

Free Press Editorial Page

Why not vote on complex?

We're out here—and we might like to have a vote on the new municipal complex. Halton Hills council is talking about \$850,000 for the complex near Georgetown, which would centralize Halton Hills government in one spot.

Council last week turned down a suggested plebiscite on the question.

Acton and district people have done plenty of complaining about regional government and this would be an opportunity for us to put our pencils where are mouths are, so to speak.

Probably the central complex would indeed serve its purpose into cementing Halton Hills into one municipality—certainly from the

staff's point of view. Presently offices are in three separate areas, Esquering, Acton and Georgetown. It would also make it more difficult to revert back to the old status of two towns and township.

Perhaps the new complex would be another reason for closing the Acton office, our only local contact with the new town.

Taxpayers are going to feel a large bite in their funds this year, mostly due to education and regional levies. But increased costs of everything are concerning many people seriously.

Can councillors give us good reasons why the complex is needed? Then, surely a plebiscite would be the best way for them to feel they have our support.

Change at Acton office

Water billing will no longer be done at the Acton town office. The region has decided it can be done more efficiently from the Georgetown office.

The billing took most of the time of the two employees here, although they also looked after other payments and inquiries.

The region pays over half of the cost of keeping the office open.

One member of the staff is resigning. This leaves veteran town employee Mrs. Lorna Clark

alone in the office with the workload greatly reduced.

It's a well-known fact that the police are looking for a new location on the main street.

The fire chief and recreation co-ordinator still need local offices.

Certainly Acton should still have a town office of its own, whether the new municipal complex is built or not. Acton's representatives will be well aware of Acton's people's wants as they consider changes.

Cemetery plots tended

The disappointing attendance at Decoration Day brought a few comments which are worth considering.

Although 200 gathered on the Sunday for the parade and short service, the cemetery had been filled with people all week. Every day and evening of the week preceding the service, families were up at Fairview pulling weeds, trimming bushes, planting flowers and putting cut bouquets on plots. The town men had the cemetery in

top condition and it was a beautiful place.

There's no doubt that holding the Decoration Day program reminded many people that the time had come to tend to their property in the cemeteries.

A cub leader explained she thought not enough notice had been given of the time and date. She and the other leader of her group have only lived in Acton a short while; the old traditions many take for granted are new to them.

Students want to work

Students are having little luck getting jobs this summer. Although plenty of them have signed up with the Community Services Centre, there are few employers.

If you have any small job for students, it would be helpful if you would phone the centre at 853-3310.

Here are some ideas for these eager young people: babysitting, lawn cutting, gardening, pet and

plant sitting during holidays, house painting. Or whatever else you can think of.

There is no government grant for this kind of work this year, and Acton Community Services Centre co-ordinator Judy McLin has agreed to put employer and student in touch with each other.

She needs to hear from people.

Of this and that

The newsroom rejoiced at the birth of baby kilderer on the roof outside our window. But we're not rejoicing to see the mother bird sitting on another gravel and tar nest already. Watching those baby birds teetering on the brink of the roof was too hard on everybody—mother bird, father bird, reporters and ad people.

Our youngsters learned two things from television last winter. First, hockey is fast, exciting and sometimes brutal. Second, beer is fun. - Lifted from the St. Marys Journal-Argus.

It's been a long time since Acton has seen the organization of a new group. Newcomers to town who al-

ready belonged to chapters of Beta Sigma Phi got together and have created a new chapter here. Members combine service and social times, and the town will benefit from having them. Welcome.

Festival Country has a new brochure out listing special events in this district and again Acton is pretty conspicuous by its absence. The 34-page book includes only Acton fall fair, in the same listing as has appeared before. The Festival Country organizers are willing to include any information they are sent, but apparently they don't hear from Acton. In fact, in the list of Chambers of Commerce, Acton's isn't even listed.

Open letter re house

An open letter to Mayor Tom Hill and Councillors of the Town of Halton Hills

Three times Mr. Archie Brown and myself have appeared before council in an effort to rectify problems concerning several building infractions and fire hazards contained in my house on Five Sideroad. Three times we have been rejected without reasonable explanations.

It is my belief, that in these particular circumstances, it is most difficult to make a fair decision on reports and discussions alone.

Therefore, as a ratepayer, I am issuing an open invitation to Mayor Tom Hill and Members of Council to inspect my house any evening or weekend it is convenient to all of them. In order not to impose any expense on the councillors or the people of Halton Hills, transportation will be arranged. All I ask is two or three days' notice in order to prepare. I trust the gentlemen concerned will do me the courtesy of a reply.

Yours truly, Mrs. H. Barrack, Five Sideroad, R.R. 3, Georgetown.



When the gate's away, the cars will play!



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

It seems, when one looks around, that the Great Revolution of the 1960s has petered out, as most revolutions do. And, as usually happens after a revolution, the pendulum is swinging toward conservatism.

