

# Acton have own council again? 'Why not?' — Liberal leader Nixon

Opposition leader Robert Nixon agrees with Acton residents that regional government has taken away the identity of small towns.

He told the Free Press during an exclusive interview here Friday, that it was no longer possible to air beefs to your mayor or councillors on the street or at social functions as before, because you seldom see them.

When asked if it would ever be possible for Acton to get its own council back, Mr. Nixon simply replied, "Why not?"

He pointed out that regional government is here for good, but he feels there should be more emphasis on the lower tier of the two tier system. He would like to replace some of the identity in small towns that regional government took away.

## Hydro lines

Mr. Nixon is well aware of the problems of hydro lines running through private property, as he has towers sitting on his farm near St. George.

"However, I like my beer cold, and my television colored, so I know the hydro line has to go somewhere." He said "No matter where you are going to put it, people will object."

He admitted that when you are on top of a pile of hay baling, "the lines seem pretty close," and some of his farm equipment gets caught in the bottom of the tower. He also remarked on the weeds and grass around and under the tower, which you cannot get at.

"It causes an unsightly mess."

He told this paper that he also has a main imperial oil pipe line running through his property, railway tracks, and a highway.

He emphasized that the pipeline does in no way hamper his farming, plowing, or irrigations. "The pipe is eight feet under, even if building a foundation for a silo, the pipe would not interfere with the work."

In Acton with Mr. Nixon were Liberal party executive director Jim Cooper, Toronto, and district executive director Suzanne White, policy chairman for Halton and Halton East David Butler, and federal MP Dr. Frank Philbrook.

The day-long tour of Halton included a call on Milton Mayor Ann McArthur and attending a Liberal dance at Norval in the evening.



MY FATHER always voted for your father, Lynda McDonald told Liberal leader Robert Nixon during his half-hour visit to Acton Friday. Mr. Nixon's father was Ontario premier in 1943, and his son took over his seat after the father's death in 1962. Doris Ella (left) also met Mr. Nixon when he toured the Free Press.



ACTON ONTARIO Provincial Police were named Citizens of the Year at a Chamber of Commerce meeting on Monday evening. Cpl. Bob Ar-

bour, Susan O'Shea, clerk, and Const. Bruce McArthur were on hand yesterday to celebrate, the rest of the detachment was on duty.

## Local police named Citizens of the Year

The Acton detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police have been named Citizens of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce executive.

The announcement came on Monday evening following a regular meeting. Ballots printed in this newspaper were to be filled in with the

citizen of your choice and sent to the Chamber. They then consider each nomination and decide who the winner is. It is not necessarily the person with the most votes who gets the honor.

Cpl. Bob Arbour, on behalf of the whole detachment, accepted the award and felt very proud of his co-workers. "It sure is a great feeling to be leaving town knowing that you are Citizen of the Year," referring to the regional police take over in September.

"It is a real honor to be chosen. The seven policemen will be honored at a banquet and dance on April 26, sponsored

by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Corporal said he was very proud of his men and of the work they are doing. The qualification for Citizen of the Year was outstanding service to the community.

Cpl. Arbour, and Constables Ron Barrett, Dave Boyes, Duncan McAleese, Bruce McArthur, Murray McCrea, and Bob Willmott are the honored men.

Mike Worthington, Chamber of Commerce president is hoping to get George Kerr and Frank Philbrook to the banquet to help make the evening a total success.

Former mayor, Les Duby, was last year's Citizen of the Year.

## Corp gets ticket

Only a few hours after the Acton detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police were named Citizens of the Year, Cpl. Bob Arbour received a parking ticket from his own man.

He left his car parked across the street from the police station on Monday night because it was iced over and got a ride home with a fellow officer. He meant to move the car into the parking lot, but forgot, thus violating the overnight parking law. His ticket is for \$2, and the Corporal doesn't think he will fight it.

There is no overnight parking anywhere in Acton between the hours of midnight and seven a.m.



DAVE KATZ

## David Katz is transferred

David Katz, principal of the Acton high school, will be replaced by Dean Fink of Lord Elgin High School in Burlington, next September.

Mr. Katz has been transferred to Lester B. Pearson high school in Burlington. The school is, at present, under construction with completion due for September of 1976. Mr. Katz will work there for a year before the students arrive.

In September of 1970, Mr. Katz was transferred to Acton from his vice-principal's position at the Burlington Central school. Prior to this he was a teacher at Nelson high school in 1961 and became the head of the math department in September of 1963. He held this position until January of 1968 when he went to Central.

Mr. Katz holds a B.S.C. and M.Sc. in Math from McMaster.

Mr. Fink is also a graduate of McMaster where he achieved his B.A. and M.A. in history. Prior to his working at Lord Elgin high school, Mr. Fink taught at Caledonia and Ancaster.

In 1973 he spent one half year as a grade two teacher in Frontenac public school, Burlington and became vice principal of Centennial high school in September 1973.

## Questions equality

# Trustee Watson calls for new schools in North Halton

Halton Board of Education must take immediate action to provide better high school accommodation in the northern part of the region if the board doesn't want to face delegations demanding action.

That's the message Acton area trustee Tom Watson delivered to the board Thursday night during a regular meeting of the board. Watson's speech is probably the sternest since his tenure on the board.

"It is becoming increasingly evident to me that the needs of the children in the northern part of the county are not being met by this board, when we sit and pass approval on the Lester B. Pearson school in Burlington.

Georgetown and Acton the high schools are at capacity, and have been for some time."

"This, despite the fact that Oakville and Burlington are drawing the majority of the students from the borders of Milton, Esquewaga and Nassagaweya, distances ranging from 8 to 10 miles. You all have in front of you maps, showing the present school area borders, which should show you why I feel it is time that the borders were redrawn more realistically, and the children were accommodated in the area where they live."

