

Lions club pool only project as centennial begins

There was plenty of festivity in Acton Monday night, but the noise was for New Year's, not Acton's centennial. Plans for a New Year's bash to usher in the town's 100th year had been abandoned as two centennial groups formed, met and then disbanded.

At the curling club, dancing stopped for a quarter of an hour while ex-mayor Les Doby and former councillors circled two gigantic birthday cakes for ceremonial slicing

and pictures. The music started up again and as far as centennial celebrations went—that was it.

Only other noise was the distant splash of the divers who'll be the first in Acton's pool.

Only plan

The Lions swimming pool project has shaped up as the only item on the centennial year program so far. And growing enthusiasm with a canvass planned to begin Feb. 1.

Ex-mayor Les Doby thinks other plans will likely get off the ground now there's more of a sense of urgency about it. He encourages local groups to plan a program of their own. His personal hope is that people will dress up and clean up the town, he says.

Tennis courts, also scheduled for this year, haven't been tied in to centennial although. "It's a thought," says club chairman George Elliott.

The original centennial

committee had presented a wide-ranging program, including a vision of New Year's beginning with a pancake breakfast for the whole town in the arena Jan. 1. After this committee dissolved, Joe Hurst set up another one, which is also now defunct.

Council has recently called upon individual organizations to determine a centennial project of their own.

Flags, letterheads and crests with the centennial

symbol designed by Jack Carpenter are in the town office, awaiting a further decision. From whom? The staff has no idea.

Centennial project for the original committee was a three-phase arena program. The first phase, renovations, has begun. The other two phases, a new entrance and an addition with dressing rooms have fallen by the wayside.

Move ahead

Meanwhile the Lions are

moving ahead steadily in their ambitious plans for a swimming pool behind the high school. It will be maintained by the high school and open to the public during non-school hours. The layout is arranged so entry may be gained from the outside, with school doors to adjacent corridors locked.

Vic Bristow is chairman of a new committee organizing a house-to-house canvass, to begin Feb. 1. He anticipates having 100 canvassers for the

Job. Art Gordon and others will be contacting industries.

Also on the pool committee for the club are Ray Evelan, Don Gordon and Don Murdy.

\$250,000

Cost is now estimated at \$250,000.

In the past weeks two more items have had to be taken into consideration. Test drills showed water five feet below the surface at the site, so the base of the pool must be specially constructed to prevent buckling.

Also, the fire marshal's office sent word a fire wall will be required between the brick-walled pool and the high school.

Acton council allocated \$65,000 for the project followed by Esqueusing council with a donation of \$5,000. A LIP grant of \$14,000 was announced last week and the town has applied for a winter works program for the pool as well.

Co-operative

"The school board and town

have been most co-operative," Art Gordon said happily this week. "It will be a real asset." He says a meeting will be held Jan. 7 with principal Dave Katz and school board representatives to make further plans.

Mr. Gordon reports a Scuba club and aquatic club have already made enquiries about rental time in the pool.

A swimming pool has long been a hope of Actonians.



No problem first day for infant Halton Hills

Halton Hills councillors will be sworn in today (Thursday) in the new council chamber prepared especially for the group in the former Esqueusing township hall.

Everything was in readiness at the first of January and the new council will hold regular meetings every other Monday, starting Jan. 7.

The first meeting is an official and formal one, followed by a dinner in St. Alban's parish hall in the new mayor's home village of Glen Williams.

Halton Hills clerk-administrator Doug Pritchard will administer the oath of office to Mayor Tom Hill, G. W. McKenzie, Les Doby, Joe Hurst, Len Cox, Dick Howitt, Russ Miller from Esqueusing, Rick Morrow, Ernie Sykes, Ern Hyde, Roy Booth, Harry Levy and Mike Armstrong of Georgetown.

Members of parliament Jim Snow and George Kerr are expected to be there and speak briefly. A former rector at Glen Williams and a friend of the mayor's, the Rev. Harold Llewellyn of

Halton will read scripture and lead in prayer.

Business on the agenda is strictly formal for this inaugural. It includes passing the procedural by-law, the borrowing by-law and the by-law for the corporate seal.

The first working session of the duly authorized group is Monday evening, Jan. 7. At this meeting staff will be appointed.

Halton Hills councillors have met frequently in the past weeks and have lined up the recommendations for

official presentation at this meeting. Some have produced considerable controversy.

Tom Hill, like Cinderella, turned at midnight Monday from Esqueusing reeve into Halton Hills mayor. But he spent the evening quietly at home.

In the former Esqueusing township building he reported Wednesday that all was in readiness for a regional government. He said there had been no problems in its first day of life. The works department headquarters in Georgetown also echoed the comment "no problems". In fact, co-operation. Acton had sent down a truck and driver Wednesday to help with Georgetown's abundant post-holiday garbage.

