

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010

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Does province want Acton to grow?

Does Queen's Park want Acton to grow?
The way they act down there you wouldn't think so.

It's something you'll never be able to get anyone to say or be able to prove, but it is easy to speculate about why the province keeps throwing roadblocks in the way of new residential development here.

To be sure the province hasn't been much more cooperative in helping council find ways to expand Georgetown either over the years, so it can't be put down completely as simply holding us back.

But one can't help but arrive at the conclusion that the province wouldn't be unhappy if Acton remained at its present size, or even shrank because of stagnation.

We're a fiesty bunch out here, we're always fighting their grand designs for us. It's easy to see how Acton might be viewed by government as something of a pain in the butt. We aren't really anything to get too terribly worked up about, our complaints and concerns aren't broadbased enough to threaten the government, though we can and have done our bit to keep north Halton represented on the opposition bench through three elections.

It's a credit to Mayor Peter Pomeroy and the past council that we have come as close to the threshold of growth to a whopping 10,000 people as we have.

The bureaucrats at Queen's Park have thrown dozens of environmental hurdles in front

of council to overcome on the path to growth of Halton Hills', two urban areas. Instead of simply sitting back and accepting the premise that there wasn't sewage capacity, through a lengthy study consultants, municipal staff and councillors came up with evidence showing the sewage problems could be overcome without threatening the environment or leaving us in the position of having new development which couldn't be properly serviced.

Now the same bureaucrats are trying to hold things up with a new set of problems revolving around water supply. They've changed some of the rules, and come up with some new ones to boot.

Again the mayor and council

are giving every indication of not taking this lying down. They're going to be asking why the rules or guidelines for water supply need to be changed in mid-stream and why never before heard of restrictions are being posed now.

We have every reason to believe their tenacity on this issue will pay off again.

It's not hard though to imagine that once Halton Hills and the region come up with some way to satisfy the province on the water supply question, they'll find some other way to delay or stifle growth here.

Why give us 3,000 more voices in this neck of the woods

to holler about things like hydro lines, aggregate, regional government, being left off the map, etc.

Life would be far more peaceful for everyone concerned at Queen's Park if Acton simply dies off over the years. After all, we'd be easier to ignore if we shrivel up to hamlet size or simply have our time be completely occupied trying to be heard in a Halton Hills completely dominated by a Georgetown with a population of 30,000 or 40,000 people.

-G.M.

Letters to the editor are welcome as expressions of public opinion. Please keep them brief and to the point.

Back issues

10 years ago

January 3, 1973.
Three sisters will appear on television this next week in three different episodes of the game show "Eye Bet" on Channel 9. June Jansen, of Rockwood, who won top prize a trip to Florida, will be seen Wednesday at noon. Pat Kentner, of Acton, appears on Thursday and Lorrie Ryan, of Limehouse, on Friday. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Given, RR 2.
Mrs. Anne MacArthur, the outspoken Reeve of Nassagaweya Township, will be Halton's new Warden.
Lucille Cookley, RR 2 Rockwood, was the lucky winner of \$500 in the Acton Minor Baseball Association's monthly draw for December.

20 years ago

January 3, 1963.
Under provisions of a new contract signed by Acton council with the Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner, Acton now has five police officers instead of four. Beginning Tuesday, Bruce McArthur will be on staff.
Saturday evening at the Chamber of Commerce Twelfth Night Christmas tree burning, everyone in Acton can watch the 1962 Christmas trees end up in their final blaze of glory.
Dean of the Free Press correspondent is Richard Harris, of Rockwood. He has faithfully reported the news from this area for 38 years and starts on his 39th year with 1963.
Acton Hydro Commission completed the year's business Thursday evening, December 27, during a flurry of verbal bouquets tossed at Mayor John Goy, sitting for his final meeting.

50 years ago

December 29, 1932.
On Thursday evening John Mellon, Jr., had a rather serious accident. When passing a truck loaded with Christmas trees on the highway, just west of Acton, one of the trees protruding over the edge of the truck, struck the windshield. John received a badly cut hand and lacerations to his face.
Specials this week at Carroll's Ltd. are: 40 oz jar of jam 27c, Rowntree's Cocoa 1/2 lb tin for 18c, H.P. Sauce 11c, 23c, biscuits 2 lbs. for 25c and 2 tins of peas for 17c.
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Thompson and Uerlen spent Christmas with friends at Havelock.
Mrs. J.L. Warren and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Warren spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. John Wood of Acton.

75 years ago

January 2, 1908.
At the last meeting of the County Council Jas. G. Warden, of Freeman, ex-Warden, was appointed Superintendent of County Roads, at a salary of \$600 out of which he will have to pay his own expenses.
Municipal elections are on Monday of next week, so don't forget to go out and vote.
At a meeting of the Board of Education on Saturday evening new teachers were selected from numerous applications for two vacancies on the staff of Acton School.
Mr. T. James Moore, Principal of St. George's School, has been appointed Assistant City Clerk, by the Guelph Council.
On Sunday morning Rev. H.C. Priest tendered his resignation as pastor of the Baptist Church, to accept a call to Stratford.

