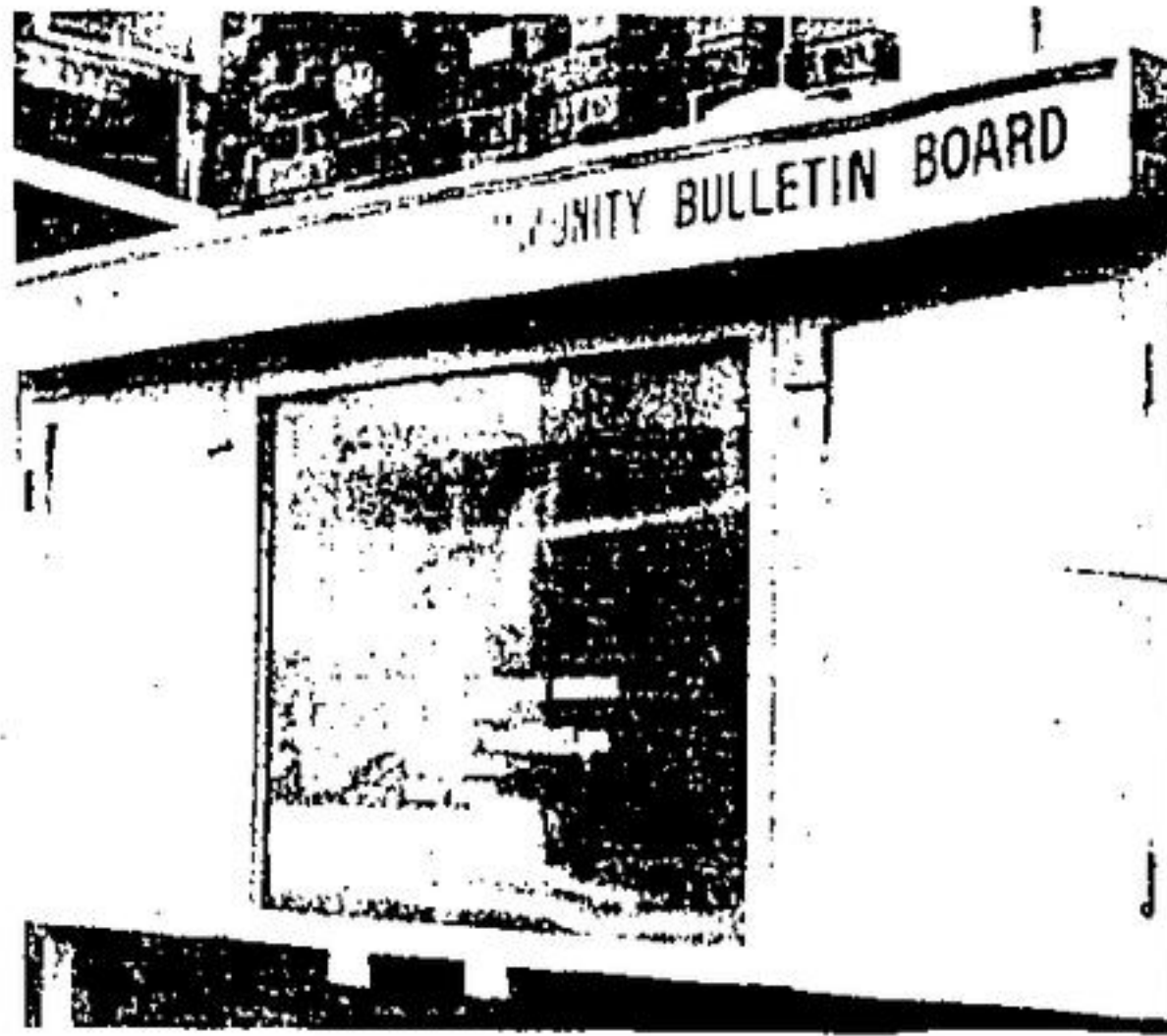


## Urges responsibility for two highway signs

How about those signs on the outskirts of town, with their weary messages which are never changed? A former member of Acton's defunct Development Commission Bill Yundt, would like to see someone delegated to be in charge of the two blue signs this year. The one on Highway 25 south

of town is still advertising the full fair. There were four signs originally, purchased by the commission at a cost of \$1200. There are just two left in use. The development commission went out of existence with the introduction of regional government.

