


# Area, regional councillors state views on main issues

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This week the Free Press continues the question and answer session with Acton's three representatives on area and regional councils. The questions began last week.

Pat McKenzie is regional councillor, Joe Hurst and Les Doby are area councillors.

**21. Why have we now once-a-week garbage collection when we formerly had twice a week?**

Doby: Once a week garbage collection during the winter months would have had to deal with under the old system when you consider the number of work staff we had and the hours involved in twice a week collection. This is a matter of economics.

In cool weather we can accumulate more waste, if properly bagged and bundled, sparing men and equipment for the heavy winter maintenance requirements.

Hurst: A small municipality enjoys many amenities. When a town reaches a certain size, multiple garbage collection becomes simply a matter of economics. Prior to my retirement as Clerk-Administrator, the Council of the Town of Acton considered the probability of the necessity of once-a-week collection during the winter months. We will continue to have twice-a-week collection during the summer months.

McKenzie: Is this question implying that if the former Town of Acton was still in operation that we would be having garbage collections twice a week during winter months? It is simply a question of economics.

Last year Acton was approaching a point that, to maintain garbage collection twice a week in the winter months when there are so many other demands on staff and equipment, additional staff would have had to be hired. If this is what the majority of citizens want now we can provide the service by increasing staff and purchasing additional equipment.

Granted there is some inconvenience and an adjustment to make but with rising costs in equipment and wages I believe that most people will accept council's decision. Since it is on a charge back basis Ward I could have it changed if the majority so desire.

**22. Our town office staff has been cut, with Lorna Clarke and Doris Townsley the only staff there now. Can you see more administration**

returning to Acton in the future?

Doby: I will always insist on the need for a sub-office in Acton. It is a requirement, if only from the standpoint of good public relations in this urban community. There will not be a return of administration to Acton, but perhaps more staff located here.

Already added to Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Townsley are the Fire Chief and the Recreation Program Co-ordinator.

McKenzie: Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Townsley are part of the Treasury Department with the rest working temporarily out of Ward III. Fire Chief M. Holmes has his office in Acton and in the new year the Recreation co-ordinator for Wards I and II will have an office here.

However it is not very efficient to have staff operating, as we do now, from six different locations. Eventually I would expect the Town Council to select a central location, build adequate facilities and dispose of some of the properties that we now use.

**23. Should our hydro commission go regional next?**

Doby: Regional - NO! Eventually it would make sense to amalgamate the two commissions in Halton Hills, but retain the office and hydro works yard to service this community as we should have done with our former

town works department and works yard. The facilities are here -- why should they be made dormant?

Hurst: I do not think that time is of the essence in the regionalization of Hydro Commissions.

McKenzie: Since I have not been involved with this phase of government or service to the community I feel that I have no right to comment, except to say that I believe that the local commissioners operate a very efficient unit and render a good economical service to Ward I.

**24. Do you think there is any chance the two alternate dump sites just north of Acton would be chosen for the regional dump?**

Doby: This would not make any sense.

If we are so hell bent on centralizing everything, why not a final decision on a central location for our garbage, for economic reasons if for no other.

We all make garbage -- nobody wants it! Let's face up to the responsibility and get the problem solved one way or another. Whether we make it a recoverable urban ore, bury it, or burn it.

Hurst: I have no inside information on the final choice of dump sites. I know that, as long as we produce raw garbage, we will have to dispose of it in our own "back yard". No one else wants or will accept our refuse.

McKenzie: No! Do you?

**25. Would you comment on anything in which you have a special interest - wildlife at the park, small trees at the cemetery, playground equipment, later snowplowing etc.**

Later Snowplowing: I received complaints in 1973 as did other councillors. No matter how you approach the problem someone will be last and consequently unhappy. I do know that during the storm last week the plows were out at three a.m. and the downtown area was clean before seven a.m. If some area has a problem please call, for the staff is anxious to be a good job.

Playground Equipment: I support the concept of having playground equipment in parks and at schools for the children's enjoyment. The Recreation Department have a program and a plan but it takes a few years to equip all areas. Give them time.

Works Yards: At present we have three yards for housing and storing equipment. The yard in Ward I presently is housing the snowplows and other equipment used in the Acton area. If we develop the concept of one central yard then we'll have two yards that can be used for other needs of the town.

**26. How many hours a week do you spend at meetings? Do you feel citizen committees as we had before would be better sharing the load (planning board, parks and recreation, museum).**

Doby: My experience to date has been two or three meetings a week normally from 7-7.30 to undetermined hours. I am still involved on the Hydro Commission and respond to many telephone calls concerning town matters during my 8:30 5 work-a-day job, and at all hours at my home.

While it is contrary to Provincial decree, I still support citizen involvement and participation on special boards you mention. Being mostly voluntary, I feel there was no need for the elimination of such boards. While they did not reduce the work load of the decision making at council level, the citizen input did help in making more constructive, acceptable decisions supported by this additional in depth information.

Hurst: (a) I have no record of the hours I spend at meetings, and I do not think that such a record would, in itself, have any significance. There is much more to a councillor's work than attendance at meetings.

(b) I have commented on citizen committees elsewhere.

McKenzie: It varies but on an average I attend from six to eight meetings a week, which means from 30 to 40 hours. However this is a very small part of your work. You have to prepare for meetings, help people with individual problems and concerns (I have had calls from every ward in Halton Hills) and take time to deal with telephone calls and mail.

