



DANCES WERE ANOTHER ACTIVITY WHICH flourished upstairs in the old town hall when it was the heart of Acton's entertainment. This picture was taken at the New Year

festivities in 1952 when the town ushered in the New Year on the nation-wide CBC network. Considered unsafe the upstairs of the old building has been used only for storage in the last few years.



BACK IN 1943 the war years found the old town hall a veritable bee hive of activity as local people staged concerts and minstrel shows to swell victory coffers. These are the

Victory Minstrels. Recognize anyone? Now the Youth Council has proposed that they be allowed to use the upstairs of the historic old hall.

## Council balks at Youth Council using town hall

Acton council withheld approval in principle use of the upstairs of the old town hall by the Acton Youth Council until the administration committee had more time to study the proposal. A motion Tuesday sponsored by Councillors Marks and Coats, was tabled. It suggested council approve use of the upstairs in principle providing all safety standards were met.

The old town hall was the entertainment heart of Acton for generations with its stage and auditorium. Members of the Youth Council appeared at an earlier meeting of council with a proposal to use the quarters provided they could fix them up at their own expense, since the stage and auditorium fitted many of their needs.

Council agreed to investigate and Councillor Norm Elliott delegated to report on his survey of the building. He noted there was only one upstairs entrance and it was in a side door behind the police offices. The old entrance had been sealed up and Elliott said he was concerned that the Fire Marshal's requirements would mean another entrance.

There are no upstairs heating

facilities since they had been disconnected, ceiling plaster has fallen in several places over the stage and joists, caused by roof leaks which have since been repaired. However, Elliott said, there could be danger there from falling plaster.

The floor which has borne the prints and weight of thousands of dancers over the years and been lined with chairs as concerts, plays and speakers performed from the stage, is still sound. But it squeaks, said Councillor Elliott, in his remarks.

There are many things the Youth Council can do there, personally I think the expense of fixing it up is too steep, but that is not our problem. The basic issue is whether we are in favor of letting them use the building or not, explained Councillor Coats in support of the motion.

But Deputy Reeve G. W. McKenzie said it "runs in my mind it is not safe. It goes back to the days when Grandpa Oakes was on council. We would be remiss if we gave permission to use it if it is not safe. It strikes me that the building is in the same condition as the arena, which couldn't be used. I think we are putting the cart before the horse

here."

"As the arena used to be", interjected Marks.

The deputy reeve nodded, and noting that one side of the coin was whether the upstairs of the building could be used. The other aspect was whether it should be used. He said he would vote against any motion because he could not endorse it without some form of control.

There could be a tremendous amount of money involved but that will be up to the Youth Council, said Marks.

"All well and good but it would be an expensive proposition for washrooms alone," said Councillor Masales.

But they need council's approval before they can go ahead, retorted Coats.

Council was prepared to close the arena because it was unsafe. I can't vote for this motion until I know the upstairs is safe, too, said McKenzie.

declared.

"There are other empty stores and buildings in town," the deputy reeve suggested.

An exasperated Marks replied that this motion was only intended to show faith in the youth council. He said he had walked the streets with these kids and nothing under \$100 a month could be found for them to use. All they wanted was approval in principle.

We have already approved the group and their objectives, replied Councillor Masales.

But they need council's approval before they can go ahead, retorted Coats.

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The question is merely if we are going to let them use it if building safety standards are met, declared Coats, noting the motion had been defeated at committee and now was presented to council for their decision.

those," stated Elliott. "There are too many reasons against it."

He said there must be a basic flaw when the Youth Council can't get space in our community centre. "Our priorities need re-examination."

There is no problem for kids 12 and under, said Marks, but over that age there does not seem to be any accommodation. He recalled Rud Whiting had investigated the station and other empty places had been looked into, with no success.

"This is a group of kids who are showing some initiative which we all say teenagers should do. We should try to do something for them," Marks declared.

The around-the-table discussion continued with Councillor Chapman declaring the upstairs would need another entrance to meet safety requirements and that could be fairly expensive.

Supposing we find it will cost \$25,000 to fix it up — we'll have to put our money where our mouth is, the deputy reeve suggested. We need more information to vote intelligently on it. We have approved the Youth Council and its objectives but you are asking us to vote on something we

haven't got, he told Councillors Marks and Coats.

It is the responsibility of council to see the use of the upstairs would not be detrimental to the police as well, the mayor reminded council. And there are problems with social activities in

residential areas.

This is no indication we aren't supporting their objectives," he assured council, "but we are offering them something that isn't usable in this motion."

