

Unrealistic for Acton to go on its own

Creation of Acton as a fifth town in Halton regional government would be a too "backward step" and "unrealistic", Ward Coun. Pat McKenzie says.

In a letter dated Sept. 7, Mr. McKenzie advises Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough against supporting a brief to be presented by the Acton for Actonians committee seeking a return of local autonomy to Acton.

"To take a backward step now and create a fifth town, comprising the former town of Acton, which pays only 20 per cent of a mill in Halton Hills, and the low assessment areas of Esqueving and Nassagaweya with their extensive rural roads, demanding up-keep

and repairs, would be, in my opinion, utterly unrealistic," Mr. McKenzie says in his letter.

He adds that the province would be asked to provide transitional grants and subsidies for 10 years to keep the tax rate at an acceptable level.

Two weeks ago Mr. McKeough, responding to questions from a Herald reporter ruled out a review of Halton regional government or the creation of a fifth town. The Actonians brief will be delivered Oct. 3.

Mr. McKenzie says he, former Acton Mayor Les Duby and Coun. Peter Marks "spent many hours with this committee and tried to explain the many advantages of being

part of Halton Hills, but unfortunately we were not successful."

In his three-page letter, Mr. McKenzie also notes that he served for 12 years as councillor, reeve, deputy-reeve, and now as regional councillor for the community of about 6,500.

"I support the concept of regional government and have worked to make Halton Hills and the region function successfully."

Prior to regional government Acton experienced financial difficulties and did not employ a planner or engineer. "It was only by selling some town-owned land in 1973 that we were able to bring down an acceptable

budget."

He says Halton Hills is a viable unit with an assessment base large enough to meet the needs of the people in a reasonable and responsible manner.

Mr. McKenzie also notes that contrary to the belief of the Actonians committee there has never been a block vote by Georgetown area politicians in dealing with proposals for Acton. He says they do not control development in Acton, nor, if they did vote en bloc, would they have control over council.

Another argument of the Actonians committee is the loss of identity by the community. The same holds true, he says, about

Georgetown and Esqueving.

He also criticizes the mention of the poor condition of the townhall when "for the past 20 years it has been crumbling due to lack of interest and funds to repair it."

In the past three years, Mr. McKenzie says Halton Hills has:

- set responsible mill rates;
- maintained a debenture debt of \$42 per person;
- worked toward an official plan which should be approved in 1978;
- reviewed and rewritten bylaws and agreements of the three municipalities and now is doing the same for Halton Hills documents;

- developed a plan for updating rural and urban roads to be paid out of current operating budgets;

- united two volunteer fire departments under one chief and update equipment and facilities;

- united the public works department and enlarged property and facilities for accommodation;

- spent "considerable" funds on recreation building two swimming pools, rebuilt two old arenas and a new one, built tennis courts and improved parks and playing areas;

- acquired excellent department heads to plan control and operate Halton Hills growth in a business-like manner.

Picked Up In Passing

Meeting cancelled

The Halton District Health Council meeting scheduled for Oct. 5 has been cancelled and rescheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in St. George's Anglican Church hall.

Personnel sought

Halton Hills legal clinic is looking for two para-legal people able to type, have their own transportation, and know something of the Acton and Georgetown communities. They should be able to conduct interviews and do follow-up work solving problems for clients. The ability to communicate in French would be an asset. Resumes submitted to Rev. Peter Barrow will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Sludge policy

Works committee has invited a representative from the ministry of the environment to attend their next committee meeting and explain the policy regarding sludge disposal from pollution plants.

O'Keefe Centre trip

Centennial school students had their first outing on Monday evening when Grade 8 pupils went to see a dress rehearsal of the opera The Magic Flute at the O'Keefe Centre. Grade 7 go to see Daughter of the Regiment tonight.

Crossing guard

Depending on the report of the safety officer Glen Williams may get a crossing guard for the corner where Confederation, Main and Guelph Streets intersect. Works committee received a request that the corner be surveyed to determine whether a guard is needed there.

