

# The Acton Free Press

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## 'Anyone's ball game'

# Three parties anticipate heavy turnout

All three men seeking election to Queen's Park are optimistic about the results of the provincial election in Halton-Burlington. All three feel they have been received well both at the candidate meetings and in the door to door canvassing.

But no one is predicting a landslide for any candidate. Each of the three candidates commented on the election campaign and the outcome during interviews this week. Incumbent Liberal Julian Reed said he is cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the election. "I'm still running as if I were 200 votes behind and I'll continue to do that until election day."

"The most evident part of the story is the number of Tories who have come to our office with donations and offers of support," Reed said.

Reed said he initially interpreted this as an anti-candidate or pro-candidate reaction but that more recently there have been many remarks favoring Liberal leader Stuart Smith's strong economic line and questions about the necessity of the election.

Asked how he'd perceived his reception at the meet the candidates' meeting Reed said he had learned quickly that the meetings were often filled with committed voters.

"It is like church you end up preaching to the converted. I'll wait and let the people say if I got my points across or not."

Tory Candidate George Gray said he felt he had been well received by the people in his canvassing and at meet the candidate meetings.

While Gray feels he has been well received he isn't over confident of a win tomorrow night. He said he felt leadership and job prospects have been the key issues.

Gray has been criticized

publicly for trying to take credit for job creation and for getting a new school addition approved in Milton.

He said that as soon as he put his name forward for public office he was prepared to accept criticism from the masses and in the press.

NDP candidate Bill Johnson said "I can only feel optimistic. I've got 200 people knocking on doors for me. That's a big difference from the last time out in 1975 when I'd be fortunate to have had 15 people actively working for me."

"The reception at the doors has been nothing short of fantastic. This election is anyone's game."

Johnson describes himself as an activist and takes pride in being a scrapper. He feels this will work in his favor.

"Tories and Liberals come to me for help when they need it. I think they'll realize I can do more for them at Queen's Park than as an ordinary citizen."

He said there were 4,000 new voters in the riding and many of them come from ridings where they've been well served by NDP members.

"On the day after the school protest in Milton we couldn't keep up with the request for signs. People have actually said they are reluctant to vote NDP but this time they'll vote for the man," Johnson said.

Last time out Reed won the riding for the Liberals for the first time in many years. He defeated Tory Gary Dawkins 10,998 to 10,567. Johnson polled a respectable 6,567 in that election.

All three campaign managers are looking for a heavy turnout at the polls tomorrow.

NDP Bill Cumpstey said he expected an increase in the per centage of eligible voters who will vote.

"A real good turnout is not generally good for the incumbent. People don't vote candi-

dates in they vote them out. High turnouts usually indicate disatisfied people who want to make a change," Cumpstey said.

Liberal campaign manager Laurie Reed said he too is anticipating a fairly heavy vote. "I've got the impression there are a lot of people with something to say and they will say it at the ballot box."

He said he felt the number of local issues spotted throughout the riding would contribute to a heavy vote tomorrow.

Questioned about how this would affect the incumbent member Mr. Reed said, "I think the heavy vote might be bad for the incumbent government rather than the incumbent member. There are so many people concerned about problems and there are so many issues working in the direction against the government," he said.

Tory manager Doc Russell said he too felt there would be a high vote. He said his canvassers had indicated that there are an unusually high number of uncommitted voters.

He acknowledged that this might be the reluctance of people to discuss their vote with a canvasser. He said he felt the interest in the election was growing as the time rolls on and indicated that the Quebec crisis had served to make people more aware of politics.

He suggested that in a riding where so many people are commuters it is difficult to get them fired up about local issues.

Returning officer Hoy Coulter reports a slightly lower turnout at the advance poll this year compared to last year but some people attribute that to the fact that there were three days for the advance poll last election and only two this time.

## Slice back off stage for fire hall addition

The back part of the town hall stage will in all likelihood come off, to make room for the required expansion of the fire hall.

At an "amicable" meeting, representatives of the firefighters, councillors and town hall committee met with engineer Allan Zeegen to discuss the fire hall situation.

It was agreed that the back of the stage portion would be sacrificed, but the front facade of the stage would remain. The depth of the stage will be cut from about 14 feet to three feet.

George Elliott asked the engineer about the possibility of rebuilding, if the fire hall should be completely removed from its present location eventually. The engineer said an addition could be added to the town hall in years to come, which could provide better facilities for a stage than there are now.

The facade of the stage cannot be removed since it is a bearing wall.

Mr. Zeegen's drawings show fire hall windows which will match those of the adjoining town hall. He will attempt to use the same kind of brick for the fire hall. When the new building is roofed, it was agreed the town hall would likely be done at the same time.

Attending the meeting Monday were fire chief Mick Holmes, councillors Peter Marke, Les Doby and Russell Miller, George Elliott, Louis Charlebois, Yvonne Rosenquist, Doug Fread, Bert Davidson and Alice Doby.

Interested people unable to attend were Fred Allen and Betty Eastwood.

The engineer will proceed to prepare working drawings for the whole project.

