

# Regional Government?—Phooey says former mayor

Discouragement and disillusionment with the 65-day old government were expressed by Acton's former mayor, one of the panellists at the Chamber of Commerce regional government meeting last Wednesday. He, regional chairman Allan Masson, Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill and councillor Joe Hurst all spoke and answered questions.

While all related difficulties, it was Les Dudy who presented the most bleak picture as he told how his viewpoint has had to change since meetings began.

Several of the questions urged that parochialism be forgotten—that Acton and Georgetown should consider themselves one in such fields as provision of arenas and pools.

Mr. Dudy said he, too had entered into regional government with such high hopes,

but, experiences at actual meetings had dampened his ardor. Before, he admitted, he had envisaged Utopia. "But now I face facts."

Both he and Mayor Hill referred to a motion presented at council the night before, seeking to give priority to Acton pool. It has been objected to by ward 3 and 4 councillors and had to be withdrawn.

Staff and Department heads came from Georgetown; the treasury and clerk's office are nine miles away. Les Dudy has travelled 440 miles to meetings already. "It hurts that we had all these things of our own."

There were three operations before at basic cost. I assure you the escalation in cost is tremendous. I can't justify it can you?

One disappointing factor, Mr. Dudy related, is that we should have community pride. It's had to go down the drain.

Halton Hills is in a different position from Oakville, Burlington and Milton, he declared. Here we are two very urban centres, with very separate identities. Acton was already fully serviced and well run. The auditor always commented on Acton's state of affairs. We ran a tight ship, he recalled with pride. But with a nine mile gap, Georgetown and Acton aren't going to grow together.

He referred to the hard work and heated debates, and his conclusion it's not going to work easily.

It seems we must compel individuals who make problems to realize we have certain concerns in Acton.

Parkinson's law is working so rapidly, he said, and added inflation and escalation to the problems.

This would have been much better if there had been three communities in Halton as we had requested with Milton and Nassagaweya included in the north. Or Acton and Georgetown should have remained as separate entities.

Now 20,000 dictate to 5,000. There are three from ward one trying to impress the balance of council.

The system can work but I'm not prepared to let the system work us, as it has in other places.

Chairman Alan Masson read a prepared speech which stressed added responsibilities of regional government, from those of county council. The major responsibility for his 24-member

council is planning. They also now control supply and distribution of water, sewage, garbage disposal, police, traffic lights and control, transportation and capital expenditures such as debentures.

He, too, admits to the difficulties of divorcing the areas from the region and blamed his councillors for a lack of understanding of the enormity of their role in seeing the region as a whole.

"We asked for regional government. Now we don't agree and say it's the province's fault."

Costs will rise, he said frankly, as everyone and everything comes into the same influencing spiral. Cost escalation is not necessarily the fault of the region.

He defended his pre-region purchase of equipment by saying his saving of money has been proved right.

Answering a question he said, Priority has to be the answer.

The proposed expenditure is astounding, he reported. I wonder if the problem is psychological? asked chairman Paul Nielsen. Maybe we're all freaked out by the size. Any system will work if people want it to work.

Questions

Question: Will the MTARTS transportation study be a planning guideline? Answer: Yes.

Question: Why should we pay taxes for the Georgetown arena-theatre complex there's no hope of us using? Answer: There's no agreement signed yet. Acton project has priority. Suggestions have been made each area pay for its own projects.

Question: Surely we're all in Halton Hills and shouldn't argue whose end the new

projects are in?

Question: Will our municipal office remain open? Answer by Mayor Hill: As long as I can have it open.

Question: Wouldn't it have been better to put the provincial government out of the existing county building than sell it, and now seek new quarters? Answer: Presently departments are all over. A large new site for a complex could pay for itself. Mayor Hill: It isn't going any further south than I want it to go.

Question: Economic reasons for keeping the OPP? Hill: Policing in the region is going to be very costly so I hope it's a long time before Acton and Esqueping O.P.P. service is phased out.

