

Meeting passes Centennial buck to Acton council

After two and a half hours of discussion—some of it heated—a meeting called by the Acton Chamber of Commerce to resolve the delay in forming a centennial committee decided primarily to back the now defunct centennial commission's project—renovations at the Acton community centre. Representatives from 15 organizations attended.

The meeting was called because the centennial commission had been unsuccessful in forming the new committee. They had also received criticism for their choice of project.

A motion by Lion Club president Art Gordon that council back the project 100 per cent and pick the people to form a committee was passed but there was far from unanimous support. Nineteen voted for it, two voted against and 11 abstained.

The motion also left the way open to increase the size of the project to a larger scale than envisioned by the commission, or if funds are available, to build a com-

plete new community centre complex. It would be up to the committee to decide the best plan.

An earlier motion by Roy Goodwin suggesting the project should proceed as the centennial commission proposed—renovations to the present building and additions—and leave room for other projects such as a swimming pool in a three phase program, was never acted upon.

All representatives were asked if their groups would support the centennial project and a committee. Two—the Chamber and himself—said they would not support present plans until an executive was elected and an audit of funds to date published. Most of the others replied positively but some indicated they would have to report to their own group and be advised.

Reaction to the lengthy meeting was varied.

Deputy Reeve Peter Marks said he felt something was accomplished because the air was cleared, vague rumors and talk

dispelled. Others felt it achieved no purpose other than to reiterate the centennial commission's decisions and then ask council to support them, which had already been done.

Negative view?

Still others felt the meeting had only been a sounding board for negative opinion.

Centennial commissioner Jack Carpenter, who has spearheaded the centennial efforts to date, felt the meeting was unnecessary. He attended, although he had not received an invitation and found the official Chamber explanation for the "oversight" far-fetched. "They told me I didn't belong to any organization now," he said.

As far as he was concerned a centennial committee could be formed by the people who acknowledged letters the centennial commission had sent out, where they stated they would serve on sub-committees. This was stalled by the Chamber's action, he said. Some groups had indicated they will

double their support of the original program outlined by the commission.

Mr. Carpenter said as far as he was concerned the whole matter of centennial was back in square one. He felt it should be a citizens' effort, apart from council. He also felt the current controversy had caused loss of enthusiasm and the respect of a number of people because it had turned into a hassle.

He also said some members of the Chamber of Commerce had indicated to him that they didn't support their executive in the approach they had taken to the centennial celebrations.

"If the Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce don't want to support the program, then let's excuse them," he told the Free Press.

Mayor Les Duby said a special meeting of council Wednesday has been set up to discuss the centennial committee and the resolutions that came from the Chamber of Commerce meeting.

In his opinion the meeting indicated why

the committee had not got off the ground. "Clearly there is a division of opinion," he said.

Nothing he was speaking personally rather than for council, he felt the centennial project should be practical and within reach of the town, because he felt that in spite of the so-called affluent society that people had less surplus funds to dispose of. Most were committed to mortgages, car payments, etc. that made dollars just as scarce as ever. Some people have very rigid incomes and just can't spare the cash, he opined.

Council will weigh all the factors, he said, before reaching a decision but he personally was against active council participation because of the imminence of regional government. Decisions, the council makes now could conflict with policy of the new borough council he felt.

Chamber of Commerce president Ed Bendicks chaired the sometimes stormy meeting, which also heard suggestions for a mortuary in the cemetery and tennis courts

as alternative centennial projects, as well as a swimming pool. No alternatives were endorsed.

Outlining the chamber's position, Mr. Bendicks said his organization had become "disenchanted" with the centennial commission and asked council to appoint a chairman, secretary and treasurer, so it would work in a more businesslike manner.

He felt council should have been more involved with the commission earlier and hopes they are now. "If a proper body is appointed and everything above board we'll support it," he declared.

Bendicks said the chamber found a lack of communication among service groups over centennial and an eagerness to receive more information. It was for this reason the chamber called a meeting on their initiative.

"In general, it was boisterous, but everyone was given a say," he said. The vote indicated the service groups would prefer to carry on with the proposed project.

Nassagaweya left out of North Halton

The lady has won!



REEVE MacARTHUR

The Acton Free Press

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Province creates huge Milton area

A four-area two-tier, regional government will be elected Oct. 1 to govern all of Halton County with the exception of the police village of Eden Mills and a section of Oakville which will go to Mississauga. The councils will be elected for a three year term. Names for the four areas, currently named North Halton, Central Halton, Oakville and the City of Burlington, will be voted on at the same election, according to provincial legislation given the first reading in the Legislature Monday.

