

Acton, Georgetown, Esquesing attack regional 'unknowns'

Councillors from Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing township attacked the 'unknowns' of regional government at the first meeting of its kind in Esquesing Hall last Wednesday afternoon.

On the assumption that Queen's Park is prepared to accept suggestions from the municipalities involved, the group compiled a list of questions to be clarified by Minister Darcy McKeough at an upcoming meeting of Halton and Peel representatives in Toronto, on March 7. Among the three delegates appointed by Halton

County Council is Reeve Bill Hunter of Georgetown who was present at the meeting.

Initially came the question of why Halton had been centred out for the regional renovation. Acton's Mayor Les Duby said he felt there were other areas in Ontario where administration had not been nearly as progressive or as efficient as in Halton. From a personal study of the situation he felt that a spreading out of industrial representation within the county was all that was needed for a regional system.

Mayor Emmerson of

Georgetown agreed that he could see no urgency for regional government in Halton.

However, Georgetown Councillor Donna Dennison suggested that perhaps the reason was lack of a systematic growth pattern in the area which stands as a buffer region between Mississauga and the Hamilton urban centre. She pointed out that Halton is not the first area under attack. Regional governments have already been established in Ottawa, the Lakehead and Welland areas.

"Are we trying to protect our positions as politicians or are we interested in better government," submitted Councillor Sandy Mackenzie of Georgetown. "There is a tendency to defend the status quo but we have to look bigger than that."

On the question of boundaries, most expressed dissatisfaction with the present proposals. Reeve Frank Oakes of Acton stated that at a recent meeting of reeves, all were in favor of retaining Halton county's present boundaries as

opposed to a Halton-Peel merger.

Mayor Les Duby confirmed that Acton council opposed a Halton-Peel arrangement. He further stated that Acton favored a change in the proposed boundaries although he said council had not yet come up with an alternative. "Under the present set-up, the south is guaranteed representation but the north is guaranteed nothing." He felt that since Acton is the smallest municipality in the north, Georgetown and Esquesing would dominate and there

would in effect be taxation without representation.

In the Halton-Peel proposal, Halton gets nine representatives to Peel's 12. It was agreed there should be more representation for the four municipalities in Area 4.

Queen's Park is to be asked if changes are to be considered, and if so, some concrete alternatives are to be drawn up in the immediate future. "Acton may even be included in the north end of Nassagaweya," suggested Reeve Currie.

In discussing the proposed

Halton-Peel government, the disposition of present debts came under fire. It was suggested that Peel held a substantially higher debt than Halton. "If we unite, is that debt to be spread out over Halton," asked Reeve Currie.

Mayor Les Duby commented that in no way has the government spelled out the conditions of regional government on the municipal level with regard to issues like road maintenance and sewage disposal. It was agreed that detailed clarification was needed before any plans could start.

Reeve Hunter was instructed to compile a list of the 'unknowns' discussed and attempt to come back with answers from the meeting in Toronto on March 7.

A second meeting of the three councils is scheduled for Mar. 14 to discuss Queen's Park reaction. Representatives from Nassagaweya will be invited to attend.

Deputy-Reeve Tom Hill of Esquesing voiced a lone objection to inviting Nassagaweya, on the grounds that they were not really involved as yet.

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Parked cars involved two crashes

The only two accidents last week which were investigated by Acton O.P.P. involved parked cars.

On Wednesday, February 19 at 12.40 p.m. a car driven by George Currie, Acton, was westbound on Church St. when it struck a parked car owned by David Fawcett of Acton. The Currie car received \$200 damage to the hood, grill, front bumper and right front fender; the Fawcett car had \$125 damage to the trunk, rear bumper, and left rear fender.

On Saturday, February 22 at 12.30 p.m., a car driven by Thora Jespersen of R. R. 2, Rockwood, struck a parked car driven by Mrs. Ed Lidka, Acton. Mrs. Lidka was angle parked by Gordon Hardware when the second car misjudged the distance, while backing into the parking space. The Jespersen car had an estimated \$75 damage to the left rear bumper and panel, while the Lidka car had \$300 damage to the left rear door, left panel and bumper.

Board meets here

Quite a few interested spectators are expected for the next meeting of the Halton County Board of Education, which is being held for the first time in Acton. The meetings are being held in the various sections of the county specifically so local people may attend if they wish.

