

Let's light large candles for our 100th birthday

By Jack Carpenter

The clerk of the Township scribed in longhand the minutes of the meeting. It read... that as the community had reached the required population figure necessary, as and from the date set forth the community will become a village.

The year was 1873. The by-law passed by Esquesing township paved the way for an election of a reeve and council who would assume office and govern the affairs of the village of Acton commencing on the First Day of January 1874.

Reeve Storey was the man in question and the community is now the Town of Acton. It will be 100 years since that auspicious occasion in two short years. The community has survived for a century and those two remaining years will pass quickly. Before you know it a most important anniversary will

be with us. One hundredth birthdays just don't happen every day and they should be marked with appropriate pomp and ceremony.

There are hundreds of ways to celebrate a 100th anniversary. The most important thing—it should be shared by every one of the citizens.

1974 then, should be set aside for a year of celebration. It will not be just another year. It will be Acton's Centennial Year.

Already the years have gone by and planning for such an event is delayed. No project or program is officially formulated.

Looking over the history of the town it is interesting to review the events surrounding the 50th anniversary. The Jubilee, as it was known, became a point of interest by some of

the citizens and through the pages of the Free Press they asked, suggested, pleaded and threatened the town fathers to do something. Anything. Just don't let such an occasion slip by unnoticed.

In June of the year a meeting was called and the citizens who attended broke up and went home. It appears the council did not bother to attend.

Two weeks later they issued a statement that the celebrations were cancelled.

Well you know, you just can't cancel a birthday. It's there whether you like it or not. And many Acton citizens liked it. With pressure bearing on the town fathers another effort was made and in the September the town celebrated its Jubilee.

The year was 1923.

If only someone had mentioned it they mistakenly were a whole year ahead and the town could have planned a better and more fitting celebration... or could it be possible they would have thought—why bother? there's an entire year ahead.

But that's history and it does not bear repeating.

Out of the Jubilee and its weekend of celebration, which many readers surely recollect, came a permanent memorial recording the event. It stands today—the gateway to the park, which was named Jubilee Park from that year. The two stone pillars stand as a reminder of the 50th year of the town but not even a plaque proclaiming their origin. What will be here to remind us of our 100th year?

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BUSINESS AS USUAL by gas lamp was transacted at Acton post office Wednesday morning when power was cut off for almost two hours. Postmaster Gordon McKewen, shown here in the ethereal glow cast by the old lamp, keeps it for emergencies.—(Staff Photo)

Final day O.M.B. hearing

Must wait for decision Rockwood sewers, water

Rockwood ratepayers can relax now for at least a month. Ontario Municipal Board officials said it will be at least that long before they come up with a decision on the contentious sewer, water proposals for the village.

Final session of the three day O.M.B. hearing took place Tuesday in the town hall when more evidence was heard and solicitors summed up their case for the presiding officials B. E. Smith and H. E. Roberts.

The O.M.B. officials reserved a decision until they had time to scrutinize all the evidence presented in the first two sessions—October 26 and 27 and

for three hours Tuesday.

Spectators

Participants and spectators for the final day of the hearing huddled after the hearing ended to discuss which way the decision would go—pro or anti sewers and water. Some thought the O.M.B. might endorse water and flush out sewers. Others figured both would be turned down; still others opined that both projects would be endorsed and digging would start in the spring.

Betty Lou Clark, of R.R. 5, Rockwood, testified the County Health Unit had a lot to answer for over the state of septic tanks in the village and also took issue

with the Ontario Water Resources Commission. If they are genuinely concerned about the problem they would have set up a scheme where by residents could borrow money at low interest and repay easily. She suggested many of the problems were due to the reluctance to fix up septic tanks in the event of a sewage installation.

Gordon Hutt, 110 Christie St., Rockwood, held a five point argument directed at the cost of the projects, which he said would make living mighty expensive for pensioners. In many cases he said the additional cost would be more than taxes. He also charged

property owners on large lots would be required to pay more than those on single lots where the pollution is occurring.

