



FAIRY LAKE beach in the park was as crowded as it has been in recent memory on the weekend as hundreds of bathers rushed to its refreshing waters to escape

temperatures in the 90's. Bicycle stands at the beach were occupied most of the weekend with cyclists coming into town from around the area.

(D. Gibbons photo)

Esquering

Official Plan is approved

Esquering Township's official plan came into effect at 12 noon Tuesday of this week, when Ontario Treasurer and Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs John White signed it at Queen's Park.

The official plan, first proposed three years ago, has been a controversial issue in the township. Since it was first drafted, a holding by-law has been in effect that virtually halts all development in the township. Council has regularly been refusing applications for new homes, subdivisions and commercial development awaiting the approval of the new plan.

It has been the subject of several public meetings and hearings since it was drawn up by a firm of planning consultants.

Meet in Toronto
Mr. White met with members of the township council at Queen's Park Tuesday morning and worked out a settlement on one outstanding contentious item in the plan. Mr. White has agreed to the township's request that existing separated lots will be allowed to stand, without a special Ontario Municipal Board hearing to clear them for development. However, five landowners who had earlier objected to the official plan will still have to have their applications dealt with by the O.M.B., Halton East M.P.P. and Minister of Government Services Jim Snow said. A quarry firm, a drive-in movie house and a subdivider were among those who entered objections.

The township must next approve a zoning by-law (now ready in draft form) which governs the land use in accordance with the official plan. "Now people can apply for a specific zoning and it will be dealt with in the normal manner," Snow said.

Esquering's Deputy Reeve Len Cox praised Mr. Snow for the help he has given the township in getting the new official plan approved at Queen's Park.

Reeve Tom Hill told the Free Press last night (Tuesday) the township's holding by-law 29-69 will remain in effect, however until the zoning by-law is approved at Queen's Park. He said he expects it will be approved within the next two months.

"The official plan is just a policy, the zoning by-law is the mechanics of it," explained Deputy-reeve Len Cox.

Cox said all land in the township will be zoned as to its existing use and ratepayers seeking changes of use will have to apply for amendments to the zoning by-law.

Major change in the approved official plan from the draft presented to ratepayers at a public meeting in July 1971 calls

for a minimum dwelling area of 1,200 square feet for homes in estate residential developments. The original draft suggested a minimum of 1,800 square feet, a point the Free Press attacked editorially. These developments will be allowed in rural areas, only by registered plan of subdivision with a minimum lot of area of two acres. The estates are to be limited to wooded areas, adjacent to valley land and scenic views.

Esquering township is to be divided into five basic land use categories, namely rural, hamlets, commercial, industrial and recreational.

In rural areas the predominant use of land will be agriculture, forestry and conservation with non-farm residential development permitted on a limited scale at a maximum density of four persons per acre.

In hamlets where building is allowed, the plan will permit residential, commercial and industrial uses with the minimum lot area for a single family dwelling set at 15,000 square feet until the municipality has a water supply when it will be cut to 7500. Minimum floor area of a house in the hamlets will be 1000 square feet.

Permit pits
Extractive industries will be a permitted use for minerals natural to the site.

No large residential developments will be allowed near the three towns of Acton, Georgetown and Milton. Residential development will be permitted in the Georgetown area, provided it is logical and orderly and progressive expansion of the three hamlets of Norval, Glen Williams and Stewarttown will be permitted as long as it takes place commencing near the centre of the hamlets and progresses towards Georgetown. Other hamlets will be allowed only the growth anticipated in rural areas.

At present there are five objections to the official plan centering around the use of a worked-out quarry at Milton Brick for a dump, possible establishment of a drive-in theatre near Ashgrove, plans for a residential development on the Eighth Line, use of Waterfalls Playground on the Sixth Line for mobile homes, and establishment of a quarry near Speyside by Consolidated Sand and Gravel.



DICK HOWITT

Howitt runs for council

Esquering Councillor Dick Howitt announced yesterday (Tuesday) he will be a candidate for the North Halton local council in Ward 2 (Esquering).

After careful consideration he has decided to leave the Toronto law firm of Chappell, Bushell and Stewart and establish his own practice in Georgetown. The move, he feels, will allow him the necessary time to spend with his family and to remain in municipal politics as a local councillor.

