

Survey favors toll-free calls to Milton, Guelph

Acton telephone customers who answered a Bell Canada survey gave overwhelming support to extending the toll-free calling area to include Milton and Guelph.

Sixty-nine per cent of the Acton customers who replied to the post card survey endorsed the change. The company estimates it will be 1975 before the system is introduced, however.

Bell Canada manager L. G. Denby of Guelph stated two decisions have to be made before the survey results can be implemented. One is to determine whether the estimated \$315,000 is available to provide the necessary modifications to switching centres at Acton, Guelph and Milton. Second is to obtain approval of the Canadian Transport Commission in Ottawa

to adjust the monthly rates of Acton customers.

Mr. Denby told the Free Press that 2,448 cards were sent out to customers—2,182 of them to residential users and 266 to business—a ratio of 87 per cent to 13 per cent.

Sixty-five per cent of 1590 cards were returned—1472 from residence customers and 118 from business—which works out

to 92 per cent and eight percent of total returns.

Of the 1472 residence returns 1003 - or 68 per cent - were in favor of extending the toll-free area while 469 or 32 per cent voted against it.

Of the 118 business returns, 85 or 82 per cent endorsed the extension while 33 - or 18 per cent - opposed it.

Totals showed 1688 in favor of

the extension or 69 percent and 502 opposed (31 percent).

The increased calling area will cost Acton residence users an extra dollar per month and will connect them to 61,200 telephones. There is free calling to Rockwood and Georgetown now which accounts for 15,700 telephones. Broken down, this represents 3,422 in the Acton area, 1,402 in Rockwood and

district and 10,907 in Georgetown.

Bell said that because expensive modifications are needed to equipment, at least 60 per cent of the customers who replied would have to agree before the company would agree to the proposal.

Early returns were slow, Mr. Denby said, but after a front page article in the Free Press appeared mentioning the com-

pany's disappointment, results came in stacks.

The Bell manager said that when a toll-free area is established between any two localities the number of calls between the two points increase by up to 1000 percent and people tend to talk longer knowing they are not charged by the minute.

The additional one dollar charge to individual lines, 65 cent

for a two party line and 60 cent rate for a multi-party line is modest but business rates will increase by \$5.95 per month under the new rates, jumping from \$10.05 to \$15.10 while a multi-party business rate line would increase by \$1.40.

The company's earliest proposal for enlarging the toll-free area called for the town to bear the \$400 cost of the survey but Acton council rejected the cost because of lack of public agitation for extension. However, Bell agreed to pay for the survey and it went ahead.

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Repave Bower Ave. to hide blemishes

Bower Avenue has been the showpiece for members of Acton council since reconstruction was finished on the street last fall. But the facade is beginning to crack.

Because pavement was laid late in the fall it never compacted properly. Cracks developed and were patched spoiling its appearance.

Council, as a result, was faced with the decision either to patch or completely repave the street. They decided on the latter course at a meeting last week although it will cost another \$1600.

Councillor Barry Inscoc brought the matter up declaring he did not want any patch job. "It is a top notch street. Let's keep it that way," he declared suggesting that the contractor, Warren-Bitulithic, should repave rather than patch if it brought the street back to its original appearance.

stretch of street but refused to repave at their expense because they felt the municipality was at fault by paving in cool weather when asphalt cooled off too quickly, which in turn never allowed it to compact properly.

Mayor Doby said council could either accept the offer from the company or take them to court and force them to repave the street. He wasn't sure who was to blame for the late start on paving last year but he pointed out court action would drag on indefinitely delaying the street repair further. He suggested they go for repaving the street at extra cost.

Drinkwater to run for council seat

R. H. (Bob) Drinkwater, a four year veteran of Acton council, announced he would run for one of the two council seats in Ward One (Acton) of the new town of North-Halton.

Bob said he arrived at a decision to re-enter the political arena over the weekend after plenty of thought. A quality control manager at Standard Products, Georgetown, he has served seven years on Acton planning board as well as his four years on council, where he was chairman of the works committee for two years.

He also served on the county planning association and has been active in community affairs as past president and on the board of directors of Acton curling club.

He lives with his wife and family on Churchill Road S., Acton.

Bob is the third candidate for the two local seats on the North Halton council, ensuring an election, Mayor Les Doby and former clerk Joe Hurst announced their intention to contest the seats earlier.

Minor collisions recorded

Two minor collisions have been investigated by Acton O.P.P.

Monday of last week Velma Geng's car was struck by another unknown vehicle when parked in Becker's plaza lot.

Thursday of last week a collision occurred in Disston parking lot. Drivers involved were Chandra Vijaya, Ransom St., Acton and Edward Dietrich, Galt.

Police also report the theft of a sander last week at the Cobble Hill Rd. construction site. Its value is \$900.