Warning signs

A request for signs warning motorists to watch out for children playing on the Third Line was turned over to town engineer Bob Austin. The Scotch Block area residents are to be notified that such signs are not among those recognized officially and thus are usually paid for and installed by the residents who want them.

Canopy installation

A bid of \$14,700 to construct a new canopy at Georgetown Memorial Arena received the recommendation of Halton Hills' finance administration committee, Monday. The lowest bid of three was from Mastrangelo Construction. High bid was \$24,130. The committee also recommended that Alan Zeegen Associates be retained at a consulting fee not to exceed 10 per cent of the contract price. The recommendation still needs the approval of Halton Hills council. The funding for the project will come from the arena fund raising committee, a community centres grant and Wintario.

Resignation

Pat Sheehan, recreation facilities superintendent, has resigned his position. Mr. Sheehan made his resignation known to the town Sept. 26. His last day will be Thursday, Oct. 27. Finance administration committee Monday accepted with regret Mr. Sheehan's resignation.

Employment meeting

The Full Employment Committee of the Brampton Labour Council will be holding a public meeting next Wednesday evening (Oct. 5) in the Legion at 40 Elizabeth St. S., Brampton, at 7:30 p.m. Both the employed and the unemployed have been invited to hear Cliff Pilkey, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour discuss unemployment. All the local MPs and MPPs have been invited as well.

Memorial service

A special memorial church service was held in Holy Cross Church on Sunday afternoon for all Brownies and Guides in remembrance of their founder, Lady Baden-Powell. She died in August.



Rotary Fellow

Bud Bishop, right, a past president of the Georgetown Rotary Club has been awarded Paul Harris Fellowship. Making his congratulations is guest speaker at the Rotary Club's Monday meeting Everett Biggs, a former deputy-minister of agriculture and environment prior to his retirement earlier this year. The Paul Harris Fellowship is awarded in recognition of support for the Rotary International Foundation which provides scholarships to under- and post-graduate university students, and to technical students for exchange studies overseas. Mr. Bishop is a charter member of the Georgetown club which was formed in 1955. The Paul Harris Fellowship is named in honor of the founder of Rotary International.

Decision Monday on hockey clubs' financial positions

Halton Hills council will vote Monday on whether to give three hockey clubs in town a cheaper rental rate for ice time and for the "booster" room.

Finance administration committee recommended Monday that the Georgetown Gemini and the Georgetown Chrysler Raiders be reclassified as local adult sports groups, a move which would save the Gemini about \$741 a year and the Raiders about \$624.

The Acton Sabres, however, wanted to be reclassified from local adult sports group down to minor sports group, which would save them an estimated \$640 over the season, but the committee defeated that suggestion.

The Gemini's currently show about \$4,079 as a deficit while the Sabres are \$3,070 in the hole. The Raiders, while not turning a profit, are breaking even.

Sabre president Milt Ball told the committee that the club had the money in the bank to pay its deficit and a cheque would be issued for the sum this week.

Gemini president Bob Thompson said this is a "turn-around" year for the club. It is imperative that the club break even this year and discharge some of its debt. "We realize the need to pull up our socks," he said.

The Gemini's president said the club, which is currently without a sponsor, needs to establish its credibility with the town and get people working behind the club. The club does not want to come back with hat in hand next year and is making an honest attempt to get back on its feet, he said.

Sabre president Ball told the committee that ice rental rates were cheaper in other towns nearby; rates are \$12 an hour in Elora, \$14 in Orangeville and \$7 in Cambridge. The club currently pays a rate of \$28 per hour as a local sports group and by reclassification to minor sports group would have to pay only \$20 an hour.

Mr. Ball told the committee that the club is run by volunteers who are striving to keep it going with fundraising campaigns but if the club is forced to pay the high rentals, "we'll have to shut down."

The Gemini and the Raiders currently rent the booster rooms in their respective arenas at \$100 a night; the booster room for the Sabres is included in the ice rental. The committee passed a recommendation by Coun. Peter Pomeroy that the rent be reduced by \$25 a night but for the Gemini, who would pay \$100 a night, \$75 of which would go toward their outstanding debt.

