

What next, councillors?

Increased benefits for regional councillors, in the form of participation in the OMERS pension scheme, seems more than these people should expect as elected representatives. It is certainly more than the taxpayers should be expected to finance.

Councillors approved their own pension scheme last week in a close vote and amid an unruly and hot debate.

The region's share of the plan will cost \$5,760 each year and the councillors drawing from the plan

will receive about \$115 a month with 15 years' service if the contribution stays at the same level.

With forecast increased regional taxes in 1976 and the federal and provincial government's calls for restraints, this latest trip to the public trough has all the qualifications of a major irresponsibility.

We can only congratulate those councillors who were judicious enough to oppose the "grab" and ask the councillors who, in the majority, passed the handout—"What next?"

Free Press Editorial Page

Many train at Blue Springs

Just three miles from Acton there's a very successful business going on, and few people know about it.

The product is people... leaders of Ontario's young boys and girls. The place is the Blue Springs reserve where courses are run by the Ontario Council of the Boy Scouts Association for Scout, Cub, Beaver, Ranger, Guide and Brownie leaders of the province.

During this past season over the astonishing figure of 5,000 leaders have taken courses at Blue Springs. They have spent differing periods of time ranging from a short weekend to a full week learning new skills, absorbing the training course theories and methods, having a close association with each other. High ideals are not old-fashioned, not at Blue Springs. These leaders are fine people with dedication and love of people.

They all pay their own way to come and attend these sessions, unless their home district helps out.

Be Prepared? Sure they are. And a lot more. They're ready for anything their lively charges can come up with. Dedication is not just enough these days; training is very important too.

The camp is booked up with courses and group meetings every single weekend through 1977, ex-

cept for three... Christmas, New Year's and Easter.

Blue Springs has been used by Scouts since before the First World War. An Acton scout group, under the late Fred Coles, first asked permission to camp there from A. J. Murray, the donor of Acton's Y.M.C.A. in later years. Scouts have been there ever since.

It is the main training centre for all of Ontario. Its burgeoning success produces much satisfaction along with a slight concern for future funding and accommodation.

The need for more room resulted in the erection of a large, bright new all-purpose building a couple of years ago, making it possible for leaders to be able to live inside when the weather was not of the camping variety.

In the summer, of course, most of the leaders live under canvass outdoors, in attractive campsites tucked away in innumerable locations throughout the bushland of the huge site.

All we see in town may be a few leaders in uniform doing some shopping, or a few Scouters attending a church service. But out at Blue Springs all year round there are hundreds more.

A very hopeful sign for the future of our young people all over Ontario.

Not much chance of change

New Member of Parliament Julian Reed took special note when Ontario treasurer Darcy McKeough spoke to Halton region council and admitted some deficiencies in regional government.

Reed followed up his enthusiasm by asking in the House later if Mr. McKeough felt the government was ready to redistribute at least some of the power back to the municipalities.

The answer wasn't one to encourage anybody. Spoke Mr. McKeough: "Mr. Speaker, I am sure that these matters are being considered by the Halton Regional Council and by the area municipalities and in due course they may make recommendations to me and to the government for change which we will consider at that

