

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1876

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Redraw the map

Halton Region planners are all wet with their insistence that regional council turn down Halton Hills' attempts to have an industrial park close to Highway 401 at Highway 25 and 5 Sideroad. When regional government was being debated and boundary lines drawn it was decided Halton Hills needed a border on 401 to attract industry.

Now Norshaw developments, which owns the 383 acre parcel, wants to bring industry there, planners are objecting to any further urbanization of agricultural land.

The parcel located directly across from an industrial park in Milton on the other side of 5 Sideroad. Obviously the Region and Milton would like all the industry near 401 to locate in Milton. They seem to have the support of the

Ministry of Housing which has suggested a Halton Hills Industrial Park there is premature until the new official plan sets the amount and location of all industrial land in the town.

Few people want to use valuable farmland for industry but that should apply to Milton as well as Halton Hills. If industry is allowed on one side of 5 Sideroad then surely what's good for one side of the road is beneficial to the other?

It would be an embarrassment to redraw the map of Halton but that might be the only way out for the planners. They could give Halton Hills all the land and assessment on this side of 401. Milton can have everything on the other side. That should stop the squabbling over industry.

Sooner the better

This indeed has been the summer of our discontent with the central business district of Acton.

Road construction and the burnt out shell of the Dominion Hotel stand alongside another gutted brick house. More eye-sores on the other side of the street are turning prospective shoppers off.

Although changes have been made in the downtown to create a better image it is as architect Lloyd Sankey says time for major surgery. There has been enough band-aid therapy. It is especially urgent in view of the fact the town is opposing further shopping areas in East Acton because it would contribute to the decay of the downtown core.

Let's face it. The downtown core needs that major operation Mr. Sankey spoke of to the Business Improvement Area.

There are plans for major improvements in the central

business district, but shoppers want some evidence that things are going to happen. The sooner plans are implemented the better.

Developers of an east end plaza have no better ammunition than inaction downtown. The longer they hold off reconstruction and improvement the more the need for a plaza becomes apparent.

One day construction will finish, roads will be back to normal, fire hulks will be torn down and hopefully replaced by newer, more modern buildings. But how long can the patient shopper wait?

The longer developers wait the more often shoppers will go other places to shop and sometimes it is difficult to break shopping habits.

In the interests of both retailers and shoppers the sooner work starts on more downtown improvements the better it will be for both.

What others say:

Swedes can't spank

Sweden, that land of eternal social experimentation has just passed a new federal law. The Swedes have never hesitated to thrust government into personal life, but their latest sets a record of some kind.

It is now illegal, in Sweden, for a parent to strike his own child. Spanking is out. Not real child abuse, mind you, but regular run-of-the-kitchen spanking as well.

In self-protection Canada should immediately place a quota of zero on Swedish immigrants to take effect about 10 years hence. We don't need any young people who have been raised in homes where the flat of the hand to

the seat of the pants is against the law. Personally, we don't believe in mistreating children any more than the Swedes do, but show us a kid who never needed a spanking in his life and we'll show you a freak who should be in a sideshow exhibit. Nor do we believe in over-frequency of corporal punishment.

The child who is spanked too often, when other forms of discipline would produce results becomes inured to these mild helpings of pain.

We have yet to see the youngster who could not learn something from a paddling administered by a loving but firm parent.—Wingham Advance-Times.



Fourth Estate

Sometimes you can beat city hall

By Eric Elstone
It's good to see a family without a lawyer gain exactly what it wants from government at any level, and it's especially heartening when the gain is made at the regional committee level.

More and more applicants to Halton Region's Land Division Committee appear in the shadow of a lawyer who argues for them. Some lawyers win. Some lose. That's the name of the game, especially today when land for severances is becoming scarcer.

LDC members demonstrated they are open to needs of the farming community when they granted the Adolf Maron family wanted, in spite of urgings in a regional planning reports to be more niggardly concerning the size of the separation. The Marons live in R.R.4, Acton. The Maron's daughter, Trudy Lemski, successfully argued the need for the five acre separation.

I'm sorry to learn of the resignation of long-time member Des Morrow, of Hornby, from the Land Division Committee. Mr. Morrow's eagle eye and sense of humane logic often worked to the benefit of the small private land owner. He would, I think, have sided with colleague and former Burlington mayor George Harrington who said the region planning office was overstepping the line on the Maron application.

"What kind of nonsense is this?" snorted Harrington concerning the report's claim that the Maron application meets the needs of the Region's plan "if the applicant establishes that both he (Maron) and the son-in-law are full-time employees for the farm."

