



Remnant of the harvest

—Photo by Gall Stuckey

Chaos on the regional front

Regional Government in Halton has turned into the can of worms which the Ontario Government was anxious to avoid.

Everyone is still scrambling for the prizes and assessment plums to preserve their own identity in a boundary war which gets even more ridiculous as time goes on.

When the first proposals were advanced there was some hope that all the municipalities in the county would co-operate and come up with an acceptable solution to a two-tier Halton-only region. It was anticipated Burlington and Oakville would be able to hold their own end up while the five North Halton municipalities would make a strong third borough.

The first to step out of line was the Town of Milton.

Halton's most central municipality decided it wanted a borough of its own because the town was situated in an area with a wide community of interest, anxious to keep growing without having to depend on anyone else, thank you.

This still left the four other northern municipalities, Acton, Esquesing,

Georgetown and Nassagaweya, all of them opposed to Milton opting out and resolved to hammer out an agreement which would be fair to all with privileges to none.

The four survivors of the proposed North Halton borough were annoyed when the provincial government decided to endorse the idea of a four unit Halton but on the surface at least they seemed to have come to an accord. That was, until the province stuck by its decision to divide Halton in four, instead of three as the county requested.

Then Nassagaweya township, which stands to lose all its best assessment in the division of spoils, decided it was time to break ranks and work out a better deal for themselves which would keep all the choice assessment in the township in one borough and give the rest away to Wellington County.

Georgetown, observing the way the wind was blowing, decided it also had a few ideas which they could incorporate in a brief for the most recent regional government seminar. Esquesing

Councillors also had a few ideas of their own which they decided to incorporate into a brief.

This left the town of Acton holding the bag—and it seems naively assuming the other municipalities seriously wanted to close ranks and present a united voice.

There was no alternative but to prepare a separate Acton brief and it had to be "brief," as the mayor observed, because time was down to a minimum.

The whole exercise clearly shows that few of the people in power are really interested in hammering out a workable agreement for a region. Too many have only their own interests at heart and seem to feel the principles of regional government will go away if they are ignored.

We can fully understand now why the Hon. George Kerr, M.P.P. for Halton West feels a one tier system would be eventually applied in Halton, along the lines of the county board of education. It seems we in Halton have not the maturity and foresight to decide our own future and the province of Ontario may have to do it for us.

Free Press Editorial Page

B2 The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, April 4, 1973

Minister cannot erase stigma

Few would quarrel with Environment Minister James Auld when he set forth the Government's policies on waste management issues such as landfill, recycling and non-returnable containers, to the Grocery Products Managers of Canada, last week.

"The province has a very definite commitment to hold the line on the increase in the amount of garbage," Mr. Auld said. "Strong leadership will be taken in this field so that we can cut down as much as possible on one-way disposable cartons... we intend to promote the concept of reusability and discourage disposability."

The Minister stated the Government would investigate the development of central separation and reclamation plants, the use of waste as an energy source and concluded that Metro Toronto, like the rest of Ontario, must continue to depend on landfill for the disposal of a large proportion of its waste. He declared that even if central reclamation plants were in operation right now, a substantial proportion of the total waste produced in a municipality would still have to be disposed of by landfill.

"The landfill of waste at a properly located and operated site will not pollute the environment, impose hazards to health, or any significant degree of nuisance, even to the

residents immediately adjacent," he claimed.

"A landfill site like any other large construction project is certainly not the most desirable of neighbors and it would be foolish to pretend that it is," the Minister acknowledged, but he noted that he must distinguish between support in principle of the need to acquire landfill sites and approval to use specific sites wherever they are located, a qualification which has much interest in this area where a proposal to truck shredded baled waste from Toronto has been getting much ink lately.

The Minister insisted that before any particular site is approved all the procedures laid down in the Environmental Protection Act must be followed, including public hearings before the Environmental Hearing Board.

The safeguards enumerated by Mr. Auld seem to cover all facets of waste disposal but one—the need for every municipality in Ontario to solve its own disposal problems without violating the environment others live in and enjoy.

It is perfectly all right to make a pitch for the disposal of Toronto garbage but it should be obvious to all concerned that Metro should have the landfill sites there or in immediately adjacent municipalities if they are to

be as unobjectionable as the Minister relates.

If Toronto can pour out such prodigious amounts of garbage it stands to reason the city should also be prepared to dispose of it within its own boundaries. There are areas in Toronto that no doubt would benefit from such sanitary waste.

Obviously Metro Toronto does not want its own waste but it is an arrogant assumption for politicians there or at Queens Park to conclude the people in small towns and rural townships should be ready to accept it. We have our own disposal problems, many of them as critical as Toronto's, although on a smaller scale.

