

Wedding's  
off....

# Postpone Halton-Peel region

Acton mayor Les Duby has told a distraught Darcy McKeough that he was very "disappointed" in his decision to defer regional government in Halton and Peel counties until there was more consensus to change the present county system.

The minister of municipal affairs summoned the mayors and Reeves of Halton and Peel counties Monday afternoon to unload the deferment "bombshell" he originally intended to unload in Bolton that evening.

Regional government won't happen by next January 1 and could be deferred as late as 1973, Mr. McKeough told surprised urban mayors and Reeves and happy township Reeves. McKeough blamed indecision among politicians from Halton and Peel and the thorny hang-up of what to do with Burlington for the postponement.

The minister noted legislation would have to go before the Ontario Legislature by May 1 in order for elections to be held this fall and it was just not possible.

Mayor Duby, his disappointment showing, pleaded with Mr. McKeough along with others including the mayors of Burlington and Mississauga, to implement his Halton-Peel regional proposals to no avail.

"In my personal opinion I figure he was under heavy pressure from city politics or is hopefully just taking the psychological approach to this," Duby said. "I felt most of the urban representatives went home deflated from the meeting to think up all kinds of reasons to get the minister to reconsider."

"I can't see any real difficulties. If Mr. McKeough wanted to develop a strong, viable municipal buffer

between the two large cities he could ignore the Steele report and the cities," the Acton mayor said. "There was broad acceptance of the Halton-Peel area now except for turncoats in Peel. Halton bent to the minister's wishes and was willing to go along with his regional plans."

"Now the whole thing's been thrown into a cocked hat," Duby charged. "Mr. McKeough was so unlike himself."

The townships were hopping with joy, the mayor admitted, but he could see no benefit to them in the stall. "There's no way we can change the inevitable annexation," he declared.

"I personally feel we should ask the minister to reconsider. There's a poor future for Acton in the present state of suspended animation," the mayor continued. "It

does more harm than good now to defer regional government."

"Mississauga stuck its neck out and now without question they will ask for city status. Burlington likely will, too."

The Acton mayor reminded Mr. McKeough about his limited annexation policies which had tied Acton to a stake to fry. Reeve Frank Oakes asked about election problems; reminding the minister new elections could change council attitudes towards regional government if personnel changes.

Some municipal leaders saw a ray of sunshine in Mr. McKeough's admission there may still be room for separate Halton and a separate Peel but the minister said there would have to be more agreement than there is now.

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### Sunbonnet Sue set to go tonight!



BECKY BAXTER and Jim Krapek will headline the cast in Thursday night's Robert Little production "The Sunbonnet Girl".—(Staff Photo)



DEBBIE BOUSFIELD and Billy McGilloway co-star in tonight's Robert Little School operetta entitled, "The Sunbonnet Girl".—(Staff Photo)



NOW YOU HUSH-UP PA! Mrs. Scroggs (Mary Lou Pendleton) scolds her husband (Roger Warboys) in the Robert Little operetta, "The Sunbonnet Girl", which opens tonight, (Wednesday).—(Staff Photo)

## REACTION

### Esquering

#### Tom collects bets

Esquering reeve George Currie indicated Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough was still wavering over which way to go with Burlington, at Monday's emergency meeting of Halton and Peel mayors and Reeves.

Meanwhile deputy-reeve Tom Hill is ready to collect bets he claims he made with the reeve, Acton deputy-reeve Ted Tyler and Georgetown reeve Bill Hunter over the imminence of regional government by July 1 of this year.

### Nassagaweya

#### Reeve is relieved

"I would say it will be two years before anything is done on regional government", Reeve A. MacArthur told members of Nassagaweya Township council after attending a meeting Monday with representatives from Peel and Halton. The Minister of Municipal Affairs announced then there would be no action on regional government this year, as had been widely speculated.

make up his mind about Burlington and whether it should go with Halton or Hamilton, until after May 1. The reeve told members she attended the meeting with a hollow feeling in her stomach, after having been led to believe Milton would get everything in Nassagaweya below 10 Sideroad. She didn't know whether she would remain in Nassagaweya or be moved to Milton.

Mrs. MacArthur also reported indications the Minister would not be averse to considering plans for Halton to operate as a unit without Peel.

When the decision was announced to delay the implementation of regional government she observed there weren't many smiles. "Nassagaweya had about the only one", she suggested.

She told councillors the Minister had told delegates that in the light of many problems it would not be possible to go ahead with regional government this year and possibly not next year. He noted he could not

The major factors in the decision to delay action were the Peel County Council's rejection of the Halton-Peel merger and the problems with the location of Burlington, the reeve noted.

