

Mayor reviews year, outlines 1972 plans

Looking back over 1971 gives Acton mayor Les Duby a certain satisfaction, knowing six of his seven election platform points have been accomplished, with only half of a two-year term of office expired.

Asked to review the past year by the Free Press, and to polish up his crystal ball with some predictions, Mayor Duby took each of his points and reviewed them.

Number one on the list was senior citizens' housing, which after years of negotiation and parley, had been opened up to tenants in the fall of 1971.

Second point he supported was the building of condominiums which people in Acton could afford. He noted work could start on the former Campbell farm in the spring for this type of home. Prices will be less than \$1,000 down.

Solve problems
As he sees it, the town has met the need for geared-to-income houses for the present. The condominium program will bring low-cost housing within reach of those who want to buy a house rather than rent one, solving most of Acton's low-cost housing problems.

However, the mayor is "firmly convinced council should keep a close eye on senior citizen housing needs in Acton so that he can be ready to qualify for additional accommodation."

He points out Acton, a town of 5,000, has only 12 senior citizen units compared to much smaller Elora with a 25-unit complex, and similar size Fergus which is applying for 41 more, on top of the original 25. The disparity, he feels, is partly due to the fact that the impact of the present units has just begun to affect the people in Acton. Demand will increase as acceptance grows and "we want to move quickly when the need for further units is shown."

Modify plans
He noted plans for condominium housing on the Campbell farm had been modified to make them more attractive than the original plans. Sixty-seven units will be constructed in the first stage of the development which the mayor felt would get moving in the spring. Recent land moving at the site is preliminary work.

Third point he felt had been accomplished in the first year of the two year term was the promise to continually review the zoning by-law so the town does not regulate against people who bought property several years ago, with the idea of eventually making changes. He said recent modifications had assisted people in this category and it would be council's policy to continue the program.

Number four was the completion of the Mill-Park corner, which the mayor thought was now one of the most attractive corners in Acton. He singled out the local contractor who had done the work, noting he had done a very good job despite unexpected difficulties.

Fifth point he stressed was a co-operative program with parks and recreation board which the mayor felt was established now with genuine rapport between the two bodies.

His sixth point—encouraging new industry to settle in Acton—the mayor suggested was fulfilled in part by establishment of the new town works yard and building in the industrial park. He felt this would help to encourage industry to base their operations in the park.

Concluding point—setting a realistic mill rate—the mayor thought was self evident: since council had been extra cautious when the rate was set, a fact to which some ratepayers took exception.

Trunk system
One of the most important developments during the past year, Mayor Duby thought, was the construction of a major central trunk storm sewer system. The system will accept

additional lines and improve the drainage in many areas of town. He felt the cost—\$80,000—was well worth it to clean up many low lying areas.

Looking into the crystal ball for the current year, the mayor said all committees of council will proceed with the continuation of



Completed six out of seven election promises.

their 1971 program, listing improved street lighting, expanding the land fill site and other programs they deem will be of direct benefit to all taxpayers. They will be determined on a priority basis.

Continued controlled growth of the town is also called for although Mr. Duby admits Acton is dogged by the spectre of regionalization of this area. He feels the government isn't being fair to municipalities trying to plan and develop properly. They have to contend with many other problems that tax the powers of councilors without having to deal with intangibles.

Acton will have to grow according to the Toronto-centred region plan which calls for arrested growth north-west of the city. "We have to avoid getting too big," he said, noting 7,500 to 8,000 people would allow Acton to afford more advantages but at the same time would allow the town to retain its small town character.

Taking a swipe at Acton's antique town hall, the mayor said he would personally welcome some modest, long overdue renovations to the council chambers to create the proper atmosphere for correct procedures and conduct of business. He felt the present chambers tended to stifle the proper atmosphere for much of council's business.

Resurface roads

Hoped for improvements to roads in 1972 included re-surfacing of some of the paved streets. He named Glenlea subdivision and Peel St. as needing a lot of attention which would likely be a coating of prime asphalt.

Major improvements are also planned for Bower Avenue and priority thinking for 1972. This will include some preliminary underground wiring in the area of the post office which council would like to see installed prior to paving.

Acton has an excellent water supply with 350,000 gallons daily supplied by existing wells and springs, but council has looked further ahead. Another well has been capped on the Fourth Line, which can produce another 300,000 gallons a day, almost double the present adequate supply.

Council has also authorized new probes in other areas to see how much water is available in the event of need.

The mayor feels strongly that the town should be sharing in some of the benefits of the county road system, albeit true Acton does not qualify under the present system of establishing connecting links. It is the nature of the town that we have no need for connecting links, he said, suggesting the county road committee could easily come up with some alternative so all municipalities could share in improving roads.

He pointed out the Wallace St. extension as one area where county road money would be most welcome, since one day it could become a major artery to the industrial park and around the heavy town traffic.

