

Attainments, goals of Acton Chamber outlined by president John Shadbolt

Q: What is the function of Acton Chamber of Commerce?

A: The belief that the Chamber of Commerce only represents the interests of big business is changing throughout Canada. As an example of this the Ontario Chamber is concerned with pollution, education, transportation, taxation—almost any problem that is important.

Our branch reflects this changing view. The membership contains many professional members who are not businessmen and who have the welfare of the whole of Acton as their concern.

The function of the Acton Chamber is to promote existing and new industry, commerce and tourism in a healthy atmosphere of competition.

Another aspect which I consider important would be the Chamber acting as a stimulus (rather than opposition) to the town council where necessary, by bringing different new points to the attention of the council and other interested parties.

We also like to think of ourselves as a catalyst to progress and we applaud what we consider wise decisions, for example the proposed wild fowl sanctuary on Fairy Lake.

Q: What has the Acton Chamber been most concerned with over the past year?

A: Our principal concern has been with planning and development. Acton Combat Exposition, in conjunction with the Acton Hi-Flyers, in August, was really a preview of what we hope will be a great and glorious show for the town of Acton. In effect what we're trying to do here is to attract tourism—bring people in from outside of town and put Acton on the map.

At the fall fair the Chamber, in conjunction with the O.P.P., showed films on safety. The Chamber has a safety committee under the chairmanship of Chris Schuts. We had a meeting in July with the development commission re the industrial park, which in our opinion was somewhat inconclusive. We made known our view that we should be represented on this body. To date we are not.

Concerning pleasure craft on the lake in Acton in relation to pollution from gasoline, safety and noise, it was our recommendation that perhaps power boats should be banned altogether from Fairy Lake.

In September we met with the Acton planning board concerning the conceptual plan for Acton. We are not in a position to make any recommendations on this plan as we had no prior knowledge of

the meeting or the contents of the plan. We were invited back to another meeting which has never taken place.

Recently our secretary wrote the Beardmore Company congratulating them on the stand they have taken in relation to the wildfowl sanctuary on Fairy Lake and asking them if we can be of any assistance to them in this project. Furthermore, we believe that perhaps the wildfowl conservation idea brings up certain other aspects, namely the control of dogs in the park, not only from the point of view of wild fowl, but from the point of view of swimmers. I don't believe it is very hygienic to have dogs in the general swimming area of the park.

The Chamber has also been very active in trying to change its own by-laws but so far these have not been completely formulated.

Of course, a highlight of the year was the Citizen of the Year Dinner, and we had our usual Christmas lighting project.

Q: What do you see happening in Acton over the next year?

A: The most obvious thing, of course, is regional government, which will alter the whole concept of Acton and surrounding district. It is my opinion that perhaps Acton is designated to be a recreational centre for Hamilton-Toronto area and as such we have to anticipate that drag strips and private airports will be more readily accepted by the populace.

It's pretty obvious that our highways have to be highways and not second-rate roads. I think myself probably this expressway from Guelph to Toronto will come in the not-too-distant future and will cut transportation time down from almost an hour to 20 minutes.

Acton itself will expand, whether it wants to or not. Of course we won't have as much control as we now do and consequently it is all the more important why we should make use of this time to develop our own industrial park.

Q: It is obvious we'll soon have regional government. Will this make any difference in the role of the Chamber of Commerce?

A: The Chamber of Commerce always has been important for the town. Under regional government it could become extremely important. It probably will become the sounding board for local policies that could be implemented by regional government. It would be the only independent sounding board the local people have.

The annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held tonight. Looking back over his year as president of the local Chamber, John Shadbolt answers questions put to him by the Free Press.



JOHN SHADBOLT

Q: What do you feel is the most urgent need in Acton today?

A: My personal feeling and that of the majority of the board of directors is the urgent need for industry to employ more of the local people.

It is a very unhealthy situation when one company employs approximately 40 per cent of the labor force in the town. The town has a big investment in industrial land and, after six years we still do not seem capable of developing this to the extent it should be developed.

The highway situation of course we have already mentioned.

One of the most important things we have to do for the town is make sure we have an orderly growth. This means that we have to get people on our planning board and for council who are professional people, who will make decisions for the total Acton concept. These decisions should not be made from the point of view of any local minority alone. The thing that matters to my mind is overall planning so that everyone will benefit.

Q: Recently the Chamber of Commerce had a delegation at council urging stronger emphasis on industrial development. Are you satisfied with the steps taken?