Other than ringing bells! On Monday the new phone system was installed in Esqueusing township offices, and callers are now redirected to a new number which gives the Georgetown office switchboard. The system still had bugs to be ironed out Wednesday.

Acton town office still replicated yesterday to the old phone number, but the change is imminent.

All calls to Halton Hills staff will go to the switchboard in Georgetown to be redirected to the right department.

The existing Georgetown town system has been extended to include Acton and Esqueusing.

At the Acton town office, the staff are balancing books and cleaning up matters pertaining to the town of Acton this week. Clerk Grant Usher starts his new post fresh after a week's holidays, spent resting at home and snow-mobiling.



ACTON COUNCIL chamber Wednesday was bleakly furnished with an abandoned picnic bench, brought to the last meeting as a joke; three ash-trays, a window screen and one chair. The chair, lettered "Free Press" on the back, had been bought years ago by former publisher G. A. Dills to make him a little more comfortable during those long meetings. It had been left when the rest of the furniture went to Halton Hills. The Free Press photographer promptly made off with it.

Town treasures in safety now

Gloom was substantially lifted at the final meeting of Acton Development Commission held Dec. 12.

It had seemed inevitable that the stately council furniture which had graced the Acton chambers was about to be swept away for installation at the Esqueusing township headquarters in Halton Hills.

A motion was passed, unanimously advocating removal, for safer keeping, of the mayor's chair, the flags and standards, and a picture shield of the crest of the town of Acton, England.

Ex-mayor John Goy stipulated that he'd solemnly support the motion. Councillor Charles Leatherland said that, in case of difficulty, he'd make any required defence in court. Councillor Bill Yundt said that he'd wholeheartedly assist chairman Ted Tyler remove the chair and accoutrements, and councillor Bill Coats said that he, too, would support the surreptitious snagging of the sacred symbols.

It was then officially decided. Receiving the concerted co-operation of the courteous OPP's who opened the chamber door, the crafty councillors completed the confiscation secreting same to a special spot.

They contacted George Lee, chairman of the library board, and received permission to install the historical replica and regalia in the town library board room, set high on a glorified

pedestal, enhanced only slightly by a gold braid placed around the outside, safeguarding same from vagrant vandals visiting.

Removal complete, the chair will stand in its place of official dignity with the two flags bearing their insignias proudly mounted in their standards. Hanging high behind, the Acton crest will stand as a symbol of Acton's greater moments when she was a town unto herself.

Order of Canada for C. Matthews

A native of Acton, Charles Matthews of Toronto has been appointed to membership in the Order of Canada. The announcement, made by Governor-General Roland Michener, Chancellor of the Order of Canada, came as a surprise to Mr. Matthews.

There were 66 Canadians honored and they will receive their decorations at an investiture in the spring.

Mr. Matthews was born in Acton and went to school here, working at the Free Press before going to Toronto where he was a partner in the Sampson-Matthews printing firm. He has donated Sampson-Matthews prints of famous Canadian works of art to the library and schools here.

Mr. Matthews and his wife have been frequent visitors back to Acton over the years. They are planning a trip to Spain this winter.

complete in her own jurisdiction, governing her own local affairs.

On the seat of the celebrated furniture piece will be a framed plaque on which all the names will be printed of the worthy predecessors, every mayor who has had the privilege of serving and playing his role in the leadership of Acton's municipal development.

"Vive la chaise, long stand the chair!"



EX-MAYOR for all of half an hour, Les Doby boldly slices into a centennial cake as wife Alice and former councillors Ted Tyler Sr., Claude Cook and Clarence Rognvaldson watch. The centennial surprise was planned for a post-midnight moment

of commemoration during the lively New Year's Eve dance at the curling club. "I'm going out with a smile on my face," declared Mr. Doby, who's now a Halton Hills councillor.

Centennial for two

Acton and Sir Harry Brittain are both 100 years old. And there's a connection. Sir Harry Brittain maintained connections between Acton, England and Acton, Canada, and on a trip to this continent in the 1920's presented to Acton the fine wooden crest which hung for years in the town hall. It has now been transferred to the library.

Mrs. Larna Clarke of the town office staff heard the news of the gentleman's birthday on the radio

Mail delivery routes mapped out soon

Acton residents may want to question strangers in town as they walk up to and down from, every home during the next few weeks. Fred Baker, temporarily in charge of the Acton post office, says the men in question will be able to identify themselves as postal officers from the Toronto Postal staff. They will be specialists trained in walking

into approximately 1,300 post office boxes in the Bower Ave. building. "Most other towns already have the new system," he said, and reiterated that there will be a great deal of paper work setting up the new service.

"It could take a couple or three months to get set up," he said, and included measuring, maps, letter carrier cases, organizing the letter carrier section and a changeover of sortation with streets and numbers required on all mail, as a few of the details requiring consideration. He pointed out that staff members will have to be updated on the new sortation methods.

