

Guelph hospital doors still open for Acton residents

Acton and district people need have no concern that the doors to Guelph hospitals could be closed to them, since they come from another county.

A report presented to Regional Council said concerns about admission were unfounded. However, no donation to Guelph General Hospital will be made by the county.

The matter arose when Guelph General Hospital's request for a financial contribution was received by council, and no action was taken.

Councillors felt no donation should be made to an out-of-county hospital.

At the time, councillors asked for a full report from

the region's chief administrative officer E. C. Reid, and held meetings with concerned Acton doctors.

The report follows in full.

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At the meeting of Regional Council held on January 21st, the following recommendation was presented in response to a letter from the Mayor of Guelph asking for financial assistance and the appointment of a representative to the Board of Governors of the Guelph General Hospital:

"THAT the request to appoint a representative to the Board of Directors of the Guelph General Hospital be rejected and

"THAT the request for

financial assistance be refused"

"Action on the resolution was deferred in order to provide time for the Chief Administrative Officer and Regional Councillors from the Acton area to investigate the matter further and report back to Committee.

Doctors meet

"A meeting was held on February 16th, with Dr. B. Moore and several doctors of the Clinics at 93 Mill Street East. Also in attendance were Regional Councillor Garnet McKenzie of Halton Hills, and area Councillor Les Duby of the Town of Halton Hills, Regional Treasurer Don Farmer, and the Chief Administrative Officer.

"Concern was expressed by

the doctors related, not so much to the representation and financial assistance requested from the City of Guelph, but more to the suggestion that patients from the Acton area might be denied access to the Guelph General Hospital and that physicians in the Acton area might be denied hospital privileges. In response to this suggestion, it was pointed out that as the Ontario Health Plan is a universal plan throughout Ontario, it is hardly likely any such measures could be taken by any hospital in Ontario. We agreed however, that we would investigate their expressed concerns to determine whether or not such a situation could occur.

"In conversation with Mr.

Fred M. Woods, City Administrator, Guelph, it was learned that the request made by Mayor Jary of Guelph was simply as outlined in the letter. The Guelph General Hospital is owned by the municipality and consequently every effort is being made to obtain funds to assist in its operation. The former County of Halton had previously been requested such assistance but it had been refused. Mr. Woods explained that, with new Regional Government, the Mayor felt another approach should be made to the Region of Halton in the hope that a different attitude might exist towards such a request.

"Two hospital administrators, one in Halton,

were also contacted and both felt the concerns expressed by the Acton doctors were entirely unfounded. They were of the opinion that such a situation could never occur in Ontario where the Health Plan is universal.

"On suggestion, I also contacted Mr. Milton Orris, Area Planning Co-ordinator, Community Health Services, Ministry of Health, relative to the expressed concerns. I was advised that both of these ideas were without full knowledge of the facts. It is quite definite that under existing hospital arrangements, the Ministry of Health would take drastic action against any hospital that would take such an approach relative to either patients or doctors. He also

indicated that rumours of this nature were of concern to the Ministry and he agreed that some reassurance would be given to the doctors in the Acton area. Mr. Orris is to make direct contact with a representative of the Acton doctors.

"In the light of the foregoing comments, only the question of board representation and financial assistance to the Guelph Hospital remains. There is no doubt that based on studies that have been undertaken, one could rationalize financial assistance to the hospital. However, as pointed out by Mr. Orris, if this practice were started in Ontario, it would require a major book-keeping complexity that is

totally unwarranted. The relationship between Acton residents and the Guelph Hospital is no different than that which exists, in varying degrees, throughout many areas of the Province. Mr. Orris also indicated there is no obligation on the Regional Municipality of Halton to either provide assistance or appoint a representative to the Guelph Hospital Board.

In the light of the foregoing information, there appears to be no valid reason why the Administration Committee should change its initial decision to refuse financial assistance or to make an appointment to the Guelph General Hospital Board.

