

The Acton Free Press

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Don McDonald, Publisher

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Drop-in on its last legs taxpayers will miss it

A grand experiment to bring local government back to the people of Acton is on the brink of failure.

The ward one councillors' drop-in is on its last legs.

Councillors Terry Grubbe, Ross Knechtel and Dave Whiting see little point in showing up every second Friday at the Community Services Centre. Nobody else does.

Grubbe launched the drop-in a few weeks after winning a seat at council in a by-election. Knechtel and then councillor Ed Wood joined her. Mayor Peter Poneroy and ward two regional councillor Russ Miller also made a habit of dropping in now and again.

The drop-in started slowly. But after a couple of months the drop-in really took off.

Most weeks in the winter and spring of 1980 there were three or four individuals and groups dropping by the Community Services Centre between 1 and 3 p.m. every Friday. A wide range of taxpayer concerns and municipal issues were raised at the drop-in.

It afforded residents the opportunity to feel out Acton's three representatives on Halton Hills council on their views regarding various topics. And of course it gave councillors the chance to be thoroughly briefed on local concerns before a delegation appeared at council and helped them pitch concerns at council.

Then the summer rolled around.

Attendance by the public dropped off badly. Councillors resisted the temptation to kill the drop-in and enjoy the summer months.

They expected interest in the drop-in would rebound in the fall. Well, it didn't. It lagged all fall and winter.

A while ago councillors, in an effort to rekindle interest in the drop-in, invited the school board trustees to join them. They've joined the councillors in sitting, chatting among themselves and staring at the walls.

Elliott, Hansen richly deserve town honors

We'd like to join Halton Hills councillors in praising Dr. George Elliott and Ted Hansen.

Last week the town held its annual honors and recognition awards night.

A number of athletes were honored for their accomplishments. They all have indeed brought honor and recognition to the municipality.

But this year's awards night also had an improving representation from the arts and cul-

ture. Feeling there might not be enough issues right now to prompt people to attend the drop-in every Friday they made it a twice a month affair.

Still few people came out. A busy month now is seeing one taxpayer at drop-in.

We can hardly blame the councillors for now considering killing the drop-in. The newest notion being discussed is holding a drop-in every three months. They're tired of wasting their Friday afternoons.

We find it puzzling that the drop-in, after such a promising early life, is going down the drain.

Either Acton's representatives and Halton Hills council is doing a whale of a job or else residents are taking it for granted.

It's true no issues were really settled at drop-in, but then speaking to a councillor at the town office in the old Acton days likely didn't produce instantaneous results either.

Are taxpayers so frustrated with trying to move local government to their way of thinking they're giving up on dialogue? If so then democracy is in pretty sad shape.

Or, are taxpayers taking the drop-in for granted and figuring councillors will just keep sitting there for no good reason?

If Acton doesn't start using the drop-in it won't be there for residents when they really want and need it.

Then whose fault will it be that they feel local government under Halton Hills is distant?

Next time you have a complaint or concern don't just call one councillor about it. Give all three of them the benefit of hearing the voice of the people.

Try and go to the drop-in. And if you think they really are doing a terrific job and the drop-in isn't needed let them know. They could easily find more appealing things to do Friday afternoons.

By the way, there's a drop-in this Friday.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Anybody see the special supplement in Saturday's Toronto Star on tourist attractions in Ontario.

The paper did a very thorough job of covering all areas of the province, with short stories on the more popular spots, and maps of each area with the names of communities.

Because Acton does not have any major tourist attractions (at least so far, wait until we're Leathertown.) we obviously did not have a write-up—that was no insult, it was just a fact. However, we also did not appear on the map. That was not that bad, until I noticed Georgetown was on the map, even though there was not a story on that town either.

If Georgetown was going to be on the map, Acton should have been too. Rockton, Aberfoyle and Fergus, among other smaller towns were on the map. Granted, these places do offer something unique to tourists, but Georgetown?

It's the story of Beauty and Beast. At the annual Halton Hills Awards Recognition Night last Wednesday Mayor Pete Poneroy was introducing the two new councillors Pam Sheldon and Dave Whiting, and referred to them as Beauty and the Beast. He asked the audience to guess which was which, and surprised everyone by declaring Dave Whiting the Beauty. Seems he won a baby contest in his younger days. Of course good old Pete left you wondering if you could believe him as he continued to say Dave won the contest because he was the youngest baby in the contest to have a beard.

And at the same banquet, the same mayor referred to councillor Terry Grubbe as the Pink Panther. Seems Terry was wearing a pink dress that evening.

Sometimes I get the urge to suggest to our fair mayor he hire a new joke writer.

Regulars into the Bank of Nova Scotia only have two more paydays (if you're paid once a week) to be looked after by Bev Bodfield. Bev and daughter Tina are heading back to her home town of Kincardine at the end of the month.

Following her in July will be Bev's sister Marlene Tilton, kindergarten teacher at M.Z. Bennett. Marlene is using the move as the impetus for a new life she has chosen for herself. Daughter Adele has been accepted at Fanshawe College in London, so Marlene decided now was the time to branch out into a new lifestyle. She has been accepted by a Kincardine real estate firm, and is currently taking real estate courses in her spare time.

