

Rewarding year for Mayor Pete Pomeroy

It has been a very rewarding year for Halton Hills mayor Pete Pomeroy who celebrates his first 12 months in the top office this week.

Mr. Pomeroy coasted into office last November, beating out incumbent Tom Hill by more than two to one. He had been a councillor in Ward Three the previous term.

The implementation of equalized sewer and water rate has been the mayor's biggest accomplishment to date. By far, he says, it is benefiting Halton Hills the most with the cost of

treating sewage being amortized over the entire region.

Other feathers in his cap he has seen completed this year is the reconstructing of roads in Lakeview subdivision at a cost of \$160,000 to the taxpayers. Without government subsidies, the cost of laying new pipes, etc. would have been \$198,000. Main St. reconstruction, in the process of being completed was another major project. The town pays \$198,000 of the job. Total cost is \$410,000.

Mr. Pomeroy said he is pleased with the progress

of the plans to restore the Acton town hall. He feels the town has done everything in its power to assure the Acton people have every opportunity to decide whether to retain the building or demolish it.

Dealing with the people on an individual basis and helping them all he has been his biggest personal satisfaction. Mr. Pomeroy says between 85 and 100 calls are processed through the mayor's office alone. He recognized the fact one person's problem is just as important to them as so called "major"

problems of others. The most rewarding part of the job is when he can solve someone's problem. On the other hand he says, he does not always have the answers or the solutions.

The mayor says he is very grateful to Acton residents who have been understanding about the dramatic change of regional government and understand how difficult it is pulling three distinct communities together.

Mr. Pomeroy on the other hand understands how the people of Acton feel about regionalism. He understands Acton is

a very different community than Georgetown and has been affected in a different way.

The present council is very open minded, he said, and do have their minds made up before they go into a meeting. For this reason, he said, the parochialism in the council chambers seems to be disappearing.

His biggest disappointment has been at the speed at which political items are dealt with. Mr. Pomeroy explained the higher up in government, the longer it takes to get anything accomplished. He knew he was getting

into a lot of hard work when he sought election, but never realized just how much time was involved. He has been tied to the office more than he thought. For this reason, he has not had time to set up the part time office in Acton he had hoped to. He plans to do this in the very near future however.

Halton Hills residents face a minimum five mill tax increase next year, even before the town makes up their budget. He said it was just discovered this fall Halton Hills has been underpaying in the areas of education and regional levies. A new legislation enacted by parliament to rectify the situation bumps the mills. As mayor, Mr. Pomeroy sits on several committees and boards.



Mayor Pete Pomeroy marks one year in office this week.

Sign by-law open for input

The public is being given time by Halton Hills council for input to a new sign by-law prohibiting certain types of signs.

Council agreed Monday evening to a new clause which states that any sign which is non-conforming but has lawfully been erected will be allowed to stay for five years from the date the by-law comes into force. Non-conforming signs which have been erected without permission from a town council or staff member must come down immediately when the by-law is passed.

Councillor Roy Booth said he felt the five year clause should be removed on signs which are legal, have been given permission, but are not conforming to the new by-law. He said if the signs were damaged or had to come down for any reason then they must be made to conform. The motion by Booth was defeated.

Mayor Pete Pomeroy emphasized council was looking at all angles of the new by-law before coming to any decision. The by-law is open for public input.



Area councillor for Acton, Ward One, Ross Knechtel is finishing his first year in the political ring.

Ross Knechtel has informative year

Ross Knechtel celebrates his first year in municipal politics this week, having won a seat on Halton Hills council last November.

Mr. Knechtel beat out veteran politician Pat McKenzie by just four votes to earn a spot representing Acton. In the past year Mr. Knechtel has found the work to be stimulating and interesting. In addition to his regular council duties, he also sat on the budget committee, the union negotiations committee and the committee for the new Georgetown library-cultural centre and chairman of planning board.

With regional government being forced on Acton and Georgetown "from above", the councillors must make decisions for the good of not only Acton, but Halton Hills. "It is not feasible for one councillor to think he can control all issues his way," he said.

Mr. Knechtel says he

feels the Esqueing and Georgetown representatives are understanding and concerned about the problems of Acton. When they are not, he says, he is insistent they think about Acton.