The North Halton area will include Acton, Georgetown, most of Esquesing Township and a portion of Oakville.

Central Halton will include Milton, all of Nassagaweya but Eden Mills, a section of Burlington and a large slice of Oakville to the Ninth Line.

Oakville will include that section of the town below the Lower Base Line Rd. to Highway 25 and then south to Burnhamthorpe Rd.

Burlington will include its present boundaries except for the portion above 10 Sideroad and east of the Bell School Line which will go to Central Halton.

Four area councils

Each area municipality will elect a mayor with councillors elected by wards. Burlington will have a 17 man council, Oakville 13, Central Halton 11 and North Halton 13.

The Regional Municipality of Halton will be chaired by a provincially appointed chairman for the first three year term and after that by a member appointed by the council, either from their members or from outside.

Representation on the 25-member regional council will include the mayor from each municipality plus eight from Burlington, six from Oakville, two from Central Halton and four from North Halton in addition to the chairman.

The Act will dissolve the Police Village of Campbellville, all local boards and commissions including planning boards, committees of adjustment, community centre boards and parks and recreation committees.

Meet by Oct. 15

Area council members elected in October 1973 will comprise a committee in their municipalities "to do anything in that year necessary for the purposes of organization, policy and planning of the area municipality." The regional council is required to meet by Oct. 15.

Elections in the first year are shifted to the regional council level. The regional council will be responsible for regional roads including construction and maintenance; traffic control

devices; planning with a requirement that an official plan be completed by December 31, 1976; plans of subdivision; the regional health unit under a Regional Board of Health with seven members from the regional council and three from the province; Halton Centennial Manor; Children's Aid activities; police under a Halton Regional Board of Commissioners of Police to be appointed by Nov. 1, 1973; water supply and distribution; sewage collection and disposal; issuing of debentures; public transportation; garbage disposal; emergency measures; industrial promotion; regional parks; and Halton County Museum.

Reduced load

Area councils are left with a greatly reduced group of responsibilities. The council will serve the function of planning board and committee of adjustment, and be responsible for local roads and sidewalks, internal storm sewers, recreation, library and fire protection.

The Board of Trustees in the police village of Campbellville will continue as a Hydro-Electric Commission and be a local board of the Central Halton unit.

Among the appointments envisioned in the legislation at the regional level are the administrative officer, clerk and deputy, treasurer and deputy, roads commissioner and regional fire co-ordinator.

Charge theft at A-B

A juvenile was charged with theft of \$70 from A-B Supermarket last Tuesday, Acton O.P.P. report.

Reported to them Saturday was an incident of wilful damage at the Robert Little school. Windows were broken to an estimated value of \$60.

Two boys, age 13 and 15, who had run away from home, were picked up by Acton police and returned to Orangeville.

Three liquor seizures were also made by the local detachment during the past week.

