

Joint meeting discusses project for 1969

Largest show of hands in a co-ordinated service club effort in Acton was for a youth assistance project at a well attended joint dinner meeting sponsored by Acton Y's Men last Thursday in the Y.M.C.A. gym.

Other projects in order of priority to be considered at a follow-up meeting with representatives from all interested groups are:

- Beautification of the town.
- Extension of park facilities.
- A downtown comfort station.
- A swimming pool.
- Tennis courts and bowling greens.

Representatives of the Lions, Rotary, Legion, Recreation Committee, Firefighters, Y Board, Chamber of Commerce and council as well as individuals discussed what Acton needs in 1970 with John Goy refereeing the joint discussion as chairman.

The meeting produced "enough ideas to chew on till morning," said chairman Goy, headed by a plea from Mayor Dudy (who had to leave early for a Hydro meeting) for town beautification. He told the group some of the things they might want to do could be affected by regional government.

"Something tangible is needed," the mayor pleaded, something unique like the old time fiddlers' contest is to Shelburne or the maple syrup festival to Elmira.

Beautification of the town entrances would be a natural for the joint project with rock gardens, flower displays, fountains, etc.

Rotary's community service chairman Bill Pendleton outlined four proposals his club dreamed up: a senior citizens' home, swim area in the lake, outdoor ice rinks at each end of the town and a grandstand in the park.

Lion Chief Ray Ewelan liked the mayor's suggestion especially for the main arteries but stressed the Lions were there to listen and learn. Gord James from the Legion, Phil McCristall representing the Recreation Committee and Bern Van Fleet of the Firefighters each spoke for their organizations, said they had no specific proposals but would get behind any worthwhile scheme.

Ed Leatherland, speaking for the Y Board suggested two possibilities: 1. An indoor swim pool, 2. Outdoor supervised skating on Fairy Lake.

Deputy-Reeve Ted Tyler's own personal suggestion? Keep Fairy Lake and Prospect Park a beauty spot. Move sports facilities somewhere else in a natural ravine suited to spectator sports.

Parks Board Recreation Committee chairman Brendan Aherns favored an indoor swimming pool attached to one of the schools and a giant effort by both people and school board to build it. He

said the pool would be available for students and adults alike. He also suggested fixing up the present parks and new entrances off Main and Elizabeth Drive for Prospect Park.

Councillor Jack Greer? He favored downtown rest rooms available at most hours of the day.

Paul Nielsen, immediate past president of the Chamber of Commerce after a scathing attack on regional government as it would affect Acton and the apathy of citizens, came out in favor of an urban renewal program. Points he enumerated: widening downtown streets, rezoning and a downtown mall.

Mr. Nielsen also suggested a general paint up, clean up, spruce up program.

Jim Ledger, admittedly returning from the hub of the Empire—Erin—made a plea for a home for senior citizens. Councillor G. McKenzie explained council was only a step away from such a step. He admitted a couple were objecting but expected to see the project a reality before the snow flies.

Bill Henry and Bruce Andrews of the Y's Men supported an indoor swim pool at one of the schools where government grants would be available. Lion Vic Bristow, a local school trustee on the continuing committee, said there wasn't much room for one on school grounds.

Paul Nielsen resurrected the survey of University of Toronto students for the meeting and the green belt they contemplated along the banks of town creeks.

Chairman Goy visualized the same picture—a band of green from Fairy Lake to the band hall using all the natural beauty.

Y's man Wayne Wheeler struck a new note—one which was to find a responsive chord. Keep youth in Acton by assisting them in some project.

Bruce Andrews pointed out the community centre was taxed to capacity. He suggested a multi-purpose unit which would be a home for basketball, hockey, tennis and related sports.

A blow for town beautification was struck by Lion Bristow. "If we want people to come here we must make the town attractive."

Chairman Goy summed up the conclusion and it was agreed that the Rotary club sponsor the next meeting before April 15 at the Robert Little school. At least two representatives from each group will be asked to bring their ideas along for further discussion with the priorities to be followed.

Approximately 55 attended the three hour meeting.



'DID' PRICE and Ed McGillicuddy assist Alf Dudy to don a Scott air pak at Monday's fire which billowed acrid smoke through the home of Dave McMullen, 8 Park Ave. Flames originated in a kitchen stove and spread to nearby furniture. Firefighters soon had the blaze under control. Flames were confined to the kitchen but there was smoke damage all through the two family house. —(Staff Photo)

Fear south will run regional hydro scheme

Although there has been no official word, Acton's Hydro Commission anticipates the regionalization of hydro facilities in the future.

