

Pomeroy says Davis economic strategy no help to Halton Hills

The Progressive Conservative provincial government's multi-million dollar five-year plan to beef up the Ontario economy won't likely help Halton Hills much Mayor Peter Pomeroy has predicted.

Last week Premier William Davis unveiled a \$1.5 billion plan to create jobs, increase hydro production, aid urban transit and help Ontario companies become more competitive.

In the interview this week Pomeroy said he wasn't on hand for the announcement and hasn't read the text of the Premier's remarks, but it appears the plan will have minimal impact on Halton Hills. Pomeroy added he has talked to other mayors who were present for the plan's unveiling and has read press reports.

He added various aspects of the plan just don't seem to apply to our area.

Last week the province also announced the unfreezing of Wintario grants for capital projects.

However, the mayor doesn't expect that will help Halton Hills with the Acton town hall refurbishing or the Library-Cultural centre project in Georgetown. He said as he understands the government's new Wintario grants plan doesn't apply to the local projects but he is having recreation director Tom Shephard look at the problem closely.

"The political climate seems to be right now to apply pressure for grants," he explained.

The mayor added if grants became available it would be a great assistance in achieving his goal of having the town hall issue resolved in the next year.



Vic Bristow, centre, chairman of the Heart Fund campaign will have 90 volunteer canvassers like Julie Conroy and Janet Goy out knocking on doors for donations this month. All of February is Heart Month.

Photo by GORD MURRAY

Editorial

Make yourself heard attend open house

This Friday morning and evening the eyes of Halton will be upon Acton.

That's the day of the long-awaited Halton Regional Police open house in Acton at the Acton Legion. The open house will run from 10 a.m. to noon and from 7 to 8.30 p.m.

The police say they want to tailor their service to community needs.

But, to do that they need to know what Acton thinks of the changes made so far, if Acton really wants an extended hours of operation police station, what other changes Acton would like made.

The police believe they have responded to Acton's concerns, but they aren't sure they have heard all the community's complaints and concerns. They aren't even certain the complaints they have heard represent the true feelings of the residents.

Acton's got the force's attention.

Now's the time to make all of our feelings, comments and concerns heard.

Not only are the police listening, but the entire Halton regional government structure is listening.

Regardless if you think our cops are tops and couldn't be doing a better job or you think they won't communicate with us and are just another example of regional government not working, Friday is the time to lay your cards on the table.

Make yourself heard this Friday Acton.

Make yourself heard in large numbers, all the way down to Oakville and Burlington.

The Acton Free Press

An Inland Community Newspaper

One Hundred and Sixth Year - No. 30

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1981

Eighteen Pages - Twenty-Five Cents



Just clowning around

Steve Saxon, Churchill Rd., keeps pretty busy as a clown for rent. The 16-year-old long winter fair at the Oakville School.

Photo courtesy the Milton Champlon

Steering committee named make Acton Leathertown

The first step towards making Acton known far and wide as Leathertown was taken at a meeting Thursday night with the formation of a steering committee.

The meeting, sponsored by the Acton Chamber of Commerce, attracted a crowd of about 20 Chamber and service club officials, representatives of local leather business and a few interested citizens.

Named to the steering committee to get the mammoth project off the ground were Chip Petrillo, who is expected to chair the committee, Don Rankin, Councillor Terry Grubbe, Merv Pryhitka as well as a representative from the Business Improvement Area and a representative for the local service clubs to be chosen later.

The idea is to turn Acton into not just a tourist attraction, but also turn the local leather industry and heritage into a source of pride for the community.

Those in attendance discussed what their first step should be, mainly developing Leathertown attractions or a logo for the community.

It was decided to set up a steering committee, which will meet next month. The committee will establish sub-committees to look into the various directions the Leathertown theme can go.

It was emphasized by Chamber officials that while it can be a co-ordinating body, assistance is needed from all sectors of the community.

Larry Greaves of the BIA urged the committee get started as soon as possible on a logo because it

will be easy and identifiable.

However, Fred Dawkins of Heller's and the old Hide House, suggested boosters of a logo were "putting the cart before the horse." If Acton is to become Leathertown, he said, the town must back up the image with attractions.

Petrillo countered there is already a leather history here so a logo wouldn't offer anything that isn't in Acton now, except cement the image.

