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Expect aroma problems to last through summer

The president of Beardmore said this week the current odor problems plaguing Acton and district originate in the company's old storage lagoons.

The new flue gas treatment system is operating to the company's expectations but it is doubtful if the full system will be completely operational before the end of the summer.

The company experienced difficulties in getting the new plant operating by the target date set for the Fall of 1971. It wasn't until the end of February, 1972, that the system was operational.

Meanwhile, effluent from the plant had to be stored in the old lagoons where current odor originates.

In a press release, J. H. Creighton, the company president, said:

Free Press:

In answer to your query as to what stage we are now at in respect to our Air Management Program.

Quite naturally, we at Beardmore are extremely disappointed that this problem is still with us as we had sincerely anticipated that corrective

measures would have been effective at an earlier date.

Unfortunately, it took longer to design and install the flue gas contact plant but we are pleased to be able to tell you that it is now operating to our expectations. However we will be unable to achieve the full benefit from this installation until the "lagoon" system is adapted to the new installation.

While we will be doing everything possible to speed up the process, we doubt that the full system will be completely operational before the end of the summer.

The current odor originates from the old "lagoons" which are being adapted to receive the treated effluent as quickly as possible.

J. H. Creighton,
President.

The warm, humid weather which characterized the long Victoria Day weekend also acted as a catalyst to send malodorous whiffs of the smell from the Beardmore lagoons into sections of town which ordinarily are not affected.

One long-time resident phoned the Free Press to say he

had never experienced the smell so strongly. Councillors also received several calls of complaint.

Meanwhile the company is hoping they can dispose of the effluent stored during the winter in the least objectionable manner but fear a hot, humid summer where east winds will turn the odor towards the town. Air movement play a large part in the problems encountered. When the wind is from the west, the odor follows the old radial line and is gradually absorbed by clear country air.

Head chemist John Girefender told the Free Press

that odors do not originate from the spraying. The problems are caused by the smell rising from the old lagoons. Drying these large lagoons up is now the number one problem. There will be odor until the water in them is gone.

However, the new plant is functioning well. The effluent from the plant is all being treated, aerated and then stored for spraying so it augurs well for the future.

But there is no doubt that the town and district will have to wait at least until the summer is over before odor problems are allayed.

TECO report on June 3

A report dealing with the future of the Halton area in a regional government setup will be made public June 3 when all the municipal councillors in the county will be invited to attend a meeting at Halton Centennial Manor in Milton to hear members of the county's Technical Co-ordinating Committee present their interim report. The gathering is expected to last all day.

The report deals with basically three areas, including the division of responsibility, boundaries and government structure. A subsequent report will deal with finances, current capital budgets, projected budget forecasts and mill rates, Warden Jim Swanborough said Wednesday.

The Warden attended a meeting in Toronto Monday May 15 and met with government officials. Commenting on that

meeting, Swanborough said his submission was along the lines of a Halton-only unit.

Both Halton and Peel have been working towards separate regions ever since municipal affairs minister Darcy McKeough abandoned earlier plans to have the two counties merged in one region.

The Warden said he was encouraged to get an interim report into the province. He said he anticipated no implementation of regional government elections for a regional council this year so it was not expected regionalization would take effect in 1973.

"We want to be fully aware of the financial implications before we go into a regional setup," he added.

The Warden did indicate, however, that there "is every indication that a policy decision on regional government for that area between Toronto and

Hamilton would be made. We fully expect two regions and that Burlington won't go with Hamilton-Wentworth.

Outside of the council chambers speculation among county councillors would indicate the Halton region will likely consist of five municipalities rather than seven as currently constituted. Last week one councillor predicted Esqueping and Nassagaweya Townships would be split up among Acton, Georgetown and Milton.

The TECO report slated for presentation in June has been three months in the making. TECO is made up of members from municipal and county staff. Their report was earlier slated for the fall but with encouragement from the province, the work was accelerated.

Councillors will attend the TECO study meeting in Milton all day Saturday, June 3.

Odor is also council concern

Increasing complaints about the tannery odor had produced an item on the problem on the town council agenda for Tuesday night. However, members agreed to wait till they saw the contents of the press release from Jack Creighton, Beardmore president, in today's Free Press, before making any further comments or recommendations.