In town hall At present the letters are kept in the upstairs of the town hall, and may be used by anyone who contacts the works department with the request. "They could be so useful," the commissioner says. "They could have at least said 'Happy New Year'."



NOTHING MUCH going on these days. The community bulletin board on Mill is bare.

## Acton losing identity? south hears the cry

The people in Hamilton area and the south of Halton region learned something of Acton's concerns this Monday through an interview in the Hamilton Spectator. A large headline "Residents fear Acton is losing its identity" tops an interview with Peter Papillon, chairman of the new Actonians for Acton committee.

The committee is presently asking, through the Free Press, for correspondence from citizens. An open letter appeared on the front page of the Free Press December 22.

The Hamilton Spectator story reads: "Concerned citizens of Acton have formed an organization to study their community's position in Halton region."

"Many residents are concerned that Acton—part of Halton Hills on the northern boundary of the region—is losing its identity," says Peter Papillon, chairman of Actonians for Acton.

"We have very little voice up here. Most of the region centres on the lakeshore with Burlington and Oakville. All of the north can be outvoted easily on council," he says.

"Everything seems to be going to Georgetown, such as the arenas and other developments. Maybe that's a good thing—we would become a suburb and Georgetown could have all the industry and the pollution that goes with it."

"He says the group, 'with many members,' has been organized for about a month and has held three general

meetings. "Three committees have been set up to study the alternatives." "We're very open-minded. We want to find out where we stand," Mr. Papillon says. "At the present time we're taking a very quiet attitude, just gathering information." "We may find out, according to the facts and figures, that we're better off as we are, but at least we'll be able to tell the rest of the Acton residents the situation."

"Mr. Papillon says the aim is to promote efficiency in all levels of government, but particularly at the municipal level."

"This is to be accomplished through a program of surveillance and by the weight of informed public opinion."

"We certainly aren't going to say we want out of Halton region, we just need to know the facts."

"It's our belief that if we're going to maintain our position in Halton, a strong united voice will be required at both levels of regional government." He says the group, which includes lawyers and businessmen, knows of several things that have to be ironed out.

"There are some terrible wastes of manpower in the regional operations."

"For instance, the centre of public works is in Georgetown. Men who live here have to go to Georgetown to punch in every day, then bring the machinery here and take it back at the end of the day al-

though we do have a yard here."

"We don't need any radicals with their minds made up. We're very open minded. We think we may be getting shafted, but we may be wrong. We want it proved," he says.

"We're a group of people who believe in what we're doing."

"By our united efforts we hope to make Acton a community in which Actonians can live with pride and a tax level within the means of all."

"It plans its first report at the end of January."

"We intend to look into a number of aspects and perhaps come up with some recommendations," Norman Elliott, vice chairman, says.

"A lot of Acton people have grumbled about regional government but there is no common thread of discontent."

"Fifteen persons attended the first meeting of the committee. All were active in community affairs before regional government."

"Mr. Elliott was a member of the Acton council, while Mr. Papillon, the committee's chairman, served on the town's recreation committee."

"Acton has lacked private citizen participation in planning and recreation since regional government was implemented," Mr. Elliott says. "It's a good thing to have private citizens involved in things. We only have three members on the Halton Hills council and they can't possibly keep up on every thing."

"The committee probably will come up with two or three progress reports before announcing its findings."

## Snow costs up sanding down

A snowy November sent the snowplowing and sanding costs over budget in Halton Hills, but less sanding and salting costs have saved the day for the overall works budget.