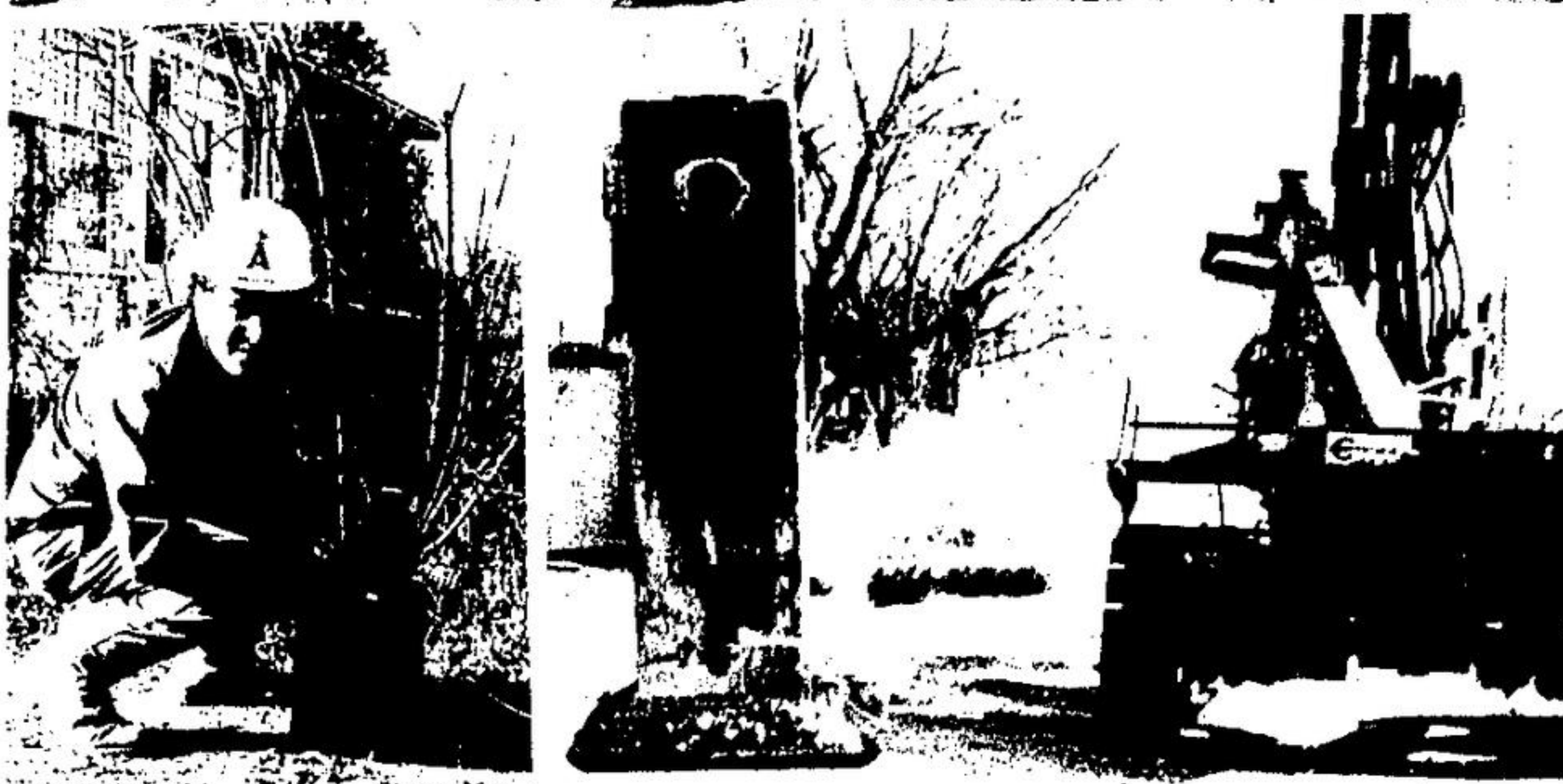
time".

Mr. Reed no doubt had in mind the dissatisfaction of many in Halton Hills with regional ways when he listened to Mr. McKeough address the Halton councillors.

McKeough said costs had not gone down as Queen's Park had anticipated. He felt the roles of the two tiers hadn't been properly allocated. Annoying to him was the duplication of effort.

However Mr. McKeough pointed out changes could be made by the region itself, not the province.

Mr. Reed assumes minds are more open on the subject now, but there doesn't seem much chance that changes will be made that would bring any form of government back home to Acton.



A dynamite time in a Rockwood afternoon

WORKMEN WENT AHEAD WITH sewer and water pipe installations in Rockwood, but first they have to make deep troughs. The picture on top left shows explosive experts Mike Clark and Legere Myles completing ignitions circuits to 200 lbs. of dynamite. Top right huge rubber mats are lowered to cover the road

where the charges are buried 14 feet down. The mats muffle the sound and contain the blast debris. Erel Barnes attaches wires from the charges to a detonator box in the bottom left picture. Dust and dirt are scattered by the low rumbling explosion which left the top of the road buckled and cracked.

