

# The Acton Free Press

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## Region has a tough task building faith, confidence

Region treasurer Gerry Lawson has set a big task for himself, the other department heads and Chief Administrative Officer.

Speaking to the Acton Rotary Club last week he said the region's management team (top brass) are working to "restore council's confidence" in their ability to run region finances and programs. "It is important to re-establish the Halton community's faith in the region as a responsible steward of their funds as well as competent providers of necessary community services."

It's going to take many years of blemish free operation to undo the damage the regional council and staff has inflicted on its image.

To be sure, the region has been behind the eight ball as far as popularity is concerned almost from the start. Politicians and residents in Acton, Esquesing, Georgetown, Nassagaweya, Milton, Oakville and Burlington were either opposed or had reservations about the new system of local government.

Almost eight full years of rising taxes, perceived decline in services, financial woes and an assortment of blunders have resulted in downright mistrust and hatred for the region among many taxpayers.

Even those who are charitable about the region generally hold the view this form of local government simply will never work. Regional government in Halton is something that only the Tory provincial government likes.

Yet, since the chances of regional government disappearing are slim, it is essential that the region staff achieve its

goal of gaining the council and the public's confidence and faith.

The staff will have to realize that this will be a very long process. The past track record dictates that many years of relatively smooth operations will be required before people have any faith or confidence in the region.

The task won't be made any easier by the fact taxpayers can expect whopping tax hikes the next few years while the region plays catch-up and develops the human and hard-ware resources to provide services like policing, day care, garbage disposal, water and sewers, business development etc. at a more acceptable level.

The immenseness of region staffs' task has been demonstrated clearly this year.

There have been gigantic improvements in the treasury department. No long ago revenue shortfalls were found in the water and Halton Manor budgets and expenditures adjustments were made to prevent year end deficits. An encouraging sign indeed.

There have also been other examples of improved operations and management at the region on this year.

But there has been evidence that despite many changes at the top levels of staff and in procedures the same old types of problems haunt the region.

Acton's brown and yellow water problem lasted an entire week and the public was never warned about the problem. It is a classic example of the kinds of blunders the region must eliminate or at least drastically reduce before anyone will have faith in that level of government.

## BIA plan impressive, town hall a key part

Downtown Acton has been given an excellent plan for revitalization. Now it can only be hoped the provincial and municipal governments which paid for the blueprint and the Acton BIA put their nose to the grindstone and their dollars on the line to turn the dreams contained in the downtown study into reality.

A lot of the work, because of immense costs, must be long range; for example, development of three off street parking lots and parkettes downtown.

However, some work can start pretty soon, such as streetscape items like trees and lights. The BIA has some money and could start by investing in limited streetscaping.

This would demonstrate to the province and municipality as well as local shoppers of

their sincere wish to revitalize the core area.

One of the most attractive features of the downtown plan is use of the town hall as a focus for the community with a parkette around it.

While Halton Hills councillors are quick to point out that the downtown study consultants shied away from endorsing restoration of the town hall, throughout the study the consultants dropped enough hints that they thought it was something that's necessary for renewal of downtown Acton.

Unfortunately some councillors and the consultants looking at the town hall prefer to pretend they are two separate studies, that saving the town hall has nothing to do with revitalizing the downtown. Nothing could be further from the truth.



## On the Leavell

With Helen

Co-op Nursery is settled into their new location at M.Z. Bennett school, Room 14, following their move from Knox Presbyterian Church. Barb Munro, of the nursery executive says the new accommodations are working out very well and the children are very happy.

There are still more openings for anyone with small children.

500 Club winners this week are: 271 John Palmer, and 410 Jim Lowrie.

The entire front page of the Indusmin Link (a company newsletter) was devoted to the Acton Indusmin operation recently. There were four pictures included, one each of John Knight and Kevin Howden.

An interesting note: Last year the Aggregates Division of Indusmin shipped 2.9 million tons of stone. Of this, 1.7 million tons were shipped out of Acton. Considering that each shipment goes by truck—carrying between 20 to 40 tons each—that is a lot of truckloads. In addition, since each truck shipment must be accompanied by a scale ticket, a great deal of paper is generated and must be processed.

That means the Acton operation is doing almost 2/3 of the work, not bad considering Indusmin also has operations in Nepton, Midland, Killarney, St. Catharines, Donat, and Spruce Pine, and a technical centre and a head office.

The Acton Sabres held their annual "Meet the Sabres Dance" Saturday night and a sell out crowd was in attendance. Spot dances and door prizes donated by local merchants added to the evening.

Dancers enjoyed a lively meal, consisting of barbecued beef on a bun and a variety of salads.

The Sabre Executive supplied the salad and the meat was prepared by Sandy Moreau and Marilyn Russiani. The good food and good music supplied by Pat Edge made for a successful evening.

The Sabres are most appreciative of the olde Hide House, Siedmans, Desmonds Gulf, Headys, the Looking Glass, Toth Motors, Olympia Drive In and Family Restaurant, for donating the various prizes for the evening.