Respectfully submitted,

E. C. Reid,

The Acton Free Press.



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One Hundred and First Year — No. 42

Pleads not guilty on three charges

Horst Baron, who is on trial on three counts of attempted murder, was characterised by police officers as being calm and quiet following the shooting of three residents of the Baron farm near Acton late last October.

Nine officers testified Tuesday, and most said they found Mr. Baron's co-operative behavior unusual under the circumstances.

Mr. Baron is charged with the shooting of his wife Hilda, 58, Gunter Mayer, 45, and Mr. Mayer's nine-year old son Wayne. All three suffered gunshot wounds to the chest and have recovered.

Mr. Baron, 50, pleaded not guilty on all three charges.

The trial, which is expected to continue into next week, is being held before the Supreme Court of Ontario at Milton with Mr. Justice Samuel Hughes presiding.

The shooting took place in the kitchen of the Baron farm house, a two story red brick building, on Highway 7 between Acton and Georgetown on October 27. Five shots were fired from a .38 cal. Smith and Wesson Model 36 revolver with a two inch barrel. The fire-arm was registered to Mr. Baron.

A Halton Regional Police breathalyzer officer who tested Mr. Baron twice later in the evening concluded that he had no alcohol in his system.

Investigators discovered two spent bullets in the Baron kitchen. Hospital authorities gave police two bullets which were from Mrs. Baron and another from Mr. Mayer.

All three victims have testified before the seven man and five women jury. The Baron's son Manfred, 25, testified briefly Tuesday.

On recounting the events of Monday evening October 27, the three witnesses agreed on several points.

Mrs. Baron said she arrived home around 6 p.m. and that she started preparing steak dinners. She had seen a lawyer during the day about making a settlement with her husband, she said. They had been married 24 years.

Mr. Mayer said he had picked up his son from a neighbor's place and that they arrived at the Baron farm at around 6.15 p.m.

Mr. Baron was said by both Mrs. Baron and Mr. Mayer to be in the yard helping load a truck with some coal.

Mr. Baron came into the house briefly for some dog food, Mrs. Baron told the jury.

Table

By 7.30 p.m. supper had been served when Mr. Baron came into the house. The Mayers were sitting at the round kitchen table, Mr. Mayer said. Mrs. Baron said she was standing between the stove and the sink.

Mr. Baron came into the kitchen and went over to his wife and said to her: "I told you eighty (\$80,000)". Mr. Mayer testified. He also told the jury that Mr. Baron struck Mrs. Baron on the head.

Mr. Mayer said: "I stood up from the table, Mr. Baron put his hand into his pocket and pulled out a gun".

Mr. Mayer said he recalled

falling to the floor and hearing three shots.

Mr. Mayer also said that as he lay on the floor he was able to swing a straightback chair at Mr. Baron and strike him on one of his arms.

Alm

The last time Mr. Mayer said he saw Mr. Baron was as he was taking aim at something behind a wood burning stove. Because he could not see his son, Mr. Mayer said he assumed the boy was behind the stove.

"No! no! you bastard", Mr. Mayer recalled yelling. He then heard one shot. He told the jury that he thought his son was dead.

All three victims managed to leave the house. Mrs. Baron was picked up on Highway 7 and taken to a medical centre in Acton where she was taken to Guelph General Hospital.

Mr. Mayer made it to a neighbor's home across the highway where Halton Regional Police officers found him.

Wayne Mayer said that he walked to the driveway gate, after getting his white coat from his father's car. Police found him there and sent for ambulances.

Wayne, before he left the kitchen recalled hearing Mr. Baron, whom he called uncle, phoning for the police.

Mr. Baron was arrested by the Halton police on the farm later in the evening.

Superintendent Floyd Schwantz, who arrived after other officers at the Baron farm, said he found Mr. Baron's demeanour "very, very calm, cool". The superintendent agreed with Mr. Baron's lawyer, Louis Silver, that he would have expected to find Mr. Baron upset. Superintendent Schwantz has been a police officer for 24 years.

