

Minister replies to editorial

# Four borough Halton short-term goal - Kerr

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE  
Feb. 21, 1973.

Mr. Hartley Coles,  
Editor,  
The Acton Free Press.

Dear Mr. Coles:

I would appreciate the opportunity to comment on some of the observations made in your lead editorial in the February 14th edition of the Free Press.

It was not correct, as your editorial suggested, that I "came out strongly" in favour of a central Milton borough at the Upper Burlington Citizens Forum meeting earlier this month. As a Member of the Cabinet and the

Government of Ontario, I was simply explaining the rationale behind the proposals outlined by my colleague Arthur Meen in Hamilton on January 23rd.

As a matter of fact, I am on record as personally supporting the TECO proposals for a three borough system in Halton County. I indicated that to the press on the evening of the 23rd and even went so far as to say that I thought we would eventually come to a single tier government in Halton, along the same lines as our county board of education.

Nevertheless, I recognize that we are not yet ready for such a drastic step and that a reduction from seven to four municipal governments in Halton might well meet our short term goals in municipal reform.

This is particularly true when we consider the strong feelings in Milton, the county town in Halton for over 100 years, to retain its own identity.

We are also most anxious to use, where possible, the proposed parkway belt as a municipal boundary. As you know, Mr. Meen indicated in Hamilton that the southern boundary of the proposed Milton borough would be adjusted to conform with the parkway belt when the details of this concept are made public.

I am sure your readers are aware that from the first suggestions of the need for regional government west of Metropolitan Toronto, starting about seven years ago, the prime objective of the Member for Halton West has been the preservation of Halton and to prevent it from being sliced up two or three ways in the formation of regional units.

In pursuing this goal I was following the expressed desires of municipal representatives in Acton, Nassagaweya and Esqueping, as well as in southern Halton. I recall that spokesmen from the north were opposed to both the Steele and Plunkett reports and did not look kindly on proposals for a Halton-Peel merger.

I think it is fair to say that in the proposals outlined by Mr. Meen, I have achieved my objective if preserving inviolate the present Halton boundaries. It has even been suggested that East Flamboro and Waterdown be added to the Burlington borough.

It is rather distressing to me, after so much effort over a long period to give the people of Halton, including those in Acton and Nassagaweya and Esqueping, what they desired, to read that the Acton Free Press thinks that

the people of the north have "lost Mr. Kerr's ear."

I hope that no one in the north will lose sight of our primary objective and jeopardize our successes to date by becoming too preoccupied with the question of internal boundaries. Let me assure you that the Government of Ontario will listen to your criticisms and comments despite the doubts expressed by the Free Press editorial.

The people of Acton and district are well aware that it is vital to their interests that Burlington be included in a strong Halton region. They have made it clear to me that they want to be a part of that region and I have done my best to see that their wishes are respected.

Yours very truly,  
George A. Kerr, Q.C.

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Eighth Year. - No. 35

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1973

Second Section

## Munro aims blast at Queen's Park

Federal Minister of Labor and Hamilton MP John Munro accused the Ontario Government of cold blooded political manipulation over the method in which the province is implementing regional government in the Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton areas.

Munro leveled the charges at an annual meeting of Halton Wentworth Liberals in

Burlington Saturday. Munro said that Arthur Meen offered alternatives for the Hamilton-Wentworth area and then went visiting municipalities surrounding Hamilton, making compromises to win the support of the outlying areas when the province had already calculated what they would give in on and what they would stick to.

loaded with diversions to take the attention off what he called the key question, that being the location of Burlington in a Halton Region away from Hamilton.

Upset about manner He said he wasn't happy with the separation but was more upset about the manner in which it was being implemented. He said that any time Meen was asked to discuss the Hamilton-

Burlington matter he'd say that was resolved and urge questioners to concern themselves with other matters. Meen is parliamentary assistant to John White, Minister of the Treasury and Intergovernmental Affairs.

