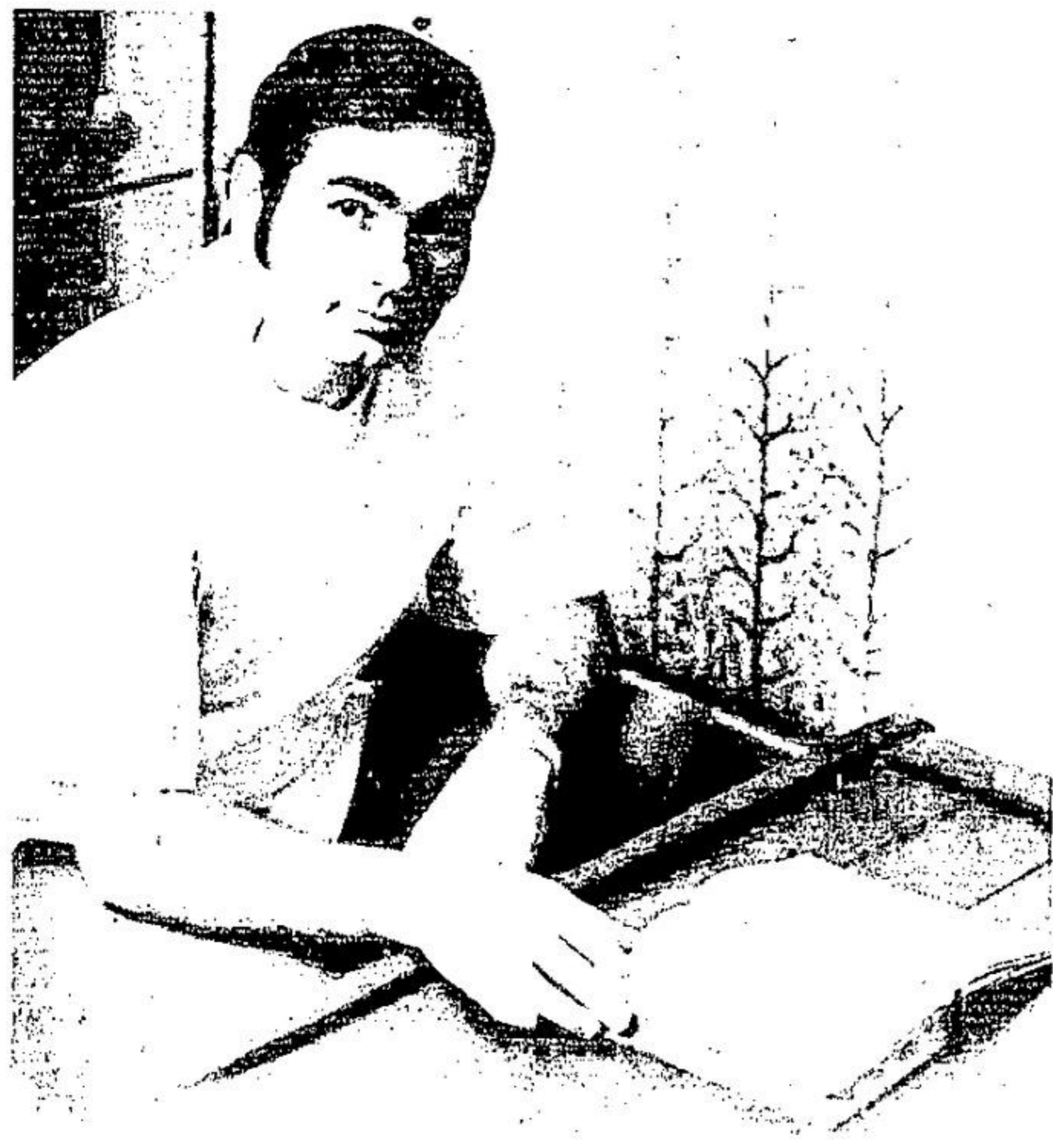


Commuters phasing of Acton says veterinarian



Dr. Ron Trenton

By JOHN BOTTOMLEY
Herald special
Fear that Acton's past is disappearing has prompted local veterinarian Dr. Ron Trenton to channel a life long interest in history into a project for the Esqueing Historical Society.

"Acton is beginning to be phased out by commuters," he told The Herald.

