

# Acton Free Press

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## Fair said "best ever"

Between two grey and rainy days, Acton fall fair copped two perfect autumn days for its 64th fall fair. Crowds thronged the park all Saturday with a record crowd for the Sunday show.

Friday night's attendance was cut considerably by the miserable downpour of rain, and those who attended enjoyed the variety program and exciting crowning of Miss Acton Fair Charmaine Bigelow.

Saturday's crowd was not the largest ever but admission prices were up and receipts are up. Secretary-Treasurer John Rowe is still poring over the figures and doesn't have any final dollars and cents statistics yet.

The Sunday show was undoubtedly the best of the three years it has been running.

### Legion asset

The Legion reunion on the same weekend was "a big asset," according to Mr. Rowe. The Legion brought the impressive massed pipes and drum bands for the parade and operated a minibus to and from the Legion hall all afternoon Saturday.

Parking in the fairgrounds was filled to capacity early in the afternoon and the use of the Legion lot eased the strain somewhat. Arrangements were made during the week to use land off Elizabeth Dr.

owned by Rugby Construction for additional parking. Overall view of the executive and committee by Tuesday: weary sighs of relief and the general estimate the 1976 version of the fall fair was "the best we've ever had."

### Saturday parade

Streets were thronged for the noon parade, including the Legion massed pipes and drum band, Kiwanis Cavaliers, Guelph Royalaires and Acton Citizens' Band. The usual large variety of

entries delighted the crowd.

The midway didn't even open Friday in the day-long rain but by the end of the three days, the operators felt they had done well.

Admission was up and the crowd down at the Saturday night dance, and organizers were very well satisfied with the result. There was a smaller crowd and no problems.

Hall exhibits were down slightly but there was a good showing. The high cost of baking is blamed for fewer entries in some of the classes.

All the baking was left for display on Sunday, with dry ice packed in cases at night to help keep it fresh.

All the floor space was rented months before the fair.

Mr. Rowe said the exhibit area could have been resold over and over, the re is such a demand.

Big disappointment was the heavy horse show which had only one entry, but all other classes had entries that satisfied the organizers. The English horses were especially good, and the poultry show was one of the best.

The heavy horse pull attracted a surprising 13 entries, and was a big success.

Food The fair board beef barbecue sold out at 450 pounds of beef consumed. The high school food booth also sold out.

Mrs. Kelly and the rest home staff manned the pancake booth, a big boom to early-rising horse show enthusiasts who were on the grounds by 8 a.m.

Sherwood Hume's old steam engines and threshing demonstration drew crowds.

The Junior Farmers minifarm was a big success again, despite the fact two goats got loose in the beer tent next door.

An innovation was the high-style fashion show put on by Marilyn's Boutique Saturday afternoon. Fiddlers contest and baby show, variety show and amateur contest have become regulars.

Extra police were on duty fair weekend, with a detachment office set up in the park. They report no serious problems during the weekend.

Scouts had a special display and Ventures helped set up for the fair and clean up afterward.

### Cleanup

The clean-up task was massive, and still was going on Tuesday. Snow fence, chairs, etc. had to be packed up and returned. Halton Hills lent a garbage packer for the clean-up.

"Everybody co-operated," said a weary secretary-treasurer Tuesday. "But it's getting to be an awful lot of work, the fair is so big now."

*It didn't rain on our parade! See page B1*



TEARS STREAMING down her face, Charmaine Bigelow, 18, takes her seat of honor as Miss Acton Fall Fair, 1976, after her crowning during Friday evening's variety show in the arena. Miss Bigelow, a first year dental assistant student at Seneca College, was named over 12 other contestants after an action-packed few

hours. Susan Thibodeau, 17, first runner-up, and Lorella DePieri, 18, second runner-up, accompanied Miss Bigelow around the fairgrounds during the fair weekend. She will be competing in the Miss CNE Sweetheart of the Fairs contest in Toronto next August. More pictures and story on page B7.

## Interlock stone on Mill Street

It's definite! Acton will have a Yorkville type sidewalk of interlocking stone from John to Main Street.

Councillor Mike Armstrong explained the money was in the budget, and the work would be done during the reconstruction of Mill Street. He pointed out the stone is manufactured at KNR Durastone in Georgetown. He said he hoped the same thing could be done in other commercial areas of the town.