I enjoy helping people and welcome requests for assistance. One thing I have learned this year that it would be humanly impossible for me to do what I am presently doing at the regional and area level and continue to work at school on a full time basis.

of our CENTENNIAL LIBRARY, and CONTINUED REPRESENTATION OF ACTON MEMBERS ON THE LIBRARY BOARD. My concern must be total as it applies to Acton -- Ward I.

Since you have mentioned two or three specific items in your question, I will comment thus: If we are going to sponsor wild life in our park and Fairy Lake area, we inherit the moral responsibility to see they are properly cared for. This also makes it a park for quiet recreation, as the fowl are a delight to local citizens and all who visit here. The lake area is not compatible with the operation of power boats of ski-doo's.

Small trees at the cemetery -- you are referring to the reconstruction of some of the perimeter. Who is to say that small trees won't prove the best trees in the long run?

Playground equipment in my view is adequate, and effectively located, lacking any better proposals.

No comment on snow plowing until we have had sufficient snow from a storm to test the new service.

Hurst: Time and space does not allow for proper comments to this multi-part question.

McKenzie: Anything that affects Ward I interest me although some other committee may bring recommendations to council.

Wild Life at Park: Affords much pleasure to people of community and will continue to promote and maintain it.

Small Trees at Cemetery: If this refers to the agreement between the builders and the town may I just say that we have not accepted their recommendation. I would expect them to honour their agreement with the town and plant trees to our specifications.

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**27. Will you comment on the particular work of your committee?**

For Pat: would you comment on your work with regional council?

Doby: For the most part of 1974 planning was a responsibility of the Administration Committee, which is my committee responsibility. Planning has now been placed at the council level, since legislation calls for the whole council to be its own subsidiary planning board to the Region. This leaves me involved with only recreation and fire matters at the committee level, at the present time.

I can only say there is great imbalance to the committee responsibilities and this should be adjusted as time goes on.

Hurst: The 1974 Works Committee program was not fully completed due to the late finalization of the budget. It is hoped that, in 1975, we will complete the full program as recommended by the Committee and approved by Council.

McKenzie: Many people will know that I have been Chairman of the Finance and Personnel Committee in Halton Hills and more recently a member of the Planning Committee of Council and at the Region I have been a member of Planning and Administration and Finance. Besides these regular committees I have served on several special committees at the Region and local level.

The Finance and Personnel Committee have worked long hours and accomplished many important functions for Halton Hills. We finally produced a responsible budget which has been extremely well controlled by our Treasurer Harry Henderson; we negotiated a CUPE agreement for Halton Hills; revised many, many former by-laws and worked on a Personnel By-law for staff. Since the committees do not change in 1975 I feel that we will make even better progress in the new year.

At the Regional level we have developed Interim Planning Policies which have been recently reviewed by area councils. A revised form should become our guide in Planning while permanent policies are developed in the next two years. At the Region, Finance and Administration has been very demanding with a Personnel by-law still to be established in the new year.

**28. Is there a lack of communication between Acton people and the new departments such as new, planning and recreation?**

Are people getting their wants through to council and the new departments in Georgetown?

Doby: While it is not as convenient as before, the departments are still there, and if people will insist, they can still communicate. Their representatives on council are also available to assist in communication or advice. That is what we are there for. Results cannot be as immediate as they were prior to Jan. 1, 1974 and this we all understand.

Hurst: Whenever a major change is made in administrations, proper communications will certainly be affected to some extent. I admit there have been and still are problems. While I look forward to a steady improvement, I can foresee difficulties until all of our administration departments are under one roof.

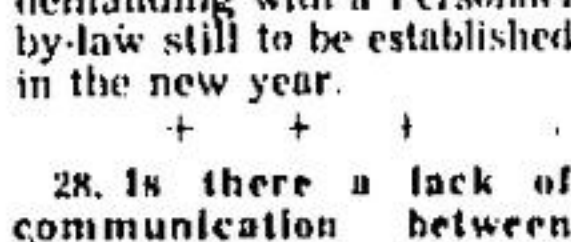
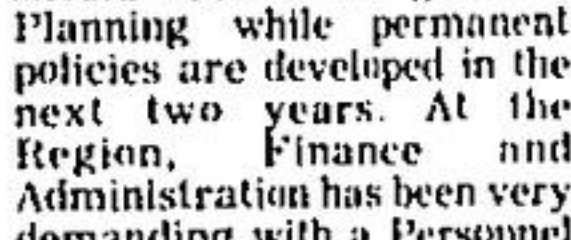
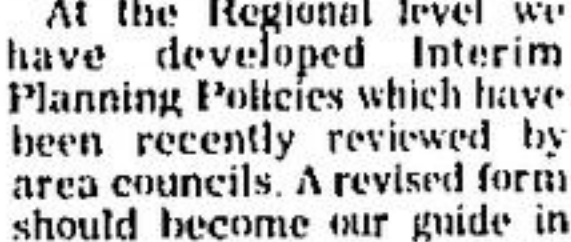
McKenzie: Your question implies that all the administration facilities are now located in Georgetown. This is simply not true.

I enjoy helping people with problems and feel that it is part of my responsibility to our community. I don't profess to have all the answers but I do know where to find them.

DEPARTMENT	LOCATION
Fire	Acton
Finance	Georgetown
Administration	and Acton
Planning	Essex
Public Works	Georgetown
Recreation	Georgetown

DEPARTMENT HEAD
Chief M. Holmes
Harry Henderson
Doug Pritchard
Mario Vesuditt
Peter Morra
Doug Collison

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Tours of the Pool will be conducted between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

