



Regional Councillor 'Pat' McKenzie

# Views differ on first year

Acton's three representatives to area and regional councils are just completing their first demanding year in office. How do they feel about regional government now? The Free Press has asked the same set of questions of each councillor, in a special New Year's "round up". G. W. McKenzie, the retired former principal of the Robert Little school, represents Acton on regional council. He also sits on Halton Hills council and is chairman of the finance committee. Les DUBY, the former mayor of Acton, sits on Halton Hills administration committee, while former Acton clerk-administrator

Joe Hurst sits on the works committee. The interview with these three men begins in this week's issue, and will be concluded next week. The men reply in alphabetical order. + + + What has been the most outstanding success of regional government? DUBY: The only success to date must be provincial in character. The province has succeeded in having its way with municipal reform; and after only one year, we at the new area government level, are simply embroiled in long range planning and interim decision making, as we feel our way under the new ad-

ministrative concept. Hurst: The outstanding success to date has been the holding of the mill rate at a reasonable level. McKenzie: Our former system of Municipal Government with a council in every township, village and town and a County Council to control some of the needs that concerned everyone had been in effect for 100 years. It needed updating. Some Counties are re-structuring their local government (Oxford County and the city of Woodstock) and others are accepting Regional Government as we did. Success in a major change cannot be measured in one or



Councillor Joe Hurst



Councillor Les DUBY

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# The Acton Free Press

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## Goal reached

The Acton high school Outers club have ceased their monthly paper and bottle drives. The group had been operating a newspaper and glass recycling project in the town for the past year and a half. During this time, the commitment of local citizens to the program has been the key to its success, and the club wishes to thank all those who have participated in this project.

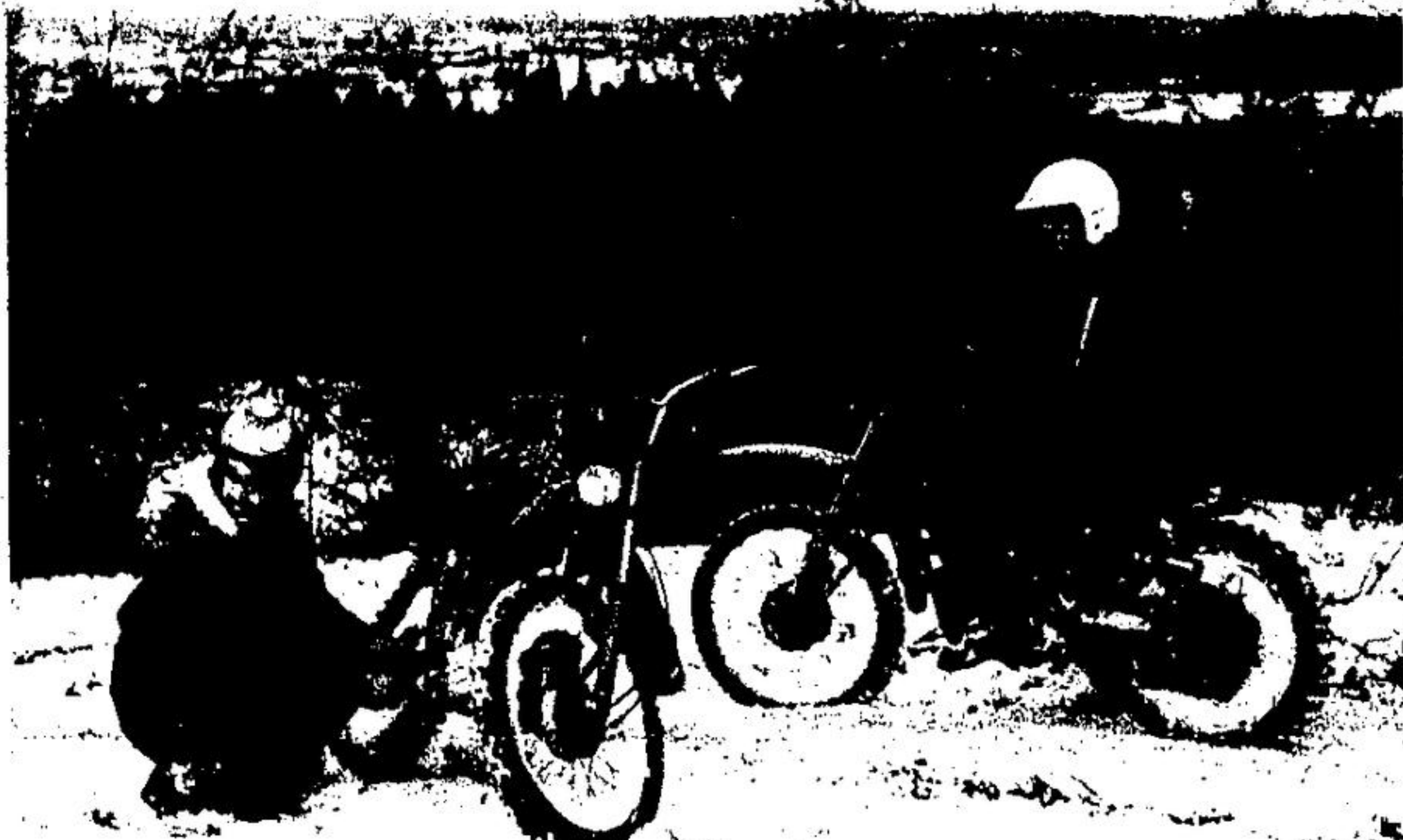
Equipment purchased Glass and paper drives have been used by a number of groups as fund raising projects and the development