The big problem as he saw it was to ensure Rockwood had a safe water supply. If the water was cleared up he felt septic tanks could be dealt with individually. He disputed the contention residents would use more water if there was a municipal supply, noting residents had no scarcity of water now.

He concluded that the new services would inevitably lead to an influx of developers and

promoters who would spoil Rockwood.

Restrict growth

Case Schuller, 220 Main St. N., appearing for the second time at the hearing, pointed to the Treasury Board Report on the Grand River watershed which suggests all communities in the river basin should continue with present systems and municipalities on the Speed and Eramosa Rivers should restrict growth to the greatest degree. He saw this as a confirmation of efforts to defeat the sewer and water proposals.

Mr. Schuller also described an experiment with his own water supply which he had documented. He purchased a filtering unit for his water and all the evidence pointed to a complete purification of his polluted well. He said he was working on a unit which would require only yearly maintenance but the prototype would not be ready for another month, too late for the hearing.

Mary Rogers and R. Schwartzburg of Eden Mills both testified against the projects which would pollute the Eramosa River and the pond at Eden Mills.

Raymond Law of Jackson St., Rockwood, testified he was supporting the applications and suggested too much emphasis was being put on cost before tenders were out and bids submitted. "I need the system", he said.

After several minutes of dicker over the validity of costs from the design report, Murray Wilson of the O.W.R.C. testified the cost involved in bypassing the conservation area was \$29,900 exclusive of engineering and contingencies which would amount to 15 per cent for a total cost of slightly over \$34,000.

Cross-examined

The solicitor for the Rockwood and Area Ratepayers' Association, Gordon Miller cross-examined Mr. Wilson on the duplication of service and the bypass and later Harry Jones of Woodstock Engineering, who designed the proposed Rockwood system. Mr. Miller's questioning alleged the system could have been designed to eliminate pumping stations and depend on gravity flow but Mr. Jones testified the extra expense for a forced system was balanced by the extra depth pipes would have to go on a gravity flow. He said no comparative costs were made on the two methods.

Professor Peter Chisholm also testified again on the importance of the Grand River watershed report and the fact implementation had started on it with the Guelph reservoir.

Conclusion of the three hour session was taken up by the two solicitors, Gerry Matthews representing the village trustees and Gordon Miller the ratepayers association. They reviewed the evidence with Mr. Matthews asking the O.M.B. to endorse the application while Mr. Miller suggested they turn it down.

Mr. Matthews suggested most opposed to the projects were from outside the village and there was a real need for the system while Mr. Miller said 80 per cent of the 235 paid-up members of the ratepayers association opposed to the projects were from Rockwood. He suggested installation of sewers and water could turn into a Frankenstein monster which could turn back on the village.

Two break-ins Tuesday

Two break-ins were reported this morning (Wednesday) to Acton police. Dills Stationery store and Mackenzie Lumber found entry had been gained during the night but apparently nothing was taken. Farion is continuing investigation, taking time out during the power failure to direct traffic at the Mill-Main corner.

At Mackenzie Lumber a side door lock had been sprung. At Dills Stationery a window had been forced open and a lock smashed to gain entry to the back of Simpsons-Sears.

Twice target

Nielsen's store was the target twice this week, as police investigated complaints of shoplifting and attempted break and entry there. Clothing valued at \$50 was taken and reported to police Dec. 7. This incident is still under investigation.

On Dec. 10 the attempt to break in by a back door, using something like a wrench, was found and reported to police. The attempt was not successful.

An Acton man was charged Dec. 10 with malicious damage, following investigation of a

broken window on Mill St.

Bad choice

Another local man was charged Dec. 10 with wilful damage; he'd tried to kick in the door of the police office.

Two incidents of theft from parked unlocked cars were reported to police Dec. 12. An Acton man lost a cassette tape recorder and tape and an Erin woman a purse and tape.

