

Actonians attack the region rule and its representation

By Peter McCusker
A year has passed since the civic marriage of rival towns into the regional municipality of Halton Hills.

After one year of regional government, Actonians have developed varying opinions of the system. It takes time for any governmental system to work and in the new field of regionalization, the bugs haven't yet been exterminated.

The Free Press questioned people as to their reactions of the past year under regional rule.

Wayne Moss of Mill St. said a greater time is taken for decision making, which is a disadvantage, and there seems to be a lack of concern for Actonians. "Acton's getting the short end of the stick," he said.

He said the government can't forget or neglect things while the problems of regional government are being ironed out. "As organizations grow, they become inefficient because there are more people and more jobs to be done. They have to spread themselves too thin," said Moss.

"Maybe we had it too good for too many years and were spoiled by it," he said. Moss cited examples of street sweeping and snow removal as degenerated public works and services.

Ben Rachlin of Mill St. said, "I am not happy about my immediate reaction. It may eventually prove beneficial but at the moment I feel we are losing our identity."

Hugh O'Rourke of John St.,

said that the system hasn't worked as it should have worked in our area. "The three men are not giving us representation."

When asked if Acton should be returned to its own governing system, O'Rourke said, "We'd be better off the way things stand now. We were doing good before but now it costs us more money."

"There's too much bickering going on between the two areas and they're just holding everything back," he said.

Bert Hinton of Lake Ave., said he believes in the concept of regional government. "I think councils should be given the time to make things work. There are unquestionably many things that are being done that would be done differently in the light of experience," he said.

Hinton added that "People who never make mistakes are people who don't experience from them. We all learn from the experience." When asked his opinion of Acton returning to its own government, Mr. Hinton said that it was too late to go back so let's make what we've got work.

Bill Coats of Young St. said, "basically it needs more time to work out. They're not at the stage people expect them to be at."

Susan Mills of Roseford Terrace said that she doesn't like the regional government and she wished that it was back to what it was. "When you hear of Halton Hills you never hear of Esqueving, it's always Georgetown."

Maureen Gerth of Elizabeth Dr. said that she doesn't

like the regional system either and cited the example of snow removal and that "Georgetown gets all the ploughs before Acton does, everything's headed in Georgetown."

Bob Drinkwater of Churchill Rd. said that council tended to lose contact with the public and will continue to do so into the next year. Mr. Drinkwater said that the people of wards one and two were fortunate to have people like Les Duby, Joe Hurst, and Pat McKenzie on council this past year.

"I think it's important to have a contact with the public," Mr. Drinkwater said. People have to feel a part of the country, province, or area.

Mr. Drinkwater said that he has no big qualms with the past year's regional council except that he said he feels the "salaries are out-of-line." He said salaries before were around \$500 to \$800 and now are up to \$9000 to \$12,000, which he said was "quite a spread." This year will tell us what time involved will be required, working for the government, he said. "Anyone could make it a full time job if they wanted to."

On the topic of services, Mr. Drinkwater said that he has not much complaint about services because the works crews had trouble to start but are improving and getting everything together.

Peter Marks of Tidy Ave. said he was quite impressed with this year's first regional council and that he didn't expect them to gel in the first

year of service.

He praised council for holding down the tax increase and noted that, "people received a modest tax increase." "We haven't lost anything and gained the groundwork for better services," he said.

Mrs. Diane Spielvogel of Bower Ave. said that she couldn't comment on this past year of regional government because she becomes extremely upset.

She said that she would like to see Acton return to its old form of self government. She noted that she thought the concept of regional government was good and could work, however, "you have to have people who think of the area as a whole."

"Most of the time on any situation we will do what Georgetown has done before," she said. "Even to the number of times the recreation committee meets a month."

She told the Free Press, "I don't think that any councillors or elected members knew what they were getting into. I don't think they have progressed to the point where they think of the regional area as a whole."

"It was a bad choice to put us together in the first place," Mrs. Spielvogel said.

She said, "It cost us more money for what? We haven't gained anything for the money we've spent on regional government this year, in this area that we wouldn't have had other than a bigger tax bill."



POOR OLD SANTA takes a rest in his office at the north pole after making Christmas deliveries around the world. He said that he will take a month's vacation and visit his helper elves in the Bahamas and then begin on next year's toy supply.

Pet of the week



Lynn Nielsen rescued her pet rat from being destroyed at the conclusion of a psychology program at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, last year.

The rat, named Methuselah, eats sunflower seeds and Harvest Crunch "because it won't eat hamster pellets", said Miss Nielsen. She said Methuselah isn't harmful but some rats at the course were vicious.