A: As you know, Carl Watzek made the presentation to council for the Chamber of Commerce and at that time it was our understanding that the industrial park was to go full steam ahead. However another year, another day, and as far as we know there still has been no definite

decision made. You have to understand that the Chamber does not have any representation on the council or on the development commission and therefore any information we have is kind of second hand.

We probably see the news the same time everyone else does and that is in the Free Press of Acton.

Q: What do you feel should be done about industrial development in Acton?

A: We have to make the industrial park attractive to industry. I agree with the mayor, of course, when he says that no one can be forced to locate on this land. However, I do disagree with him in that he says they have made it as attractive as possible for them to locate here. Surely people should be able to walk over this land without thigh boots so they can form a valid opinion about the merits of the land for their application.

An attempt has been made to put a road in but in my opinion this is extremely small in relation to the amount of effort required to sell this land. It is my impression we have not made it at all attractive for anyone to locate here.

Industries have been knocking on the door for some time and for some unknown reason we cannot give them any definite answer as to what they should or should not do. We don't know the price of land, the date it will be ready or, as far as I know anyway, where the spur line will go... in fact, I don't think we know anything.

Q: What improvements would enhance the town and make it a better place to live?

A: The park needs careful planning for the town as a whole. It's my understanding the parks board wanted to annex part of Esquesing to make sure the development of the lake was in keeping with the whole concept of the park. I don't know if this is realistic at this time to consider annexation. I do know we should be very concerned about making the lake a focal point. When we get those Canada geese back on the lake it might be quite a thing to get tourists from 40 miles away—Toronto—to see this.

We want ideas from people in town and we are very desirous of hearing opinions from anyone who has new ideas which they think would beautify the town or make it a better place to live in.

There are many ways to improve the town but in my opinion recreational facilities and development of more industry are at the present the most important. The industrial

development probably should come first to help finance the recreational improvement needed. The survey will help the Chamber to formulate a policy which will reflect the views of the majority of the Acton population. In other words what I said before—a "total Acton concept."

Q: What does the recent Chamber survey show about the town?

A: The survey has not as yet been processed. Key Com. are processing this for us and we anticipate we will have these results for the general meeting.

However, I must confess that I have taken a few looks at some of the survey forms that have come back to us and I think they're very interesting. It would appear that the majority of people in town are very much in favor of having an extended telephone service, perhaps to incorporate Guelph and Milton. It's my personal opinion the survey will show the majority of people are in favor of a mall. Things have come to light that ordinarily one would never have thought about.

There have been requests for postal stamp machines adjacent to Glenlea subdivision. Old people living in that subdivision have a long way to go to the post office and perhaps this is one of the things the survey has done.

It is surprising how many indicated they would be interested in commuter service to Toronto, also taking part in night school classes.

The number of the surveys returned seems to represent about 25 per cent of the entire Acton population. The survey will be completed in a week or so.

NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

By: Mary Ann Freuler

With exams starting today, many of the activities of A.D.H.S. have died down lately. Until January 30 most students will be hard at work studying, now, to escape the final examinations in June. Good luck to everyone!

Students have already been requested to fill out their subject request sheets for next September. At a series of assemblies, held late last week, the classes were informed of the various options and opportunities of the courses. The junior grades have a variety of classes to choose from, while the senior students are mostly required to follow through on the subjects they are presently undertaking. A few additional courses, which have been planned for the fall, should

Recreation selection

The method of appointing people to serve on Acton's Parks and Recreation Committee once again came under fire at the Committee's first meeting Thursday night.

Second year member Phil McCristall asked newly elected chairman, councillor Peter Marks, what happened to the names the committee had recommended to Council.

Councillor Marks made it clear that every name submitted to Council was considered to have excellent qualifications.

Vice-chairman Bob Laughlen thought it was embarrassing for people to be approached, then voted down by Council.

"I don't think we should recommend names, if they don't want us to", Mr. McCristall suggested.

movie gave the students an excellent insight to what can happen.

The photographers for this year's "Oracle" were again present at the school Tuesday. Pictures of the remaining school clubs were taken. The "Oracle" is on sale from your home room representative for the price of \$4.00.

For those students who are cursing the exams, remember "Operation Ookpik" will take place in a few weeks. Plan to participate in the activities and put your ideas together with your classmates for your float for the Torch-Lite Parade and the snow sculpturing contest. The boys have begun to work on the skating rink and the girls are busy with posters for decorating. Be sure that you don't miss out on the fun!

