The Acton Free Press

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Acton councillors come out on short end of stick

1981 will be a year Acton's three councillors, Dave Whiting, Ross Knechtel and Terry Grubbe won't soon forget.

It might be best described as so close, yet so far.

To be sure there were minor triumphs around the council table for all three on dozens of issues and problems brought to their attention by constitutents.

But on the two issues they battled longest and hardest to see passed they came out on the short end, a very short end, of the stick.

Those two issues were, of course, property tax reform through Section 86 of the provincial Assessment Act and municipal restoration of the town hall,

But, they should take solace in the fact that while they began on both fronts as voices crying in the wilderness they wound up being able to persuade three of their colleagues from other wards over to their points of view.

After Knechtel and his investigation committee came in with a neutral report on Section 86 the ward one trio began lobbying for support for tax reform through Section 86. During a span of a few months, while council delayed the vote repeatedly, they campaigned for their view. When the vote finally came their motion lost on a tie vote, six to six. Esquesing's Pam Sheldon was absent, though she indicated later she would have been opposed.

It was the same result on the

by Pastor Jean Stairs

you good news of a great joy which

will come to all the people." (Luke

We live in a very sophisticated

age. Our world is advancing scient-

ifically and technologically at a pace

which is faster than the average

human being is capable of keeping

Advances have been made in all

areas of life. Rather than playing

"hide and seek", children spend

hours upon end with electronic and

video computer games. Television

documentaries describe 12-year-old

children who, by playing on their

computers at home, can patch into

computer systems of major banks

and companies and withdraw large

Medical research has enabled us

to extend the length of normal life

expectancy. Recent strides in fields

such as genetic engineering produce

debate over the moral ethics in

volved in predetermining the breed

of people who could make up our

future world. This year we have seen

a new escalation of the arms race.

the decision to deploy the neutron

bomb and hints of the possibility of a

time and we'll build the world."

Now, realizing that technology is

spinning out of control, scientists are

saying, "Give us time so we can

keep ourselves from destroying the

Scientists used to say, "Give us

"limited nuclear war".

up with.

sums of money.

"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring

Clergy Comment

town hall. The Acton councillors lost by a single vote, 7-6, though they had convinced two Georgetown councillors and the mayor to back their position.

In neither case was their stand easy to take, or universally popular in Acton.

They had to vote their gut feeling, their personal view, their conscience. There were many citizens for and against Section 86 and the same was true of the town hall. On both issues theirs were persuasive, yet conflicting, arguments from their constituents.

They could hardly be expected to simply parrot the community view because there was no consensus. They were forced to weigh the pros and cons and make their own decisions, something we expect of our elected officials.

So, while they were undoubtedly disappointed by the outcome of both battles they can take comfort from the fact they learned something and proved something.

Acton will never be able to exert its will at council by force of numbers.

But the councillors did discover that with effective well prepared presentations at council, and laborious behind the scenes lobbying with their colleagues, Acton's influence can be felt.

While they won't get another chance at the town hall issue, the Section 86 cause will live another day, maybe even this year, and maybe that time around they'll prevail.

world." Our world is caught in a web

of its own spinning, and it is a very

In the midst of that sophisticated

web, perhaps we can be reminded of

the fact that Christmas is hopeful. In

spite of all the world's endless

spinning, we can live out the

Christmas season and all our days

remembering that God never

forgets us. God knows the state of

God has always cared for our

world. Sometimes we wish God

would demonstrate that care by

removing the "spinning web" and

lifting us out of our helpless and

But, instead, God demonstrates

His care by coming into the midst of

it and sharing it with us. Over two

thousand years ago, God cared

enough to provide the birth of a

child, His own Son, who became the

Savior of the world. This child was a

vulnerable expression of just how

The message of Bethlehem is

clearly that God is with us. Unmis-

takably God has revealed his com-

passion for our world situation and

has declared in His coming to us that

He will be our constant companion.

Even in the apparent hopelessness

of our age, the message of Christ-

"Be not afraid," for God in Jesus

Christ has declared: "I couldn't

mas is that we can be hopeful.

much God does love us.

seemingly hopeless situation.

our world and He cares about it.

sophisticated web indeed.

