

# The Acton Free Press.

One Hundred and Second Year--No. 53

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Twenty-two Pages—Fifteen Cents



... they ain't what they used to be

IT WAS A TIGHT FIT, but the five former mayors of Acton plus wagon driver Bert Robertson managed. Mr. Robertson (with hat) guided the horse drawn vehicle and its historical cargo through town following the opening ceremonies of the first Back to Acton Days Thursday. Several citizens turned out for the proclamation of the three day festival, and the

creation of the former town leaders as honorary mayors by councillor Pat McKenzie. The event took place in front of the town hall. In the cart's front seat is George Barbeau, left, with the most recent Acton mayor Les Duby. On the rear seat is Ben Rachlin, left, John Goy Sr. and Dr. Frank Oakes, whose view is blocked by Mr. Goy.

## Back to Acton Days four day celebration

The wind was high, and the sky had a black rain cloud in it the entire weekend, but the weatherman held out this weekend for Back to Acton Days.

Festivities in Acton started Thursday at noon when booths were set up by local groups, the official opening of the long weekend was Thursday evening, when the former mayors of Acton gathered at the town hall for the Proclamation of the town of Acton. These were George Barbeau, Dr. Frank Oakes, John Goy Sr., Les Duby and Ben Rachlin. Acton Citizens' Band held a roving concert for the next few hours.

Friday, the actual anniversary of Confederation, saw pony rides on Willow, and a day long bluegrass concert in front of the old town hall. Members of the Acton Track Club ran from Glen Williams, carrying flags and messages, which were presented during the concert.

Downtown, booths were set up ranging from ticket sales to plant displays. Mill St. was closed to traffic from Fellow to Main St., enabling booths to be placed in the middle of the road, and for spectators to walk about freely.

The Walt Disney film The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes, and the movie Wood-

stock, were shown both Friday and Saturday. "Computer" was very well attended, but "Woodstock" had a disappointing turnout according to organizers.

A pit barbecue, offering a huge full course meal was enjoyed by hundreds at the Station Hotel. A beer garden and street dance at the same site was the highlight of the weekend for many people.

Saturday at 10 a.m., the booths opened once again. The pony rides were moved to Mill St., and a few other booths were set up. Vintage

cars and trucks also lined one side of the street.

Some merchants were dressed in pioneer garb, really getting into the swing of things. Shoppers took advantage of sales and once again filled streets.

Draws were made in front of the town hall for the Afghan donated by the Acton Yarn Barn. Mrs. Barker of 13 Church St. W., was the winner of the handmade blanket.

Mercie Vivian of White Oakes Blvd., Oakville, was the winner of a telephone directory donated by Wil Print.

The barbecue and beer gardens continued on Saturday evening.

All day Sunday was the fish derby, sponsored by the Acton Volunteer firefighters. There were 53 entries in the contest with six winners.

Wayne Port won a tackle box as his prize for having the largest fish. Wayne, of 18A Mill St., caught a 16 1/2 inch, three pound bass.

Len Miller, 244 Elmore Dr. won two spoils of line for catching the largest pike, 21 inches, one pound.

Barry McNabb won a fishnet and record for having the second largest pike, 15 3/4 inch seven ounce. Barry lives at 47 Cobblehill Road.

The largest bass prize was caught by Steven Lumbers, 83

This was the second place winner in the same draw. Mike Fields of Grand Valley won \$249 in the 50/50 draw. All proceeds of both draws will be going towards the Save the Acton Town Hall fund raising drive. Donna Jones of St. Catharines, a visitor in town over the weekend, made the draw.

GM Cobham R.R.2, Acton, won the lawn furniture draw sponsored by the Ladies division of Acton Agricultural Society.

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## Smouldering garbage causes tenant alarm

Residents of the Golden-gate apartment building on Ransom St. fled into the night in their nightclothes on Wednesday evening after smoke filled their apartment halls.

Fire Chief Mick Holmes explained there was no fire in the building, but smouldering garbage, in the garbage room. He said the smoke went back up the garbage chutes, and into the halls.

Mr. Holmes said he suspected the fire was started by

someone throwing combustible garbage down the chute, such as cigarettes, etc. Although there was a heat detector in the garbage room, the chief pointed out, the fire was not hot enough to set the device off. By the time the detector sounded, the halls were already filled with smoke, he said.

Firefighters cleared the halls of smoke and made sure there was no fire, before they left.

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Two playgrounds operating

BEVERLY DUVAL HANDS OUT paper for the crafts period of the playgrounds being run by the Halton Hills recreation and parks department in Acton. Two such playgrounds are being run, one at Robert Little and the other at M.Z. Bennett.

