

# Acton's sewage plant addition won't handle more than 10,000

Suggestions that the addition to the Acton sewage treatment plant may be able to accommodate well over 5,000 more people than it is estimated to be able to handle are totally unbased, reported Councillor Dick Howitt to town council Monday night.

Councillor Howitt and a number of other Halton Hills councillors were caught off guard last Tuesday night by representatives of Alliance-Exurban Developments of McNamara Corp. who claimed that the limiting

figures set out by the ministry of the environment on the handling capabilities of the planned addition were 5,000 below its true capability of 15,000 people.

"If they (the MOE) have made up their minds that the limit is to be 10,000 people, based on our information they are wrong," bluntly stated Bill Rosenfeld, solicitor for Alliance-Exurban, a developing company planning the major Acton East housing project.

Councillor Howitt protested strongly that the 10,000-population figure was the limit arrived at by both the province and the region's consultants.

The following day he confirmed that and, in fact, uncovered the fact a Mr. Latimer of the McNamara Corp. had been told much earlier by the region that 10,000 was the outlet limit for the plant.

Howitt read to council a letter written by Ray Cripps, regional engineer, to Mr. Latimer in which it was made very clear that

"development in the Acton area is not dependent upon the willingness of the region to construct a larger sewage treatment plant. The restraint in development is the ability of the creek to receive and dilute effluent from the plant."

"At the present time the ministry of the environment has ruled that there is sufficient natural flow in the creek to receive effluent from a plant designed to accommodate an equivalent population of 10,000 persons."



ORGAN BUILDER Blair Butty is at the console of the organ destined for a church in Kankakee, Illinois. In the background, Dieter Geissler, president of Keates Organ Co. facing camera shows a number of visitors some of the pipes of the organ which took almost four months to construct.

## Acton News

# Watch out for '569'

George Kolosvari is a man who each day has 56 mouths to feed. It's because he is a member of a world-wide fraternity which includes the Queen and dates back to Noah. George likes to race homing pigeons.

Outside his Mowbray Place home in Acton, in fact, exactly at Longitude N 43 degree, 38', one and five-eighths"; Latitude W 80 degrees, one, 45" stand the coop which houses the 50 birds he breeds and races. There's a special trophy he wants to win. It is for a race to be held June 26 from Timmins, exactly 340 miles, 1,003 yards from the centre of the coop. He eyed the tall, silver and marble trophy sitting on his dining room table. As president of the Acton Racing Pigeon Club, now in its second year, and as director of the Central Ontario Racing Pigeon Association, George is safekeeping the trophies until presentation time. He'd like to keep that trophy for himself.

"I started racing pigeons with a partner in Saskatoon," he said in a recent interview with the Herald. Although he was a junior partner, he said, "I stood around and watched. I learned a lot of tricks."

He's got a pigeon he thinks can win the race. Number 569. "I like her," he said. "I wouldn't sell her."

He calls the hen "569" because she won a race that length in miles. Her real number is 71WW1363 and she has been bred to number 1362 "who won a 450-mile race," George said.

Besides the birds, the most important thing to have if you race pigeons is a special clock which records in a fool-proof manner exactly how many days, hours, minutes and seconds it takes your bird to return home from a release point hundreds of miles away.

New clocks cost about \$200 to \$235 George said and its one of the reasons junior members in the club get a reduced rate.

It is all these registered pigeons and exact distances and times which most people don't realize pigeon racing involves, George said. Most just think pigeon racing is a guy standing around flying the birds.

The pigeon's time is clocked as yards per minute of velocity and the distance from the centre of the coop to the nearest intersection is measured and sent to a Mr. J.R. Starkey in England who then sends back the exact point on earth of the coop and the

release point. In a race from Bagotville, 550 miles away from Acton, a pigeon George entered in the race—which may have as many as 400 pigeons in it—"just got beat by four yards," George said. "That was a close one."

Number "569" which George is pinning his hopes on for the Timmins race had a velocity of 1,204 yards per minute or approximately 40 miles per hour.

There are two ways of racing pigeons, which cost from one dollar each to a record-breaking 10,000 pounds paid last winter for a bird in England, George said: "Widowhood and natural."

"Widowhood takes a little less training time," he said, explaining that it means keeping the bird from its mate. After taking to the air from a release point the bird wings its way back to the mate. After arriving it gets to be with the mate, "but for only 15 minutes," George said. Then the birds are separated until the next morning when they again are allowed a brief period together. "It's a little cruel."

"I fly natural," he said. The bird is encouraged to enter the coop to reunite with its mate or the young for it's only when the bird is inside the coop that the countermark is taken off its leg and put into the clock that its race is over. There are no precious seconds to be lost fluttering over the finish line.

"I just whistle and they all come in," George said, adding that his pigeons are trained not to roost on neighbour's roofs. "I believe in breeding for the good ones," George said. "Nature takes care of the weak ones. The bad ones usually get lost or killed by hawks. The good ones always come back."