Mrs. Baron said in her testimony that she listed the 112 acre farm, which was in her name, for sale.

The couple's son, Manfred, had taken a \$10,000 loan and the Bank of Montreal, Mrs. Baron said, had called asking for repayment. Mrs. Baron said that she had cosigned the loan.

In her testimony Mrs. Baron said she did not accept an offer on the farm because

of some indication from her husband of a settlement.

"In the morning (Oct. 27) he (Mr. Baron) said go see your lawyer and settle for whatever you want", Mrs. Baron said.

When asked by Mr. Silver, her husband's lawyer, "What amount had you gone to your lawyer to discuss?" Mrs. Baron said \$85,000.

Later Mrs. Baron told the court she could not recall making answers to questions at a preliminary trial concerning seeing her lawyer about \$80,000.

Germany

Mr. Baron and Mr. Mayer had known each other for approximately 22 years. They met when they both came here from Germany.

Mr. Mayer stayed with the (Continued on Page Two)

Urge Wallace truck route

Halton Hills works committee will take another look at uncompleted Wallace Street on Thursday's works tour and Councillor Joe Hurst is urging the town get on with plans to use Wallace Street as a truck route.

Hurst warned that when the province gets around to reconstructing Main Street and Highway 7 structural changes will have to be built into the railway crossing if there is any hope of Wallace Street ever becoming a truck route in the years ahead.

Engineer Robert Austin said no design work has been done yet and that must be completed before the town looks at any needs for acquiring property for the truck route.

Take action

Hurst said the town must take some action on Wallace Street's future before Queen's Park settles its plans for Main Street North.

Austin said if Main Street North is designated a connecting link project by the province then the town will have a say in the road design for the track crossing and corner.

Hurst noted the truck route is probably five years away but the town must have plans to show Queen's Park before Main Street is reconstructed.

Austin promised he would get works staff to look into the status of plans so far and move as quickly towards designs as possible.

Toronto complaint leaves council cold

Halton Hills works committee didn't get too excited about complaints about Acton from a Toronto resident Monday night.

Brian Ruffles wrote to the town complaining about mud, broken sidewalks and garbage lying around in Acton. He said that Acton is long overdue for a facelift.

The councillors didn't take his complaints too seriously. Councillor Dick Howitt noted the committees have a tough enough time keeping residents happy without worrying about visitors from Toronto.

Separate school seeks room here

Members of the separate school board will be coming tomorrow (Thursday) to Acton to look at the schools here, with the possibility of sharing accommodation for separate school education. Acton is the only town in Halton which does not have a separate school.

Shared accommodation would be a new concept, says separate school director of education Cliff Byrnes. Funds are no longer readily available for building new schools. He says the board is also negotiating for a site in Acton but this would not likely be able to be used for three years or so.

Mr. Byrnes stresses the board's visit to Acton is preliminary, and doesn't mean anything concrete.

Coming with him will be the chairman of the separate school property committee John Visser, chairman of education Gord Mackean, trustee Harry McDermott and administrator Tom Brady.

They will meet with Halton board area superintendent Don Gentleman and trustee Tom Watson.

The men will look over the stone school as well as the two main public schools.

Own staff

If shared accommodation is arranged the separate school would have their own staff and principal and be answerable only to the separate school board.

Room would be available in Acton when the new high school opens. Senior public students from grades six to eight will use the present high school building.

Mr. Byrnes says shared accommodation would only be an interim measure. "as soon as development swells population so a new primary school is needed, a separate school would be considered first," he said.

He said the board has received an increasing number of inquiries from Roman Catholic parents. He said there would be about 265 students involved including preschoolers. There will be further surveys to see if the parents are receptive to the idea.

Mr. Byrnes said Father Smye of St. Joseph's feels shared accommodation is a good interim alternative.