100 years ago

January 11, 1883.
The Canadian Jubilee Singers will give a sacred concert in the Methodist Church this evening.
The annual meeting of the Halton Agricultural Society will be held next Wednesday, for the election of officers for the ensuing year.
Mr. Richard Hamilton desires us to state that he did not consider himself a candidate at the recent municipal elections.
Messrs. Allen and Jenner, glove manufacturers, have made an assignment to their creditors. A meeting was held yesterday afternoon to look into this matter.
Mr. John Cameron has purchased the brick building at the corner of Mill and Wilbur Streets and intends converting it into a carpenter shop.
The village taxes are all collected and the collector has returned his roll.
A Conservative Convention will be held in Milton today, for the purpose of selecting a candidate.
Miss Janet Bastedo, of Milton, has charge of the second department of Acton Public School.

From the editor's desk

Make Isles play Soviets

by Gord Murray
Free Press Editor
The highlight of my hockey season is on now, the NHL-Soviet series.
For a long time, pretty much since the summit series of '72, about the only time I get worked up about professional hockey has been when Canada or the now multi-national NHL takes on the Russians or other Europeans. It's been the springtime world championships with our also-rans representatives for Canada, not the Stanley Cup playoffs, which have captured my attention.
Ever since '72 I haven't been able to take an L.A. Kings-St. Louis Blues, or heaven forbid a Leafs vs. anyone, contest seriously. I don't watch NHL hockey much during the regular season and it's got to be a pretty good playoff game to keep me from changing the station in the post-season too.
I just can't seem to take anything but Canada against the other hockey nations seriously.
Anyway I've had a theory for a while now that this latest us against the Russians encounter has only partially blown out of the water.

At this writing four of the six games have been played with the NHL winning two and the Soviets two. Of course our two victories have been tarnished by the fact the Russians didn't use their number one goalie, Tretiak. The mindless antics of the Nordiques in their game with the visitors did nothing to enhance our prestige either.
Anyway, since the last Canada Cup and the Challenge Cup I've been convinced that all-star teams simply aren't the way for us to go if we ever hope to climb back on top in our own game.
All-star teams thrown together for a few weeks and then sent off to do battle with the mighty Soviets have never been all that successful. It just barely worked back in '72, seemingly only worked in the '76 Canada Cup because we were on our home turf. Bobby Orr had a few great games left in his knees and the Russians were in the midst of rebuilding.

The Challenge Cup, played on our side of the Atlantic with our players in mid-season form, was a colossal failure. Even without the superb Tretiak in the net for the final game the NHL was humiliated.
Come the last Canada Cup, again when we had a lot going for us, we were thoroughly dominated by the Russians when the chips were on the table.
I've long subscribed to the theory that

the way for us to tackle them is to send a real team, not a bunch of stars thrown together for a few weeks, at the best in the world. And make no mistake, they've proven time and again the past few years that they are the best.

Well, the four games so far haven't proved myself, or the many more astute shabby observers who think the team approach to beating the Soviets is the way to go, wrong.
There has been some outstanding hockey played, the final period of Sunday's game in Calgary was as nail-biting exciting as I've seen in a few years. And we haven't been too embarrassed in any games yet either.

I've been waiting for the NHL, not with baited breath mind you, to give the Challenge Cup another whirl.
I want the morons who run pro hockey on this continent to quit worrying about making money (though to be sure another Challenge Cup would have the till ringing) and their ludicrous regular season plod to the playoffs, for a week during the winter so all fans can be thrilled by some superb, meaningful hockey.

But I don't want to see us put the best of the Campbell and Wales all-stars together for an encounter with the Soviets.

I want them to skip the all-star game, who really cares if the Wales can beat the Campbells? Instead they should set aside a few days for either the team leading the composite standings at mid-season or the Stanley Cup champions to play the reigning world champions, right now the Russians, on an annual basis.

If we did this and still lost, a very distinct possibility considering just how good the Russians are, then I'd be willing to concede once and for all that we have slipped to second spot.

The way we have gone about trying to prove Canada is still the master of hockey has produced some excellent hockey and memorable moments, but has made about as much sense as a fighter entering the ring with one arm tied behind his back.

If you've enjoyed the four games so far, just imagine the Islanders as Cup champions or the Hawks as mid-season leaders tackling the Russians in a three or five game set.