I KNOW ITS A DIRTY JOB, BUT SOME BODY'S GOT TO DO IT! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On the .eavell With Helen

Best wishes and good luck go out to St. Joseph's Separate School teacher Sharon Bradley who is heading next month to South Africa on missionary

Shoron, who is in her third year in Acton, has signed up for two years with VICS (Volunteers in Christian Service). She finished her teaching job in Acton last week and heads to Africa on Jan-

Farewell is also extended to Jenny Nunan, Acton Rotary exchange student from Australia. Jenny left today for home, but will be spending a few days in Kamloops, British Columbia with an aunt and uncle and then a few days in San Fransico before actually getting home. She's been in Canada a year, living with Terry and Ken Grubbe, Rae and Lynda Nellis, Doug and Janice Fread and Jack and Anlta Meinen.

A story in this paper last week said Jenny was disappointed by the shortage of snow since her arrival last January. There was only a skill of snow on the ground when Jenny said that. I hope she is satisfied now.

Best wishes to Jenny in her future.

I see Acton's shortest street, Burbank St. in Lakeview subdivision, finally has a street sign so everyone can find it. Seems everyone was having trouble finding it except the tax assessor.

Dave and Heather Whiting: George and Sue Paulsen: and Keith and Jane Smiley: travelled to Sudbury recently for the wedding of former Acton baseball player Rob Cameron.

Rob played Condo ball for three years here, communting from Brampton to

He married Betty Flesh and will live in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Rosemary Cook, of Churchill Rd.,

headed west for Christmas to visit with

daughter Betty Ferguson and family. and son George Cook, all in Whitecourt Alberta, Also on the same flight was Acton resident Don Ryder who visited his son David and family in Edmonton. George Cook is readying for a monthlong stay in Saudi Arabla in the new

year as he stands in for another oil company employee who is coming home for a visit. Hollday visitors this week with Terry

Jackson from Sarnia. University and college students are pouring home for the holidays. Janice Thornhill is home from school in Peter-

Nancy Shoemaker is home from her nursing post in northern Ontario and Rick Rocher, now a teacher in La Pas,

Steven Dills, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Elliott, Bower Ave., made it home from Drayton Valley, Alberta,

for Christmas to visit with his parents Jim and Shirley Dills, Milton. Steven is well known in Acton, and is a newspaper publisher in Joe Clark's home riding. Know of anyone else home for

others who might be interested. Mrs. Eva Murdoch, RR 5, Georgetown was the lucky winner of a gas

Christmas. Let me know. There are

barbecue in a draw held by the newly opened Country Gentleman propane centre on Highway 7 cast of town. Acton firefighters recently held a Christmas Day for Firecrackers. First prize of five firecrackers went to Brian

Amphlett, RR 2, Rockwood, Don Matthews, 127 Mill St. W., won second prize of four, and Bert Fowler, Acton took third prize, three firecrackers. Debbie Lithgow, Weston, won two firecrackers, which was fourth prize, and winning fifth prize-one firecracker was Geoff Alcorn, London.

Guelph General Hospital reports no Christmas bables this year. Even though there were Acton bables born December 22, the hospital doesn't consider them Christmas babies.

Santa Claus made an early appearance in town last week and could be seen walking the streets of Lakeview subdivision Wednesday night. Rumor has it he was seen also in the Glenlea subdivision.

Santa was very good to me this Christmas, but the best gift of all wasn't even to me, but to Gord. It was a photograph album full of pictures of me as I was growing up. My parents spent hours putting it together.

Included in it are class pictures from my school days. What fun that was looking at all my old friends in Collingwood and wondering what they are doing now. Some are living as close as Guelph and Brampton, while others are out west, or just lost and out of touch. Tragically there are pictures of those killed in car accidents, or those now in jail or some other less fortunate. future. But for the most part, good memories came flowing back.