### Milton

#### Darcy's "bombshell"

It was a shocked silence that greeted Reeve Ron Harris' announcement, in the middle of Milton Council's Monday meeting, that regional government for Halton and Peel was being postponed.

meeting councillors got together over coffee cups and tried to read between the lines of McKeough's announcement.

Reeve Harris and Councillor Percy Barr attended Monday's special meeting when McKeough announced the decision. He called in municipal leaders from the two counties to hear the news just prior to delivering a major policy address at a Bolton meeting Monday night.

One said it appeared the provincial cabinet must have given McKeough orders to squelch the merger of the two counties; another felt there must be pressure for Metro Toronto to expand westward. Some felt the announcement was a good sign there's a provincial election in the air and another thought the delay might be caused by an approaching announcement the federal government's jetport will go somewhere in the Halton or Peel area. All agreed their ideas were pure speculation but they were certain there is some underlying reason for the decision to postpone the merger that hasn't yet come out in the open.

"That's quite a bombshell," said councillor Charles Johnson. "It kind of shakes one a bit."

Reeve Harris reported McKeough appeared to be under pressure when he made the announcement—"he just wasn't the usual Darcy". After the

## Motel-restaurant combination may locate east of Acton

A 22 unit motel and restaurant may be built on the southeast corner of Highway 7 and the Fifth Line of Esquering, just east of Acton.

Lawyer J. H. Campbell, representing brothers William

and Tony Kri, appeared at Monday night's regular meeting of Esquering council to request a land separation in connection with the construction of the proposed motel.

Mr. Campbell told council the

Kri brothers hope to be able to cater to patrons of the Golden Horseshoe Dragway, presently under construction between the Fifth and Sixth Lines.

Reeve Currie informed Mr. Campbell his clients would have to present plans for the building to the township planning board first.

An amendment to the township's agricultural holding by-law would also have to be made to permit the motel to be built.

When Mr. Campbell asked council, if they would veto the project or whether they thought it had possibilities, councillor Ken Marshall said he felt township residents would want council to move ahead and secure some non-residential assessment.

Estimated cost of the motel and restaurant is between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

Mr. Campbell and his clients are to attend a joint meeting of council and planning board Wednesday, March 25.

## \$8,519,785 assessment in Acton

Assessment for 1970 on which taxes will be raised amounts to \$8,519,785 clerk-administrator Joe Hurst told council at the last meeting.

"We estimated there would be a \$9 million assessment this year," asked Councillor Greer.

"We'd have been just about right if the Reisman development had gone ahead," the mayor asserted.

The clerk estimated the town must pay \$100,637 capital requirements on debentures, principal and interest, a figure Reeve Oakes questioned, but welcomed when the clerk told council that with the school debentures off the figures were cut away down.

### \$40 missing

On March 13 a Mason Blvd. resident reported to police \$40 taken from his home. The money was in an envelope in a cash box in a drawer.

## D. Copeland, P. Martindale transferred in September

Robert Little school vice-principal Doug Copeland leaves to become the vice-principal of Kennedy school in Georgetown next September. Mike Homer will come from Harrison school in Georgetown to replace him at the Robert Little school.

Paul Martindale of the Acton district high school staff will become vice-principal at T. A. Blakelock high school in Oakville.

Doug Magwood has been appointed vice-principal at Stewarttown school.

These local appointments were included in a list released at the regular board of education meeting last Thursday.

## Call tenders for work on Highway 7

Jim Snow, M.P.P., for Halton, East announced today that tenders will be called this week by the Ontario Department of Highways for the reconstruction of Highway between the towns of Georgetown and Acton.

The construction work included in this contract will be the grading, drainage, granular base and paving of Highway 7 from the north limits of the town of Georgetown, westerly

to the Acton east limits, a distance of 6.6 miles, including 0.4 miles of connecting link in the town of Georgetown.

Tenders were called previously for the clearing, grubbing and fencing of this section of highway in preparation for this construction contract.

It is expected that construction work will begin as soon as weather permits this Spring.

## C. of C. ladies' night big success

The first annual Chamber of Commerce ladies' night was so successful Saturday, the executive of the Chamber is considering holding another and possibly more each year.

More than 90 dined and danced in the commodious dining room at Halton Heights Country Club Saturday evening, soaking in the atmosphere under soft candle light. Members and their guests were welcomed by Allan Eastwood.

