

Want Acton back — seek meeting with McKeough

The Actonians for Acton 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 Halton.

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

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 amalgamated parties in Halton Hills.

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

Elliott says that since regional government the gap has widened instead of closing 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 far-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.

Firemen get hall they don't want

Acton firefighters dropped a bombshell at Halton Hills council meeting, Monday night, when they said they felt \$200,000 was too much to spend for an addition to the fire hall, when there would still be no parking.

The statement was made to a stunned council, just as the motion to authorize Alan Zeegen Associates to go to tender was put forward.

Despite the firemen's objections, the motion to tender was passed after a long harangue.

Fire Chief Mick Holmes said the firemen felt it should be given more thought. He asked the tendering motion be held up until the parking problem could be solved.

Councillor Pat McKenzie claimed works committee has been working on parking for the firemen. "There never has been a negative attitude on this," he claimed.

Councillor Roy Booth said council had bent over backwards for the firemen. He said he had tried to be non-parochial and wanted to give the Acton firefighters quarters equal to the Georgetown department.

Councillor Peter Marks 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.

Councillor George Maltby agreed the tendering should be held up. He said the firemen also pay taxes and are concerned about spending so much money when there's no parking at this location.

Miller said he had met with the firemen and the citizens' committee repeatedly, "and this was the way the firemen wanted it."

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

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

He urged the parking problem be tackled right away and commended the firemen for their concern about taxpayers' money.

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.

Chief Holmes praised Councillor Miller and the special committee for their efforts on behalf of the firefighters, but said he felt it was too much money to ask the public to pay.

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.



MABEL MCDUGALL, surrounded by friends and relatives, celebrated 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

Loss of identity emerged as the greatest single issue that the Actonians for Acton Committee is concerned with when the committee presented a brief to the Halton Regional Council's Bill 151 Committee Thursday.

The 151 committee has been investigating ways to improve the operation of Regional Government since the new council took office in January.

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 the regional system.

Several members of the 151 committee felt that most of the problems cited were local in nature and could best be rectified at the local level in Halton Hills.

The Acton committee was disappointed to see the brief referred. Spokesman Norm Elliott said he had hoped the committee would have passed a motion agreeing with some of the points made in the brief or endorsing the brief.

He supported the province's move to reduce the number of municipalities. There were about 1,200 in the province. They had to get it down to a manageable level.

"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.

"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."

Hydro expropriation hearing ends in split

Months of expropriation hearings into Ontario Hydro's controversial 500 kV corridor down the centre of Halton Hills ended yesterday with 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.

Marshall told the hearing he considered the government's decision to build the Bruce to Milton line as inflexible. He also contended that, contrary to the ICG's claims, Hydro considered several alternate routes.

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 favored their contention that studies of alternate routes can not be confined to the narrow swath across the province that Hydro chose.

Arson suspect

Arson is suspected in a Mill St. E. home after the owner's wife returned home about 6 p.m. August 11 and smelled smoke.

Further investigation of the house revealed a double mattress in the bedroom was on fire. Halton Regional Police are investigating.

5 to receive Queen's medal

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

The information which the ICG hoped to analyze and present to the hearing officer, came from Ontario Hydro after a secret summer meeting at Toronto.



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 tactics.

Merchants split over Hotchen parking lot purchase

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

Monday night, Mrs. Rhoda Shoemaker presented a petition signed by owners and tenants stating they do not want to pay for property for public parking.

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

Mrs. Shoemaker contended the other petition had been left in stores and signed by customers. "This petition I have brought is signed by the people who will pay. The people who will pay should have more say than customers coming into stores."

She claimed her own survey revealed many parking spaces are taken up by employers and employees of the downtown businesses.

The petition stated they are opposed to increasing assessment to purchase land in the downtown area.

She said out of a total of 88 commercial businesses, 71.6 per cent of the owners have signed and 74 per cent of the tenants.

Councillor Peter Marks said it was a real problem, since the other petition has 350 signatures, saying the town needs parking.

Marks predicted land would only increase in cost if it is not picked up now.

He pointed out the engineer was recommending banning parking on one side of Mill Street. "This would create more problems," he said.

Marks admitted there could have been an error but said he didn't want to see the same error repeated 10 years hence.

"Yes, but don't ask me to pay for it," replied Mrs. Shoemaker.

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 aid in the costs of restoring their 1927 Studebaker fire truck.

Acton Councillor Jim Watson said the costs to the benefiting area have not been set as yet. He said the plan of the Business Improvement Area recognizes parking as a serious problem.

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

Acton Councillor Les Duby insisted parking in Acton would have to be dealt with eventually since it was a long standing problem.

Bicyclist hit by car

A Main Street North youngster was hurt when the bike he was riding and a car collided at Main and River Streets last Wednesday evening.

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.

Hit by car

Robert Kartchner of Kitchener was attempting to turn his car left onto River Street when the mishap occurred, police said.

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.

Barrett

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.

Barrett

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.

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.