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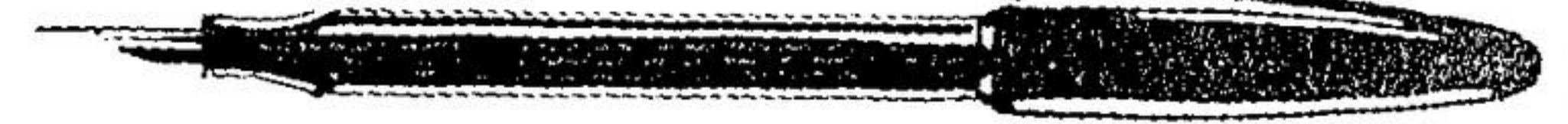
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SUGGESTS RACE TRACK UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Council, Township of Esquesing

Gentlemen:

Earlier this year, I purchased a farm on the corner of the Fifth Line and the Tenth concession, Esquesing Township

I am writing because of my concern of the social impact that would be caused to the area by allowing motor racetracks to be established in the area. I located in this area with the expectation that I and my family could enjoy farming for a few years to come.

A racetrack in the area will:

(1) greatly increase the interest of many youths in the area in car racing and from my observations there is already enough of that along the concession roads at present, adding to the dust and other problems.

(2) If we can assume that people with the same characteristics that attend other racetracks will attend a racetrack in Esquesing, we can also expect some of our

visitors trying their skills along our side roads.

(3) With the great influx of people in the summertime, the number of 'campers' will be considerable and I am sure more than one cow will find its way onto the roads because of broken fences or gates left open.

(4) If a racetrack is allowed anywhere in Esquesing or in an adjoining municipality, I believe the townships will have to provide greatly increased police patrols throughout the total area of the township on a twenty-four hour a day basis and strong enough in number to cope with any situation that could be a nuisance or detrimental to the well-being of the residents of Esquesing.

I appreciate the fact that urban development will gradually encroach on the farmland and that industrial taxation is very desirable; however, I submit that undesirable development should be avoided.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

R. D. Pinkney

Truck crashes driver injured

A Ridley Cartage truck ended up in a swamp and its driver, Michael McCristall of R. R. 3, Acton, was hospitalized Tuesday of last week.

According to Milton OPP, McCristall's truck, owned by Ridley Cartage of Acton, left Esquesing's Fourth Line north of 22 Sideroad and bounced into a swamp.

McCristall was admitted to Guelph General Hospital suffering from head and chest injuries. A total of \$800 damage was done to the truck.

Education increases in pay

Halton County Board of Education announced pay raises for administrators at their regular meeting Thursday. The raises came into effect Jan. 1.

Assistant Superintendents of Business Frank Dana and H. R. Lishman were granted hikes bringing them into a range of \$17,500 to \$20,000. Rates for those people were up from the 1969 scale of \$16,500 to \$17,500.

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce T. Lindley received a \$1,000 hike, moving him into the \$25,000 range. The Board's five co-ordinators will receive between \$16,000 to \$17,500 as compared to the 1969 rate of \$15,000 to \$17,000.

Buyers and Supervisors of Transportation will receive between \$6,500 and \$9,500. Other increases announced were for area Supervisors and Supervisors of Plant Operations and Maintenance. Rates for those jobs open at \$10,000 and run to \$12,000.

Ireland's freedom shaky

Dear Editor:

In analyzing the latest reports on the Irish situation of fruitless nonsense, there is far from justice and respect for those handful of Catholics in Ulster, severed from Ireland proper since partition back in the '20's, to become victims of British hypocrisy at the hands of her alien imposters playing with this handful like a cat with a mouse, in closing her eyes to all the rascality carried out against them since partition.

This handful, branded as extremists and presented to the

world as coverage for their action since partition; this handful that they dread and fear, helpless to defend themselves outside of civil rights demonstrations, to present their cause for the right to live in the land of their birth.

This handful that could do no other than live within the realm of their beliefs and expect salvation in the end as a fulfillment of their true purpose in life, which they have always cherished even in their darkest hour; their peace and good will not being acceptable, the civil rights movement caused them to

be burned out of their homes with the only alternative left, to cross the border for refuge.

This is the element that has existed down through the years since they first set foot on the soil and as for the trial of Bernadette Devlin, it is only adding to the shame of all concerned, not being the first of its kind and perhaps not the last. With this cat and mouse business, Ireland's freedom will remain in the bag.

Yours sincerely,
G. Graham,
R.R. 1, Limehouse.