Good luck to both in their new lives. Acton will certainly miss you.

There were those here at the Free Press (who shall remain nameless) who scoffed at the "big spenders" who bought Actario tickets for \$100 bucks a shot. "Got nothing better to do with your money?" they would tease. I wasn't sure if they were anti-town hall, or anti-opening-of-the-wallet.

Well, they have been eating crow here lately. Susan McCallum of our composing room was the lucky winner last Saturday pocketing \$350. She is the third person in our company to have gone home the big winner. (Actually she shared the ticket with her mother Irma Schupp.) The first of the inland winners was Free Press Editor Gord Murray. The second was Ken Bellamy, publisher of our sister paper, The Georgetown Independent.

These are pretty good results for one company. I'm still waiting for my name to be drawn, but even if it never is, Gord and I did alright.

In the what-ever-happened department, former Acton resident Norma Quee is attending Georgian College in Barrie on a special Manpower Course. She is taking carpentry in a program of non-traditional roles for women.

Norma is living just outside Collingwood (actually closer to Heathcote, but how many have heard of Heathcote?). She moved up there last fall.

Once she has graduated from this course she will be a full-fledged carpenter, following in the lines of her father.

Dorothy Jordan likes the idea published in this column about marking the Acton pages of the new phone book with a colored marker. She did it and now never has trouble finding the proper section.

Mrs. Jordan told me she keeps her trailer at Jelly Bean Park, which is between Wasaga Beach and Collingwood. We spent a few minutes swapping stories about the area.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Claas Kamminga who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Friday.

I owe one to a lady (she didn't give her name) who called saying she fell. I could

have used a nicer word than "ugliest" to describe an unidentified girl from my high school days. She suggested unattractive would have been more "respectful." Well, I felt I could use my journalistic licence to speak of someone I hadn't identified and hadn't seen in 12 years. Besides in journalism we're supposed to try and write the way people talk. Most would say ugly, not unattractive. But, to this lady who felt offended, I'm sorry.

Sometimes being short can be so frustrating. (For those who don't know me, I get lost in a group of 10 year olds.) Oh, there are times when it is to my advantage, but on the average, I wish I could sprout about five inches, that way maybe I could see over the counters at the Olympia Drive-in.

I hate driving Gord's car. I can reach the gas peddle easy enough, but I always have to drive with the low beams on because I can't reach the dimmer switch on the floor.

My first car had a wooden block on the gas peddle so I could reach it. Very embarrassing if someone else drove it.

When I get gas in my car and the guy thinks he's doing me a favor by washing my windshield—I could kill him. Without fail they leave an annoying streak right across my line of vision, which is just above the steering wheel.

Going shopping is depressing. Pants are forever too long, and not being a seamstress, I either have to pay someone to hem them, or just not buy them.

In a line up to a show or something, Gord tries to pass me off as his kid sister in order to save a few bucks.

Even reading a newspaper is annoying. My arms are too short to hold it at arms length.

Carrying a suitcase is impossible. If I don't bend my arm, it just sits on the floor and doesn't move.

Walking is tough too. I have to take two steps to most people's one. I tire easily.

I could go on and on, but I won't.

There are some advantages. I can sleep quite comfortably in a car and I once was able to check into a motel for under 12 (which is free). My parents, sister, and Gord and I were driving to Florida one Christmas before we were married. I was 21, my sister 19. I took off my diamond ring, and put my hair in pig tails, and voila, we passed for under 12 and got in for free.

So far, those are the only two advantages I've come across. Maybe someone else has some I am overlooking, or just haven't run across yet.

In the meantime, I will keep jogging along as I go for evening walks with my husband. I'll keep my four inch heels forever, and live with it. Not much else I can do is there?

Our readers write

Summons for parking ticket upsets reader

Dear Sir: On May 6 I received a summons for a vehicle parked unlawfully on Wilbur St. I never got a ticket.

I asked those who do drive Wilbur St. about this and none of them have received tickets.

So here I am wondering where I was parked unlawfully.

I phoned the police the next day because the officer who brought the summons wouldn't tell me anything. I asked the police about this over the phone and was told I should have got a ticket but he guessed someone took it off the car.

He said I can't do anything about this except go to court and tell my story.

I told him I'm a retired person and can't afford to go to court over a matter like this.

So here I am wondering where I was around April 1. It must have been when the

clutch went on my pickup truck and I took it to Canadian Tire and it was left on the street beside the garage for a couple of days while they waited for parts.

I went to the garage and nobody there can remember a ticket on the car. If the police did tag it there I think the police are getting pretty low in this town. That is the only time I can think of that the car was parked on Wilbur St.

I will go and pay my summons but I will also tell the court what I think of the police here in Acton.

We don't need a policeman to go around tagging cars all night. Those cars are not doing any harm to anybody. The police should keep a closer watch on the break-ins and robberies and never mind the cars.

Zygmunt Luty
223 McDonald Blvd.