The name Methuselah was

From dump to parkland

The old Georgetown landfill site, now filled in, will have trees growing on the slopes running down to the Credit River.

The Boy Scouts in town have taken over the job as a project for the town.

Councillor Ern Hyde said this land is slated to be a park, and pointed out trees all over the place would make it difficult for football or baseball.

Councillor Roy Booth explained the trees would be planted on the slopes to prevent erosion, leaving the flatland clear for any type of recreation. He said the Credit Valley Conservation Authority would be acting as advisers.

Vote finishes Kodak strike

Kodak, Brampton, workers got their Christmas present a day early this year as a membership vote on December 23 ended their two month old strike.

The Kodak plant, where many Halton Hills residents are employed, had been strikebound since November 6. A tentative agreement was hammered out on December 22 and the membership ratified the negotiations agreement the next evening.

It had been the first strike at Kodak in 75 years.

May need liquor plebiscite in area

About 300 former residents of the Township of Esqueving, now in the Town of Milton, may be called on to decide whether they favor legalizing the serving of liquor in the area. A plebiscite could be necessary because the chalet restaurant on Highway 25 has made application for a liquor licence to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages with meals and the former township has always been considered "dry."

A plebiscite is necessary for municipality to change from "dry" to "wet."

Although the southern part of the township has been allied with Milton by regional government boundary lines it apparently does not make it legal to serve liquor. Milton voted for the measure in 1971 but the Liquor Licence Board

Final cash for dam

A provincial grant in the amount of \$3,977.77 has been forwarded to the Halton Region Conservation Authority for the completion of the Scotch Block dam and reservoir project. The payment represents the final grant for the completion of the project which is located below Speyside on the Niagara Escarpment.

The dam and reservoir involved the acquisition of considerable land and the construction of a unique dam about 45 feet high and 500 feet long across the middle branch of the Sixteen Mile Creek. The dam has an inflatable rubber barrier which can be reduced or inflated to suit the water depth.

Town okays self serve

The two year ban on any more self-serve gas stations went by the board, Monday night, when Halton Hills council voted 8-5 to allow the Texaco station, next to the Dairy Queen on Guelph Street, to become a self-serve outlet.

The station must continue to operate the service bays as a condition of converting to self-serve pumps.

Last week J. D. Gibson, of Texaco Canada Ltd., emphasized his company would make few structural changes and would continue to operate the service area with qualified mechanics.

He said a kiosk with a monitoring booth would be built. He claimed the only way to assess self-serve stations properly was to have a comparison between stations with and without service bays. He claimed service stations have a problem finding help.

Councillor Ric Morrow said the two year moratorium had been decided when there was no pressure from applicants. "We were objective and decided the best way to serve the town was to have a two year period to assess the impact of self serve stations."

Morrow commented, "immediately upon the first application council bends to the oil company's wishes."

Councillor Ern Hyde pointed out the planning board voted to allow the self serve station and said there had been ample discussion. "The majority was only one in favor of the self serve station at planning board and the majority was three in favor of the two year ban," retorted Councillor Roy Booth.

Councillor Ern Sykes

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our wishes for you on this New Year are simple: may each day bring you an extra measure of happiness. Many thanks for your loyalty.

Caroline Nurseries Garden Centre and Flower Shop
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HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish you a bright successful year!

ACTON DELICATESSEN



IT'S TIME for new calendars and Goy Transport continues its bird series once again this year. Janet Goy hangs one of the calendars in the Goy Transport office on Highway No. 7.

Bus service figures up

The Chamber of Commerce Christmas bus service was successful in carrying 50 more people a day over last year's figures. The total reached 1655 compared to 1377 of 1973.

Ted Tyler Jr. of Tyler Bus Lines said that the most popular route was route two in the Bovis subdivision, around the hours of 11.20 a.m. which moved a total 111 people at this time over the 11 days of operation.

The next most popular was the Glenlea route one at 1 p.m. which carried a total 106

and Lakeview subdivision ran third with late afternoon shoppers carrying 104 during the 3.40 drive.

Mr. Tyler said he felt the turnout was good despite the short warning.

"150 people a day downtown isn't bad going," he said.

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Toyota Community Calendar

What's doing in the North Halton Area!

OUTDOOR FUN

The three free outdoor ice surfaces in Acton are now in use so be sure to use these rinks for exercise and fun.

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Happy New Year

We'll be thinking of you as the old year passes into history and the New Year arrives. Celebrate with someone you love and accept our best wishes now and always!

It's time to live it up a bit and celebrate the beginning of a wonderful New Year!

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Wed. 1

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