

Touch of nostalgia in Joe Hurst's toast to the town

"Floreat Acton! As it was in the beginning - is now - and ever shall be. This is my toast to Acton."

So spoke the town's unofficial poet laureate, Joe Hurst, at the council's appreciation night in the music centre. Former clerk-administrator and now Halton Hills councillor-elect Joe Hurst had a splendid gift of oratory that brought him a standing ovation and resounding applause from the crowd of 150.

He went on to say feelingly:

The first instruments recorded in the registry office pertaining to the present site of Acton were dated 1829 and 1830. It was a very humble beginning indeed. The hamlet was initially called Danville, the name being derived from a young man named Dan who worked as a clerk in the first dry goods store established here by Wheeler Green. Since my childhood I have often wondered why the name was not "Greenville". After due consideration, I have concluded that that would not have been democratic.

This name was changed very soon to Adamsville, in honor of the first settlers here - Zenas, Rufus and Ezra Adams. Then

In 1844 a post office was obtained for the hamlet. It was upon a motion by the first postmaster, a Mr. Robert Swan, a native of Northumberland, England, that the name was changed for a second time and became Acton, after the borough of Acton, England.

The ties between the two Actons were firmly cemented when, years later, Sir Harry Britain, on a visit to Canada, presented the crest of Acton, England to the town council. This crest was adopted by the town fathers, with the changing of the oak leaves to maple leaves, and it admirably serves as our emblem today!

This, then, is as it was in the beginning. From 1844 to 1873, the hamlet remained part of the township of Esqueving. In these years a solid foundation was laid for the industrial centre we know today, with the establishment of a grist mill in the 1830's, the first tannery in 1840, a glove factory in 1868 and a plough company in 1873.

With this steady growth, the need arose for special services, not necessarily supplied by the township, and thoughts were turned to the incorporation of Acton as a village. In September, 1873, a by-law was

passed by the county of Halton authorizing such action effective January 1, 1874.

So it came to pass that, one hundred years ago, Acton became an official municipality, bristling with industry and enthusiasm, and situated in the most beautiful part of Ontario, surrounded by the tall pines and the rolling acres of Esqueving Township.

The slow but steady development that characterized Acton's early years was perpetuated from 1873 to the present date. In the course of this development, Acton moved from village to town status in the year 1950, and the trend in expansion continued.

People are not only the backbone of a municipality - people are the municipality. Acton was fortunate to have, from the very beginning, an influx of hard-working, thrifty, God-fearing people, who, in the first instance, welded a strong beginning of a chain of service which has never weakened up to this day. Upon this chain of service depends the future of Acton.

The first settlers in Acton were of English, Scottish and Irish ancestry, and

as the years passed, people came here from all parts of the world, so that today the town of Acton is, according to its population, one of the most cosmopolitan centres to be found anywhere!

And so we come to tonight.

As we gather here tonight on this evening of appreciation, our purpose is threefold.

Firstly: We are assembled to honor the memory of our forefathers who laid the cornerstones for so many of the amenities of life we now enjoy, and to give thanks for such amenities.

Secondly: We are here to give thanks to the many persons present who have formed the links in the chain of service joining the past to the present. Many of these links go back 10, 15, 20, 30 and up to 40 years into the past, and weld together the efforts and contributions of our fathers to that of their sons.

And Thirdly: We must agree together to extend the links of the chain of service far into the future in order that the spirit, the hopes and the aspirations of our forefathers may be established in perpetuity.

And so it is now!

We have now completed a full cycle of one hundred years since Acton became an official municipality. It would be nice to rest upon our laurels for a while. But this cannot be! Regional government is here, and the facts have to be faced. Facts that are not faced have a habit of stabbing one in the back.

Even though I am, for many reasons, a supporter of regional government, I do firmly believe that the sentence could have been passed upon us a little more democratically. Be that as it may, the future is upon us and we cannot now look back.

All may not yet be lost for the town of Acton. Just the other day, the mayor-elect of Halton Hills received a letter from a ministry branch of Ontario (I will not divulge the ministry - there would be no justice in that) addressed as follows:

Mr. Thomas E. Hill
Mayor-Elect
Town of Halton Hills,
40 Mill St. E.
ACTON, Ont.

I am firmly convinced that, directed and tutored by the many persons present here tonight, young, able representatives with great talent and promise will come forward as the years unfold, to accept the challenge of the day and assume the links in the chain of service that was welded so many years ago. They will be proud young men and or women, and they will carry with them the hopes, the dreams and the aspirations of the people of Danville, Adamsville and Acton. And although the names of this municipality shall be forgotten, the spirit of its people shall be perpetuated.

And so it shall ever be!
Floreat Acton.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be!

With these thoughts in mind, with a tearful touch of nostalgia for the past, a sense of satisfaction for the present, and a prayer of promise for the future, I ask you now to rise and drink with me a toast to:
The Town of Acton.

The Acton Free Press

NINETY-NINTH YEAR NO. 22

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1973

SECOND SECTION

Pre-regional Appreciation Night hosted by council

Gaiety was more apparent than nostalgia at the music centre Saturday night, when council hosted a lively party for members of elected and appointed boards, town staff and associates. About 150 crammed the hall for the buffet dinner and dance on what council called Appreciation Night.

Special certificates of appreciation had been printed for the occasion and

were presented to a lineup of gentlemen and two ladies. In most cases, the recipient was given a small sheaf of certificates, to present later to the people on his or her particular board or force.

