

Keeping faith

Former M.P.P. John Root looks back



KEEPING FAITH with his forebears, John Root, former MPP for Wellington Dufferin, flies the red ensign outside his home at R. R. 1, Orton.

For the first time in 23 years, John Root will not be in his seat when parliament opens its session next week. What's this veteran politician doing? The Free Press interviewed him at his home at R.R. 1, Orton to ask that question.

When the first session of the 38th parliament of Ontario opens next week, the residents of Wellington-Dufferin may well be wondering what's in store for them. For, for the first time since he was elected in the fall of 1951, John Root, who has represented them continuously since that date, will not be taking his customary seat at Queen's Park. Last spring when some of the Ontario electoral districts were reorganized, Mr. Root announced that he would not be seeking re-election in the

new constituency of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel in any forthcoming provincial election. Not that he has anything against the residents of Peel County—his mother was born and raised there—it was simply that after recurring bouts of bronchial asthma he felt he could best serve his party and people by stepping down while he still had strength to assist his successor in the work which has engaged him for the past 23 years. Resigned from the legislature he may have, but re-

signed from helping his people John Root has not. When he was interviewed at his farm at R. R. 1, Orton last week, he was about to set off for Queen's Park to see Premier Bill Davis on a bit of unfinished business... a matter of prime concern to all in his township of Erin which is still ranking him, namely, the proposed Hydro corridor. In March 1974, John Root asked the government for an independent hearing on the Hydro corridor. His feeling was that the Hydro should choose what they deemed to be the best route and hold a hearing board on that route. There, Hydro could explain the reasons for their choice and the people would be afforded the opportunity of voicing their protests. This the government did

not choose to do and this, he believes, cost the Progressive Conservative Party the strong support it had come to expect from the four southern polls in his former constituency. "The government must listen to the people, not just to the high-priced civil servant," he says. Commenting on the recent election, Mr. Root feels it was a good one. "The people got what they wanted," says this firm champion of working democracy. Now no one can say, "I've got the confidence of the people." It is significant, too, he feels, that 37 per cent of the population would give approval to any of the three parties. Whoever party does the best job of transposing the wishes of the people into legislation will be the party

that will be in power after the next election, he believes. New riding What does he feel about the new riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel? "It is more compact," he says. Population is only one factor in the establishment of a riding and the concept of one man, one vote is not necessarily in the best interests of all, he adds. Representation is what counts, he feels, and in his former constituency it was often necessary for him to drive 160 miles to discuss a problem with a constituent whereas his metropolitan counterpart might have all his constituents within a radius of a few miles. Of pioneer Ontario stock, John Root personifies the solid Canadian citizen who takes a pride in his country, his heritage and the fruits of

his labors. His pleasures are taken from the simple things of life, working the land, raising a family, participating actively in the life of his church and above all helping others. Like John Diefenbaker he says, "We try to put into practice the things preachers talk about on Sundays." A lifelong Baptist, he was president of the Baptist convention 150 years after his great grandfather, Henry Root, emigrated from the States to Beamsville where his son was baptized in the faith. That son, also named John, was the first of the family to come to Erin settling in 1825 on a farm still occupied by one of the family and located between the 6th and 7th lines. The present John Root also (Continued on Page 19)

The Acton Free Press.

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ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 1975.

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Santa won't parade

The town of Acton will be deprived of a Santa Claus parade this year if no one steps forward and volunteers time to help organize it.

Mike Kinal, last year's organizer, told the Free Press that he and his wife Bernice arranged everything last year with the help of no one but the Scout mothers. "It is just too much for one family to do," he said.

The downtown merchant said that a committee of at least six or seven people is needed to contact businesses and churches to enter floats in the parade. Mr. Kinal said financial help was needed as out-of-town hands had to be paid, as well as Santa Claus.

Waiting At the present time no plans have been made due to lack of support. Mr. Kinal is hoping volunteers will step forward before too long and help his wife and himself get the ball rolling.

"Last year we had lots of volunteers, but when it came time to do the work, no one was around," he continued. "It is a shame."

Mr. Kinal said that if no parade is organized, he will have Santa Claus in his store, Acton Home Hardware on Thursday and Friday evenings just before Christmas for the youngsters.



JOHN SHARPLES, Scout leader, welcomes three new scouts into the First Acton pack. The boys were invested during the Thursday evening meeting.