The Savage Sixties, featuring a vicious war in Viet Nam, student uprisings, draft dodgers, the growth of strident feminism, and the blossoming of four-letter words in the mass media, have simmered down into the Scared Seventies, when inflation and unemployment are the bogey-men.

Most obvious evidence of this is the race for president in the States. There's not a liberal in sight. It's like a game of musical

chairs in which every participant is striving to be a little farther to the right than the guy who made the last speech.

I'm not entirely unhappy about this swing of the pendulum. While revolutions often produce freedom, they also produce excess, and that of the Sixties was no exception.

It produced a violence, a callousness and a viciousness that was probably unparalleled in western civilization's history.

Remember? The kids were on drugs. The parents were on the booze. Cops were called pigs. Language that would shock a sailor came out of the mouths of babes.

It was fashionable to be filthy if you were young. Hard rock replaced anything resembling music to be listened to. Cults of various degrees of obscenity flourished. Muggings multiplied. Hijacking hit the headlines.

It was a nasty, nervous decade for society to grope through, and as a basically conservative person, I'm glad it's fading, even though it has left a fair bit of detritus as it ebbs.

Not all of it was bad, of course. Many of the old shibboleths were swept away and replaced by something saner. The social, political and economic status of women took a giant step forward. There was a new honesty, as much of the stuff our parents used to sweep under the carpet was pulled out, looked at squarely, and found to be merely funny, not frightening.

There was a new and healthy skepticism toward politicians, culminating in the not so incredible discovery that some were liars, some crooks, some both.

Our institutes of higher learning got a good shake-up, and their traditional stulteness swung toward something verging on license.

In short, a lot of the phoniness of our society was exposed for what it was. A lot of rocks were turned over, and a lot of things crawled out from under them, and died in the hard, clear light.

That's all to the good. Every revolution must crack some eggs to make an omelet. And every revolution inflicts wounds, some of them savage.

But society is the sum total of individuals. And just as an individual who has been mugged, knifed, raped or otherwise abused, must retire and tend his wounds, so must society. There must be a healing time.

Perhaps the Scared Seventies is such a time. Certainly there is a trend. Hard rock music, hoist on its own petard, is being replaced by country and bluegrass music. Transcendental meditation is replacing the acid trip.

Most people are fed up with the pure pornography that has flourished. Even that sacred cow, hockey, has turned people off, including aficionados, with the mindless, but contrived violence of its goon shows. Hijackers are harried and hunted down.

Maybe, just maybe, we're in for a brief Golden Age, in which the arts will flourish, ripoffs will become a thing of the past, excellence will be restored as an aspiration of the young, and children will honor their parents. But don't hold your breath.

Maybe, just maybe, movies will start having a plot again. And policemen will be pals, not pigs. And music will be enjoyable, not excruciating. And vandalism will vanish. But don't hold your breath.

Maybe, just maybe, town engineers will go around holding hands and singing, "I think that I shall never see, A sewer lovely as a tree." But don't hold your breath.

Maybe, just maybe, politicians will start letting their left hand know what their right hand is doing, and remove both hands from the pockets of the taxpayer. But don't hold your breath.

I'm a realist. I don't hold my breath. But I'm also an optimist. So, whatever it's worth, welcome to the new Golden Age.

Yours very truly, R. Reynolds.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Volunteers answer call

June 11, 1976 RR4, Acton.

Editor, Acton Free Press, 59 Willow St. N. Acton, Ont.

On behalf of Tinker Bell Nursery, would you please extend our thank you to your staff for the great support they have given us in the past year. Without support from communities such as ours, we could not

accomplish all we do for the handicapped child.

Your newspaper has given us excellent coverage about our volunteer program and I have received many calls from prospective volunteers because of this coverage.

Best wishes to you and your staff for the coming year.

Yours sincerely, Edith Hillman (pre-school chairman)

Not even half a leaf

Dear Editor:

The residents of Crewson's Corners are not being given even half a leaf in Miss Dorothy Stone's new badge for the Town of Halton Hills.

Half of Crewson's Corners lies in the town, the other half in the County of Wellington.

Thank You, Disappointed.

Improper, unfair method

R.R. 1, Georgetown, Ontario

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to inform the public of the improper and unfair method used by the Committee for the Development of New Municipal Administration Property and Buildings in accepting tenders submitted regarding the addition to the Works Garage on the 7th Line Georgetown.

On May 14th, 1976, I submitted a tender for the masonry work to be done on the Works Garage. Accompanying my tender was a certified cheque in the amount of \$1,881.

The instructions to bidders regarding tenders provided that: "Tender proposals shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond supplied by a Surety Company approved by the Owner or a certified cheque in the amount of ten percent (10 percent) of the tender amount which amount will be forfeited to the owner if the party tendering shall fail to enter into a contract with the Owner."