As the Acton representative in the historical society, Dr. Trenton is trying to preserve Acton's past by cataloging the town's older buildings, finding out when they were built and by whom. And learning about the building's general history.

His interest in the town and its history began as soon as he arrived to take up practice three years ago. His predecessor the late Dr. Frank Oakes, made sure of that.

"When I first got here, he was just retiring," said Dr. Trenton. "He sort of took me under his wing. I got a sense of the importance of the community from Dr. Oakes."

The people in Acton community have remained fairly constant over the years, according to Dr. Trenton.

"The core of people hasn't changed".

He is afraid it may be changing now as Acton becomes a bedroom community for Toronto commuters.

The Esqueing Historical Society was recently rebuffed in its efforts to form a local architectural conservation advisory committee (LACAC) but Dr. Trenton knows very little about this.

"I don't like to get involved in politics. I'm just doing this as a member of the community."

Formation of an officially recognized LACAC would have given the historical society some influence at council in the preservation of all old buildings by allowing it to recommend buildings be designated historical sites. Although Halton Hills council turned down the LACAC, the historical society is still looking for historical buildings, and can still act as an unofficial LACAC.

COLLECTS ANTIQUES
Dr. Trenton's historical interest has been a life long thing, although he just became interested in local history when he moved to Acton. He collects antiques of many sorts, include antique guns and a large number of old veterinary textbooks and supplies.

He is particularly proud of a veterinarian's book printed in 1896, which his wife Carolyn's grandfather used. It includes letters from other vets to Dr. Trenton's ancestor, giving different cures which were being used at the time. This one book "was all you needed to know in those days," said Dr. Trenton.

For now, though, his historical energies are being directed towards recovering Acton's past before it all disappears. Even now "I didn't know how much of it is retrievable," he conceded.

Working with local writer Eric Elstone he is hoping to do an update of the original Acton's Early Days volume. With this in mind he invited local people to drop into his office at Main Street at River Street with any stories or old news clippings they have.

"There's a lot of history in Acton," he concluded.

structure he was renovating it when he found parts of a newspaper dated 1879 behind some wallpaper. He learned of the building's history by asking neighbors and through a book called Acton's Early Days, by G.A. Dills and H.P.P. Moore.

"It's the only history there is, and it's these ramblings of a fellow trying to make a newsy column."

One of things Dr. Trenton would like to do is make a map of early Acton, based on the information in Acton's Early Days.

UPON ARRIVAL
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HOLLYWOOD HOTEL

GOOD SAMARITAN

John Snell of Mountainview Road South is a happy man this week after an act of honesty by the owners of the Hollywood Hotel in Norval restored his faith in humanity. Mr. Snell lost his wallet containing a considerable sum of money while he was at the hotel. Monday the owner called him to tell him that not only was his wallet found, it still contained his money.

Official plan annoys Branch

Norval area farmer Peter Branch has expressed a desire to present his concerns and suggestions about Halton region's new official plan to the region itself before taking them to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Calling some sections of the plan "unpractical, unworkable", and "serving little or no purpose to encourage, promote or assist in the improvement of Halton's agriculture," Mr. Branch wrote to the committee last week seeking "a suitable forum" in which to voice his comments.

Planning director Ed Cumming suggested that Mr. Branch should be invited to a future committee meeting to make a presentation, but the committee voted last Wednesday to simply inform Mr. Branch that all meetings are open to pre-arranged submissions from the public.

Mr. Cumming pointed out that Mr. Branch was one of several Halton farmers who expressed opposition to some of the plan's policies when they were first unveiled late in 1977 and on occasion since then.

DEALT WITH
"During the Open Houses and through deputations to the region on the draft of the regional plan, Mr. Branch made many suggestions and questioned the proposals for agricultural policy," the planner explained. "These, together with all other submissions, were dealt with and the concerns met or disposed of in the policy papers in May and June, 1978. This process is completely documented."

Mr. Cumming admitted that the adoption of the plan last year "no doubt left a number of spokesmen less than wholly satisfied".

The plan is still awaiting final approval from the provincial ministry of housing.

"It is becoming increasingly clear to me that the Agricultural Section and parts of other Sections of the (plan) are unpractical," Mr. Branch wrote last week. "The initial question I put to the committee and their staff is just what are the benefits being implemented."

"Before registering an appeal to the OMB, it would appear logical that I voice my concerns at a suitable forum."

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