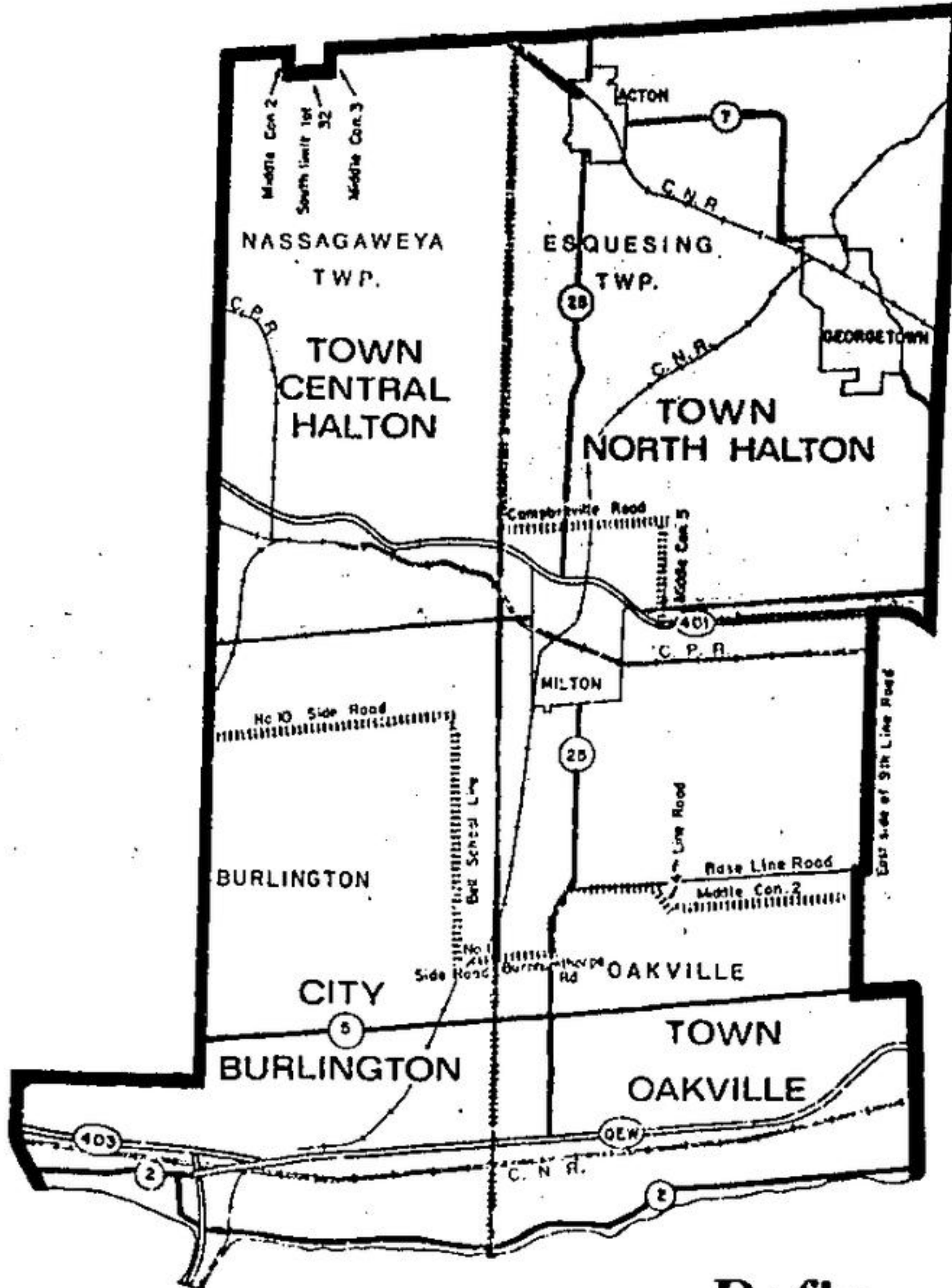
Reduce council

Acton council has agreed to a request from the Ontario Government to reduce the number of representatives on a North Halton borough council from 17 to 13.

At a special meeting last Tuesday evening council agreed to the request providing there was an equal reduction in Burlington, Oakville and Central Halton numbers.

Mayor Les Duby said he and council went along with the request because a 17 man council was inflationary, and overloaded.

North Halton will be divided up into four wards on a population basis with three representatives from each ward on the council, including one from each ward who will sit on the Halton regional council. The mayor will be elected at large and also sit on the regional council.



More licenses now on order

The second order of 200 bicycle licenses is down to the last 50 already, and 200 more are expected soon. The original order of 400 licenses proved not nearly enough for all the bikes in town. Police will not be enforcing the

bicycle license regulations until the initial demand for licenses has been filled.

Bicycle rodeos have been held at both public schools under the supervision of Cons. Redpath of the North Halton detachment.

Define region borders

New boundaries of the Halton Region were revealed Monday. They are shown above in a map prepared by the province.

Town men walk off job to underline grievances

Acton council has established a job segment and job responsibilities to solve grievances by town works employees. Workmen left their jobs a week ago Friday, returning to work after they were assured the grievances would be dealt with.

At a special meeting of council last Tuesday night responsibilities of the newly created position of town foreman were outlined. Union shop steward of the CUPE local, John Dunn and union officer Sam Tennant met with council and took the suggestions back to membership.

There are seven members in the local and the union steward said 80 percent of them are behind the grievances.

Mr. Dunn said the men walked off the job to show council they were serious about the grievances concerning the town foreman's position.

He said the men at first wanted job responsibilities spelled out but want it back the way it was so they can go into regional government in harmony.

He would make no comment

about rumors that three of the employees had either sent in letters of resignation or intended to do so. He said the men still had

Final meeting

The mayor and reeve will meet with town workmen today at one o'clock to try and solve the current grievances. Four letters of resignation have been received and the mayor emphasized to the Free Press that council will make every effort to deter the four valuable employees—all of them key men—from resigning.

The mayor said council has had several special meetings to deal with the grievances and feel everything could be ironed out if the matter was dealt with in the manner outlined in the collective bargaining agreement. He said it was unfortunate the matter had become public when it could have been handled between the two parties involved and had led to much conversation, much of it inaccurate, and could bother negotiations.

another meeting with council before the matter could be settled.

He said the walk-off on the Friday was made up on that weekend.

