

Elections, accidents, hearings dominate 1976 headlines

Another year is over and time marches on. In 100 years, the news of 1976 will be condensed to a few paragraphs a week in the Pages of the Past column, and today's problems and tragedies will seem minuscule to newspaper readers.

However, to the people of today the news is real and very much in the minds of Acton residents. Most citizens will not forget many of last year's headlines, as much as they might like to.

The front is a year-end review of those stories which made the Free Press front pages from January to December. Perhaps 1977's year-end review will bring better news!

January

Tenants of the Dominion Hotel had to be evacuated during an early morning blaze, and the premises closed for the rest of the day. Fire broke out in a locked third floor storage room at 1.30 a.m. and spread into the hall and one bedroom. Sleeping tenants were awakened by the fire alarm, and were escorted or carried out of the building by firefighters or police.

Paul Neilsen and Louis Charlebois, representing Acton Chamber of Commerce, told Halton Hills works committee they will ask downtown businessmen to allow a special mill rate levy to help finance the development of downtown parking.

Plans to build 50 estate type dwellings on 145 acres of land north of Highway 7 on what once was the Toronto International Dragway site won approval of Halton Region's planning committee.

Halton Hills council went on record as opposing the hydro corridor through Halton Hills, until an independent study of all other alternatives is completed but stalled offering financial aid.

Halton Hills works committee decided to proceed with the installation of illuminated street signs in Acton.

Acton and area had three New Year's babies. Gregory Eugene Braida, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Braida, Bower Ave., made his appearance at 11.17 a.m. Heather Lorene Kingdon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kingdon, R. R. 5, Rockwood made her debut at 10.15 a.m. She has a sister, Carolyn, who is seven.

A third New Year's baby was Seth Christian Homer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Homer, 127 Churchill Rd. S. born at 4.58 p.m. He has two sisters to go home to.

Despite strong opposition to a 500 kV north-south hydro transmission corridor through Halton Hills and an objective report from the Environmental Hearing Board, the line from Milton to Bradley Junction is likely to be a reality.

February

Halton Hills works committee decided to widen sidewalks on Mill St. and ban parking on the south side of the street once the reconstruction job is completed. A week later, Chamber of Commerce representatives went to council with a brief and had the parking ban released.

Expansion of the present Halton Hills Administration Building on the Seventh Line instead of the building of a municipal complex at another location, was endorsed by all Halton Hills councillors except Harry Levy.

March

Seventeen year old Cliff Creasey is \$3500 richer after winning the Legion's 500 Club draw. The prize was a car, but Cliff took the cash instead.

A fiery crash on Highway 25 claimed seven lives March 6. John McHugh, 17, of 144 Mill St. E.; John Oudeslus, 19, of

shooting of his wife, Hilda Baron and boarders Gunter Mayer and his nine-year-old son Wayne.

Committee meetings will stay open to the press and public. Halton Hills council voted down an administration committee recommendation to bar the press and public from the meetings.

Acton and area residents' fears of Guelph hospitals doors being closed to them were unfounded, even after Halton Regional Council refused to make a donation to the out-of-county hospital.

Acton Figure Skating club held their annual skating carnival this month with the Olympics as this year's theme. The arena was almost filled for the performance, which marked the end of the skating season in Acton.

A coroner's inquest jury recommended a police policy concerning police chases following the deaths of seven young people last month. The jury recommended that the Halton Regional Police form a policy on high speed pursuits after reviewing the guidelines of the RCMP and the Ontario and Quebec Provincial police. The jury wanted a sergeant and senior officer to control the radio dispatch desk during emergencies and priority situations, improved radio communications system by eliminating or reducing dead zones and static interference, an emergency override feature on radios and a back-up system. The jury also called for provincial legislation to forbid drivers leaving ignition keys in unattended vehicles.

Police Constable Tom Roduck, the officer involved in the chase was commended by the jury for his "very professional conduct". The jury also stated that the Halton force "is an extremely fortunate to have an officer of his integrity and capabilities."

April

John Toebes was named the recipient of the Charles Thomson Memorial Award, for his dedicated service to sports in the past years.

A 20-year-old Acton district man was crushed to death when he lost control of a farm tractor, which overturned in a roadside ditch, pinning him underneath. Milton OPP said Kenneth Charles Bouclair died instantly.

Lynn Irene Jones, 28, 227 Kingham Rd., became the eleventh traffic fatality of the area in a month. Mrs. Jones died after a vehicle driven by her husband, in which she was a passenger, was in collision with a school bus at the intersection of Britannia Road and McLaughlin Road in Mississauga.

May

If the town finds the money and the project moves along without a hitch, Halton Hills could have a newly expanded \$850,000 municipal complex on the Seventh Line by early 1978.

Halton Hills works committee recommended that the town proceed with total reconstruction of Cameron Street including the installation of storm sewers, curbs and gutters so drainage problems on the street can be solved.