The Acton-Nassagaweya board representative Tom Watson has arranged for this Thursday's meeting to be held in the new resource centre of the Robert Little school.

The public may come at 8.15 p.m. A committee of the whole meeting precedes the public portion of the meeting.



ANIMATED DISCUSSION after the Chamber of Commerce annual meeting revolved around regional government. Reeve Bill Hoey of Nassagaweya has an attentive audience. Turn to page B1 for story and more pictures.—(Staff Photo)

Canucks gabbiest

When it comes to telephones, Canadians are still the world's gabbiest people. They have been for 17 years in a row.

Recent statistics on the subject, compiled world-wide, show that Canadians make 667.7 calls a year, up from 664 conversations in the preceding year. Americans are the next gabbiest at 667 calls. The U.S., however, has the most telephones—103 million in service. Canada comes sixth with 8.4 million, following Japan, Britain, West Germany and the U.S.S.R.

Total world telephones is 222 million, or 6.4 for every 100 people. Canada has 40.65 per 100 people.

It took the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. nearly a year to gather all these facts from around the world.

Health Unit drops plumbing inspections discussion reveals scarcity of nurses

Acton council unanimously opposed a resolution received from the township of Nassagaweya that the monthly banquet of the assessors and/or clerks be discontinued. Nassagaweya favored an annual banquet at the expense of all councils as an innovation.

Mayor Les Duby told council that the meetings were dinner meetings, not banquets and were for the purpose of discussing mutual problems. He had no objection to them.

Clerk Joe Hurst explained that clerks don't meet as often as the Nassagaweya resolution presumed and that each municipality in the county is required to pay for only one dinner a year. Councillor Jack Greer thought Nassagaweya could come to the urban board meetings if they want to get involved.

Council also turned down a resolution from the town of Cobourg asking legislation to allow pensions for wives of municipal employees with 20

years service to continue with pension benefits after death of their husband.

Council also concurred with a recommendation from No. 1 committee that Mrs. Barbara Trotter be hired to fill the position of assessment assistant. This is a three-day a week job, and constitutes 21 hours.

Clerk Joe Hurst reported he had written to Alfred R. Long, chairman of the board of trustees of Trinity United Church, advising that "no overnight parking" signs had been installed at the parking lot at the church property. Arrangements have been made with police to have cars which

had been permanently parked on the lot, removed.

Mayor Les Duby told council that they should take a closer look at parking-by-laws in Acton and know them thoroughly. Recently a local organization parked their cars and went on a trip to Toronto and when they returned police had put tickets on the cars. Police were acting correctly.

Child found

Last Wednesday a lost child was reported to police after she failed to come home from school. However, the six-year-old girl had gone to the arena by mistake and was located there by a neighbor at 4 p.m.

C.N.R. hearing Council to seek assist from Rud

A resolution asking council to engage a solicitor to present Acton's case for retaining the C.N.R. station was lost at Tuesday's meeting of council but councillors unanimously decided to ask M. P. Rud Whiting for assistance in preparing a brief to present at the public hearing.

Councillor Bill Coats suggested the town might be better off to hire a solicitor to present their case at the hearing, time, date and place of which are yet unknown.

Deputy-Reeve Ted Tyler opposed hiring a solicitor. He said council would need

evidence to support their case and shippers and receivers in Acton had given council no support in their efforts to keep facilities in Acton.

Councillor Jack Greer agreed there wasn't much support from industry but felt council had agreed to fight the railway's proposal from the commuter angle. "Only lawyers can talk to lawyers."

Council discussed what form the hearing would take. Councillor Garnet McKenzie's interpretation of the hearing was that it would be up to the railway to show proof the Acton



HON. ROBERT WELCH, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, spoke to Acton's Tri-angel Men's Club last Thursday night. See inside for story.—(Staff Photo)

School requisitions subject of meeting

No. 1 committee minutes at Tuesday's meeting of council revealed that the Halton County Board of Education is setting up a meeting with clerks of the county in March to review the interim requisitioning which has been opposed by some municipalities.

Acton council questioned the methods employed by the board at their last meeting and two other municipalities flatly refused to pay it but have since

relected. No. 1 committee recommended that no action be taken till after the meeting with the clerks.

