

Chamber may promote Acton as Leathertown

Putting Acton on the map as Leathertown Ontario is a major project the Acton Chamber of Commerce is contemplating tackling in 1981.

Promoting Acton's leather heritage could take off in many directions, Chamber secretary Janet Fleming says, and among the ideas already being discussed are a leather museum, signs around town proclaiming Acton as a leathertown and a logo for the community incorporating a leather theme.

The Chamber is in the midst of its annual membership drive, with the goal of signing up 150 individuals and members.

With the promotion of Acton as leathertown and the possibility of a series of speaker luncheons barely on the drawing board the Chamber is looking for more members to help make these dreams a reality.

Acton of course has a tremendous leather heritage. Over 700 people make their living in leather plants in and around Acton.

However, 1980 saw the leather industry become part of the commercial aspects of Acton with the opening of the Leathertown mall and the olde Hide House.

"We feel a lot could be built on the leather theme here," Mrs. Fleming said. "It could be a positive image for the town."

Early this year the Chamber would like to see a committee of its members sit down with other interested people in the community to look at ways of developing the leather theme further.

A leather museum, signs and a logo are just three possible ideas, the leather theme could go off in many directions. The whole idea is very much still

in the exploratory stage, for instance the location of a possible leather museum hasn't been determined.

The Chamber will also be looking at bringing the leather theme into the 1981 edition of its directory, successfully launched last year. Mrs. Fleming noted a history of leather in Acton and stories about things like the uniqueness of Beardmore, a plant where both upper and sole leather is manufactured, could be included in the directory.

She said many other communities have enhanced their identity by promoting a large industry, for instance Glace Bay and mining or Branford as telephone town.

Mrs. Fleming said the Chamber would be looking for help with this venture not just from the leather industry, but also groups like the BIA, Acton Beautification Committee.

The few people who have been involved in this idea so far have been very enthusiastic and Mrs. Fleming says "enthusiasm could go rampant."

Both the promotion of Acton as leathertown and the speaker luncheons will be topics of discussion at the Chamber's Annual General Meeting to be held in February.

Speakers at the luncheons could include people involved with small business, members of Chambers in other towns, local people involved in various community projects and government officials.

The membership drive for 1981 was launched in October and so far 31 members have been signed up. More encouraging is the fact 11 of those members are new members. Last year the Chamber had 109 members so 150 this year is a realistic goal.

The Acton Chamber of Commerce has in past years worked on Back to Acton Days and sponsored the Citizen of the Year program. Work has already started on marrying Back to Acton Days and the Citizen of the Year program so even more people in the community will participate.

For several years the Chamber published a small map and directory brochure, but last year, with the help of Acton High School students, published a 40 page detailed directory booklet.

The Chamber does liaison work with new businesses in town and sponsors all-candidates meetings at election time.

In addition the active Chamber helped revamp the downtown coming events board made briefs to council, helped promote Actario and developed an

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OPP murder trial Monday



Constable Duncan McAleese

The first degree murder trial of a 32-year-old Simcoe man accused of killing a former member of both the Acton and Milton OPP detachments is scheduled to begin next Monday in Ontario Supreme Court in Newmarket.

OPP Constable Duncan McAleese was murdered outside a Delhi sandwich shop last January 23. He was shot nine times in what investigating officers termed a "set-up".

Haldimand-Norfolk Crown Attorney's office spokesman Doug Drinkwater said the trial in Supreme Court by judge and jury of Robert Bruce Mitchell is slated to begin January 12.

He said there is a court gag order covering the

reasons why the trial was moved to Newmarket.

Part of the delay, bringing the case to trial nearly a year following the murder, has been waiting for a Supreme Court jury to sit since the new court building opened in Newmarket, last September.

Drinkwater said the trial is expected to last a couple of weeks.

Mitchell has remained in custody since his arrest shortly after the shooting. He is confined in a mental hospital since he has attempted suicide, but, Drinkwater noted, Mitchell is in custody as if he was in jail.

McAleese was member of the Acton detachment of the OPP when the unit closed in September 1975, and was then transferred to the Simcoe detachment. He was with the Acton detachment a little over a year and was a member when the OPP was honored as Citizens of the Year for 1975.

Father of three sons and husband of Dorothy, Constable McAleese was 33 at the time of his death.

At the time of his murder investigating police said he was called at home and lured to the sandwich

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Move to terminate contract

Delegation to ask board delay decision on Black

A committee of concerned citizens has been formed here to support Acton High School teacher Keith Black and a delegation will attend tomorrow night's (Thursday) meeting of Halton Board of Education requesting trustees defer any decision on an administration recommendation that the teacher's contract be terminated.

In a letter to Black dated December 30 Superintendent of Instruction Ray Stoness notes Black pleaded guilty and was convicted of theft over \$200 recently.

Stoness informed Black that he is recommending to the board that his position as Head of Social

Sciences at AHS be terminated as of January 1 and that his permanent teaching contract be terminated at the end of August.