Works Superintendent Frank Morette said he expected the year end figures to be right on budget.

He said up to the end of November snow removal costs were \$15,304, while the

budgeted figure to the end of the year was \$10,000.

Snowplowing costs until November 30, were \$51,748, while the budgeted figure was \$48,300.

The sanding and salting costs were \$25,053, but the budgeted figure was \$44,500. The \$18,647 saving in this area should carry the town through December for all winter road costs, according to Mr. Morette.

## Howitt is Q.C.

Richard Dick T. Howitt, Georgetown lawyer, was appointed Queen's Counsel, by the provincial government, in the annual New Year's Day honors. He was one of 99 Ontario barristers and solicitors so honored.

Mr. Howitt has practiced law in Georgetown, from his Main Street office since 1953.

After being called to the bar in 1961 he and his wife Carol, went to England for a year, where Carol taught as an exchange teacher, and Dick worked with a firm of solicitors.

The couple moved to a 100 year old farmhouse in Esquesing, on Ten Sideroad, between the Fourth and Fifth Line, in 1968. They have one three and a half year old daughter Sarah.

Mr. Howitt served on Esquesing council in 1971, '72, and '73, and on Halton Hills council for the past three years. He decided not to enter the political race this year.

The only other Queen's Counsel appointment in this area went to Thomas R. Sutherland, regional councillor for Burlington.

## Plan carnival

Plans are being finalized for the first annual Region Winter Carnival Day to be held at Kelso, Conservation Area Sunday, Feb. 13.

The program is being organized and financed by recreation departments in the four Halton municipalities.

Special events will include a family snowman contest, toboggan races, log sawing contests, donut eating contests, family skating on the lake as well as sleigh rides, skating races, skiing at Glen Eden, an antique gun show and special tours of Halton Regional Museum.

Events will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and all of the events will take place at Kelso.

People from all over Halton will be admitted to the area free of charge for the afternoon.

Milton Parks and Recreation program supervisor Karen Uhryn said plans for Milton's own winter carnival are indefinite at this time.

She said family skating and a school broomball tournament would be planned locally on the same weekend as the regional carnival.

Plans for a major town carnival that weekend have been hampered because a new recreation director still hasn't been hired and the department is working shorthanded.

Registration forms for the regional winter carnival will be circulated through the schools.

Wins radio in Y draw

Winner of the citizens' band radio in the Y's Men's December 18 draw was Mrs. Ann Malcolm of Islington. Mrs. V. Patrick, Acton, won the T. V. Ping Pong game and Mrs. Ed Leatherland won the Provincial Lottery ticket. The club realized over \$290 in ticket sales, with the proceeds going towards chairs for the YMCA.

No mail Mon.

There was no mail service or delivery on Monday. After Christmas, post office services were closed on the Monday and Tuesday both.

## Board-OSSTF dispute

The dispute between Halton Board of Education and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (O.S.S.T.F.) over reorganization of nine Halton high schools is still unresolved.

The board plans to eliminate the old department head system at nine schools, including Georgetown and Milton High Schools next September, and replace the system with the new chairmanship system which is now in operation at several Halton secondary schools, including Acton.

Last month the provincial office of the OSSTF stepped in and took over dealings with the board in the area of reorganization from the local OSSTF branch.