Council also authorized clerk Joe Hurst to attend the next planning board meeting to discuss a better method of co-ordinating information. The clerk was also authorized to proceed and arrange with planning board and solicitor Bruce Payne to finalize the official plan and subdivider's agreements as recommended by the Department of Planning and Development.

No. 1 committee of council met with P. Shephard and K. Jordan of the subdivision section of the Community Planning Branch and G. Wright of the official plan section in a special meeting on February 12. Also present were town solicitor Fred Helson, town engineer Ken Hyde and Neil Miller, chairman of the committee of adjustment. Discussion included subdivision control, zoning and official plan and committee of adjustment procedures. Several recommendations came from the meeting and council agreed they should be followed in detail

Mystery bird golden eagle?

Further fuel for the report that an eagle has been molesting pets at a Georgetown district farm came this week when it was reported a Burwash trapper caught a golden eagle in a trap. The bird is rare in Ontario but others have been caught in traps. The trapper found the 15-pound eagle in a snare beside a beaver carcass which he was using as bait for wolves. This raised the possibility of eagles in this area as well.

Defends size of personnel

Positions filled by the Halton County Board of Education in numbers of administrative, supervisory, co-ordinating and consulting personnel are no greater than would have been required if the former 10 boards had continued to operate, Board Chairman F. Armitage said in a statement this week.

The chairman pointed out that advertisements for various positions had drawn applicants not only from across the province but also from those holding similar positions with former boards in the county.

Appointments so far made to the administrative and supervisory staff include the director and his assistant, four superintendents, 13 assistant superintendents, five co-ordinators and four assistant co-ordinators.

Mr. Armitage reviewed that enrolment for Halton county schools in September 1969 will be approximately 48,000 and 2,300 teachers will be required. Population increases are expected to reflect an additional 3,000 students annually.

The 1969 current budget will exceed \$30,000,000 and capital budgets will reflect the need for 60 to 70 elementary classrooms each year and 1,500 pupil places in secondary schools.

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A TYPICAL SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING UNIT

Public meeting tonight on Cobblehill housing

Pro or con? The proposal for Senior Citizens Housing and family units will be thoroughly aired at a special public meeting tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. in the Robert Little school auditorium.

The proposal, which has already met with some opposition, will be fully discussed. The proposed location for the units is now Cobblehill Road, after other locations had proven unsuitable or unavailable

for one reason or another. Specifications and plans of construction as well as future administration will all be discussed.

Council members and Ontario Housing Corporation and

building company representatives will all be present.

Anyone interested — and especially senior citizens — have been particularly urged to attend.

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Man killed, six hurt in crash on highway

An elderly man was killed and six others were injured Sunday evening in a three-car pile-up attributed to slippery driving conditions on Highway 25 between Acton and Milton.

Charles Robert Allen, an 83-year-old resident of Halton Centennial Manor who formerly lived and was well known in Acton, became the Milton O.P.P. detachment's first fatality of 1969 when the cars piled up one-quarter mile north of 10 Sideroad, near Tangmere Mushroom Farm. Mr. Allen had been home visiting relatives for the day and was being driven back to the Manor about 7 p.m. when the accident happened.

His son Morley Addison Allen, 48, of 50 Frederick St. in Acton,

was driving the southbound vehicle. He told police it skidded out of control on an icy patch on the Speyside hill, crossed the road and struck a northbound vehicle almost head-on. Minutes later a third car slammed into the two damaged vehicles.

Morley Allen received chest and head injuries, and another passenger Edward (Ted) Allen of 5 Park Ave., Acton, suffered chest and ear injuries in the collision.

The northbound vehicle was driven by Robert John Heatley, 30, of R. R. 3, Acton, who received leg and head injuries. His wife Phyllis suffered a fractured jaw, head and leg injuries, and their three-year-old

daughter Julie also received head injuries.

The third vehicle was driven by Mrs. Irene Mary Greenwood, 43, of 180 Poplar Ave., Acton. She had several broken teeth and facial cuts.

The injured persons were taken to Milton District Hospital by car and ambulance. Coroner Dr. D. Alkenhead of Milton pronounced Mr. Allen Sr. dead at the scene.

Const. Doug Ormsby of Milton O.P.P. estimated the total damage at \$4,850. An inquest may be called.

Motorists said the highway was quite slippery in places, due to a fresh fall of snow.