The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Fourth Year. - No. 35

oriented towards Guelph just

because people shop there and

use the hospitals. Acton is in the

Credit watershed, not the Grand,

he maintained. Concern that

regional government would wipe

Acton from the map was not a

true concept. "Acton is going to

stay Acton, because we, the

Mr. Hinton sald Georgetown's

growth was their problem and it

would be a good idea to let the

provincial government - the

best in Canada - implement its

of Nassagaweya are going to

start paying their way.

something they've never done."

the former reeve declared.

"Esquesing and the noisy part

people, are Acton."

which it was presented."

industry which paid the bills.

He scored two tier government

and lauded Acton mayor Les

Duby for his groundwork in

"Mayor Duby here has done

more work than anyone in the

province on this," he declared.

Regional government should be

what the people in the area

want, he continued, not what

don't even know where 25

J. Richard Picherack, the

Department of Municipal

Affair's senior research officer,

took umbrage at Mr. Hoey's

remark stating he had drawn the

line which separated northern

Nassagaweya from the south. "I

suggest there was quite a lot of

thought before the line was

drawn," he said. The boundary

was drawn so it would follow

the watershed which flows into

the Grand River but admitted

there was no way to cut

Nassagaweya up until another

Mr. Picherack endorsed

Councillor Marks' conception of

region was established.

regional government.

Sideroad is.

Opinion forum

Lively Chamber of Commerce annual

government in Peel-Halton turned the usually serene Chamber of Commerce annual meeting Wednesday into one of lined an audience studded with regional fence.

address, charging the ratepayers revolt! were forgotten in plans for regional development and it was merely a dialogue between politicians.

had the desired effect. A dialogue ensued among Halton West M.P.P. George Kerr, is immune. Nassagaweya reeve Bill Hoey. Department of Municipal Affairs senior research officer J. Richard Picherack, Mayor Les Duby, Councillor Peter Marks, Georgetown mayor "Steamer" Emmerson, former Reeve Bert Hinton, former mayor Ben Rachlin, deputy-reeve Ted Tyler and others that kept going long after new C. of C. president John Shadbolt declared the meeting closed.

Mr. Nielsen * admitted he wasn't against regional government per se (by itself) but felt there were many questions the Minister of Municipal Affairs the liveliest sessions to date and . Darcy McKeough and his staff had left unanswered. He said he municipal and provincial could not endorse any program officials up on either side of the until he knew the facts and it was up to Mr. McKeough to Retiring Chamber . president explain the necessity for change, Paul Nielsen, a downtown. Otherwise, he charged, the merchant, was deliberately electorate could become more

If a foreign power, the communist party or student activists did what the Department of Municipal Affairs His provocative statements is doing, the situation would demand defense by force, Mr. Nielsen felt, but the Department

"I do not believe that highly paid professional managers will do a better job than local people who spent their time and effort in making a particular town

better," he declared. A wider tax base with regional government? Perhaps the past C. of C. head surmised it was simply a way for the province to avoid grants and shared programs, particularly with

"We're progressing towards an economic unit that can do At this point Mr. Hinton asked new Chamber head John Shadbolt if he wanted him to quit. Mr. Shadbolt grinned and politely uttered a "Yes, please," bringing Halton West M.P.P. George. Kerr to tilt his lance at

> the regional windmill. Drawing his pipe, with a glance at Mr. Hinton, the Halton member smiled and said, "Bert should work for the Department in public relations." Then he conceded it would be difficult to convince anyone in Nassagaweya there was any advantage to

municipal government. He said a change in financing was necessary but confessed he thought Nassagaweya shouldn't have a tax rate comparable to Burlington's. He also couldn't see Burlington going with Hamilton or a split-up Nassagaweya. However Mr. Kerr outlined advantages in planning and garbage disposal regional government would help. For instance, he said, a certain street with one side in Oakville and the other in Burlington would not

But the regional government have heavy industry on one side plan also had some eloquent and residential development on defenders including former reeve. the other with regional Bert Hinton who was just as government. outspoken in declaring the C. of Mr. Kerr said he would sit