Pool

Question: Acton pool. Answer: It's being processed the only way possible. There could be a financial problem if there's a shortage. Mayor

Dudy again expressed his concern over the attitudes of ward 3 and 4 councillors.

Question: Is regional government here to stay, whether it works or not? Masson: The province is watching.

Question: Why was a second recreation program co-ordinator turned down. Hill: With citizen input we don't need an assistant co-ordinator and I'm not having one! We've had no problem before but Georgetown hired one so we have to keep him.

Maxims

"A co-operative posture will win in the end," insisted Mr. Masson.

"There's nothing better for the digestive system than a good argument" concluded the Mayor.

About 60 attended, enjoyed cold buffet from Acton Delectessens, the panel and discussions.

## The Acton Free Press

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# Approve 17 of 29 lots in Legion subdivision

Acton Legion may find it hard to believe Halton Hills is all one town, in light of a recommendation made by the general administration committee Monday night.

The committee gave their okay subject to council approval to the portion of a subdivision adjacent to a new Legion hall which lies within the old boundaries of Acton, but rejected the part of the subdivision in the former township of Esqueping.

The 29 lot subdivision straddles the boundary, and was planned by Acton Legion to finance the large new Legion hall overlooking Fairy Lake.

The lots lying within Esqueping ran smack up against the Esqueping official plan, not yet adopted, which designates everything in existing use. Present use of this land is agricultural, and to be changed would need an amendment.

In the last three years Esqueping council (since the fall of 1969, when the holding by-law went into force) repeatedly turned down applications for change of land use, until the official plan and zoning bylaw was in effect.

Blair Davis, of Windland Associates, a firm of engineers and planners, told council Acton Legion has obtained

the approvals from Acton council.

"Due to mortgage difficulties for the Legion hall the Legion decided to establish a small 29 lot subdivision on lots which can be serviced with water and sewage from Acton," explained Mr. Davis.

He said the Ontario Ministry of Housing is willing to approve if Esqueping, now Halton Hills approves. "The problem is that Esqueping's plan does not allow it," Mr. Davis remarked.

Councillor Les Dudy explained that the area within Acton is zoned R2, and the houses are planned to be R2. "It is a tremendous facility

the Legion is planning, facing right on the lake, and it would be a benefit to everyone in Halton Hills."

Chairman Roy Booth suggested giving approval to the lots lying within Acton, so that the Legion could obtain financing. The remainder could go through an application for amendment at a later date, he stated.

"Why is it so difficult to get an amendment," asked Councillor Ric Morrow.

Planner Mario Venditti pointed out Esqueping allowed no small lots.

"Now we are one town Halton Hills, surely the province who created it could find a

way to overcome this," replied Morrow.

Councillor Dick Howitt warned the committee the granting of this request would open up the flood gates to more than 25 applications made last year which were rejected.

"If we can't cope with this kind of adjustment, under regional government, something is wrong," commented Dudy.

Mr. Davis said he had prepared a draft official plan amendment adding a designation not covered in Esqueping's plan. The designation would be serviced residential development.

Chairman Roy Booth said there were numerous other places in Halton Hills where agricultural land abutted towns and could be serviced from the towns. "That would mean everybody could apply, if we open that door we'd be flooded with applications."

"South of Hungry Hollow for instance," interrupted Morrow.

Planner Venditti said the town would eventually have to come to terms with "here urban and across the way rural."

The committee recommended the approval in principle a plan of subdivision for lots 1 to 8 and 19 to 27, which lie within the Acton planning area, with the remainder to go through the normal channels used when an amendment is necessary.

"This will help alleviate the financial difficulties anyway," commented chairman Roy Booth.



**ACTON HIGH** students serving as volunteers with the two Acton public schools are the vanguards for a similar program soon to be presented to the parents. Sandy Holmes, 14, of Wallace Street is a young student who "loves kids". She is seen working with Robbie Price, 5, showing animals and describing them she asks questions and encourages Robbie to discuss what he sees. See inside for the story on parent volunteers.

