



The Acton Free Press

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Warm welcome on cold day for Santa and escort

Actonians to draft reply

A letter of reply will be sent soon to Ontario treasurer Darcy McKeough by the members of the Actonians for Action committee. The chairman Peter Papillon last week received Mr. McKeough's decision: no review on regional government here, as requested by the committee and two signed petitions.

The full text of Mr. McKeough's letter appeared in last week's Free Press.

The committee members met Sunday evening in the library to go over the letter, and met again last night (Tuesday) to begin putting their reply together.

The reply will be given to the Free Press after it has been mailed to Mr. McKeough and after it has had time to reach him.

Mr. Papillon explained that since the committee members objected to the way the decision was released to the press before they knew of it, they would try to do it properly. The letter, mailed in Toronto Friday November 18, arrived here Wednesday afternoon, November 23.

Speaking personally, Mr. Papillon said he was naturally "disappointed" in the decision. He says everywhere he goes in town, people ask him to keep up the objections. He thinks people in Georgetown and Esquesing also object to regional government.

"I don't take it as a defeat," he says. "It's a setback but not a defeat."

Although Mr. McKeough's parliamentary assistant Walter Ashe thought the committee would have a reply in three weeks, it was actually nearer to seven weeks. They met with him on Oct. 3 and received the reply Nov. 23.



IT'S OFFICIAL! The snip of the scissors means the new Acton high school is officially open. Doing the honors Tuesday night was the Hon. Tom Wells, Ontario Minister of Education. Assisting are past president of the Student Association Jennifer Rowe and present president

Susan Mellor; behind, Dean Fink, Don Blankhorne, Gary Morton, Emmerson Laverder, Lyn McLaren, Ivan Armstrong, John Bradley, Tom Watson, Chuck Beaton, Dave Katz. Over 600 applauded. More on Page 6.

Week delivery said 'common'

Darcy McKeough's letter to Peter Papillon, chairman of the Actonians for Action committee, took five days to arrive in Acton.

And according to the post office and others, that's not unusual.

The letter was postmarked in Toronto on Friday, November 18. It dropped into the Papillon mailbox on Elmore Dr. at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23.

It has been wrongly assumed in last week's Free Press that the letter was at their home, while the Papillons were away for a couple of days. However, they arrived home Wednesday morning - and there was no letter. It came that afternoon.

The Ontario treasurer's office had assumed the letter could arrive in Acton on Monday.

Other people have assured Mr. Papillon it is quite common for letters from Toronto to take a week.

At the post office, acting postmaster Chris McMillan agrees. We seem to have an "awful time" with mail between here and the city, he says.

She guessed that probably the McKeough letter would go to a postal station like Gateway in Toronto on the Friday and would remain there till Monday. Then it would go to Georgetown on Tuesday, and to Acton on a truck delivery

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Fire hall on schedule despite wait for steel beam

Work on the fire hall is on schedule despite a three to four day delay while workers waited for a steel beam to arrive, according to Russell Miller.

The beam replaces one which was bent during construction. Mr. Miller said "The beam has been up for over a week. It wasn't that long a wait."

The roofing is being put in now, and Mr. Miller says con-

sulting engineer Alan Zeegen feels work is right on schedule.

"As soon as the roof is completed they'll move inside to complete the bottom, so firemen will have the use of it again," he added.

The building will use the same boiler that heated the old hall, and Mr. Miller said "The same boiler is adequate," according to Mr. Zeegen. "I'm no engineer. All

I can do is base my opinion on what they tell me."

Fire Chief Mick Holmes also anticipates no problems with the boiler.

"I'm anxious to finish off the roof and get inside so the firemen can get in and have a place to keep their trucks clean," said Mr. Miller. The building should be closed up within a couple of weeks so work can begin on the interior.

8-track is stolen

A Main St. north resident reported the theft of a Holiday eight-track tape deck from his vehicle while parked at a local hotel, to Halton Regional Police. Police say entry was gained by prying open a window.

\$2,574 grant

A Wintario grant of \$2,574 is to be made to the Acton Legion Chorallers to aid in the purchase of uniforms.

Acton's fourth Santa Claus parade Saturday was the best yet, and organizers are already making plans for next year.

Despite the bitter cold, sparkling floats and smiling paraders lasted the whole route from the Crescent to the park. Youngsters who were offered a chance to drop out refused. ... the show must go on!

Although the cold effected their instruments, three bands enlivened the parade with their tunes, the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band, Guelph Concert Band and the Salvation Army band from Cambridge. (Acton band had a previous engagement with Santa in Milton.) Other floats also provided music, the Hillbilly CB club with broadcast music, St. Alban's church and some floats with singers.

Although the McKenzie-Smith school choir had intended to sing carols along the parade route before and

after the parade, it was too cold for them and this part of the event was cancelled.

Overall best entry was that of the firefighters. Their show boat float was built like a paddle wheel steamer. They also entered the old Studebaker fire truck, the rescue unit, a fire truck and seven clowns. Busy firefighters also acted as parade marshals.

Second best overall float was the Robert Little school's Hansel and Gretel.

Topping the categories were Speyside school's Santa's castle for schools; the Beavers' Star Wars for service clubs, St. Alban's carollers for churches (the only church entered) and Acton Agricultural Society with Miss Acton Fair for "other". There were no commercial entries this year.

There were cash prizes for best floats. The judges, who rushed to the park to complete their judging, were Jennifer Barr, Les Duby, Ted

Tyler and Mansell Nellis.