"It's important that on this first North Halton council Esquering have strong representation," he told this newspaper in announcing his candidacy. "We must make sure that rural people are not paying for services only urban people are enjoying."

Dick has been an Esquering councillor for three years. He is vice-chairman of the township planning board, vice-chairman of the Milton fire area committee and Esquering's representative on the regional government steering committee.

He resides with his wife Carol and their four month old daughter Sarah on 10 Sideroad near Scotch Block.

Councillor Howitt is the third person to declare himself a candidate in the race for two local seats in Ward 2. Councillor George Maltby and former deputy-reeve Russell Miller have already entered the contest.



RUSSELL MILLER

Russ Miller to run for Ward Two

A former member of Esquering council, Russell Miller of R.R. 1, Georgetown, announced he would be a candidate for council in Ward Two (Esquering) for the new town of North Halton.

Mr. Miller has nine years of public service in the township, serving five years on the now defunct Esquering school board and four years on the township council. He was vice-chairman of the school board for a year and chairman for two years. He served two years as deputy reeve of Esquering before being ousted from politics in a narrow two way battle with Tom Hill for the reeve's chair.

Second to announce he would contest a Ward Two council seat, Miller says he has had a year to think seriously about regional government and the large amount of money involved. He wants to see the money is spent where it will do the most good. "We can't have everything," he says.

He is also concerned about the disposition of garbage, noting he was an original member of G.U.A.R.D. (Group United Against Rural Dumping). Roads and truck traffic in the township also concern him. He says he has lived on a truck route and knows the problems first hand. Other issues of regional government should be met head-on and solved as they come up, he feels.

Miller thinks one of the real challenges of governing in the new town will be to rid councillors of parochial feelings and develop understanding of all areas of the new town. He felt his experience and knowledge of most of the candidates would help develop the rapport needed to get the region functioning. He also feels his functioning in Glen Williams minor baseball and as vice-chairman of the mayor committee and administration committees of county council will serve him in good stead.

The Millers live on the Eighth Line North.

The Acton Free Press

NINETY-NINTH YEAR NO. 10

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1973

Thirty-Four Pages—Fifteen Cents

Close friend charged

Rockwood youth killed by blast from shotgun



CHRISTOPHER AYLES

An innocent get-together of six youths resulted in the tragic death of a Rockwood lad Sunday afternoon when a 12-gauge shotgun was taken from a gun case at the home of Lynn and Brian Couling, 160 Alice Street, Guelph, and accidentally went off.

The boys, all friends, had gathered at the home of the victim's married sister and were kibitzing with a loaded gun when it went off, hitting Christopher James Ayles, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ayles, of R.R. 3 Rockwood.

Christopher was heard to have said, "Don't be silly," and pushed the gun away just as it exploded. The group was horrified.

The accident occurred at approximately 2 in the afternoon shortly after he had called home to his father in Rockwood to tell him that he'd be home for family dinner. Born in Acton and raised just outside the village of Rockwood, Chris was known to be a helpful lad who enjoyed working on old cars and other mechanical devices.

He recently moved into Guelph to take up residence with his sister and brother-in-law with their home providing convenient access to his new job at Wolford Construction.

The Sunday get-together was a fun occasion and included in the group was his special friend with

whom he had chummed since Rockwood public school days, Greg Damery, 18, who has been charged following the shooting. Greg moved with his family from the Rockwood area a few years ago, to Guelph and he and Chris had continued their friendship; the two were, reportedly, inseparable.

Up for bail hearing on Tuesday morning, Greg Damery was charged with manslaughter and released on \$1,000 bail.

Surviving Chris are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ayles, two married sisters, Lynn and Pat, a married brother Steve, two younger sisters, Peggy Ann and Marie, and two

younger brothers, Johnny and David.

The shotgun blast hit Chris in the stomach. He died shortly afterwards in the Guelph General Hospital at approximately 3 p.m. after six doctors attempted to save his life.

Plans for his funeral are set for Wednesday with burial at Fairview Cemetery, Acton.

A past student of the Rockwood Centennial Public School, Chris was also a member of the St. John's Anglican Sunday School.