C. had loaded the meeting with back and watch the results and if treakers against the regional that didn't work he'd "have to proposal. He lauded frechman work on the minister himself." councillor Peter Marks for Back to the fray came Paul keeping his mind open on the Nielsen, charging an amalgamation between Peel and He urged those in attendance. Halton was unequal to start with to stiffe the idea Acton was since Peel's per capita debt was \$200 more than Halton's, people imported from anywhere Comparing Acton to else want especially when they Georgetown and Acton's "excellent ratio of industrial-residential assessment," he foresaw only

difficulties for Acton ratepayers. Mayor Les Duby was next on the program and he squared accounts with former reeve Hinton by stating Acton was in favor of some form of regional government. "We're just questioning the terms of reference," he declared. "The Queen's Park proposal wasn't our concept of Peel Halton regional government," the mayor said, referring to the years of study and thought he had given the matter as a member and chairman of

Councillor Peter Marks, admitting he had some reservations but nevertheless endorsed the Mckeough proposal as the decision of experts in the field. "Taxes are the main issue," he stated supporting the idea of fruitful discussion. "Queen's Park could burn down," he said, "and we couldn't sneeze." He listed the services the province helps pay for with grants including the library, sidewalks and roads and charged the town's "inefficiencies were subsidized" by the province.

C.O.R.D.C.

Regional government, said Mr. Marks, would put the ratepayers more in control of their destiny and eliminate inequalities.

Reeve Bill Hoey of Nassagaweya township, a latecomer, injected a note of resolution in the meeting when he stated the township was firmly resolved regional government should happen and he personally would do all he could to implement it. "But it is 20 years late," he protested, "and Nassagaweya is unhappy



RASSAGAWEYA HEEVE Bill Hoey, right, tells Department of Municipal Affairs research officer Richard Pickerack, left, M.P.P. George Kerr and businessman Ben Rachlin his conception of

regional government. Mr. Hachlin is having difficulty visualizing Mr. Hoey's opinions - (Staff

unequal capital debt worked out should be regionalized so the in defined areas so it wouldn't self-sufficient regions could Emmerson also fell in line with fall on ratepayers who didn't bafance out inequalities in the Mr. Rachlin's reasoning. He said benefit. He disputed Reeve, poorer places. Hoey's remarks that the MTARTS study was not considered in the regional government proposal. Mr. Picherack also cited plans for satellite cities which must be subject to regional planning to

establish a trunk sewer. Mr. Hinton again rose to claim Acton had much more to gain from regional government and said he would have to stand unequivocally for "rep by pop. Carleton Ottawa are going ahead, he stated, and the remainder of the province would soon be following suit.

Carl Witzeck, a new member of the C. of C. executive said the major faults of the regional plan was too much emphasis in one or two areas. He felt all Ontario

Paul Nielsen remarked that unlike Councillor Marks and Reeve Hinton he didn't assume Darcy McKeough or anyone else will straighten out inequalities and he certainly never uid so publicly. "Planners are obsessed with boundaries," he claimed Mr. Nielsen said the whole project smacked of authoritarian pressure, and was not designed as a democratic expression.

Former mayor Ben Rachlin, however, felt Queen's Park was doing the only thing possible to work out a wheme equitable for all. He agreed to a reduction in the number of municipalities because the province was overgoverned and needed some

and final legislation will arise from the reaction to the dialogue.

"It's just like the old saying." another member injected. "Keep your head up and never bend over in front of a Greek."

Reeve Hoey ended the official dialogue by saying he was dumbfounded that Acton mayor Les Duby, chairman of C.O.R.D.C. who'd done so much work towards regional government, had no voice in the final preparations, indicative he thought of the government's thinking.

The discussion continued after the official adjournment sometimes cheek to jowl and often very heated.

