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Sunday's public meeting favors developing community centre as Acton's centennial project

Only a smattering of interested Actonites turned up at a public meeting Sunday afternoon to select completion of the community centre as the favored project over two other centennial suggestions for a community swimming pool and a town hall municipal complex.

Twenty-two votes were counted by chairman Jack Carpenter at the two hour meeting's conclusion. Broken down they amounted to 16 for continued development of the community centre, five for a swimming pool and one for a new town hall complex.

The meeting was called by the newly appointed centennial commission to give the public a voice in the selection of a project to mark Acton's 100th birthday in 1974. Approximately 40 adults and teens turned up to discuss the options and ability of the townspeople to raise the necessary money. But when the votes came only 21 responded.

Most of those present ruled out the town hall-municipal complex as something more suited for a local debenture issue authored by council and while a swimming pool was highly favored, most despaired of raising the necessary money when it was revealed a similar project cost the town of Burlington around \$400,000.

Completion of the community centre was estimated to cost around the \$150,000 figure, which chairman Carpenter explained, could be done in three stages. Sketches of the three proposals were on view for all to see, the arena proposal by architect Don Skinner.

Town support?
Could the project expect support from town council? asked commissioner John Shadbolt of the mayor, who with other members of the commission has been attending weekly breakfast meetings where proposals were mullied over for the past few weeks. The Mayor, Les Duby said it would all depend on the available funds but that he personally favored setting aside something for a project. Later, pressured by Ted Tyler Jr., he said he felt that council would be ready to make a

decision on the matter now that the centennial commission had come up with something concrete.

Discussion on the projects cited for development took twists into other directions when Mrs. Stella Brunelle suggested a natural ice rink in the east end of town would also be appreciated and asked "What have we got for girls in town?"

Chairman Carpenter agreed recreational activities in Acton seemed to favor the boys and quipped that the answer to the question could also be boys.

A suggestion that the commission should buy a large parcel of land in the east end of town for future development as the town grew met with opposition from Paul Nielsen who argued that it would be difficult to raise money for something that abstract. He said the present 15 acres of Prospect park needed development and was the most suitable site for recreational activities.

"What would be wrong with tennis courts in Sir Donald

Mann park and shuffleboard?" enquired Ted Tyler Jr., admitting he wouldn't mind a fast game of shuffleboard himself.

Supports pool
Councillor Norm Elliott, plumping for a swimming pool himself, ruled out a town hall project since if what he had read about five centre regional government in Halton materialized, the project would be done anyway with help, and there was no pleasure attached to it.

Mr. Elliott felt there wasn't enough information about a swimming pool available, referring to an earlier statement by Mrs. John Krapek that she understood grants of 75 per cent were available for such a project if it was built in conjunction with the board of education in a local school.

The \$400,000 cost for a pool, he felt was ridiculous without some sort of help in the form of grants. He also felt Acton was boy-oriented and a swimming pool would be a good year-round

project usable by all. For those who advocated tennis courts he reminded the meeting that excellent courts once existed in Acton and the sport had died because of "pure lack of interest."

Going back to swimming pools, Mr. Elliott said it was necessary to get a project everyone would support and he felt sure everyone wanted a pool in town. Chairman Carpenter said it was doubtful if old age pensioners would want a swim pool and reminded his research had revealed when they were operated in conjunction with educational authorities the public's use would be limited to times when students were not using it. It was his contention enough money was going for educational purposes now without trying to get the public to contribute even more.

Finish one well
Bill Colbeck suggested the best form of attack for a centennial project would be to finish one thing well before attempting

another. He thought a well mapped out plan should be furnished so we could make what we have a showplace.

Mayor Duby called on the people there to keep in mind that if the town grows to 10,000 or 12,000 people they could get things which are out of reach now because of limited assessment and population. He said immediate expansion is needed, suggesting annexation of 1,000 acres would provide the necessary ingredient to attract assessment.

Hank Ruppert felt swimming facilities on Fairy Lake could be improved which would do away with the need for a swimming pool.