Chairman Wilf McEachern attended the first meeting of the Halton-Peel Hydro Study Committee in Oakville and reported that officials in the south have already begun to make plans.

Mayor Les Dudy questioned the validity of Oakville as the centrally located permanent meeting place for the committee. However, he was forced to admit, "The bigger centres have the staff and facilities and there is little choice for us but to go to the meetings."

Chairman McEachern agreed that he senses a push from various people in the south for what he termed the "big push" jobs under a regional set-up.

With regionalization looming on the horizon, the commission can't make any definite long term plans.

"It's not what you know that bugs you, it's what you don't know," complained Mayor Dudy. "You've got to have grounds and a better idea to criticize, but how can you fight back when they are in the know?"

The commission agreed to a meeting with Georgetown in the

near future to discuss common problems.

Mayor Dudy went on to suggest that the commission should consider making an investment in the town just in case local savings are to be pooled in a regional system.

Ted Tyler Sr. back at the desk after a lengthy illness, was quick to pick up the idea. "I helped to get that money, and nobody in Burlington is going to spend it for me," he boomed.

Mr. Tyler suggested a system of lights to complement the new senior citizens' development on Cobblehill Road. "We can spend a few dollars and be a part of this program."

Another suggestion was new Christmas decorations for the main street.

Settle employees' salaries

The Acton Hydro Commission agreed to an over-all increase of approximately \$5,000 this year in wages to employees.

Chairman McEachern explained that Acton employees were the lowest paid in eight surrounding municipalities. An adjustment rate was necessary to bring them up to a comparative level.

Effective April 1, linemen and journeymen will earn \$3.60 an hour, plus an hourly adjusting rate of 32 cents retroactive to January 1, and \$21 standby pay. As an added benefit linemen are entitled to an advance of 75 per cent of their earnings should compensation be late following an injury.

The superintendent's salary was set at \$7,750, plus the \$21 standby pay when working in rotation with the linemen.

Secretary-treasurer will make \$5,600, the meter reader \$5,200, and caretaker \$2.20 an hour including a 10 per cent increase retroactive to January 1.

No one was injured in the fire.

Park street grease fire

The home of Dave McMullen, 8 Park Street, suffered heavy smoke damage Tuesday, following a kitchen fire which spread from a frying pan up the walls to the ceiling. Wall cupboards and several chairs were also lost.

The Acton fire department was called to the scene shortly after five o'clock. Chief Mick Holmes said the blaze was under control within 15 minutes but it took at least a half-hour more to clear the house of smoke. He could not estimate on the cost of damage at press time.

No one was injured in the fire.



FINISHED BEFORE THE REAL THING, four amateur contractors in Mr. Wheeler's grade six class have constructed an exact miniature of M.Z. Bennett school including the new addition due to open after the holidays. Obviously proud of their work are Sharon Gillespie, Carol Grant, Alan Simioni and James Davidson. The group have been working a few minutes each day on the project since before Christmas. —(Staff Photo)

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LAST TRACES of winter vanish from the countryside as warm weather moved into the district just ahead of the official entry of Spring on Friday. There are still high drifts of snow along country roads but it is rapidly vanishing. —(Staff Photo)

Better wages, benefits

Beardmore and Co., Union sign two year agreement

Bill Spielvogel, president of Local P 479 of the Canadian Food and Allied Workers, announced today that a new two year agreement has been reached covering 400 employees of Beardmore and Co., Acton.

Terms of the agreement were approved by the membership in a plant wide vote on Wednesday, March 11.

The new agreement provides

for 34 cents in general wage increases, plus the implementing of a job rate system valued by the Union at five cents per hour.

The company will assume the full cost of all medical-surgical and insurance premiums. The increase in the company contribution (from 60% to 100%) was valued at eight cents per hour by Mr. Spielvogel.

Improved annual vacation,

statutory holidays, off-shift and week-end premiums and weekly sick pay carry a further monetary improvement of six cents per hour over the life of the agreement, according to Mr. Spielvogel.

With the implementing of the wage increases the new plant base rate becomes \$2.48 per hour.

Mr. Spielvogel commented that many other improvements in contract language have been achieved.

The union had applied for conciliation in order to resolve the dispute, however the parties reconvened and arrived at the settlement prior to the arrival of the Conciliation Officer.