First stage in the \$200,000 reconstruction of a five block stretch of Mill St., through the heart of downtown Acton is underway as surveying for the project moves ahead.

Halton Hills ratepayers will face average increases of over \$100 this year. Ratepayers learned last week that combined taxes for education and municipal taxes will amount to about \$77 in Acton and Georgetown and \$85 in Esquesing.

An Ontario Supreme Court jury took 40 minutes to decide that Horst Baron, charged on three counts of attempted murder, was not guilty by reason of insanity. He was charged in connection of the

town to buy the property for a parking area was held up when merchant Bert Hinton said he was unaware the purchase had progressed as far as by-law.

About 25 willing women took application forms for the proposed Block Parents program in town.

The town of Halton Hills will determine how many residential lots can be made from vacant land on Mill St. near Acton Boulevard known as Leishman Park. The ultimate aim is to sell the land according to planning board recommendations.



August

Previously freed on a suspended sentence, Roseanne Brown was sentenced Tuesday to up to two years in reformatory. She was charged with the manslaughter death of her husband Const. Paul Brown, Nov. 10, 1974, when they lived on Jeffrey Ave., Acton. An Ontario Court of Appeal set aside the suspended sentence imposed by Justice T. P. Callan last year. She pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of manslaughter after testimony at the trial suggested she was not conscious of her actions. Const. Brown was with the Acton detachment of the OPP at the time of his death.

The fate of the \$900,000 municipal complex is as confused as ever. Halton Hills council split right down the middle and voted six to six on a motion to stop any further work by the architect, until a firm decision is made on the building.

James Mullen, 9, R.R. 1, Acton, was rushed to Guelph hospital and on to Toronto Sick Children's hospital after being struck by a car near Crewson Corners. Const. Brian Farrell of Halton Regional Police gave the boy mouth to mouth.

resuscitation on the scene and revived the boy. He recovered satisfactorily after several weeks in hospital.

September

A 16-year-old Scarborough youth has been charged with possession of stolen property and criminal negligence in the operation of a vehicle after a police chase which began in Kitchener and ended in Acton.

Some of the interlocking paving stones that will be used on Acton sidewalks have been given to Henry Stachyra, chairman of the committee planning, hopefully for improvements for the downtown area.

Funeral service was held for David Roy Overland, Main St. Erin, who was killed in a car collision Sunday at 5.55 a.m. He was 24 years old.

Between two grey and rainy days, Acton fall fair capped two perfect autumn days for its 64th fall fair. Friday's attendance was considerably downpour of rain and those who attended enjoyed the variety program and the exciting crowning of Miss Acton Fair Charmaine Bigelow.

Acton will still have a town office, Halton Hills council agreed. A notice that water bills would have to be paid in Georgetown upset quite a few residents of the area.

Councillor Joe Hurst announced he will not seek re-election in the December 6 election.

A Burlington woman died early Saturday morning when the car she was driving went out of control on the First Line one mile south of Britannia. Dead is Trudy George, 28, of 1256 Guelph Line, Burlington.

Damages rose to \$100,000 after a barn burned to the ground on the farm of Gen. Thompson of R.R. 1, Acton.

October

An estimated 9,000 gallons of oil poured into the Black Creek after a tanker trailer

overturned on Main St. S. Police, firefighters, ambulance, town workmen, and an official of the Department of the Environment were all called within minutes of the accident. Crews managed to dam the creek and catch the oil before it proceeded down stream where it could eventually flow into the Credit River.

Diplomas were given to 120 graduates of Acton High School. Andy Thomson was the valedictorian.

Acton Sabres won their first hockey game of the season against the Burlington Cougars with a score of 6-6.

Fifty years of service to the Acton library and to the residents of the town were recognized this month as over 100 people attended a banquet and dance at the Legion honoring Acton's Citizen of the Year for 1976, Mrs. Isabel Watson.

Acton work unions have decided not to participate in the October 14 day of protest.

November

A young Rockwood area man, Henrick Jansin, 23, R.R. 4, Rockwood and his passenger, Herman Van dermeulen, 17, of Oakville, were killed November 13 in a two car crash on Highway 25 just south of Hillsburgh. The driver of the other car, Lorne Warrington, 17, of Orton was treated for minor injuries at Guelph General Hospital.

A group of concerned residents of the town banded together at a special meeting to restrict trucks on Wallace St. and Churchill Rd.