On their new second floor, the firefighters will have a practice room, lounge, men's and women's washrooms, kitchen and bar. All of the downstairs will be needed for equipment.

Mr. Elliott enquired about the two halls sharing kitchens and washrooms. Mr. Zeegen said this would be impossible since there must be a firewall between the two sections, impermeable to fire and gasses.

A solid masonry partition will be erected at the back of the fire hall, which will act as a fire wall.

One fire exit would be shared between the two parts of the building.

Mr. Zeegen suggested allowance could be made for joint plumbing when the new washrooms are installed in the upstairs of the fire hall.

He also said the floor loading should be increased in the town hall, with a steel beam extending the width of the building.

He said while \$130,000 was his estimate for bringing the building up to standard, complete restoration would cost more.

The meeting was held in the town offices on Mill St. Both councillors and town hall supporters reported general agreement and satisfaction.

A feasibility study for town hall financing will likely be prepared.



SURPRISE PRESENTATION of an Acton high school athletic sweater was made to Mexican student Alex Guereca Thursday. Stories and more pictures pages 5 and B1.

## Acton Wood Products sold?

Acton Wood Products may be sold by the end of the week, according to a company official.

The official, plant manager Jim Pettitt, said Tuesday the ownership is being transferred. He could not just yet reveal the name of the proposed owners.

Wood Products, located at 285 Main St. N. has been in business since 1970. It makes wood skids and shipping containers.

About a dozen employees work in the plant Mr. Pettitt said.

## Six named to committee

Councillors Monday unanimously and without comment accepted names of Actonians to sit on a committee to investigate fund-raising and planning for the future of the town hall in Acton. Named to the committee are Dr. George Elliott, Louis Charlebois, Yvonne Rosenquist, Doug Fread, Fred Allen Jr. representing students and R. L. Davidson representing the Golden Age Club.

Council will also name others to this committee.

The Acton group expects to add a limitless number of interested people to its roster.

## Bike riders sell ice cream bars

There's a strange new sight around town lately, which delights the children and even many adults.

It's the Dickie-Dee ice cream bicycle, selling various assortments of ice cream bars.

There are two such bicycles around, originating from the home of Sandra Spiteri of Churchill Rd. N. The idea was first planted in her mind by a girlfriend in Malton, who convinced her to get into the business. Mrs. Spiteri said she thought it was a good way for her sons to earn some pocket money and "keep them out of trouble."

There are four boys regularly covering the two routes in town, with four other semi-regular boys. The workers get 20 per cent of

what they sell, so the harder they work, the more money they make.

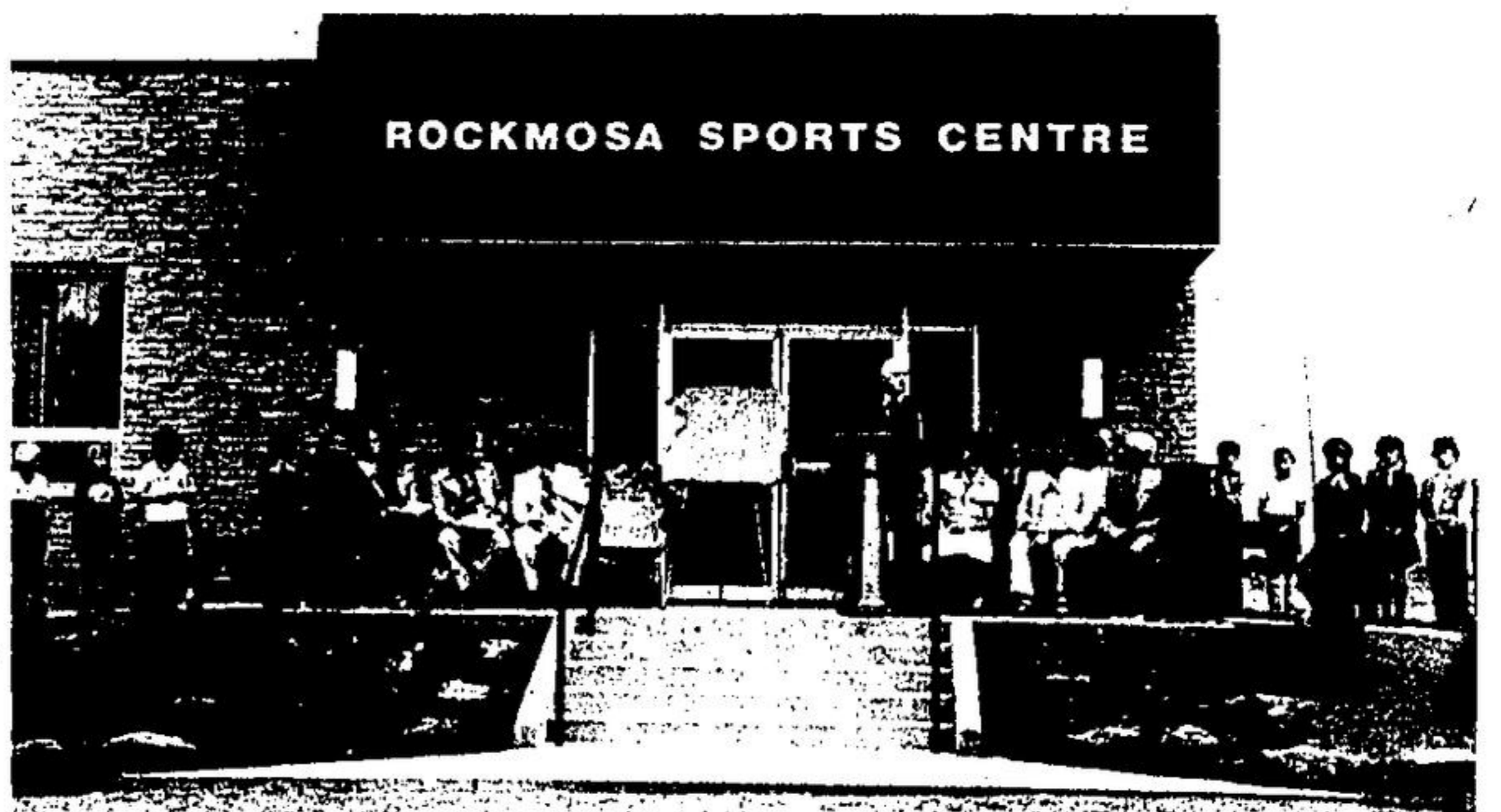
The bikes have three wheels, one at the back and two at the front, supporting a big fibreglass freezer-type of box, which holds the ice cream bars. There are also bells mounted on the steering wheel for the boys to ring.