## Reject levy Region borrows

Halton Regional Treasurer Don Farmer will have to go to the bank to borrow funds to finance the current operation of the region.

Regional Council rejected a by-law that would have authorized the treasurer to levy municipalities on an assessment basis.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett led the campaign to have the by-law defeated. He argued that municipalities should pay for the benefit they receive, rather than on an assessment basis.

As yet the regional council has not come to grips with the

problem of how to finance projects the region undertakes.

Cost \$70,000

Farmer said that if he was to raise money from the municipalities, he had no alternative but to do it on an assessment basis. He said if he had to go to the bank for interim financing it would cost the region about \$70,000 in two months.

Barrett claimed that if the region raised interim financing on an assessment basis, that would be the first step to permanent financing on that basis.

Oakville representatives oppose financing the region on an assessment basis because they feel it would be unfair to Oakville. Oakville's assessment ratio is more favorable than Burlington's.

Barrett claimed no municipality should be allowed to expand at the expense of the region. He claimed that if services were provided at the expense of each municipality, the municipalities could expand at the rate chosen and the rate each area was willing and able to pay.

Oakville Councillor MacLean Anderson urged the council to defeat the by-law and develop a policy. "We're like a rudderless ship but-

ting in every direction," he suggested.

Burlington Councillor Jack Raftis asked Farmer to come back with a report on the matter for the next meeting.

"I don't know what I could tell you that I haven't already said," Farmer explained.

"I wanna get this passed and you better tell them something," Raftis shouted.

If the by-law had been passed Burlington would have to pay \$1,972,161 or 41.8 per cent of the interim levy.

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## Crash victims improving

Two victims of a two-car crash remain in the Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, the Acton girl, Deborah Oakley, is in intensive care with severe head injuries possibly requiring more plastic surgery. The other, only recently released from intensive care.

The accident which occurred at the corner of the Third Line and Five Sideroad of Milton, on the afternoon of Sat., Mar. 6, sent four passengers in the '67 Mustang driven by Alex Smith, 16, of Prince St., Milton, to the Milton hospital.

Released were Selina Schmidt, 13, Eden Mills, and Alex Smith, driver of the vehicle. Moved from intensive care was Alden Beck, 17, of 235 Ontario St., Milton.

Presently remaining in intensive care in the Joseph Brant Hospital, Deborah Oakley, 12, of 4 Mill St., Acton, is improving to the extent her parents hope to have her transferred to a hospital in Guelph, where she will be skiing home.

## Thermometer rises on Lions campaign

The latest reading on the Lions thermometer located at their pool headquarters on Mill Street shows a slow increase.

**Award**

The grandson of Mrs. Doris Fryer received special acclaim recently.

Kenneth McLeod of the 129th scout group received the Chief Scout Award at the annual father and son banquet held at St. Crispin's church hall on Feb. 22.

Area Commissioner of Scarborough south presented the award to a scout of outstanding ability.

Resident collections have risen from \$1,500 of Feb. 20, to \$4,300 according to canvass campaign manager Vic Bristol. Vic says few of the returns have come in and marks the thermometer at the \$89,000 level.

The Lions continue to be enthusiastic at the response of the door to door canvass with many residents making pledges and giving generously.

"Watch the graph and step into headquarters and talk," says Lion Bristol who says the campaign will continue until every resident has been contacted.

## Seniors slighted

Eleven Golden Age club members accepted the invitation recently of the Acton Chamber of Commerce to attend a dinner at the Acton Meadows Golf course.

Those attending expressed concern that, in explaining the policy of regional government based on problems now being faced in making the system work, certain issues were avoided.

The Golden Age club members felt that somehow the needs of senior citizens regarding nursing homes and more senior citizens' housing was not mentioned in the priorities.