of the Outers' program at the local school required equipment purchases. This need led to the adoption of the recycling program as initiated by Keith Black and his geography students. During the past year and a half, the Outers have purchased about \$5,000 worth of outdoor equipment, therefore their initial objective has been fulfilled.

Community response has increased steadily within the duration of the program. The tonnage of glass and paper was sufficient at the December drive to keep the crew of Outers working to 11 p.m. Regrettably, the success of this program has led to a situation which can no longer be handled by the relatively small group of students involved.

The Outers, therefore, are cancelling all further paper and glass collections. They sincerely hope that any persons or group interested in continuing this community service project, which yields approximately \$300 per month, will take up the project. Information concerning markets, prices and other

details is available from any member of the Outers. The Outers would particularly like to thank people who have contributed significantly to this recycling program. Dave Dills for the use of his truck, bundlers and scrap paper, Ben Larsen for the use of a storage area for glass and L. O. Johnston and Alan Tremills, each for storage area for paper.



BRIAN OLSEN and Brent McNiven take a breather from riding their bikes through snowy fields and take a look at the view of Acton in the background.

# Outers end drives

## Actonians sleep as sirens sound

No one was injured in a Christmas morning fire in lot 27 concession road 2 Nassagaweya at 9 a.m. The chimney fire caused no damage.

A Toronto man, Percy Hughes, 71, of Glendennan Ave., suffered what was believed a stroke or heart attack at the community centre Friday afternoon. Firefighters were called with a resuscitator.

## No rent for hearing

Halton Hills council chamber will be available to the Ontario Highway Transport Board for a hearing with no rental charges asked.

## Chairman steps down

Bill Priestner, a charter member of the Halton Board of Education and board chairman for two years, will not stand for re-election when the board holds its inaugural meeting Jan. 9.

## Dies at arena

Percy Hughes, 71, of Glendennan Ave., Toronto, died Friday afternoon after suffering what believed was a stroke in the parking lot of Acton's Community Centre.

## St. Joseph's broken into

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church was broken into between 1 and 7 a.m. Christmas morning, according to Ontario Provincial Police here.

## Three digits for regional roads?

The confusion of different road numbers for local roads and regional roads could be eliminated if a suggestion made by Halton Hills finance committee is implemented.

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## Holiday accidents

No one was injured in a two car collision on Queen St., Dec. 24 at 2:30 p.m. Warren Craig of R.R. 4, Brampton, was driving the vehicle which was in collision with a vehicle driven by William Knight of R.R. 2, Acton.

