

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Let's vote on it!

Just over 18 per cent of the eligible voters in Ward 2 went to the polls recently to elect a councillor. It suggests residents are satisfied the way municipal affairs are going but all six candidates for the seat said there was much concern in the rural areas over council's purchase of the Stevens property for a municipal complex.

There is a strong body of opinion in the Old Township of Esqueving opposing a new complex and supportive of improvements and additions at the present Trafalgar Road site. Council voted 9-3 to pay \$600,000 for the Stevens' estate on Maple Ave. in Georgetown as the site for a future complex which could tie in with expansion plans for Georgetown hospital and also Halton Hills Hydro.

The feeling in the rural areas seems to be the Stevens purchase and proposed complex is too rich for Halton Hills' blood. Most felt it would be cheaper and more representative of the Town to have the complex on Trafalgar Road where it is now.

The advantages of having most of the administration in one place are obvious but we also feel council fails to take into consideration the complex structure of the Town's two urban communities and large rural area, with the present proposal.

If the town does build a complex on the Stevens estate and a trunk sewer line is extended to service

it, developers both north and south of the Maple Avenue site will also benefit. We suspect some residents who are very supportive of the complex may also have self interest as well as municipal interests at heart, since it would open up land for development in which they have an interest.

There are many "ifs" and "buts" in the scheme.

"If" the Town can sell 52 lots off the property. "If" the Town can sell the present municipal buildings. "If" Halton Hills Hydro plans to be part of the complex.

Many are worried Halton Hills will be saddled with a white elephant if the economy takes a nose dive, or does not live up to the current expectations.

Rural residents who look out and see muddy quagmires on roads in wet weather indeed would question why the Town can go ahead with a complex when there are other pressing needs. Councillors might even consider a tax break for householders who are paying taxes which have more than doubled since regional government was introduced.

The mayor's and some councillors' enthusiasm for the project is understandable. However, in view of a past rejection we feel the public should not only be better informed on the subject, but allowed to vote on the issue at the next election.

Let's see how much support there is for the project in Halton Hills before going ahead.—H.C.



Citizens' group explains how it is protesting proposed complex

Dear Sir:

As reported in your newspaper last week, a group of concerned citizens from across Halton Hills met last Sunday in Acton to organize opposition to council's proposed new municipal complex on the Stevens' property in Georgetown.

At that time, any formal organization of the group was in its very rudimentary stage, and we were fortunate enough to appear as a hastily arranged delegation at council's October 31 meeting. This meeting, reported on at length in your newspaper, witnessed the formal passing by council of a by-law to finalize the purchase of the Stevens' property.

Following the meeting, members of the group were asked by the press about the group's intended direction and objectives now that the property acquisition had finally been approved by council. At that time, answers were not available. They are now! The group met again this Saturday, with representation from Esqueving, Acton and Georgetown. After considerable discussion, co-ordinators from each area were named. As well, a research committee has been created to extensively review both the entire property purchase procedure and the issue of a new municipal complex.

The main objective of the group, as stated in the petitions that are circulating throughout Halton Hills, is to convince Council to divest itself of the Stevens' property and to direct all monies recovered towards renovations and/or additions to the existing Trafalgar Road municipal building, if necessary.

As well, the group urges all those taxpayers opposed to the Stevens' property acquisition for municipal purposes to voice their concerns directly to those members of

council who supported this purchase. We urge all citizens who support our position to express their opposition to this issue in a letter or phone call to councillors who voted for the purchase.

This group believes that it represents a broad base of taxpayer concern in Halton Hills, and therefore will continue to strive to convince Council that a very strong opposition to Council's action exists.

Also, copies of the petition can be found currently at these locations: Acton: Jug City, on Main Street

North: Home Hardware on Mill Street; Ed's In and Out on Main Street South.

Esqueving: BP Gas Station in Ashgrove; Silvercreek Shell Gas Station; Lang's Feed Mill in Ballinafad; Preston's Store in Glen Williams.

Georgetown: Georgetown Variety on Main Street; Goodlet's Hardware in downtown Georgetown; Guelph Street Stationery. Other locations will be announced.