The Ayles family was hit with another tragedy, in 1965, when Nicky, 3, ran onto the No. 7 Highway in front of their home and was killed by a passing vehicle.

Eden Mills students have choice

Whether to attend school in Halton county or Wellington county was a choice left to children and their parents, in the case of 36 elementary school students and seven high school students from Eden Mills.

In January, Eden Mills will become part of Wellington county instead of Halton under regional government. The village is located right on the boundary.

Parents had received questionnaires and letters from Acton schools and began to wonder what the future held for the young students there. During the misunderstanding, parents thought youngsters who started school in Acton would have to change to Rockwood public school or Centennial V.I. in Guelph the first of January.

Wellington county board of education academic superintendent John Morison says this week "In no case will students be asked to change their school in January."

All families possible have been contacted to explain this and to ask them to make their choice, he said.

Also involved in the misunderstanding was the fact students started back to school in Halton on Wednesday, in Wellington on Tuesday. Heads couldn't be accurately counted Tuesday as some didn't attend the first day in Wellington who should have.

Mr. Morison explained his board had thought the students would be staying in Halton and then, when he began getting calls, arrangements were made to accommodate any who wished

to make the change to Wellington now.

Particularly children who are just beginning school would choose Rockwood, he felt. Others were free to choose their school.

"There shouldn't be any objection," he felt Tuesday, although he still had not learned what the

choices had been. Rockwood school is filled, but will accommodate any Eden Mills students, he assured the Free Press.

Acton high school understands six former students from Eden Mills returned here Wednesday. The seventh student involved is in

grade nine and will start high school in Wellington.

The Robert Little school has some Eden Mills pupils there today, and expects the number is split between Acton and Rockwood.

No precise count is available yet.

Murder hearing continues Sept. 28

Thomas Bourke, charged with the murder of his wife, appeared in court in Milton last Wednesday and the hearing will resume Sept. 28.

The preliminary hearing heard only one witness.

Publication of evidence presented during the preliminary

hearing is prohibited. The order was made at the request of Edward Greenspan, defense lawyer for Mr. Bourke, who said published evidence could be prejudicial to further trial.

Acton charge
Mr. Bourke was charged by Acton O.P.P. last May 8 when the

body of his wife Colleen was found in the Maplehurst Apartments where she lived. The couple were separated. Police said Mrs. Bourke had been stabbed to death.

Mr. Bourke, of Mississauga, is in custody in jail at Milton.

Saturday crash kills Acton man

James F. O'Connor, 43A Mill St., Acton, lost his life Saturday in a single-car accident west of Peterborough. The 1971 Toyota driven by Mr. O'Connor failed to negotiate a curve, went into a ditch and rolled over several times.

Passenger Robert McGinn, 89 Church St., Acton, was admitted to Peterborough Civic hospital with cuts to his right arm and leg. The accident happened on Concession Road 11-12, just west of

highway 28 in Monaghan township, shortly after 1 a.m. on Saturday, September 1.

Survivors
Mr. O'Connor is survived by his wife Reta, son and daughters Jamie, Mrs. Carolyn Bernard, Marilyn Andrews and Allan O'Connor and his mother Mrs. Annie O'Connor of North Bay.

Funeral service was Monday afternoon at the Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home with interment in Fairview cemetery.

September accidents

Two accidents have been investigated by Acton police so far in September.

The first occurred Saturday, Sept. 1 at 2.10 p.m. when two cars were both northbound on Main St. Drivers were Frank Carney, Rockwood, with estimated \$175 damage and Alexander Crouse, Oakville, with \$350 damage to his car.

On Sunday at 5.50 p.m. two cars collided while making turns at Mill and Main. Drivers were Brian Hall, Thornhill, with estimated \$250 damage to his car and Jack Hogan, R.R. 3, Acton, with estimated \$150 damage.



HELMETS AND SUITS of armor belonging to Rudy Sauro of Hamilton brought back memories for veteran antique arms' collector Lawrence Nelson of Cobourg at the Halton Antique Arms Collectors' Association gun show in the

community centre over the weekend. The show, the largest of its kind in Canada attracted 5000 visitors over the two day period. . . . Turn inside for story and more pictures.

(D. Gibbons photo)