Saturday an R.R. 1, Acton man was charged with theft of a tape from a local store.

Two impaired drivers and three liquor seizures are also on the police books during a generally quiet week.



BOB DRINKWALTER



FARM MACHINERY and hay were lost in a blaze which levelled a barn owned by Revenue Properties and located in the area between Lakeview subdivision and the First Line of Esquesing yesterday (Tuesday) shortly before noon hour. Cause of the blaze

is unknown, but police are investigating a report that children were seen in the area in the morning. Flames and smoke from the fire were clearly visible in most parts of town. (Photo by D. Pink)

Legion gets building permit following 4-1 recorded vote

Acton Legion Branch 197's building committee has cleared one obstacle that lay between them and their new \$300,000 building, but approvals in other areas still must be obtained, committee member Gord McCutcheon said this week.

Esquesing Council approved issue of a building permit to the Legion Monday night for the new branch which will be constructed on the former Nelles property, north of Mill St. and west of Cameron Ave.

"We're still at least two months away from turning sod," McCutcheon said. "We still need approval from the Liquor License Board for one thing. To get it underway this fall and get it closed in is the most we could hope for."

McCutcheon said preliminary plans for the building will be sent back to the architect to be drawn up again.

Recorded vote

Issue of the building permit came after a recorded vote of 4-1. Councillor Dick Howitt opposed the resolution.

Howitt opposed issue of the permit on the grounds that the township's holding by-law was

being contravened, since a change of land use was involved. The Nelles land which lies partially in the township was previously used for agricultural purposes.

"With great respect for the Legion, its members and its work I must oppose this," Howitt said. "We've refused so many applications and we're so close to the official plan coming in that I feel I must oppose it to be consistent with what I've done in the past."

Reeve Tom Hill argued that a

Legion could be classified as an institutional use and that the use falls into line for what the official plan calls for that particular area anyway.

Only concern

"Our clerk's only concern was that if we issued a permit and anything went wrong like if they weren't able to get the mortgage money we could be held liable. We've been assured by our planner that we cannot," the reeve explained.

Councillor George Maltby requested a recorded vote, noting

Councillors Howitt and Wilfred Leslie had been absent from some of the committee meetings at which the matter was discussed.

"I wouldn't want them to go along with it if they didn't want to," he said.

Reeve Hill, Deputy-reeve Len Cox and Councillors Leslie and Maltby voted in favor of issue of the permit. Councillor Howitt opposed.

By-law counts

Later Howitt conceded that under the definitions laid out in

the official plan no change of land use would be involved.

"But the whole point," he said, "is that the official plan is not now in force. We're working under a holding by-law that zones everything as to its existing existing use."

Howitt decried a suggestion that the holding by-law may not be worth the paper it's written on, pointing out in two or three recent court tests holding by-laws passed by municipalities have been called valid.

Pre-schoolers should receive immunization

Health Minister Dr. Richard T. Potter urges Ontario parents to be sure their children are adequately immunized before they go to school in the fall.

A Ministry study, in 37 of Ontario's 43 health units, revealed that one in every five children entering school in September 1972 had less than adequate immunization against preventable diseases. Of the 128,884 children in the study,

99,881 were kindergarten children, representing 79 per cent of all children at that school level in the province.

Immunized

About 75 percent of those studied had been immunized against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus and polio. Smallpox vaccine had been given to 65.5 percent of the children.

Only 58 percent and in some

areas less than 30 percent of the pre-schoolers had been vaccinated against measles. Less than 20 percent of the children studied had received rubella (German measles) vaccine.

"With this rate of immunization, outbreaks of measles are inevitable," Dr. Potter said.

Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio immunization—which can be given in a single inoculation—should be completed

by the time a child is six months old. A reinforcing dose should follow a year later. Measles and rubella vaccinations should be given at 12 months of age or shortly after.

"Every child should have protection against these preventable diseases as early in life as possible," said Dr. Potter.

Parents can have their children immunized by their family doctor or at their local health unit.

Freak accident injures flagman

A freak accident at Toronto International Dragway Saturday evening seriously injured the track flagman and damaged the "Christmas tree" lights used to start the drag races.

Milton O.P.P. said a car driven by Robert Leslie Brown, 86 Taunton Rd., Oshawa, was warming up for a race when the car's accelerator stuck and the car took off down the strip.

Flagman Lawrence Walker, 29 of R.R. 2, Georgetown, was in front of the car when it raced out of control and struck him. He suffered a broken right leg and right arm as well as head injuries. Walker was taken to Peel Memorial Hospital.

The errant vehicle came to a stop when it struck the Christmas tree lights, police said. The lights were demolished and the dragster received several hundred dollars' worth of damage to the hood and windshield.