Need for parking told to council

Halton Hills works committee invited representatives of the Acton Chamber of Commerce and Halton Hills Parking Authority to come and meet with them to discuss plans for parking in downtown Acton and reconstruction of Mill and Main Streets.

Acton Chamber of Commerce and Halton Hills Parking Authority representative Paul Nielsen gave reports to the committee from each group and emphasized the importance of finding parking spots in downtown Acton.

Speaking on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce he said the town has lost 32 useable parking spots at a time when Acton has an annual growth rate of between 10.6 and 12.7 per cent. Mr. Nielsen told the committee that earlier this month the Chamber of Commerce met to discuss the rebuilding of Mill Street.

Sales tax "Annual sales could rise from approximately \$8 million in 1971 to a possible \$14 million in 1976," Mr. Nielsen informed the committee.

He said that at the meeting the possibility that the sidewalks will be widened and more parking spots lost was discussed and the Chamber of Commerce thought "Acton

can't afford to lose a single parking spot."

Mr. Nielsen said the Chamber of Commerce wants to see Wallace Street completed and used as a truck bypass route to the industrial area so trucks won't be jamming downtown streets as they currently are doing.

He explained the merchants would like to see Halton Hills provide more off street parking facilities as soon as possible and he asked the committee to revoke the parking ban on Mill Street east between John Street and Eastern Avenue.

Great problem Speaking on behalf of the Halton Hills parking authority Mr. Nielsen said rapid growth in Acton means parking will become a greater and greater problem in the downtown area.

He suggested that parking be kept in mind while the town plans the Main and Mill Street reconstruction projects. He thought that since the merchants and town would have to live with the results of the reconstruction projects for many years parking problems must be kept in mind.

Mr. Nielsen reminded the committee that the downtown area can't afford to lose more parking spots and that off street parking space must be developed soon.

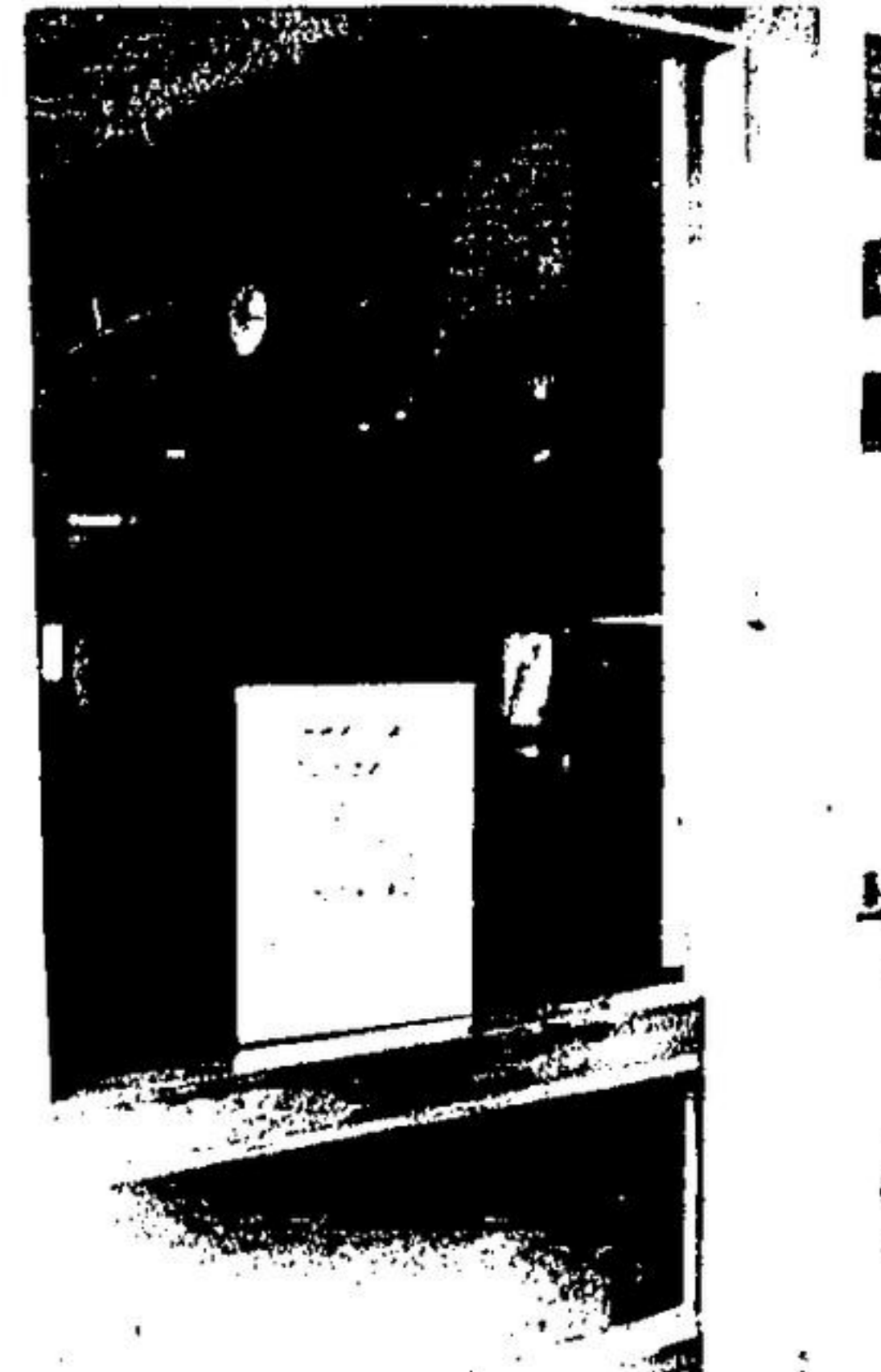
He told the committee there is still enough land in the downtown area for more parking facilities and more commercial development.