Councillor Les Doby said he thought the merchants simply wanted the area by the roadway improved, and wondered if they wanted the whole sidewalk in the interlocking stone.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said the merchants were clear about it and so were the members of the works committee. He said the stones would add character to the area.

## Variety store delay

Halton Hills subsidiary planning board has delayed approval for a variety store to be built where the remains of an old blacksmith's shop now stand at the corner of Agnes and Main Streets.

At a planning board meeting on September 14 assistant planner Ron Burnett told the councillors that the present site for the neighborhood store is too small and the developer is trying to acquire more property. Otek Construction wants to build the variety store and planning board has previously voiced strong support for the idea since it will mean the removal of an eyesore.

Burnett and planner Mario Venditti reported a study of the whole area is underway since it is a residential, commercial and industrial area and the planners want to decide which should be the official use of the block and what should be designated legal but non-conforming in the official plan.

Planning board agreed the application for an official plan amendment for the variety store was premature.

Both councillors Les Doby and Pat McKenzie expressed concern that the delay not be too long since they were eager to see the eyesore removed.



CONGRATULATIONS are offered to this year's Citizen of the Year, Mrs. Isabel Watson, by Chamber of Commerce president Louis Charlebois. She'll be guest of honor at a dinner at the Legion Oct. 8.

## Mrs. I. Watson Citizen of Year

Librarian for over 50 years, Mrs. Isabel Watson will be honored as Acton's Citizen of the Year at a dinner in the Legion hall Friday, October 8. The Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual event, a highlight of their year.

For the first time, the presentation dinner-dance is being held in the fall rather than the spring.

Mrs. Watson has been chief librarian for 50 years, and worked part-time in the village library even before that. She will be retiring soon. She and her husband and later son Tom, operated Watson's Dairy and Dairy Bar.

Tickets will be on sale soon. C. of C. president Louis Charlebois made a surprise call at Acton Library during Friday night's pouring rain to announce the committee's decision to Mrs. Watson.

# So much Halton vandalism police merely take reports

Vandalism is getting so bad in Halton the police just can't keep up with it. Chief Ken Skerrett told Halton Police Commission, Thursday.

"There is so much of it we just can't keep up with it. It ends up being a case of simply taking reports on each incidence of vandalism," Skerrett said.

Regional councillor, Jack Raftis, representing region chairman Allan Masson at the meeting, said regional council is considering putting forth a motion asking Halton Board of Education to crack down on its students who are

known vandals. He suggested if teenagers who are causing damage to public and private property throughout the region didn't have the sheltered world of the school they might start to realize the seriousness of their actions.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said the "viciousness" of some of the vandalism in Halton is amazing.

Judge William Warrander said he thought the root of the problem is that "some parents just don't give a damn what their kids do."

Alluding to some of the vandalism problems in his

town, Barrett said he didn't know how the youths managed to continually break the supposedly unbreakable glass in bus shelters day after day.

Perplexed at what is the answer to curbing rising vandalism, chairman Glen Magnuson wondered, "What do we have to do, put an officer in every bus shelter?"

Barrett noted the schools are having their own problems with vandalism. The situation is so bad the school board is having trouble finding firms to insure schools. As a result the board pays

exorbitant insurance premiums.

Raftis said one way of getting teenagers to stop vandalizing public and private property might be to get to them through school programs. "The schools are one avenue open to us."

"There seems to be an element which has been building up in our society which has no respect for other people's property," Magnuson observed.

Warrander said vandalism is so widespread in Halton that only the parents can stop it.

Skerrett noted he and other officers are out all the time speaking at schools and "preaching" against vandalism. Last year people under 16 years of age accounted for 27 per cent of the crimes in Halton, he said.

He felt most of the vandalism is caused by a small group of teenagers and they are giving all young people a bad name.

Skerrett said he doesn't hold out much hope right now of young people reporting incidents of vandalism caused by other students to either schools or police. He

said the good element among Halton's retaliation.

He predicted that eventually people will face up to the threat of retaliation and once that happens youth crime will start to level off.

Skerrett said he expects Halton and the rest of the country is headed down the same stormy, violent road which the United States has already travelled and the trip may be necessary before youth crime starts to tail off.

