



Acton Agricultural Society elected a new executive Saturday at their annual general meeting. Front row, John Rowe, secretary, treasurer, and president Keith Aitken. Back row, Norm Shea, first vice president and Bill Lasby, second vice-president.

1982 Fair makes \$5,000

The Acton Fall Fair, 1982 edition, made over \$5,000 Acton Agricultural Society members learned at their annual meeting on Saturday at Knox Presbyterian Church. This was the third consecutive year the fair has increased its profits, increasing from \$456 in 1980 and \$2,711 in 1981. The healthy bank account was attributed to a 50 cent increase in the price of an adult ticket. The increase did not deter attendance, members learned, yet brought in an additional \$8,000.

Total admission revenues contributed to 33.71 per cent of the intake of the fair with \$32,786. In all, counting events, grants, fees, space rentals, midway receipts, etc., the fair took in \$97,245.

However, the cost of putting on the fair, with prize money, entertainment, services, advertising, labor, prize ribbons, judges, etc. was \$91,767.

Ken Murray said he felt it was a great fair but that members should consider raising the prize money. "You cannot win in 1983 with exactly the same things as in '82." He contended the fair was attracting the same exhibitors with the same number of cattle. "We should be getting more."

Members of the various committees gave reports on their sections last year, and the upcoming fair.

Maggie Hall told the members this year was the 20th anniversary of the Miss Acton Fall Fair competition and she is trying to get as many winners as possible to attend this year's crowning. She made an appeal to anyone who knows any winners' married names and addresses to let her know.

In the president's address, Keith Aitken said three things made the fair a success. The active membership helps. He explained that more board members are getting out to the conventions and the social aspects of the society.

The support of the community was another factor in the success of the fair. The incorporation of the Leathertown logo on the prize ribbons helped increase their popularity, he said. "If we expect the community to support us, we have to support them," Aitken contended.

Events at the fair that involve the people are very successful, the president said. He noted the baby show, the Miss Acton contest, Battle of the Acton Stars, etc. are always popular.

He credited recreation co-ordinator Mary Coffin with making sure there were no conflicts with the sports scheduling in the park on fair weekend.

Aitken says the financial responsibility of the society members is the third key to the fair's success. He pointed out the Kitchener

fair lost \$200,000 last year, and while good weather helps, it is not just the weather that makes or breaks a fair.

New events totalled an additional \$7,473 in revenues, including the gate increase, garage sale, a fun night, and a bar.

At the meeting, the society members also voted to increase contributions to Knox Presbyterian Church, which they use for meetings and on fair night, the Canadian Cancer Society and the St. John Ambulance.

Aitken returns as Fair president

Keith Aitken was elected to a second term as president of the Acton Agricultural Society at its annual meeting Saturday at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Norm Shea was returned as first vice-president, and Bill Lasby was elected second vice-president, replacing Maggie Hall, who announced her retirement from the executive.

These three will also sit on the board of directors, as will Mrs. Hall, Ted Brown Jr., Roland Height, Bob Johnston, Hans Kuechler, Cathy Lasby, George Stull, Roy Topelko, Glen Williamson, Susan Kuechler, Margaret Lister, Don Bultenham, John Bouclair, John Thompson and John Rol.

Past presidents Brian Evans, Brent Marshall and Russ Marshall sat on the nominating committee.

M. Hall quits post 2nd vice-president

Maggie Hall retired from her post as second vice-president of the Acton Agricultural Society Saturday.

In a letter to president Keith Aitken, Mrs. Hall cited personal reasons for her decision not to seek re-election to the executive. She would however, accept a position on the board of directors, should she be elected. She was later re-elected to the board.

Just prior to the announcement of her retirement, fair veteran Bert Davidson said Mrs. Hall was the first woman on the executive in over 50 years since he was affiliated with the board. "I appreciate it very much," he said.

Mrs. Hall said she would be back in a few years, if the members gave her the chance.

BIA seeks shoe retailer

The Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) has been working with the federal government trying to attract a shoe retailer and other commercial businesses to Acton.

BIA chairman Ed Wood revealed at last Wednesday's annual general meeting that the board of management has been working with the Counselling Assistance to Small Enterprise branch of the Federal Business Development Bank about the "feasibility" of a shoe retailer coming to town. They are looking at a sole proprietorship or group of investors for the business. They are talking about co-operative ventures for other shops too. The BIA wants to help people who want to go into business here.

The BIA is also busy planning the Mill St. improvements with Town engineers and this work should take place in 1984, Wood said. Plans call for parking to be prohibited on the south side of Mill with the sidewalk widened on the north side.

Wood said the BIA hopes to persuade shop owners and landlords to give their store front facelifts. Possibly a designer or artist will be hired, Wood said, adding "it doesn't make much sense to spend a lot on sidewalks and planters if the store facades stay the same."