Other highlights of the parade: majorettes from Georgetown, Acton Figure Skating club float, the Chamber of Commerce "Merry Christmas" blocks, McKenzie-Smith float, Ospringe Scouts Seven Dwarfs float, the library's Fantasy World in Books, the Hillbillies CB club, Acton Junior Farmers, Welcome Wagon, the Y's Men's Wizard of Oz, and the costumed young people of the Scout and Guide movement. St. John's Ambulance brought up the rear.

Climax came with the now-traditional Santa - Bert Robertson driving his own pony which was bedecked with antlers and white tail. His sleigh was mounted on wheels.

Dr. Oakes was the official parade marshal, heading the parade with the fire truck.

Chairman Jim Rivett said the parade started almost "right on time" on the Crescent. Traffic problems slowed them up.

Others on the committee are treasurer George Wallis, Marg Wallis, Pat Nellis, Larry Frizell for the firefighters and Mark Rowe for the Scout and Guide movement.

At the parade's end, Santa headed back to the Y as fast as he could, where children were waiting to see him arrive. Despite his age and rank, he found motorists unwilling to let him through the heavy traffic, and he was a little late arriving at the Y.

Here the children were waiting in order, chatting to clowns and playing with their balloons. Ron Douglas took over the role of Santa at the Y and sat in the throne in the gym to greet all the eager kids. He was assisted by clowns Chris Rivett and Dave Hunter.

Ron Douglas also looked after the make-up for the Y's Men.

At the scout hall, the Scout and Guide Mothers provided hot chocolate and a snack for the children who took part in the parade.

The crowd in the Y was down this year, likely because of the cold. Watchers on Maria St. said the parade started just about 10 minutes after the set time of 1:30 - a good record for a parade!

The bands were last to arrive at the starting point, keeping their instruments warm as long as possible in

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Small budget for '77 parade

The Y's Men had a very modest \$1,000 budget for the Santa Claus parade.

Expenses were the bands, candy canes, balloons, prize money and some costume rentals. Chairman Jim Rivett says donations were very good, coming from the merchants of the Business Improvement Area, Bell Telephone company, Y's

Men, Legion Ladies, Scout and Guide Mothers and the Lions.

The merchants usually come up with half and the service clubs the other half.

This is the third year the Y's Men have initiated the parade. Before that, Mike Kinal arranged a parade that started the ball rolling.

BIA's gift: Christmas bus

The downtown businessmen have a gift for Acton again this year - a free Christmas bus.

Service will start Wednesday, December 14 and continue to Christmas Eve.

The cost of the annual project, about \$300, will be borne by the Business Improvement Area.

The routes will be shown on the back page of a merchant's advertising flyer which will be going out the week of December 12.

Tyler Transport will again provide the bus and driver. BIA chairman Henry Stachyra points out that Tyler's barely cover expenses in the project, as their contribution.

The Christmas bus was originally a project of the Chamber of Commerce, financed by individual donations. This year everyone in the Business Improvement Area will automatically share in the cost, as their allotment has already been collected by the board of directors.

Stung by minister's decision ICG try new tactics

The Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) will try convincing the province to hold up expropriations for a major power corridor through Halton Hills by arguing in favor of Ontario Hydro's first choice route - via Kitchener.

According to ICG spokesman John Minns, a four month review of the information Ontario Hydro has about Kitchener will show that the public utility wanted to take

power from the Bruce nuclear generating station, on Lake Huron, through Kitchener.

Minns contended in an interview Monday the route via Kitchener is shorter, cheaper and safer than taking electricity across the province through Halton Hills.

The then energy minister Darcy McKeough killed the Kitchener alternate, Minns said, for political reasons.

If the government turns a

deaf ear to the ICG's proposal, "We'll get stop work orders on Taylor's (energy minister James Taylor) decision on the expropriations," Minns said.

Taylor last week gave Ontario Hydro a green light to start expropriations for the southern section of the 109-mile long route. A court of appeal decision is being awaited concerning expropriations along the northern wing - from Bruce to

Colbeck, near Orangeville.

Citizens objections to the expropriation orders in the middle section of the line have yet to be heard by the courts, Minns said.

Ultimately the ICG will take the issue to the Supreme Court of Canada, Minns said.

Hydro's proposals to get power from the Bruce station date back some five years. Delays in construction is costing the province millions

of dollars, Ontario Hydro says.

We're not totally insensitive to the power needs of the province, Minns contends.

In a nutshell the ICG's proposal is to have a four month long independent review of the information Hydro has in its files and computers on Kitchener, Minns said.

Whatever the results of the review are, we will accept

them, Minns said.

The four-month review comes as a toned down demand from the ICG. For as long as Hydro has wanted to build the line, the ICG has called for an independent study of the north-south route - like the one Dr. O. Solandt carried out on the Nanticoke to Pickering line.

The main alternate route proposed by the ICG would take power from the nuclear

station to Essa, near Lake Simcoe, to tie in with an existing 500 kV line. "We feel that hammering at the Bruce-Essa alternate is not getting anyone anyplace," Minns said.

A separate independent study would take time, and time is growing short, he said. "Four years ago a study could have been done, he continued. The ICG has tried meeting Premier William Davis, but

has been told by the premier's office that he is too busy. However Taylor will meet them, after Christmas, Minns said.

Minns said the meetings should take place now, and with the premier. He's the only one with the power to make the decision, he said. A decision is hoped for this week.

"If there's a compromise where Davis can save face,

then that's what we want," Minns said.

In a parallel development the ICG has an experienced systems planner - Ken Slater of Slater Energy Consultants Toronto - going through reams of computer print outs given to the ICG by Hydro in August at the close of the expropriation hearings.

Slater's report, due December 15, will go to the ICG and Ontario Hydro.