

# Meeting discusses future of Acton

## Acton need chunk of Esqueusing?

Annexation? Picture your house and a fine lot and then all of a sudden your neighbor wants a chunk of it, and you've captured the idea of annexation, said John Goy as he chaired one segment of last Wednesday's open meeting of the Development Commission.

Once a vehicle for the municipality to flex its muscles, annexation is not so popular now that municipal boundaries are not so important. But sometimes it is necessary, to avoid uncontrollable situations on your borders.

Take the ideas and then think whether it would be practical for the town to annex 8 or 10 square miles of Esqueusing, said former mayor Goy.

**Extend to Fourth**

According to present mayor Doby it would be feasible for Acton to extend to the Fourth Line, doubling the present size with another 1,000 acres, but councillor Peter Marks couldn't see it. He felt Acton's area was large enough to accommodate another 25 to 30 per cent more population without extending borders. Then there was the spectre of regional government looming in the not too distant

At an open meeting called by Acton Development Commission, future development of Acton was discussed by about 25 interested citizens in the library. Last week's Free Press carried four news articles from the meeting, but two had to be left out due to lack of space. These two stories are published today.

future, which Mr. Marks felt would take care of all present boundaries.

Acton is serious about expanding, said Councillor Greer because of the necessity of added assessment to pay for the increased capacity of the water pollution control plant, designed now to serve 7,500 people.

## Begin works program

Eight men began work cutting down dead elm trees in Esqueusing township Monday morning, under the provincial municipal employment incentive program, roads superintendent C. E. "Bud" Snow told council Monday night.

The men began working on the Fifth Line, south of 15 Sideroad. "I feel they did a good day's work," Mr. Snow reported. Mr. Snow said the crew had cleaned up along a lengthy portion of the road, felled 16 trees and cut seven of them up, the first day.

## Develop downtown shopping core?

Develop the downtown business and shopping area or turn to plazas? — a topic which generated much discussion at Wednesday's Development Commission meeting.

Development Commission member Ted Tyler Jr. presented a brief to the meeting which outlined the alternatives if the downtown business section was not developed, touching on parking. He quoted excerpts from a traffic control engineer's report, the gist of which contended the general taxpayer should not subsidize parking. Mr. Tyler declared the downtown area needed more parking facilities but it wasn't up to the community to pick up the tab.

Problems

It was admitted there were problems in the downtown area, not the least of which is the fact two highways pass through the business section. Councillor Masales told the meeting council has gone slowly on parking problems and would have given it more consideration this year if the mill rate had not been so staggering.

Mr. Masales said the parking lot at the United Church was being used more frequently now but surveys indicated side streets were not used as much as they could be. There was also a problem with the use of crosswalks. He contended the general public was not educated properly in their use.

Cars are also parking too close to crosswalks, declared Harold Speaker. Loitering by crosswalks compounded the problems, said Mr. Secord.

Mr. Tyler said he favored developing the downtown core rather than developing plazas but more parking was needed.

Many advantages

Mrs. Betty Eastwood said plazas had many advantages for shoppers and they would go where parking and convenience went hand in hand. Russell Patterson saw that part of the problem for downtown merchants was the lack of space to window shop. You must get people out of cars to shop, he declared. Cut out parking too close to intersections. He suggested taking cars off Mill St. and widening sidewalks to accommodate more window shoppers.

As far as education at crosswalks, Mr. Patterson said there was much more courtesy at crosswalks in Acton than in Toronto, where people were supposed to be educated to their existence and use.

Ted Tyler Jr. was a willing ally of Mr. Patterson, recalling personal attempts while on council to try out a Mill St. mall and the opposition he encountered. He still advocated the idea, feeling it presented merchants with real sales potential.

Why do people go out of town to shop? Lack of variety for one thing, declared Mr. Tyler.

Inherent problems

Mayor Doby said many of these comments were relevant but he asked the meeting to "never lose sight of what we inherit." Many of the problems were passed on, such as Main Street being much wider than Mill St. He suggested early planners didn't have the foresight like they had in Orangeville which boasts a wide, broad way for the business section.

Other suggestions? Take the highways around town, install parking meters to keep traffic moving and think about parking behind downtown stores.

As far as John Secord is concerned council should also give serious consideration to limiting the size and number of shopping plazas. They are an evil cult, he contended.

John Secord thought one way out of the dilemma would be to initiate a parking authority composed of councillors, merchants and citizens, and get teeth into the law. He suggested the town should buy up existing houses and turn the property into parking lots.

John Coniglio, one of three merchants attending the meeting, suggested Acton people were not receptive to advertising.

Interest your children in bowling. It will get them off the streets and into the alleys.

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**President elected again**

Burlington Reeve Jim Swanborough was re-elected president of the Halton West Progressive Conservative Association at the annual meeting in Burlington recently. Other officers elected were Eric Clark first vice-president, June Andrews of Campbellville second vice-president, Leonard Saltmarsh secretary and Andrew Frame treasurer.

Guest speaker Nathan Nurgitz, national president of the Progressive Conservative Association was guest speaker at the annual banquet. He spoke on the likelihood of a Conservative government in the next federal election.

He claimed there is an urgent need for a national identity. He said the NDP convention did that party harm and the resignation of Eric Kierans pointed out trouble in the Liberal party.

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**Euchre winners**

L.O.L. winners last Saturday: Ladies' high Marie Peacock, 31; Ladies low Marjorie Hall; Men's high Ron Britton, 136; Men's low Jerry Dewar; Lone hands John Dewar 1; door prize Catherine McCristall.

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11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
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11:10 a.m.—Sunday School.  
2:30 p.m.—Afternoon Worship Service.  
7:30 p.m.—Teen Meet at the church.  
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10:00 a.m.—Nursery.  
10:00 a.m.—Church School to Grade 4.  
11:00 a.m.—Church School (Grade 5-8)  
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