The Halton Hills parking authority would like to see the town include not only the parking authority but people living and working in the downtown area in any planning of Mill and Main Street reconstruction projects before they are finalized.

Committee chairman Joe Hurst suggested the committee file the two reports with other material gathered in connection with the reconstruction projects and noted completion of Wallace Street would probably come a few years after the downtown street work is finished.

Planning Mr. Hurst explained off street parking facilities are not just a problem for the works department to tackle but must involve the planning department. Mayor Tom Hill also thought information from the parking authority and Chamber of Commerce should be passed on to the planning department which is working on redevelopment plans for downtown Acton.

Councillor Ern Hyde pointed out a prime consideration in the reconstruction of Main and Mill Streets must be developed soon. Continued on page 2



HASTILY-LETTERED sign tells why there's nobody in the post office and the doors are all locked. The strike hit Acton at 10.45 a.m. Tuesday.

No mail

Acton post office is closed and almost empty, since five full-time and two part-time members of the Acton local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers left their jobs about 10.45 a.m. Tuesday morning.

Postmaster Gord McKeown remains alone inside the building answering phone calls of enquiry, and awaiting further instructions from district headquarters in London.

No work Letter carriers walked their routes Tuesday and as of yesterday afternoon they had not officially been laid off. There are seven letter carriers affected, one is on vacation. There is no longer any mail for them to deliver. Pat Frizzell picked up mail from local drop boxes Tuesday and there were no instructions yet on her responsibilities. Trucks no longer arrive with mail. The 10 a.m. truck Tuesday morning simply didn't show up. There is also no official notification on the status of rural mailmen. The box lobby will remain open as long as there is mail in any of the boxes, Mr. McKeown says. Some people only pick up mail on the weekends. The wickets are closed, but Mr. McKeown points out stamps can still be bought at the sub post office in Glenora drug mart. "We're as upset as anybody," says Wilma Chapman, president of the union local here. She said the phone call instructing them to leave their job was met with "magns and groans" at the Acton office. "None of us wanted a strike," she says, although they had taken part in a vote. She thinks perhaps as many as 75 per cent of the union membership would not really be in favor of the decision to strike. There is no strike pay, and there will be no picket duty here, as far as she knows. Picket duty Union steward Clive Lawrence agrees the Acton workers were not happy to

leave. "We were one of the last to go out in our area," he commented. "We stayed at work until we got the call to go out from headquarters." He feels it is harder to go out on strike in a small town where the workers know the people affected personally. However, there would be no use their staying at work since no mail is moving any way, he said. As steward he should organize picket duty and he expects to be getting the union members together to discuss it. Small post offices like Rockwood and Norwood are affected in the same way since the staff does not belong to the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. Staff Post office staff here includes postmaster Gord McKeown, assistant Chris McMillan who is on holidays but also does not belong to the union. Clive Lawrence, Wilma Chapman, Grace Perry, Alice Pilkington, Vic Brewster and part time workers Jerry Butler and Jo Marie McAlroy.