"The emphasis seems to be more on the younger generation," was the consensus of those attending who felt that members of the regional council presenting their policies were lax in ignoring the problems of an important segment of the Acton population.

## Group discouraged Smoking encouraged by school facilities

A recent report from the chairman of the local central region Canadian Cancer Society campaign indicates the committee feels that attempting to dissuade high school students from smoking is an almost lost cause.

"We have interested the biology teacher and a few

others in curbing the smoking," reads the report, "but with a room set aside for this purpose, it is most difficult to dissuade students. We have some enthusiastic supporters of a "thank you for not smoking" campaign amongst the staff at Acton high school, but still feel if

## Two charged

An 18-year-old Georgetown youth and a 22-year-old Acton man were charged with abduction of two underage girls, as a result of a complaint laid by the parents.

The girls were reported missing by their parents Tuesday Feb. 26, and were located Thursday, in Acton, by Constable Bruce McArthur of Acton O.P.P.

Police report the girls attended a party with the two men and did not return home.



Skier Kris Lindvik and pal Kormit

## Acton skier leads U.S. competition

An Acton district girl won acclaim recently when she won out in racing competitions held at the Smuggler's Notch ski area in Vermont, U.S.A., and is a leader in the race to qualify for the Schlitz-Nastar finals to be held at Sun Valley, Idaho on March 29 and 30.

According to World Wide Ski Corp., which manages the national standard race series, Kris Lindvik, 19, of R.R. 2, Acton, is the choice for the ladies 19 to 29 age group for the Northeastern region of the U.S.A.

Divided by age and region, finalists numbering 30 men and 30 women will be selected from over 70,000 participants. The Nastar skiers with the lowest handicap scores in each category are selected for the Schlitz event, with final selections to be made on March 18.

A preliminary tabulation shows that Kris has a handicap score of 20. If she maintains her lead she will be one of the finalists competing for coveted awards in their respective classes hosted by Schlitz at Sun Valley.

Competitive racing is not a new game for the Acton girl. She comes from a skiing family where weekend jaunts with her father, mother, and two sisters is a way of life. Her father, Gunnar Lindvik, is a Norwegian skier who has encouraged all three of his daughters to enjoy the art of skiing well. Kris has been on skis since she was five; participating in racing competitions since about eight.

She and her family have spent many winter leisure hours on the hills of ski clubs in Burlington and Orangeville. For the past eight years they have been members of the Alpine Club in Collingwood.

Slalom

Both Kris and her older sister Beth, 20, have been ardent competitors in zone racing. They have represented the southern

Ontario ski team participating in the Pontiac cup races. In 1970 Beth represented Ontario at the Canada Games held in Saskatoon.

For Kris, her specialty has always been in giant slalom. In 1970 Beth covered the ski picture in many areas across Canada and is considered one of the top contenders in her class. The skier says that, for the last year or so she has not extended herself to racing as she did at one time.

Today the young athlete says she is virtually retiring from racing. At 19 she finds herself more interested in casual skiing "just for the fun of it." She found the demands of team competition affecting her ability and, two years ago, took time off to fly her own wings as a free lance skier. "Just to prove to myself that, without pressure I could do better!"

And she did. For one whole year she saw her skiing improve and enjoyed the game as opposed to finding it a rigorous sport. At the present she spends much of her skiing time coaching club kids at Alpine.

Horses also

Recently enrolled in a Sheridan college social services course, Kris is kept busy. This year she raced for Sheridan in the Ontario College Athletic Association (O.C.A.A.) races and romped through with ease.

She modestly tells that her entry in the Nastar competition was a spur of the moment venture. When the school team went to the States for a training camp session, sometime in January, she just entered the race for fun.

An all-round athlete, Kris is a competitor by nature. The Lindvik family moved into the Acton district from Oakville approximately a year ago and, as a former member of the Junior Canadian Equestrian team, she competes, also, as a top Ontario horsewoman.