The deputy reeve had the last word. He suggested the group

investigate the possibility of a portable classroom being procured for their activities since they were available and had most of the amenities they would require.

Meanwhile the proposal goes back to committee for further study.

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### RUD WHITING WORKS FOR HALTON

As a long term resident of Halton, Rud Whiting is sensitive to the needs of our communities. Did you know that Rud, as our Federal Member, has helped hundreds of people with problems — veterans pensions, postal problems, immigration, the obtaining of passports, citizenship, taxation. He has worked closely with all of our municipalities, dealing with CMHC on matters including loans for sewage and water projects. When the Oakville Chamber of Commerce established a committee to study the redevelopment of the downtown core of Oakville, Rud Whiting, on behalf of the citizens, aided in obtaining a Federal LIP grant. The result — the Diet for Development program, universally supported throughout the community. He has arranged, through consultation with the Post Office Department to provide increased services for many parts of the riding, including Hillsburgh, where construction of a new Post Office will soon commence, the Town of Milton, Palermo, and others. Rud also appeared before the Canadian Transport Commission on behalf of the towns of Milton and Acton.

### RUD WHITING WORKS FOR FAMILIES

Family Allowances, housing geared to income, unemployment insurance, welfare, manpower retraining — you name it, and Rud Whiting has been working right along with officials at all levels of government to ensure that families get the help they need. When obtaining Unemployment Insurance benefits became a problem, Rud moved quickly to relieve the situation.

The result — a full service office for Unemployment Insurance covering Oakville and Milton, open full time with weekly service established in Georgetown and a claims agent in Acton.

### RUD WHITING WORKS FOR YOUTH

Rud Whiting has always been acutely aware of the problems confronting Youth and has worked diligently on their behalf. He has given counsel and support to Opportunities For Youth projects in Halton, including the establishment by young people of a Farmers Market in Acton. Recreational Programs in Georgetown and Erin, a project to assist children with learning disabilities, and others.

He also worked with the Chamber of Commerce in Oakville, to arrange for the location of a Student Manpower Centre at the former Ontario Barracks.

### RUD WHITING WORKS FOR THE ECONOMY

Rud Whiting recognizes that a healthy community needs a healthy economy. Earlier this year he arranged and hosted an Industrial Seminar at Sheridan College, where some 160 business men from all parts of Halton met for discussion with Federal Government officials.

Rud has also worked hard for the establishment of new industries in Halton. In close cooperation with Mayor Brian Best and his council of Milton, Rud played a big part in persuading the Polymer Corporation to locate in the riding. And that means 250 additional jobs.

### RUD WHITING WORKS FOR CANADA

Indication of the high regard in which Rud is held in serving the national scene is the fact that he has been selected for important committee work affecting the well being of all Canadians.

- He served one year on the Federal Labor, Manpower and Immigration Committee
- He served one year on the National Resources and Public Works Committee
- He served two years on the Regional Development Committee
- He has currently served as Vice Chairman of the vitally important Public Accounts Committee, and as a member of the committee on Environmental Pollution
- In addition he has worked closely with the Canadian Delegation at the United Nations at the request of the Prime Minister

Truly an enviable record of service to the Canadian people.

### RUD WHITING WORKS FOR NEW CANADIANS

New Canadians have a friend in Rud Whiting. On many occasions he has been called upon to assist with problems related to Immigration and Citizenship. A major contribution he has made was the establishment of the Citizenship Court in Halton. At the very first sitting over 80 Citizenship Certificates were presented to proud new Canadians and the Court has continued its active role in the community.

### RUD WHITING WORKS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Old age pensions, and housing for Senior Citizens have had high priority in Rud Whiting's community activities. For example over 300 apartments for Senior Citizens have been constructed in Bronte and Rud played an important part in arranging the financing. He frequently visits with Senior Citizens throughout the riding and is alert to opportunities of assisting those with problems or who need counsel and advice. Even seemingly little things like easy access to mail boxes are important to Senior Citizens, and Rud has been quick to react to their needs.

Just ask the people in Georgetown, Milton and Oakville.