Offer rejected The cancellation board has offered members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers a 7 per cent raise over 30 months. This averages 14.1 per cent a year, already over the guidelines in the new federally proposed program of restraints. The guidelines would permit only 12 per cent per year increase. The guidelines however also provided exceptions. Demands by the union amounted to 71 per cent increase in one year originally and have been reduced to 51 per cent.

High school graduation

Commencement exercises for graduating high school students will be held this Friday evening at the school. More than 100 young men and women are expected to attend the ceremony, with some of them sharing \$3,850 worth of awards. This includes 13 Ontario Scholars with an average of 80 per cent or more in grade 13. Three students will be recognized, at the same time, for receiving a \$500 scholarship from the University of Guelph.

Burning garbage call

Burning garbage at the back of Foodland last night (Tuesday) received attention from the Acton Volunteer Firefighters at 7.15.

Council says

Go tell Board about "Go Ask Alice"

Passages from the book "Go Ask Alice" seemed to shock Halton Hills council as much as the parents who last week raised a storm of protest at Halton Board of Education. They unanimously voted against the use

Contribution debated

Acton Y's Men's Club, sponsoring a swimathon with proceeds for UNICEF, asked for consideration in renting the Acton swimming pool, at Halton Hills administration committee meeting last Tuesday. Recreation director Doug Collison said cancellation of

"Go Ask Alice" not taught in Acton

The controversial book, "Go Ask Alice" is not being taught in the Acton high school, according to principal Dean Fink. Mr. Fink said there are copies of the book in the resource centre, but it is not on any course of study. The book is in the form of a diary, about a young girl who gets hooked on drugs, runs away from home, has sexual relations, and commits suicide.

Burning garbage call

chief Mick Holmes at his home. The chief went immediately to the scene and upon seeing it, called the volunteers and trucks out. The cause of the blaze is unknown, and no amount of damage was sustained as it was all garbage.

Swimathon Nov. 1

A swimathon at the new Acton swimming pool is this year's special UNICEF Halloween campaign project for this area. Sponsored by the Acton Y's Men's Club, the event will be held on Saturday, November 1 at 3 p.m. The usual collection of money on

Halloween night in UNICEF boxes will be still held and it is hoped between the two events to exceed the total of \$1,000 raised last year. Participants will be given 15 minutes in the pool. During this time each may swim as many lengths or widths as he

is able up to a maximum of 20 lengths or 25 widths. Each participant will get sponsors for each length or width he will swim. Sponsors listed on a sponsor sheet which is to be returned to the participants school as soon as possible after the swim. Receipts will be issued to each swimmer for the money he turns in so he can show his sponsors. Adults as well as children are encouraged to take part in this Halloween project. Hot dogs and pop will be served to all participants at the conclusion of the swim. To facilitate arrangements for swim times, prospective swimmers are asked to register by Friday, October 24. Further information is available from It Aldridge (833-1822) or E. Leatherland (833-2688). Qualified lifeguards will be on duty at all times and the consent of a parent is required for all participants under 16 years.

Seek 38 units for Sr. Citizens

Ontario Housing Corporation has been requested by Halton Hills council to provide 38 one-bedroom units for Senior Citizens in Acton. This is the result of a survey completed by Halton Hills recently. No site has been confirmed as yet. Councillor Les Duby expresses disappointment the building of these long-needed units is taking so long. "People should be living in them by now!" he exclaimed this week. "It's been years since we knew of the need." The Ministry of Housing will pay seven and a half percent of any loss incurred in the operation of the units.

Police report

An air pump was torn from a wall at a garage, police were informed Oct. 14. Attempted break and entry at a Mill St. business and the theft of a bicycle were also among occurrences investigated in town this week. An estimated \$25 was stolen in a break-in at the arena

Strike plans

Arrangements have been made to have Free Press delivered as usual to rural post offices and to all subscribers on Acton rural routes, during the present strike. In town, carrier service remains unchanged. Any subscribers with other than Acton addresses may pick up copies of the Free Press at the office on Willow St., during the strike.