Harrington indicated there is no such

condition in the official plan. Guess the bureaucrats try to get their way even when the battle's properly won.

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name on some senior members of Halton's Board of Education staff!

Education Director Em Lavender read aloud a letter from an Oakville parent who asked the board to protect his son from some high school initiation shenanigans. The letter was hand delivered prior to the last board meeting. And whether or not it was marked private and personal is of no matter. By reading it aloud and discussing it, using the parent's name, the board has made the boy a target for abuse.

It is just like slamming the barn door shut after the cows have escaped. Instruction Superintendent John Boich commented: "The less said about it the better it is". The board did not have to hear the

plea in public. It could have dealt with it privately.

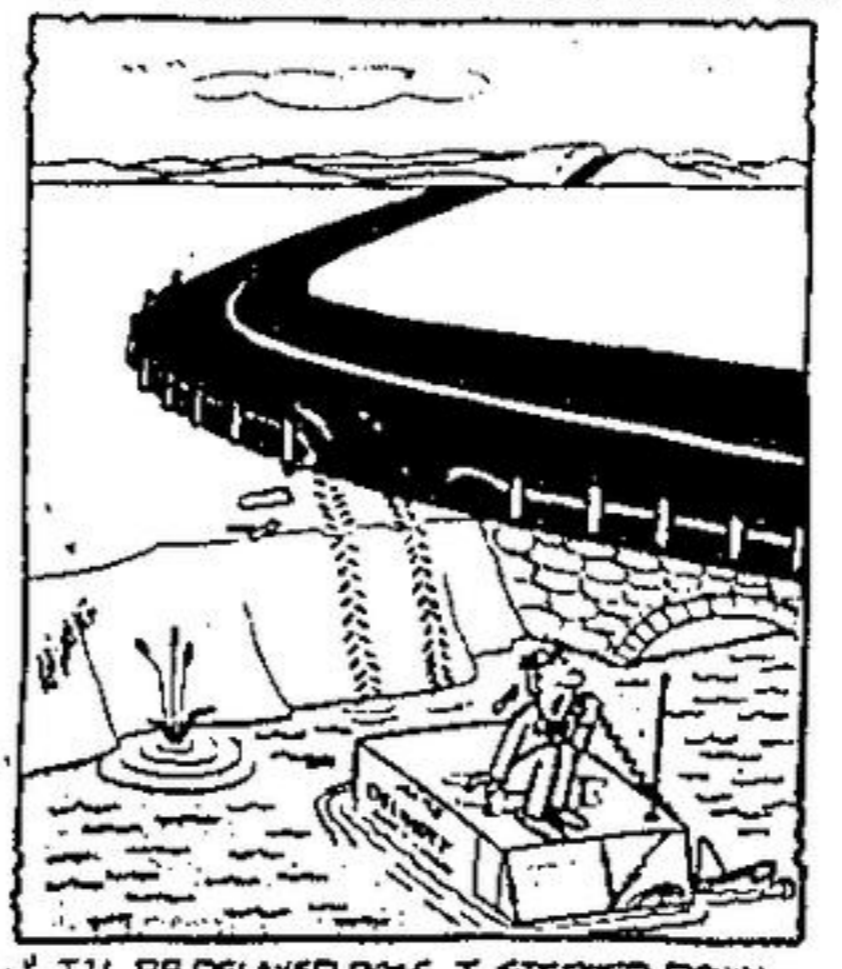
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There's an interesting recommendation come our way from the Porter Commission on Electric Power Planning. The recommendation is from the commission's Report on the Need for Additional Bulk Power Facilities in Southwestern Ontario and concerns Halton Hills residents.

The recommendation reads: "That because we foresee serious social as well as environmental and economic problems associated with the possible construction of a second 500 kV line from Bruce following any route that crosses the prime foodlands of Ontario, all other alternatives—even if there are apparent economic penalties, should be explored fully before further consideration is given to such a proposal."

Porter Commission member William W. Stevenson, told me the commission "wanted to simply advise the government we had very strong recommendations from farm people that it (a second line) should avoid class one and two foodlands".

The first line out of the Bruce nuclear generating station is the one Ontario Hydro is trying to push through Halton Hills, with the Interested Citizens' Group fighting for an independent study, on the calibre of the Solandt Commission's study of the east-west line that passes by Milton.

