

**177 YEARS OLD**

## Halton once had regional gov't. in Gore District with Wentworth

Is Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough's proposal for regionalization of government in Halton and Peel really new? Or is it just reverting to a form of district government that was popular in Ontario 177 years ago?

Historical records of Halton indicate the county was once a part of a regional government embracing two counties—almost two centuries ago. It was Halton and Wentworth in those days, but it was two-county government nevertheless.

Canada was "discovered" in 1534 by Jacques Cartier and the discovery was followed by 200 years of slow growth and turmoil. Once the French had given up the new frontier to the victorious British forces, the settlers began flocking to the new land. Among them were 10,000 United Empire Loyalists who moved here from what is now U.S.A., beginning in 1782.

In 1791 Canada was divided into two pieces—Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec). They were reunited in 1841. It was 1867 before the British North America Act established Canada as a Dominion.

Upper Canada (Mainly what is now Southern Ontario) was divided into four "districts" in 1778 by Lord Dorchester. But it was Canada's first lieutenant-governor, John Graves Simcoe, who established the first regional government in this area in 1792. Simcoe called the four districts Eastern, Midland, Home and Western—and Halton County was part of the Home District.

Some time after that the districts were further divided and what is now Halton County ended up in a merger with Wentworth County in an area called the Gore District. Halton at that time included the townships of Beverley, Dumfries, Esqueping, East and West Flamboro,

Nassagaweya, Nelson and Trafalgar. Wentworth contained Ancaster, Barton, Binbrook, Brantford, Glanford, Onondago, Tuscarora and Saltfleet Townships.

The first settlers in what is now Halton were known to have come around 1783, but the county was not too populous in the days of the Gore District's "regional government"—in fact historians say many of the previously named townships had been roughly surveyed and marked out on maps but had no white inhabitants. More settlers arrived in the period between 1810 and 1820 to build mills and town sites.

Early population figures are difficult to find, but it is known that by the year 1817, Halton contained 6,684 people.

When the first Halton County Council was formed in 1853 there were no municipalities large enough to be called villages or towns. The county municipalities were listed only as the four large townships—Esqueping, Nassagaweya, Nelson and Trafalgar. The towns of Milton and Oakville were added in 1857, the village of Georgetown in 1865, and the villages of Burlington and Acton in 1874.

Today's regional government proposal, a merger of the entire counties of Halton and Peel into a 900 square mile "super metro" area, is a modern form of regionalization. Today the province wants a buffer strip to keep Toronto and Hamilton from spreading toward one another. They want a large area operating with local municipal councils to preserve area autonomy, and a big regional council to oversee the works of the giant new region.

It's a far cry from 1792 when the whole southern part of the province was "regionalized" into four districts, then subdivided into smaller districts like the Gore, and finally boiled down to one-county government.

## What Georgetown thinks about regional government

Georgetown's reaction to the Municipal Affairs Minister's plans for Halton and Peel are reflected in last week's issue of the Georgetown Herald. With the possibility of Acton, Georgetown and Esqueping being united, their opinions are relevant here.

"We know it's coming, but I'm personally not satisfied with the areas as they have been proposed," Georgetown Mayor Wheldon Emmerson said.

He especially does not agree with Area 4 which lumps Georgetown with Acton and a large slice of Esqueping Township. The proposed plan would give this area one member on a 17 or 21 member board.

"It appears the southern boundary of Area 4 is the Ashgrove Sideroad," said Mayor Emmerson. "We're (Georgetown) almost down that far now. I'd much prefer our area be enlarged by extending this boundary southwards to the Base Line or the 401 and giving us more representation on the regional council."

Mayor Emmerson said he feels more study should be given all Area boundaries.

"I hope we will prepare a brief and present it to Mr. McKeough stating our (Georgetown council) views," he said.

He said some question in his mind followed the Minister's announcement had to do with the structure and degree of authority of the lower tier government; why Orangeville had been included in the region; and how Queen's Park can arrive at a regional plan without announcing the result of discussions with municipalities on the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Transportation Study.

And the Georgetown paper's editorial comments: "It was a shock to learn that a complete new system of municipalities is planned, with Georgetown, Acton and a large part of Esqueping becoming one municipality. "Other present county

boundaries will change too, but in these cases only one urban community is involved, and there will not be the loss of community identity that we will feel in this part of the county. Milton, Oakville and Burlington will be the focal points of other municipalities, and will be the natural centre for civic services. In this area, there will be some sorting out, for combining two established towns into one is a tremendous break with tradition.

"Whether the advantages of a larger 2-county government, with a smaller number of localized councils, will outweigh the tremendous costs which will be involved, is something which every resident should be pondering deeply."

"Queen's Park has just told us a bill of goods in a county school board which, in the initial publicity, was going to save us money, while providing better education for all."