As an example of the stamina of pigeons and the strength of the homing instinct, George told of a young pigeon which flew home from Erin, Ontario with a stick right through her breast. As she was quenching her thirst, "she was dripping water from the hole in her," George said.

"You saw them up and let them relax until next year. She went on to win a 300-mile race. They're tough and they heal so easy."

The birds get a "special mix" to eat, George said. Depending on whether or not the bird is racing, it is a diet containing various proportions of corn, peas, wheat, barley and canary seed. Racing pigeons get more corn but in winter the birds, young and old

alike, eat mostly barley with occasional "mix" as well as "grits" for minerals and vitamins and cod liver capsules for "when they're run down."

A special treat to tempt them into the coop is peanut hearts, he said.

For George, who works at the Ford Motor Company, pigeon racing, "is just a hobby."

"It's good for young kids," he said. It keeps them off the streets and keeps them competing too. It's a sport

where your own judgement counts. It's up to you how to bring that pigeon to racing condition."

In his own family, it is the youngest of his four children, two-year-old Debbie who most likes pigeons, George said.

"Her first word was pigeon. She's always at the coop door wanting to come in."

The Acton Racing Pigeon Club started last year, George said, with six members. This year there are 11 and during the interview a Georgetown youth phoned to inquire about

becoming a junior member. The first race of the season will be May 15 when the pigeons will be released from Erin. Other races during the year will be from Parry Sound, Waubeshene, Timmins, Sudbury, Gogoma, Hurst and Long Lac.

"The best thing about it," George said, "is it's not like horse races with jockeys on them. They're all alone up there."

The pigeons are trained two or three times a week when they are released from

Alliston. "I have to take them," George said. "That's the worst part."

To his hobby of breeding and racing homing pigeons, one of man's oldest forms of communicating over great distances, George has recently added one of man's most recent forms of communicating, a citizen's band radio.

The CB'ers gave him a "handle" which is like a nickname, he said.

"They call the Bird Man of Acton."



"THE BIRDMAN OF ACTON". George Kolosvari displays one of his racing pigeons outside his coop.

## Friendly Puppet People

Mrs. Nancy Cole and her troupe from the "Friendly Puppet People" will hold a workshop for would-be puppeteers on Saturday, May 6 at 1:30 p.m. at the Acton Branch of the Halton Hills Public Libraries.

Puppetry is one of the most ancient and universal of the dramatic arts and its appeal, both for adults and children is enjoying a resurgence.

Mrs. Cole's workshop will concentrate on the construction of puppets of various types from "found" materials. She will provide tips on "working" the puppets and participants in the workshop will have opportunities to

practice with them. Stagecraft tricks, script preparation and the use of sound effects will also be covered.

The program will be especially useful to teachers, youth group leaders, and day care personnel but anyone with an interest in this fascinating art form is welcome.

## Crash on Main Street

A pile of slush leftover from the snowstorm April 25 on Main St. N. about 75 feet south of Scene St. caught the wheels of a car driven by Shawn Van Merkestien, 114 Mill St. E. after which the car slid off the roadway and struck a telephone pole.

Damages in the accident, which happened at 11:30 a.m. after Mr. Van Merkestien had moved his car to the right of the road to allow an approaching vehicle more room, amounted to \$400. Damages also amounted to

\$400 in an accident May 1 at 4 p.m. when a car driven by Marie Chapman, 68 Nelson Ct. was in collision with a car owned by Henderson Wilkinson, 316 Westcott Dr. The accident occurred on Ipper St. about 100 feet west of Willow St.

## Budget-Cont'd from 1.

Halton Hills share to the total regional budget, itself up \$2.6 million, is \$1,735,254 which will be offset by \$864,968 in provincial per capita grants, Mr. Farmer said.

The net amount which has to be allocated to the municipalities, Mr. Farmer said, is up 54 percent. The increase is due to an increase in gross expenditures by the region and only 1.4 percent per capita grant increase from the province based on the increase of population.

In 1975 the amount apportioned to Halton Hills from the region was \$1,418,093 of which provincial per capita grants accounted for \$565,065, Mr. Farmer said, leaving a balance of \$853,000.

The residential mill rate for regional expenditures in 1975 in Georgetown was 5.49 mills, which will rise approximately three mills to an estimated 8.2 mills, Mr. Farmer said. The mill rate for sewage remains unchanged for Georgetown as 4.82 mills, Mr. Farmer said.

However, the mill rate for sewers in Acton will rise 51 percent, from 8.57 mills in 1975 to "around 12.7 mills," Mr. Farmer said.

The general mill rate for residents in Acton will be up "somewhat less than three mills," Mr. Farmer said. It will go from 6.9 mills in 1975 to 9.9 mills in 1976.

As for Esqueting Township, Mr. Farmer said the town of Halton Hills has some latitude

as to how it will allocate transitional grants from the province. The mill rate in Esqueting Township will be

up to 5.5 mills from 3.27 mills in 1975, Mr. Farmer said, adding it will be up to Halton Hills council how to affect this.

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