One item in the book I had never seen before, nor did I even know existed. It was a small newspaper clipping dated August 24, but I don't know what year. It had a picture of my father, in his youth, and a story explaining he had been wounded in France, in World War II and was now in London hospital. The article made me realize how lucky we are in 1981 at the Free Press not to have to write stories about home town boys being shot or killed while fighting for the freedoms we have all taken for

granted. But as much as I love the clothes I got, and the books, and the boots, and all the other goodles, I will always treasure that photo album the most. It was the perfect present. Although it has provided Gord and a few friends with a lot of laughs at seeing pictures of me while in high school or younger, it is a good testimony to what I consider has been a not-too-bad past. Hopefully it will be even a better future.

+ + + I join the entire town in wishing Esther Taylor all the best in her retirement, from the Acton library.

Esther has been around for 27 years checking books in and out, giving quickle book reviews, helping a reader find a book etc.

Citizens Band entertained town Wednesday evening around playing Christmas carols.

This wintery weather has got me down. It's not that I dislike snow, actually, I really like it as long as the roads are cleared and the driveway shovelled. I have been a ski fanatic for almost 20 years and take advantage of the white stuff as much as I can. The problem is: I need my Florida

Even as enthusiastic about snow as am, I like to escape to the sunny south for a few weeks of the year—and it has been 11 months since my last visit.

My skin has lost its summer tan and is in dire need of some nice hot rays on it to make it feel healthy again. I haven't had salt water eating away at my hair for almost a year and the palm trees are growing without me. I desperately need a fix.

What is worse, is that my next trip isn't planned until next October when a friend and I venture forth without our husbands. That will make it almost two years between trips, a record since I first started going.

My first trip down was with my parents for Christmas 1975, March 1977 was next, and then January 1978. The sun found me again in January 1979, but didn't see me again until May 1960. That was a good year. Four months later I was back again, with my parents, in October. Then my last trip to Florida four months after that in February of this year.

It is not that we have hordes of money to blow on Florida vacations. It really helps when your folks have a place down there to stay in.

We've had good weather, and cold weather. We've eaten alligator meat, and got stung by sting rays. We've come back as pale as when we left and we've been so burned we couldn't walk, or put seat belts on. We've picked oranges and grapefruits, and sunbathed and shopped. But no matter what we have done, or whatever the weather, we always love it.

So why am I missing it this year? Now that Christmas is over and the snow is here to stay for a few months, I realize just how spoiled I am at being able to hop in the car, or catch a plane and head to my second home.

I guesa I will just have to settle for a glass of orange juice this winter, but next fall, look out. Fort Meyers here I

> MEANDERINGS by Mabel Barkinan Beach Towels

You may think it strange that I talk about beach towels when we have wintery weather. Sometimes I find I am using them more now than in the summertime.

When I wash sweaters by hand, I don't like to wring them out and so towel dry them. In fact, anything that is bulky and I wash by hand, I towel dry on beach towels. I don't put the towels in the dryer for a few hours because the humidity is very good for our dry houses. I believe one has fewer colds if the houses are more humid.

When summer comes again and you are thinking of picnics, a colorful beach towel is the best tablecloth one can use for a picnic table. It is usually large enough, doesn't blow away, soaks up spills and the edges can even be used to wipe sticky fingers. Laundering is easy

and no ironing is necessary. So-if you take a beach towel on your winter vacation, be sure to bring it back!

Back issues

10 years ago

December 29, 1971 A spectacular two car crash Christmas eve on 7 Highway at Crewsons Corners resulted in an estimated \$3800 damage and sent 10 persons to Guelph hospital. Nine were treated for minor injuries, one child was admitted to intensive care and is expected to be released from hospital today

(Wednesday). Deputy-Reeve Pat McKenzie thinks Acton Council should make a New Years resolution to conduct their meetings on a more orderly fashion. Chairman for the committee of the whole session of this years final regular meeting, the deputyreeve suggests meetings could be improved if councillors took more care to direct their remarks to the chairman. He also mentioned the possibility of having councillors stand whenever they wished to speak. Speakers always stand at county council meetings. Veteran councillor Jack Greer saw only one disadvantage to McKenzie's suggestion, "Peter might get flat feet," he chuckled in obvious reference to Councillor Marks who usually doesn't hesitate to speak up.

