Coffee house foundation for Acton Youth Council

By Denis Gibbons

Confiding she would have liked

What's more she's confident the kids more than once." the relationships formed there will provide the spark for the was that because it must also formation of an Acton Youth serve as a meeting place for Council which in her opinion is sports groups and community one of the town's greatest social organizations it could not be

"The real test of the project "Anytime youths are able to the coffee house is just a taste of what they can do," she suggested during an interview with the Free Press following the coffee house coffee house throughout the

group played for a closing dance or trouble. in the community centre auditorium bringing to an end coffee house activities which began in early July and included a softball game with town council, folk singing entertainment on weekends, two dances, religious presentations, a pottery demonstration and dis-

cussion groups. The coffee house was open every night except Monday for anyone who wished to drop by for a game of checkers, chess, listen to records or "rap" for awhile.

Had advantage It wasn't exactly the ideal setting, but the community centre basement did offer some giving advice as it was just being advantage as the home of the town's first coffee house.

"Because it was near the hub of summer activity in the town, we to have seen more older youths had a good cross-section of (i.e. over 20) take advantage of it, citizens drop in for a look," said supervisor Adele Hurley feels the Adele. "We had mothers come "Comin About" coffee house down for coffee between periods proved to be a real benefit to of lacrosse games and another youths who frequented it during retired gentleman who came down for a game of checkers with

> Disadvantage of the facility renovated or decorated.

will be their willingness to see decorate and work on a building themselves go a little further. themselves it helps produce What they've accomplished at cohesion and we probably missed

this," she says. Adele estimates about 70 people were passing through the evening in the final weeks. She "Hard Summers Night", a rock reports no incidents of rowdylsm

Need activities

In her opinion Acton provides adequately for those whose recreational interests lie in sports fields, but she points out there are a lot of youths now out of school who have nothing to do

"At the coffee house we tried to touch on some of these other interests, books, art, pottery for instance," she explained.

As a counsellor, Adele found youths coming to her more to talk about problems of homelife and family situations than drug and alcohol problems.

"My role was not so much a listener. Depending on the seriousness of the situation I was



FOLK SINGERS who performed on weekend nights were a popular attraction at the "Comin About" coffee house.

able to make referrals to our social workers," she says. No crisis

She recognizes alcohol and drug problems in town, but feels they are no greater than in any other community of the same size and certainly nothing that would can get together and have fun, be considered to be at a crisis

What was accomplished at the coffee house could never have happened without the cotown council and coffee house operation of persons and since it showed both sides they organizations who provided help

(Photo by D. Gibbons)

support she received.

Branch 197 and Lions Club were financial backers.

both manually and financially, Adele is quick to point out. She appreciates the tremendous

Rotary Club, Canadian Legion

The two councils met each other Tuesday

epresenting the newly-formed Gerard van Opstal. youth council, explained their first funds.

Hank Wissenz, the youth chairman, was spokesman.

Adele Hurley.

(Tuesday).

July and August.

to be effective ...

people, Mellor, John Oudesluys and They hoped to set up a penny

group to council Tuesday night, line along Mill St. Saturday asked for their moral support and morning, and permission was permission to hold a penny tape granted later in the council line this Saturday to raise their meeting with one dissenting vote. out to the young people there

From coffee house

Hank Wissenz explained the group was an extension of the Others in the delegation were coffee house, which no longer information chairman Barry could be held in the downstairs Breen, treasurer Colin Price, room at the arena. In their search secretary Yvonne LeRoy, Laurie for possible new quarters, they

asked council to consider allowing them to repair the upstairs of the town hall.

It has been deemed unfit for use for several years and councillor Earl Masales pointed might be serious engineering problems. It had already been decided the cost of repairs was too high to be undertaken, but council agreed to take another

The group pointed out the large size of the town hall room was

ideal as the coffee house was often overcrowded. The stage also appealed to them, for productions of their own.

The softball game between

youths was an important event

Five objectives Councillor Marks read for his colleagues a list of five objectives of the group, providing liaison between young people and adults, undertaking beneficial tasks, providing an alternative for unsuitable behavior, and lending strength to the community. It pointed out the organization would be very flexible as

members, at the ages of 16 to 18, would be constantly changing. To councillor Greer's question

on adult guidance, Hank Wissenz explained the group would be run by themselves, with the leaders the youths' peers, although some contact with the Addiction Research Foundation would be likely (as with the coffee house). It was possible they would come

problem.

back to council for a decision on a

Second request After the group left and council discussed approval for the penny line, councillor Greer said he didn't think permission should be granted since council had already approved a tag day for the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. He voted against

the motion.

Other councillors didn't think the penny line would lower contributions to the taggers who are located at the park as well as downtown. "It might even make it more likely the I.O.D.E. gets the shiney stuff," quipped the mayor. All others voted in favor of the youth council being allowed to set up the penny tape.

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About" coffee house supervisor only if there is allowance made for almost constant entrance and This is one of the reminders existing ofnew personalities. she has left for Acton's first youth Suggestions which Adele council which was elected at a special meeting in community centre last night (Tus

Youth council must

"Youth groups that do things The committee structure of the

only for their own age group are youth council should be flexible

doomed because they're not enough to always leave room for

involving enough of the new members. Youth groups tend

community," says "Comin to operate in a successful fashion

help whole community

Formation of a youth council

in 1974, provision of a year round coffee house or youth centre, establishment of an underground newspaper and setting up of a booth at the Acton Fall Fair.

