## Want Acton back—seek meeting with MicKeough

The Actonians for Action Committee will seek a meeting with Provincial Treasurer and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Darcy McKeough to discuss the possibility of having Acton severed from Halton Hills and a fifth municipality created within the Region of

Norm Elliott Vice Chairman of the group made that

statement after filing a brief on behalf of the group with Halton Regional Council's Bill 151 Committee, Thursday. The Bill 151 Committee is currently reviewing regional government in Halton.

Mr. Eliott said he was disappointed the Bill 151 committee had not endorsed the brief or supported the call for an enquiry into regional

He said his group was particularly interested in a

study that would probe the workings in Halton Hills and determine whether or not a fifth community centred around the urban centre of Acton would be feasible.

While the Bill 151 Committee did reject a motion that would have referred the Acton brief to an independent

task force to study regional government in Halton it did approve of a request for an enquiry later during the same meeting. If the task force is formed it would in all likelihood give serious consideration to the Acton brief

and the problems the brief addresses. Mr. Elliott said 75 per cent of the problems in Acton are local in nature. He said that

after three and a half years of regional government there is still no strong community of interest between the amaigamated parties in Halton

"Provincial theoreticians claimed that a strong community of interest was a necessary, if not vital, ingredient and yet proceeded to legislate the amalgamation of two geographically separ-

ate urban centres. Acton and Georgetown, which historically have had very little, if any, community of interest between them," the brief

Elliott says that since regional government the gap has widened instead of clos-

ing between the two areas. "There is some feeling in Georgetown that supports the idea of dividing the two urban

centres. We're not like Cambridge where you drive from one centre into another without realizing you crossed a boundary. It is a 10 mile trip," he said.

"The loss of identity is a serious area of dissatisfaction with Regional Government, particularly in Halton Hills. "The urban areas of Oakville, Burlington and Milton all retained, after the im-

plementation of Bill 151. autonomy over their own councils. Such was not the case in Halton Hills. The merging of the two urban centres of Georgetown and Acton into one council structure has had for-reaching repercussions."

The brief presented by the committee complains about (Continued on Page 3)

# The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Third Year - No. 7

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1977.

Thirty Pages .- Fifteen Cents.



STACY FEATHERSTONE grimaces as a wet sponge is hurled towards her in the sponge throw game at the summer playground grand finale penny carnival Thursday evening. For more pictures see inside today's paper.

### Hydro expropriation hearing ends in split

Months of expropriation Marshall told the hearing he hearings into Ontario Hydro's controversial 500 kV corridor down the centre of Halton Milton line as inflexible. He Hills ended yesterday with also contended that, contrary both sides only slightly closer than at the start.

The hearings, which ended yesterday afternoon, were held in the Acton Legion. For more stories, see page 5.

Hearing officer Donald Meyrick refused last ditch attempts by opponents to the line, the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG), for time to study recently acquired com-

puter documents. In the hearing officer's opinion the ICG has had eight months to present evidence. The hearings into expropriation on the southern section of the line started November, but about ten

sitting days resulted. The information which the ICG hoped to analyze and present to the hearing officer. came from Ontario Hydro after a secret summer meet-

ing at Toronto. Ontario Hydro lawyer Tom

#### 5 to receive Queen's medal

smoke.

Five residents of Halton Hills will receive medals marking the 25th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

The administration committee will have the job of tion basis Halton Hills will selecting the recipients of the receive five medals.

Silver Jubilee medal.

According to a letter from the office of Premier Bill Davis quotas have been established and on a popula-

considered the government's

decision to build the Bruce to

to the ICG's claims, Hydro

considered several alternate

ICG lawyers, on the other

hand, maintained that the

force of law is on their side.

They argued that decisions by

six judges, two former

ministers of energy and at

least one hearing officer

layored their contention that

studies of alternate routes

can not be confined to the

narrow swath across the

province that Hydro chose.