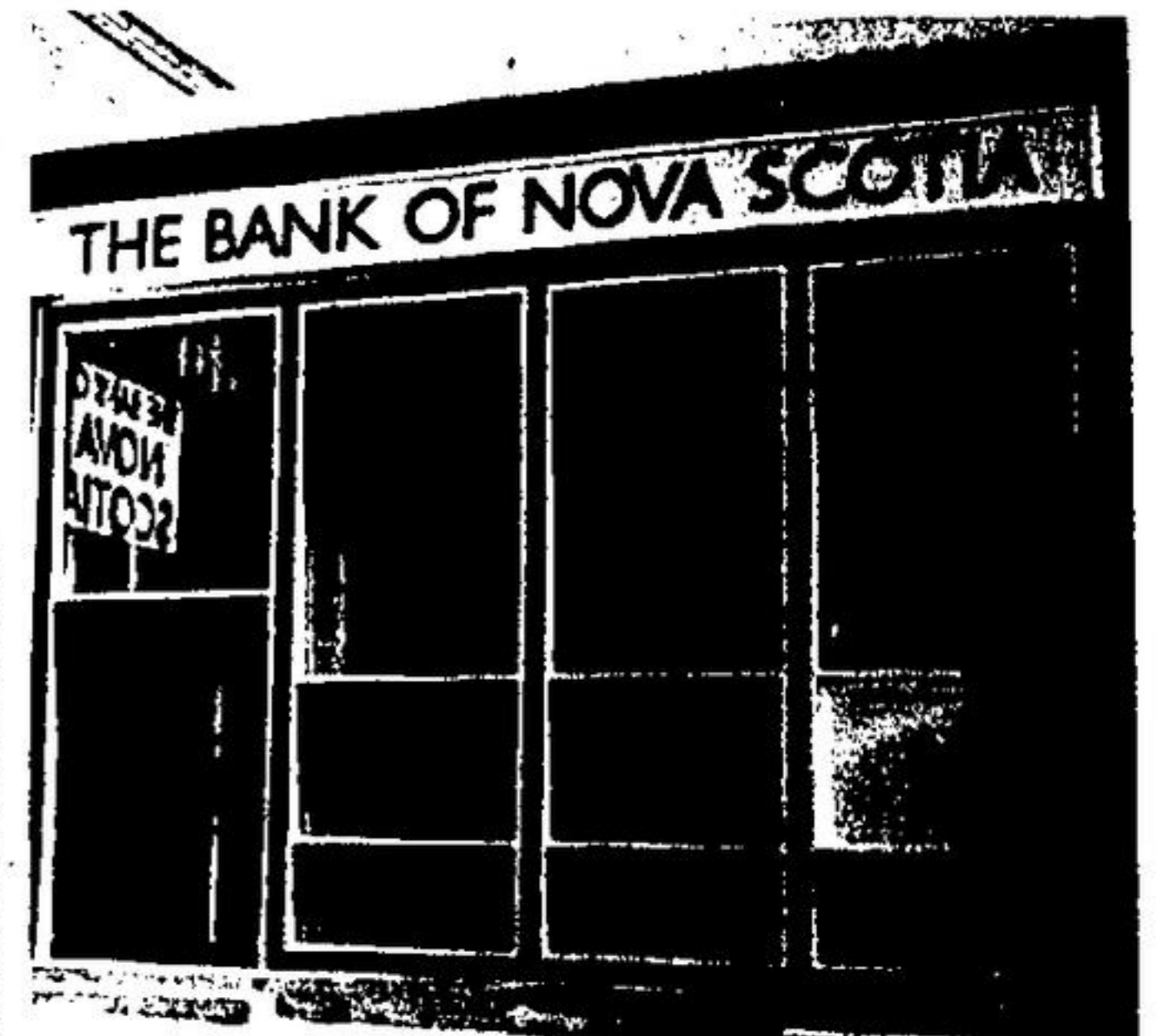


If you're shopping for Spring... This is the week! This week's bulky issue of the Acton Free Press carries many extra pages of special advertisements

as merchants outline their special Easter and Spring Sales. Throughout the four sections of the paper, shoppers have a wide choice of merchandise to

scan and choose Easter or Spring outfits, stock up with food bargains, select their new car, purchase gifts and novelties and a wide variety of other goods.

The four-section paper has been planned for a number of weeks and the entire staff has been working overtime to produce the 42 pages.



THE NEWLY RENOVATED Bank of Nova Scotia will be the scene of an open house this Saturday, March 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. to acquaint the people of the town and district with spanking new facilities. Coffee will be served and patrons will have an opportunity to see the antique coin display. Manager C. D. Anderson will be on hand to welcome visitors.—(Staff Photo)