W.H. Storey's enterprise helped the village of Acton to prosper

William Hyslop Storey was born March 8, 1837 in the village of Ayton, Yorkshire, England, the only son of George and Jane Storey.

He came to Canada with his parents in 1845 and the Storey family made their first home on Dundas Street, near the village of Lambton (York County). It was here W. H. Storey apprenticed himself in the saddlery business.

Having completed his apprenticeship he commenced business with J. F. Taylor in Acton in 1856. The firm, known as Storey and Taylor Saddlers, was dissolved by mutual agreement in 1859. Mr. Taylor established a saddlery business in Georgetown and Storey maintained the business in Acton.

It was about 1868 when Edward Moore, a partner in the Moore Bros. Shingle and Stave Co., visited Storey's Saddlery and complained about the poor quality gloves he had to work with and the lack of a heavy "work glove" on the market.

This problem was an inspiration for W. H. Storey. He borrowed the frayed pair of gloves and used them as a pattern for the coarser pair he had available within a few days. So it was subsequent to this discussion that the W. H. Storey Glove Company (later known as The Canada Glove Works) was established in 1868.

The company prospered and grew to become one of the major industries in Acton, employing over 200 "hands". During the late 1800's The Canada Glove Works was reputed to be one of the largest in its class "in the Dominion". The firm manufactured over 70 varieties of gloves and mitts, from heavy work gloves to fine wear for men and ladies.

Erect tannery In 1875 the firm erected a tannery to manufacture their own glove leathers thus eliminating foreign supply and providing employment for Actonians. The only business place ever located on Bower Avenue was the Canada Glove Works, which was housed in a very attractive three storey brick building.

The first electrically-lighted sign in Acton was erected on the roof of the building. The sign was 100 feet long and its message would reflect in nearby Henderson's Pond—"W. H.

Storey & Son Glove Manufacturers, Established 1868".

Generations of families worked at the Canada Glove Works. It is said that W. H. Storey had a very real concern for his employees and even when business was poor for a period of time, he would make every effort to keep those depending on wages to maintain a household on the payroll.

Upon his death, in 1898, W. H. Storey was succeeded by his son W. A. Storey as president of the firm. He retired in 1915 and the business was purchased by the H. T. Arnold

and Sons Glove Company from Georgetown.

The business was carried on by the Arnolds in the Storey name until the company was dissolved in 1954. The fine brick building erected for the Storey Glove Works was razed to make way for the new Acton Post Office.

W. H. Storey's magnificent residence at the corner of John and Mill Streets in Acton was built in the early 1800s. It was the first home in Acton to be heated by steam. The steam was "piped" under

ground from the factory to Storey's home.

A few Acton residents can still remember the hole on Bower Street caused by the heat in the winter time under the street.

Vets take over The building was taken eventually by the Great World War Veterans and later served as a hotel. In 1937 Victor Rumley purchased the old mansion, which had been sitting idle since the depression, and operated his funeral business.

Bruce E. Shoemaker purchased the funeral business in 1953 and still operates the Rumley-Shoemaker Funeral Home from the old Storey residence.

It was W. H. Storey who was instrumental in organizing the petition of citizens to incorporate Acton as a village in 1873. Mr. Storey served as the first reeve of Acton and continued as a councillor for 18 years. In 1889 he was Warden of Halton County.

He was a Justice of the Peace for over a quarter of a century and was chairman of the school board and active in establishing Acton's Free Library. Storey was director of several insurance companies and served as president of the Canadian Manufacturers Association.

For over 40 years W. H. Storey was a member of the Methodist Church and acted as chairman of the building committee which erected the old United Church in 1875.

In 1857 W. H. Storey married Hannah Jane Smith and they raised three sons and four daughters in Acton. He died on March 6, 1898, and was buried on his 61st birthday.

An indication of his esteem in the community can be realized when one considers that over 1,000 people were unable to gain admittance to the Methodist Church during the funeral service.