"One of the major objectives of this board was to give equal opportunity to every student in Halton County. I feel that the existing conditions in Acton High

School are a disgrace to this board, and we are fortunate to have a group of dedicated teachers who are willing to put forth the extra effort needed to do a good job under very difficult circumstances.

Unless something is done to alleviate the situation, I am afraid that some of these teachers will get discouraged, and we will lose them."

"I feel very strongly that unless the children in Esquewaga, Nassagaweya and Acton are given the same opportunities as the students in the rest of the county, we can expect delegations of parents and ratepayers sitting on the doorstep of this building, demanding attention to this situation."

Mr. Watson presented a six page fact sheet that

illustrates the shortcomings of Acton High School. Nurse's quarters, staff room, stage, guidance centre, gym storage area, are all smaller than the average for the region, he says.

He claims classrooms are being used as cafeterias, the school has two portable classrooms and three more are required and the science labs and resource centre are undersized. The trustee continued to outline shortcomings of the school in most every area.

A motion that will be debated at the next meeting of the board calls for a committee of trustees to be named to sit with administration with a view to "bringing in positive plans for a new high school that will give a more equitable solution to the problems of the north than we have seen in the past six years," Watson said.

Assistant Director of Education, Em Lavender



TOM WATSON

reminded the board that on Dec. 5 a report had been commissioned by the board to outline improvements for Acton High School. He said Mr. Watson had provided some of the details that would be needed in the staff report.

## Three accidents keep police busy

Acton Ontario Provincial Police investigated three automobile accidents this past week.

Friday evening, at 5:30 a car driven by James F. Krapek, 62 Guelph St., and a homemade trailer owned by Frank Gorman, 107 22nd St., Toronto 14, and pulled by a car driven by John Kennedy, 3436 Cedar Dr., Cooksville, were in collision. The incident occurred on Main St. N. at Guelph St.

David G. Cook, of 2015 Dickson Rd., Mississauga, is in Guelph General Hospital following an incident at 12:10 a.m. Tuesday.

Mr. Cook's car failed to stop at the Cobblehill Rd. stop sign and crossed Main St. S. onto the east shoulder where it struck an embankment. The car kept going until it hit a fence and

shrubbery on private property. The hospital reports facial cuts and a possible broken nose, to Mr. Cook.

A freak accident occurred at noon yesterday, (Tuesday), when three parked cars were in collision. A car borrowed by Terry McKee, 24 Albert St., Guelph, and owned by Willard J. Halladay, 231 Mason Blvd., Acton, was in collision with vehicles owned by Clarence J. McLeod of 112 Poplar Ave. and Marilyn Kunz, 44 Victoria Ave.

One of the cars was left unattended with the motor running when it jumped into reverse and backed into one car, which backed into the third car.

There was an estimated \$400 damage to the McLeod vehicle, \$75 damage to the Kunz car and \$25 to the Halladay car.

## Vandalism Want "bouncer"

Acton swimming pool advisory committee, meeting for the first time on Thursday evening at the high school, would like to see another person hired to act as a "bouncer" in the men's change room.

Anne Pickering, pool supervisor, told the other members of the committee of the increased vandalism in the room, and her lack of control.

"We only have two males on the staff, who cannot work constantly. The rest of us cannot just walk in the boys' change room when we feel like it."

### Thefts

According to Miss Pickering, soap dishes were stolen within the first week of the pool opening, soap is constantly being stolen, keys to lockers are being taken home, with the culprits leaving bathing suits and towels in it. If not taken home, some have been broken off so the end of the key cannot be removed from the lock.

Boards loosened by steam from the shower have been pried off and broken, signs have been defaced, and the door grates kicked out. There have also been reports of young boys running loose in the change room and sauna.

It was agreed by the seven committee members that a recommendation be sent to council, requesting the hiring of someone to sit in the change room to control the vandalism. Bruce Andrews, head of the physical education department at the high school would prefer the person hired to be a student, while Miss Pickering lists her only qualification request as "big and tough."

If permission to hire someone is granted, the person would be on duty during all public swimming hours from eight o'clock in the evening to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Fridays seven to nine o'clock and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

It was decided that the cost of hiring a person for seven days a week would be less than making constant repairs and replacements due to vandalism.

There have been no problems in the girls' change room, the pool supervisor said.

## Diving board unsafe could close pool

Acton pool supervisor, Anne Pickering, is worried someone is going to get hurt diving off the three meter board at the swimming pool.

Miss Pickering expressed her fears at the pool advisory committee meeting Thursday evening at the high school.

She does not feel the diving board is built right, because when some people dive in, they come dangerously close to the bottom of the pool.

"I don't know whether it is the board, or the sudden grade of the pool, but someone is going to get seriously hurt someday," she told the other committee members.

The board is out of commission every two weeks, according to Miss Pickering, but the company it was purchased from does not believe there is anything wrong.

"Some people have told me the board is too long, while others do not think the bolts

are in alignment," Miss Pickering remarked. She said the company has been in several times to inspect the board, but deny it is faulty workmanship.

Dave Katz, principal of the school, told the pool supervisor that if the situation is not remedied, he will exercise his right to close the pool because of a danger.

"If anything happens in that pool, no matter whose fault it is, I am the person who is going to be held responsible. Either the board is fixed permanently, or I will close the pool."

When an Oakville diving team was demonstrating at the pool a few weeks ago, the trainer told the pool supervisor it was the worst diving equipment he has ever seen.

The Halton Hills general administration committee is being made aware of the problem.