### RUD WHITING WORKS FOR THE PEOPLE

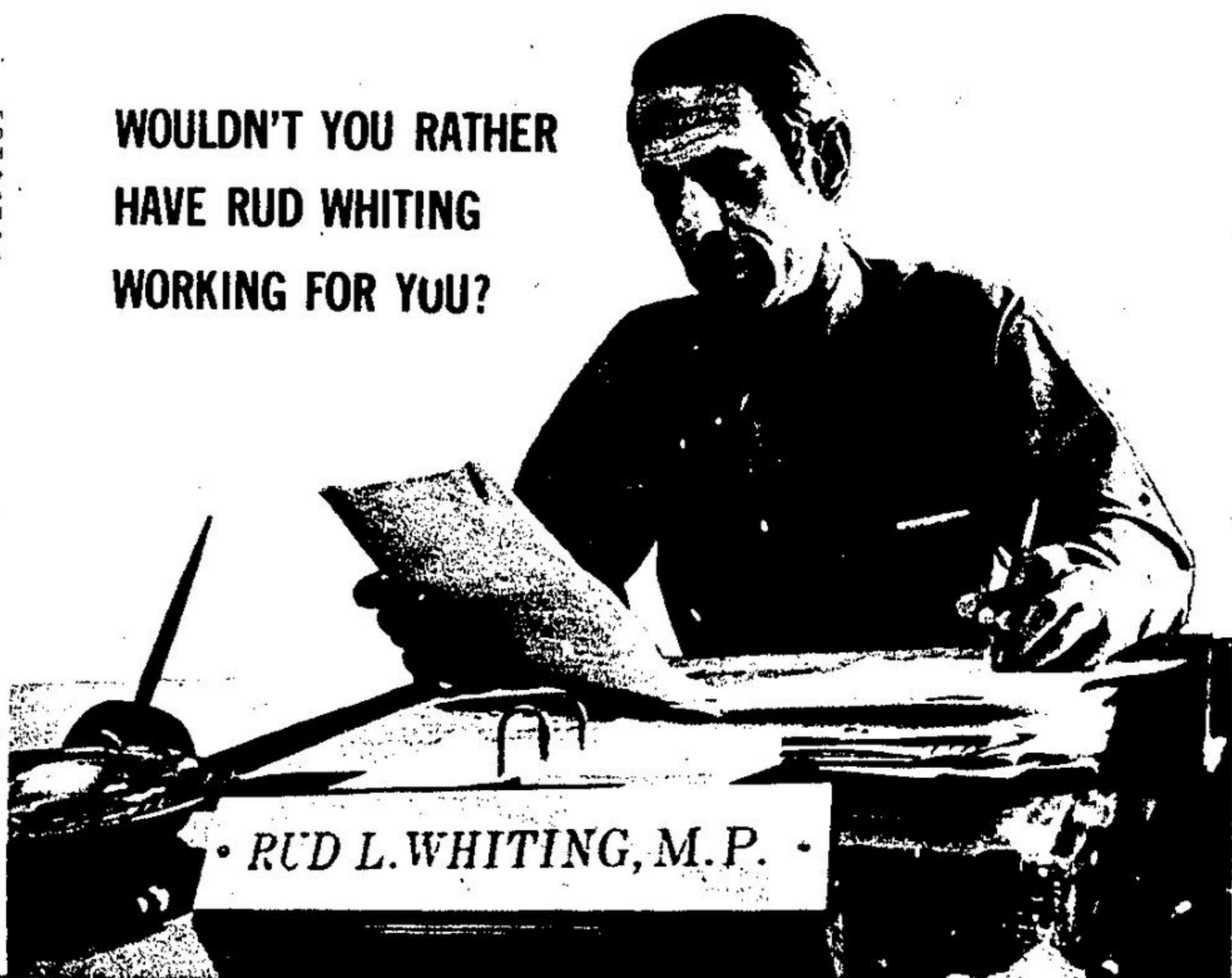
Forty two years old, and a resident of Halton since 1946 Rud, his wife Anne and their two children Jamie and Tracy take a real interest in their community.

Rud has been active in Lion's Club, was Chairman and for five years served on the Board of Directors of United Appeal, was Vice President of the Halton Children's Aid Society, has been a hard working member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Cancer Society and the Halton Region Conservation Authority. Despite their busy schedule, Rud, Anne and the family find time for their church, St. Aidans in Oakville.

Rud Whiting works for people, because Rud Whiting likes and respects people. His record speaks for itself.

**RUD WHITING WORKS FOR PEOPLE**

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER  
HAVE RUD WHITING  
WORKING FOR YOU?



RUD L. WHITING, M.P.

### WHITING LIBERAL HEADQUARTERS

181 Mill St. Milton 878-2377  
124 Mill St. E. Acton 853-1700  
268 Guelph St. Delrex Market 877-5149 Georgetown

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