

Acton phone listings moving to Halton-Peel directory

Acton phone numbers will be in the Halton and Peel Regions directory in 1981.

Bell Canada official Bill Barnes says the results of a recent customer survey in Acton showed a preference for the 653 exchange to be in the Halton-Peel phone book instead of the Waterloo-Guelph directory. He informed a meeting of Halton Hills general committee Monday night of the survey results.

Halton Hills council is expected to pass a resolution next Monday night formally asking Bell to move Acton to the Halton-Peel directory, where 877, Georgetown, listings are located.

Barnes noted back when Halton region was born then chairman Allan Masson asked Bell to put Acton and Burlington in the Halton-Peel directory and Bell surveyed its customers. The survey revealed opinion was split in Acton while Burlington was dead set against being moved out of the Hamilton telephone book.

The 1974 Acton survey showed 51 per cent against leaving the Waterloo-Guelph directory and 49 per cent in favor of being in the same directory as Georgetown. That survey was a sampling of opinion only, Barnes noted.

Early in 1979 Mayor Peter Pomeroy again asked Bell to put Acton in the same book as the rest of Halton Hills, Barnes reported.

Feeling that opinion might have changed, especially since Acton got toll free calling to Milton and Campbellville, Bell decided to do a complete survey, ask every 653 exchange customer their feelings of the move.

Barnes said 72 per cent of customers responded to the survey which took place early this year with 57.5 indicating they'd prefer to be in the Halton-Peel directory and 33.8 per cent against the move. Another 8.6 were indifferent as to where the Acton listings were located.

On the basis of that response Barnes said Bell is quite prepared to move Acton listings to the Halton-Peel directory for the February 1981 edition of the phone book.

He promised Acton won't lose its identity. He said Acton will be a separate heading under the Halton Hills section and the 853 exchange numbers will be followed by the Georgetown numbers. Acton won't however leave the 519 area code and join Georgetown in the 416 area. Acton and Georgetown will be combined in one yellow pages section.

Acton customers will still be able to call Rockwood and Guelph for free. He noted a sampling of opinion was done in Rockwood and Guelph and 50 per cent of those questioned didn't care if Acton was the Waterloo-Guelph directory or in the Halton-Peel book. Barnes observed people in Rockwood and Guelph could see the sense in Acton's listings being in the same book as the rest of Halton Hills. Actonians will still be able to obtain Guelph books free, Barnes said.

It was suggested that council only wanted Acton numbers in both directories, not moved, and there would be Acton customers who won't be happy. Barnes said it is an "horrendous" job and very costly to put one exchange's listing in two books. He said Acton numbers could be placed in the Waterloo-Guelph book, but not under an Acton heading, next year for a small charge. Acton numbers would be listed under Guelph.

Barnes asked council to formally request the Acton listings be moved soon because sale of yellow pages space will begin soon in Acton.



A million accident-free hours

Workers and managers of an Acton manufacturing plant received recognition from the Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA) for surpassing the mark of one-million hours of accident free work. IAPA manager F.J. Riley, left, presents a plaque to Building Products of Canada Ltd. plant manager Tom Ostrander, right, and Hector Dalgle, president of Local 603 of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America. The feat took five years to achieve.

The Acton Free Press

An Inland Community Newspaper

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Arlie 23rd Citizen of Year

The Acton Citizen of the Year award really belongs to 7,500 people according to the recipient of the honor Arlie White.

Acton's 23rd Citizen of the Year was honored at a banquet and dance Saturday night at the Legion, sponsored by the Acton Chamber of Commerce.

Surrounded by cancer campaign workers, friends and relatives, White traced his life in this town, adding "I have an awful lot of people to thank for my wonderful life in Acton."

His remarks followed a number of speeches in which White was highly praised.

"What do you say after all that flattery?" the Citizen of the Year wondered. He thanked the people who had nominated him for the award and the Chamber's selection committee for choosing him.

Acton boy

"I was an Acton boy from the word go," White said proudly, recalling he was born here in 1906 and started school in 1913, going to the Stone School in 1914, where one of his teachers was a previous Citizen of the Year, M.Z. Bennett.

Arlie was high school bound when his father died in 1920 and with five siblings to help support he had to go to work at Beardmore's at the age of 13, starting as an office boy and gardener. He stayed at Beardmore's until he retired after 51 years working there in 1971.

