

# Council approves dragway tower permit

"You can come and watch the races from my bedroom window", was the parting invitation of one of the close to 75 irate Esqueving township residents who jammed the township council chamber Friday night to protest the establishment of the Golden Horseshoe Dragway between the Fifth and Sixth Lines.

Esqueving council had just resolved, by a 4-1 recorded vote to approve the issue of a building permit for a control tower for the dragway to promoter Carl Bristow.

Councillor Russell Miller cast the lone vote against the resolution. Voting in favor were reeve George Currie, deputy-reeve Tom Hill, and councillors Wilfrid Leslie and Ken Marshall.

Jubilant about council's decision, Mr. Bristow told the Free Press later, he hopes to have racing started sometime between the middle of May and the first of June. Drag racing enthusiasts from the area will be permitted to race their cars, provided they first pass a rigid inspection.

Permanent seating for about 5,000 spectators is planned.

Obviously disappointed by the result, Peter Bowman, spokesman for the protesting residents, promised to take court action.

"We've lost the first skirmish but the battle is far from over", Mr. Bowman's wife Jacqueline told the Free Press this week.

Most of the protesters wore bright red badges with the word NO printed in huge black letters. Outbursts from the group were frequent, throughout the meeting, and reeve Currie was forced to use the gavel

repeatedly. The reeve noted it was the first time in his 40 years on council that a deputation as large had attended a meeting.

Representing Mr. Bristow, lawyer John Sopinka told council that his client had complied with every aspect of the building by-law. He pointed

## Fire destroys Rover cabin

A 2 a.m. alarm Wednesday morning took the Rockwood fire brigade out to the Rover cabin at Spirit Valley farm on the Old Indian Trail road.

The fire, which completely demolished the building, apparently smoldered for two or three hours before a neighbor's phone call alerted firefighters.

No evidence was found to indicate how the fire started.

out the by-law requires permits for buildings only, and not for a drag strip.

The township's recently passed agricultural holding by-law is not yet in effect, he submitted, since it has not received final approval from the Ontario Municipal Board.

Mr. Sopinka went on to say that his client was prepared to do everything possible to make the use of the drag strip non-objectionable to township residents, and expressed the opinion that in asking council to refuse a building permit for the control tower, opponents of the strip would be asking them to do something illegal.

"I think there is no legal basis on which council can refuse this building permit", Mr. Sopinka concluded.

A further statement, by Mr. Sopinka, that the strip would provide additional assessment

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THE FREE PRESS CAMERA caught part of the deputation of about 75 Esqueving township residents, who packed the council chamber at a special meeting Friday night to voice their opposition to the establishment of the Golden Horseshoe Dragway. In spite of pleas by the residents, council approved the issue of a building permit for a control tower for the dragway, to promoter Carl Bristow, by a 4-1 recorded vote.—(Staff Photo)

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## Bob Hart now J.P.



BOB HART

Acton now has a Justice of the Peace.

Bob Hart's appointment by the Department of Justice was effective January 15.

There hasn't been a J.P. in Acton since Jack McGeachie left.

He will sign documents such as summonses and warrants for the police, take evidence and have

various duties he isn't sure of yet himself. "One thing I know for sure," he says, "I can't marry people. That takes a judge."

## Old locomotive 6218 steams through town

Although "Old 6218" steamed right through Acton without stopping, an estimated 200 were at the station and crossings here to enjoy the sight of a steam engine again. Crowds were waiting at all the crossings and stations from Toronto to Stratford during the special day's run.

Sunday's jaunt behind the steam locomotive was organized by the Upper Canada Railway Society and the 12 passenger cars were filled to capacity. There was standing room only.

The haunting sound of the steam whistles alerted Actonians to the train's arrival about 10 o'clock and it passed through again late in the afternoon on the return trip.

Wherever it stopped, photographers on the train took pictures of the photographers on the platforms, and then everyone ran alongside the train and took shots of the engine. And the tape buffs took tapes.

Old 6218 was built in Montreal in 1942-43 and has the distinction of being the last steam locomotive in North America to have an overhaul, in 1963 at Stratford. The shop there was closed four months later. It has made several special excursions, each one enthusiastically welcomed by railroad fans.

Excursions are already scheduled for February and October this year.

## Dentist says 40% Acton children have decayed, rotten teeth

Statements attributed to the dental director of the Halton County Health Unit in a Hamilton newspaper about oral and personal hygiene in North Halton have incensed many people from this town and district.