We have no way of knowing whether Indusmin proposals would pollute the water table—this is up to the experts to decide—but we do know that the people in this area feel they should have a voice in determining their own environment, other than a public hearing where only the chemical problems would be debated. There are also aesthetics to consider.

Queens Park can dress up the lingo any way they want but garbage is still garbage, a dump is still a dump, and the stigma attached to it could do irreparable harm to this area, far worse than any load of steaming garbage can produce.

Conduct on highways criminal

Canadians have a strange mentality. We demand the ruthless extermination of any living species that in the least threatens our persons or possessions but do nothing to have our highways rid of the maniacs who daily kill and maim our families and wreck our property.

We quickly call out the law and organize a posse to kill or capture a harmless bobcat that strays into a back alley, but we seldom cast a second glance at a speeding motorist roaring through a school zone.

We endorse the imprisonment of anyone who brandishes a firearm, but pay small attention to the wild and

frequently intoxicated friends who hurl 4,000 pound missiles of destruction down our crowded highways.

We support the hanging of those who privately kill an enemy no matter how just their cause, but we fail to raise our voices to demand adequate deterrent for the cold blooded murderers who cruise our highways and callously kill and maim unsuspecting, innocent victims.

Criminal conduct on our highways is becoming accepted as an unpleasant but unavoidable phase of Canadian life. We demand the building of safer roads and the manufacture of safer cars, but we indignantly scream "police state"

at the suggestion of ghost cars or concealed patrolmen in a feeble effort to inter to some small degree, the outlaws of the highways.

We protest the infringement of personal rights if police try to obtain scientific tests on a drunk's alcoholic condition, but we scarcely give a thought to his victim lying in the morgue or hospital.

It seems unlikely that this sorry picture will change soon because there is no indication that Canadians intend to demand protection on their highways. —Editorial in St. Mary's Journal-Argus.

Acton brief aim - setting up region

Acton's brief on regional government, presented last Thursday at a special meeting of mayors and county councillors, declared itself providing "for achievement of the province's aims in establishing regional government in Halton county."

Acton favors a North Halton area including Acton, Georgetown, most of Esquesing and Nassagaweya and included Eden Mills in the area at the present time. Northern boundary is the present limit of the townships, eastern boundary the present Esquesing line and the western boundary the present Nassagaweya line.

Southern boundary would be, beginning at the east, along Highway 401 to the fourth line, north to 5 Sideroad, west on 5 Sideroad to the intersection of highway 401 in Nassagaweya and along 401 to the west boundary of Nassagaweya.

Acton recommends four wards, boundaries to be defined later, equal in population. One member would be elected

from each ward to the regional council, and will also sit on the local council. The mayor, who would be elected at large, would also be a member of the regional council. This gives the regional council five members from the north.

The area council would have 17 members, three members plus one regional member from each ward, plus the mayor.

Council summarizes their recommendations for division of responsibilities comparing the changes with recommendations made in a joint brief of Halton county in September 1972, and the Ministry's recommendations.

Acton feels the area should handle such concerns as zoning, land drainage, public transit, fire protection, animal control and livestock protection, libraries and cemeteries.

Emergency Measures, Industrial development, garbage collection and disposal, conservation authority, county forests, health and welfare, police protection (with the O.P.P. phased out with financial assistance), water and sewers and museums.

Both area and regional responsibility should be for planning, official plans, committee of adjustment, roads, parking, licensing, parks and recreation, building and plumbing inspections.

In summation the Acton brief concludes: "The elected officials of the Corporation of the Town of Acton have expressed their views in this brief, agree with the basic precepts of the province and would unanimously support the recommendations outlined herein and would request that every consideration be given to their implementation in the establishment of the regional form of government to serve this area."

Bill Smiley



Ah, it's just jealousy, kids. I know you boys had a wonderful time ogling the girls in Greece, the belles of Bavaria, the poules of Paris. If I went, I'd have to take my wife. And even if I didn't, I don't know whether I could throw a good ogle any more. Haven't had any practice in years.

And I know you girls discovered what I could have told you in the first place and saved you all that money — that Canadian girls are the prettiest in the world and that the ones from your home town are the prettiest in Canada.

I ask only one thing. You can bore me for hours telling me about your trip. You can put me to sleep with your colored slides. You can awe me to tears by showing me the genuine gimcracks you picked up for a song. But please, please don't ask me what I did on my winter break holiday.

All right, then, if you're adamant, I'll tell you. I shovelled a foot of snow off the sidewalk. I put out the garbage. I spent a pretty exotic half-hour at the library. I helped my wife vacuum and clean up the house as she didn't want to leave a dirty house in case someone broke in while we were away.