The BIA has received a lot of co-operation from Halton Hills, and while the Town and other levels of government may not move as fast as the BIA would like, a lot of reports and plans have been done. There are dollars now in place for downtown improvements and the engineering is proceeding.

The board of management, which is looking for some new members, had previously decided the BIA couldn't continue maintaining the parking lot on the site of the Dominion Hotel. However, after hearing comments from IGA owner Dave Manes, the board will review its decision. Last year the BIA spent nearly \$4,800

maintaining that lot and felt the money should be spent developing the new Church St. lot.

Manes said the lot beside IGA benefits not just his business but a number of other firms in the Main and Mill area. He said the Church St. lot, which he believes will help downtown, won't be much use to businesses in the Main-Mill vicinity.

The IGA owner suggested if the BIA wasn't going to benefit merchants in his end of downtown, then he and others would have to consider petitioning to disband the BIA. Wood and another board member Larry Greaves, noted the BIA has a commitment to repay the province \$150,000 a year over 10 years and they wanted to spend money on projects which would benefit most downtown.

Manes said he couldn't afford to pay into the BIA and then acquire and maintain the lot beside his store. That site is slated to be a plaza, but the economy has stalled the plans so far.

Wood predicted even if enough merchants supported disbanding the BIA, the municipality would still have to collect the funds to repay the province. The BIA "is the only way to go" in promoting and developing downtown.

With more commitments looming, the board should consider enlarging its budget, Manes suggested. Just because a few businesses have closed was no reason to "pull in our horns" and not continue investing in downtown Acton's future.

While the BIA previously indicated it would donate \$5,000 to streetscaping for the town hall, only \$4,800 has been set aside in the budget for that project. Greaves said they felt a good job could be done for \$4,000 and they want the streetscaping to be the same theme and quality as the rest of downtown.

Fair board establishes investment committee

A special investment committee will be set up by the Acton Agricultural Society for the eventual purchase of physical property or the erection of a building.

A committee consisting of Brent Marshall, George Wallace and Roy Topelko was struck last year to look into the investment of funds. Saturday, at the Society's annual meeting Wallace reported on the committee's advice on the fund, and the fact there is already \$1,500 to invest.

Ken Murray said there is about as much chance of the Acton fair having its own property as there is of the fair replacing the Royal Winter Fair. He continued that while they invested the \$1,500 to purchase

property in the future, that land was going up more than \$1,500 a year. He felt the Society needed a better goal, something that will get the building fund up to \$10,000, enough to do something with.

Murray predicted the fair would have only five to 10 years left at its present location at Prospect Park.

Topelko admitted the purchase of land at the present time was out of the reach of the society, but the goal of the fund was to shelter surplus funds.

Marshall pointed out the fund was for long term goals, 20 to 30 years down the road.

"Before you can put money in the bank," Topelko said, "you have to have a bank account."

Society president Keith Aitken noted the fund would be available for any suggestions, from any committee in the Society.

Baha'i speaker at library Mon.

Dr. David Phillips DC is scheduled to give the first of two lectures on the Baha'i Faith, to be held at the Acton Library, February 7 at 8 p.m. The introductory course will cover a brief history of the Baha'i Faith, its basic teachings, and how these teachings are affecting our lives individually and collectively. Its effect on the future of mankind will also be explored.

Dr. Phillips, the son of an Anglican minister, has been a Baha'i for five years. He has taught at the Canadian Chiropractic College, has a successful practice in Milton, and is involved with St. John Ambulance there. He brings with him a rich background of knowledge of both Christian and Muslim history and teachings.

The Baha'is of Halton Hills are pleased to present this introduction to the Baha'i Faith, and extend a warm welcome to the people of Acton.

Churchill

Search is on for minister

by J. Turner

Churchill Community Church held their annual meeting January 20, in the vestery of the church, Rev. Jenkins presiding. After the minutes and various financial reports had been read and approved, the session gave its report. Clerk of Session, Smith Griffin summed up the highlights of the five Session meetings that had been held during the year, and also reported on a few of the most likely candidates for the post of minister here. Rev. Jenkins is leaving, and his shoes are not going to be easy to fill. One of the applicants will be preaching at Churchill on Sunday.

The election of officers saw some new faces added to the list. Joan Waidie became a member of Session, and Al Crawford, Hank Walmsa, Tony Stokov, and Charlie Thompson were added to the Board of Managers. Mary Walmsa joined the Music Committee, and also was appointed auditor, along with Margaret Donnell. Other officers remained the same.

Rev. Jenkins announced another series of Bible Studies in Lent, and it was decided to purchase a dozen copies of the New English Bible, so that all could use the same translation. Three young people had recently been confirmed, and a motion was passed to present each new communicant with a Bible.

Friends in the community were sorry to hear of the death last weekend of Mrs. Agnes McEnery, and extend sincere sympathy to Lloyd and Irma McEnery, and the rest of the family.

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