

Federal planners favored Acton area for airport

A confidential report released Monday revealed that the Acton area was favored as the site of the new Toronto-International Airport by federal planners. The Acton site was rejected partly because of its nearness to Guelph and other urban areas and its proximity to a major flight path but mainly because of the provincial government's decision that the airport should not go west of Toronto.

The Acton site was favored over all others because of ease of access and the ability of existing rail and highway routes to serve the airport in its first years of operation.

Orangeville second
Second best site in the opinion of planners was the Orangeville area where land costs and social disruption would be less but overall user costs much higher because of the relative remote-

ness of the site. Third place went to a site near Port Perry while the fourth site studied in the Sutton area was rejected on both social and technical grounds. "If the strength of these preferences as well as their order

is considered, Site C (Acton) is strongly preferred over all the remaining sites," the report read, "while Site A (Sutton) is strongly rejected, with Site D (Orangeville) judged to be substantially better than B (Port Perry)."

The decision to base the airport in Pickering was made because Queens Park rejected any site to the west of Toronto. Aim of the Toronto-Centred Region plan is to divert growth to the east.

An official of the federal Ministry of Transport said Pickering was not considered in the early stages of planning because of the initial plan to

allow for expansion of the airport to six runways—four parallel runways in the predominant wind direction and two at right angles to them.

The federal spokesman was also reported to have said that the eventual decision of a regional airport concept, under which the over-all area is to be served by as many as four airports, permitted a scaling down of the airport's dimensions, and that in turn allowed planners

to fit in the airport in Pickering, near Clarendon.

The Clarendon site is considered good because it satisfied provincial planners. But it was also disclosed that no detailed studies have been made for the need and cost of ground transportation facilities for the airport network now being built.

60 million passengers
The report predicted that by the year 2000 the Toronto-Centred Region will have a population of

about eight million and as many as 60 million passengers could travel to and from the region by air.

The study leading up to the report was in three stages (1) detailed forecasts of aviation requirements for the region and the new airport (2) a large number of potential airport sites were sieved through progressively and (3) the surviving four were subjected to intense scrutiny so that their costs and benefits could be compared with one another in detail.

The final evaluation saw the Acton site picked as the least

expensive solution by a wide margin. "The cost differential between it and the second best site amounted to \$1.25 billion in 1970 dollars over a 30 year period. Total cost of building and operating the airport near Acton-Milton was set at \$4.9 billion, compared with 6.17 billion for the Orangeville site and \$6.4 billion in the eastern location.

Detailed cost studies showed capital costs of the Acton-Milton site would be substantially higher than for either Orangeville or Port Perry because of higher land values but the difference was more than outweighed by lower costs to the public

travelling to and from.

The planning team proposed that the Acton site be the area's only international airport with Milton continuing as a domestic field.

The Pickering site was "just one of those that rolled in at the last," provincial treasurer Darcy McKeough was reported to have told the press.

Photo copies of the confidential report were released yesterday by Pickering's anti-airport People Over Plane (POP) committee and a spokesman for the organization declared the Pickering site violated all the basic criteria for a good site.

Airport puzzle solved

The Acton Free Press

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FIFTY YEAR JEWEL was presented to Walker Lodge member Bill Middleton by the District Deputy Grand Master on Monday evening. Left to right are lodge secretary V. Wor. Bro. Herb Ritchie, Mr. Middleton, D.D.G.W. Rt. Wor. Bro. James T. Spark and Worship Master of the lodge Wor. Bro. Ray Thompson. A banquet in Knox attended by 75 preceded the meeting. The half-century lodge member is a former Citizen of the Year.—(Photo by D. Gibbons)

85 apply to knitting plant

It "looks promising" for Panda Knitting company of Port Credit to open a satellite plant in Acton, according to company representative Irving Nadler.

Replying to an advertisement for seamstresses in last week's Free Press, 85 women applied at the industrial centre last Saturday.

Mr. Nadler explains the company is now applying for Ontario government aid to locate

here. He thinks the Acton operation would probably begin with about 25 women and grow from there. The plant at Port Credit would not close.

The development commission has been taking part in discussion with Mr. Nadler and Mayor Doby was with him Saturday when the local women applied.

Panda makes children's dresses.

John Root denies his salary \$54,442

Wellington-Dufferin M.P.P. John Root has called statements by Liberal financial critic James Breithaupt that his salary this year will be \$54,442, "a gross distortion of facts."

Mr. Root told reporters his annual salary has averaged around \$30,000 comprised of \$18,000 sessional indemnity and an average of \$12,000 over the last three years as vice-chairman of the Ontario Water Resources Commission.

Mr. Breithaupt charged that Mr. Root earns more than

Premier William Davis, whose salary is \$38,000 per year.

Mr. Root said the hours he worked with the OWRC in 1971 totalled 215 working days and payments to him on a per diem basis totalled \$16,497. Public accounts show his expenses last year came to \$3,100.

However, Mr. Root also said the OWRC is being phased out of existence as a result of the Government's reorganization he will be out of a job as chairman of the commission, losing the \$15,000 salary.



1972 Citizen of the Year

FREE PRESS PUBLISHER David R. Dills was selected as Acton's 1972 Citizen of the Year by a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce Monday night. A record 13 names were submitted for the honor. Mr. Dills will be feted at the annual Citizen of the Year banquet and dance at the music centre Saturday, April 29. Tickets are available from Chamber of Commerce members.—(Photo by H. Coles)

Ask medical centre relief

With Councillor Bill Coats opposed, Acton Council passed a resolution last night (Tuesday), saying they do not object to the application to the committee of adjustment by KVG Store Ltd. for relief to enable part of the plaza at the corner of Queen St. E. and Meadvale Rd. to be used as a medical centre and pharmacy.