Oh, yes, we went away. We didn't get to the Barbados, as we had planned. But we went all the way south to the city. My wife went shopping. It would have been cheaper to go to the Barbados.

And while she was out, battling our way toward the poor-house, I just sat back in the luxury of our hotel room and had myself a whee of a time marking exam papers.

Then we came home and fed the cat. The whole thing is an experience I shall never forget. It was so much fun I'm already planning next year's winter break.

at the thought of stopping strapping young male students from becoming addled in Athens or maudlin in Munich.

However, it's every teach to his own taste and my colleagues who have tried such a jaunt during winter break assure me that the whole thing is a breeze, that there's no more confusion than there was on the Titanic just before she went down.

No matter, it's a wonderful education for the kids. How else could they learn that foreign cabbies, waiters and porters are even greedier and surlier than those at home?

What other experience could teach them that foreign food is not only pretty expensive but often awful, and that there's nothing in the world to touch an honest Canadian hamburger?

Where could they get a better course in driver education than on the blood-soaked avenues of Paris?

Two young student acquaintances of mine took a month off during the winter, and flew all the way to India. They couldn't afford to eat in the big hotels so they just ate what the natives did. They had a wonderful time. They were sick during their entire stay. Now how could they have learned all that by staying in school like all the weak conformists?

removal was pathetic but tender care and solicitude were exerted.

Surrounded by stately trees with a pretty stream, lily ponds, gipsy camp, splendid lawns and flower beds it was the real show place of the town. Its architecture resembled Old Country homesteads. The tower, conservatory, large stone chimneys and heavy cornices all lent dignity and homeliness.

Let us all prepare to celebrate the town's 75th anniversary!

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 7, 1898.

Mr. Robert Holmes, drover, has been relieving the farmers of a large quantity of fat stock the past few weeks and has made their hearts glad by paying good prices for them. Last Wednesday he sent a car of hogs to Toronto and on Thursday two cars of cattle for the eastern markets.

The public school pupils in three departments from which classes were promoted this week as a result of the Easter examinations remembered their teachers very kindly with pretty mementos. Miss McPhail received a pretty silver sugar shell, Miss Patterson a dainty sachet and toilet articles and Miss McQueen a beautiful photograph album.

Included in the lengthy lists of promotions are the names of George Hynds, B. Swackhamer, Ada Gurbey, Clara Ebbage, Una Kenney, Lyle Grindell, Ernest Perryman, Vida Foster, Frank Holmes, Ruby Clark, Myrtle Dills, Lottie and Hazel Mason, Charlie Matthews, Walter Bauer.

The Easter fare to Toronto and return is 50 cents.

Mr. James Currie of first line, Erin, has shown signs of mental aberration lately and for the protection of himself and family was taken to Guelph. It is hoped the trouble will be of only temporary character.

Mrs. S.A. Secord, who has been in poor health for some time, last week visited her sisters in Hamilton and found the change very beneficial.

No person should go from home without a bottle of Dr. J.D. Kellogg's Dystentry Cordial in their possession. This sure remedy oftentimes saves great suffering and frequently valuable lives.

Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 9, 1853.

Acton Baptist church was the setting for two religious dramas on Monday when Acton and Hillsborough B.V.P.U.'s presented their entries in the Guelph Association Drama Festival. Acton presented The Light in the Window. In the cast were Lili Wagner, Wilma Chapman, Fay Garner, Clarence Reid, Marjorie Landsborough, David Cooke, Charlie Landsborough, Mary Reid, with director Jean Garner and make-up by R.R. Parker. D.L. Patterson was chairman and Benson Jones gave the benediction.

The youngest competitor among 10 from all over Ontario, Ella Jany was awarded \$10 in the public speaking competition at the King Edward Hotel. She again spoke on her trip from Hungary.

Semi-finalists in the Ontario Junior Farmer debating contest are Halton representatives Eleanor McKeown of Acton and Earl Snow of Milton. They meet Lambeth for the championship.

Sketch plans for the proposed new fire hall were presented at the regular meeting of Acton council, in a seven hour session that adjourned at 2.15 a.m. Plans call for a building 30 by 65 feet next to the town hall. Planning board had recommended this site over Alice St.

This year's winner of the Rotary trip to Ottawa is Joyce Farmer.

The United church choir presented an Easter cantata directed by organist Miss Lampard. Daughters of Knox held a sunrise service. Knox church choir also presented a cantata directed by E. Hansen.

The municipal grader, under the direction of Walter Kentner, is doing a fine job getting the gravel roadways in condition again.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 5, 1823.

It was a sight most pathetic to see "Fairview Place" the beautiful home of Sidney Smith family for three generations, fall a prey to the flames on Saturday afternoon. (Now part of the Robert Little School).

The splendid stone residence standing in

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