Arson suspect

St. E. home after the owner's

wife returned nome about 6

Further investigation of the

house revealed a double

mattress in the bedroom was

on fire. Halton Regional

Police are investigating.

p.m. August 11 and smelled

Arson is suspected in a Mill

# Firemen get hall they don't want

a bombshell at Halton Hills council meeting, Monday night, when they said they felt for the firemen. "There never \$200,000 was too much to has been a negative attitude spend for an addition to the on this." He claimed the profire hall, when there would still be no parking.

The statement was made to lots and could yield \$175,000. a stunned council, just as the was put forward.

long harangue.

Fire Chief Mick Holmes park." said the firemen felt it should problem could be solved. "The firemen are willing to wait. I know this is a surprise, and we appreciate what council has been trying to do for

Councillor Russ Miller, who has worked closely with the firefighters, obviously taken aback, said it would cost \$200,000 just to buy another

piece of land. Phil McCristall, head of the firefighters association, sald the firefighters were satisfied when the figure was supposed to be around \$100,000. He said the firemen had repeatedly asked the committee to help solve the parking problem. "We're only getting two more truck bays for \$200,000."

McCristall said the town owns land on Mill Street by the high school that could be used for a fire hall. He pointed out the renovations at the old town hall would increase demand on the facility and increase parking proclaimed works committee has been working on parking perty mentioned by Mr. Mc-Cristall is ideal for building

Councillor Pete Pomeroy motion to authorize Alan Zee- agreed with the firemen that gen Associates to go to tender the matter be given more thought. He pointed out it was Despite the firemen's a big decision for the firemen objections, the motion to to come and speak against the tender was passed after a cost. "\$200,000 is a lot to spend if there's no place to

Miller said he had met with be given more thought. He the firemen and the citizens' asked the tendering motion committee repeatedly, "and be held up until the parking this was the way the firemen wanted it."

Pomeroy said it was never too late to realize a mistake might have been made, and sald the firemen have a valid

stated there was unrest and dissatisfaction among the firemen on the issue and claimed it would be foolish to proceed if the firemen don't want it. He said it seemed they now want a different location.

Councillor George Malthy agreed the tendering should be held up. He said the fireconcerned about spending so efforts on behalf of the fireparking at this location. He was too much money to ask urged the matter be sent to works committee for review.

Councillor Les demanded, "How is this council ever going to accomplish anything when we come up with negative decisions all

Councillor Pat McKenzie the time?" He urged the parking problem be tackled right away and commended the firemen for their concern about taxpayers' money.

> Councillor Roy Booth said council had bent over backwards for the firemen. He said he had tried to be nonparochial and wanted to give Acton firefighters quarters equal to the Georgetown department. "As long as the cost was \$100,000 parking wasn't such a big problem. but when it gets to \$200,00 all of a sudden it is."

> McKenzie urged the building be erected first and the parking problem solved after. He contended if the \$100,000 figure had not been bandled around in the first place, the higher figure would not have been such a jolt. He said he supported going ahead with the tendering

Pomeroy pointed out if the recommendations to take parking off some streets in Acton are put through, it would make matters worse for the firefighters.

Mr. McCristall said there had been a special meeting of the firefighters where they decided it would be a waste of money if no parking is provided.

Chief Holmes praised Councillor Miller and the men also pay taxes and are special committee for their much money when there's no fighters, but said he felt it

> Miller contended \$200,000 was less than the salaries of a paid department. He said the present location was the best site, and promised council would look after parking. He

said he had tried to get works committee to act on the parking problem many times.

A motion to hold up the tendering and send the matter to works with the Acton firefighters in attendance was put forward by

He said it would give the Acton firemen time to gather their thoughts, and maybe come up with more positive suggestions. He said a couple of weeks more would not hurt since the firemen are so concerned.

" Duby said the firemen had made their point as reasonable people. He stated, "We spend \$200,000 for fun and games in recreation and this is for protection of life and property," He said the parking problem cannot be ignored and has to be dealt with anyway.

Marks warned council should listen to people who are saying "put the brakes on." He said it would be good judgment to hold it for a couple of weeks and meet with the firemen.

