



Mayor foresees Acton town of 10,000

The Free Press asked Mayor Les Duby to look into his crystal ball and come up with a few predictions on the future of Acton. Ready for another two year term which will likely end up in some form of regional government, the mayor dipped into his fund of knowledge about regional development and municipal affairs during the interview to construct a picture of how he envisioned the work of council and the direction the town will take over the term.

"I'm still very much convinced Acton will not grow over the 10,000 population mark," Mayor Les Duby predicted to The Free Press. He saw a town of about 7,500 in the near

future with all the services, but neither the noise and confusion of a large city.

Continued residential expansion will steadily increase the population but the town has still got land within its borders for development before any annexation of adjoining township land is attempted.

"It makes sense that the Seynuck, Vyse and part of the Brown farm properties within the town be developed first," he explained. "Some expansion may be better left over until we have a broader assessment base."

Which way will the town grow? "East and north," he predicted.

Industrially, Acton is better off than most towns but we could do with three or four small industries which employ female help the mayor answered a query. There are many women looking for work in Acton but there's nothing here for them.

"I'm not unduly concerned about the industrial park sitting there," he said. "We have several enquiries each year from companies wanting to locate there but none have been acceptable." The mayor said the town can afford to be selective about the industry which locates here and must think about what can be handled. Industries with objectionable odors and other

unacceptable features have been given no encouragement.

"Now there's a road into the industrial park I'm almost certain two or three light industries will locate there in the near future," predicted Mr. Duby.

Although regional government is in the offing there will be no change in council's operations. Council will continue to do the same as in the past so as to keep in the best condition when the changeover comes.

"It will be at least two years before we have regional government here and it will be a two county deal Halton and Peel," the mayor thought. In his

capacity as head of the Central Ontario Regional Development Council (C.O.R.D.C.) which has been designated as advisers to regional government by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Duby has seen the entire plan develop from the "inside" as it were.

C.O.R.D.C. is the last source for the "grass roots" to make their views known, the mayor declared. An Acton brief is among those considered and some strong recommendations have been accepted from it. Among them is a plea for GO transit on the C.N.R. line from Toronto to Kitchener.

The mayor said he was



particularly pleased with the cross-section of community interest on council this year. He foresaw no difficulties in appointing committee chairmen because of the varied interests.

There will be a very strong desire to control the mill rate but work not done this year because of chopping could complicate things. "The backlog of work will probably mean the mill rate will go up," the mayor said.

Mayor Duby saw no major problems facing the town this year. The addition to the water pollution control plant should be finished in 1969 and in use by 1970. Some street digging necessary for the plant has been postponed until spring so it will have a minimal effect on traffic. For the first time in seven years, the mayor hopes council will operate on a functional procedural-by-law so council can enjoy shorter meetings and fewer meetings but get more business done. "This way councillors must come prepared and everyone gets a chance to speak on the issues."

The town hopes to embark on a program of new sidewalks based on priority and also some road work. The new subdivision agreement makes it mandatory for developers to construct sidewalks and roads which will relieve older taxpayers of the necessity of helping to pay for new services.

Mayor Duby said that with the completion of dredging at Fairy Lake in 1969 he can foresee serious consideration must be given to allocate funds for cleaning up operations although it is difficult to gauge the extent of work now.

The mayor hopes to use the recent incident at the Main St. North railway crossing as a lever to convince Department of Transport officials of the need for a railway underpass. The situation where a large tank stuck on the tracks indicates the serious nature of the crossing.

Mr. Duby said perhaps the town could work in conjunction with the Department of Highways and the drainage project on Tyler Avenue to improve the approach into the west end of town. Plans, of course, would have to take into consideration Department plans for No. 7 highway.

In conclusion the mayor said the main thing for council over the next two years was to understand local problems, live with them and deal with them to obtain the best results.

Wassail bowl

During Christmas week, police report one liquor seizure and one minor consuming under age. These incidents were down from the week before.

