

Year-end review

Hearings, town hall, regional government

1977 was a controversial year for Acton and surrounding area. The hydro corridor hearings, the town hall, fire hall and Actonians for Action group all made news throughout the year.

The Free Press deals with these stories and others on a week to week basis, taking paragraphs from stories on the front pages of the 52 issues of 1977.

January 5
About 30 people lost their jobs at United Carr Canada Limited on Friday, December 31 when the plant ceased its operations. The company has been here 16 years in the industrial building beside Beardmore's. It is a division of TRW Incorporated an American company which owns many businesses in Canada and United States.

Three days after the end of the Christmas break, during which many kids play out-of-doors, town men will take the first steps in flooding outdoor skating rinks around town.

An Acton woman gave birth in Guelph General Hospital's first baby in 1977 at 1.05 a.m., January 1. Susan Hewitt, wife of Doug Hewitt, 6 John St., was admitted to the hospital Friday morning. Several hours later, she delivered Dale Douglas.

Plans for regional councillors to choose a new regional chairman by secret ballot went by the board, when Halton Regional Council met in an informal session Tuesday afternoon and evening.

Expropriation hearings for minor complaints about Ontario Hydro's proposed Bradley-Georgetown power corridor will resume in the Legion Hall on January 24.

January 12
Regional government has been with us for more than three years now and according to Halton Burlington MPP Julian Reed, residents in North Halton are generally dissatisfied and annoyed by the new system of government.

The sudden storm which struck Acton on Sunday night closed schools, disrupted mail service, stranded motorists, and caused one death in the area. A Mitchell, 47, was shovelling snow at his home at 289 McDonald Blvd., when he suffered a heart attack. He noticed chest pains and was taken to Glenlea Clinic.

The Ontario Fire Marshall's office is investigating an early morning fire in Georgetown which destroyed most of the Bookdale warehouse plus the Rapid Print Shop and a small motorcycle repair shop, early last Thursday morning. The fire marshal is automatically called in to investigate any fire in which damage exceeds \$250,000. Early estimate placed value of book stock at Bookdale at \$3 million but some are still usable.

Provincial Court Judge Doug Latimer, Georgetown, swore in 12 veteran trustees and seven of the eight newly elected trustees into office at Halton Board of Education's inaugural meeting.

January 19
Halton Regional Council elected a dark horse candidate as regional chairman at the inaugural meeting in Burlington Wednesday. Ric Morrow, a 36-year-old pilot from Halton Hills and an eight year veteran of municipal politics, won the five man election but only after councillors had cast six ballots. In a close, two-way competi-



PUFFING AND perspiring, five Acton runners carried flags from Glen Williams to the town hall in Acton for Back to Acton Days on the Dominion Day weekend. Receiving the flags are (L to R)

tion, Kevin Parker edged out Roy Priestnitz of the Hamilton-Stoney Creek skating club to win the junior men's division of the Central Division Figure Skating Championships in Guelph.

Ontario Hydro's attempt to resume a hearing of necessity in Acton on January 24 is "precipitous and ill advised" says Leon Parolan, lawyer for Georgetown landowner Walter Scott.

Acton downtown merchants who petitioned Halton Hills council to consider some kind of tax cut or rebate as a result of lost business due to reconstruction at Christmas time, got bad news Monday night at the finance-administration committee. About 25 homes south of Acton were without power for two and a half to three hours Monday night, on the coldest night of the year.

January 26
Acton's population could reach 8600 by 1981 but a more realistic estimate is 7552, according to the population forecast for the five year capital budget.

Parkland at the intersection of Acton Blvd. and Mill St., Acton will be designated residential and seven lots each with 60 foot frontage will be created.

The controversial municipal complex was dealt its final death blow Monday night at Halton Hills council, but the possibility of its being raised from the dead in another form emerged.

A serious blood shortage in Acton has made participation in Acton's upcoming blood clinic more important than ever.

Ontario Hydro's attempt to reopen expropriation hearings before a divisional court could decide on the admissibility of evidence regarding alternative routes, was turned down by Hearing Officer Donald Meyrick Monday in Acton Legion hall.

February 2
Acton's second mayor and a former Citizen of the Year, Ted Tyler Sr., is dead at the age of 70. Mr. Tyler died in Guelph General Hospital Friday evening after being rushed there from the Acton Curling Club, where he collapsed on the ice.

The 1978 Acton Fall Fair saw red last September and Acton Agricultural Society

president Russell Murray hopes he has a solution for future years.

A Divisional Court hearing has been set for Tuesday, February 8 to decide whether expropriation hearings for the proposed Bradley to Georgetown hydro corridor can permit evidence and cross examination of alternate routes.

The "Year of the (unprintable) Winter" is seeing plenty of print these days. It just won't quit. The blizzard which struck on January 9 and 10 is still making its presence felt as an additional snow coupled with high winds and extreme cold continue to cripple the area.

