

Marks urges

Acton "white elephant" to ease space lack

The works building in Acton could be the answer to the town's space shortage, according to Councillor Peter Marks. He said it is not being used to anywhere near capacity, and said it is a warm, safe and dry storage area.

The statement was made during a discussion on the ambulance building and its possible use by the town.

Treasurer Ray King suggested dead storage could be moved into the ambulance building, since it was close to the treasury building.

Marks said trucks and cars are going back and forth to Acton every day so there should be no problem in retrieving documents from storage in the Acton works building. He said the ambulance building could be rented, and the town receive revenue.

Councillor Russ Miller said the Red Cross has a location at Cedarvale. He said renting it to the Red Cross would yield little revenue, and pointed out other groups want the building.

He said the department heads say there is a need for storage space.

Councillor Peter Morris said the ambulance building is already divided into two separate areas, and suggested it could be shared with the Red Cross.

Councillor Walter Biehn pointed out the Red Cross has a problem storing large items like hospital beds and wheelchairs, but emphasized the town needs should come first.

He said the cancer society has an office and pays rent and wondered if the Red Cross could share facilities with them.

Marks said there is no necessity to pre-empt the town's needs, when there "is a big white elephant in Acton". He termed it "a criminal waste of space".

Councillor Roy Booth said he sympathized with the Red Cross as he did with all such groups, but said the town is short of space, and should not be renting out its facilities.

"The more we procrastinate the more it costs."

The committee decided to recommend that the town offer the Red Cross part of the ambulance building.



FRED WRIGHT SUPPORTED the CNIB for 50 years, never realizing that he would one day need their help. "I was amazed at what they had," he said. He is shown here with his talking digital computer, including tape-recorded instructions, and a talking book, which reads book out loud for him. This week is the beginning of the CNIB fund drive.

The Acton Free Press

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200 meet candidates here Mon.

Over 200 attended a lively Meet the Candidates meeting Monday night in the Robert Little auditorium. All experienced campaigners by now, the candidates seemed comfortable in their political hot seats as they fended with questioners in the interested audience.

Incumbent Liberal Julian Reed and challengers PC George Gray and NDP candidate Bill Johnson started off the program by speaking about 10 minutes each, and then rounded out the evening by each speaking again in conclusion.

Questions The portion between was devoted to written and oral questions. Moderating were Chamber of Commerce president Louis Charlebois and vice-president Kevin Conroy.

Refreshments were served in the corridor afterwards and the talk continued on.

Each candidate had a table in the school lobby with literature and popular campaign souvenirs.

Regional government was the issue that seemed to spark the most spontaneous reaction in the crowd. George Gray defended the concept and said the benefits would be for our children, not ourselves. Bill Johnson favored a review. Julian Reed favored review and action, to follow along with the wishes of the Acton people.

A full account of the meeting follows.

Opening remarks In his opening remarks Bill Johnson said this campaign is not an open and clean one.

He declared to applause that this election is not necessary; that Mr. Davis misread the polls and the people were happy with minority government.

Tories have juggled statistics so we now have to accept 5.3 per cent of our total work force as permanently unemployed; the previous figure was 3 per cent. There are 3,000,000 unemployed.

Despicable Mr. Gray has gained mileage by promising jobs in Halton Hills and Milton. I think it is despicable to raise the hopes of the unemployed in this manner. Worse is playing with the education of our young people for political advantage, overruling the school board priorities to give a new school in Burlington.

Johnson spoke in particular of the situation in B.C. and the two remaining NDP provinces

which have triple A ratings on Wall St.