C of C head looks into crystal ball

What's in the future for Acton? The question was also asked this week of Chamber of Commerce president Paul Nielsen. Relaxing after the Christmas rush in his busy Mill St. store, he visualizes 10 changes in store for the town in '69.

And here they are:
The increase in population will be 10 per cent. (The average over the past 20 years has only been two per cent.)

Several new industries will locate here in the next year.

As well, present industries will expand.

An urban renewal program for the core of the town will be planned.

The council will be under pressure from developers to allow unwise growth.

Fairy Lake will emerge as the focus of recreational activities.

Adult education will be an important feature of community life and will centre around the resource centres at the schools rather than our library.

The students and teachers at the high school will participate far more in community activities than before, and merchants and industries will play a different and more active role in education.

For shoppers, Mr. Nielsen predicts that a major chain will open an outlet in Acton.

And for those feeling the strain of Christmas rush, Mr. Nielsen predicts a health spa will be started in town!

Sleet, snow plug roads

Hours of overtime and weekend work were logged by the weary town work crews over the weekend.

And still many complaints were phoned in about the condition of the roads following the blowy, sleety two-day storm.

Snow and ice blanketed the town, plugging roads and driveways. Plows and sanders were out in full force here and throughout the district. As well as the weather and complainers, town men were faced with the infuriating problem of cars left on the streets impeding the plows.

Police contacted as many owners as possible. Only two cars out of a possible many, many more were towed away.

Police say they will be strictly enforcing the "no overnight parking" regulations.

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Fourth Year—No. 27

ACTON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1968

Ten Pages—Ten Cents

Council opposes hike in Bell rate

Acton Council accepted the recommendation of No. 1 committee and passed a resolution opposing the increase in rates proposed by the Bell Canada telephone system. Copies of the resolution will be sent to the Ontario Municipal Association, the Mayors' and Reeves' Association and the federal M. P. for Halton, Rud Whitting.

Reeve Hinton included Mr. Whitting in with the municipal associations because he said he felt the Halton M.P. was showing undue enthusiasm over the C.N.R. and should be giving some time to the Bell Telephone company.

Bell Canada has applied to the Canadian Transport Commission for approval of higher telephone rates and charges to take effect March 1, 1969. Individual residence service in Acton would increase from \$4.15 to \$4.70 per month. Business service would go up from \$8 to \$10 for an individual line and other charges rise proportionately.

Discussion later in the meeting revealed, however, that the retiring reeve was a strong advocate of stopping GO trains here. He asked that council give the issue of a GO line between Toronto and Guelph priority in next year's business.

Mayor Duby said the Central Ontario Regional Development Council (C.O.R.D.C.) had prepared a brief exerting pressure for GO trains along the present CNR line.

The reeve said he was familiar with the C.O.R.D.C. program but that the Minister was more concerned with the M.T.A.R.T.S. study. "I think the county and this council should take a strong stand on transportation," he argued.

The mayor, replying to Mr. Hinton, said the C.O.R.D.C. which represented 34 municipalities had much more chance of success with the powers that be than individual representations to the government.

Both the mayor and reeve reviewed their meeting with the

Minister of Municipal Affairs, D'Arcy McKeough, along with other municipal officials from Halton and Peel. They reiterated the strong hints that came out of the meeting concerning the imminence of regional government for Halton and Peel counties.

The Minister told Halton and

Peel representatives that the government wanted a buffer municipality to separate the rapidly growing metro Toronto and Hamilton areas. He will likely unveil his proposal to Peel County Council at a meeting January 22. Halton mayors, Reeves and deputy-Reeves are invited as spectators.

Touch of nostalgia at final meeting

There was a note of sadness in the final meeting of Acton council Monday night. Differences were forgotten as councillors exchanged compliments with those who will be replaced on council.

Councillor Charlie Perry expressed his enjoyment of the last two years citing the experience as a gainful one. He predicted a tough year ahead for

the new council. Mr. Perry did not run for office because of job uncertainties.

