Coun. Duby Dislikes

New Town

The last man to be mayor of Acton revealed to his constituants a deep and bitter dissatisfaction with the political structure that now governs his town.

Even his introductory words, expressed almost light heartedly struck a grim chord. Coun. Les Duby expressed his pleasure looking onto a crowd full of "friendly and familiar faces.'

"I enjoy it more than bracing myself to send lcy stares across the table at other people who can't see eye to eye with me" he said in reference to the Halton Hills municipal council meetings. Almost all the meetings of that council, in the first two months of existence have been marked by bitter and acrimonious

debate. Mr. Duby went so far as to express regrets that Halton Hills was created at all by a Bill 151, the provincial legislation that initiated regional government in Halton.

Originally, he explained a north Halton brief urged that Milton, Nassagaweya Township, Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing township be lumped into a single not 'North Halton' community, creating a regional government based on three municipalities, including Burlington and Oakville.

"If the province saw fit to make it four, when we asked for three, they should have made it five," he said, noting that Acton and Georgetown should have been separate communities.

"They would have given Acton space to grow, and Georgetown space to grow. What a fabulous situation that would be."

Mr. Duby spoke bitterly of the present arrangement that he said allowed "20,000 people to dictate to 5,000 people." The numerals represent the respective populations of Acton and Georgetown.

Although he qualified his criticism to say that his objections were not aimed at Georgetown, but at the "system", even his almost nostalgic observations of the former political structure contained an unintentioned slight against Georgetown, new Wards three and four of the new municipality.

"We had a good operation in Ward one, and a good operation in Ward two and an acceptably good operation in Ward three and four." he

Later in his speech Mr. Duby centred more forcefully onto Georgetown councillors and to their proposals for three Georgetown projects that could total in cost as much as \$2,400,000, according to a captial expenditures forecast for Halton Hills.

"At the very first meeting someone stands up and made one, two, three, four proposals for Ward four facilities," he said. He complained that the projects were left over by Georgetown council last year so that they could be financed through the broader Halton Hills tax base.

He noted that Acton library constructed 10 years ago will entail relatively little cost to the Halton Hills region. Only three years remain on the 10 year debenture that financed it, he said.

"The same three towns are being serviced," he went on, "But now there is a tremendous escalation in costs."

"A lady phoned me to say, 'that Georgetown sure did a good job grading my bridge,"

"What that lady doesn't understand is that that grader is costing her more money."

ASHGROVE

On Sunday, March 3, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nurse, Dr. and Mrs. John Peacock of Cherry Hill and Miss Irene Huffman of Milton drove to Picton to visit with Mrs. R. J. Graham who was celebrating her 91st birthday that day.

All his friends are glad that John McNabb is progressing nicely after a recent operation, and are hoping he will soon be home in better health.

Mrs. Ward Ruddell is confined in hospital.

Lots of crows are to be seen flying around, but we don't want spring for a couple of weeks yet. Once the 21st of this month is gone and spring is officially here, then the robins can come and the grass can get greener and the flowers and bulbs start popping out of the

-Mrs. John Bellboddy

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