THERE'S YOUR CUE. . . you're on! Acton Figure Skating club pro Pat Cranker sends Laura McGraw and Brenda Porty out on the ice in their Olympic track and field event number. Story and more pictures inside today's Free Press.

Increased hydro rates for Acton residents

Hydro bills will be increased when an application for a rate hike by the Acton Hydro Electric Commission to Ontario Hydro is approved.

The increase was necessary, the commission said during their Thursday evening meeting, to offset the rising cost of Ontario Hydro, who had a rate increase on January 1.

The increase if approved

will be effective on bills issued on or after June 1.

Homes

For residential service, the cost for the first 50 kilowatt hours per month will be 5.9 cents, an increase of 9 cents. An increase from 2.6 cents to three cents was stated for the next 200 kilowatt hours per month. The approved metered water heater block, 500 kilowatt hours per month

was raised from 1.35 cents to 1.8 cents. All additional monthly consumptions were raised from 1.55 cents to 1.75 cents. The minimum monthly bill was raised 25 cents from \$3.25 to \$3.50.

For general service, there was no increase for the first 50 kilowatt hours of billing demand. There was a balance at \$2.20 per kilowatt of billing demand.

The energy charge for the general service for the first 50 kilowatt hours per month is increasing from 5.3 cents to 5.9 cents. The next 200 kilowatt hours per month has been set at 3.0 cents, up from 2.9 cents. For the next 9,750 kilowatt hours per month, a 20 cent increase has been asked for, making the new rate 2.25 cents, up from 2.05 cents. All the additional monthly consumption will increase from 35 cents to 1.15 cents. The minimum monthly bill for general services is up to \$3.50 from \$3.25.



GUNTER MAYER, left, his son Wayne, and Mrs. Baron, right, leave the court building at Milton following the first day in the trial of Horst Baron. Mr. Baron is charged with three counts of

attempted murder following a shooting incident at the Baron farm last October. The trial, before the Supreme Court of Ontario, is expected to continue into next week.

Want to bar press from committees

The public and press could be shut out of all Halton Hills committee meetings, if a majority of council accepts a recommendation made Monday night by general administration committee.

Only two of the three members present, Councillors Les Duby and Roy Booth favored closed meetings. Councillor George Maltby opposed the recommendation.

The fourth member of the committee, Councillor Ric Morrow was absent.

Administration committee recommended all committee meetings, including finance and works, be closed to public and press, except for delegations listed on the agenda,

and the meetings classified as working meetings.

Booth, who made the motion, claimed members should be free to argue back and forth, and say what they like. "We make statements at committee we don't want printed", he claimed. He claimed the press misrepresented what he said at the previous committee meeting.

Booth also said he could not go along with a suggestion made last week at council to switch committee meetings to Wednesday to avoid publication before the following council meeting. "There's nothing we can do but close the meetings or leave the situation as it."

Maltby contended many of the irresponsible remarks printed in the press were made by councillors and staff. He claimed each committee should decide for themselves whether to close meetings.

Booth said the printing of committee news in Wednesday's paper puts councillors at a disadvantage since callers ask them questions about committee recommendations they have not yet received from the other committees.

Maltby said items discussed in camera are frequently known to other councillors and press right away. "How could we stop

this, someone talks."

Duby argued it is to the advantage of everyone to hold meetings without the press in attendance. "We can discuss things man to man. When people call me on Thursday to ask about items in the papers, I haven't even seen the minutes of the other committee meetings. We don't receive our bundles (of minutes and correspondence) until Friday."

Booth claimed there would be more meaningful discussion between delegations and committee without the press.

The recommendation to close the meetings will now go to council for a decision.

Storage shed burns down

A storage shed was completely destroyed Friday evening when fire ripped through it at about 11:30 p.m. according to fire chief Mick Holmes.

Acton volunteer firefighters were on the scene for an hour and a half at Lot six, Concession one, Erin township. The shed was owned by Walter Camberian of Brantford.