"The municipal level is the only level of government Mr. Knechtel feels can balance a budget. He says he now realizes "we might be in a better position nationally and provincially if similar constraints existed on those levels." He emphasized his criticisms of federal and provincial governments apply to all parties in all provinces.

Mr. Knechtel pointed out Halton Hills gets about half its money from the province. "That money," he said "will not increase at the same rate as inflation, so the municipal government will be faced with the choice of increasing taxes, or decreasing services—or both," he said.

"The only thing within

our control is the encouragement of development in such a way it helps alleviate this nut-cracker squeeze," the former personnel vice president of Crown Life Insurance Company explains.

Money coming from the provinces has strings attached, Mr. Knechtel said, and can be spent only on their directives. He is not sure if the right decisions at the provincial level are being made.

"One thing thing bound to happen in Halton Hills and other communities is that users pay a larger portion of recreation costs," he said.

Mr. Knechtel thinks it is unfair that people in a subdivision are paying more taxes than someone in an older section of town.

"To some extent this is justifiable, but in many cases the difference is too extreme." A new home in Acton, pays approximately twice as much taxes as a comparable older home he claims.

When the home was built, the builder paid the cost of installing services and passed these costs on to the buyer. If services need updating in an existing area, taxes pay for this, thus the new home owner is paying twice.

With one more year left of his present term, Mr. Knechtel still has many things to see and do as a representative. For him, it has been an optimistic year.

Ed Wood has surprising year

It's been a year of surprises for Halton Hills Councillor Ed Wood, but in no way a disappointing one.

Mr. Wood was elected to regional and local council one year ago heating out candidates Roy Goodwin and Bill Coats. He ran at the local level in the municipal two years before, but was beaten out by veteran politicians, Les Duby and Peter Marks.

Owner of Family Cleaners, Mr. Wood says he has not achieved any personal accomplishments. He considers everything done to be the accomplishments of the entire council and the people of Acton. He cites the town hall restoration project as one example. He asked council to reallocate the \$40,000 slated for the building's demolition to restoration instead. He feels it was all of council's doing to achieve this.

One of the surprising things of the past 12 months is he thought he would be going into a lion's den and would be alone. However, he has found councillors stick together and help each other out on issues.

"They are very willing to listen," he said.

The cost of doing things has also been a shock to him. He explained the simple renovations of a room in a regional owned building was going to cost \$68,000, rather than the few hundred he thought it would be to put a coat of paint on the walls, and fix up the plumbing. The project is still on the drawing board.

The amount of time needed for the job has also been a complete surprise.

However, he has spent far more time than he thought he would. He feels he is fortunate to be in business for himself and is able to take 40 to 60 hours a week to attend the various meetings, or meet privately with con-

cerned residents.

Mr. Wood is concerned with the statement which came out in the recent municipal by-election that people do not know where to turn when they have a problem—whether something is regional, local, etc. He pointed out his store is on the main street of Acton, and he is easily accessible to the public. His home, number, is in the telephone book, and he will listen to all complaints. Many times people call him with a problem which has nothing to do with the town or region. Yet, he says, he tries to help the people as best he can.

Although only on council one year, Mr. Wood is on several committees. At the regional levels he is on the health and social services committee. He is chairman of the master parks plan, chairman of the special committee appointed for liaison with the town and the town hall restoration committee. He is also on the committee looking into transportation for the physically handicapped, on the committee interviewing members of Land Division Committee minor variances and recently interviewed candidates for the position of recreation director.

Mr. Wood decided to try his hand at municipal politics so he could be more involved in his community. He stepped aside from an active position on the Acton Business Improvement Area executive to have more time to serve as councillor.

Prior to his political career, Mr. Wood served on the Acton Recreation and Parks Committee for one year until regional government took over, then served as chairman for the remaining life of the committee for another two years.

Councillors, mayor mark first year in office



Ed Wood is the Ward One representative at regional council. Mr. Wood has just finished his first year in office.

MARCH BREAK 1980

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Regional funding delayed a year

Councillor Terry Grubbe lost out in her bid to have Halton Hills council accept a report into the funding of social services adopted this year rather than looked into in 1980.