Mention of Essa as a possible solution to the direction of the second line out of the Bruce is interesting indeed. A 500 kV line to Essa where it would join another line of equal voltage is exactly what the ICG's John Schneider, R.R.2 Acton, offered as long ago as 1975 when the Environmental Hearing Board was wading through evidence at Hillsburgh.



From the Editor's Note Book

By Hartley Coles

I always thought a wolf howl was the wolf whistles from Mill St. on Saturday nights until Dave Dodds, who toils in the back shop, told me he was on one during his holidays.

Dave decided he would pitch a tent in the Algonquin Park wilderness for a couple of weeks to rest up and get away from crazy editors and reporters and generally buoy spirits up for another crack at the composing room.

Dave helps assemble this paper most weeks and is never taciturn about discussing football, especially the Toronto Argos. However, you never hear much from him about his personal life. So it came as a surprise when he said he was on a wolf howl during his vacation.

"Didn't your wife give you hair colubina?" I asked innocently.
"Heck no," he said. "She went to."
"I don't understand," I said, puzzled.
"Never been on a wolf howl?"
"Nope," was the reply.
"It's fun," he said with a grin.

Hundreds go out to an outdoor amphitheatre in Algonquin Park in their cars. Dave explained. Park naturalists explain what it is all about and the crowd goes back to cars for a slow procession down the highway. At a predetermined point all

lights are extinguished, the highway is closed and participants quietly emerge from their vehicles.

Then one of the naturalists at the head of the line lets a howl out of him—a throaty, eerie sound that echoes across the valley. Then there's silence.

He howls again. A pause. Then another howl.

Finally, from high on the wooded ridge silhouetted by the moon, the howl of a timber wolf sends a shudder down the backs of the assembly.

The wolf howls again. Other wolves join in. Soon there's a full chorus.

An unusual and eerie experience, says Dave. The howls are not mournful. Sometimes they are punctuated with the high pitched yapping of pups. Apparently in the wolves' tight social structure the family gathers at this time of year on grassy meadows where the pups learn their nocturnal hunting skills.

According to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the enormous popularity of wolf howls in Algonquin is one indication that wolves are beginning to enjoy a respite from the notoriety they've had since one tried to get the Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood. However, the naturalists recognize that some people will

never feel safe as long as there's a wolf around.

Some people blame the decline of the deer population in Algonquin on the wolves but the naturalists say wolves only feed on the younger and older deer, thereby helping to maintain a healthy herd. They maintain the decline is due to natural changes in the winter food supply, not the wolves.

In any event, for Dave Dodds a wolf howl in Algonquin was a highlight of his vacation. He doesn't recommend it for everyone. It is just for wolves and wolf lovers, he says with a wide grin.

I'm all for heading for Algonquin and trying a few howls on my own but my wife says I have to add to my insurance before she'll let me embark on an expedition like that. And also fatten the bank account.

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The editorial department of The Free Press and this writer have received enquiries and telephone calls asking about a new industry on Eastern Avenue next to the railway tracks. Some people are disturbed. Since the plant is grinding sulphur and other minerals, they think it could add to air pollution in that neighborhood. Others have said they would have objected if they had known what the plant proposed

to manufacture. One caller said there had never been anything in The Free Press to tell the people of Acton about the plant.

To set the record straight there was a story with a large four column head in the May 23 issue of the Free Press naming the products manufactured by the new industry and describing the building.

The new \$125,000 chemical processing plant is called Holly Industries, a subsidiary of Aldridge Chemicals Ltd. of Willowdale. According to the company's general manager, Holly Industries will grind materials, mainly sulphur, from the western provinces. Sulphur is a by-product of the petroleum industry. It is sold to agriculture, rubber and match industries. It is not an intensive labor industry so only a few employees will be hired.

The manager assured The Free Press reporter that the company had taken all the precautions necessary to ensure there is clean air and safety, the former a major concern with residents of the area. They must, of course, also follow the guidelines of the Ministry of the Environment, which can be tough at times. However, some residents are still concerned that they could be afflicted with the smell of sulphur which isn't exactly Chanel No. 5 when it is belching from a plant. In ancient times

they believed it presaged a visit from the Devil.

The plant is still under construction and residents want assurances they won't have foul air and dust emanating from the plant.

It is hard to know what to say about complaints until there is something to complain about. We have to rely on assurances from company officers and municipal and government departments that the plant will be an asset to the community. In the event it proves otherwise residents can complain to the proper authorities.