"I'm amazed they're getting away with it. If Trudeau brings in important legislation he introduces a white paper and

allows comment on it. It isn't shoved down people's throats like this is."

"This is arrogance in the extreme and a repudiation of the democratic process," Munro urged the meeting not to approve of the cynical manipulation and suggested there was a legitimate area for discussion among Liberals.

Onus on Hamilton

A heated dialogue followed Munro's address. Former Burlington Councillor Bill Connell challenged Munro's statement that Hamilton had only been given six weeks to make their views known at Queen's Park. "We in Burlington have studied this for two years. Don't you feel the onus was on Hamilton to get a brief in?"

Munro suggested Hamilton had been led to believe an optimistic arrangement would come about on the basis that the Steele Commission report was never refuted.

One woman said she had canvassed part of Burlington two years ago to see if Burlington people wanted to join Hamilton. About 90 percent of the people did not want to, according to the plebiscite held.

The same woman said she was dumbfounded not to find local politicians use the result of that plebiscite to prove Burlington people favored a Halton-only unit. She said she thought the intent was to have an independent Burlington and not regional government. "We're discussing pink or blue, not whether we want it or not, she suggested.

New president During the business portion of the meeting Norm McGuinness was elected president of the association replacing Fred Sch-

wenger who had led the association for two years. Sam Woods was elected vice-president.

Others elected to office

included Alice Mock, Bev Walker, Leo Haber, Judy Lingren, John O'Boyle, Ralf Hayfield, Ted Raife and John Stasulak.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### School reunion before demolition

February 23, 1973  
313 Westcott Rd.,  
ACTON, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

I am the representative for this area for the Cooksville Public and Continuation School Reunion, to be held on June 23, 1973, at the school, Hurontario Street N., Mississauga. (This is another case of lost identity, "Cooksville" no longer exists)

We are endeavoring to locate anyone who at any time attended the school, during its 100 years of operation. The building is slated for demolition sometime in 1974, and this is kind of a last chance to let the footsteps echo down its halls once more.

Several people, like myself have since moved away from the area, and are residing in Acton and vicinity. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who wants to be put on our mailing list. Fifteen hundred letters have already been sent to those whose ad-

resses were readily available, but you can imagine that during 100 years, there are thousands who have not yet been advised. I attended during the years 1949 to 1956.

The day will entail a tour of the old school, pictures of each class will be on display and copies may be ordered for those who have perhaps lost their copies, or never had them. Any articles or workbooks, report cards etc. which anyone wishes to loan will be returned after prints are made for the display. There will be games and races for children, and a barbecue for supper. Plan to bring the whole family and make a day of it. We may never have another chance to see our old school chums all at once.

The committee in Mississauga has been working on this project since October last year, and there are still numerous details to look after. Anyone in this area interested please call 853-2624.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) June Hunter

### Suggests dumping fee for Toronto garbage

Feb. 24, 1973

Dear Sir:-

If we are going to live in "Toronto Garbage Area," then damages will result to each individual and to properties.

I predict the following:

1. Psychological damages will occur to all people living in "Toronto Garbage Area."
2. Property values will be lower.
3. Railroad sides will be littered and the returning gravel trucks may start to transport garbage.
4. Possibility of fire, which may burn for years, will exist.
5. Some of the waterbed will be damaged.
6. The flow of garbage will increase with every coming year.

There are no reasons why the local residents should absorb these losses and damages and therefore it is a must that the incoming garbage should be taxed, as a dumping fee, on per ton basis.

Leo Onso,  
R.R. 1, Acton.

### Want geese -not Lions

Dear Sir:

We would like to see Prospect Park, with the community centre, continue as the activity area. Other areas of parkland should be kept as natural beauty spots. This way everyone can join in the action but still get away from it all if he wishes.

Our centennial project is to return to live on Elizabeth Drive in '74. Please let's find the geese in our backyard-Not the LIONS.

Yours truly,  
Alma Sweetman



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