



Incoming Chamber of Commerce secretary Susan Poulsen (left) gets some tips from retiring secretary Janet Goy.



Halton Region Business Development Officer Matt Fischer (left) chats with outgoing Chamber of Commerce president Dave Whiting. Fischer was guest speaker at the annual general meeting of the chamber Monday night at the Legion.



New Chamber of Commerce board of directors was sworn in Monday evening at the annual meeting. Standing, left to right, Paul Nielsen, Len Tullman, Doug Fread (first vice-president), Cory Herrington, Bill Clark and Trevor Ross (treasurer).

Board backs Bruce, protest Playboy TV

Acton Trustee Arlene Bruce was successful in her bid to have the Halton Board of Education protest Playboy programs on Pay-TV.

In her first notice of motion item as a trustee, Bruce received unanimous support that the board submit a formal protest to the federal and provincial governments and First Choice Pay-TV.

Bruce contended that it is the goal of the board to develop in its children and young adults respect for each other, a wholesome conviction of self worth, and the moral sensitivity necessary for a complete and responsible life. "She feels the

introduction of pornographic programs on television "has the potential to wipe out everything we are trying to do in our schools."

"The individual in the community should make a free choice in this matter, but an informed choice," Bruce told the board, "knowing that this may well undermine the school's effort and be in direct conflict with what we are attempting to do. This will be one more negative influence in our community which is making it extremely difficult to help our students grow up with a healthy value system."

Legion happenings

The Ladies' Auxiliary Zone Euchre Tournament Saturday was a huge success with members from all Branches turning out for an afternoon of cards. Many visitors stayed for the Saturday night entertainment in the lounge.

This coming Saturday, February 5, we will be holding the appreciation night for Comrade Dave Capperault, the Dominion President. There are still a few tickets available at the bar so if you are interested you better pick them up right away.

Live music will be available for dancing in the games room on Saturday instead of in the lounge as it is expected some of the visitors will want to finish

off the evening by dancing the light fantastic. Zack and Bing will be the entertainers.

The new chairs for the lounge arrived on Tuesday and this completes the revamping of the Lounge. Thanks to the members that volunteered to clean up the games room, the lounge and the auditorium. The Branch is now reasonably clean.

January went out like a lamb we would say if it was March, but Patrick has it on good authority that there will be lots of snow and ice for our annual Snowfest on February 13. Tickets are on sale at the bar so dust off your old snow suit, sharpen up those old skates and get ready for our annual Winter Carnival.

Shepard assures crowd fowl will be cared for

Esther Taylor isn't the only Actonian who wants to make sure the Fairy Lake fowl have a secure future in town.

She was just one of several citizens who attended Thursday's Acton councillors' drop-in to voice support for the birds. Recreation director Tom Shepard was the guest speaker at the drop-in at the library.

Shepard said no definite plans have been made for the care of the swans, but options are being examined and to quote Mayor Peter Pomeroy "we hope the results will be satisfactory."

Miss Taylor informed Shepard she was the "old woman" who feeds the fowl and she understood the recreation director had threatened to have

her charged with trespassing if she was caught feeding the birds. In her typically feisty manner, Esther warned Shepard she could "play rough" and she'd retaliate by pushing him in the lake. If it wasn't for herself and others in the community the birds would die waiting for the Town to feed and care for them.

The swans will be here for a long time, Shepard promised.

One citizen pointed out children love the fowl, and they are as much a part of Acton recreation as hockey and other sports, Miss Taylor said.

Shepard "assured" the audience the birds will be cared for by the Town.

Makes donation

Eramosa township council has made a \$50 donation to the Guelph Kiwanis Music Festival, as a scholarship.

Theft of hides

Hall pleads guilty

Dave Hall, Mill St. East, has been convicted of theft over \$200 in connection with the theft of leather bends from Beardmore tannery.

Monday, in County criminal court, Hall plead guilty to one count of theft, while Crown Attorney Anthony Vale dropped a second charge of theft and a charge of conspiracy to commit theft. He will be sentenced February 25.

