

# Remembering 1982



Lisa Petty won the Miss Acton Fall Fair title with Denise Dilbey and Heather Noble taking the runner-up honors. The fair was tremendous, most people felt it was the best ever.



Father Ralph Diodati, Trustee Irene McCauley and Principal Fred Springer turned the sod for the new St. Joseph's School in April and the school opened on schedule in September.



For town hall supporters it was a year of constant battles with council to keep the building standing. They wanted to buy it for \$1 last winter but had to wait to acquire the building last month. The threat of demolition hung over the town hall most of the year and the restoration boosters had to fight the municipality at a Heritage Conservation Review Board hearing in early December.

## August

Eric Howard Kellar was bound over for trial for first degree murder in connection with the brutal stabbing death of Colleen Oates in October 1981 following the conclusion of his often remanded preliminary hearing.

Acton was shocked by the deaths of two highly respected long-time citizens, 102-year-old M.Z. Bennett and 89-year-old Fred Wright.

Long-time Acton Hydro worker Doug Mason was honored by co-workers and his many friends at a retirement dinner in August.

Halton Separate School Board's decision not to erect a fence between the back of the new St. Joseph's School property and Fairy Lake upset Trustee Irene McCauley and many parents. The board, after hearing a plea from McCauley, reversed its decision.

Guelph OPP swooped down and arrested a 17-year-old Eden Mills youth after finding 51 marijuana plants at his home as well as some of the plants being dried in a shed.

A new organization, the North Halton Tourism Association, was born in August with several Acton and Rockwood area businesses as charter members.

A Brampton firm submitted a plan to Halton Hills to build 291 homes on the east side of Acton.

An Ontario Police Commission report stated the Halton Regional Police have made tremendous improvements in recent years.

A microflight was forced to make an emergency landing in a field behind Churchill Rd. North.

## September

The highlight of the year was once again the fabulous Acton fall fair. In September, people considered the 69th edition the best ever.

A coroner's inquest jury made numerous recommendations, including improvement of Fairy Lake beach safety and life guard's procedures, after reviewing the double drowning of two little boys in July for two long evenings.

A police chase on Highway 7 ended when Guelph OPP forced the driver off the road just outside Acton.

RR1 Acton residents went to Milton council complaining of noise from a trap shooting club in north Nassagaweya.

Police found a body in September near Bruce-dale. The victim had been missing for several weeks and a Guelph man was charged with first degree murder in connection with the crime.

A bomb threat forced the evacuation of the Bank of Nova Scotia late one afternoon.

Rural residents were saddened by the death of their freshman school board trustee Betty Walker.

Former St. Alban's minister Rev. Len Ewing died suddenly at his Milton home in September.

The annual Terry Fox Run in Acton raised about \$11,000 as around 220 people circled the track at Acton High School up to 25 times.

Eleanor Goy was pretty surprised when her Wintario ticket was pulled for the \$100,000 prize one week in September.

Halton Region began looking for ways to come up with extra funding for the Acton Social Ser-

VICES and Information Centre after learning the centre would have to close for a time early next year if it doesn't come up with \$5,000. The shortfall was caused by increased rent, operating costs and renovations expenses when the centre moved from the Y building to the old Gals Pal building in May.

Because witnesses are scattered all over the place and couldn't be gathered in time, the first degree murder trial of Eric Howard Kellar in connection with the stabbing death of Colleen Oates in October 1981 was delayed from September to sometime in February or March of 1983.

The new St. Joseph's School opened on schedule in September.

## October

Rural residents in Halton Hills and Nassagaweya were hopping mad when they learned the province, through the region's planning department, was planning to freeze huge tracts of land from any kind of development in case the property might be used in the future for gravel or stone mining. The threat of more pits and quarries worried councillors as much as the possible loss of property rights for some citizens.

Residents displayed their anger at two public meetings and the region decided to tell the province it would do nothing on the aggregate issue

until Queen's Park announces its aggregate plan for Niagara Escarpment lands. The councillors also asked for a meeting with Minister of Natural Resources, Alan Pope, to discuss the issue.

With the close of nominations citizens were faced with a field of 38 candidates seeking 17 Halton Hills posts in the November municipal election. Only one incumbent Acton representative, Terry Grubbe, didn't seek re-election.

Council considered offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for considerable vandalism at Fairview Cemetery. Over 50 tombstones were damaged and toppled.

The visiting Cor-Y-Sern male choir from Wales thrilled the audience at Knox Presbyterian Church.

CN finally fixed up the Mill St. rail crossing in October after months of delays.

Halton Board of Education started doing the groundwork to declare the Stone School property surplus and sell the historic building.

