

Mayor praises council at impressive inaugural

At an impressive inaugural ceremony, where councillors and the mayor were piped into a packed John Elliott Theatre, Monday night, Mayor Pete Pomeroy praised the accomplishments of council over the past two years, and cited problems facing the incoming council.

He noted the theatre and cultural centre was a long term plan now completed, and added, "What's more it's completely paid for."

The mayor felt a singular accomplishment was the obtaining of a per ton fee for aggregate on a new gravel pit on the Fourth Line. He explained the road was reconstructed after the request to approve the gravel pit and said the agreement for a per ton fee could put one million dollars in the taxpayers' pocket. He said municipalities which bear the brunt of gravel pits to supply other areas should be compensated.

Pomeroy said council and Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson in particular, should be proud of the setting up of ActiVan, the transportation system for the elderly and disabled.

"Contrary to what you hear, we have approved developments and some have gone ahead, but due to the economy most have not." The mayor cited the completion of the Official Plan which he described as guidelines for 20 years as a major accomplishment, and noted the agricultural community, and adequate housing for the young people right in their own home town has been designated. He noted industrial land to provide jobs and an expanded tax base has also been set aside, and noted the newly designated industrial land by Highway 401 would become a prime area.

The mayor predicted the expansion of the GO Transit into Acton where he said tourism must be encouraged. He noted the location near Hamilton and Toronto made this area a natural Saturday or Sunday trip.

He pledged a crackdown on hoodlums and vandalism in Acton, and as a new member of Halton Police Commission, said he intended to make downtown Acton a safe place to walk and shop 24 hours a day.

The dilemma of the aggregate issue must be resolved, said the mayor. He said council recognizes that the mineral deposits are essential to industry and roads, but said the program proposed by the province is not acceptable. "The identification of large areas, tying up taxpayers' land without even proving a deposit is there is just not acceptable." He said the rights of the people in the area should be paramount, and stressed a delegation of mayors and others is going to Queen's Park to try to solve the problem.

Switching to the municipal complex, described as "a controversy over a small matter," he emphasized lot levies, not tax money, have been set aside in a reserve fund since 1977 for that purpose. He said it was announced publicly the fund was being set up. He claimed past councils have been looking at land and the hospital board has been looking for an improved access. "It could also fit with hydro's administrative plans."

The mayor stated the past council simply said the plan deserves close consideration, which may be a good idea.



Mayor Pete Pomeroy looks happy as he eats a piece of cake after the inaugural ceremonies Monday night. He and Halton Hills councillors were sworn in at the John Elliott Theatre.

Council inaugural stylish ceremony

It was the most colorful inaugural ceremony ever seen in this area when councillors, the mayor and members of the hydro commission were sworn in by Judge Kenneth Langdon.

Golden colored cloth covered the two long tables and the Halton Hills coat of arms sat in front of the mayor's dais.

Piped in by Virginia Hulme, Pipe Major of Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band, council took their seats on stage. Sandra Greig sang The Lord's Prayer, accompanied by Terry Champ.

The prayer of dedication was given by Rev. John Cooper and the closing prayer by Rev. G.W. Brand.

Among the invited guests were past Georgetown mayors Doug Sargent and Steamer Emmerson, as well as Bill Smith who was sworn in as a member of the Hydro Commission. Past Acton mayors Benny Rachlin and John Goy, and past Esquering Reeve Walter Linham were also in attendance. Past Esquering Reeve and Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill was also there, as he made his return to council as a member for Ward Two.

Looking for new bylaw

The municipalities in the Guelph and Suburban Area Official Plan are looking at adopting a property maintenance and occupancy bylaw in the future.

An amendment has been proposed for the Official Plan which would affect Erin and Eramosa Townships, Erin Village, Puslinch and Guelph Townships. These municipalities have found existing zoning bylaws aren't strong enough to correct property and building neglect problems. Some property owners have "willfully" allowed buildings to become unsightly, fall into disrepair, and have stored derelict vehicles, junk, etc., on their property.

However, before this area can have a property and maintenance bylaw, policy statements dealing with property upkeep must be included in the Official Plan.

Once the policy statements are in the Official Plan through the proposed amendment, each municipality will be able to decide if it wants to enact a maintenance and occupancy bylaw.

Monday night Halton Hills council decided it has no objection to the amendment. Council may have to pass a bylaw which corresponds with an abutting municipality for areas like Ballinacree so there will be consistency in property maintenance standards.

Home broken into

Thieves broke into a home on Jeffery Avenue last week by breaking the rear laundry window. An unknown quantity of liquor, jewellery and rifles were taken.

Police responded to a domestic dispute Monday night on Mill St. East. No injuries were reported, but a 46-year-old Acton woman was detained by police. No charges were laid.

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Obituary

George Paul

A former Acton man, George Robert Paul, died at Milton District Hospital November 21.

Mr. Paul, of Halton Centennial Manor, and formerly of 245 Mill St. E., Acton, was born March 5, 1903 in Tudhoe Colliery, England, son of John Paul and Mary Proud. He came to Canada in 1919, and on June 24, 1933, married the former Marion Pollock.

Before moving to Acton, the couple lived in Listowel. He had moved to the Manor six months before his death, having lived in Acton for 33 years. He was a retired CNR Section-man.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Marion, of the Manor; daughters Shirley (Mrs. Donald White) Georgetown, and Sheila, (Mrs. Phillip Klassen), of Lake Echo, Nova Scotia; grandchildren, Susan Graham, Paris, Ontario, Shelley White, Toronto, Paul and Wendy Klassen, Nova Scotia; and one great grandchild, Scott Graham, Paris. He is also survived by a sister, Elsie (Mrs. William Beard) of Peterboro. He was predeceased by his parents and a sister Mary.

Rev. Arthur Tribe officiated at the funeral service November 23 at St. Alban's Church. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery. Pallbearers were Ronald Beard, Peterborough, a nephew; and friends, Hardy Bell, Kitchener and Grant Puchner, Douglas Price, Harry Van Der Hayden and Gene Marceau, all of Acton.

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