## New baby female a Christmas bundle

The only Christmas baby born at Guelph General Hospital to an Acton or district parent, was a daughter to Mrs. Vesna Mance of 203 Main St. N., Rockwood. She gave birth to a 3856 gm. or eight lb., eight oz. girl at 5:53 Christmas morning. No Acton babies were born at Christmas.

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# Death for hybrids just "freeloaders"

By Peter McCusker Hybrid waterfowl in Acton's Fairy Lake will be destroyed when a Conservation Authority official arrives to designate which waterfowl are the hybrids. "The hybrid birds don't know enough to fly south and they're freeloaders," says Harold Townsley, Acton Community Centre manager. The reason the hybrid fowl must be destroyed is because of their human dependence. Wildlife biologist D. G. Dennis of the Canadian Wildlife Service Environment Canada, has said, "Our service does not favor the overwintering of wild waterfowl with man's assistance at Ontario latitudes. The reasons are simply that once a migration tradition becomes disrupted, man becomes responsible for the maintenance of the original birds and their descendants that have never learned to migrate." So some of the birds at Fairy Lake must go. Wild waterfowl at the lake were introduced in July 1971 when Earl J. Brears, an Acton high school teacher, and a group of students, began the project with wild mallards, wood ducks, and seven Canada geese which had wings clipped. With wings clipped, the wild waterfowl couldn't migrate the first winter. Problem "But somebody from time to time would pop a domesticated white farm duck into the lake," said Esther Taylor of Main St. The inter-breeding of the white farm ducks and the wild waterfowl produced a number of hybrids of which eight or ten are known. Another problem with the lake fowl is the easy access to feed. Mr. Townsley said, "These birds aren't stupid, they know where the food is." The birds are fed in the morning required amounts stated by biologist Dennis. The large birds

are fed one half to three quarters of a pound of corn, and the ducks receive one quarter pound daily. Mr. Townsley said they are fed each morning. But the other main feeder of the waterfowl, Esther Taylor, said she adds 20 lbs. of her own feed daily for the birds. She said she feeds the birds twice daily, in the morning and in the evening around five o'clock. Miss Taylor said that in the morning, she includes 10 lbs. of her own corn and two loaves of bread and in the evening she distributes 20 lbs. of the town's and another 10 lbs. of her own. She admits it costs her \$50 a month for the feed and the only reason she is buying the feed is "because I suspect there would be a squawk about the feed bill." "The way I have to ask for it you'd think I'm eating it. At times they wouldn't get fed," Miss Taylor declares. "If they're hungry they eat like hell, and I don't blame them," she said. Fat ducks Mr. Townsley said he thinks they should have discontinued the feed in the fall so the birds would migrate. He said the birds are fat and some Mallards weigh as much as 12 lbs. Biologist D. G. Dennis stated, "A waterfowl will consume several times the amount of food they actually require to maintain themselves in good condition." Are the birds at the lake overfed? It depends on the number around at feeding time. Esther Taylor said that there are close to 200 birds in the evening and Mr. Townsley quoted the number of birds ranging from 100 to 150. "It's hard to tell because they're spread out so far," he said. Miss Taylor questioned the destruction of the hybrids during the winter but Townsley said the birds mated in the spring so the time to get rid of the hybrids is now. This supports the winter works slogan, "Why wait for Spring, do it now." Miss Taylor considers the danger of the hybrids a remote one because they don't fly and they weren't very successful in nesting this spring. "I only want to see the poor ducks make it through the winter," she said. They can't go now; it's past the migratory season. "In other places as well as in Acton, Canadian geese are changing their migrating habits. If they can get food here, why the hell go south and face American guns?" she asked.



"THE HYBRIDS don't know enough to fly south and they're freeloaders," said Harold Townsley, arena manager. The blond duck may be one of the controversial hybrids.



OOM-PA-PA, Jim Coles and Barry Buchanan played the sousaphone and tuba back stage during the annual concert at Acton High School.