



Don McDonald, publisher of the Acton Free Press, is joined by former Halton MP Rud Whiting (right) and Ken Bellamy, publisher of the Georgetown Independent, in congratulating Mayor Peter Pomeroy on the completion of his first year in office, at a recent gathering. Mr. McDonald also celebrated the completion of his first year as publisher of this newspaper this week.

New recreation director wants to meet people

Tom Shepard doesn't like to sit behind a desk and shuffle papers. He wants to get out and meet the public to discuss their recreational needs and wants.

Mr. Shepard, 34, was hired Monday evening by Halton Hills council for the position of recreation director, replacing Glen Gray who resigned last month. He starts work December 17.

A special committee from council was forced to choose from 50 applications for the job, Mayor Peter Pomeroy said.

Mr. Shepard is a former semi-pro baseball player, having pitched for the Detroit Tigers in the 1960s. In 1969, he returned to Canada and got a job with the London recreation department. At the same time he played with the London Majors.

In 1972 Mr. Shepard moved to Walkerton, where he served until the present time as rec. director.

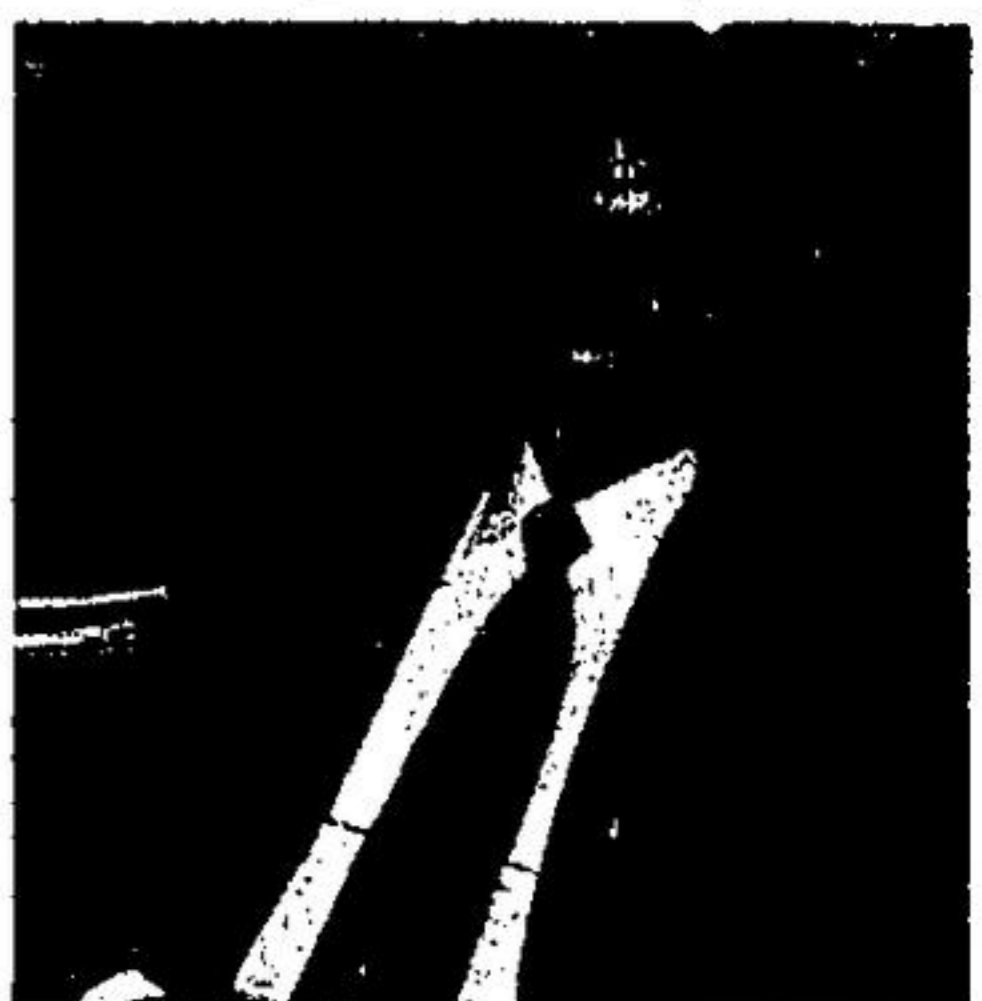
A graduate of the recreation and leadership course at Fanshawe College, the new director also attended the University of Western Ontario in the Business Administration course. While in Walkerton, he took a personnel and public relations course at Georgian College.

It's going to be tough leaving Walkerton, Mr. Shepard says. After seven years in the community, he got to know the town folk watching many of the teenagers grow up. He is a minor hockey coach. He also coaches baseball, and is currently coaching an All Star hockey team. He hopes to continue to coach the boys this winter on weekends.

While in Walkerton, Mr. Shepard had a hand in the creation of new ball diamonds, tennis courts, and an outdoor swimming pool, which was tabled at Walkerton Council, Monday evening, the same night his resignation was announced.