"Before the county school board is even off the ground, we find that the scale of salaries and board remuneration has been set at such a high level that it threatens to upset the already fragile equilibrium in today's economy."

"The vast bureaucracy which a two-tier regional government can create may yet make the school board look like small potatoes."

**OBITUARY**

### Fred Stuckey funeral Jan. 30

Samuel Frederick Stuckey of Acton died unexpectedly Tuesday, January 28, at the home of his son Bill Stuckey, R. 2, Acton. Mr. Stuckey had been in ill health since he suffered a stroke in 1964.

He was an employee of Beardmore and Co. until retirement.

Funeral service was held Thursday afternoon, January 30 at the Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home conducted by the Rev. Harry Dawson, and interment was in Fairview cemetery.

Palbearers were brother-in-law Herb Woods, Acton; nephews Walter Massey, Rockwood, Hartley Coles and Ken Marchmont, Acton and friends Doug Rogers and Doug Price, Acton.

Mr. Stuckey was born in Grand Valley in 1906, son of William John Stuckey and Elizabeth Ann Hills, and came to Acton with his parents at the age of three. He and Ethel Woods were married in Guelph on August 1, 1936 and the predeceased him in 1961.

He is survived by a daughter Joanne Incoe, and son Bill Stuckey, both of Acton; grandchildren Robin and Sandra Incoe; and a sister Mrs. Jessie Kepner of Acton. He was predeceased by brothers Norman, Harry and Bill, and sisters Bertie Smith and Rita.

**OBITUARY**

### Mrs. G. Beatty's death shock to community

The community was deeply shocked to learn that Mrs. Frances Beatty had died in her sleep on Sunday, February 2, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Beatty and their five young children had moved from Acton to Guelph four years ago.

The former Frances Lamb was born in Acton, attended school in Acton and Guelph and graduated from the Guelph General Hospital School of Nursing in 1946.

She is survived by her husband, sons John, James, Jeffrey and Brian, and daughter Carol Anne, all at home; her father Francis (Orrie) Eambs of Acton; sisters Miss Helen Lamb and Mrs. David McVey (Christine) both of Vancouver; Mrs. D. Rowley (Joyce) of Milton; four brothers, Donald of Halifax, N.S., Thomas of Toronto, Walter of Acton and James of Guelph; her mother-in-law and father-in-law Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Beatty of Acton. Her mother predeceased her.

Funeral service was held Tuesday afternoon at the McIntyre and Wilkie funeral home, Guelph, and interment was in Woodlawn cemetery. Pallbearers were brothers-in-law George Beatty and Dennis Rowley; brothers Walter and James Lamb; nephews Rick Rowley and Doug Calder. Rev. Waugh of Chalmers United Church, Guelph, conducted the services.

An unusually talented amateur painter, Mrs. Beatty took night school classes here and had exhibited here and in Guelph.

She was a keen curler. She was a member of the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. in Acton.

The heartfelt sympathy of many friends is extended this week to the bereaved family. Carol Anne is a student at the University of Guelph, and the youngest son, Brian, is just seven years of age.

### Special meeting discuss region

A special meeting of council is being held tonight (Wednesday) to prepare a presentation on Acton's reaction to the recent regional government proposal. Reeve Dr. Oakes will take the town's recommendations to a special committee of the county's seven reeves, set up to consider the proposal of Halton-Peel regional government.

If you're a do-it-yourself painter and decorator, be wise, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind warns that paint splattered into the eye can damage the cornea.

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Guelph, Ont.  
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**OBITUARY**

### Dr. Joseph T. Akins

A veterinarian who was born and began his practice in Milton and later became a prominent New Brunswick veterinarian, Dr. Joseph T. Akins died at his home in Fredericton, N.B. on Jan. 13. He was 63.

Born in Milton, he set up a private practice in his home town in 1928 after graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College. He later worked with the Federal Department of Health in Ottawa and Quebec,

then in 1937 accepted an appointment as a provincial veterinarian in New Brunswick.

He became a leader in reforming veterinary services in the province and became Director of the Veterinary Branch of the provincial government. Reg Gilbert, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for N.B., said "he established a farm service that touched every livestock farm in the province in a very direct and meaningful manner. His heart was in livestock and he made an outstanding contribution to New Brunswick's \$30,000,000 livestock and poultry industry."

Dr. Akins was recognized as an outstanding veterinary surgeon and was frequently called outside the province to administer to unusual or serious livestock problems.

He was an active member of the U.S. Trotting Association, and frequently drove his own horses in races. He also contributed to the establishment of horse racing in N.B., particularly in the Fredericton area.

He was frequently called on to judge at leading horse shows throughout Canada, and always gave particular encouragement to the junior classes.