Pryhitka said his firm develops logos for corporate images and at cost could produce some various logos for the steering committee to consider.

inside

Thirteen Acton children are affected by the kindergarten age change. Details on page 2.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy has warned of still more region deficits and predicted a 40 per cent region budget hike. See page 3.

YMCA's shouldn't disband because they are an important alternative to government in providing human services an official says. The Murray Memorial YMCA held its annual meeting last Wednesday. Turn to page 5.

A resident, Sally Smith, noted until quite recently she wasn't aware of the community's leather heritage and wondered how Acton can compete with Blyth, Ontario, another centre known for leather.

Rankin said when people think of beer they think of Milwaukee because that's where suds are made. Since leather is not only manufactured here, but also marketed now at the retail level at the Hide House, Acton could easily be thought of as Leathertown.

Dawkins agreed Acton will have no problem competing with Blyth. People who go to Blyth are already starting to come to the Hide House. Acton has a great advantage too because the town is within 50 miles of about 5 million people.

Acton already is Leathertown, Chamber official Janet Fleming said, the problem is that outside consumers just don't know it yet. She added the goal is not to simply establish a retail image, but an entire identity for the community.

Dawkins said tanning is viewed negatively by most people, but there is a positive image for the products like shoes and coats. However, tanning can be viewed in a positive way and therefore back-up the retail end.

Once there is a logo, Mrs. Fleming said, a museum could be developed which would help pull the retail and industrial aspects of Acton as Leathertown together.

(Continued on page 5)

Provincial vote called

Parties picking their hopefuls

The three major political parties in Halton-Burlington are gearing up for the winter election which was called Monday by Ontario Premier William Davis. It's the first provincial winter election in 70 years.

Premier Davis hopes to return to Queen's Park with a majority government after the March 19 election. Ontario has had minority governments after the last two elections.

Davis will kick off the local campaign by having breakfast with supporters next Tuesday at 8 a.m. at the North Halton Golf and Country Club in Georgetown.

Halton-Burlington's MPP since 1975—Liberal Julian Reed—fingered the state of the economy as the main issue.

All three parties have yet to select candidates though some people have declared their interest.

Fran Baines, of Halton Hills, and Milton's Brian Penman have declared their intentions to seek the PC candidacy in Halton-Burlington. The Tory nomination meeting is at the auditorium at Milton's E.C. Drury School for the Deaf at 8 p.m. next Monday.

That same week the NDP will choose its candidate Chris Cutler, Flamboro, and Mike Daynk from the Cambridge area have declared interest. At 20 years of age Cutler is the youngest member of the party's provincial executive.

The Liberals are holding a nomination meeting February 14 at the Boyne Centre in Milton at 8 p.m. A source says Reed will have no opposition.

Cutler indicated that because of the new subdivisions in Milton and Burlington's growth north of the QEW the riding is one which the NDP can win.

"While the sitting member (Reed) is personable, I believe he belongs to the vanishing breed—the Liberal," said Cutler.

"We as a party are certainly ready for this election," said Cutler.

Cutler is well up in the New Democratic Party. He

is, for example, president of the party's federal organization in Hamilton-Wentworth. He has worked for the provincial side too.

"The main issue in the province is the fact that the economy has slipped to where we are tenth in Canada in terms of growth, under the Davis government," stated Reed soon after the election was announced.

"We've (Ontario) the potential to be Number One," said Reed.

The Liberal Party is presenting the province with an economic strategy and a plan on energy, according to Reed.

"In Halton-Burlington, we're a bit insulated, as yet, on the economic down turn," observed Reed. He indicated this area is not as poorly off as Wind-