He fondly remembered his active days in local sports. He said he was proud to have played on the 1922 Halton County Junior ball champs, and is one of only three members of the team still living. The other two are Grenville Masales and Laird McDonald.

In 1926 his wife to be, Ellmere, came to Acton from Bracebridge, and they were wed three years later.

Church life important

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church has always played a big part in Arlie's life and he pointed with pride to supervising construction of the crib at Christmas for many years as well as his service as an usher for 40 years, 30 of them while Father Morgan was at the church.

With retirement came plenty of free time and White found charity work an excellent way to fill the hours.

"I never expected anything like this," Arlie said of the evening, "it was far beyond my thoughts." He didn't get involved in so many projects like the cancer campaign so he'd receive honors like Citizen of the Year.

"It's the way life should be spent," Arlie declared. He said if a person can't do something for someone else then life isn't worth living.

He started out taking on the job as cancer campaign chairman for just one year but has now headed the drive for six years. Next year Gloria Coates will take over the helm.

What has been accomplished by the Acton cancer campaign means plaques should be going out to the 7,500 people living in Acton and vicinity for their "unselfish generosity," he declared.

\$50,000 raised

Almost \$50,000, an average of \$10,000 a year, has been raised in Arlie's first five years as chairman of the cancer campaign. He described the generosity of Actonians as "marvellous". That generosity has put Acton in the dollar club four years running.

Earlier this year White was honored by the Ontario



Arlie White, with his wife Ellmere, was honored Saturday night at a banquet as Acton's 23rd Citizen of the Year. He received a number of mementos of the occasion, including a Citizen of the Year plaque from the Acton Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the program, and a framed sketch of the Acton town hall. Arlie was one of the first people to come forward to work for restoration of the local landmark.

Photo by HELEN MURRAY

ario Cancer Society, that was a surprise, and now he's Citizen of the Year. It's been quite a year for Arlie White.

"Here we are, one big happy family tonight, celebrating."

Wes Beatty, longtime Beardmore president, introduced Arlie, calling him a reliable person who saved the wetting department at the tanner by taking charge of quality control and ensured only first rate products came out of the dieing department. It was "characteristic" of Arlie, Beatty said.

It was also characteristic of Arlie to be thoughtful and care for people in his community. He is still using his talents for many good causes, his church, visiting shut-ins or working for the cancer society, Beatty said.

Town hall booster

Past president of the Chamber, Jake Kuiken, presented Arlie with a framed sketch of the old town hall in recognition of White being one of the first supporters of the restoration of the community landmark project.

Halton Hills councillor Ross Knechtel said there

are many reasons why Acton is a good place to live and Arlie White was one of them. He noted people in Acton really give a lot of themselves.

Knechtel joked he wished he could tell Arlie he didn't have to pay taxes anymore and was pleased to see White honored a Citizen of the Year because he couldn't think of anyone more worthy. The honor was richly deserved, Knechtel concluded.

Representing Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, Dolly Moulden presented a plaque from Ontario and a message of congratulations from Halton MP Otto Jelinek, who said Acton was most fortunate to have a citizen like Arlie, was read.

Credit to Catholics

Father Leo Spengle said Arlie brought great honor to the entire Catholic community of Acton, which he was served so well. White was described as a "fine Catholic" and being named Citizen of the Year was an honor he "richly deserved."

Mayor Peter Pomeroy made a presentation on behalf of the town and called Arlie his friend. With people of the caliber of White, Acton was indeed a lucky town Pomeroy said and his sincere efforts for the community were appreciated.

On a lighter note longtime friend Bruce Shoemaker joked he thought he was at the wrong place after hearing Arlie spoken of in such "glowing terms". He said Arlie can put people in their place with just two words and recalled Arlie would wait at the post office and wait until it was packed and then stride up to the counter, pound on it, and ask "where's the service?" That's the Arlie White Shoemaker said he came to honor.

Colorful addition

Shoemaker said Arlie was a colorful addition to Acton.

Many family members were on hand to share the night with Arlie and Ellmere, including: daughter Joan and her husband John Tyres, grandson John and his wife Debbie, grandson Paul, granddaughters Mary Anne and Julie, great granddaughter Andrea, Arlie's sister-in-law Mary Papillon, brother-in-laws Peter and Archie Papillon and their wives Louise and Toots, Arlie's sister Cora and husband Lorne Walters, sister-in-law Jean and husband Russel Gray, nieces and nephews Joyce and John Dennis, Kenneth and Jackie Papillon, Fred and Pauline Gordon and cousins Wilf and JoAnn Duval and Jack and Pat South.