For many years he was an active member of the Civil Service Association of the province.

The poodle was once an English hunting dog. The carefully trained animal sniffed along the ground at night and located quarries which put up no light. Moving in with a shovel, its master bagged them—truffles.

**CHURCHILL**

### Guest minister on Sunday

By Mrs. F. MacArthur

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lawrie, an aunt and uncle of our minister, Mr. Bob Hyde, also Bob's sister Miss Lawrie Hyde, all of Hagersville, visited and attended morning service at Churchill Community church on Sunday, January 26. Mrs. Lawrie rendered a solo which all enjoyed.

Churchill Community church had the pleasure of having Rev. Howse, minister of Hillsburgh and Erin United church, as our guest minister at Sunday morning service.

Misses June, Kathy and Debbie Swackhamer sang a trio Whisper a Prayer. The orchestra was in attendance. The congregation enjoyed his message very much and the children especially enjoyed his talk and prayer prior to their going to their classrooms. Mr. Robert Hyde conducted the services at both Erin and Hillsburgh churches.

Sympathy of the locality is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stuckey in the death of his father Fred Stuckey at their home on Churchill Rd. Sunday visitors with the Griffins were Mrs. Frank

Swackhamer, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Swackhamer and son, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Swackhamer, and Miss Eva Swackhamer, all of Ridgeway, also Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kerr, R. 2, Acton.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul McIntyre and Brenda of Oshawa and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Corfield and Randy of Belleville spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Winter visited on Sunday at their daughter Helen's home. Mr. and Mrs. Hills had just returned from a trip to California where sights of the floods will never be forgotten. On their way to the city just five miles one bridge was washed away causing them to turn around and travel 200 miles. They were pleased to return home safely on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thiesen of Guelph also Mr. and Mrs. Eric Thiesen of Acton were Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Swackhamer and girls. Mr. Don Anderson was one of the members of the Lucky Eleven Hunt Club who spent last Saturday and Sunday at their clubhouse near Bracebridge.

Mrs. C. V. Swackhamer returned to Ottawa on Saturday after visiting at her son's home, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Swackhamer and family. She makes her home with her daughter Etta, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Sayers and Billy.

**LIMEHOUSE**

### New ceiling, auction discussed

By Mrs. A. Benton

The annual congregational meeting of Limehouse Presbyterian Church was held on January 22 with Rev. F. N. Young as chairman and Mrs. Bert Benton as secretary. The session reported two new elders elected during the year, Mrs. J. Crichton (our first lady elder) and Mr. F. J. Brown. Previously elected elders include: T. H. Price, J. R. ss, A. W. Benton, A. C. Patterson, K. C. Lindsay and R. Appleyard. Membership stands at 58.

The budget was met and donations were made to Nigeria-Biafra Fund, Refugee Relief and Inter-Church Aid Appeal. All organizations show a good year financially. Officers for 1969 include: treasurer A. W. Benton, trustees Lloyd McEnery, and F. J. Brown, stewards, Neil and Bert Benton, Wm. Henry, Ted Brown Jr., Stanley McEnery and Robert Roughley, managers, F. J.

Brown, Lloyd McEnery, William Henry, Dick Appleyard, Bert Benton and Cyril Paxton.

An adjoining piece of land was purchased for a parking area last summer.

Rev. F. N. Young opened the meeting with Scripture and prayer and closed with the benediction. A social hour was enjoyed later.

Mr. S. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Jack Roughley are home from hospital.

We hope both will regain better health soon. Mr. Pat Patterson has been out this week again after a bout of flu.

Mr. Howard Roughley of Vancouver is visiting his brother and sister-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Jack Roughley this week.

The W. A. enjoyed a pot luck dinner in the church last Wednesday evening.

Mom: What's that zero on your report card?  
Son: That's no zero. The teacher ran out of stars so she gave me the moon.

**OBITUARY**

### George F. Robinson dies following accident in Guelph

An Acton resident, George Franklin Robinson, 48, died in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph on Jan. 21 from injuries received in an accident in Guelph.

He is survived by his wife Marguerite and four children, Diane (Mrs. Brian Evans) R.R. 1 Limehouse; Allan, R.R. 4 Acton; Brian and Kenneth at home. He also leaves a brother Douglas in Beamsville, and three grandchildren Donna, Sherry and Calvin.

Funeral service was held Jan. 24 in the Rumley-Shoemaker Funeral Home in Acton, Rev. Norman Young of Georgetown officiating. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown.

Pallbearers were Thomas Ware, Acton; Bill Patterson, Milton; John Atkinson, Guelph; Roy McDowell, Acton; Clarence Zinger, Guelph and Howard Smith, Guelph. Garry Kentner and Franklin Robinson were flower bearers.

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