At the present time, the boys are working after school and weekends only. However, once the summer vacation has started they will be out in shifts all day long, and in the evening.

Employed by Mrs. Spiteri to sell the ice cream are John and Vince Spiteri, Jim Altonby, George and Peter DeForest, Mike Woloshyn, Dyal Ramoutar, Mike Collins and Peter Luty.



JOHN AND VINCE Spiteri are two of the several boys seen around town lately riding three wheel bicycles and selling ice cream.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES George Day addressed the crowd at the official opening of the Rockmosa Sports Centre last Saturday. Scouts,

cubs, guides, brownies, baseball and soccer along with other youth organizations had representatives there. See Rockwood news.

## Back to Acton days set for long weekend

Back to Acton Days will be celebrated in town on the July 1 weekend, with restoration of the town hall as its special theme.

Plans were discussed Wednesday night in the fire hall at a general meeting of the Business Association, attended by about 30 people.

There will be activities on Thursday, June 30, Friday, July 1 and Saturday, July 2. Committee chairman Wayne Ruse explained to his fellow-merchants that the group was anxious to get

some kind of promotion underway before the main holiday season began. They had considered waiting till the fall but felt it was important to do something as a group now.

There was a lot of discussion about whether to include the holiday, Friday, July 1, in the plans. This and several other aspects of the celebration were to be left with the committee to decide.

Close street It was hoped that Mill St. could be closed off for the

Back to Acton Days, all the way from Canadian Tire/Marilyn's Village Boutique corner to the Mill-Main corner. The committee also hoped to have part of Willow blocked to traffic.

They had been told the matter of closing of the street was quite feasible. It had been blocked off for so long already a couple of days probably wouldn't matter much to traffic flow.

It had also been hoped that the Mill paving would be done by then, this possibility was growing more and more remote each day.

Town hall Two per cent of the gross sales for the Thursday and Saturday will be given to a fund for the restoration of the town hall. Since the town hall is the "hottest" issue in Acton these days, the committee

decided to choose it as a theme for their promotion. Merchants agreed the theme does not necessarily mean everyone personally favors the project.

There will likely be draws, games, music and booths selling all sorts of items out on the street during the special days.

On the Sunday, the firefighters are having their annual display and fireworks at the park.

Prize Paul Nielsen reminded the merchants the Chamber of Commerce has offered a prize for the person with the closest guess to the time the last paving is done.

A lottery license has been applied for, and the merchants are making plans for an advertising flyer.

## Close streets for celebration

Mill Street between Fellow Street and Main Street and Willow Street from Mill to Bower, will be closed to traffic June 30, July 1 and July 2 to permit a downtown celebration of "Back to Acton Days".

Halton Hills council raised no objection to the street closing, but suggested the

police and fire departments be notified.

Councillor Les Doby said he hoped there would not be conflict with the construction in the area.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said it should be completed by the time of the Acton celebration.

## Try other media on election night

The Free Press will not be supplying an election night phone service. Halton-Burlington results should be available easily on radio and television tomorrow evening. Next week we will have complete poll-by-poll results in the paper, plus stories and pictures taken by our staff.



TWO ACTONIANS were among the 21 individuals receiving Halton Hills Recognition Certificates Thursday in Georgetown. Kevin Parker was National 1976 champion Novice Men's Figure Skating, while Nancy Wong was 1976 Ontario free throw champion. This is the first year the certificates have been awarded.