The application, made by present store owners, asks permission to enlarge and extend present facilities and for minor variances.

At a February meeting of Acton planning board, Dr. Craig Hutchinson, pharmacist Bill Yundt and Ian Johnson revealed plans for a full second floor medical centre above the plaza, where the Red and White store once was located.

Acton Planning board voted to recommend to council that the area be rezoned from C-3 to C-1, but Councillor Coats opposed that motion, claiming the future of Acton's downtown area was at stake and questioning why the town should designate a commercial holding zone downtown, if they were going to continue approving commercial uses on the outskirts of town.

Last night (Tuesday), Coats said he is slightly more satisfied with the procedure of application to committee of adjustment, than

to have the whole area receive a blanket C-1 zoning, even though he opposed council's motion. A committee of adjustment

hearing on the application is scheduled for the council chambers Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m.

Fears manipulation by south region

The rural northern areas of Halton should join forces to protect themselves from manipulation from the urban south, suggested Reeve Anne MacArthur at last week's meeting of Nassagaweya Council.

The reeve stated she had in the past, and would continue in the future, to battle at Halton County Council against any moves to restrict or limit Nassagaweya's future in a regional government set-up. "Why should we be in a drastic hurry to bring about regional government? We should wait until we've found out the cost, first."

Mrs. MacArthur's fears of a limited role for Nassagaweya were echoed by Councillor Jim Watson, who said the township should make sure it is not taken in by the smooth talk of the "Burlington nucleus" of county council.

Watson said the municipality was more oriented north, east or west, but was definitely not attracted to the south. He said it was unfortunate the township had not backed the Plunkett report which advocated Nassagaweya moving in a different direction than south. Township Clerk Campbell Thompson tried to alleviate councillors' fears by explaining that TECO, the Technical Co-ordinating Committee for the county, was working on a regional government plan whereby representation would not necessarily be by population. Thompson also said that through his work with TECO's committees, he was of the opinion that the south wasn't out to belabor the north.

RECORD low temperatures for April have been set this past week.

Reeve hints at increase

Acton council's budget committee will hold what they hope will be their final meeting tonight (Wednesday), before the budget is presented to a full council meeting, probably Monday, April 17.

Committee chairman Frank Oakes said last night (Tuesday) "I fear there'll be a mill rate increase, but I'm not prepared to say how much, until we have our final meeting."

The town budget went before a full council meeting on April 12 last year.

Board says rate down councillor disagrees

The Halton County Board of Education says the Township of Nassagaweya's 1972 education mill rate is down 2.27 mills, but Nassagaweya councillor Calvin McIntyre doesn't agree.

At last week's council meeting, McIntyre told members that the board had not taken account of an approximately \$30,000 error it had made in 1970. "The mistake was passed on to 1971, for an education requisition of \$392,923" he said. The councillor pointed out that on the surface, the 1972 request for \$385,682 gave the appearance of the lower mill rate.

"They're not basing their figures on the error. Nassagaweya's mill rate is still up four mills." The councillor remarked that a great hue and cry would come from Burlington if such a mistake was passed on to that municipality.

Council intends to ask the Nassagaweya representative on the Board of Education, Tom Watson to investigate the matter.

Council concurs

Acton Council went on record last night (Tuesday), as approving of the selection of Free Press publisher Dave Dills as Acton's Citizen of the Year for 1972.

"Considering council's close association with the man selected, I feel we as a council should go on record as approving of the selection and offering our congratulations to the publisher of the Free Press, Dave Dills," Mayor Les Doby said.

"I think we all share a feeling of pride, when we see our local paper recognized," Councillor Norm Elliott added. "We're fortunate to have as fine an individual as Mr. Dills in the community."

Quiet week for police

There were no reportable accidents in town the past week — in fact, none since March.

Police report a couple of liquor seizures and disturbances but nothing serious.

Asks probe into new Acton well

Erin township council received a letter from Mrs. M. Tizzard, R.R. 2, Acton concerned by the proposal that the town of Acton obtain some of its water supply from Erin township.

Mrs. Tizzard wants to know what would be done if the township residents' wells were affected.

During the discussion, it was mentioned that M.P.P. John Root stated that is wells were affected, the company must supply them with water from the drilled well. Clerk Elmer McKinnon

commented that the well was already there. It had been drilled 10 years ago and was abandoned on complaints that lower water levels would drain nearby creeks.

Councillor Harold Griffin added he'd heard the water contained an excess of lime, and Acton would have to tone it down by mixing half and half with their existing supply.

Mr. Griffin suggested a joint meeting of Erin and Esqueping townships, and a representative of the Water Resources Commission to delve into the matter further.



BOUQUET OF FLOWERS surrounds Mary, Mary Quite Contrary at the skating carnival Saturday. Front row left to right, Sandy Edmundson, Connie McCristall, "Mary Mary" - Jo-Ann McArthur, Denise Kunz, Cindy Brouillard, Lillian

Graham; second row Lori Ann Cook, Sharon Turkosz, Christine Allen, Linda Creasey, Theresa Conroy, Janet Britton; back row Dale Wilkinson, Ann Bomans.—(Jim Jennings Photo)



ACTON ARENA was the boardwalk for this Easter parade Saturday during the skating carnival. Dressed in Easter finery are front row left to right, Jennifer McAdam, Julie Townsley, Kim Jackson, Cindy McGiloway, Joanne Hearn;

back row, Debbie Andres, Colleen McGiloway, Kim McCristall, Kathy Toth, Debbie James. The arena was filled afternoon and evening for the show.—(Jim Jennings Photo)