For his first few weeks on the job, Mr. Shepard is going to be busy meeting the public and finding out what they want. He does not believe in sitting behind a desk and having complaints screened. He wants to become a part of the community just as he did in Walkerton.

One of the most important functions of his job is to hear people, he says. Anyone can listen, he says, but he must hear what they are saying.



Tom Shepard

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ICG hints at secret weapon to foil march of hydro towers

Council passes the amendment

Years of bitter debate and appeals concluded Monday night when Halton Hills council reluctantly passed an Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw amendment which would permit hydro towers to march through rural areas of the town.

The town was ordered by the Ontario Municipal Board to pass an amendment to the bylaw so the 500 kV Bruce to Milton hydro corridor, marking time at the Erin township border, can continue through Halton Hills to join up with the east-west corridor at the farm of Reford Gardhouse on the 5th Concession, above the Milton-Halton border.

Towers have already been erected along some sections of the proposed corridor but farmers and other land owners represented by the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) still oppose further construction until Queen's Park grants them an independent study to prove the corridor is necessary. The group has spent \$145,000 fighting the corridor to date ICG spokesman John Minns confirmed Monday night. Minns appeared before council contending passage of the bylaw would be illegal since lots 16 to 26 are in the Niagara Escarpment development control area outside council's jurisdiction. All 32 lots in Halton Hills are covered by the bylaw.

Minns said he realized council was under orders from the OMB to pass the amendment but since they had no jurisdiction the bylaw as written was incorrect. He said it would be prudent to pass a correct bylaw rather than one that could be repealed or amended.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy agreed council had no



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right to pass a zoning bylaw within the Niagara Escarpment control area, however they had to act on the order from the Province "forthwith", which he interpreted as immediately. He admitted parts of the bylaw could be quashed but it could be only the portion affecting NEC controlled land affected, leaving the remainder alone.

The mayor said if council failed to act on the order it could be construed as contempt. "It's been a tough battle," he said, "but it is in the best interests of council to pass the amendment."

Minns said he hoped there would still be some protection for the citizens involved in the battle with Hydro. He said Ontario Hydro chairman Hugh McAuley had promised MPP Julian Reed that he personally would talk other land owners in Halton Hills but Hydro land agents appeared rather than Mr. McAuley.

"All the people asked for was an independent study to show the corridor is required but the request was denied by the provincial government and Ontario Hydro," Minns said allowing the ICG appreciated the support of both the town and region but felt the region could have stood more firmly behind the town.

He reminded council the ICG has filed an appeal with the Cabinet and expected a hearing either this week or next.

ICG officials Reford Gardhouse and Walter Scott also told council the amendment would allow expropriation of their property and the existence of their operation in Halton Hills.

We're not through —ICG spokesman

"We'll fight on!"

Despite the order from the Ontario Municipal Board directing council to pass an amendment to the Official Plan and zoning bylaw to permit construction of a high voltage hydro corridor through Halton Hills, the Interested Citizens Group will still fight the corridor.

The ICG has an appeal before the Ontario Cabinet now but spokesman John Minns hinted Monday after he appeared at council that the group may have a potent new weapon to frustrate Ontario Hydro's designs for the countryside of Halton Hills.

Minns said he would likely reveal it within a week.

He told reporters the ICG unanimously decided to continue the fight until they get an independent study to show the need for the corridor.

The group outlined 12 reasons for their objection to the 500 kV corridor at a meeting Friday, Nov. 2. They are:

1. A need for the line has never been established in the eyes of those present.
2. There has never been an independent study to establish the net impact and location best suited for the citizens of Ontario.
3. Hearings to date have been a "sham" in the eyes of property owners and observers.
4. By admission of Ontario Hydro personnel, false and misleading information was given to hearing officers. At other times, information was presented in a misleading manner, for example, grounding of electric fences, depth of bedrock in Beverley Swamp (west of Milton).
5. Ontario does not need the power. It is currently grossly over capacity. Their prediction of 7 per cent growth rate in Ontario was in error.
6. Justice does not appear to have been done.
7. The Ombudsman's office was restrained from investigating in what they felt was a just complaint by the I.C.G.

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Bill Gregg spoke to the Esqueping Historical Society about the militia's history.

Jug City door broken

Halton Regional Police received a call this week when the front door of Jug City on Main Street was reported smashed. The door was believed to have been broken last Tuesday evening. No damage estimate was given.

Santa arrives on Saturday

Santa will be welcomed to town this Saturday by the annual Santa Claus Parade, sponsored by the Y's Mens' Club.

There will be about ten floats, three bands, and some marching groups to usher Santa down the street.

The parade begins at 1:30 p.m. at McKenzie Smith Middle School will proceed west on Mill Street to Park Avenue, and down Knox Avenue.

Children are invited to visit with Santa at the Y following the parade.

Police toss 911 into region's lap

The next step in adopting the 911 emergency telephone system in Halton will be at regional offices. Police have found they've gone as far as they can.

Halton Region Police Commission forwarded all reports to the region's finance administration committee, former chief Ken Skerrett, will carry the commission's questions regarding Bell Canada to the meeting.