Co-accused Nick Marinos, of Toronto, charged with possession of stolen property over \$200, also plead guilty. He was fined \$1,000 and put on one year's probation.

Halton Regional Police Detective Douglas McMillan told Judge J. Sprague that between September 1, 1981, and December 22, 1981, a quantity of leather bends (hides) had been removed from Beardmore, estimated at about \$9,000 in value which have not been recovered.

Hall worked for Tyler Transport, which was the primary shipper of Beardmore.

McMillan said Hall had suggested that bends could be sent to Nick's Shoe Repair, in Toronto. He was also involved in the collection of the money from Marinos and the distribution of the money to the accomplices. Hall had been approached, McMillan testified, because of his knowledge of the Toronto area. There were two separate illegal leather deliveries to the shoe repair shop, which was owned at the time by Marinos.

The two men had had prior dealings with each other in the late 1970s, when Hall made previous deliveries "of a legitimate nature".

McMillan noted that three other accused in the case had pleaded guilty. Al Doley, of Bracebridge, formerly of Acton, was given six months in jail, Mark Gourlay received a suspended sentence and 12 months probation. Both were employed at Beardmore, and John Jordan, of Tyers, was given one day in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

In a statement made by Hall to the police, McMillan read that Al Doley approached him and asked if he (Hall) knew where he could get rid of some leather. Hall said in the statement that he assumed they were stolen, and gave Doley the name of Nick's Shoe Repair on Davenport Road. Hall had said that Marinos had approached

him previously and asked if Hall knew where he could get some extra leather.

In the fall of 1981, Doley asked Hall if he would go to Nick's and pick up some money. Doley told him the leather had been dropped off. Hall told the police he picked up the money, about \$500 and gave it to Doley, who in turn gave him \$100. McMillan reported Hall said he was only involved one time, and received no more money.

A pre-sentence report and a community service assessment have been requested by Judge Sprague, to be completed at the time of the sentencing on February 25.

Testifying against Marinos, McMillan said approximately \$3,000 worth of leather bends from Beardmore had been delivered to Nick's Shoe Repair. In a plea to the judge, R. Schnier, counsel for Marinos, said his client was a "passive actor" in this matter, who has undergone a great deal of anxiety since the charges were laid. He noted there was no worry of rehabilitation, and Marinos will never be before a court again. He pointed out his client received only a portion of what was stolen from Beardmore, and that he did not solicit the goods.

Vale contended it was not a minor offense, and had Marinos not been there, the thieves could not have had anyone to sell the stolen property to, thus the crimes might not have been committed.

Vale pressed for a substantial fine and a period of probation. He said that due to Marinos' medical record, he was not seeking a jail term. He noted that Al Doley received a jail term because he committed a breach of trust to his employer, Beardmore.

Judge Sprague noted the fact Marinos was feeling remorse and that he had never been in trouble with the law before, was being taken into account. The judge recognized the fact Marinos did not solicit the goods, and took into consideration the fact he pleaded guilty, saying the court three to four days of a trial.

Marinos' medical record, which was entered into court records, but not read out in court, "influenced the court considerably", Judge Sprague said.

Vale concluded that Marinos has learned from his mistake and will not appear before a judge or jury again.

Annual meeting

Whiting steps down as Chamber head

The Acton Chamber of Commerce does not have a president for 1983.

At the organization's annual general meeting Monday evening, Dave Whiting stepped down from his post as president, and while he has volunteered to chair the next meeting later this month if no one has come forward to fill the post he will not be serving another year.

Doug Fread will serve as the first vice president, and Susan Poulsen replaces retiring secretary Janet Goy. Trevor Ross retains his post as treasurer, and Whiting becomes past president.

One year directors are Charlie Auger, Paul O'Brien, Jim Magee, Ev Cadenhead and Cory Herrington. Two year directors are Colin Ash, Bruce Cargill, Bill Clark, Paul Nielsen and Len Tullman.