Many of the fine public buildings and the beautiful park reflect the influence of W. H. Storey—a great industrial pioneer and public-spirited citizen of early Acton.

Halton Sketches by John McDonald



WILLIAM HYSLOP STOREY



W. H. STOREY GLOVE FACTORY can be seen over the "Roof Tops" from this view overlooking Mill Street, Acton.



THE LOVELY OLD Storey home at the corner of Mill and John is now the Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press December 8, 1955 Acton will be represented this year at the annual New Year's Day races in Hamilton. Bruce Andrews and Bob Allonby will be carrying the colors of the Acton Y.M.C.A. Track Club in the junior three mile run, and Wilson Allonby and Ed McHugh will be entering the 10 mile senior event.

Acton Junior Farmers skated onto the ice at Milton arena Monday evening wearing their new sweaters and stockings. In purple and gold, the outfits have 10-inch provincial crests with "Acton" prominent on them, and the names of Acton merchants on the back.

Minor baseball champs were feted in winning style last week at the Legion Hall where trophies, crests, dinner and entertainment were absorbed by the Acton boys who played ball this summer under the guidance of the Legion and Minor Sports Association. The winning team consisted of Dale Woodburn, Wayne Marshall, Bruce Timpson, Pete Lawson, Wayne Ridley, Wayne Wilson, Terry Waterhouse, Herb Cook, coach Bob Marshall, Fred Graham, Jim Lindsay, Gary Walker, Bob Cox, Bill Waterhouse, manager, Raymond Pasma, Ed Molody, Don Lindsay and Bill Shannon.

Mrs. Eileen Buckner, (L.R.A.M.) London, England, gave a most interesting and instructive lecture-demonstration in the St. Alban's Parish Hall on Friday, December 2. She was assisted by Mrs. Roberta Moran at the piano and by a group of Acton children.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 26, 1925.

School board secretary R. M. McDonald reported to council proceedings of the board in reference to the purchase of properties for school purposes. The school board had made an offer of \$250 for the portion of land desired from the Sidney Smith estate. The board requested that an option be secured on the Bell property adjoining. In view of the increasing population and increase in enrollment of pupils the board feels the property should be secured.

Three young men from Guelph essayed to attend the Orange Ball in the town hall on Friday evening while under the influence of liquor. As soon as their condition was observed they were promptly ejected from the hall. Summonses have been issued requiring them to appear in Police Court here on Saturday.

H. W. Hinton, (from Toronto) Jeweller, Watchmaker and Clockmaker, Mill St., Acton and Main St., Georgetown. Large stock of Christmas specials now on hand.

A delightful tresseau tea was held by Miss Laura MacDonald, Church St., one of our soon-to-be brides. The elderly ladies attended in the afternoon and the young ladies in the evening.

Mason Knitting Mills and the Shoe Factory are both working overtime to fill orders.

One of the most comfortable sections of highway in Ontario is the road between Main St., Acton and Rockwood.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 19, 1875.

The Free Press office is now next door to the Post Office on Mill St. No more going upstairs to find us. We have superior facilities for the prompt execution of book and job printing in the very best style, and at low rates. In future the Free Press will be published on Thursdays, instead of Fridays.

Eleven ducks and seven hens were a pretty good steal from the premises of Mr. Thos. Moore the other night.

The Austin Comedy Troupe announce an entertainment in Matthews hall this evening.

Prof. Shaw gave an entertainment last Saturday evening in the Temperance Hall, consisting of readings, recitations and so-called Spiritual manifestations.

Building operations have received a damper this week. The walls of the Methodist church require but a few days more of fine weather to be ready to receive the roof. "Would be a pity to have them remain thus through the winter."

The Methodist church in Rockwood has recently underwent considerable improvements and on Sunday the re-opening services were held on Monday evening a tea-meeting was held.

One day last week when the Grand Trunk express train from Toronto was between Limehouse and Acton, one of the couplings broke, leaving the three passenger cars behind while the engine and baggage car ran on about a mile. Beyond a considerable fright, fortunately nobody was hurt.

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