

Parks Board critical of dredging operations

Acton Board of Parks Management has criticized the handling of Fairy Lake dredging operation in letters sent this week to Acton Council and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Parks Board passed a resolution endorsing the opinions expressed in a letter to council expressing disappointment with the Conservation Authority and Council over the failure to reclaim the proposed parkland located north and east of the arena as agreed to prior to the start of dredging operations in Fairy Lake.

Included in both letters were suggestions and observations of the Parks Board including the opinion that all private land which was to have been reclaimed by dumping of silt should have been purchased by the Conservation Authority prior to start of dredging and held as public conservation parkland. This, the Board

avers, would have avoided the possibility of improving private land at public expense and eliminated the possibility of land speculation.

The Board also thought all silt not used for the reclaiming of public land should have been sold, or banked and later sold, with the proceeds returned to the public purse to defray cost of the project.

Finally the board deplored the apparent lack of communication between the Conservation Authority and Acton Council and what they called the "neglect" of Acton Council to include Parks Board in any council meetings with the Authority prior to and during dredging operations.

Recommendations to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for the future success of similar projects were:

1. All private lands which are to be

reclaimed should be purchased if possible, by the Conservation Authority prior to the commencement of dredging and held as public Conservation Parkland or sold after reclaiming. This money and revenue received from the selling of land and excess silt could be used to defray the cost of the dredging operation.

2. All publicly owned lands should be given first priority when areas of reclaiming are being designated.

3. Local Parks Boards, as well as Town Councils, should be consulted to assist in planning the proposed dredging operations.

4. Agreement in writing should be signed between Conservation Authority and contractor as to the dumping location of dredged silt.

The Board acknowledged their

appreciation to the Conservation Authority for selecting Fairy Lake as the location for the pilot project dredging operation, observing it would help the Acton recreation program. However, the letter suggested future projects would show a greater return for the tax dollars and develop more park and conservation areas if their recommendations were given serious consideration.

Copies of the letter to the Authority were sent to the Hon. George Kerr, Minister of Energy and Resources; all municipal councils in the Credit Valley area, Ontario Liberal chief Robert Nixon, Ontario N.D.P. Leader D. McDonald and the press.

Present at the special meeting which passed the resolutions were Chairman Brendan Ahern, W. Duval Jr., H. Dodds, R. Laughlin, and P. McCristall.



Vandals bend signs

TOWN OFFICIALS and many citizens were upset when the newly installed crosswalk signs on the Mill/Willow St. corners were bent and attempts made to crumple them. Police said this latest outbreak of vandalism occurred after a disturbance along the business section of town. Mayor Les Duby was particularly incensed at the irresponsible acts and advocated stronger police protection to curb vandalism, following a similar suggestion by Councillor Marks at Tuesday's council meeting. The mayor said the police are doing a good job but need more help if they are to patrol effectively. Town workmen reinstalled the signs in cast iron pipe Tuesday to ensure there would be no repeat performance. —(Staff Photos)

Police avert burglary by prompt action

Two men acting suspiciously were promptly reported to Acton police last Wednesday afternoon and as a result one was charged on three counts and

a burglary was likely averted. When Bert Hinton and clerks became suspicious of a man who had been strolling all over the store and tried a lock on a door, police were informed. Const. Roy Wood went over and saw the two men trying doors at the back of the store and the neighboring house.

In their car, parked illegally on Mill St., they found what they assumed to be stolen goods, a dozen pairs of ladies' panties. However, the goods didn't come from Hinton's. Apparently nothing was stolen there. The men were both from Hamilton. One of them has been charged with possession of stolen goods, possession of burglar's tools and petty trespass.

Hamilton police were unable to determine who rightly owns the underwear which the Acton police have in custody. "We urge the public again to tell us about anything suspicious," police officers said this week.

Fall Fair "Daze" coming

Several Acton merchants will be celebrating Acton Fall Fair weekend Sept. 18-19-20 with special sales. This year's theme is "Fall Fair Daze" and next week's Acton Free Press will be carrying advertisements from participating merchants outlining their bargains. There will be no special draws or gimmicks — just genuine bargains for "Fall Goers" to remember Acton by.

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Rev. Stanley Gammon accepts Thornbury call

Rev. Stanley Gammon, pastor at Acton Baptist Church for the last seven years, announced this week he would be leaving Acton to accept a call to Thornbury.

Mr. Gammon's announcement, made after the Sunday morning service, was a surprise to the Acton congregation. He will leave Acton at the end of September and take over the ministry of First Baptist Church, Thornbury, Sunday, October 5. The Thornbury charge is about the same size as the Acton congregation. Mr. Gammon preached there at the request of church officials to help out during the summer vacation. Then the Thornbury church extended a call to the popular Acton minister, which was accepted.

Mr. Gammon said he has enjoyed his stay in Acton especially the association and fellowship with the other ministers in town. Both he and Mrs. Gammon have made many friends during their stay in Acton both in their own congregation and among people of other persuasions.

"We'll miss them, but felt the time had come to make a change," the quiet spoken minister told the Free Press. This is Mr. Gammon's second charge since he was ordained in 1960. His first pastorate was at two rural churches in Norfolk County which he also served when he was studying for the ministry at McMaster University.

Mr. Gammon's decision to enter the ministry was made after 30 years in industry. He went back to school in 1958 to heed the call, graduating in 1960. He feels the 30 years service in industry was valuable experience and gave him an insight into people's problems which he might never have got otherwise.

During his stay in Acton, Mr. Gammon was secretary-treasurer



of the Acton Ministerial Association for three years, is a past president of the Baptist Ministerial of Guelph Association, and in 1968 was Moderator of the Guelph Association. He has been a director of Camp Hermosa Corp. and is still a director of the Baptist Ministers of Ontario Credit Union.