Staff requirements

Mr. Baker believes the office could hire additional staff, a minimum five or six letter carriers and an additional clerk. At the present time five clerks, a postal officer and postal manager receive full-time employment at the Acton office, handling a normal daily flow of 2,000 to 3,000 letters.

Reportedly it was noted last September that facilities at the local post office were not sufficient to handle the present flow of mail.

According to postal regulations, the basic requirement for home delivery in any community is a minimum of 2,500 drop-off points for the mail. Mr. Baker feels it is conceivable that new subdivision construction in the town could raise the requirements.

With postmaster Gordon McKeown absent from the Acton office Mr. Baker has been working here since September on a temporary basis. "As yet there has been no go ahead," he said but speculates that the measuring procedures will begin sometime early this year.

Staff moves under new system

Regional government and the new town of Halton Hills are only three days old and have brought changes already.

A caller to Georgetown police office is surprised to find himself talking to Oakville headquarters, while a call to Georgetown municipal building necessitates a new number and a voice answers "The town of Halton Hills."

Changes for the personnel are also in order.

Clerk Administrator Doug Pritchard will move from his present office on Main Street, Georgetown, to the Esqueusing municipal building on the Seventh Line.

With him will go two secretaries and the planning department under Mario Venditti.

Treasurer Lloyd Peterson and his department will stay at 36 Main Street in Georgetown.

The inspection department, where building permits and plumbing permits are issued will move up to the engineering office on Maple Avenue East.

Acton municipal offices will stay where they are for at least the next six months, according to Mr. Pritchard.

At the same time, the town will be broken down into finer postal code areas," he said, "with each block designated with their own code in conjunction with the mechanization of the new mail sorting machine."

New service

It is all part of the home delivery mail service which has been on the horizon for Acton residents for some time. If Mr. Baker's speculations are correct, it might not get into operation until sometime late in March or April.

Mr. Baker said postal authorities had set tentative date of getting the system into motion for some time before Christmas but due to personnel involvement in other work, it was ruled out until the later date.

According to manager Baker, mail in Acton is going

Holiday quiet

Both holiday weekends were quiet here, according to the Acton detachment of the O.P.P.

No calls of complaint were received New Year's Eve at all.

A call from the curling club which is in Esqueusing, to North Halton O.P.P. reported four unwanted party-goers but they had left the building when police arrived.

At Christmas one driver was charged with impaired driving.

Minor collisions

There were three minor accidents in town since last week's Free Press was published.

Dec. 27 at 4:15 p.m. a hit and run collision occurred in the Dominion Hotel lot. David Beerman, Crescent St., had estimated \$200 damage to his car and the accident is still under investigation.

On Dec. 30 at 1:45 p.m. there was a two-car collision at Knox and Main. The car driven by Gary Copeland, Rockwood, had \$150 damage and the one driven by Wm. Morrison, Cook St., estimated \$75.

Dec. 31 at 11:20 p.m. there was another minor collision on York St. The car driven by May Laing had estimated \$80 damage and the other car, driven by Florence Scott, Limehouse, no damage.

Dec. 29 at 11:30 p.m. a snowmobile drove over two hedges on private property on Queen St. The incident was reported to police and the snowmobile driver made restitution.

No new '74 babes

No births for Acton and District on New Year's day was the report of the Guelph General Hospital who advised that the only early 1974 baby born was to a mother in Guelph.

Scratch Scrum

A letter from Ireland was received by Ken and Janet Budd of Guelph last Saturday confirming that the horse Scrum on which they had an Irish sweepstake ticket had been drawn but scratched.

The lucky but unlucky ticket holder was the friendly bus driver who had most recently become known to Acton residents during the holiday season. The race was run last Friday and the Budds were informed of the scratching the day after.

According to Janet Budd, the amount received will be approximately 340 pounds. "That means something like \$800 as I understand it," said the mother of three small children Wednesday. "Even that amount will be acceptable and will go towards paying bills."

Mrs. Budd said that her husband will certainly invest in another ticket as she and Ken go on the theory of "better luck next time."

Sabres set for "big blue"

Five hundred fans showed up at the community centre last Friday night to watch the Junior Sabres upset Stoney Siskins and a record crowd is expected for tomorrow (Friday) night's big game against the league-leading Bradford Vaseys.

Bradford won the O.H.A. Junior "D" championship last year and has lost only one game in 18 starts this season. Sabres inflicted that loss 6-2 in Bradford November 25. Since then the Vaseys have rebounded to beat Acton 7-4 and 8-3.

Coch Dave McKnight says his Sabres are ready to meet the league leaders head on.



LOCATION OF THE new swimming pool behind the high school is bared, as the two portable classrooms were moved Monday to a new location a few yards further north. Bare ground in front reveals the site of the Lions centennial swimming pool project. A canvass will begin this winter.