Clerk-administrator Joe Hurst had been asked by the administration committee of council to write to Beardmore asking a meeting with their officials and others from the Ontario Water Resources Commission. He suggested in his letter that if these representatives met with the committee of council they could provide information for more intelligent comment and answers to complaints. Mr. Hurst pointed out to Beardmore the increase in complaints received by councillors and the town office about the continuing and "perhaps worsening" odor since the installation of the new disposal plant. He specifically mentioned the Glenlea area in the letter but added there had been considerable complaint that day and on the holiday weekend.

Tell public why
Mr. Hurst explained he had no reply in writing, but had phoned Mr. Creighton that morning (Tuesday). Mr. Creighton said he would be releasing a press report for the Acton Free Press telling the public exactly why the odor exists.

Until the residue is cleaned up from the old system, there won't

be much improvement. Mr. Creighton considered that he felt that with this report a meeting with the committee would be superfluous.

People hopeful
"This will clear up a misunderstanding," said deputy-revee McKenzie. People are wondering if council is doing anything. They had hoped that by this spring the odor would be cleaned up.

Councillor Marks said he was happy to see this form of public relations from Beardmore. The mayor — also a Beardmore employee — had the last words on the discussion as council awaited the official wording of the release.

New system o.k.
"I'm not a company spokesman," he pointed out. "And it doesn't embarrass me to answer phone calls about the odor and be employed there."

The press release won't be long. The explanation is simple. There are no bugs in the new system, the mayor explained. The new plant is handling the new waste water efficiently but the old filter beds are full and have to be eliminated in some way.

There isn't anyone you can complain to who doesn't know about the problem already, the mayor stated. He predicted there will likely always be a swamp water smell, but the new plant will clear up the noxious sulphides.

"Beardmore officials are very concerned too," the mayor assured his fellow councillors.

Controversial theories for C. of C. meeting

The people of Acton and district will have an opportunity to hear and see some controversial films and material concerning the assassination of U. S. President John F. Kennedy at a Chamber of Commerce dinner next Wednesday.

Local "authority" Gary Murr, of Churchill Rd. S., has done considerable research into the assassination in collaboration with Fred Newcomb, a California resident. Newcomb intends to publish a book in the near future with startling new theories, and Gary will illustrate them for Chamber members and friends at the Dominion Hotel on Wednesday.

Murr created a stir at the Acton high school this Spring with his claim that a widespread conspiracy was at work plotting Kennedy's death.

One film clip purporting to show that Kennedy was shot from the front rather than the rear, as shown in official documents, has received widespread interest.

A fascinated Acton viewer told the Free Press that there was no doubt that the people in the film were Kennedy and his wife or realistic substitutes. She was shocked at the film's implications.

There'll be a question and answer period for those who would like to question Mr. Murr's theories and documents which he has been collecting in exhaustive work the past two years.

The meeting is another in the regular Chamber of Commerce activities with accent on local activities. A steak dinner will precede the speaker.

Report smashes

Three accidents in town the past week were investigated by police.

Wednesday, May 17 two cars were in collision at the corner of Queen and Churchill Rd. Drivers were Kenneth Bennett, Acton, whose car had an estimated \$100 damage, and Lysn Stuckless, Acton with about \$250 damage.

Chain reaction
On Saturday three cars were involved in a collision on Main St. at 4:30 p.m. Keith Dowling and Gilbert Dowling both of Oakville, stopped their cars due to traffic, and the third car along was driven by Eric McKee of Milton. The first Dowling car in the chain reaction had \$50 damage to the rear, the middle Dowling car \$600 estimated damage to front and rear and the McKee vehicle \$450 to its front.

On Sunday a minor collision occurred on Mill east of Main. Outhbert Majias, Toronto, had no reportable damage to his car. There was about \$25 to the car driven by Gunnar Toblasen, Mississauga.

Hold interviews for playground

A total of 44 applications have been received from persons desiring summer employment as playground leaders. Patterson said the program committee will select 12 leaders following interviews, which will be conducted this Saturday.

Who owns it?

Asked by Councillor Greer who owned the land, Councillor Marks said the board understands the land is owned by Beardmore, or, more properly, Canada Packers. He admitted if it comes to legalities, the matter might have to go to court.

Coffee house to open here in June

A coffee house, open to anyone 16 years of age and over is expected to open in town for the summer months, probably in the middle of June.