Santa Claus came galloping to the front, too, with a stock of special gifts which popped out of his sack along with a flock of high-flying balloons, "filled with hot air from council." Since the hall was filled with many friends of

long standing, Mr. Claus declared, "You can just call me Saint."

Speeches were brisk,

highlighted by personable Joe Hurst's rousing words in proposing a sentimental Toast to Acton.

The official words and presentations over, the group enjoyed dancing.

Parading to the fore to

accept their certificates of appreciation were Ted Tyler Jr. for development commission and centennial

commission; Wilf McEachern for hydro commission, Mick Holmes for the firefighters, Diane

Spielvogel for parks and recreation committee, Sid Saitz for planning board, Jim Lindsay for committee of adjustment, George Lee for library board, Alf Duby for the town work force, Bob

heart attack. Speaking on behalf of appointed boards and commissions John Goy had convincing words of encouragement for the future. We've got 100 years under our belts through our brains and sweat, he said, and speaking for the next 100 years, we will still say we're from Acton!



SANTA HAD A sackful of goodies at the town Appreciation Party Saturday. Also on the gift list were many certificates of appreciation, specially arranged for the event, given to heads of elected and appointed groups in the town. Pictured are back row clerk Grant Usher, Ted Tyler Sr., Tom Watson, Joe Hurst, R. R. Parker, Diane Spielvogel, engineer Ken

Hyde, Mrs. Santa Marion Patterson, Alf Duby, Sid Saitz; front row George Lee, Mansell Nellis, sometime-Saint Hugh Patterson, Lorna Clarke and Bob Arbour. About 150 attended the evening, enjoying dinner and dancing with longtime friends.

Mayor speaks
Mayor Les Duby, saddened by the death of his wife's mother Mrs. Taylor the day before, had welcomed guests at the door and spoke quietly but impressively, saying Acton is not remote from the new government. Acton will never change; we will still be the community of Acton. He said he was privileged to proceed on behalf of a people of the town. He had been to between 15 and 20 regional meetings and Acton has made an impression already.

Plaque to Mayor
As the senior member of council Earl Masales made a special presentation of an engraved plaque to Mayor Les Duby for 10 years of dedicated service.

As master of ceremonies reeve G.W. McKenzie explained the evening was held for the many people who helped council. He welcomed ex-mayors John Goy and Ted Tyler Sr., and former wardens of the county Bert Hinton and Dr. F.C. Oakes. He evoked applause for Sid Saitz, recuperating from a

He spoke with special feeling of the sacrifice and understanding of his wife and family over the 11 years he has served on council. He ended with a resounding declaration for the future; sensing a tremendous feeling on the eve of our 100th birthday.

Region treasurer says Region not less expensive

If any member of the Halton Regional Council feels the new system of government will be a cost saving factor he or she should talk to the region's newly appointed treasurer.

He indicated many of those people would be municipal employees working for towns and townships in the county now and would move to the region as the function they perform changes hands.

Don Farmer told the Administration and Finance Committee Wednesday he has never been satisfied that regional council would save money.

The committee recommended county treasurer Jim McQueen be hired as deputy treasurer for the region and authorized Farmer to interview candidates for the post of purchasing agent.

He suggested the advantages could lie in greater efficiency and better contact with Queen's Park. He said Queen's Park couldn't bring 900 municipalities together for a meeting but regional representatives could be brought in to a meeting.

Farmer said the staff at the county level excluding those at the Halton Centennial Manor number about 200 now. He predicted that figure to rise to 500 by soon after Jan. 1 and indicated the region would employ about 1,000 exclusive of the Manor in a few years.

EMO funds

Halton Region's Administration and Finance Committee endorsed a resolution urging the federal government not to cut grants to Emergency Measures Organizations, but rather provide for a seven per cent increase for the next five years.

Halton EMO Co-ordinator Bill McCreary asked the committee to support the move at a meeting Wednesday. On a previous occasion McCreary had told the committee failure to receive the federal funds would likely lead to phasing out Emergency Measures

ACTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE					
December 1973					
MERCHANTS' CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HOURS					
FOR MOST LOCAL STORES					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	4 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	6 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	7 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	8 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
10 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	11 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	12 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	13 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	14 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	15 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
17 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	18 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	19 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	20 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	21 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	22 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
24 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	25 Closed Christmas Day	26 Closed Boxing Day	27 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	28 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	29 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
31 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Jan. 1 Closed New Year's Day	PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE THIS HANDY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING GUIDE			

BINGO
Lic. No. 137563
Every Monday Night at 8 p.m.
AT THE
CREDIT VALLEY CLUB
(FORMERLY RIVIERA)
20 - '40 GAMES
\$1,000 JACKPOT
(55 No's)
NO ADMISSION CHARGE
Cards 3 for \$1
BUS SERVICE
Sponsored By
Georgetown Elks Lodge No. 540
PROCEEDS FOR DEAF DETECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE
Prices Slashed Again!!
Women's Clothing Gifts and Toys

REDUCED UP TO 70% PANTIES 49¢ PAIR

PANTY HOSE 19¢ PAIR

Everything Must Go Regardless Of Price

Independent Order of Foresters
CHRISTMAS DANCE
Holy Rosary Parish Hall
MILTON
Saturday, December 1st
FROM 9 P.M. - 1 A.M.
BAND: THE 7 MARX
EVERYONE WELCOME!
Admission \$4 per couple

Lost man is found
Milton O.P.P. were alerted on the weekend when a hunter was reported missing in the North Halton area. But before any massive search was organized the hunter was located - he had hitchhiked home, a police spokesman said.

Best ever
Fergus will have a Santa Claus parade Saturday, called the biggest and best ever.