## Bias charge stirs Hydro hearing

Charges of repeated bias by a hearing officer in favor of Ontario Hydro and sharp denials marked the re-opening of expropriation hearings into a major corridor project in the Legion hall, Monday at Acton.

"You are in favor of Hydro time and time again in your rulings," Leon Paroian, a lawyer representing Walter Scott, of R.R. 3, Georgetown, charged.

"I've never heard a more unfair statement," shot back hearing officer Donald Meyrick. Meyrick twice in previous months adjourned hearings in order for the courts to decide on legal points. "For you to imply bias on my part is the greatest understatement," Meyrick said to Paroian.

The quick exchange followed more than half a day's probing by Paroian on behalf of Scott and other members of the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG). The ICG opposes construction of the 500kV corridor and for five years has called for an independent study into its necessity.

Information, datum, fact is what Paroian wanted: all of it to do with reasons why Ontario Hydro chose its preferred route, and rejected other paths to bring power from the Bruce nuclear generating station on Lake Huron to Milton. The southern section of the corridor passes through Halton Hills.

These hearings are working under a guide from the Supreme Court of Ontario, which ruled last May that consideration of alternate routes must be included in the inquiry. The question of whether an inquiry officer could hear evidence concerning alternate routes twice sent lawyers to the courts in the last few months.

However, what the inquiry saw was the adoption by Ontario Hydro's lawyer, Thomas Marshall, of an interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling very much different from the one chosen by the opponents of expropriation (ICG) and the hearing officer.

Hydro's Marshall told the hearing he holds that the

inquiry is concerning itself with the short stretch of 250-foot wide land from a point north of Highway 7, near Limehouse to Milton. "I don't consider Bruce to Essa (near Barrie) alternate (route) is relevant to this inquiry."

## Good response to Actonians petition

So far there are hundreds of names on petitions throughout town, supporting the Actonians for Action bid to reconsider regional government.

Member Dave Swetman said canvassers throughout the town are approaching home owners, and some have up to 200 to 300 names on their petitions. Stores also report good responses as petitions were placed in most local shops.

Mr. Swetman explained that the total amount of sig-

natures is not yet known, but will be tallied on Saturday, which is deadline.

The petition reads: We the undersigned support a brief submitted by Actonians for Action to Halton Regional Council concerning regional government under Bill 151. We hereby petition the province of Ontario to establish an inquiry into regional government specifically a study of feasibility of restructuring the municipality of Halton Hills into two separate urban areas within Halton Region.

Hearing officer Meyrick pointed to the Supreme Court decision, which he said he assumed includes the line from Bruce generating station to a point near Toronto. "That's my interpretation," he said, "we have to

study alternates, including Essa, Meyrick added.

Thirty-five people sat listening in one end of the Legion hall.

"This has got to go down as one of the most bizarre inquiries," Meyrick admitted after it was disclosed by Ontario Hydro's witness Art Mosher, manager of land use and environmental planning, that a secret meeting was conducted round election time (June 9) between Hydro and members of the ICG.

In that meeting, at Toronto, Hydro agreed to produce information concerning the selection of routes. At Meyrick's expropriation hearings, however, Hydro refused to produce the information.

Hearing officer Meyrick said he failed to understand Hydro's reluctance to release the information, since it was already promised to one of the affected groups.

Ontario Hydro lawyer Marshall released a two volume environmental report, done by Hydro, to the enquiry officer. "I've taken under advisement that any-

thing else will be produced," he said.

Mosher was the only witness during the first day of the hearing. He was cross-examined by Paroian for about six hours. In Paroian's probe for information, one exchange went like this: Paroian: "What I'm asking is that in a judgement decision, you need raw data. It might help all of us to learn some of your thinking."

Mosher: "No, I don't think it would."

Paroian: "Would it harm us?"

Mosher: "No."

Paroian: "Do you know when knowledge hurts?"

Mosher: "I have no comment."

Under questioning, Mosher admitted Ontario Hydro fed information to a consultant to the Solandt Commission, on the Nanticoke to Pickering corridor.

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## No town money for off-street parking

The town will not pay half the cost of buying the Hotchen's Bakery property in Acton, which would be used for offstreet parking. Halton Hills council decided Monday night.

This was the same decision made by finance administration Committee last week, but Councillor Peter Marks wanted the subject brought back for further discussion.

He said there was a serious lack of off-street parking in Acton, which would be accentuated if an engineer's recommendation to prohibit parking on one side of Mill Street was accepted.

He said he wanted the town to pay half the cost of the \$70,000 total and the merchants the other half. He claimed the whole town would benefit as well as the merchants.

Councillor George Malby said he supported the original plan to have the merchants pay the total cost from increased taxation on the benefiting area. He said the whole parking situation should be studied not just this one piece of property.

