

# Santa arrives!



The Acton Citizens' Band was on hand to entertain during the parade.



Eileen Dix made a pretty good clown.



The star of the show, Santa Claus, waves to hundreds of cheering children.



Many youngsters rode down Mill St. on one of the Lions Club floats.



Disney characters travelled on the Indusmin float. It took the first prize in the commercial category.



One of the four floats put in the parade by the Lions Club.



Volunteer firefighters brought out their antique Studebaker.



One of the Lions Club floats was a chuck wagon.



The Acton Swimming Stars float took first place in the "other" category.



Miss Acton Fall Fair Laura Jansen and her runners-up Melanie Cooper and Dawna Williams were a pleasant addition to the parade.



Even Raggedy Ann and her friend got into the spirit of things.

## Election or appointment for mayor's post? . . .

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council to initiate a freeze on any move toward a municipal complex since I haven't had access to the reports, and if elected mayor, would ask council's authority to set up a citizens' review committee to consider all the actions taken to date."

Ross Knechtel

Ross Knechtel has written a letter to his fellow councillors advising them he's available to serve as a full-time "interim" mayor if council decides to fill the vacancy by appointment. He also says if he's chosen for the post he won't be a candidate for any council position in the 1985 election.

He has urged council appoint a full-time mayor to finish this term and suggested regardless if council opts for an election or appointment the post should be filled without delay.

Knechtel noted the budget committee and council will be working on the 1984 budget in the next little while and "to attempt to construct a budget during an election campaign is unfair to the taxpayer and to the candidates." Budget items becoming elections issues would make things "awkward."

Speedy completion of the Georgetown Secondary Plan is of "vital importance to every taxpayer in Halton Hills, both financially and from a community point of view. An election for mayor at this stage will result in unnecessary and expensive delay. In my opinion the speedy completion of the final Georgetown Secondary Plan is more important to the finances and the future of Halton Hills than the choosing of a mayor for the balance of this term."

Turning to the Stevens' property purchase he said "If this is to be a campaign issue (I think it should be), then this should happen

when there is an election for the whole council. To do otherwise is an exercise in futility. To construct a new building or to extensively remodel the existing one is expensive. It is my opinion that we will not have the money to do either of these in 1984 or in 1985. In 1986 or 1987 we may be able to make a start. The appropriate time for this to be an election issue is when the 1986 council is elected. Rather than spend \$50,000 to elect one member of council, it makes more sense to me to spend a small part of this amount for an independent consultant to give us an unbiased opinion of the two proposals."

Rick Bonnette

Bonnette is solidly opposed to an appointment and feels an election is essential. He says he won't be a candidate for mayor or any other post which might become vacant.

He noted council held a by-election to fill one of Esquesing's area council seats so one is needed even more now. "It would be foolish to appoint for the top job on council."

Bonnette also observed there are two years left in council's current term, the same amount of time as used to constitute a complete term.

He warned citizens want and expect there will be an election and added while it will cost money to hold by-elections "there's a price for democracy and it must be paid."

If there's an election the people will have a choice among candidates who really want to be mayor. However, with an appointment there will be councillors who don't really want to be mayor but are willing to take it if there's no risks.

Jake Kuiken

Jake Kuiken is out of the country on vacation and couldn't be reached to comment on his preference.

Pam Sheldon

Pam Sheldon says she's weighing the merits of an election against an appointment. She said benefits of an appointment include saving money and being sure that whoever the next mayor will be is someone familiar with the issues. She added it would be hard for someone outside of council to step in and know what is going on. Sheldon noted there are capable people on council now who are interested in the post.

At the same time she believes the people have a right to speak democratically on who they want for mayor.

"I'm fence sitting for now," she declared. She ruled herself out as a candidate for mayor and said an appointment to region for her at this point is so hypothetical "it hadn't occurred to me." However, she added, any responsible councillor has to look at moving onward and upward if the opportunity presents itself.

John McDonald

McDonald is not running for mayor. He says he has a young family at home and wants to spend time with them. "I enjoy what I'm doing both at local and regional government and with that workload and my job I wouldn't take on a commitment like the mayor's office, unless I felt I could do a good job."

He admitted the election would cost approximately \$40,000 but said "I think the people would probably want to decide who the mayor will be so we should have an election."

Mike Armstrong

Armstrong says he is undecided about

seeking the mayor's chair. He hasn't ruled it out, but will wait to see who the competition is.

He admits he is still considering the appointment versus election issue. "I don't know if the taxpayers want to pay \$40,000 for it." He noted the recent by-election for one ward only cost \$10,000 and emphasized there was only an 18 per cent turn out of voters. "So I don't know if it was really worth it."

He recalled that by-election was in good weather and predicted a lower turn-out on a January polling day.

Marilyn Serjeantson

Serjeantson is not trying for mayor, "at least not right now." She favors an election, while admitting it would be easier and cheaper to appoint.

She noted the approximately \$40,000 cost means \$1.25 for each resident, which she felt was a small cost to preserve people's democratic rights. "I don't think we have the right to take that away."

Finn Poulstrup

Poulstrup will definitely not be in any race the mayoralty.

He contends there should be an election. "There are enough contentious issues that if an appointment was made we would be perceived to be duping the public."

He noted there are two years left in this term and pointed out that was the full term of office until last year. "We have little choice but to hold an election."

Dave Whiting

Prior to leaving town on vacation Dave Whiting said he wasn't a candidate for the mayor's post through an election or appointment. He said he hadn't made up his mind

about an election versus an appointment as yet.

Harry Levy

Levy said there is a possibility he could consider trying for mayor, but doubted he had the time to do the job, which he said is a full time commitment. He said he had been in council for 17 of the last 19 years on a part-time basis, "and I don't depend on it for my bread and butter." He noted as a mayor he would have to devote a great deal of time to it.

Levy wants the mayor appointed from within council, claiming the Town needs someone who is knowledgeable of the Town's operation as it is now. He specified the new Planning Act, the Croation issue, finance and a "Yes or No to the development of the Stevens property." He contended the election of someone outside of council would set them back a year. He noted an appointment for mayor, would probably necessitate a by-election somewhere down the line, but pointed out it is much simpler and cheaper to hold a by-election for an area council seat.

Phil Carney

Carney is not in the mayor's race. On the election versus appointment issue, he said he's leaning more to an appointment at the moment, after polling many of his constituents. "They're running 50-50." He suggested there are better ways to spend \$50,000 of the taxpayers money, especially when an election for mayor would probably be followed by another election.