Sincerely,
Norm Elliott
Group Spokesman

'We shall not sleep'

Cenotaph services were held here last Sunday to commemorate Remembrance Day, which actually falls on November 11. And war memorials in some 2,000 towns, villages and cities will be the scene of similar services this week. With the traditional two minutes of silence we pay tribute to the more than 100,000 Canadians killed in war.

The two minutes of silence at the cenotaph recall not only those who died on active service but also the horrors of conflict and those who were left broken in body and spirit.

It has been 38 years since the last great bloody conflict when Canadians

fought the Nazis on the battlefields of Europe. Those years have been relatively peaceful except for the Korean conflict and the presence of Canadian troops as peacekeepers.

At this time when war clouds are gathering again the service at the war memorial is a grim reminder that peace also must be won and often at great price. We cannot sit back and ignore the causes of war without adding to our peril.

The poppies we wear are a symbol of remembrance but like the last lines of John McCrae's immortal poem In Flanders Fields, they plead that those lives have not been in vain.

Our readers write

Great fairs convention

Dear Sir:
Congratulations to the many citizens of Acton who assisted in hosting the District Five Fairs Convention on November 5.

The image of our town certainly has been enhanced in the minds of the 350 delegates. There were representatives from Agricultural fairs as far north as Orillia and Coldwater, at the convention.

Our guests appreciated the many souvenirs and gifts donated by the merchants and business organizations. This gesture, along with the very understanding assistance of one of our Regional Police of-

icers, certainly made our guests feel welcome to Acton.

I thank the high school staff and custodians for their co-operation, and very much appreciated assistance. The high school was an excellent facility for this convention, and we heard many compliments on having such an attractive school.

A special thank you goes to our Fair Board members who pitched in and worked so hard, to make this convention a credit to Acton.

Yours sincerely,
Keith Aitken
President
Acton Agricultural Society

Well known musical team now in Acton

For the interest of local music lovers two recent arrivals in Acton are busy composing, performing and teaching music for all ages and tastes.

Valerie Nichol and Robert Daigneault work together as a team as Ms. Nichol teaches and performs on the piano and Daigneault composes.

Ms. Nichol holds degrees in music from the Western Conservatory in London, Ontario. The Royal Conservatory in Toronto and Trinity College in London, England.

Daigneault, a renowned Canadian composer has over 100 tunes to his credit, including works performed by the Festival Singers, The Galliard Ensemble and the Oxford String Quartet. Daigneault was also highly acclaimed for his finale in "Painters and the Dance" recently performed at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts in Toronto.

Ms. Nichol and Daigneault moved to Acton six months ago and both of them hope to become well-known in the community.

In one of her most recent performances Ms. Nichol toured most of Canada with Paul Fournier, a well-known Canadian artist. The two artists put together what is termed a "multi media show". Ms. Nichol played compositions by Daigneault on the piano while Fournier displayed his art.

According to Daigneault, Fournier painted to the mood of the music.

"It was the first show of its kind," commented Ms. Nichol and Daigneault. "The music or the art could have stood alone on display but the two combined complemented each other."

The show, which began in Guelph and ended in Saskatoon, was well received and the places that couldn't afford a pianist requested a tape recording of the music.

As well as the art and music combination, the Nichol and Daigneault team have also worked on the sound track for a David Reader film.

Reader, a well-known Canadian film producer, put together a series of photographic slides. The slides were arranged by computer to make a type of animated film. When the production was completed, Ms. Nichol and Daigneault put together the music.

The film entitled "With an Image Landscape" won a gold medal for the best entertainment show in images.

Not only are Ms. Nichol and Daigneault talented musicians, they have also delved into painting and sculpting.

Ms. Nichol also performed at the E. C. Drury School auditorium recently playing compositions by Daigneault, Debussy, Beethoven and Gershwin.

"The Milton concert is an experiment," said Ms. Nichol, "to see what kind of demand there is for classical music. If there is a good response in smaller communities we hope to tour many smaller centres in Ontario."