The chairman asked the meeting to consider also how they would raise \$100,000 or \$150,000, suggesting donations of \$100 from the town's wage earners and donations from business and industry would provide a huge chunk that could be supplemented with entertainment, proceeds from which would go into a central pot.



Harry Arbic accepts keys from John Weldon (right).

Harry Arbic wins 400 club car

Harry Arbic, a 400 club member since its inception three years ago, is the lucky winner of a brand new 1972 Ford Torino in the annual elimination draw, conducted by the Acton Tri-County Minor Hockey Association.

Mayor Les Duby pulled the ping pong ball, bearing Harry's lucky number 104 from the drum last at the Legion Saturday night.

John Weldon, who won himself \$50 for selling the winning ticket, phoned the good news to the Arbic household. Minor hockey president Don Lindsay chauffeured Harry down to the Legion, where he was greeted with cheers from the club members there and presented with the keys by Lorne Doberthien.

A TV-radio repair man in his spare time, Harry officially retires from his job with Beardmore and Company March 30, after 42 years service.

"I've never won anything over \$5 before in my life," Harry told the Free Press. "I can remember winning a cake in a draw at one of the schools in town one time."

Already the owner of a 1968 station wagon, Harry thinks he may sell the car if he can find a buyer.

"I'll need to keep the station wagon, because of my repair business," he pointed out.

Grand prize winners in the two previous car draws were, Dave Metcalfe and Claude Couture.

Bev Baddely, who won \$100 last

year for having the first number drawn, was the second last person in this year's draw. She won another \$100.

Ron Dalton won \$100 for the first number drawn this year. Cash awards for the last four numbers went to Dot Mellor - \$25 (396th ball), Ron Weldon - \$50 (397th ball), Harold Denny - \$75 (398th ball) and Bev Baddely.

Holder of every 25th number drawn won themselves \$10. Winners included 25 - Bill Syme, 50 - Ted Jennings, 75 - Mike Moore, 100 - Doug Ford, 125 - Tom Browning, 150 - John Goy Sr., 175 - Merv Nessit, 200 - Millie Fabian, 225 - Joyce Buchanan, 250 - Ted Curtis, 275 - John Krapek, 300 - Jack Roi, 325 - Eva Cooper, 350 - Marj DeWilde and 375 - Wayne Mason.

Acton's education rate up half mill

Tough financial planning since the formation of the Halton County Board of Education three years ago has put the board in a favorable position now. Estimates show mill rate reductions for all municipalities except Acton. Acton's mill rate will go up by half a mill. Milton will enjoy the greatest reduction in mill rate, dropping 3.97 mills. For a home assessed at \$5,000 this represents a tax reduction of \$22.

Province
The reduction in the mill rate was made possible when provincial grants were increased to offset increased costs. The board's spending will increase by \$3,500,000 this year. Total expenditures will amount to \$43,000,000. Budget committee chairman Bill Priestner suggested many area boards are having to make serious cuts in their budgets to

stay within the provincial ceilings on spending.

Solid planning
He said the solid planning in the early days of the Halton Board made it possible for the board to continue their programs without cutting any part of the program or releasing staff.

Director Jim Singleton said the assessment is increasing faster than the student population. That will work in the board's favor for

the next few years. But it is unlikely the board will be able to reduce the mill rates in the future.

Tougher next year
Priestner suggested the board would be in good shape next year while it would be even tougher for some boards. The following table shows levies and mill rates applicable to each municipality:

	Levy	Public (in mills)	Secondary (in mills)	Total	Cumulative change 1969-72
Acton	\$ 372,692	- .59	+ 1.09	+ .50	- .69
Burl.	6,818,642	- .98	- 1.39	- 2.37	- 6.7
Esq.	349,288	- 2.34	+ .70	- 1.64	- 7.07
G'town	1,097,931	- 1.44	- .70	- 2.14	- 11.69
Milton	496,836	- 2.66	- 1.31	- 3.97	- 10
Nass.	385,682	- 5.75	+ 3.48	- 2.27	- 12.09
Oak.	6,557,165	- 1.35	- 1.24	- 2.59	- 10.51
County Total	16,478,036	- 1.37	- 1.07	- 2.44	

Tories choose Terry O'Connor

Over 500 Halton Tories gathered at Blakelock High School in Oakville Wednesday to award 31-year-old Terry O'Connor of Oakville the Halton Progressive Conservative federal nomination.