Son Jerry and his wife Mary and children David and Anne were unable to attend.

Move to revive Heller's deal

Town and region officials are joining forces to try and revive negotiations for Frank Heller and Co. Ltd. to move to the closed Disston plant.

Recently Heller's general manager Fred Dawkins announced months of negotiations to move the firm to Disston had gone down the drain and a tentative agreement reached in January fell apart.

In an interview Friday Mayor Peter Pomeroy and Halton Business Development Officer Williams Marshall revealed they hope to meet with Dawkins later this month to see if they can help get negotiations back on the rails.

When the deal fell apart Dawkins blamed high interest rates, the slumping economy and lack of provincial or federal government assistance. The lack of aid from Queen's Park or Ottawa was the major factor, Dawkins said.

Marshall said he has already been in touch with provincial officials about what went wrong and what might be done to help Heller's acquire the Disston factory.

He said he wasn't involved in the dealing that much previously and Pomeroy hasn't been involved at all until now. The mayor said he stayed out of the negotiations because he hadn't been invited to help out, and he feels politicians should not stick their noses in business negotiations until they are invited.

Marshall said it is obvious "something fell apart." Both men said they want to let Dawkins know they want to keep Heller's in Acton and want to help the firm try again to work out the financing and government aid problems.

After meeting with Dawkins, Marshall says, he'll then go back to provincial officials to see if new aid can be secured.

In the event Disston is still empty in mid-May when Industrial '80 takes place in Halton Hills and industrial realtors from outside Halton tour Acton, Marshall wants them taken through the factory.

He noted during an industrial realtors' tour of Burlington three vacant plants were visited and in a short time all three were sold or leased.

But his main objective is still to get Heller's into Disston and find other firms to fill up the extra property owned by Sandvik.

Jelinek, Beatty named critics

Halton MP Otto Jelinek didn't make it to the cabinet but he's been given a spot in the shadow cabinet.

A veteran of the House of Commons, Jelinek was named last week to the post of Corporate Affairs critic in the new shadow cabinet of Official Opposition leader Joe Clark.

Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe MP Ferrin Beatty was named as Communications critic.

During the seven month Conservative government in 1979 Jelinek was Parliamentary Secretary to Don Mazankowski, then minister of transport.

In previous Tory terms in opposition Jelinek served as small business critic.

Beatty was a member of the short-lived Clark Cabinet. He was Minister of State for the Treasury Board, assisting then treasury board president Sinclair Stevens.

While the government combines Consumer and Corporate Affairs under one ministry, Clark split the portfolio in his shadow cabinet. Geoff Scott, MP Hamilton-Wentworth, will handle the Consumer Affairs portion, leaving Corporate Affairs to Jelinek.

The shadow cabinet is unusually large, comprised of 54 Conservative MPs.

inside

You'll find News Digest on pages 2 and 3, Profiles is on page 2, page 4 has Our Readers Write and On the Leavelle, Rockwood Digest is on page 6, a new column, BIA News can be found on page 10, and Library Looseleaf is on page B6.

Fund raising plans of the town hall restoration committee will be unveiled in June. More on page B6.

Will Acton's new senior citizen apartments open in May? Turn to page 3.



Arlie White shares a joke with well-wishers at Saturday's Citizen of the Year banquet at which he was honored for his many years of local charity work, most notably as chairman of the Acton cancer campaign drive.



Dividing and Conquering

Divide and Conquer is a family affair as the Shannons of Nelson Court prove. David, left, puts tin lids off Jars in bags while daughter Kelly, age four, removes them. Son Mike flattens tin cans, with the ends cut out, and mother ties up a bundle of old newspapers. Divide and Conquer is a garbage recycling program which was introduced this month to Acton by Halton Hills. Newspapers should be bundled and covered with plastic if it is raining. The town asks that tin cans be put in boxes or bags with the lids removed and the cans flattened and tin glass bottle lids should also be put in the same carton or bag. Glass jars needn't be washed but it's appreciated if they are rinsed to reduce smells.