Dr. Samuel Green, dental director of the Halton Health Unit, was reported to have said that although children in Oakville and Burlington — representing the southern heavily-populated and more prosperous area of the county — have good teeth and practise oral hygiene, those in the north of the county leave a lot to be desired.

Publicizing the new Murphy the Molar campaign, Dr. Green said if a child is examined and found to have six or more cavities, he is classified as an urgent case. In Acton, for instance, 35 to 40 per cent of the children examined recently were classified urgent.

"It gets frustrating," the head dentist said, "almost every kid I examine up there has decayed and rotten teeth."

Dr. Green described the Acton-Georgetown sector of the county as a poor socio-economic area. Such people tend to consume more sugary and starch foods and not much protein. Meat, he said, is a prime source

## Council reaction

Acton council's reaction to the statements by Health Unit dentist, Dr. Green?

"Poor public relations on his part to release something to the Hamilton Spectator," — Councillor McKenzie.

"I object to fireside chats by public servants," — Reeve F. Oakes.

"I hate to see Acton described as the Dogpatch of Kentucky. I had a reasonable understanding there is natural fluoride in the water here," — Mayor Duby.

"We need an extensive survey of the area to find out if it is true but this guy is a grandstander," — Councillor Marks.

of protein and is an expensive food item that such families can't always afford.

Compounding poor eating habits, oral hygiene practices in the north are almost non-existent. Because such families are more concerned about making a living than their southern neighbors, oral and personal hygiene take a back seat to the pressure of survival, Dr. Green suggested.

Georgetown also came in for some sweeping criticism.

In a survey taken in Georgetown last year it was found that the average child spends \$50 per year on candy, bubble gum and other "garbage" foods. He spends — or at least his parents spend — less than half this amount on dental services.

"Dentists have found that the average child by age six has begun to cultivate his first cavities," Dr. Green said. "In poor areas such as North Halton, 50 per cent of the children are getting their first cavities by age two."

Reaction to Dr. Green's statements ranged from downright disbelief to remarks like, "I'm beginning to think we all live in tar paper shacks up here."

The Free Press contacted Robert Little principal G. W. McKenzie. The Robert Little school was the target for a recent fluoride brush-in conducted by nurses of the Health Unit.

He was astounded by the doctor's statements. "I know there's a need for more dental work in the Acton schools but 40 per cent—I don't accept that," the principal declared.

"I'm amazed at how well the parents in Acton look after their children, even in the large families, where it often is done at great sacrifice." He said the children in Acton schools are just as clean both in oral and

personal hygiene as they are in the south of the county.

They have their problems down there and it is ridiculous for them to imagine the south as a Utopia, Mr. McKenzie said.

There is room for dental improvement in the Acton schools, he was quick to admit, but he felt the health unit doctor's claims grossly exaggerated the state of students' teeth in the north and south ends of the county.

Some parents contacted by The Free Press were indignant about the doctor's claims. Several said they had regular appointments with a dentist and knew most of their friend did also. They resented the doctor's inference the north end of the county was a poor socio-economic area.

Principal McKenzie was particularly upset because he had requested the Health Unit to conduct their fluoride brush-in and they seemed in no particular hurry to oblige. They came after he had forgotten all about the request.

Mr. McKenzie said Dr. Green had only been in the Robert Little school once, to his knowledge, and had never been in the M. Z. Bennett school.



RON HENRY

## B.A. degree for Ron Henry at U. of G.

An Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in political studies will be conferred upon Ronald K. Henry of Acton at the winter convocation of the University of Guelph, Friday, January 30 at 2 p.m. A 1966 graduate of Acton District high school, he achieved first class honors in his four year course.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Henry, John St. He plans to continue his studies in law in September.

Winter convocation is held Friday in War Memorial Hall at the university.

## Truck fire causes damage

Acton firefighters quickly extinguished a fire in a Direct Winters transport truck, near the Fifth Line Esqueving corner on Highway 7, Monday afternoon about 4 p.m.

The fire caused extensive damage to the engine of the truck, but the driver was not injured.

## Provincial tax rebate increases by \$3 here

Average provincial property tax rebates in Acton in 1970 will likely be \$3 higher than in 1969, thanks to a new system in the tax reduction program, announced Thursday by Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough.

Rebates in Esqueving are expected to rise about \$13 and in Nassagaweya about \$15. Increases in other Halton towns indicate about \$15 in Burlington, Georgetown and Oakville.

Most Ontario residents will receive greater benefits in 1970 than in 1969, McKeough said. But none will receive a greater increase than \$15, and any who receive less this year will not receive more than 75 less than in 1969.