The booster room was built as a plus for groups to make some money, Coun. Pomeroy said. It was not intended to be rented out at a high rate and as it has no facilities, it is not worth \$100 a night, he said.

The committee also passed a recommendation that the clubs clean up the booster rooms themselves after the game to the satisfaction of the staff, a move which Mr. Thompson felt might not go down well with his club.

Coun. Pomeroy also asked that Glen Gray, recreation director, investigate the possibility of selling advertising on the sides of the three Zamboni machines and also on the boards. It could raise between \$1,500 to \$3,000, he said, money which could be applied to reduce ice rental rates for all groups in town using the surfaces.

Coun. Roy Booth told the

committee that Glen Gray had been charged with making the recreation services of the town pay their own way but in light of the recommendations being made to council, he should be relieved of that responsibility.

If council approves the rate reductions, it can't come back later and say that recreation costs have risen, he said.

The last council had some "hard-nosed" councillors who watched every nickel spent on

Lewis investigates hospital situation

New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Stephen Lewis told a Georgetown woman on a radio talk show Friday that he would ask his researchers to take a look at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital along with two other hospitals in the province the party is gathering facts on.

The woman, who did not identify herself on Mr. Lewis CHIC talk show, told him the Georgetown hospital was overcrowded and with beds in the corridors.

On Monday, a spokesman at Mr. Lewis office said the NDP

recreation, Coun. Booth said. However, "this council needs to be put to the test."

Coun. C.F. (Pat) Patterson said both the Sabres and the Gemini needed sponsors. He is not in favor of the taxpayers supporting the clubs. And as for the Acton Sabres, they should get out of their present Junior B league and into Junior C where they won't be competing with large centres such as Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville, he said.

leader had not as yet actually discussed the investigation with the health researcher who has been away, but he definitely intends to check the woman's statements.

Hospital administrator Fred Morris has been out of town and was not available for comment.

But two weeks ago, Mr. Morris said the hospital has been operating at capacity.

The hospital's plans for expansion call for a 90-bed active treatment addition plus an additional 100-bed extended care unit. Estimated costs of the project is \$33.3 million.

17 Sideroad weight limit is rejected

After months of deliberation Works Committee decided Monday evening that they would not post a weight limit on 17 Sideroad in spite of urging from area residents to reduce the amount of truck traffic on the road.

Works committee chairman Mike Armstrong told The Herald that trying to stop gravel trucks hauling from Indusmin Quarries from using that road would be useless unless an alternate route could be offered to them.

"If we post that road what's to say we won't post other roads too?" he said. "We can't force them to use Highway 25 and go all the way around. The trucks have to earn their living. If they take longer the price will only have to go up."

Mr. Armstrong said that a meeting was held in Limehouse six or seven years ago between area residents and the old Esqueving council in an effort to reduce truck traffic on

17 Sideroad. Nothing came of the meeting so the problem was passed on to Halton Hills council last June.

The transporting of commercial goods over regional roads is a regional responsibility, he said, but so far they had no alternatives to offer the trucks.

Mr. Armstrong said that the committee had to decide if the residents really wanted all the trucks off the road or if they wanted the road improved because the trucks give it such a beating.

Works committee do intend, and have intended all along, to improve 17 Sideroad, he said.

Tias Brown, an area resident who attended Monday night's meeting as part of a delegation requesting action on the weight limits question, was told that if the committee decided against the residents' wishes, the residents could make a recommendation to a full council meeting.

SET FOR A DUNKING

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Hred will repeat his performance of two weeks ago at the Georgetown Fair Saturday when he appears as a target at a dunking booth run by the Georgetown Jaycees.

Mr. Hred, who in his last endeavour helped raise funds for the Acton Minor Lacrosse Association, will be helping the Jaycees raise funds for

community betterment projects.

Among the other targets will be president Bill Giesmer and past president Larry Nicholas.