Adele Hurley, a second year York University student from Oakville has obtained a grant from the Department of National Health and Welfare's non medical use of drugs division to operate the coffee house. Its operation will be overseen by the Addiction Research Foundation. Acton Parks and Recreation chairman Hugh Patterson said



BILLOWS OF BLACK SMOKE originating from a fire in hundreds of old tires thrown in the Esqueping dump, south-east of Acton, this morning (Wednesday), even attracted a Toronto radio station helicopter presumably because the pollution index in Toronto took a sudden turn for the worse. Acton firefighters used two trucks to douse the flames, taking water from the nearby Black Creek. It was their second run to the dump in 24 hours. Fire Toronto radio station helicopter presumably in another section was doused Tuesday afternoon. (Photo by H. Coles)

Council learns

Farmers' market legal it's a public service

A farmers' market on Willow St. would be legal, clerk-administrator Joe Hurst readily convinced council Tuesday.

As he had at planning board, councillor Elliott said he thought the market would contravene the zoning by-law in that area.

Establishment of an authentic farmers' market in town is the project of nine young people who have received a \$7,760 Opportunities for Youth grant. Involved are Mary Fran Marcoux, Bonnie Bristow, Darlene Welch, Sheila Cheyne, Rob Eilberby, Karen Pearce, Deb

Papillon, Louise Johnson and Hein Mooten.

Public service
Mr. Hurst said deputy clerk Grant Usher had gone over the problem, and read the section of the by-law which states anything owned or operated by the town or a local board for a public service is exempt from requirements of the zoning by-law.

It's clearly not a contravention, Mr. Hurst declared. There's a lot of jargon there, Mr. Elliott observed as he agreed the market would be allowed.

There's a two week trial period at first anyway, councillor Masales reminded everyone. Then the market location would be evaluated.

The plan is to have the market inside Moss Hardware extending out on one line of the road. The other lane of traffic would remain open, for access to parking in the bank parking lot and further down the block.

Mr. Hurst commented it's hoped that the market will help, rather than hinder, business in the remaining store on the block.

Will seek to buy lake walkway land

Acquiring land for a walkway by Fairy Lake off Elizabeth Dr. has become a goal of council. Parks board passed the torch to council Tuesday with chairman Peter Marks admitting his board hadn't been able to proceed too far.

A long-term plan is a walkway completely around the shores of Fairy Lake.

Council has now undertaken to "negotiate with the owners the purchase of approximately a 50 foot wide strip of land bordering on the north-east end of Fairy Lake, to join Prospect park and an area on Elizabeth Dr."

Who owns it?
Asked by Councillor Greer who owned the land, Councillor Marks said the board understands the land is owned by Beardmore, or, more properly, Canada Packers. He admitted if it comes to legalities, the matter might have to go to court.

(Ownership of the land has been in dispute for some time.)

Mr. Marks explained he'd like to see an offer to purchase made by council. Parks and recreation committee had no response to a previous letter, he said.

Sharp drop-off
Mr. Marks pointed out that

after dredging by the Credit River Conservation Authority the shoreline there was left relatively unsafe. When the 50 foot wide strip is acquired, it would be regarded to comply with the neighboring shoreline. The lake bottom here drops to 20 feet very sharply, he said.

New post office

The federal department of Public Works has included the sum of \$33,000 in this year's construction program for a new post office at Hillsburgh while a second, much larger project is contemplated for Milton at an estimated cost of \$300,000.

Once a decision on a suitable site has been made and the property acquired, tenders will be called with a view to having

work on the Hillsburgh office get underway this year.

A feasibility study will be undertaken on appropriate improvement of postal accommodation in Milton. The study should be completed by the end of July and it is expected Milton will have improved post office accommodation by the fiscal year 1973-74.

The coffee house will contain a main room equipped with tables and chairs and a small elevated stage for folk singers and performers. Coffee, tea, cider and doughnuts will be available as refreshments.

Miss Hurley said she hopes to have youths take part in some community function such as a concert, play or perhaps taking children on supervised bike hikes.

Folk concert
She said a folk concert may

also be staged in Prospect Park during the summer.

Similar coffee houses are to be established in Milton and Oakville. Miss Hurley indicated it may be possible to circulate talented folk singers, so that they appear in all three towns. An amateur night for local talent may also be arranged, she said.

Miss Hurley supervised the "House of Tillerman", a coffee house in Oakville last year. She has also had previous experience as a day camp leader and director.



FIFTEEN MONTH old Christopher Lindsay found a sure way to beat the heat on the Victoria Day holiday. He took a dip in the family pool with the aid of the secure arms of mother

Doreen, Sister Shelly and Laurie Pickles join in the fun. Father Don thinks he may have a prospect for the 1982 Olympic swimming trials. (Photo by D. Gibbons)