The formula used for rebates is changed to give a standard \$30 plus 10 per cent of the average residential tax paid by householders in 1969. The following table concerning Halton indicates how it will work:

Municipality	Average 1969 taxes	Average 1969 rebate	Proposed 1970 rebate
Acton	\$277	\$52.70	\$55.55
Burlington	488	51.46	66.84
Georgetown	357	44.86	59.88
Milton	367	52.00	61.62
Oakville	503	45.01	60.38
Esqueving	373	33.41	46.87
Nassagaweya	331	23.82	38.18

## Monday blitz — \$700 goal

Monday is blitz night for the 70 canvassers who will be calling door-to-door in Acton for the Ability Fund. Formerly known as the March of Dimes, the Ability Fund assists adults with physical handicaps.

The captains, working under Mrs. S. Cripps, are Mrs. Gord McKeown, Mrs. John Dunn, Mrs. Gary Dawkins, Mrs. Gerry Pargeter, Mrs. Hazel Orr, Mrs. Orval Darby, Mrs. Doug Mason, Miss Jean McLean, Mrs. Pat Waldie, Mrs. E. Lynch, Mrs.

Lorne Youngblut and Mrs. H. Bittorf.

Most of the calls are planned to be made Monday, but pink envelopes will be left when no one's home, so contributions can be sent to Mrs. Cripps. As well, folders explaining the work of the Ability Fund will be left so those who have donated may read more about the work done.

Acton's goal is \$700. Posters have been up through town and there are six penny banks out for contributions, in

the banks, drug store, bus station, milk store and Watson's restaurant.

Letters requesting donations have been sent out to industries.

Monday night Mrs. Mary Cooper of Georgetown, another volunteer who's the district chairman, spoke enthusiastically on the work of the Ability Fund to a group of canvassers and captains at the Robert Little School.

The Ability Fund has changed its old polio-fighting image and

now stresses the abilities of the disabled adults, rather than their disabilities. Some receive work at home; others get special training and a job in a training centre or workshop.

People who need such assistance don't always realize it's available.

Children under 19 years of age come under the jurisdiction of the Crippled Children's association; locally the Rotary Club canvasses for these funds.

## Criticize Dr. Green at county council

A news story in a Hamilton daily newspaper stating, among other things, that oral and personal hygiene take a back seat to the pressure of survival in the northern areas of Halton County, had Acton's Deputy-reeve Ted Tyler angered at County Council Tuesday and he wanted the man who made the statements to answer for them at the next meeting of County Council.

The man he referred to was Dr. Samuel Green, head of the Halton County Health Unit's Dental Preventive Service.

"I'm opposed to the way he described North Halton. In this story we look like a bunch of 'country bumpkins'. The man says the Acton-Georgetown area is an area of poor social and

economic development," he stormed. "Why look at the reeve of Acton and the reeve and deputy-reeve of Georgetown, do they look poor and under-fed?" he said, pointing to the well-built officials.

"Between 35 and 40 per cent of the children in Acton are classified as urgent dental cases, or at least so says Dr. Green, but I don't believe this. I did some checking and discovered he (Dr. Green) had not visited the area nor had a dental nurse even been to visit M. Z. Bennett School and there are a lot of kids there," he emphasized.

"As far as personal hygiene, we bathe at times other than when the ice is off the pond here in Acton," sniffed the deputy reeve.

"I admit we do have dental problems up there, but it could be because dental staff were not doing their job," he said.

Other members of County Council criticized the press for printing such a story. Burlington Reeve Gordon Gallagher said "I feel the press owes society more news coverage. Why don't they tell the good things in life?" he asked.

Defending the dental chief, Art Speight claimed he was faced with a heavy work load, serving several other municipalities. "I would hate to see him condemned in this manner."

Defending the alleged poor dental conditions in his part of the county, Esqueving Reeve George Currie told council in a

deadpan manner that "Everyone I met in any dealings in Esqueving had their own teeth!"

Mr. Speight again spoke in Dr. Green's defence, saying, "I doubt seriously whether half this stuff can be substantiated. We are crucifying him in absentia."

Georgetown's Reeve William Hunter asked "If the doctor did say all these things, then why did he say them? If it's true then he should rectify the problem rather than make headlines of them."

Deputy Reeve Tyler's request to have Dr. Green appear was defeated and the chairman of the Board of Health, Reeve Mrs. Anne MacArthur, was instructed to consult with the Acting Medical Officer of Health for a further course of action.



Old 6218 steams through Acton