The board official also wrote that if the board does terminate Black's contract he will recommend to Queen's Park that his teaching certificate be cancelled.

Black was instructed in the letter to report to Don Gentleman at the North Education Centre in Milton for reassignment of duties from January until the end of August.

In an interview Tuesday Rev. Chuck Beaton, Trinity United Church, said he and Rev. John Robertson, Knox Presbyterian Church, and former Acton school board member Tom Watson will lead a delegation, which they expect could be quite large, to the board meeting Thursday asking that they defer making any decision until Actonians can make a presentation.

Many parents are concerned about the administration's action, particularly now when the

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Plan police open house

Halton Regional Police are continuing planning for an open house in Acton which should be held sometime in the next four weeks.

The police plan to have displays at the open house as well as Chief Harding and other top brass, police commissioners and the 12 officers assigned to cover Acton this year. Arranging a date when everyone on the force who is coming to the open house is taking a little time.

The open house will run two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening of the date selected.

Regional Councillor Dave Whiting who has been helping arrange the open house, said it may be held on a Friday and the Y is available.

Inspector John Barrett noted the police are looking for a larger building with parking, in which to hold the open house in the hopes lots of residents will attend.

Deputy Chief Bob Middaugh will be in Acton next Wednesday to discuss policing with the BIA.

inside

Local churches are planning for the Ten Days for World Development program. More on page 3.

Council is backing Ted Tyler's bid to extend his bus service. More on page 3.

Owners of dogs running at large in Eramosa Township face fines, fines, fines! See page 4.

A rural resident living south of Acton fears there may be dognappers about. Turn to page 5.



Wheeeeeee!

These four youngsters braved the cold of last Friday to enjoy some of this snow we've been receiving. Front to back Amy Leslie 5, Sarah Coates 7, Coby Leslie 8 and Jennifer Coates 10, all of Acton, found the hills of Halton Hills just right for afternoon tobogganing spree. For those who don't like the cold, better stay in-

doors. The weatherman predicts another bone chilling weekend. For more fun in the winter shots turn to This Week Thru The Lens.

Photo by DIANA WALTSMANN

Snow says

Not planning second hydro corridor through Esquesing

There won't be second high voltage hydro corridor cutting through Esquesing in the foreseeable future Minister of Transportation and



Big Jim and little Fran. Transportation Minister Jim Snow talks politics with Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative nomination Fran Balnes in Acton Monday night.

Communications Jim Snow Monday night in Acton.

Snow, speaking at the annual meeting of the Acton Provincial Progressive Conservative Association, said Liberal energy critic and Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed's recently published prediction that Ontario Hydro will push a second corridor through the rural area isn't correct.

He said he knows of no plans to put another line through this area, certainly not in the next three years. There will be a second corridor coming out of Bruce and Snow said there will be hearings to deal

with the route, but it isn't planned for here.

How Reed expects to get needed power from point A, the station, to point B, the customers, without going over someone's land is a mystery to Snow. He observed everyone agrees we need hydro, the same as dumps, but just don't put them near me.

The power corridor completed the past spring and early summer through Esquesing hasn't marred the landscape that much and taken very little agricultural land out of production, Snow declared.

He said the line should have been built a lot sooner

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Youth lays charge after hit in face during junior game

A 16-year-old Acton boy has laid assault charges against a goaltender from the Burlington Cougars after he was hit in the face during Saturday's junior B hockey game at the Community Center.

Anthony Saxon of Kingham Road, laid charges Monday against Mark Green after consulting with the Justice of Peace Saturday night.

The incident occurred in the third period of the Acton Sabres-Burlington Cougars game. Saxon said he and his friends were seated behind the Burlington bench, watching play when he was hit in the face by the goaltender's blocking glove.

Although no bones were broken, Saxon said his face was badly swollen. He consulted a doctor Sunday.

Saxon said he did not converse with Green during the game, although he and his friends were yelling at the Burlington players on the ice. But he added, they had quieted down to watch the play and at least 10 minutes passed before he was struck.

The case goes to Milton court January 19. Saxon, who has season tickets to Sabres' games, says he is planning to attend the next match, but will sit in a different location.

Green meanwhile, was released by the Cougars Monday, for reasons other than Saturday's incident.



Anthony Saxon injured at Saturday's hockey game.



Sarah Elizabeth Nightingale, all of seven pounds, 15 ounces at birth, was the New Year's baby in the Acton-Rockwood vicinity. Sarah, pictured with her mother Mary, was born at 7:55 a.m. New Year's Day in Guelph General Hospital. Sarah is the third child for Mary and Wayne Nightingale. The Nightingales have another daughter, 13-year-old Colette, and a 2 1/2-year-old son named Tim. Sarah was brought to the Nightingales' R.R. 3 Rockwood home Monday.

Photo by LYNDIA HILL