I know, you're going to say it is too late to lock the door after the horse has left the barn but there are avenues now that did not exist before, to keep companies within rigid air pollution guidelines.

Perhaps if residents had been more aware of the proposal and location of the company before it started to build then there would be no doubts now about the company's ability to control odors and dust. Officials of the company, if they are interested in being good corporate citizens, could well supply the assurances.

Meanwhile, residents who are still concerned should get in touch with their local councillors and ask them to supply any answers they feel are lacking.

Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press of Wednesday, September 3, 1969
Mr. and Mrs. K.C. Lindsay of Esquesing celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Close to 50 concerned parents staged an orderly protest demonstration outside Ospringe school, protesting the closing of the kindergarten class.
A group of residents approached Esquesing township council protesting increased activity at the Ross Lake airstrip. Acton assessor William Erskine passed away suddenly.

Three overhead crosswalk signs were installed in town on the first day of school to provide safe locations for students and adults as well.

Individual time tabling is an innovation at the high school this week. A busload of students leaves town each day for out-of-town courses. New teachers are Earl Brears, A.R. Eastwood, Miss Madara, G.L. Sansom, Mrs. Ott and Miss Quinn.
A successful model airplane competition was held at Acton park Sunday. A Cincinnati, Ohio, man placed first.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press of Thursday, September 3, 1959
About 290 students are expected at the high school. Staff includes E.A. Hansen, Miss Barber, D. Bothwell, Miss Bovaird, P.E. Caddick, T. Campbell, O. Drijber, E. Evans, Mrs. J. Galloway, Mrs. Orr, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Rogers, C. Rogvaldson, and Mrs. D.A. Smith. Mr. R. Spielvogel is in charge of maintenance and Mrs. M.A. Blow is secretary.
About 413 are expected at M.Z. Bennett. On staff are W.D. Smith, Miss B. Fosbury, Mrs. Alger, Miss Boehme, Miss Bosley, Mrs. Benton, Mrs. Bonner, Mrs. Allen A. Capper, Mrs. Turner, E. Brears, W. Dubois. Colin MacCall is caretaker and G. Banks music supervisor.

Teachers at the Robert Little school are G.W. McKenzie, Miss Sides, Mrs. Gamble, Miss Forster, Mrs. Reed, Miss Moore, Mrs. Oberthien, Miss Dredge, Mrs. White, Mrs. Copeland, Mrs. Byerman, William Kennedy, K. Black, K. Martin, D. Copeland, Mrs. Gwizdala. Because of the new addition, caretaker Doug Price will be joined by his wife.

About 200 Acton Minor Sports ball players cheered the Toronto Maple Leafs ball team in Toronto Sunday.

Bruce Andrews outran a field of nine in the one mile race at the Exhibition.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press

of Thursday, September 5, 1920
The Beardmore tug-of-war team brought home two championships from the Exhibition again this year. They have won in the industrial class for the third year. The following are team, reserves and officials: W. Eccleshall, A. Wojcik, J. Scriven, George Lazenby, Garfield McEdden, H. Hitchie, John Lambert, S. Braida, H. Thompson, Fred Lawson and A. Molozzie. A large number from Acton followed the team to the Ex on Saturday.

After a most successful pastorate of seven years, Father F.J. McReavy has been transferred to Hamilton. He was presented with a club bag and purse from the congregation by Mrs. Jas. Gibbons and Mr. Neil Gibbons read an address.

Mr. Frank Holmes and Mr. F.S. Blow are installing new verandahs at their homes on Bower Ave.

Labor Day sports were held at Edgewater Park at Eden Mills, with a dance at night. The Women's Institute catered.

This is truly expansion year at Acton fall fair!
The foundations of the new rink are now ready for the steel workers.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press

of Thursday, September 4, 1879
All the misfortunes possible to befall a nation at once, except plague, are combined against unhappy England. Her trade is departing from her, as well as her prestige in South Africa. She has to send away enormous sums of gold each day for provisions for home consumption, exactly when she can least afford it. Her manufacturers are going as well as her trade, and her crops are almost completely ruined by rains.
Hop picking has commenced, and there are many empty desks at school as a result. Mr. Austin Swackhamer, Esquesing, had a pea pulling bee on Saturday night last. About six acres of peas were pulled by moonlight.
Clothesline thieves are abroad in our midst. The best thing that could be done with these miscreants would be to present them with the clothesline itself in the form of a necktie, its ends hanging over the limb of a tree.
The woman who paints her face offers an unmistakable insult to nature, and also to the lips of man.