Regional government

Erin officials want no part of proposal

Erin township and village officials unanimously rejected the proposed regional government plan for the area at a meeting in Hillsburgh recently.

The proposal, outlined by J. Richard Picherack of the Department of Municipal Affairs, would take that portion of Erin village and the township located in the Credit Valley Watershed into the Peel-Halton region as part of Area Three.

Attending the meeting were the two councils, the assessment commissioner of Wellington county, the warden and clerk-treasurer of both Wellington and Dufferin counties and John Root, M.P.P. Reeve Stan Fuller of Erin township chaired the meeting.

The township has a resolution on record against the proposal as it affects the municipality. A brief will be prepared rejecting the proposal and be presented to the Minister of Municipal Affairs through the county.

Meanwhile Wellington county officials have been meeting in an attempt to establish a Wellington region which would include Erin township and village. According to officials Erin has far more in common with Wellington than with Halton-Peel.

The Department of Municipal Affairs first broached the idea of Erin and Erin township joining the Halton-Peel region at the now historic day at Queen's Park.

Squeaky wheels?

Minister will get one brief from N. Halton reps

Representatives from Acton, Georgetown, Esquesing and Nassagaweya agreed to consolidate demands in a single brief for presentation at Queen's Park, following a discussion meeting on regional government in Stewarttown Hall Friday afternoon.

A brief has already been submitted by Nassagaweya last week, but Acton and Georgetown have not gone past the discussion stages. It was agreed that ideas should be compared and differences ironed out before approaching Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough for changes in his present proposals.

"A solid block will hold more weight than dribbles and drabs," summed up Mayor Emmerson of Georgetown.

At one point it was suggested that Milton be invited to participate, but this was rejected in favor of a brief representing feeling in the northern part of the county.

A prime demand will be the retention of Halton as a unit rather than a Halton-Peel merger. Mayor Emmerson expressed doubts of any hope of changing the Minister's mind on this point. However, he was reminded by Councillor Tom Hill that "the squeaking wheel gets the grease."

Acton's Mayor Les Dudy said he felt there was no reason why Halton could not manage as an independent region.

"What difference does it make if we are the poor ward in the city of Halton or the city of Halton-Peel. We're still the hayseeds," submitted Georgetown Councillor Earnie Hyde. "We need a municipality in the north and if we don't form one, it doesn't matter where we are."

We're going to have the same problems and the same powers. We should be figuring out what we want on the municipal level," he said.

On the question of boundaries, the group would like time to adjust suitable municipal boundaries within Halton county to coincide with regional needs.

"I think we have to divorce ourselves from the thought that we can retain the present seven municipalities as they are," commented Mayor Emmerson. At this point, Reeve Hoey interjected, "Each municipality should have laid it on the line, personally on a basis of principle. If they haven't they are absolutely lazy."

He went on to state that Nassagaweya objected flatly to the proposal that urban areas be

planning and if we have to have regional government as well, then that's it."

Esquesing Councillor Ken Marshall agreed. "To do what Reeve Hoey has done, is perhaps putting back the clock, he said. "We're past the stage where we can reject. We have to see how we can fit in."

Reeve Hoey did not think Nassagaweya could fit in. "Everyone in this area can lose if you took over Nassagaweya except maybe Milton — they want our race track."

A third area of contention involves representation on the regional board. It was agreed that all representatives including the first super-mayor, should be elected by a general vote.

"I don't care who spends my money as long as I'm being represented," pleaded Reeve Hoey. "This is what we object to, Nassagaweya only wants one representative — we should rate one." Under the present criteria laid down by the Minister, Nassagaweya can only exist with

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Blow Press break-in

During the night on March 17 Blow Press was broken into. Taken were office equipment valued at \$25, some pens and about \$3 in change.

Cons. Farion investigated the break and entry incident.

Cancer film here Tues.

Acton's marathon walkers will be featured in the Cancer Society's film "Who Saved John Q?", which will have a pre-TV preview here in Acton on Tuesday night next week.

The local branch of the Cancer Society arranged for the special showing here in the high school auditorium. It was also to be shown to high school students that afternoon.

Dr. Becky Knowles of Aurora and Maurice Grimes, the executive director of the Cancer Society, will also be here to take part.

Local merchants are co-operating in a fashion show and there will be other numbers as well, to round out the entertaining and informative evening.