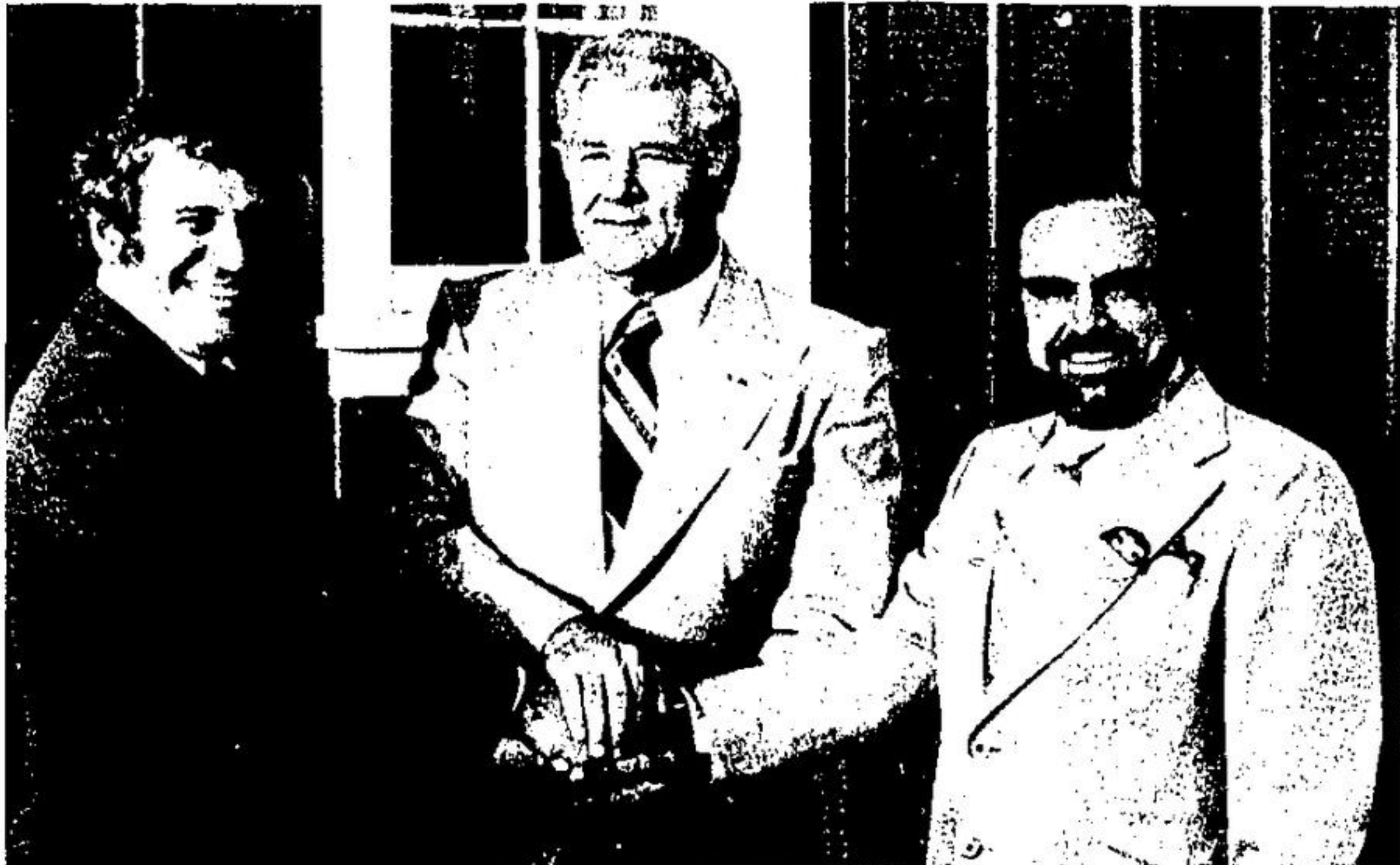
He told of a meeting on the school situation which Reed had not attended that morning.

Ontario is an environmental disaster... If you're going to change things, you have to change things at Queen's Park, Johnson ended.

Julian Reed began by saying it was the first time in the campaign charges have been levelled against him. Johnson had said he did not attend the meeting in Toronto that day with the Minister of Education; in fact he had tried to attend but was prevented by the Minister himself. Instead he spent time with the Interested Citizens group and the Minister of Energy.

He spoke of other commitments for interviews he had kept, when the others were no shows or late.

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TAKING TIME OUT from their exhausting campaigns to grasp each other's hand in the spirit of friendship are Halton-Burlington election candidates Julian Reed, left, George Gray and Bill Johnston. The three men later left the handshaking and backslapping to debate the issues of the region of Halton and how they will effectively handle them, if elected.

People win

Hydro wrong

Court rules hearings consider other routes

The Ontario Court of Appeals last Tuesday unanimously overruled an earlier decision by the Divisional Court over expropriation hearings on

the proposed 500,000-volt Ontario hydro corridor from Bruce to Milton.

The court ruled expropriation hearings should consider alternative routes for the corridor and Mr. Justice Thomas Zuber said it appeared the Solandt Commission study into hydro corridor proposals did not deal with a route between the transformer station near Milton and the Bruce nuclear station on Lake Huron in a substantial way.

The full transcript of the court's decision has not yet been released but it was a resounding victory for the area Interested Citizens' Group and others who have been fighting for an independent study of the proposals for many years.

Ontario Hydro has contended Dr. Solandt studied the corridor and based the corporation's case on The Solandt Commission report.

Disston back at work Mon.

After being on strike exactly three weeks, Disston union employees went back to work Monday. The two year contract which was approved following mediation gives a seven per cent increase in the first year, retroactive to the first of February.

In the second year employees will get a cost of living based on one cent for every .4 of a point raise in the cost of living index up to a maximum of 25 cents. Also in the second year a five per cent raise across the board was approved.

It is a settlement subject to ratification by the Anti-Inflation Board. Both the company and the union will recommend acceptance of the terms to the AIB.

After a mediation meeting at the Mohawk Inn last Wednesday, the union executive recommended the terms to the membership at a meeting in the Legion Friday. The vote was 69 to 24 to accept the offer. Some of the maintenance crew went to work the next day.

There are 122 union members at Disston. Men and women are simply designated as employees in the new contract, with no differences in wage.

This is the third strike at Disston since it has been established in Acton. Each strike lasted three weeks.

Merchants concerned about new sidewalks

Acton merchants have expressed concerns over the new red lockstone sidewalks installed on Main Street which range from fearing youths will tear up the bricks to worrying that their red color will clash with the color of the storefront.