Mayor Tom Hill said he understood the merchants were willing to pay the whole shot through taxation. "I can't see the town paying half the cost."

Councillor Pete Pomeroy agreed, saying the merchants concerned said they would buy the property to speed the matter, then have the town buy it from them at the same price, and the cost be an assessment on the business improvement area.

Marks said that was the original intent, but claimed the situation has changed. He says the merchants in working with the parking authority and the planner have taken the proposal in a more complete way and now want to pick up an easement on the east side and a piece behind the "Y" pushing the cost up by \$25,000. He pointed out this would give the downtown access from one street to another. Completing the whole package would be of a great benefit to the town.

Councillor Roy Booth said the method of financing had nothing to do with the planner. He said the proposal was

good planning. Councillor Russ Miller claimed there are two or three business people opposed to paying. He claimed people who rent in plazas are already paying for their parking and should not be asked to pay for someone else's.

Pomeroy pointed out the Georgetown merchants in the business improvement area all paid for their downtown parking, and are now looking to an expansion. "If we set a precedent here we could face the same thing elsewhere."

Malby asked why the matter was not brought back to council if the situation had changed.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said the group met with Marks, Duby and himself. "We felt that was proper." He claimed there was property in Acton that had been there for years that could be sold. He cited the old reservoir land, as an example.



Lynn Carr (80 per cent)



Josée Charlebois (88.3 per cent)



Leah Murchison (88.2 per cent)



Stephen Stanley (83.5 per cent)



Susan Bruce (81 per cent)



Diane Buckman (80 per cent)

## Lynn Carr top Ontario Scholar

Acton high school has six Ontario scholars at the end of this semester, two of whom completed their grade 12 and 13 in one school year.

Topping the list of scholars with 90.3 per cent is Lynn Carr. Josee Charlebois was close behind with 88.3 per cent. Both girls received their grade 12 and 13 diplomas since September.

Not far behind Josee is Leah Murchison, with 88.2 per cent, followed by Stephen Stanley with 83.5. Susan Bruce is on the list with 81 per

cent, and Diane Buckman earned the Ontario Scholar title with 80 per cent.

To become a scholar, students must have an overall average of 80 per cent or higher in grade 13.

Other students receiving the Secondary school honor graduation diplomas (grade 13) were Ellen Barkmen, Becky Baxter, Mary Anne Bond, Pat Collett, Doug Cooper, William Dumarsh, Beverly Duval, Sandra Early, Kim Hall, David Marcoux, Shirley Mason, Marvin

McNabb, David Mills, Jane Munro, Heather Near, Kent Nielsen, John Ninaber, Gary Pickles, Heather Reed, Carole Saxon, Rhona Silcock, Daniel Warren, and Mark Williamson.

Sandra Early, Marvin McNabb, Heather Reed and Rhona Silcock have completed both grade 12 and 13 since September. Kent Neilson has completed both grades since January, when the second semester began.

There were four Ontario scholars in January, at the

end of the first semester. They were Carol Grant, 85.8, Mike Degen, 85.7, Wanita Tarrant, 83.3 and Debra Tuffin, 82.7.

Secondary school graduation diploma earners (grade 12) are: Ford Alton, John Ancker, Kathy Barber, Mark Beaton, David Berry, Noel Blake, Mark Brill, Cliff Britton and Gerald Burgan.

Mary Ellen Cann, Lynn Carr, Josee Charlebois, Nyla Carrigan, Geoffrey Clarke, Rhonda Clow, Don Coats, Steve Dawkins, Sandra

Early, Sherri Ferguson, Nicole Field, Elaine Foster and Eric Fryters.

Peter Gillespie, Donna Gunn, Alex Guereca, David Hannah, Sandra Holmes, Valerie Irwin, Carol Jordan, Robert Kilby, Gwen Kirkwood, John Kirkwood, Vicky Kotsopoulos, Jennifer Krapek, Michelle Kremer, Ron Kuken and John Lamberink.

Neale MacMillan, Kim McCristall, Heather McEachern, Mike McGregor, Barry McKerracher, Marvin McNabb, Margaret McTrash,

Laurel Murchison and Fay Newman.

Susan Patakey, Norm Paulsen, Michael Payne, Jennifer Pepper, Laurie Pierce, Pete Prystasz, Heather Reed, Karen Rinder, Debbie Rippon, Lee Robinson and Jennifer Rowe.

Maureen Sall, Lorna Sayers, Taraleen Schaw, Steve Schubert, Rhona Silcock, Nancy South, Mary Splinter, Pat Storey, Theresa Synnott, Martin Trueman, Mary Anne Tyers, Paul Tyers, Rick Van Fleet and James Vickery.