20 years ago

December 28, 1961 A Toronto man learned just how accurate a woman's intuition can be. When Toronto resident John Jong used a false name and gave a Rockwood address while returning goods for a cash refund at SImpson-Sears office in Acton, store manager Miss Jessie Coles became suspicious, the goods were not purchased from the Simpson's Sears company. She trailed the man to his car, took down his lisence number then notified police. After an investigation Jong was arrested at his home and lodged in Milton jail. He was later released on \$50

Mrs. H. Lasby was \$60 richer when her name was drawn from a large drum during the final merchant's "Free Living" draw at the post office. Mrs. Lasby received vouchers redeemable at participating merchants stores to a value of \$60. She was presented with her prize by merchant Paul

50 years ago December 24, 1931

Just before six o'clock the fire alarm called the Acton Brigade to a fire that had gotten under way in the attic at the Rectory of St. Joseph's Church on John Street. The blaze had made considerable headway before being discovered by Miss Mulholland who is housekeeper at the Rectory and father McBride was summoned from the church. It is estimated the entire damage to house and contents will run in the neighborhood of \$800 which is covered by insurance.

The most accurate man in town at guessing weights would appear to be Charles Holmes for he guessed the exact weight of the big candy cane in Wiles' window to the fraction of an ounce. The cane weighed 14 ths 9 % ounces and that was Charlie's

75 years ago

December 27, 1906 Rather a serious accident took place at the corner of Mill and Elgin Sts. which resulted in the loss of a rather valuable horse belonging to Mr. Arch McPherson. Mr. Hugh McKay, driving the delivery wagon, was turning the corner when he met the team being driven smartly in the

other direction by Arch McPherson Jr. Councillor Robert Harrison of Eramosa died at his home near Rockwood. His fifteen children, though widely scattered, were all gathered at his bedside and he was able to say to each an affectionate farewell. He was born on the farm where he died in 1836. His father was one of the pioneers of the district having emigrated with his young wife from county Antrim, Ircland.

Homestead regulations for the North-West are published.

Nominations next Monday at noon. Election matters are exceedingly quiet.

100 years ago

December 29, 1881

The nominations for reeve and councillors took place on Monday and owing to the fact it was a public holiday the attendance was much bigger than usual. There were three candidates nominated for the recveship and 27 for council. Due to Messrs. Henderson and Storey declining, C.S. Smith was elected reeve by acclamation. For council there are in the field M. Speight, D.W. Campbell, James Moore, Richard Hamilton, John Kenney, Benj. Nicklin and Chas, T. Hill.

Running in Esquesing: for reeve W. Clay and N. Lindsay, first deputy is J. Warren, councillors, David Cook, John Brain, James Early, Stephen Elliott and David

During the past few weeks no less than ten little ones in this vicinity have succumbed to diphtheria. Yesterday an operation was performed on the throat of a child of Mr. W. Williams by Drs. Lowry and Forster, a tube being inserted in the windpipe, which promises to be a successful experi-

Life in a wheelchair

care more".

(Submitted by Mary Daigle) Author Unknown

So few care for those in a wheelchair Who sit at the bottom of the darn stair And wonder how to get up there "Certainly not, in this old wheelchair"

Today the visiting hockey team came, We'd like to go to see the game, But we must stay home, tho' it's a

They forgot to hulld the ramp again!

The church, the bank, and even the We can't get in, there's a step at the door, Across the street is the barber, Herb,

We can't get a haircut, no ramp at the

curb.

The Post Office too, we'd feel much

If we could get in to mail a letter And pick up our mail or buy a stamp, But we can't get in, there is no ramp. To enter the coffee shop's a mighty big

The step's even worse than the one at So there at the door our coffee-break

The only way in, is with help from some friends. So down the street we'll merrily go, I guess we'll just take in the show

But when we get there, we find in Yes, you guessed it - another big stair! And when we come to the great golden

We'll sit and gaze away up there, We'll never make it, we know very well, So we'll just give up, and roll down to

and Ken Grubbe and son Kevin are Terry's parents Mr. and Mrs. H.W.

borough and Laurie Pierce is home from North Bay. Sister Julie is home from Thunder Bay.

Manitoba, is spending the holidays with Acton family and friends.

Best of luck in your retirement Esther. We'll miss you as we hunt for books.