Major artery
He also advocates looking with keen interest at the grade crossing at Highway 25 and the CN tracks, in the light of Department of Transport plans to extend Highway 25 beyond Ospringe to the north. He suggests 25 Highway could become a main artery to the north when the extension is

complete, and the crossing would be a bottleneck if left in its present state. Improvements there would necessarily have to be incorporated into plans for the southern approach to town.

One of the first priorities for the public works committee of council will be extension of the sidewalk from the Mill and Park improvement to Cameron St. and the possibility of constructing asphalt walks on Cameron will be considered. The mayor admitted the present situation where the sidewalk ends nowhere is ridiculous, but the 1971 budget dictated its length, not council's wishes.

Council will likely take a look at Arthur, Peel, South Willow and Church Streets and the mayor is hopeful preliminary engineering work can be done on Church St. this year.

There's still no word from the Department of Municipal Affairs about the amount of land which must be conserved on the town owned land which council has agreed in principle to sell to Alteo Construction.

The mayor also thinks imposition of the recent capital gains tax may help to control the problem of speculation in development of small holdings in small towns.

He admitted concern about the proposed Hulud development on the former Seynuck farm which has had several owners and prospective developers which have never quite got down to the business of actual development.

The council feels the present owner can go ahead in the spring but the mayor cautioned against optimism, noting council had been through this all before and the property was still a refuge for weeds.

"We want to see it developed as planned—at least the first phase. We could probably negotiate the balance," he said. "There can be nothing more frustrating than to see it sit another year in weeds."

He was also critical about the indecision regarding the location of the Toronto national Airport. "It has caused a lot of discomfort and concern to many people," he thought, noting one proposed site was in the Acton area.

In the middle
From airports to snowmobilers, the mayor said council in no way wants to discriminate against snowmobilers with restricting by-laws but they are caught in the middle between enraged ratepayers and the fun machine operators. "I only hope we can get the co-operation required



Mayor Les Duby reviews the past year.

(from snowmobilers) to avoid severe amendments to the existing by-law. Very obviously some are making it difficult for those who handle their machines properly, and they will be responsible for any restrictions made by the town."

The road committee is to review the existing by-law and make recommendations to council in the early part of the new year, the mayor said, and this was being done through demands of people who feel some machine operators are abusing the privileges accorded them.

The mayor focussed attention on Acton's 1974 centennial by stating he hoped council could maintain a co-operative approach for centennial planning and support the projects of the centennial commission. He noted

it would be interesting to watch events in Arthur and Bolton, municipalities which are celebrating centennials this year.

However, he said council would have to cut the cloth to fit their ability to co-operate. It is important for Acton and something to get excited about, he said in reference to planning being done by a committee formed to get things going.

"We'll co-operate to the best of our ability," he concluded.

The mayor reminds that there will be a plebiscite on liquor at the next municipal election and he supported it, suggesting it could benefit local business if it is passed, as well as updating existing dining facilities and attracting new ones.

Coles' Slaw . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

enjoyment and comparing it with the tasteless mess they had in front of them, the rest of the quartet called for the manageress and sang their displeasure in unison. They observed that the bill the waitress delivered was useless since "we didn't intend to pay it."

The manageress didn't need to be hit over the head to detect further unpleasanties if she objected. She hastily agreed to accept the bill and we stalked out of that restaurant in high dudgeon with the perspicacity of legitimate freeloaders, jumped in the vehicle and pointed its nose towards Naples on a two lane road that made 7 Highway look like an expressway.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Tracing descendants . . .

The Editor, The Acton Free Press. Beaverton, Ontario, January 3, 1972.

Dear Sir:
I am interested in tracing descendants of an Esquering pioneer, Angus McDonald, who I believe settled in that township in 1832. A native of Islay, Scotland, and a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo, among other conflicts, Mr. McDonald celebrated his hundredth birthday in 1877, and lived to the age of 105.

Mr. McDonald, who was my great-great-grandfather, had seven children. One daughter was married to a Mr. George Elliott, who lived near Acton. Another was married to a man by the name of Ferguson. I think that she had a son Peter Ferguson. I am descended from a son, Daniel McDonald, who moved away from the Esquering area to take up farming in Ontario County in 1869.

I certainly would be grateful to receive any information from any of the descendants of Angus McDonald, or indeed from anyone who may know something of this family.

Yours truly,
(Miss) Helen A. Alsop

Record UNICEF year

December 1971.

Dear Sir:
Thanks largely to your generous coverage of Hallowe'en for UNICEF in your columns, we appear to be heading towards a record year. We are heavily dependent on the news media telling our wide-spread audience about the activities of UNICEF generally and your local "Hallowe'en for UNICEF" groups.

We will let you know our final collection results very shortly. With our very best wishes for 1972.

Yours sincerely,
Keith Law,
National Chairman

Mosca can't make it

Hamilton, Ont.

Hi Jack
My best wishes
To all my friends in Acton.

Congratulations on your Centennial Program. It looks great! I'm sorry to miss your Sportsmen's dinner but look for me sometime in the near future. 1974 is going to be a big year for you — and if anyone doesn't believe me, say it to my face.

Best of Luck
Angelo Mosca
No. 68

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