Installation foreman Trevor Hughes discounts theories that the bricks will be removed. "These bricks can't be pulled out after they're vibrated and sanded," he said. The vibrating settles the stones in absolutely flat and the sanding locks them in with its

Merchants purchase Hotchen's for parking

A small group of downtown businessmen have gotten together and purchased the Hotchen's Bakery property on Willow Street, Councillor Les Duby reported Monday to Halton Hills works committee.

He said the merchants' offer of \$43,000 included a \$7,500 down payment and it was accepted over another offer recently submitted.

Duby said the property is for downtown parking and if two thirds of the merchants and property owners representing half the assessment don't get up a petition against the plan

it will be later resold to the town at cost for municipal parking.

He applauded their efforts and said they were making a last ditch attempt to secure off street parking. Duby said even the BIA would fall if there wasn't off street parking, because parking could be banned on one side of Mill Street in the future.

Agreement Duby said G. Cuvic, owner of Elisa Shoes, has also agreed to sell his land at the rear of store for more parking provided he is allowed to have a zero lot line.

Should support He said the town should do everything possible to remove any roadblocks which might crop up and the town should support the group in every way possible.

He said the project will benefit not only merchants but all residents since it is hard to find parking and traffic downtown is bad.

Last Tuesday Paul Nielsen, Mike Kinal and Don Lindsay appeared before the committee stating there was another offer on the property so the group would take a chance the objectors can't defeat the proposal and put in an offer.

Put money back Nielsen expressed great confidence the plan would go through and added objectors have made all their money in Acton and it is time they put some money back into the community.

They realized the town couldn't put a large cash deposit on the property or legally act fast enough to head off the other offer so they would go ahead and take the plunge.



MAINSTREETING ON Acton Saturday afternoon, Liberal incumbent Julian Reed dropped into the Blue Grass Days promotion at The Music Stop and joined in a couple of bouncy numbers. Playing in the store were the Halton Hills Guitar Pickin' Daredevils, Earl Scott, Wayne Bridge, Earl Burt, Bob Kerr, Bill Devries, Gordon Devries, Art Daigle, Lloyd Swindlehurst, Lena Swindlehurst, Al Swindlehurst, Jimmy McDermott and Agnes McIntyre.

New quarters sought by Acton detachment

Halton Regional Police are looking for new quarters and have two possibilities lined up.

Thursday Mayor Harry Barrett told Halton Police Commission he went up to Acton to look over the accommodation situation.

He reported the police office in the old town hall and the building is in worse shape than it was a year ago. Barrett thought the police better start looking for new quarters since if residents aren't able to raise enough funds the building may be demolished.

Barrett said he looked at the Acton Y building on Mill Street where there is space but noted the town already has accommodations there and with future growth in Acton Halton Hills might want even more space in the building.

Renovate He also talked to David Dills about the former Acton Free Press building on Mill Street and said Dills was willing to renovate the building in accordance with a tenant's wishes.

Barrett informed the commission that the Dills building is twice the size of the police need but the owner is willing to split it and rent both halves.

The Oakville mayor suggested the police establish how much square feet of space they are likely to need in Acton in the years to come and go back to Dills for a quote on rental fee.

He said the building is conveniently located with parking for cruisers and there could be an entrance at the front for the public and one at the side for officers.

He thought the Y building was also well located and versatile but warned the force could end up having to move again in five years if the town needs more space.

Possibilities Commissioner Glenn Magnuson suggested the force gets more information from the town before either location is rejected since both are excellent possibilities.

Good protection Barrett also reported after talking to Acton detachment commander Sergeant Dick Hilton he has concluded Acton is receiving good police protection.

He said Hilton is pleased with the recent revamping of police coverage zones and the response time for calls in the area has improved. He said

Hilton reports he not only can keep men out on patrol now but sometimes has a spare officer for foot patrol downtown.

Barrett said he was talking to a lady in Acton who wasn't happy about picking up the telephone at the station and talking to Oakville.

He said he informed the resident this was a good thing since by talking to the dispatcher if there was a problem the closest possible car to her location would be sent. Barrett thought this was further proof that good police protection is being provided.

Recommend build snr. citizens' units

Halton Housing Authority has recommended to Ontario Housing Corporation that a 54-unit Senior Citizen complex be constructed in Acton as soon as possible. Duncan W. Sinclair, chairman of the Halton Authority, wrote to

Mayor Tom Hill "The need, in view of assessments carried out, is pressing, the land is available, and Mr. Garland (Acting Regional Director) already has architectural plans available to expedite construction."

Geraniums for Decoration Day

Legionnaires, I.O.D.E. members and others will be gathering Sunday at 2.30 at Fairview cemetery, the same as they have for 20 years. This time there will not be a formal Decoration Day service, however. Due to dwindling participation, the parade and non-denominational outdoor service are not being held.

Anyone who wishes to choose this time to decorate graves of loved ones will be welcome, says committee chairman Jessie Coles.

Geraniums are being ordered in readiness for the traditional planting.

It's possible the event may be held again next year, if enough interest is shown by the public.



FIRST BRICKS OF the new sidewalks are laid by Trevor Hughes, foreman of the installation crew. The interlocking paving stones will eventually be placed all along the main business area of Main and Mill.