you call someone who is going to bury the present government in Ottawa." He criticized the recent Liberal hiring of 40,000 more civil servants after the Glasgow Report had recommended a cut-back.

Mr. McWilliams commented, "It is essential that you have a leader who will stand for what

is right and just rather than what is popular."

He added, "I seek this nomination for the same reason as you have gathered here tonight. I am concerned about our country. I think it is time the Voter was told the truth. Canada is already in the grip of depression."

He blamed the country's financial situation on "extravagant government policy." "I will allow the tax payer to spend a greater portion of the dollar he earns himself, by himself."

With the announcement of the McWilliams' election, a chant of "Go Go, McWilliams" broke out and many of the audience stood up with loud applause. It was the only moment of marked enthusiasm throughout the meeting.

In his victory speech Mr. McWilliams commented "This nomination meeting is a testimony to responsible government. It has not been a great meeting but it is a contrast to the 'Mobocracy' of our Liberal opposition. We can do without that."

"We should reform our ranks, organize this riding - and win this election. I want to meet everyone of you in the next month," he added.

Mr. Day thanked his supporters and called for a total shift over to McWilliams.

Then the meeting ended and Mr. McWilliams left the stage to join family, friends, and newsmen in the "zone" of the hall. Mr. Day remained on the stage sipping a coke, along with a few party officials.

Two members of the provincial legislature were present, John Fooka, M.P.P. for Wellington-Dufferin, and Jim Snow M.P.P. for Halton East. Each addressed the audience during the half hour preceding the announcement of the candidates.

Mr. Fooka reminded the crowd that it was the first time Erin was to be included in the area. "We've been pushed around a bit in Erin. Some had misgivings about this change, but I think I can say Erin will do its share (Continued on Page 3)

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Third Year.—No. 47.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1968

Fourteen Pages.—Ten Cents.



Janet Rognvaldson will receive B.A.

Janet Rognvaldson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rognvaldson, receives her Bachelor of Arts degree at Convocation at the University of Guelph on Thursday, May 23. She attend Acton district high school. She is presently employed in the Prudential Insurance Company in Toronto.

No movies

Because there is no advertising allowed, movies will not be shown in the community centre this season.

Arena manager Harold Townsley told the Parks and Recreation committee that movie houses have been proceeding showing of films outside their premises. Distributors have been instructed to release films only with the provision that they are not advertised.

Mr. Townsley felt a movie program would have a hard time breaking even without advertising.

Silvercreek collision

Three die in fiery crash

North Halton's first triple fatality of the year claimed the lives of three Orton, Fergus and Elora men Saturday night, when a car and a pick-up truck collided almost head-on at Silvercreek on Highway 7.

One of the men died in the flaming wreckage of his car, which burst into fire on collision with the truck. Although area residents attempted to free the

man, the flames thwarted their efforts.

Dead is Joseph Francis Maloney, 44, of R.R. 3, Orton, believed to be the driver of the 1962 Mercury pick-up truck; Milford W. Morden, 30, of Fergus, believed to be the driver of the 1962 Chevrolet car, and John R. Hunter, 37, Elora, a passenger in the Morden vehicle. Georgetown Fire Department

was called to extinguish the fire. Both vehicles were total wrecks. Constable James Redpath of Milton O.P.P., the investigating officer, said further details of the accident could not be released until the investigation is completed.

The vehicles collided on Highway 7 just 200 feet south of the Seventh Line Esqueping, at the top of the Silvercreek hill.

Mr. Morden, in his 31st year, was the son of Mrs. Albert Roxborough, Elora; brother of Chester and Leslie of Fergus; Albert, Kitchener; Ivan, Alma; Sanford, Rockwood; Barbara and Donna of Fergus; Joseph, James and Vaughan at home.

Mr. Hunter, in his 38th year, was the son of Mrs. William Hunter, husband of Shirley Thompson Hunter, father of Ronald, Kevin, and Debbie, brother of Mrs. Albert Roxborough of Elora; Mrs. D. Thompson, Mrs. Jack Floyd, Guelph; William of Edmonton and Leonard of Windsor.

Funeral service for both men was Tuesday at Elora.

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Candidates stump Acton

Halton M.P. Dr. Harry Harley was in town with new Liberal candidate Rud Whiting last Thursday introducing him to local Liberals and showing him around.

Mr. Whiting was the second candidate to hit the election trail locally. Murray Kornighan, the N.D.P. standard bearer, was doing a personal door-to-door campaign Wednesday in Acton.

They'll be joined by the Conservative candidate, Peter K. McWilliams, who was nominated by the party last Thursday evening in a jam-packed meeting at Oakville.

Clothing stolen

Theft of clothing, a clock and a suitcase from a parked car behind the Dominion Hotel was reported to Acton O.P.P. by Jeff Denny, R.R. 2, Acton. The theft occurred Wednesday of last week and loss was estimated at \$35.



THREE MEN had their lives snuffed out east of the Silvercreek bend on No. 7 highway Saturday night as these two vehicles collided almost head-on. One of the men died in the flaming wreckage of the car, top, which burst into fire with the impact. Another, an Orton man, perished in the truck, below. (Photos by E. Taylor)