Alan Zeegen, consulting engineer, said if the firehall was going to be built before winter it would have to be started almost immediately. He said the delay and resulting winter construction might up the price. The motion to hold up the

tendering was lost. Anothering motion to give Zeegen the go-ahead to call for tenders immediately was passed on a recorded vote. Voting against the motion were Councillors Marks, Serjeantson, Maltby, and Pomeroy. The mayor was



her 93rd birthday at the Cher Rest home. On Mrs. McDougall's left is her friend, Mrs. Cole. Behind her are her daughter Margaret Rae and her son Edward with his wife Margaret. Ninety-three-year-old Mrs. McDougall was born Mabel McCutcheon in Ospringe, moving to Guelph in 1910 when she married. She later lived in Toronto and Erin. She has four grandsons and three great-grandchildren.

## Loss of identity is major concern

the Actonians for Action Committee is concerned with Hills. when the committee presented a brief to the Halton

investigating ways to im-

The Acton committee members said they wanted a study carried out to see if a town could be created around the urban centre of Acton and if it would be feasible under tions in Halton Hills into one. the regional system.

Several members of the 151 excellent beginning committee telt that most of the problems cited were local should be more meetings like in nature and could best be it according to Raftis. rectified at the local level in Halton Hills. The Bill 151. Committee referred the brief to Halton Hills Council. That council is currently carrying out its own review of Bill 151 and will be reporting back to holding council meetings in the regional committee.

The Acton committee was in the brief or endorsing the people resist change.

But winning the commit- Milton Councillor Jim Watson tee's endorsement wasn't said the problems set forth that easy. Jack Raftis, chair- were mostly philosophical man of the Public Works and the delegation wasn't Committee said 95 per cent of able to identify any real signithe problem seemed to be a ficant problems in specific.

Loss of identity emerged as feeling of a loss of identity the greatest single issue that and the problem with Acton in its relationship in Halton

Their concerns were mostly

local in nature, things like Region's Bill 151 Committee arenas, fire departments and recreation. They are a The 151 committee has been community of 6,000 and they want their own council but prove the operation of Re- then they say they want to cut gional Government since the down on the cost of governnew council took office in ment. The brief was conflict-

ing when it got to costs. Raftis cited several examples where Acton had saved money by being able to share staff with Milton or consolidate several opera-

He said the meeting was an communications and there

Raftis suggested the problem is a local one. Halton Hills Council should try to come to grips with it by meeting with the people who are concerned and by perhaps

He supported the prodisappointed to see the brief vince's move to reduce the referred. Spokesman Norm number of municipalities. Elliott said he had hoped the There were about 1,200 in the committee would have province. They had to get it passed a motion agreeing down to a manageable level. with some of the points made . You do lose something and

Nassagaweya resident and

"They said they lost their municipal office but so did we in Nassagaweya. They were concerned that decisions were being made by outsiders but that is something they have to settle in their own municipality," Watson said.

"I took the minutes of a North Halton meeting before regional government when they were discussing the boundaries in 1973." "Acton

representatives scorned Brian Best for wanting to preserve Milton and the Acton representatives were well represented and they were unanimous in wanting just one whole town for north Halton. Now these people are saying just what Brian Best

"You can't attribute all of the rising costs to the regional structure. The problem in Halton Hills seems to be two urban areas. Acton is a small fish in a big stream now."

"Milton came together very well. I wouldn't want to see it dismantled even though Milton and Nassagaweya always fought." "They were received

sympathetically but the committee felt it was an Acton-Georgetown fight and they should settle it themselves." Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett was more supportive of

the Acton people. "They have some real con-

cerns," he said. "The concerns twofold, level of service and cost." But Barrett agreed the main problem is the loss of

identity. "Once they had a viable community and then all of a sudden all of the facilities and services are in Georgetown. To some extent we had the same thing when we took Bronte in but Bronte will always be Bronte."

Barrett who serves on the regional police commission said the commission had established a precinct in Acton and he felt the police service is as good or better as it was before.