This is the first time the young men's club has had a booth at the annual fair.

Herald editor Bob Hutter said Monday he's prepared to throw balls at Mr. Nichols until he's certain Mr. Nichols has a cool dip.



CELEBRATING A REUNION

Members of the Georgetown Girls' Pipe band posed on the steps of Holy Cross auditorium during reunion and anniversary dance last weekend. The 1977 band includes Linda Greig, Sue Gaterell, Daine Lawson, Gail Bennett (drum major), Susan Orwin, Valerie Cunningham (pipe sergeant), Tracy Porter, Betsy Arthurs, Linda Pilgrim,

Janet Robinson, Gail Nixon, Patsy Arthurs, Ginny Hulme (pipe major), Nancy Hill, Debbie Dean, Tracie Treahy, Sandra Capperault, Lynn Barclay, Lolly Benville, Lillian Clayton, Jeannette Milton, Jane Cartwright, Joy Rutherford, Dianne Duffie, Kelly Bennett, and Muriel McClure. Absent was Marjorie Knowles.

Rain dampens crop outlook

Harvesting of corn crops in Halton is at a virtual standstill following almost two months of continuous rain that has fallen on the region.

Ontario ministry of agriculture and food representative Henry Stanley says the soils in the region are "saturated" with light soils showing ground water in some areas and had conditions on heavier soils, particularly in the southern part of the region where clay soil is evident.

Less than half the corn silage is taken from the land, he said, and prospects for harvesting within the next week or more slim.

"The corn was pretty well a little ahead of normal because of the warm weather we had in May," Mr. Stanley said. "It could have come off early if the weather had co-operated."

He said mold has been reported in some crops within the past week and predicts that winter wheat crops will be down considerably for the region.

Winter wheat is usually sown about Sept. 20. This year reports indicate that about half the normal regional wheat crop has been planted and to wait another week or more to plant might be inviting a ma-

por risk for farmers, Mr. Stanley added.

Hay crops in Halton have been outstanding this year, he reports, with some farmers having three or four cuttings.

Harvesting of the extra crop which should have started about two weeks ago has been delayed by rain.

If the killer frost stays away long enough then corn grains could be harvested but drying could be a problem.

Pasturelands are reported in "excellent" condition, he says. "Some farmers are con-

templating a cut of alfalfa after frost comes to reduce the density of the crop and prevent the snow from smothering spring grains.

Alicia Scott who keeps records of Halton Hills' weather tells The Herald that last year the total rainfall from January to December was 23.37 inches. Already the 1977 rainfall has totalled 23.11 inches and three months of the year are still to come.

Mrs. Scott's records indicate that a far greater amount of rain came our way in August

and September of this year than was the case in 1976. To date 5.76 inches of rain fell this month as compared with 4.67 for all of September, 1976. The August difference was even greater with 5.97 inches of rain falling this year and only 2.86 inches last year for the same month.

The heavy hay crop and good beginning for corn resulted from a fine, dry May. This year we received only .80 inches of rain as compared with 3.10 inches in May 1976.

BOARD NAMED

Legal clinic sites chosen

Preparations for Halton Hills' legal clinic moved ahead at a meeting in Georgetown's Knox Presbyterian Church Monday.

Sites for the two offices have been chosen. The Georgetown branch of the clinic will operate out of St. John's United Church while Acton Community Centre will house the other branch.

the clinic operating by mid-October. Although they made no attempt to name the days for each clinic to operate they suggested that the Acton clinic would operate two days a week and Georgetown three.

Directors for the clinic were chosen from people who had shown an interest in the clinic or attended meetings on it. They are: Gordon Chapman and Pat Slat of Acton and

Johan McMillan, Monty Hyde, Ralph Ursel, Morley Mills, Peter Barrow and either Anne Currie or Richard Ruggle of Georgetown plus Sue Tanner, a law student from Toronto who did spade work to get the clinic approved.

The directors are now looking for two para-legal workers who will double as secretary-receptionists at the offices.