



The Acton News

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Snowmobile by-law comes under fire

Acton's snowmobile by-law will be reviewed by the administration committee of council, as a result of a discussion at Tuesday night's regular meeting.

The present by-law, which permits snowmobiles use of town streets up until 11 p.m. at night, came under fire from Reeve Frank Oakes who claimed "As soon as the snow comes we can't sleep at night!"

Mayor Les Duby expressed concern about the safety of snowmobiling later on in winter, when snowbanks are piled high.

Referring to Churchill Road North, the mayor commented "They just zoom up and down there. When the snowbanks are there, there's just no way you can see them, whether you're backing out of your driveway or coming out forward."

Councillor Norm Elliott said he has received complaints about the use of snowmobiles in Sir Donald Mann Park in Glenora. He pointed out children use the hill in the park extensively for sleigh riding and tobogganing.

Acton Parks and Recreation Committee has its own by-law governing use of snowmobiles in parks. Under their by-law snowmobiling is allowed in town parks between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.



SANTA WAS RELUCTANT to leave the Beardmore Christmas party Saturday with two such comely lasses to assist him. Right is Miss Acton Fair Brenda Bruce while her lady-in-waiting Irene DeVries is at the left. Costumes on these delightful assistants were designed by Ray Evelan. Turn inside for more pictures.—(Staff Photo)

A message from the clergy

Christmas wonderful but exhausting

**the Reverend Harry J. Dawson
Church of St. Alban, the Martyr**

Christmas - a wonderful and yet exhausting time of year.

The confusion of frantic last minute shopping, the anxiety of buying the right gift for that very special yet hard to buy for "person", the endless list of preparations and the countless other ingredients to a busy life, can cause us to throw up our hands at it all. Yet, the rewards of a gift gratefully received, a helping hand extended, and the fellowship of friends and relations, more than compensate for the hustle and bustle of the season.

Christmas - a wonderful time, rich in meaning and tradition. Over the years it has come to include much of what has been referred to above. Yet the real depth of a Christmas experience comes from a much older tradition that radiates the joy of self-giving. The self-giving of God in the gift of His Son, born a babe in Bethlehem.

Cut off from the Christian experience of celebrating the birth of the Christ Child, the depth of joy that comes to all men at Christmas will be missing.

Just as we prepare for the celebrations that accompany the Christmas season, so we must prepare ourselves spiritually to enter into the joy of the Christmas spirit. And it demands effort.

In many ways it takes a greater effort to effect this self-help programme than it does in preparing for the other. But like the other, the joy that comes from a receptive heart more than compensates for the effort.

May this Christmas bring its richest blessings to you all!

Rebate proposal to be reviewed

Acton council's administration committee will take a second look at a suggestion by Councillor Peter Marks that a tax rebate of \$100 be made to qualified residents of town over the age of 70. A similar program is being carried out in the city of Toronto.

Marks' suggestion, which received no support at a previous committee meeting, took on new life at a regular meeting of council last night (Tuesday), when Councillor Norm Elliott claimed the idea warrants further investigation. Elliott was unavoidably absent from the committee meeting at which the suggestion was first discussed.

Name homes

Last evening (Tuesday) three Acton homes were chosen as the season's best decorated, for the Hydro Commission's new cash awards.

First place honors and \$75. goes to Mrs. Norman Brada and family, whose tastefully lighted home is on Langfield Rd.

Second place winners are Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gibson and family, Mill St. W. where the decorations include Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer. They receive \$50.

In third place are Mr. and Mrs. J. Bradshaw, Cameron St.

Judging was done Tuesday evening by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mitchell of Guelph. He is on the staff of the H.E.P.C. there. They toured all streets before phoning in their decisions at 11:30 p.m.

Snow dusted the ground and roofs and the entire town was gay and delightful with lights the night of the surprise judging.

No fence restrictions here — planning board

Changes to the town's zoning bylaw were considered again when planning board held their last meeting of the year Thursday evening in the council chamber.

There was a full attendance of members - chairman Sid Saitz, members Lou Bonnette, Vic Bristow, Dave Muckle and Frank Simioni, council representatives Norm Elliott and Bill Coats, and secretary-treasurer Grant Usher.

The amendments to the zoning bylaw had been discussed at the last regular meeting. Then Mr. Usher discussed them with Denis Flood of Project Planning Associates, and a letter was returned with his detailed suggestions.

Two changes

Two changes were made before the revisions were approved and sent to council.

Rejected by planning board was a new section, suggested by Project Planners, concerning fences. Mr. Flood suggested restricting height of fences to four feet for a front yard and six feet for a side or rear yard.