At a meeting in April, council considered a resolution from the Region of Halton which requested all requests for grants from social service agencies be forwarded to the region for consideration in 1980. As a result, they passed a resolution that they concur with the region's request to refer the grant applications to the region.

Councillor Russ Miller, at Monday evening's general committee meeting suggested deferring a report by clerk administrator Ken Richardson until next year. This would, in effect, delay the system one more year, until the 1981 budget.

Mrs. Grubbe pointed out to the council members last year Halton Hills funded the Acton Community Services Centre, the Halton Helping Hands, the Mental Health Association and the North Halton Contact Centre, all of which are regional in nature either by person

or counterparts throughout the region. She feels these people should be going directly to the region for financial assistance, with the town retaining all organizations of local funding.

Without studying the report further and looking into the matter further, said Mr. Miller, some agencies might not get the recognition at the region they deserve.

The decision to wait another year squeaked through by a vote of five to four.

Budget problems

The Halton Hills libraries are 137 per cent over budget on postage. At Wednesday evening's library board meeting, head librarian Betsy Cornwell said the high cost of postage forced them to spend \$240 over budget, with two months left to go. The inter-loan system, where local libraries borrow from Ontario University libraries, was a factor in the spending. Most firms want the books and materials returned by registered mail, which is more expensive than regular book rates.

Books borrowed within the South Central library system are delivered by courier with no charge to the library.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR
A CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS IN ACTON AND DISTRICT
On Saturday, November 24 Credit Valley Artisans will be holding their annual Arts and Crafts Sale at Cedarvale College in Cedarvale Park, Georgetown from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring good quality crafts from accomplished local artisans, a bake sale, raffle and refreshments.
Acton Santa Claus Parade, Saturday, November 24, 1:30 p.m. Register your entry at 853-1265.
Annual Meeting and Banquet of the United Co-operatives of Ontario, Halton Group (Milton, Georgetown, Erin, Orangeville branches) on Friday, November 23, 1979, 6:45 p.m., Acton Legion Hall, 15 Wright Ave., Acton. Banquet, Business and Dance. Tickets available at your local Co-op.
Saturday night Bingo, November 24, 8 p.m.-11 p.m. \$1,400.00 guaranteed at Acton Legion Hall.
C.W.L. Bazaar Saturday, November 24, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Acton Legion, Kiddie Korner.
Christmas Bazaar, December 1, Rockwood Community Centre, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Bake sale, Penny table, Xmas Decorations, a variety of crafts, lucky draw. Enjoy a cup of tea. Sponsored by Rockwood and District Lionettes.
Xmas hamper application forms are now being received by the Salvation Army Church here in Acton. If you're in need of an application, one can be filled out at the Salvation Army Thrift Store on 3 Elgin St. N. 853-3321. Cut-off date Dec. 5/79. Only needy applicants will be accepted.
Acton High School Drama Club presents two fast-paced, witty 1-act comedies on Thurs., Dec. 13 and Fri., Dec. 14 at Acton High School. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Curtain at 8 p.m.
The Billy Graham film "Shikari Pass" a true story will be shown at Acton Baptist Church on Sunday, Nov. 25, 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.
Pancake Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, December 8 at "Y". Sitings at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Tickets available at "Y" or call 853-2783, 853-1242, 853-3369 or 853-1070.
(Share) our Christmas sale this time is for Cystic Fibrosis on Dec. 7 at Stedmans. Crafts, baking, lots of stocking stuffers and last minute presents. Donations welcomed 853-1995.
The Canadian Cancer Society, Acton Branch will soon be packing their Christmas bags for Princess Margaret Lodge. Any knitting, donations of coffee, tea, powdered cream, sugar cubes and baking can be left at Acton Home Furnishings, 47 Mill St. E. before December 1. If pick up is required please call 853-0158 or 853-0602.

Meet YOGI BEAR and SANTA at Shoppers World
It's a happy time of year and Shoppers World is glowing with friendly Christmas spirit and beautiful decorations.
Santa Claus is waiting to hear Christmas wishes and to pose for a picture or two daily from 10:30 a.m. Yogi the Bear, BooBoo, and all their friends are busy decorating Jellystone Park for the best Christmas ever. There are lots of prizes to be won in our Childrens Christmas colouring contest.
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