Currently Ms. Nichol is teaching piano in Toronto and has seven students in Acton. She hopes to find enough students in the area to drop her classes in Toronto and start teaching full-time in Acton.



Two recent arrivals in Acton, Valerie Nichol and Robert Daigneault, are both well known Canadian musicians. The duo composes and performs both traditional and modern classical piano and they hope to find a demand for their music talents in Acton.

Back issues

10 years ago

November 7, 1973

Within the past two weeks Acton High School Outers Club has been introduced to a new challenge-based activity by Bob Woodburn of York University Physical Education Faculty. Peter Arbic, Paul Petric, Wally Rowley and Paul Tamblin attended the climb on Saturday, October 20 on the cliffs of Rattlesnake Point.

Although Ontario Hydro announced 1974 rates will be raised for most users of electricity in the province, Acton Hydro Commission spokesmen said the Commission would try to hold town rates as they are now.

Esqueving council wants to put the bite on the Minister of Transportation and Communication, the Honorable Gordon Carton, for additional road subsidies, but the Minister is not going to be caught so easily.

20 years ago

November 7, 1963

Professor Ralph Dent, M.A., Associate Professor of Psychology, Federated College, Guelph, predicted future students will have to re-educate themselves three times over their lifetimes and people would have to go on educating themselves continuously. The forecast was made at the annual high school commencement exercises.

A compulsory fire escape route for the proposed \$280,000 10 room, high school addition is expected to boost the cost of construction by an additional \$5,800.

Despite a heavy downpour Halloween night the UNICEF program raised \$138.

The Blood Bank was increased by 113 pints as a good turnout, despite the poor weather, exceeded expectations.

Frederick G. Gardiner, president of Acton Limestone Quarries, announced that Falconbridge Nickel Mines has acquired controlling interest in Acton Limestone Quarries. Gardiner will continue to act as the president of the company.

50 years ago

November 2, 1933

Acton's tenth annual Hallowe'en frolic was the biggest and best yet. Acton Citizens' Band and the Coon-town Band led a parade of between 300 and 400 people which was fully two blocks long. This weird outfit headed for the arena where 1,000 were in attendance. Acton Business Men's Association were the sponsors. The first frolic was organized by the band and held on Willow St. with the conclusion of the judging in the town hall due to snow. Among the costume winners: Warren Wood, Hartley Coles, Alva Locker, Joan Rumley, Lorne Masales, Beatrice Taylor, Herbie Cook, Frank Holmes, Albert Louett, Marie Brunelle, Doris Blow, Martin Hassard, Leno Marzo, Remo Braids, with best gents and ladies E. E. Barr, E. Coles, Miss Vida Ramshaw, Miss Irene Elliott.

The employees of Storey Glove had a Hallowe'en entertainment in the form of a masquerade party in the parish hall, with Mr. Peter Papillon in the chair.

75 years ago

November 5, 1908

\$160 in prize money is offered in the Esqueving plowing match on the farm of Richard N. Brown.

An accident in the area claimed the life of James Connoley. Connoley and two young companions were out hunting when Connoley climbed up an embankment and sat down. One of the younger companions went to join Connoley and while climbing the embankment he slipped and his gun discharged. The bullet hit Connoley in the head and killed him instantly.

The worst trick on Hallowe'en was the lifting of the waste gate and splash boards at Corporation dam. As a result Storey's factory was without steam for 24 hours.

100 years ago

Beardmore's new building, in the course of erection, is being entirely enclosed with iron. The sides are sheeted with heavy sheet iron and the roof is being constructed of corrugated iron. It is felt the new building, which will contain the boilers and bark leeches, will be almost entirely fireproof.

A broken culvert crossing Mill st. at Elgin was replaced with a new one.

The comet of 1812 has been distinctly seen in the east with the aid of a glass magnifying sixty times. The comet was described as a great nebulous haze.

Mr. P. E. Nelson was walking in his garden when he stopped to pick up a four leaf clover. Mr. Nelson felt he was in for a good run of luck.