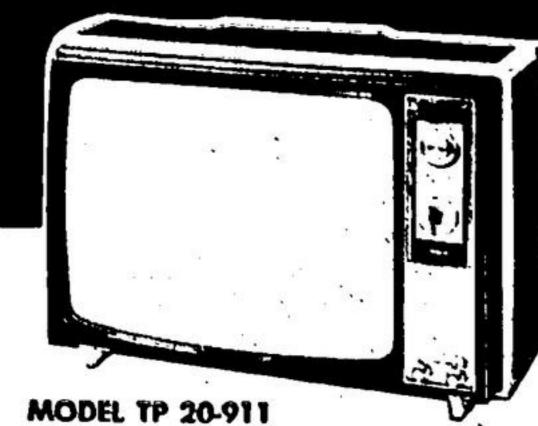


PAST PRESIDENT Paul Nielsen tells Halton West M.P.P. George Kerr the Ontario government needs a more democratic expression of opinion in regional government plans. - (Staff Photo)



NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE executive elected at Wednesday's directors Don Lindsay, Fred Gordon, secretary Chris Schuts, meeting before the heated topic of regional government was initiated directors John Coniglio and Carl Watzeck. Missing are vice-president are, left to right, seated, past president Paul Nielsen, new president John Rol, treasurer Ted Pratt, and directors Don Timmings and Earl John Shadbolt and second vice president Orval Chapman, Standing, Jollymore, - (Staff Photo)

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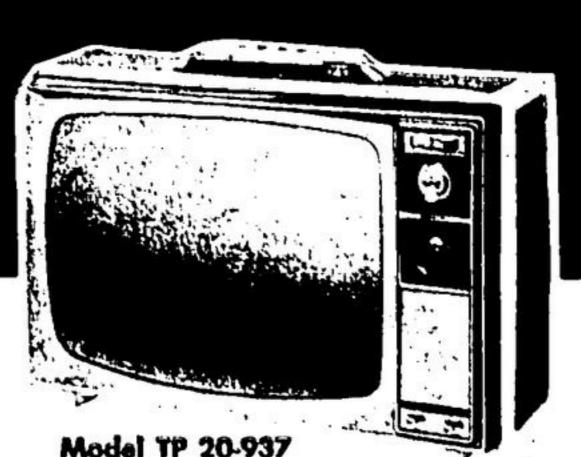


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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Council of The Town of Acton has Authorized

A PUBLIC MEETING

TO BE HELD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th at 8 P.M. IN THE

ROBERT LITTLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

The purpose of the meeting will be to review the proposal of the Ontario Housing Corporation for senior citizens dwelling and family units in the Town under the following headings:

- 1. PROPOSED LOCATION COBBLEHILL ROAD
- 2. SPECIFICATIONS & PLANS OF CONSTRUCTION
- 3. FUTURE ADMINISTRATION

Mambers of Acton Council and representatives fom Ontario Housing Corporation and Headway Corporation will be present.

All interested residents, and especially senior citizens, are urged to attend.

> J. T. HURST, Clerk - Administrator.

OBITUARY

Dies in Jamaica during holiday

A well-known district resident Mrs. Arthur Scott of Georgetown died suddenly at Montego Bay, Jamaica, on Saturday, February 15. She was just concluding a three week holiday trip with her husband and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Holmes, also of Georgetown. Preparing to return home that day, the complained of pain and a doctor was called, but she died of a heart attack.

The two couples had travelled by plane and boat to many of the islands in the West Indies.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott operate Georgetown Transportation Company which operates a bus line and school buses. They had the Chevrolet-Oldsmobile franchise in Georgetown until Mr. Scott sold the business to Andrew Murray.

She belonged to the Business and Professional Women's Club and was a director of the North Halton Golf and Country Club. Friends were received at the Harold C. McClure fueral home

and a private funeral service was held there Wednesday of last week.

Mrs. Scott is survived by her husband; two daughters Sandra Duffy of Georgetown; Karen of Owen Sound and John at home; a sister Mrs. A. Law (Jean) of Vancouver B.C. and brothers Mervyn and Vernon Kirby of Glen Williams.