Councillor Bill Williams, nosed out in the election, said he also enjoyed the last four years. "It was one great debate," and he had made a few enemies but acquired some friends. He, along with Mr. Perry wished the new council success.

Councillor Bob Drinkwater, defeated in his bid for the mayor's chair, said service on council was a privilege everyone should try. He enjoyed the experience and gained some valuable knowledge.

Mr. Drinkwater thanked the press for their coverage but felt he couldn't be as considerate as Mr. Hinton was at a previous meeting since it was his impression that they were based on some things.

Last to speak was Reeve Hinton, defeated in his bid for the office of mayor. Mr. Hinton expressed his appreciation of the work and said he always had the best interests of the town at heart. "It's my town, our town," he told council and he wished to see Acton "go forward."

The reeve and Councillors Drinkwater and Perry will not entirely sever their connections with municipal work since Mr. Hinton was appointed to serve on the Development Commission and Councillors Drinkwater and Perry were appointed to Planning Board.

Silent night

Councillors were reminded 'twas the season to be merry when members of the Acton Citizens' Band struck up some stirring seasonal music outside the council chambers during some serious discussion on appointments last week.

Smiles creased faces deep in thought, knitted brows relaxed and the tension disappeared when Mayor Les Duby, followed by several councillors, went outside obviously pleased to thank the band for their thoughtfulness but asked them politely to blow their horns somewhere else.

Wearing a grin in place of a poised baton, Bandmaster George Elliott replied fittingly and the group dispensed 'joy to the world' elsewhere.

Council toas still tapped in time as the carol music faded in the night.



FIFTIETH WEDDING anniversary was observed on Boxing Day by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mainprize, John St. They were married at Wyeale December 26, 1918, and came to Acton in 1920. Mr. Mainprize's barber shop was at the corner of John and Mill for 30 years, and he retired seven years ago. (Staff Photo)

No tree burning

The traditional Twelfth Night Christmas Tree burning will not be held this year because of restrictive anti-pollution laws.

Acton Council discussed the matter at the last meeting of the year on Monday before Christmas and decided the town must set the example by complying with new air pollution control laws. Christmas trees will be picked up on Friday, January 3, however, in the usual manner.

Reeve Hinton said the town had no alternative but to comply with the law. "There's a good reason for it," he declared. "What kind of an attitude can we expect from industries and others if the town ignores it?"

Mayor Les Duby agreed with the reeve. He asserted there was no doubt practices like tree burning did pollute the air. Although no evidence of pollution might be evident at the site, a cloud of smoke or a fog a few miles away could very well be traced to the burning.

The Twelfth Night tree burning ceremony was fast becoming a traditional part of the holiday season, attracting hundreds of Acton people to the dump site for the huge bonfire and refreshments provided by the Chamber of Commerce, who ran the event in conjunction with the town.

One accident mars holiday

The holiday season was only marred by one accident and a minor one at that—in Acton.

The only accident reported to the police during the past two weeks occurred last Friday on Mill St.

A car, owned by Archie Papillon, Main St. S., was parked in front of the Bank of Nova Scotia, when it slipped into reverse and moved across the street striking a parked car owned by John Vlietstra, R.R. 3, Acton.

There was no damage to the Papillon car but the Vlietstra car received \$90 damage.



enjoyed the snow tobogganing, skiing and sleigh riding. Snowmobiles were out in force, many of them Christmas gifts. Some brought owners to work from the country where snow plows were slower



FIRST LARGE snowfall of the winter fell on Acton and district Friday and Saturday, clogging roads and sidewalks and creating many hours of overtime for town employees. Fortunately the



district was spared the deluge of freezing rain which paralyzed districts to the south, cutting off electricity and heat and making driving hazardous. Town employees kept roads in Acton open all



through the heavy snow while citizens dug themselves out Saturday and Sunday. Snow plows were hampered in their work by cars parked along streets. Two were towed away. Meanwhile children