Bell Canada wants a "letter of intent" from Halton Region Council before the company carries out any analysis. Bell contends the 911 Emergency Number System "is a custom-designed system and is unique to the region covered." The letter is needed because of "the enormous amount of manpower and time required to design a 911 system."

There is a 911 system in Metro Toronto and commissioner Don Gordon, of Milton, said, "I think they (Bell Canada) do have a cost. They've done it before. Bell says it doesn't know the cost, but go ahead anyway."

The region has to cope with the dollars and cents to see if it's worthwhile, said Georgetown commissioner Glenn Magnuson. Toronto's system, he said, is "a very efficient method of dispatching services."

Acting Police Chief James Harding, meanwhile, is not convinced of the need, right now, of a 911 system in Halton. "It's a nice to have thing, but it's not essential."

While the region examines the Bell Canada request, the police commission has asked for a staff report about changes to the police communications system to improve the present one.

In discussing the 911 emergency system proposal, Skerrett said he would not like to think the new system would be handling all the region's calls—as was found in Hamilton. An expensive publicity campaign helped sort that out, according to Harding.

The only advantage to the 911 Emergency System is having one well-known number to call, said commission chairman Harry Barrett. He contended there is no saving of money.

According to Skerrett's report the estimated cost of a Halton 911 system, not counting the price of Bell Canada Engineering, is \$114,565.

Regional council has appointed 10 people to serve as members of the Family Counselling Advisory Group.

Those members are: Dorothy Craig, district health council; Jane Kirkwood, social and family services department of the region; Helmut Kosempul, Ministry of Community and Social Services; Haseeb Mohammed, planning department, Halton region; Henry Stubbins, Ontario Association of Family Service Agencies; Ruth Tabor, Halton Board of Education; William Tom, Halton Regional Social Planning Council; and Barbara Newham, Madeline Thomas, and H.C. VanDooren, all citizens at large.

Pedestrian hit near Kingham

An 11 year old boy received minor injuries when he was struck by a car Thursday.

Terry Corkum, 40 Holmesway Place, stepped off the west curb on Kingham road into the path of a vehicle proceeding southbound on Main Street. Police say, the car which was travelling at approximately 25-30 mph made an attempt to stop for the child before striking him.

The 1973 Plymouth was driven by Wanda Burton, RR 5 Milton. The car received an estimated \$50 damage.

An Acton resident's 1963 Dodge had \$1,000 in damages following a two car collision at the corner of Elgin and Mill street on Friday.

Gertrude Cooper, 24 Ransom Street, was entering onto Mill from Elgin when the collision with the 1971 Ford occurred. The Ford, which received an estimated \$200 damage, was driven by Peter LeBlanc, 12 Montana Road in Guelph.

Sally Ann to distribute food hampers

Applications are now available at the Acton Salvation Army Thrift Shop for Christmas hampers for the needy.

Lieutenant Lorne Pritchett emphasized the hampers are only for the needy, and all applicants are screened before receiving the hampers. The Lake-side chapter of the IODE is also distributing hampers and provisions have been made to avoid duplicating families.

Last year, Lieut. Pritchett said, the Guelph Salvation Army gave 20 hampers in Rockwood, Milton, Georgetown and Acton. Acton alone got eight. This year, says the lieutenant, the Salvation Army has no idea how many to expect as this is the first year for their particular branch.

Hampers will include a turkey, varying in size with the amount of people it must feed, canned goods, and maybe a few toys if children are involved.

"People must not think of these hampers as charity," Lieut. Pritchett said. "They are Christmas gifts."

"This is the time of year when Christian churches celebrate the Christmas spirit," he continued. "We would like everyone to celebrate with us on Christmas Day with a good Christmas dinner."

All applications must be filled out by the head of the household of the particular families at the Thrift Shop at 3 Elgin St., N. (formerly Watson's Music Store). If an applicant cannot write, he may have someone fill in the form with witnesses to that effect.

Right now, Lieut. Pritchett explains, it is hoped hampers can be distributed December 22. The exact date will be announced at a later date.

Although the Salvation Army and the IODE are not working together on the project, they are complementing each other.



Three-year-old Julia Trevton, left, doesn't quite know what to make of the strange looking guy in the funny red suit and the long white beard. Sister Candice, 4, is also suspicious, but trusts him enough to receive a bag from Santa Claus who made a sneak preview into town last week. While here he surveyed the streets to make sure his reindeer and sleigh can make it down Mill St., Saturday for the annual Santa Claus parade.

Photo by HELEN MURRAY

Ten named to advisory group

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More available to citizens

Acton's three representatives on Halton Hills council have devised a system which will make them more accessible to the public, on a regular basis.

Keeping her by-election campaign promise, councillor Terry Grubbe suggested to councillors Ed Wood and Ross Knechtel, the three meet every Friday afternoon at the Y to answer questions from the public, help with any problems, or just discuss anything with taxpayers.

Mrs. Grubbe told The Acton Free Press at least one of the three will be at the Y Fridays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Those with questions, problems, or just wanting to talk are encouraged to drop in.

More staff is wanted

Regional nursing director Dorothy Craig has asked for more staff to cope with an increasingly heavy caseload.