Ballots for and against deer hunt

A petition from two rural Limehouse area residents, Debbie Kilmier and Pauline Martland, against the proposed three day deer hunt in Halton has drawn some response.

Mrs. Martland said Tuesday morning she and her friend have received some phone calls but no petitions yet. She expects the long weekend slowed up the mail and there will be a response later this week.

The Acton Free Press and a number of other area newspapers published the petition. This newspaper has received ballots signed by five people.

There have also been calls, both pro and con, to the newsroom and some letters to the editor were received.

One caller and a letter writer (Art Hawes) suggested there also be a ballot for people to fill out if they are in support of the deer hunt. In the interest of fairness we publish two ballots today,

one in support of the hunt and one against. Both can be mailed to the Free Press and will be passed on to the two ladies and Art Hawes who supports the hunt. (See deer hunt letters elsewhere in today's paper.)

I, the undersigned am OPPOSED to a three-day deer hunt in Halton and Flamborough in 1981.
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: (optional) _____

I, the undersigned am IN SUPPORT of a three-day deer hunt in Halton and Flamborough in 1981.
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: (optional) _____

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, May 19, 1971

At the Tri-County banquet, John Hansen won the referees plaque and David Allan the top goaltender trophy. John Field was best all-round player. MVPs were Pete Morrison and Robin Insoce. Brad Timbers was top defenseman.

Acton quarry of Indusmin has won an award for their efforts and plans to rehabilitate the land at the quarry. Work on restoring the property started last year.

The banquet of Rockwood Bowling Club marked the tenth anniversary of the spot. Frank Benadetti got things rolling and Dave Gray donated the first big trophy. Originals still with the club are Irene Lavoie, Mary Stalbaum, May Swackhammer, John Carney, Doug Carney, Winnie Hills, Fred and Vivian Nightingale and Art Nightingale.

Marilyn Barber, Cathy Lasby and Doris Black of Dublin club won Provincial 4-H honors.

20 years ago

Thursday, May 18, 1961

Chairman John Goy reported that with \$36,000 pledged in the first three days of the Community Centre campaign, there is little doubt of the ultimate success of the project.

Prominent Orangeman and businessman C.K. Browne was presented with his 40 year Jewel.

LOL 467 held a church parade Sunday afternoon and marched from the park to the United Church for the service. A large turnout was present from neighboring lodges.

Acton Rotary Club endorsed an annual Amos Mason Scholarship for a girl entering the nursing profession.

Fans went down to Toronto to see Whipper Billy Watson defeat Gorgeous George and hold the British championship title.

Bruce Andrews will extend Bruce Kidd to the limit when the two meet to decide the best track stars in Ontario this weekend.

Rev. H.B. Stokreef has been named rector of St. James Church, Hamilton.

Proceeds to \$70 from Joyce Carpenter's dance review were presented to the Cancer Society. Peter Martingell was the sole boy in the show.

50 years ago

Thursday, May 21, 1931

The boxing match arranged by Acton Athletic Club apparently did not appeal to Actonians.

Acton won the opening ball game 10-3 from Kilbride. Chalmers was pitcher and Kiley scored the first run of the season. Salmon, Leishman, Waterhouse, Tyler and Anderson also scored for Acton.

Some teachers will be offered re-engagement at lower salaries, to effect economies. Miss Nephew and Miss Farrington will be offered the same salary.

It is a great relief to those with gardens to have the dogs shut up again now.

A jolly social evening was spent by the members of Lakeside chapter IODE at the home of Mrs. W. Middleton.

The bowling greens and tennis courts were crowded at their official opening for the season. The band played at the club grounds.

75 years ago

Thursday, May 17, 1906

It has been some time since an alarm of fire was rung in the town, but on Saturday night the bell rang and the tannery whistles shrieked and in a few minutes the heavens were illuminated with a lurid glare, and it was soon ascertained that Beardmore and Co's sole leather tannery was on fire.

The prompt arrival of the Beardmore Fire Company and the Acton Fire Brigade averted more serious damage. The bark mill house was destroyed and the leach house damaged. Messrs. Beardmore and Co. made a generous donation of \$150 to the chief and his men. They intend to rebuild. None of the 100 men were thrown out of employment.

Miss Ettie Laird has resigned as librarian. The splendid success of the library has been due to her courtesy and skill.

Teachers were granted permission to take classes to the woods for nature study, and to plant a garden.

100 years ago

Thursday, May 19, 1881

Our streets would be more dignified and less dangerous if a bylaw were passed by council that no persons should engage in athletic games or sports of any kind, for money, pleasure or otherwise, on the streets; that no persons shall utter any obscene, immoral or abusive language, nor throw stones, balls nor other missiles; that no person shall drive horses or mules on the streets or lanes at a greater rate of speed than six miles an hour.

The corner stone of St. John's Church, Rockwood, will be laid on the Queen's Birthday, with Masonic honors. A banquet will be served in the Town Hall followed by games and sports in the agricultural grounds. A grand concert will be given in the evening. Acton Brass Band will enliven the proceedings.

Mr. Robert Little, Public School Inspector, is building a new fence around his residence.