Justice of the Peace Bob Hart swore in the board of directors.

Halton Region, as a whole, held its own against the current recession, regional business development officer Matt Fischer told the members, "but we have one trouble spot, Halton Hills."

Region-wide, guest speaker Fischer said, 70 companies ceased operations in 1982, and another 10 moved away. However, 84 new manufacturing companies, employing 700 people moved into Halton. Counting layoffs, plant closures, new companies and the additional jobs created, the net employment change was a mere minus 7/10 per cent.

In Halton Hills, however seven new companies came to town to employ 45 people, but the town lost 15 companies, 14 through plant closures and one that moved away. The net employment change was minus seven per cent, the worst in the region.

Fischer admitted however, that the actual picture is clouded by the fact that a significant proportion of the labor force commutes to other areas for employment. "We know that as much as 42 per cent of the working population is employed outside the region. This makes any precise evaluation very difficult to achieve."

Fischer's department is taking steps to alleviate this problem though. Interest in industrial development in Halton is at an all time high, and his office is receiving over 100 inquiries per month. He attributes this to more companies examining their accommodation costs and deciding to relocate out of the metropolitan Toronto area into less expensive regions such as Halton and Durham. Advertising and promotion is also

helping.

But, Fischer admitted, these companies are interested in location along the Queen Elizabeth Way and Highway 401. The 10 extra minutes to Acton and Georgetown, he noted, makes a substantial difference to these firms.

Optimistically however, Fischer told the Chamber members, he has decided to look inward for growth in Acton—expansion of existing businesses.

Halton region is following the federal and provincial governments' lead of focusing a lot of attention on export development and the creation of new business through joint venturing and licensing agreements with foreign companies.

"The Business Development Department has recently created a separate and distinct program of trade development to supplement our industrial locations programs. I believe that we are the first municipality in Canada to do so and our initiative has been warmly received in the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade and the federal department of Industry, Trade and Commerce."

Fischer's office currently has on file about 250 industrial buildings and sites listed with them by the realtors and developers in the region. This information is circulated monthly to over 200 realtors, effectively putting 200 additional business development officers at his service, "and improves our penetration in the marketplace."

Local industries are being shown the advantages of exporting their products.

Fischer said he and Whiting have discussed the idea of a local task force being organized to address the economic problems of the community. "I would like to encourage this form of involvement and to suggest that such a group be formed to guide my department in the identification of specific local projects to undertake in the coming year." He continued to note that the Chamber of Commerce "is the ideal umbrella for such a task force to work under." Fischer can foresee the task force taking an active role in the implication of new ideas, and identifying local companies which show great potential for growth.

"Acton is synonymous to me for its citizen involvement in such projects as the Leathertown Committee, Actario, and the birth of the North Halton Tourist Association. If we can generate half as much enthusiasm in this committee we can be assured of success," he concluded.

Dec. accidents down, credit Halton team

Halton drivers could be in for a tougher time next Christmas, if the police force enlarges the spotcheck team. A desire to expand the four man spotcheck team which operates over the Christmas season was hinted at Thursday during the Halton Police commissioner's meeting.

Enlarging the team to 12 officers from four and adding a second breathalyzer was mentioned by Halton Hills Mayor Pete Pomeroy, newly appointed commissioner.

Later, Pomeroy said the chief did not provide "a lot of detail", but that the force will implement the expansion with the existing officers.

Police Chief James Harding declined to elaborate on the details, saying only he is in

favor of expanding the team, but "it will depend on our resources available."

He said he is in support of having three teams of four in each district over Christmas. Currently, the four man spotcheck team rotates around the three areas. This year, spotchecks started on November 24 and ended on January 1. But individual districts can do them from time to time.

"It is an effective way to keep death off the road," he said later. "I know it is unpopular with some people, but unpopularity comes second to safety."

"During the month of December due to the weather and the team, there were 1,000 less motor vehicle accidents than last year," said Chief Harding.

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