Mr. Elliott mentioned several fences in town which exceeded these heights yet were "lovely fences."

Mr. Usher said the town office has had very few complaints about fences. Any complaints there are can be referred to a committee of three fence viewers who are empowered to make such decisions.

On Mr. Coats' motion, all members approved deleting this clause leaving the town's zoning bylaw with no reference to fences.

Corner visibility

Another new section concerns visibility for drivers at corners. From the point of intersection, visibility for 30 feet must not be obstructed. Project Planners listed various things which would not be permitted, and planning board disagreed with one of them. After considering definitions in the bylaw, they decided it would be best to exclude the word "building" from the list. This would have applied to the downtown area.

Not permitted on a corner would be fences, hedges, signs, structures, or bushes over two feet, six inches, or parked vehicles. This does not include a shade tree or road signs.

Two accidents during week

Two accidents were investigated by Acton police during the past week.

Last Wednesday at 7 p.m. two cars were in collision on Mill St. David Bittorf, Main N. had estimated \$150 to the rear of his car and Joseph Geneau, R.R. 1, Acton had \$10 estimated damage to the front of his vehicle. A passenger in the Bittorf car, Gail Douglas, R.R. 1, Acton, had a sore neck as a result of the accident.

Friday 12:30 a.m. in the Dominion Hotel parking lot a car driven by Earl Waller, Mill St., pulled out and was in collision with a parked car, owned by Lewis Reid, Poplar Ave. Total damage was estimated at \$75.

Purchase nearby land for conservation area

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has received approval for the purchase of 168 acres of Niagara Escarpment land for the Silver Creek Conservation Area in Esquesing township, a few miles east of Acton.

The property is in addition to 56 acres already purchased this fall in the same Silver Creek Gorge area.

Acquisition of the land is in accordance with the policy of the Authority to secure for public use a substantial portion of the Georgetown outlier section of the Niagara Escarpment for multi-use conservation purposes.

The Ontario Government, through Minister of the Environment George A. Kerr, assists conservation authorities along the Niagara Escarpment with 75 per cent grants on the purchase of Escarpment land. All member municipalities will bear the Authority's share of the cost.

The Credit Valley Authority now owns approximately 3,000 acres in the Credit River Watershed.

UNICEF total \$1,843

Acton children raised the impressive sum of \$1,843.25 for UNICEF on Hallowe'en, Mrs. Margaret Wilson reports with pride this week. She has just finished totalling up, after waiting for some of the Walkathon pledges to be collected.

The collecting for the United Nations children's fund has become a traditional part of Hallowe'en in town and district.



VIEW FROM AN EARLY Edens Mills church, now part of a barn on the farm of Lloyd Chandler, whose farm is adjacent to the village, was taken by talented photographer Tony Vos as the sun skirted the horizon. Shape of the window gives the old building away.

Door to day care centre remains open

By a vote of 6-3 Acton Council has approved in principle operation of a municipally-owned day care centre.

The Department of Social and Family Services must still investigate Acton's need of a day care centre, before it becomes a reality, but council's approval in principle of the project was needed before December 31 in order to have the application for provincial assistance even considered. Welfare Minister Thomas Wells revealed a program of provincial assistance in the establishment of a day care centre in November.

Three opposed

The motion to accept the project in principle, sponsored by Councillor Peter Marks, was opposed by Mayor Les Duby, Reeve Frank Oakes and Deputy-reeve Pat McKenzie.

Marks told council he had been in touch with representatives of the Day Nursery Branch of the Department of Social and Family Services and was told they would entertain an Acton application, if it could be shown at least 15 children would use the centre. He said recent investigations of his own had verified that there would be 15 children, even though a town-sponsored advertisement in the Free Press attracted only one reply.

Second of the motion, Councillor Bill Coats explained it was not intended to say definitely there would be a day care centre, but simply to keep the door open to the possibility.

Deputy disagrees

Deputy-reeve McKenzie said he couldn't see the sense in proceeding, when the Free Press ad drew a reply from only one interested parent.

McKenzie also said he thought mothers would be much happier knowing their children are in a private home.

"I never pick up the Free Press anytime, that there aren't two or three good ads from mothers saying they will provide day care. I'm satisfied we've got something Toronto hasn't in this respect," he said.

Mayor Duby said day care centre programs are sound and good, but claimed they are aimed at much larger municipalities than Acton, which have very large numbers of parents requiring the service.

Marks reminded his colleagues day care centres are considered to be a very progressive form of activity for pre-schoolers. He disagreed with the mayor of the numbers question.

"If we have 20 people in town who need it, we should be providing it," he said.