In addition to his regular pastoral duties, Mr. Gammon also was visiting chaplain for the Baptist Convention of the Guelph Association at the Ontario Reformatory, Guelph. Although there won't be any comparable duties in Thornbury, he looks on the years at the reformatory as additional aid to his ministry.

In conjunction with the chaplaincy, Mr. Gammon took a course in pastoral psychology at the Ontario Training school in Brampton along with other ministers and priests.

The Gammons will be leaving Acton at the end of September with the best wishes of their congregation and many Acton and district friends who wish them well in their new surroundings.

Decks nearly cleared for O.H.C. housing

The long delayed senior citizen and geared-to-income housing projects in Acton may be started late this Fall if there are no more obstacles encountered by contractors for the 24 units — Headway Corporation Limited of Toronto.

Final title to the property on Cobble Hill was acquired from Mrs. Jane Brown by Headway Corporation this week and company representatives are "anxious to get going" on the project. The property must still be rezoned from R2 to RM to permit construction, however.

Federal approval of N.H.A. loans to Ontario Housing Corporation for construction of the two Acton housing projects was received on Monday, August 25 but the final deal to

Delegation asks about O.H.C. housing

A concerned delegation from the Golden Age Club was assured that council would do everything in its power to hurry along the proposed senior citizens' housing.

Mrs. G. Fryer, Mrs. J. Creasey, Mrs. C. Winn and Robert Warne appeared before council Tuesday to ask what was holding the project up. They were told the story up to date but council could not answer how long it would be before the project is started.

"What's holding it up?" asked Mrs. Fryer. "It was supposed to go through three years ago."

Mayor Les Duby agreed. "That's what's so frustrating about council's work. We'd like to resurface Lakeview streets. The contractor is ready to go but we must go through the proper procedures and we're at the mercy of the provincial departments."

"We'd like to have given a bulletin each week on the project but there's a hang-up on everything we do from the provincial government."

Clerk Joe Hurst told the delegation that Headway Construction had consummated purchase of the land on Cobble Hill but since the zoning by-law is suspended the town must await approval of amendments. This depends on the Official Plan being updated.

As soon as this is received an application must be made to the Ontario Municipal Board to rezone the property from R3 to RM and there may be an OMB hearing, the clerk said.

"We are very conscious of the delay," the mayor assured the delegation. "That's the story of our life. We're at the mercy of the provincial government."

Asked by Mrs. Winn if any thought had been given to getting mail and the transportation from Cobble Hill, the mayor replied that the experience of other municipalities showed there was no problem. Occupants of senior citizen housing shared the duties

of getting mail and groceries in other places and this created no burden.

Council told the delegation the choice of a site had been a difficult task and OHC representatives had to let developers find one when they failed. Council also took steps to use other town-owned lands further distant in the event the first deal fell through.

"We'll move ahead as quickly as possible and if there are further requirements we have room set aside now," the mayor said.

"We thought we'd better ask," Mrs. Fryer concluded. "So many people kept coming and asking when it was going to start."

Council rebuffed by Parks Board letter

Despite the contention of Councillor Peter Marks that they were taking the wrong impression from a letter addressed to them from the Board of Parks Management, council took a dim view of suggestions in the letter concerning dredging on Fairy Lake.

Parks Board said they were disappointed that council and the Credit Valley Conservation

Authority failed to reclaim the proposed parkland north and east of the arena, as agreed to prior to start of dredging operations. The board also deplored the lack of communication between council, C.V.C.A. and themselves.

"I'm sorry the chairman of the Board saw fit to press the issues on this," the mayor said. "They are ill-informed on this. Council

of the day was well informed on what was happening."

"So was Parks Board," injected the deputy-reeve.

"We understood completely that the only way we could qualify for the project was under the water storage program. No recreation was to enter the picture at all although we knew we would benefit by it," the mayor recalled.

"I suggested the people who voted for this letter were misinformed," said Mr. Tyler. "How could they deplore the communication between the C.V.C.A. and council? Did they have access to our file?" asked Councillor McKenzie. The mayor answered that the town office was available for people who wanted to look for information.

Deputy-Reeve Tyler recalling when the dredging project was first initiated, said Acton's representative on the Authority, R. R. Parker, went over plans in great detail with himself and the new Parks chairman Brendan Ahern.

"Why does the man speak this way if he hasn't got anything to go on?" asked Councillor Greer. "Overlook the undiplomatic presentation," pleaded Councillor Marks, one of two council members on Parks Board. "The board has a point to make and we should consider the main objective: the one area



LEVELLING AND GRADING the area alongside Elizabeth Drive is going on daily under the sponsorship of Acton Lions Club and directed by Parks Board. Several construction companies have donated two days' labor and machinery to the Lions to improve the area around Fairy Lake. A road is being built to cross the former swamp and the school creek flows into the lake through a culvert. —(Staff Photo)

Mayor won't answer letters to editor

Mayor Les Duby informed council he had no intention of answering letters to the editor in the press.

"I'll answer telephone conversations when anyone has a problem and try to be polite but I don't answer letters to the editor," he declared at Tuesday's council meeting.

He told council to beware of the implications of one recent letter which would try to stop trains whistling, citing the case of Richmond Hill where ratepayers had tried to do the same thing.

The mayor in his remarks also

Two-car accident at Acton Blvd., Peel

Two cars were involved in an accident last Thursday at the corner of Acton Blvd. and Peel St.

A car driven by Alfredo Lucarelli, Peel St., was westbound on Peel and received \$150 damage, police estimate. The other car was driven by Allan Grant, MacDonald Blvd., and damage was estimated at \$300. He was proceeding south on Acton Blvd.