The entire town wishes the Sabres good luck in the coming season.

The University of Waterloo is participating in a public lecture series in Erin this fall, some of which Acton residents may be interested in.

Lectures are given in the Erin Legion hall, Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. The series began October 15: early lectures are by speakers from the University of Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier University.

Some of the lectures offered are: on November 19, "Travelling through Russia Today; November 28 "Israel-Palestine: Armageddon or New Jerusalem?"; December 3 "A Street in Old Pompeii"; Roman Life in 79 A.C." The title of the series is "Executed Learning Opportunities".

Each year the Halton Regional Police Force presents a volleyball tournament involving teams from within the force. The proceeds are donated to the Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Al Ruelens, a former Halton officer who succumbed to cancer in January 1981.

The tournament is held in a different Halton community each year. Trophies for the tournament are provided by the Halton Regional Police Association and include an "Al Ruelens" Memorial Trophy which is presented each year to the host school for use in their Athletic Department.

The second annual tournament will be held on Friday, January 15 at 7 p.m. at Queen Elizabeth Park School 2301 Yolanda Dr., Oakville. Twelve teams from within the force will be competing for the championship which is presently held by the "Dirty Dozen" No. 10 Division team from Acton.

Although there is no admission charge, members of the public are encouraged to attend and volunteers from the Canadian Cancer Society will be at the school to accept donations.

Tinkerbell Nursery recently received a number of children's items suitable for their nursery program from an anonymous donor. The north Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded has no way of thanking her, except for the media. The association wants to let the lady know just how every grateful they are for her generosity.

The Co-op Nursery is having a fundraising bazaar on December 5 at the Y from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. They will be raffling off a complete Christmas dinner and a teddy bear cake.

The Halton Regional Police is really getting into the crime prevention act these days. With the co-operation of the Halton Regional Conservation Authority they will be conducting the second annual "operation ski-check" program at Glen Eden Ski Area in Milton. The ski-check program involves a system of recording serial numbers on skis and attaching a sticker to the skis indicating that the number has been recorded. A card is issued to the owner for reference in the event that the skis are stolen or lost.

The service will be offered at no cost on November 21, 22, 28 and 29. As of December 7 this service will also be

available at all Halton Regional Police stations and members of the public are urged to participate and assist the Halton Regional Police Crime Prevention Bureau in their efforts to combat the theft of skis in Halton.

This is the last chance to purchase an Acton ticket.

Whether or not you believe in the town hall is not entirely the question here. By purchasing local lottery ticket you are buying a chance to win trips, cash, and other smaller prizes. All money raised stays in Acton—what more can you ask for?

For \$100, the cost of 20 Provincial lottery tickets, you have an excellent chance to win at the local level—all the way around.

They make great Christmas gifts. Ask any of the merchants downtown, or Ted Tyler.

Ever wonder where the items which don't sell at a bazaar or garage sale go. Well, in the case of the Knox Presbyterian Church giant garage sale, items have been donated to the same type of sale this Saturday at McKenzie-Smith Middle School from 9 a.m. until noon. Refreshments will be supplied at a nominal cost.

### MEANDERINGS

By Mabel Barkman

Soup's ON!

In this busy world one finds soups on many dishes.

All of you, no doubt, have favorite recipes using a certain soup. A new soup, which could be a substitute for Cream of Mushroom is called Beefy Mushroom. It turns round steak into a super supper dish. Tomato Soup makes tasty marinated carrots.

Cook about one pound of carrots, cut diagonally, until just tender (approx. eight minutes). Drain. Add one medium onion thinly sliced and one medium green pepper cut in strips. Mix together half a ten ounce tin of tomato soup, half a cup of sugar, half a cup of salad oil, half a teaspoon of dry mustard, one third cup of vinegar, one quarter teaspoon of salt and pepper. Add to the carrots and marinate overnight in the refrigerator. This will serve six or eight. A good supply of soups on the shelf can often come in handy to prepare a gourmet meal.

## Outdoors

BY LORNE FLETCHER

A long day of fishing but no fish; that was my lot this past weekend. A bit of luck is needed with plenty of perseverance. Oh well, next time. Rivers around Georgian Bay and Lake Huron are low and very clear which makes for good fishing at the best of time. Trolling at Southampton and Collingwood has produced good results.

Many Halton Hills residents, including yours truly, will be enjoying some good bush beef thanks to the many Halton Hills cash crop cornfields. The deer are in excellent condition, fat and numerous.

We observed more deer on the last day of the hunt than on the first day. Good venison needs no special cooking, just treat it like good beef

for a gourmet meal. The four day hunt was the most orderly and well controlled hunt I have ever participated in. We had no complaints of trespassing or damage. Farmers and landowners were very co-operative in the North Halton area—a good omen for the future. Controlled hunting, good hunter-landlord rapport is needed to make this hunt a success. One bad complaint can spoil a good sport for many others. Think leather, not snow.