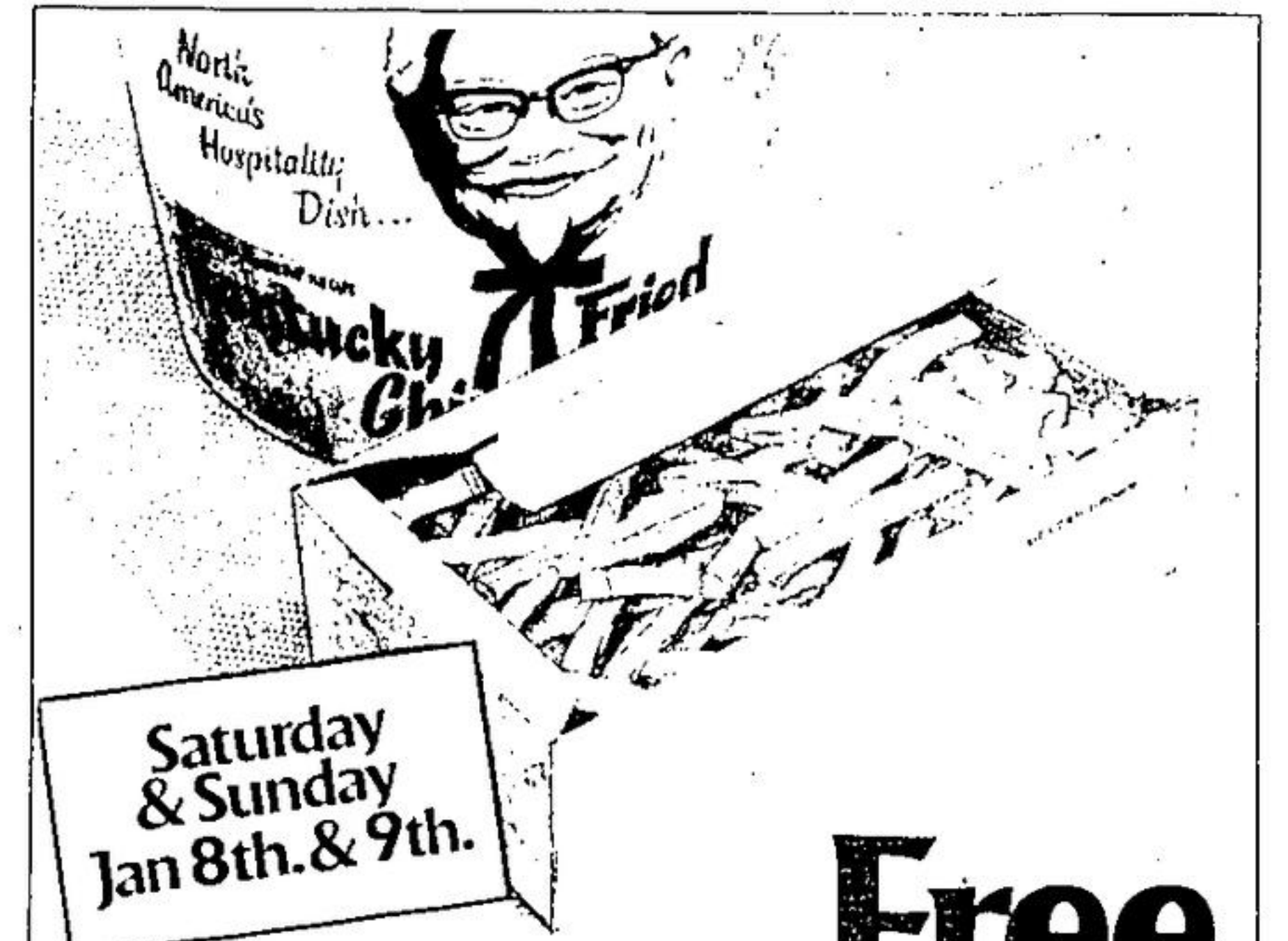
Last week board chairman Judy Alexander and vice-chairman Bill Herd met with members of the special assistance team, including Halton teacher David Judd, but nothing was resolved.

Judd said both parties agreed not to release any statement to the press but admitted "no issues were resolved."

He said nothing of "any significance" came out of the informal talks last week.

Judd also said the embargo against the board declaring that no member of OSSTF can apply for, or accept, a chairmanship position with the Halton board is still in effect and really started to have an impact when the board began advertising for chairmen on Monday.

Director of Education En Lavender said correspondence dealing with the stalemate between the board and OSSTF will come before trustees at the board inaugural meeting Thursday. He admitted the board has now received some legal advice on how to deal with the situation.



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