The Russians are beating us now because they have adopted the best aspects of our game, they have truly learned from a decade of playing games against North American teams



and all-star aggregations, and because they are so familiar with each other, play as such a unit, that everything is instinct, they don't have to stop and think about what to do next.
I'm not convinced the Islanders would win. In typical NHL fashion in international hockey matters the NHL allowed or maybe even encouraged the Islanders to avoid the Russians on this tour, so there's no test this winter.
After all, why do something as honest and sensible as putting our game on the line again and risk losing or worse yet another humiliation when we would have truly run out of excuses for losing.
A one game, winner takes all, contest is too chancey. Make it a three or five game series.
Then follow international rules and let each team dress 22 players.
Now strip the Islanders of their players who aren't Canadians, two I can think of Perrson and Kallur, and let Isles replace them and fill out the roster to 22 players with coach Arbour's selections from the rest of the league. He'd likely grab Gretzky and say a couple of top defencemen like Bourque and Wilson and a couple of two way for-

wards such as Lanny McDonald and Bob Gainey.
The Islanders in mid-season strengthened by a few of our genuine stars, would be a pretty formidable opponent for the Soviets.
Maybe they wouldn't win, but they would give us some great hockey and probably not make us hang our heads in shame over the outcome or our tactics on the ice.
If we still lost then we'd be out of excuses for good this time and maybe we'd finally smarten up on this side of the Atlantic and start approaching hockey logically.
Maybe the fans would finally stop being suckered into paying top dollar to see second or worse, class hockey and quit wasting time watching inferior hockey on the tube.
My real dream for the sport is to see the NHL become nothing more than a minor league for an international league.
I want to see the hockey industry, and if necessary government, get together and develop a national professional team which comprises our best players playing together all year long, and

more importantly practising and training all year long together and either playing the other hockey nations' best in a league or playing in tournaments all the time.
Then, and only then, do I believe we will truly begin to learn from playing the Russians, etc.
About the only improvement on our side I've seen in the past 10 years has been we've rediscovered the importance of skating.
Our players still can't seem to give and take a pass with any acceptable level of consistency, we still handle the puck like it's a hot potato we should be getting rid of, and our shooting accuracy still isn't anything to write home about.
We still seemingly play with a lot of intensity and emotion, but then we still far too often resort to cheap shots when we get down too.
The path back to hockey purity is by taking the entire Canadian hockey system back to mastering the basics—skating, shooting, passing.
The pros must lead us back to hockey the way Canadians invented the game to be played.

Coles' slaw

A young friend, the matrimonial knot tied a scant three years or so, took me aside one day and announced he was going to teach his wife to drive the family car.
I blanched visibly.
"Wazza matter?" he asked "Didn't you teach your wife to steer that jalopy you drive?"
I whitened more, the memories flooding back like it was only yesterday.
"Don't bring it up," I said sadly. "I vividly remember the year B.D. (before drive) 1965. It was the year our marriage almost landed in a wrecking yard."
"If you're asking my advice about whether you should teach your wife to drive, I can only utter one word—don't. Unless you're a man in a million it won't work. You might even end up not

Road manners improve with education

talking to each other."
He looked annoyed that I should have such a low opinion of his teaching ability. But he listened.
It started out, I said, like a lark. Wife behind the wheel, beginner's licence in her purse, and a pleased smirk because she had answered 19 of the 20 questions on the form perfectly. (I had only got by on my test a few years before by the proverbial skin of my teeth. And she knew!)
She backed out of the driveway perfectly, aligned the car with the ditch and rammed the gas pedal to the floor. If you're familiar with passing gears you'll have some idea of how we took off. Like a jet.
Gravel flew, tires spun and we started down the road as if there was a squadron of dragons chasing us with long stickpins and we were the pin cushions.

I hung on for dear life, clutching my seat belt, and saying in the same breath, "Slow down a little, willya?" It was an automatic response.
Five miles further down the road she pulled up and in a terse voice answered, "If you're going to talk to me like that you can drive this thing yourself."
She got out of the car and it looked like she was going to march back into town—on foot.
I managed to close my mouth, utter a quick apology for my atrocious manners. It took some urging but she got back in behind the wheel and it wasn't long until we were once more merrily on our way. I had virtually ceased trembling when she drove into the driveway at home. She was as pleased as Punch. I was as shaken as Judy.
That was the start of our adventure on the roads. After several months, three licenses, 42 fights, 110 arguments

and opious tears there was mutual agreement a driving school might have the answer. She graduated magna cum laude and I realized instantly she was a better driver than me. But it took months of turmoil before the merits of driving school occurred to me.
"Profit by my mistakes." I told my young friend. He went away muttering while I recalled the chauvinistic advice which came to this desk unsolicited one day from the Hamilton Automobile Club.
"Your wife is an extremely sensitive and sophisticated mechanism. Theoretically she should last you a lifetime. To get the most mileage, you must be aware of the things that can go wrong, whether she's a 1969 model or as old as a model-T, foreign or domestic, new or used.
"Some wives suffer slow starts in the morning. A battery recharge in the form of a good night's sleep could put her in better condition.

"Is she irritable and peevish? That sounds like crank-case trouble. She is probably bored with household chores. Take her out for a surprise weekend at a hotel or resort. She'll be easier to handle after that.
"If she develops a noisy muffler and you cannot get a word in edgewise, your friendly mechanic will probably suggest a gift of flowers. Her overall improved performance will be noticed almost immediately.
"To keep her purring smoothly, tell her how nice she looks BEFORE she goes to the beauty parlor.
"Most men are satisfied with their wives. However, some may think they got lemons. When this occurs, remember, it's far better to give your wife a tune-up than to start searching for a new one."