The region staff came up with a financial rescue plan which will keep the Acton Social Services and Information Centre open, but it can't be approved until the next council takes office.

Halton Hills council decided to change Halloween from October 31 to October 30 so the festivities would take place on Saturday night instead of Saturday.

Council also voted to give the new North Halton Tourism Association a grant of \$1,750.

## November

The electoral boundaries commission recommended in November that Halton Hills be combined with Caledon and part of Brampton in a new federal riding. Milton and Nassagaweya would become part of the new riding of Halton-Wentworth.

Halton Hills kept up its criticism of the province's aggregate policies, sending critical reports to the region and province.

In a surprise move at the first meeting after the election and last meeting of the old council, Halton Hills council decided to put down a \$10,000 deposit on a piece of property in Georgetown as a possible site for a future municipal complex.

Optimists Youths of the Year were Carolyn Gibson and Scott Nowlan.

With the preliminaries out of the way, Halton Board of Education voted to sell the Stone School.

Peter Pomeroy returned to the mayor's chair in the municipal election, but rookie Glen



Firefighters earned recognition for their life-saving training when they helped little Andrew Coe. That's firefighter Brent Marshall with the baby.

McKenzie of Acton drew 2,645 votes and won two Acton polls. Incumbents Dave Whiting, Ross Knechtel, Marilyn Serjantson, Pam Sheldon and Harry Levy were re-elected to council along with Russ Miller, John McDonald and Mike Armstrong who were returned by acclamation. They were joined on council by newcomers Rick Bonnette, Finn Paulstrup, and Phil Carney and comeback candidate Tom Hill. In the only election upset Doug Mason ousted Will McEachern from Hydro commission. School board members Arlene Bruce, Betty Fisher, Irene McCauley and Mark Bradley also won seats.

Halton Hills electors voted three to one in favor of nuclear disarmament.

A 17-year-old was arrested and later convicted in connection with October's vandalism at Fairview Cemetery.

A sod turning ceremony was held marking the start of construction of the new Salvation Army Citadel.

## December

The Heritage Conservation Review Board hearing officer recommended Halton Hills not lift the historic designation of the town hall and it was revealed in testimony that the federal government has come up with a \$133,720 job creation grant to help with restoration of the historic building.

Halton Hills decided to sell the building to the restoration groups for \$1, but balked at donating the \$40,000 set aside for demolition of the town hall several years ago to the cause.

Brad Fendley of Georgetown was sentenced to two-years-less-a-day for his part in the shooting death of a man in an Erin Township farmhouse, in March. The charge of first degree murder against Fendley was reduced and he pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact in helping David McClean, who allegedly pulled the trigger, to escape. McClean fatally wounded himself in the belly as police moved in to arrest him in an apartment in Georgetown about 18 hours after the murder.

A dentist in Acton for 50 years, Dr. Allan Buchanan died in Halton Manor at the age of 84. A mother and her two children died in a house fire near Osprey.

Over 600 people attended the official opening and blessing of St. Joseph's School.

A Progressive Conservative Youth official announced she was arranging for Minister of Natural Resources Alan Pope to come to Acton to talk to citizens concerned about the aggregate issue.

Two masked men, brandishing a gun, robbed a variety store in Rockwood.

In a pair of accidents, a mother ran over her son with the car while a father shot his 3-year-old daughter.

The family of one of the little boys who drowned in Fairy Lake last summer filed a law suit against the Town, life guards and the owner of the property adjacent to the beach.

It was revealed by the mayor that about \$20,000 was spent on soil tests, a land survey and a servicing study by Halton Hills for a piece of land in Georgetown which might be the home of a municipal complex in the future. Previously council had put down a \$10,000 deposit as an option to purchase the land. If the Town buys the land the price tag will be \$650,000.

The Bennett family of Ballinfad left large land holdings to the Heritage Foundation and Crown as well as \$300,000 for St. Alban's Church.

An Acton woman, Mary Jane Madgett, won \$100,000 in the Wintario lottery.

Lorne Doberthien's long crusade to make it easier for the disabled to park in designated parking came to a successful conclusion with the provincial announcement of special licence plates for the handicapped and a model bylaw for municipalities to use for disabled parking legislation.



In the spring a Knights of Columbus was born in Acton and in the fall the group received its charter.



The Hide House added an Artisans' Gallery, another tourist attraction at the successful retail complex.



Peter Pomeroy was returned as Halton Hills mayor, but challenger Glen McKenzie made a surprisingly strong showing.



Popular Doug Mason was honored upon his retirement in the summer and later in the year won a seat on Hydro Commission.

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