Mail delivery 300 homes away

With new subdivisions on the drawing boards, and Acton just 300 calls short of house-to-house mail delivery, the post office department is keeping "a close eye" on the postal situation here.

Member of Parliament Rud Whiting wrote this week to Mayor Les Duly reporting on the results of his investigation.

The town, he reports, has 1,668 mail drops now, as determined by post office field personnel.

Two thousand are needed to qualify for home delivery.

The letter reported that in view of the expected 300 new homes here in the near future a close eye will be kept on the situation.

Shaken up bad crash

Two Acton men and another from Calgary received only minor injuries in a two car collision on Highway 7, just west of Crewsons Corners, Friday night.

Businessman Roy Goodwin of 122 Mill St. E., suffered bruises to his right knee and ankle and a shaking up in the crash while Harvey Bastien, 46 Main St., received a bruised right knee. He was riding in a car driven by David P. Bastien of Calgary, who was shaken up.

Damage to the Goodwin vehicle which came to rest beside a hydro pole on the south side of the highway, was estimated at \$1,200 while the Bastien car received \$300 in damages. North Halton O.P.P. said. The Bastien car was sideways on the north side of the road.

Uncover drugs at post office

Acton Customs Officer Murray Harrison uncovered a large cache of drugs identified as Moroccan "Keef" from a parcel at Acton post office this week. It is believed the packages have a street value of \$5-\$10,000.

The drug is a type of marijuana grown in Morocco. Customs officials were notified and they in turn have notified the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Harrison was making a routine inspection of parcels for illegal meat when he discovered 6½ pounds of green plant-like material, compressed into 10 cellophane wrapped packages.

Hidden in blankets

The packages were hidden inside two blankets. They were revealed when Mr. Harrison shoved his hand down into the large parcel. He called Acton

police on the suspicion it was hashish but this was ruled out.

Another expert identified the packages as Moroccan "Keef". It is the first time drugs have been discovered at the customs office in Acton although an earlier discovery of suspicious looking material turned out to be incense.

Parcels from foreign countries are all searched for meat, which contravenes the Food Act.

Urge parents discuss thefts with children

As the result of an investigation into three break and enters, reported earlier in the month, Acton police officers have charged a local youth. Other occurrences involving minor thefts by local youths are presently under investigation and charges are pending.

The police urge parents to take

the time to talk with their children if they suspect that they might yield to temptation. Many children do not understand the seriousness of taking something that does not belong to them. Often, parents can prevent embarrassing situations involving their children and police by taking the time to

explain to their children what could happen if they are caught stealing.

No police officer enjoys solving a crime which results in a juvenile having to be charged with committing an offence. Unless corrected at an early age, habits remain with an individual throughout their lives.

In provincial court during the week, a total of \$450 worth of fines were levied for various offences. A local man lost his privilege to drive for 30 days after being convicted of "Careless Driving". There were no reportable motor vehicle collisions during the reporting week.

Light thefts

A number of complaints have been received at the police office

Will build ice rinks

Acton Parks and Recreation's program committee is looking into the possibility of constructing one or two outdoor ice rinks in town.

Members haven't decided on locations of the rinks yet, but there's a good possibility one will be situated on the softball diamond in Prospect Park. There, skaters will be able to take advantage of the lighting to skate after dark.

Discussion about outdoor rinks has gone on at parks meetings almost every year, but this is the first year action has been taken.

"I'll make sure I have five or six parents to clear the snow off the one at our end of town," committee member Barry Insoce promised Thursday night.

Stealing

The Christmas spirit was dampened in several Acton homes this week with the loss of Christmas lights and decorations. Police were informed of several cases.

On Lake Ave., homeowners not only found their outdoor lighting bulbs stolen and smashed, but the wires cut as well.



VILLAIN (Joachim Zinc) lurks behind the presentation "My Proud Beauty" Friday night. Turn inside for more pictures (Henry Van Stralen) and Mr. Good

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