Warrander said he thought the answer has to be the home.

(Continued on Page two)

## Agree and disagree

# People, planners at library

Several townsfolk met government planners in the library to help chart Halton Region's course, even though a few said they'd rather the region not count on Acton going too far down the road.

Some 22 people turned out last Wednesday night in spite of a Canada Cup hockey game being played, to give their views or nay to the Region Planning Department's Phase II report on draft goals and objectives.

The group, chaired by councillor Pat McKenzie, took the full scheduled two-and-a-half hours, to go through the 19-legal size page document. Copies were given to citizens as they entered the room.

Meeting The planners are holding meetings throughout the region to get citizen's reactions to the report. A meeting is scheduled for Georgetown's Gordon Alcott arena on September 28 starting at 7:30 p.m.

The planners' findings will end up in the region's official plan.

At the meeting, people read over sections of the report

and picked items they were either in favor of, or not.

Items such as housing and agriculture got the most time, but utilities and government sections received scant attention.

Talk of helping regional planners work without Acton came just prior to the meeting getting underway.

"The first thing to do is get out of the region!" Lorne Youngblut of Beardmore said.

Reasonable Speaking to the planners, Bruce Shoemaker backed up Mr. Youngblut with: "You asked us to come to plan for Halton, and I think it's a reasonable suggestion to plan Halton without Acton."

"You don't know how many people you're speaking for," chimed in Did Price of Friends-In-Deed.

Strongest views of the evening came from two farmers who objected to the planners about proposed ideas for agriculture in the region.

The 10-point agriculture section included calls "to provide tax incentives for

active farming; to permanently designate prime farmlands for agricultural uses; to design an effective system for land banking strategically located good agriculture lands."

"I disagree with this whole page on agriculture", Ralph Denny, R. R. 2, Acton told the planners. Peter Branch, R. R. 1, Norval, said he agreed with Mr. Denny.

Need Region planners were told that Acton needs industrial and commercial development more than new housing. "We have nearly 7,000 people and little industry", Vic Bristow, Elizabeth Drive, said.

Halton Hills council backs calls for Acton and Georgetown to get industry first and housing second, chairman McKenzie replied.

If the area is to get housing, according to the meeting, it should either be of the estate variety or of a type that can be rented.

"Everyone I talk to says there is a need for rental housing", Rene March of Ballinacraig said. Paul Nielsen agreed.

Mr. Price, of Friends-In-Deed, spoke on the planner's section on specialized housing. "Consult the handicapped first, and don't let an engineer botch it up. He'll build a monstrosity", Mr. Price said.

One objective under Growth and Settlement which would have put a new town somewhere in the region got an "I'm not in favor of it", from David Swetman. His thumbs down came after assistant planner Sharon Johnston reworded the document's "To promote a Halton Regional centre for business, cultural and recreational purposes" as "What they're asking is if you want another town, other than the present ones".

The group responded to the possible threat from proposed sanitary landfill sites with the idea of having a central garbage disposal unit. It was hoped that such a unit would recycle material so that it would help pay for itself.

Flowers On the recreation section, Mr. Nielsen said: "I think we should hang onto the original

concept of small parks with flowers and trees. That is, common ground where people can talk instead of just a place for mass sport."

Mr. Branch, from Norval, questioned the cost of what would result if all the items under Social were set up. "I think we have to examine the costs. I'd like to see them. But I get a little up tight because it isn't very practical, or down-to-earth."

"We're planning spring public meetings with alternatives on costs and implications", planner Johnston said.

Brian Donat, of Nassagaweya, asked the planners for more frequent bus service between Georgetown and Guelph in the off-hours. He said that the bus service is adequate during the day, but not so good for people who start work before 9 a.m.

No comments were made on the utilities or Government sections of the paper.

The Acton meeting drew an average number of people, planner Johnston said. Twenty-two went to the library.



MORE THAN TWENTY citizens turned out for the regional planning meeting at the library last Wednesday. They went through a planning report which contained points that may end up in the official plan.



HOLDING ONTO THE youngest Everton citizen is T. D. McCutcheon, the village's oldest citizen, during the dedication of Hortop Mill Sunday at Everton. Mr. McCutcheon was 88 years and three months old Sunday, and Cheryl Zions was two months old. Story and more pictures on page B10.