The Oakville Mayor has always opposed having hard service (sewer and water) at the regional level and he feels that causes problems under regional government.

He said that Oakville and Burlington had always had more sophisticated service than in the north where people don't need it, don't .. want it and can't afford it in

"Under Bill 151 and regional government though, everything goes to the highest common denominator. There shouldn't be a hierarchy at the region and hard services should never, never, never

(Continued on page 2)

On guard!

THREE MILITIA soldiers from Acton defend their position during summer concentration with the Lorne Scots at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Left to right Privates Clayton Bigelow, 17, of 6 Mill Street, Charlie Payne, 17, of 43 Rosemary Road and Les J. Mocnar, 20, of R.R. 2 and nearly 450 citizen-soldiers from the Hamilton Militia District spend two weeks at the camp training and perfecting their skills in weapon handling and field

### Fire truck, soccer grants Two Acton projects will receive Wintario grants, the

Ministry of Culture and Recreation announced this week. A grant of \$1,345 is to be made to the Acton Minor Soccer club to add in the purchase of soccer balls and nets, first aid kits and line markers.

Acton Firefighters Association will receive a grant of \$1,250 to ald in the costs of restoring their 1927 Studebaker

fire truck.

## Merchants split over Hotchen parking lot purchase

Acton seem to be split wide open on paying for parking in the downtown area.

Monday night, Mrs. Rhoda Shoemaker presented a peti- people who will pay should per cent of the tenants. tion signed by owners and tenants stating they do not want to pay for property for public parking.

Another petition is in councll's possession saying exactly the opposite, and urging the acquisition of land for parking.

Mrs. Shoemaker contended

customers coming

vey revealed many parking town needs parking. He said spaces are taken up by em- it was a difficult position for ployers and employees of the elected officials to be in and

downtown businesses. The petition stated they are would be more acute. opposed to increasing asses-

the other petition had been sment to purchase land in the was recommending bonning employees." She said an area left in stores and signed by downtown area. She said out customers. "This petition I of a total of 88 commercial have brought is signed by the businesses, 71.6 per cent of people who will pay. The the owners have signed and 74 fire department wants 30

have more say than Councillor Peter Marks into said it was a real problem, since the other petition has She claimed her own sur- 350 signatures, saying the said the need in the future

He pointed out the engineer

parking on one side of Mill Street. "This would create more problems." He said the spaces for their own use. it is not picked up now. "What do you think of the

long term need?" he asked, by not buying the Legion pro-Mrs. Shoemaker suggested land behind the Dominion Hotel was too far away for customer parking and should be used for employer and employee parking. "There's no reason we should provide hence. parking for employers and

behind the post office is not used to any great extent. Marks predicted land would only increase in cost if

"The town missed the boat

perty," retorted Mrs. Shoe-Marks admitted there could have been an error but said he didn't want to see the same

"Yes, but don't ask me to chants want to survive they

error repeated 10 years

pay for lt," replied Mrs. Councillor Pat McKenzie

said the costs to the benefitting area have not been set as yet. He said the plan of the McKenzie. Business Improvement Area Councillor Les Duby inrecognizes parking as a ser- sisted parking in Acton would ious problem. He claimed have to be dealt with eventu-Hotchens Bakery land, for ally since it was a long standexample, would have two hour meters on it, and would probably not be used by employers and employees.

"If the downtown mer-

will have to provide off-street parking. I'd like to concur with your wishes but we have another petition saying something else," commented

ing problem.

Councillor Roy Booth said, as a member of the Georgetown Business Improvement Area executive, he was dis-

(Continued on Page 2)

#### Bicyclist hit by car

A Main Street North youngster was hurt when the blke he was riding and a car collided at Main and River Streets last Wednesday Charles Ancker of 76 Main

St. fell off his bike from the

collision, police say. Police also say Charles suffered slight injuries from the crash. Robert Kartchener Kitchener was attempting to turn his car left onto River Street when the mishap oc-

curred, police said.

have gone there.

some instances.