Lacrosse popular sport

Lacrosse is occupying the limelight of the Acton sports scene now as four local teams are involved in provincial playdowns. Four hundred fans watched Kingston Kings defeat the junior Hams 12-10 here Saturday night in the first game of the tier 2 Junior "C" finals. Second game is set for Kingston Saturday with the third back here Sunday night. Acton Rotary midgets play the deciding game of their OMLA midget "D" series with Whitby here tonight (Wednesday). Inclusionin peewee and Rotary bantams also have championship tournaments coming up.



Lacrosse action

Marks, Elliott argue but no brakes for subdivision

Although Deputy Reeve Peter Marks and Councillor Norman Elliott argued strongly for putting the brakes on residential development in Acton, colleagues on council do not feel they should stop a small eight lot subdivision proposed for Churchill Rd. N. by Cobble Hill Developers.

Marks and Elliott argued that a proliferation of small development could overload the town's sewage disposal plant as outlined in a recent report from Queens Park but the remainder of council maintained this particular development was already included in plans approved by the Ministry. They approved a draft plan of the subdivision provided it meets with the approval of planners and engineers.

Marks said that since the warning from the Department of

the Environment the Committee of Adjustment had granted severances for several small developments.

"We are pushing the plant to its maximum and in a few years may be ordered to build a costly new one," he warned council. The figure of a million dollars was tossed around.

Councillor Elliott supported the deputy reeve's arguments saying eight lots might not look like a lot but when it is added to all the other small developments around town, the figure becomes more impressive.

"I can't see any great urgency in this," Elliott said, suggesting it would be better left until regional control came in January. He felt the developers had their hands full now with phase two and three of the Kingham Hill Estates

without extending further afield.

Mayor Les Doby, however, said it was his opinion the Ministry had included the proposal in the report which council received as one of 12 approved areas. He said he could not justify an objection to this particular development. Reeve G.W. McKenzie, supported the mayor, maintaining there were no legitimate reasons for withholding approval because the draft plan would have to go through regular channels where it could still be rejected or accepted.

And according to Councillor Orval Chapman, council had basically approved the development before. He could see no reason why council should change its mind now.

Colleague Barry Inscoc also spoke in favor philosophizing that

Acton had to have development. In his opinion it would benefit the town.

No fear

Pleasing comments for developer Michael Brodigan, who told council he had talked with the Ministry about Acton and there didn't seem to be any particular fear of small growth or "infilling," as expressed by the pair opposed.

He triggered the debate when he and Roger Cunningham appeared for approval in principle for their plan which the Government had turned down in one department because the 12 complete lots in the area had been shown without road allowance, a technicality they claimed had been committed in the Acton town office. He said the proposal should have shown eight lots in Acton, two in Esquesing

and two more set aside as road allowances.

Brodigan intimated the Government would have approved of the plan if the plans had been prepared properly but hesitated to embarrass the Ministry of the Environment after arranging for them to turn it down.

They were going through the process again to get approval. "All we're asking is for approval in principle," he told council.

Mayor Doby said he could not justify with holding approval although he wasn't particularly excited about the prospect of houses filling in the pastoral scene he now sees through his living room window. (The proposed development is immediately across the road from the mayor's home.) He also pointed out the eight lots con-

cerned would be serviced from existing streets and services, which in his opinion was more weight in favor of approval.

Small potatoes

These arguments cut no ice with Marks. He argued that no one to that point had mentioned any benefits the subdivision would confer on the town. Developer Brodigan mentioned another 600 feet of new road and tax revenue were not mickey mouse items. But the deputy-reeve thought so.

"I won't argue small economic benefits," he countered, weighing it against the spectre of a large addition to the town's sewage plant for which taxpayers would have to dig pretty deep.

"We should look at the whole package. We aren't being railroaded on this but close to it,"

he declared.

The mayor said talk about expanding the town's sewage plant did not carry much weight anyway because the Department of the Environment had already suggested the town should think seriously of extending the facilities. Council had decided against it, however, because of its limited lifespan (until the end of the year) and lack of money. It was council's decision to leave the matter for regional government when it appears January 1.

"Let's not leave any loose ends," urged Marks.

In colleague Elliott's opinion it would be Georgetown where the first million dollar sewage plant addition in North Halton would take place. They must double their capacity, he warned, and "we'll all be paying the piper on

this if we accept it at this time," he predicted.

"I think Acton has reached a limit and we should turn further applications down for 1973," he concluding with the admonition that it had reached the stage where the decision on the subdivision was a regional rather than a local decision.

What is the capacity of the sewage plant? Reeve McKenzie said, it was built to handle 10,000 but both Marks and mayor told him the plant could handle only 7,500 people, a figure which will soon be reached at the present rate of Acton's development.

Council voted 6-2 to approve a resolution accepting the eight lot subdivision, turning down an opposing motion by Marks and Elliott by the same margin.