## Clergy Comment

by Father Leo Speagle

In today's world we are very concerned about our individuality. We want to be our own masters, do our own thing, and live our own lives answerable to as few as possible. In our headlong pursuit of self-expression, it is easy to forget that we are also a collectivity: that we are neighbors.

Our neighborhoods are more than just a collection of individual human units. We do have a community life that can be more or less rich depending on how willing we are to pursue common goals and go beyond self to reach out to others. It is all too easy to stifle a lot of good that may be done because we are divided along denominational, ethnic or cultural lines, or because we are indifferent to one another.

A solution is possible when we can look on the person next door, not as a package wrapped with a lot of familiar and stereotyped labels; but as a flesh and blood person like ourselves, a possible ally with gifts and possibilities we can appreciate, whom we can learn more about and find common ground with.

What steps are we prepared to take to break the ice that surrounds so many neighborhood relationships? Can we look beyond the appearances to determine what our neighbor is really like and what he or she really thinks? Can we find common ground with our neighbor and can our neighborhood be a richer place because we have discovered one another? The passage from rugged individual to real neighbor is a challenge!

## Back issues

10 years ago

November 17, 1971

Ontario Hydro officials told an overflow meeting of ratepayers in Nassagaweya they would follow an alternative route for the 500,000 volt transmission line through the township if council felt it would lessen the impact.

Unless the trend changes, Halton county's welfare costs for the year will exceed the budgeted amount by \$80,000—a total of \$532,000. According to most recent figures there are 150 employable persons on the welfare rolls, with the number of unemployables at 222.

Esqueing council has passed a resolution authorizing members of its newly-formed library board to be paid \$20 for each meeting. Members are Mrs. Annie Berry, Mrs. Donald Wison, Mrs. A.J. Markham, Mrs. Ronald Lister. Secretary is Mrs. Cathy Boukhill.

Baseball presentations were made by Eden Mills Community club to the players who won the Guelph Township championships. Jack Chamberlain, coach, thanked the boys and Rodney Bell presented the trophies. Don Peeling and Bob Wright spoke on behalf of the teams.

20 years ago

November 16, 1971

At the impressive Remembrance Day service at the Robert Little School, Mayor John Goy told of his experiences as a gun sergeant. David Watson introduced him and Glen Holmes thanked him. Bernie Freuler played the Last Post and Reveille while Stuart Johnson raised and lowered the flag.

Jimmie Gunn, a Korean war veteran, has begun work at the post office. The end of the year sees the dissolution of all women's groups in the United Church and a group is meeting to plan the change-over. For its last meeting, the WA is planning a turkey supper.

Phil Cloke and Ralph Morton have joined the staff of Prouse Motors.

50 years ago

November 19, 1931

President Archie Kerr conducted the annual meeting of Acton Citizens' Band. A group of instruments has been put into condition to accommodate a class of beginners. New president is George Bishop, secretary G. A. Dills. Amos Mason is bandmaster, C. W. Mason assistant. A banquet followed the meeting in the Band Room.

The U.F.Y.P.O. met in the parish hall, with Mr. R. L. Davidson as chairman. On the program were Eileen Clarridge, Fred Anthony, Arthur McKewen, Ethel Graff, Wilmer Davidson, Melvin McCullough and Pearl Foster.

Since so many opposing hockey teams wear red, Acton has decided to change its colors to gold with black trim. The boys may make some arrangements to get some practice on artificial ice before the ice is ready in the arena here.

75 years ago

November 15, 1906

Gardner Hawes has just completed leveling and seeding the west half of the bowling green on Bower Ave. The green will accommodate ten rinks, sufficient for the tournament of the Central Bowling Association, of which Acton is a member.

Plans are being made for the Christmas entertainments at the churches. The Methodist school will as usual provide a program on Christmas night, with moving pictures and illustrated songs. Many new pictures will be shown. Knox Sunday School will have a cantata New Year's night.

Some of our boys write home that they are doing well west. Dufferin Bingham and Stafford Bennett have new homes on their homesteads in Saskatchewan well advanced.

After being a year without any lights on their streets, the people of Oakville were delighted to have them turned on again this week.

Farmers are patiently waiting for the completion of Acton chopping mill.

100 years ago

November 17, 1881

Three of our little ones have been laid in the cold grave due to severe cases of the croup.

Three or four families of Indians have made their abode in our village. They are basket makers. Mill and Main Sts. should be macadamized. The cost would be quite an item, but the benefit derived would far exceed the outlay.

Certain young people of our town (unmarried) visited Guelph one day last week and from the size and appearance of the bundles brought home we would suppose something serious is intended. The jingle of wedding bells is heard in the near future.

Nicklin's Bakery team ran away again on Saturday night. They never stopped till they reached Mr. Mulholland's farm, about three miles away. Considerable damage was done to the wagon. A runaway occurred at Rockwood the other day in which a verandah was completely torn away.