Police are investigating Friday's attack on Mrs. C. K. Browne, who runs Browne's Confectionery store on Main St. N. She was struck on the head by a bottle-wielding youth who was apparently trying to rob the store.

February 9
Louis Charlebois was returned as president of the Chamber of Commerce Monday in a speedy election which followed the recommendations of the nominating committee.

After considerable discussion Monday and several tie votes, Halton Hills council decided to hire a development officer. The development officer will work in the engineering department on subdivision agreements.

Four Acton high school students have been named Ontario Scholars, the school announced Monday.

The \$1 million Halton Hills municipal complex is officially dead. Monday council voted 9-2 to rescind the complex by-law passed last year 6-5.

There is still no decision on whether the expropriation hearing officer the proposed Bradley to Georgetown hydro corridor should consider evidence and cross examination of alternate routes.

February 16
Are senior citizens apartments in Georgetown being given priority over Acton's?

Les Duby, Douglas Fread, Charmaine Bigelow and Louis Charlebois. The runners are Heather Near, Frank Houston, Bruce Andrews, Roger McEachern, and Rick Boychuk.

Councillor Les Duby has heard from several senior citizens who are concerned about the fate of the long planned units on Elizabeth Drive. They relayed to him the fact they had been asked by Ontario Housing representatives if they would be willing to move to senior citizens units in Georgetown instead of Acton.

Halton Region's public works department will attempt to get an early start on the reconstruction of Main St. in Acton to alleviate problems for merchants in the area.

Dave Chapman and the Sabres finished the Junior B season on an up beat. The Sabre centre Chapman earned two assists to win, finally the central division scoring championship with 79 points; the team, cellar dwellers, throughout the season, beat the first place Oakville 3-2 last night in Oakville.

A pay raise of \$500 for councillors and \$600 for the mayor was recommended by finance and administration committee Monday night. This would bring a councillor's salary up to \$5940 and the mayor's salary to \$12,100.

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Building Products of Canada Limited announced Thursday that effective from March 31 it will cease manufacturing and marketing plastic pipe fittings in its Acton plant on Main St. N. The announcement was made by Brian Lockhart, plant manager of the division.

A meeting is being arranged for Monday afternoon in the town offices to discuss the planned senior citizens apartments in Acton. Officials of the Ontario Housing Corporation will attend the meeting with councillors and others.

The average Acton taxpayer could pay between \$20.84 and \$23.83 more this year in education taxes if Halton Board of Education ratifies a proposed \$81.9 million budget.

Ratepayers in Esquesing could pay anywhere from \$21 to \$25 more in education taxes this year. Average assessment is \$5984 in Acton and \$6170 in Esquesing.

March 9
Both sides in an expropriation hearing Ontario Hydro's proposed Bradley to Milton power corridor are waiting for one man to catch up on the issues before they can continue.

The 10 per cent pay raise for councillors is still not a fact. It will be discussed again at the next Halton Hills council meeting. "Get the applications" Ontario housing special manager Gordon Hickory told a group of citizens concerned that Georgetown's senior citizen housing is taking precedence over Acton's.

March 16
The board of management of the Business Improvement area supervising the refurbishing of downtown Acton wants interlocking sidewalk stones installed on Mill Street from Main St. to the railway tracks, chairman Henry Stachyra told Halton Hills works committee Monday.

March 2
Between 30 and 40 children were registered for St. Joseph's separate school last Thursday at St. Joseph's church. Combined with the children whose parents have already made a commitment they make a total of 111 who will attend the first Roman Catholic school in Acton.



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Residents of the Kingham Hill Estates properly known as Halton Condominium Corporation No. 24 are claiming that the flooding of their homes this winter is due to the construction of new semi-detached units directly behind them.

The Rev. V. J. Morgan died in Guelph General Hospital on Thursday. He was a priest in Acton for over 30 years.

Halton Board of Education will make a decision at this week's meeting on choice of a name for the Acton Middle School. A 12-person delegation from Acton appeared at the board last Thursday evening bearing a 400 name petition asking the school be named McKenzie-Smith Middle School, after the two principals who spent 65 years out of a total of 82 as teachers and principals in Acton schools.

March 23
A bid by Acton-Esquesing Trustee Bert Hinton to top nearly \$5 million from this year's \$81.9 million Halton Board of Education budget failed Thursday. Hinton moved an amendment to the motion to ratify the budget calling for a 10 per cent reduction.

Halton Hills works committee and engineer Robert Austin will probe drainage

problems plaguing 63 town-house units in Kingham Hill which the over 100 ratepayers claim is being caused by construction of semi-detached homes in Kingham phase three.

Two days before St. Patrick's Day, an 18 estate home plan with the Irish

name of "Vale of Tralee" was presented to Halton Hills Planning Board last Thursday. The proposal is on the Sixth Line, south of Highway 7.

March 30
Halton regional treasurer Don Farmer is recommend-

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