



**BUILDING PRODUCTS of Canada Ltd.** honored three men who have recently retired from their firm on Friday. Between the three men, 58 years of service was represented. Wives of two of the men were on hand for the presentations. Seated, left to right, Marjorie Kirkwood, Dave Swackhamer who would have celebrated his 25th year of working for BP next month, and Lydia Kuhn. Standing are Harvey Kirkwood, with 13 years service and Edward Kuhn with 20 years behind him. The men received the president's purse as well as a gift of money from the union, United Rubber, Local 603. The women received flowers.

## Committee requests regional enquiry

Halton Regional Council's Bill 151 Committee will ask Halton Regional Council to seek a full enquiry into regional government in Halton.

The motion was sponsored by Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkeiwich. He said the resolution called for the appointment of a three man task force with broad terms of reference. The committee agreed to the resolution but said the task force wouldn't get underway until on or after Nov. 1 when the Bill 151 committee makes its final report and disbands.

"The committee is getting nowhere. It seems obvious they can't do much more."

### Dr. Cornell closes up

Guelph Animal Hospital is closing its clinic in Acton. Dr. Craig Cornell, who was here two days a week, feels that the vets can provide equal service through their mobile veterinary van and their office in Guelph.

This is far too important to leave to this kind of an approach. The time has come for a detailed study the way it did in Ottawa-Carleton, Niagara, and Hamilton-Wentworth."

Earlier in the same meeting Mulkeiwich had urged that the committee refer a brief drawn up by Actonians for Action Committee to an independent task force.

The committee rejected that suggestion and referred the brief to Halton Hills council for consideration. Halton Hills council is already conducting its own study of regional government and Bill 151.

Mulkeiwich said the problems set forth by the Acton people would just be one of many areas the task force would look into.

Mulkeiwich said the Bill 151 committee wasn't able to cope with the challenge of a review of regional government. He said the committee had no research staff, no sense of detachment and had only spent 12 hours in meetings since the committee was formed in January.

Councillor Mulkeiwich said

the report from the task force could say the answer to Acton's problem is a fifth municipality in the region. "I don't know what it would say. I'm not sure a fifth municipality is the only way to preserve identity."

Mulkeiwich said the study would have to be okayed by regional council and the provincial government. But he noted he felt there was enough concern being shown to warrant the task force after three and a half years instead of five. "The people in Acton are concerned and have questions that need answers."

While the committee supported Councillor Mulkeiwich's call for an election it reserved the right to approve the people appointed to the task force and asked that the study not be initiated until after the Bill 151 Committee files its report Nov. 1.

The Bill 151 Committee is named after the bill initiating and setting out the terms for regional government in Halton.

There has been a lot of discontent and unrest with regional government in Acton.

## Want Acton back...

(Continued from Page 1)

the transfer of municipal departments from Acton to Georgetown and the dissolution of most former boards which allowed and encouraged citizen input into local municipal decision making.

The brief notes that prior to regional government there were nine councillors in Acton making decisions for the town and now there are only three sitting on a council of 13 people.

Mr. Elliott said the group had attempted to compare costs but found it virtually impossible to break down because of the workings of the regional system.

He said the brief was a philosophical one but noted the committee hoped to come up with specifics before the meeting with the province.

While Elliott acknowledged not having the figures to prove whether or not Acton would have the assessment base to support a fifth municipality he did say that Acton was already contribut-

ing to a government that has grown tremendously.

"We want a study to give us these answers. If it is viable we want to know it."

"The average citizen doesn't know if we could make a go of it or not but right now we feel like Acton is the tail being wagged by the dog."

"It isn't a matter of feeling discriminated against but rather a desire to control our own destiny."

"Milton, we feel, has performed better under regional government and we are looking into some of the things we find favorable in the Milton set up," he said.

Elliott said he felt local councillors were "a little pessimistic about going it alone."

"We haven't had enthusiastic support from our regional councillor Pat McKenzie or local councillors. They feel there are decided benefits from regional government that aren't obvious to some of us."

In an interview Councillor McKenzie suggested that a group suggesting the re-

establishment of Acton as a town of its own should pay very, very close attention to the costs.

He said he didn't have the exact figures to back it up but estimated Acton taxes would go up by as much as 40 per cent if Acton was reconstituted as a town.

"I think they will find we haven't got the assessment base to support a unit of our own. No one can go back to 1973 figures because we've come through five vicious years of inflation."

"If you look back to what it cost then (1973) and take out the rapid rise in education costs the areas Halton Hills has control of hasn't increased by a great deal. The increase would be less than the rate of inflation," he said.

He said Halton Hills had paid for a lot of work out of current taxes instead of debenturing. Mr. McKenzie said that while Acton representatives on the council are outnumbered the Georgetown councillors don't block vote and the Acton area gets more than its share of work done.

He discounted allegations that the regional works crews had exaggerated work that has to be done in Acton. He said the works department is following recommendations in a report commissioned by the old Town of Acton and carried out by R. V. Anderson.

Asked about the loss of identity in Acton McKenzie said it is the same for Acton as Georgetown and Esquesing. He said Halton Hills is used only in government and Acton continues to be used as a mailing address.

"If there is a Georgetown there is an Acton and there is and there always will be."

McKenzie explained that Acton picks up about one fifth of the tab for the operation of Halton Hills.

"It can be done. We could create a town of our own but it would be expensive. It would mean duplicating facilities and offices and there would still have to be police, public health, the home for the aged, Children's Aid and these are all expensive and they won't go away."

## Approve semi on corner lot

Halton Hills planning board cleared the way for the building of a semi-detached home at the corner of Park and Knox Street, Acton, Tuesday night.

They exempted the lot from the usual lot line requirements to allow the semi-detached units on the corner lot. The exempting bylaw will be aired at a public hearing where objections can be registered.

The lot, owned by Fred Bennett, is located across from the Prospect Park gates, and is 66 by 132 feet.

Councillor Les Dudy said the committee of adjustment would not deal with it since they considered it was more than a minor variance.

Councillor Pat McKenzie asked if the amending bylaw was turned down would that mean the lot would remain vacant.

Chairman Roy Booth said a

single family home could be built on it.

The vote to allow the semi-detached house passed unanimously.

Occupation

"Is someone ashamed of their occupation?" Councillor Pete Pomeroy asked, during discussion in changes on the Election Act which would see the occupation removed from the ballot.

Treasurer Darcy McKeough had asked for comments from municipalities.

"I wonder if he's trying to protect some candidates, but it's our job to protect the voters."

Council agreed to refer discussion of the election bill back to administration committee, before they endorse Bill 49, which will take effect for the next municipal elections in 1978.

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