Bert Hinton, who won himself out after polling a close third on the first ballot. Oakville insurance salesman Jim Muir gained considerable ground on O'Connor on the second ballot but couldn't overtake the favored O'Connor. O'Connor polled 246 votes, just 14 short of the required number to poll a clear majority on the first ballot. Muir edged Hinton by 12 votes on the first ballot and picked up a lot of Hinton

supporters on the second ballot. On the second ballot O'Connor picked up an additional 30 votes, bringing his total to 276 while Muir finished with 219.

Three busloads of Acton supporters and two busloads from Erin travelled to the meeting, giving Hinton support. Hinton was piped to the stage by the Lorne Scots.

Enthusiasm
Crowds of Jim Muir supporters chanted "When our Jim comes marching in, oh when our Jim comes marching in. We know he's gonna be a winner, oh when our Jim comes marching in." O'Connor had less hoopla in his presentation than the other two.

Candidates' signs and balloons filled the school auditorium.

Hinton, well known Acton businessman, past municipal councillor and warden banked heavily on his municipal experience. He was nominated by Rev. Andrew McKenzie of Acton and Allan Day of Oakville, also a former warden of the county.

Each of the three candidates charged the Liberal government with adopting poor economic policies, using the working man to combat inflation and taking an inhuman approach to the problems confronting the nation.

Hinton reviewed his experience at the municipal level, serving

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An Acton in Acton

JOHN ACTON of Breckenridge, Michigan, checks a map to make sure he's in the right place. He visited with Mr. and Mrs. Olymk, Churchill Road S., on the weekend for a

"birthday bash" with several other U.S. visitors and wondered how Acton got its name. Breckenridge, Michigan, has lots of Actons, he told the Free Press. —(Staff Photo)

H.K. Porter sells Disston (Canada)

An Acton company, Disston (Canada) Ltd., formerly a division of H. K. Porter (Canada) Ltd. is now a subsidiary of Disston, Inc., a separate independent company.

The assets of the company were purchased by Disston, Inc. from H. K. Porter in exchange for Disston stock which has been sold publicly.

President of the newly formed company is John W. Puth, also president of Disston, Inc. Thomas H. Shields of R.R. 1, Acton, is

vice-president and general manager of Disston (Canada) Ltd.

Headquarters of the company will be located in Acton.

Moved here in 1957

The Disston plant which specializes in making saws of all types, industrial saw blades, machine knives and cutterheads, trowels and building utensils, moved to Acton from Toronto in 1957. It was first known as the Henry Disston Co., being located in Toronto since 1904.

The sale to Disston, Inc. severs 17 years of operation as a subsidiary of H. K. Porter.

In a letter to employees, vice-president and general manager Tom Shields said it was a major step forward for the company and was done in full anticipation of brighter tomorrows for all.

Application will be made for Disston, Inc. to be listed with the New York Stock Exchange.

Disston has a branch plant in Vancouver as well as the Acton plant.



YOU'RE NEVER too young to start a modelling career. Stephanie Calver, 10 months, donned a ditty suit and accompanied mother Sallyanne down the aisle at Ospringe Knox Presbyterian Church fashion show in Ospringe school last Wednesday night. The show was the first of the spring season in this area. . . . Turn inside for story and another peek at spring fashions. —(Staff Photo)



WITH SIGNS CROSSED, Terry O'Connor's sister Shelagh O'Connor and his sister-in-law Heather form an honor guard for him at the Progressive Conservative nomination at T. A. Blakelock High School in Oakville last Wednesday. —(Staff Photo)