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A shopping centre with Zehrs and Canadian Tire as the two possible major tenants at the corner of Churchill Rd. and Highway 7 was proposed to Halton Hills Planning Board. The board recom-

mended they receive the studies prepared by Jerry Sprackman, owner of J. Landawn Shopping Centres Ltd., and delay further discussion until the completion of the Acton urban

area study. The old stone house, now used as part of the Robert Little school will house a new Roman Catholic separate school. (Continued on Page Nine)

INTRODUCING A NEW "DIET" THAT'S EASIER TO SWALLOW

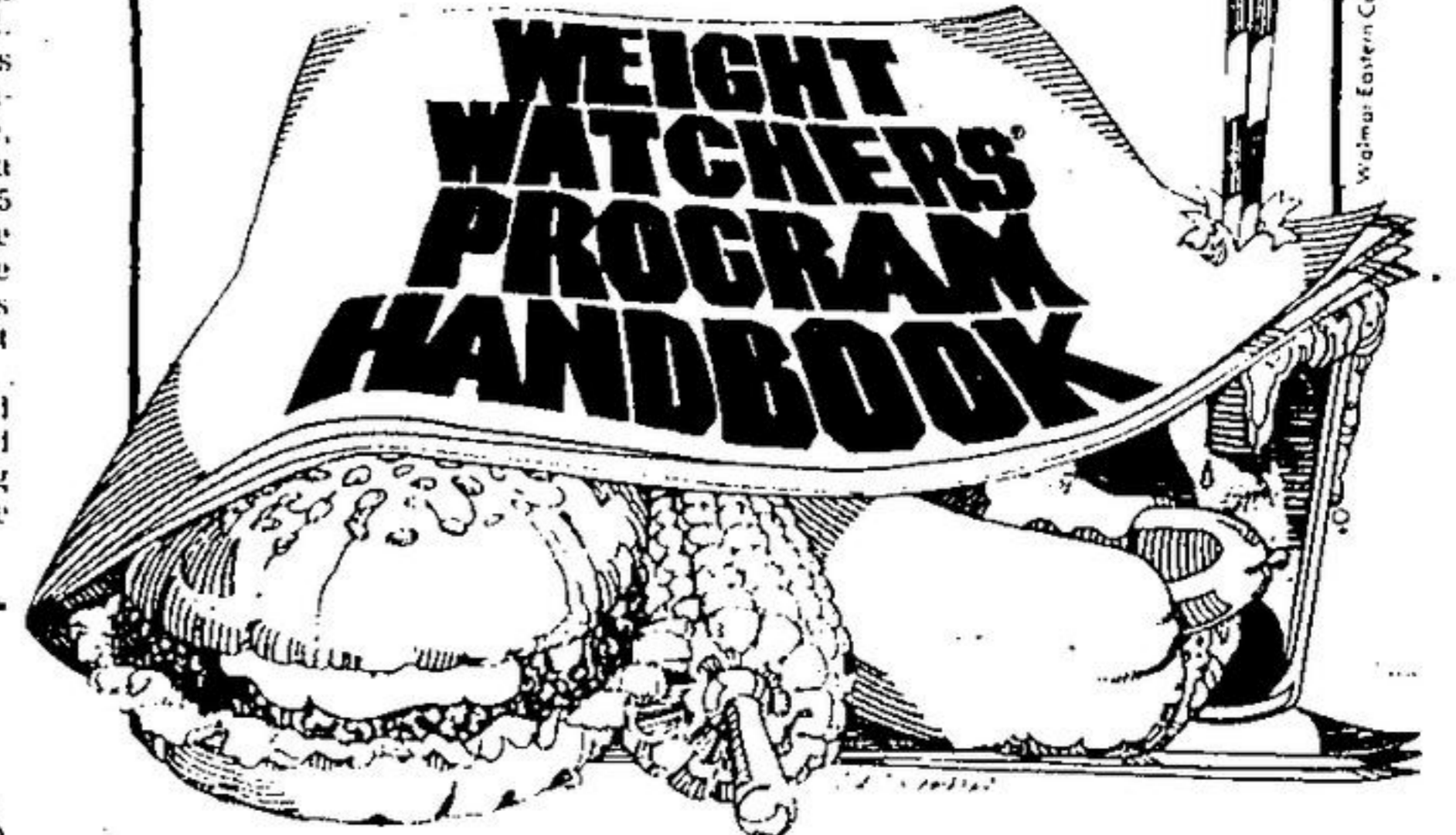
It's the new Weight Watchers Food Plan, and it's full of things like succulent corn-on-the-cob, thick, juicy cheeseburgers, real cocoa milkshakes and more. All within limits, of course. And you can have them. No matter how much weight you've got to lose.

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160 lb. Minimum	110 lbs. Minimum

Age: Police 21-35 yrs. — Cadet 18-20 yrs.
Education: Grade 10 Minimum
Canadian Citizen or British Subject

CIVILIAN COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL

To handle telephone complaints from the public, dispatching by radio, typing and other duties as assigned.

APPLY TO: **HALTON REGIONAL POLICE FORCE**
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Includes:
New plugs, new points, new condenser, new rotor, adjust timing and carburetor. Lubricate heat riser valve. Check distributor cap, cooling system hoses, spark plug wires, coil, PCV valve, air filter and gas line filter. Licensed mechanics using up-to-date equipment. To make your car run smoother. And to save you money on gas. Special prices for cars with electronic ignition.

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