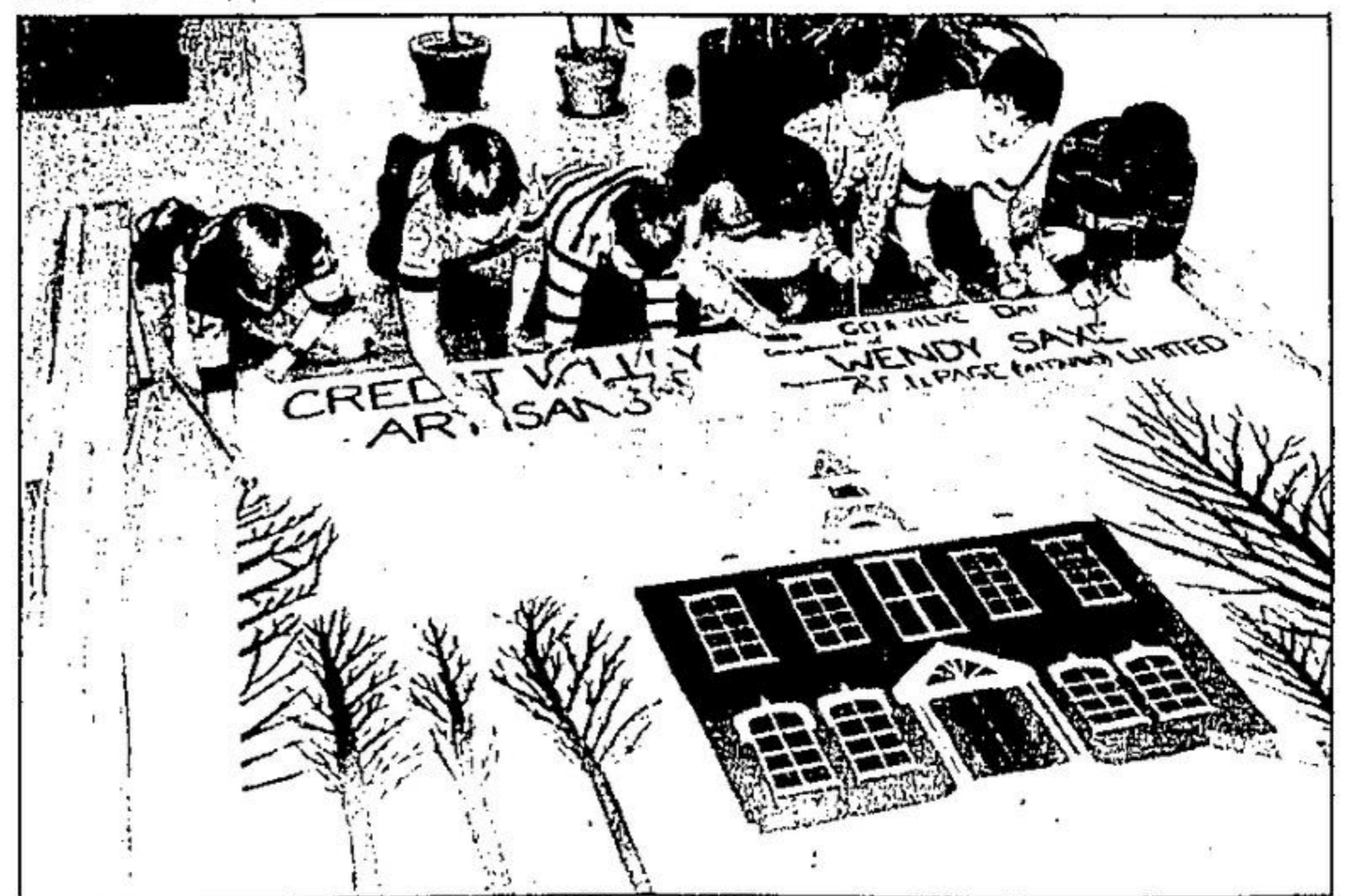
(Continued on page 7)

Jelinek hosts public forum

Halton MP Otto Jelinek will hold a public forum next Monday at Robert Little School from 8 to 11 p.m.

In announcing the forum, one of three being held in the riding, Jelinek stressed "Availability" is the key to maintaining solid lines of communication, especially in a riding the size of Halton.

"I want to provide an opportunity for all residents of Halton to come and informally discuss their concerns and problems.



Adding the finishing touches to their mural for the Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre are these grade four and five students at Robert Little School. Left to right: Michael George, Sean Jeffrey, Ken McKenzie, Devin Logan, Michael Dawkins, Kostas Athanassoulis and Scott Corcoran. The scene depicts the Acton Public School of 1898. It stood where Robert Little is now located. Teacher Susan Sheehan was the supervisor and it took a week to finish. More mural photos inside.