

1981 news review

May

Town hall restoration supporters there are some problems in connection with provincial grants and they only have until the end of July to finalize applications and nail down costs which have escalated. The restoration committee decided to urge council save the building exterior and conduct a structural study of the building. Acton Chamber of Commerce and Leathertown held a successful Monte Carlo night to raise funds to promote Acton as a leather tourist attraction in May.

ActiVan, the trial transit service for the disabled, began operating in May. A federal student work grant was secured by Leathertown to hire three students for the summer to research Acton's history.

Once again bears were seen in the rural area just north of Acton. Neale MacMillan, a rural Rockwood resident, headed for Cameroon, an African nation, for a summer

cultural exchange.

Actario organizers were busy making plans to run the lottery for another year.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Environment, Beardmore launched a major study on chemical waste runoff to determine the extent of impact, if any, on the environment. The study would be completed by the end of 1981. Ray and Lila Atkinson of Acton won \$500,000 in the Provincial lottery.

A preliminary consultants study indicated Acton couldn't grow much, if at all, because of limits on the sewage plant and the receiving stream capacity.

Developer Jerry Sprackman unveiled a scaled down plan for a plaza on the east side of Acton. Halton Hills has been opposing Sprackman's proposal for a couple of years now and the matter is before the Ontario Municipal Board pending a hearing.



Willow Street was jammed with people for the first Leathertown Market, held as a big windup day for the last Actario draw of the lottery's first year.

July

Queen's Park agreed to kick in half the cost of a study of the Acton town hall and the consultants who will conduct the study will hold two public meetings and survey the community to see if residents want the building saved.

Reporting on his first eight months in office Councillor Dave Whiting said the region was on the right track towards solving its financial problems but there was still a long way to go.

The Yugoslavian Centre south of Acton officially opened in July.

Rotarian exchange student Denise Dilbey decided to go to Japan this fall while another Acton High School student, Ron Skeffington, was headed to Manitoba and later the Philippines.

Five local postal clerks went out on strike with other inside workers across Canada shutting down the mail system.

Acton and area residents mourned the death of Marathon of Hope runner Terry Fox.

A Burlington man pleaded guilty to careless driving and was convicted in connection with a car-bicycle accident in Burlington in 1980 in which a former Acton resident was killed.

Plans were unveiled for a major recreation complex at Waterfalls Park,

including a 100 room lodge, golf course, indoor and outdoor tennis court, indoor racquet sports and indoor pool. The plan was received coolly by the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

An Acton man's homing pigeon set an Ontario speed record.

A booming local business, the old Hide House, which draws lots of tourists to Acton, added a fur salon and gift shop to its ever growing operation.

Halton Separate School Board was still aiming to open the new St. Joseph's School next spring after the province approved schematic drawings.

A former Acton firefighter, Wayne Kelley, was honored with presentation of the Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal. His wife Mildred was also honored.

Developers said they hoped to get started on the new IGA plaza downtown in September.

Consultants studying downtown Acton came out strongly opposed to any plaza development outside the core area.

Three youths assaulted a Halton Regional policeman in downtown Acton.

June

Leathertown announced plans in June to try and bring the Wintario dress show to Acton later in the year.

An Acton man was charged with criminal negligence causing death, falling to remain at the scene of an accident and impaired driving in connection with a fatal hit-and-run accident in which a Guelph man was killed just north of Rockwood in 1979.

Halton Hills council heard a proposal to build a municipal complex to be rented to the town beside a small shopping plaza in Georgetown.

Well known Acton sportsman, Legion member and Rotarian, Ron McKnight was announced as Acton's Citizen of the Year and honored at the end of the month.

At a police church parade at Knox Presbyterian Church Chief James Harding pledged to continue efforts by the force to become part of the Acton community.

Acton resident and Mississauga Firefighter Reg Landriault was pre-

sented with a medal of bravery for his work during the famed 1979 Mississauga train derailment.

Rockwood skating star Jean Bonner left in June for a sports tour of China.

There was another highly successful Erasmus Pioneer Day celebration held in Rockwood in late June.

Council approved an updating study for the town hall, but stopped short of committing to restoration of the building.

Acton High School students made a big splash in northern Ontario on their second voyageur canoe trip.

Kymm Lakin was sent to Ottawa by the Rotary Club on their Adventure in Citizenship trip.

Developer Jerry Sprackman decided to withdraw his objection to the IGA plaza to be built downtown.

While no firm decision has been made yet, closing of the Acton hydro office had been discussed by Halton Hills Hydro Commission it was revealed.



Ron McKnight, Citizen of the Year, was showered with gifts, but one of the best in his book was a Guy LaFleur stick from Irene and John McCauley.



Bob Angell introduces charter Branch 197 member Fred Wright at the Golden Anniversary banquet in late March.



Tony Van Dam's pigeon set an Ontario speed record.



Reg Landriault received a medal of bravery for his work as a Mississauga Firefighter during the train derailment.



Neale MacMillan spent the summer in Cameroon, an African nation.



Ron Skeffington has left Acton for the Philippines.

Looking back at 1981

April

The region finally nailed the figures down and Councillor Dave Whiting announced the deficits piled up over the past four years by the senior level of local government was \$1.1 million.

The BIA won't be able to bring a circus to town, a little known bylaw prohibits such attractions unless a long list of requirements are met and a licence obtained.

The province approved tentative design plans for the new St. Joseph's School to be built on Mill St. West.

Taxes were soaring. With budgets finalized the average increase in Acton for Halton Hills was \$17.46, \$21.92 for education and \$32 for the region. Tax hikes were similar in Esqueping.

Polypenco announced plans to move out of Acton later in 1981 and open a new factory in Guelph. All of the firm's employees would be invited to work at the new plant.

Developer Jerry Sprackman, who wants to build a plaza on the east side of town, objected to the rezoning for the new IGA plaza downtown to the Ontario Municipal Board, putting the development on hold.

Staff and ex-students of the late Gary Dawkins, former principal of M.Z. Bennett and McKenzie-Smith schools, recalled the Actonian's dedication to education at a special program in April. The tribute to the principal who died suddenly in July, 1979, at age 40, included dedication of the McKenzie-Smith library as the Gary Dawkins Memorial Library.

Halton Hills council decided to reject property tax reform through Section 86. Acton's councillors staunchly supported the plan.

A golf course would be part of a plan to develop

land east of Churchill Rd. North and north of Highway 7. The proposal called for 1,005 homes for 3,300 people.

Miss Acton Fall Fair, Lisa McGrath, was selected runner-up Miss Sea Maid at the Canadian Spring Boat Show held in Malton.

A municipal administration building costing an estimated \$1.6 million was included in Halton Hills five year capital expenditure forecast.

After its first year of operation in Acton just over 10 per cent of households were participating in Divide and Conquer, a garbage recycling program.



Acton Baptist Church Pastor Jean Stairs became Acton's first female minister.



Scott Malcolm competed in piping competition in Scotland.

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MR. RICHARD THOMAS

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