She feels an underground newspaper could serve two important purposes.

"Not only would it be a good sounding board for a lot of kids, it would also provide an outlet for a lot of talent. There are kids who have potential as artists, writers,

LOVELL BROS. MEAT MARKET

It is hoped town council and other interested members of the community will serve on an advisory board and that organizations like the Acton High students council, local service clubs, Y.M.C.A., churches and parks and recreation committee

will work in conjunction with it as General purpose of a youth council is to provide a liaision body between adults and youths

was a direct result of the success-

ful coffee house which operated

in the community centre during

The youth council is to have a three person executive.

chairman, treasurer and

publicity director, but it will also

need a body of members in order

Advisory body

in town, Adele says. Youths must understand that as an age group they comprise a segment of the total population and that they should be able to collectively undertake certain tasks not only beneficial to themselves but also to the

community as a whole. They should become aware of the needs of the community and help lend strength for example in providing information concerning medical facilities and resources or information on cultural activities in Acton and the surrounding district.

They should be prepared to provide in a realistic manner alternatives to displays of vendalism, excessive drinking and abuse of other substances through the provision of planned activities that will absorb both the time and interest of this age

stealistic magner That we mean by "realistic Adele explains," is etting up concrete activities wach as a youth centre or a once a week movie house. We don't mean peasing out fact sheets. That's not a practical way."

offering the council for activities during 1972 and '73 include undertaking one phase of planning for Acton's Centennial poets etc.," she says.

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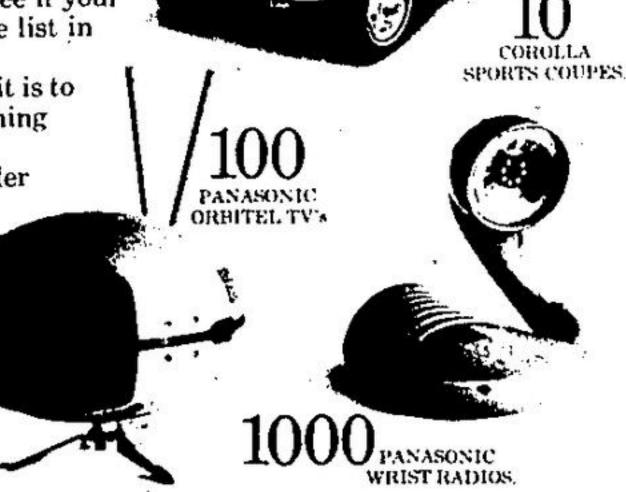
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encouragement came from Councillor Peter Marks, Miss Laura Wiles with whom Adele stayed during the summer and Acton High guidance counsellor Brian Skerrett.

Harold Townsley and the arena staff, Acton High principal Dave Katz and his secretaries, the Acton Country Market group, Gloria Browne of the Y.M.C.A., John and Sharon Secord of White Oaks Ceramics and the Acton Free Press made valuable contributions.

Special helpers around the coffee house itself were Yvonne Leroy, Glynnis Johnson, Dorothy Pargeter, Barry Breen who painted the wall mural and Hank Wissenz who provided stage and sound equipment.

York University's Glendon College, Adele expresses the wish that Acton will have a successful Centennial year in 1974.

As she returns to her studies at

"I hope the town will view itself as a real community, one that encompasses all ages," she says.

Will operate penny line

By Yvonne Leroy

Acton's Youth Council has

started! Watch for us Saturday in the Fall Fair parade. You'll find us on the sidewalks operating a penny line. If you don't know what a penny line is, watch for us

and find out.

penny line will be held by our council treasurer Colin Price and may help to pay rent on perhaps a

The money received from the we're starting now.

coffee house, or pay for bills such as electricity, heat and coffee. All the money goes back into Acton and all of Acton's youth profits. Acton's Youth Council is not just show. We want to do something for everyone else and

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NOTICE

The Municipal Council of the Town of Acton will, after the expiration of one month from the date of this notice, take into consideration and pass a By-law to stop up and close that portion of Mill Street West in the Town of Acton more particularly described as follows:

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Acton, in the County of Halton and Province of Ontario; being composed of part of MIII Street, according to the Composite Plan of Acton, registered as 1098, and which said parcel or tract of land and premises is more particularly described as follows:

PREMISING the line of Victoria Street has a bearing of North 52 degrees 14 minutes West, and that all other bearings herein are related thereto;

COMMENCING at the intersection of the Southwesterly limit of Park Avenue with the Northwesterly limit of Mill Street;

THENCE South 37 degrees 44 minutes West, along the Northwesterly limit of Mill Street 121.11 feet to an iron bar;

THENCE North 70 degrees 49 minutes 30 seconds East, 22.57 feet to the Northwesterly face of a concrete retaining wall;

THENCE. North 32 degrees 33 minutes 50 seconds East along the said Northwesterly face of a concrete retaining wall, 79.33 feet to an angle therein;

THENCE North 25 degrees 08 minutes 30 seconds East, continuing along the said Northwesterly face of the concrete retaining wall, 23.77 feet to the point of commencement.

And to convey same to the owner of the lot immediately adjoining same in consideration of the transfer of Part of Lot 224, Plan 1098 to the Corporation of the Town of Acton for the purpose of widening Mill Street West.

This notice is given pursuant to Section 446 of The Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1970, Chapter 284.

Dated at Acton, Ontario this 9th day of August 1972.

> J. T. Hurst Cierk Administrator