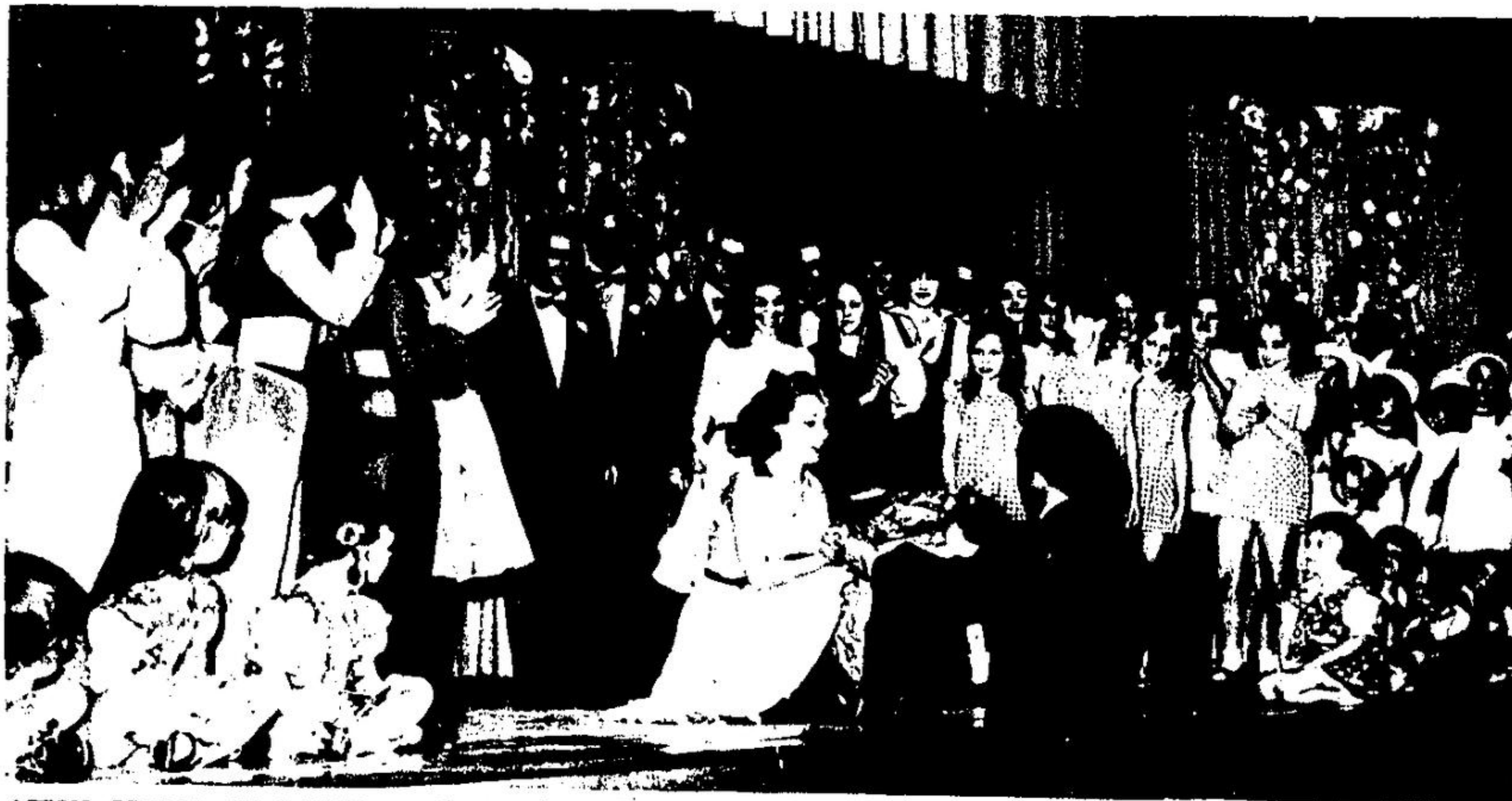
The grievances erupted after council created the new position of town foreman and awarded the post to Brent Marshall.

Arrest man three charges

A former Rockwood man, boarding in Acton, has been arrested by Acton O.P.P. and lodged in Milton jail on charges of buggery, indecent assault of a male and contributing to juvenile delinquency.

The arrest was made Monday evening as a result of a two week investigation. Guelph O.P.P. have also laid a charge for an incident in the Rockwood area.

The accused will appear in court Thursday for a bail hearing.



ACTON SCHOOL OF DANCE co-ordinator Joyce Carpenter received a bouquet of roses from a representative of the White Oak Men of Harmony. Presentation took place during the finale of

Saturday night's performance with both the White Oak Barbershoppers and students of the Acton School of Dance all present on stage. Turn inside for more pictures and story. — D. Pink Photo