"The instructions further provided that: "The successful tenderer will be required to furnish a fifty percent (50 percent) Performance Bond supplied by a Surety Company approved by the Owner, these Bonds to include corrections after completion."

At the committee meeting on May 14, 1976, the bid of A. V. Tennant General Contractors Ltd. in the amount of \$19,500 was accepted although I had submitted a bid in the amount of \$18,810.

The reason given to me for the rejection

of my bid was as follows: the Committee stated that only those bids accompanied by a fifty percent (50 percent) Performance Bond would be considered. Quite clearly, the instructions to bidders provided that a Performance Bond would only be required in the event of a bid being accepted. I feel that it is most unfair and improper for the Committee to change the conditions of bidding without allowing individuals, such as myself, an opportunity to submit a bid in accordance with the new requirements.

I would like to point out that the tender accepted for the Roofing and Sheet Metal Work was \$3,259 higher than a tender submitted by another reputable firm whose bid was accompanied by a certified cheque.

I would further point out that at least one successful bidder on the Works Garage project was accepted without submitting a Performance Bond.

I have done a great deal of work for the Town during the past 15 years and feel that the quality of my work is beyond reproach. I strongly protest the unfair manner in which the tenders were handled. As a taxpayer, I resent the additional expense incurred as a result of this particular method of accepting tenders.

In addition, I would point out that I have carried on business in the Halton Hills area for the past 25 years. To my knowledge, the successful bidder for the masonry work is not a local business man.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 14, 1956

A young school pupil found a queer old object the other day and took it to his teacher to find out what it was. But Mrs. Wyman Little didn't know any more about it than the youngster. Here's what it was: a dingy, worn octagonal metal coin, blank on one side. The other side, scuffed and bent, appears to read Eden Mills C.P. CONG. 1861. Would it be an antique token for a railway? A quaint advertising scheme?

Acton's auditors Tuesday night requested a raise in pay. Local growth, they wrote council, has so increased work in keeping touch of the town's financial conduct, the present annual \$650 isn't enough. They asked for an extra \$100.

The United church Sunday School Staff gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McKeown on Friday evening last week to honor Mrs. Dick Bean and her son, Mr. Frank Bean, who are moving from Acton to Toronto the first of July.

Queen's Scout Wayne Currie recalled experiences of the World Scout Jamboree at Niagara Falls last year when he attended the Timberlands contingent reunion in Guelph last Saturday. Highlight was the showing of the official Jamboree film.

Mr. C. K. Brown observed his 86th birthday last week. Friends extend best wishes.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 17, 1926

While delivering goods on Main St. on Tuesday the delivery horse of the Acton Co-operative store was bitten on the leg by a dog which caused the animal to take fright and run away. In the runaway the shafts of the rig were broken and the horse so badly injured it had to be shot.

A. C. Patterson of Stratford was in Rockwood for the weekend in charge of a Brooks steamer car which he is demonstrating to the public. Those who have had the privilege of a ride speak well of its qualities.

The Young Women's Auxiliary of Knox church held their meeting at the home of Miss Mary Clarridge. An address was read by Miss Emma Robinson and Miss Marie Lantz presented the honorary president Mrs. (Dr.) A. C. Stewart with a life membership certificate.

The Kingston Standard says the reason the circus passed the city is that the agent found there were already enough clowns going about in balloon pants and glycerined hair.

Mr. Charles Symon has received a prize in a window dressing contest operated by the hardware dealers of Ontario.

A new 29 passenger parlor bus will be put into commission on the line this week. It is much more commodious than the buses now in operation.

Sherrif Webster celebrated his 84th birthday this week. He still attends to his duties.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 8, 1876

A combination of the several Granges in this vicinity, comprising those of Ballinafad, Glenwilliams, Stewarttown, Hornby, Acton, Erin Village and Caledon, held a grand picnic on Friday last in the extensive grove belonging to Mr. Whiteside on the 7th line Esquering. It was estimated between 700 and 800 people were present. The Grange appears to be in flourishing condition.

Nassagaweya council approved the payment of \$8 to (name given), she being in destitute circumstances.

A huge black bear was seen on the 2nd line Esquering a short distance below Acton one evening last week by Messrs. Winlow, John Gibbons and John Keith. They were considerably scared by the unusual sight and made rapid strides for a place of safety.

Notice is hereby given to all interested in Church Hill burying grounds that there will be a general meeting June 14 for appointing trustees and to arrange for fencing and enlarging the grounds.

It is predicted the mosquitoes will be unusually abundant this year.

On Monday a woman named Mrs. Cox, mother of three children, committed suicide at her residence in Ottawa by hanging herself with a shawl from a window.

S. Zimmerman has again gone into the butchering business. Meat will be delivered Tuesdays and Saturdays.

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