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Volume 5, Issue 2

"A Rural Paper to Call Our Own"

May, 2002

Changes to McNiven Rd. receive go ahead, despite public protests

by Donna Danielli

"From what I've seen, what the city wants - the city gets," was the message McNiven Road resident Stan Yep gave to the Community Services Committee, citing the Main Street reconstruction and the CN Intermodal as examples. "The city doesn't seem to value what taxpayers are saying."

The proposed reconstruction of McNiven Road has been the source of much controversy in the last few months. Funding for the reconstruction of McNiven Road (also known as First Line), between Steeles Ave. and Campbellville Side Road was approved in the 2001 budget of the Town of Milton and three areas have been targeted as unsafe and needing reconstruction.

The Town's plan is to reshape the three knolls which are obscuring sight lines, widen the road and add shoulders, full ditches and new culverts this summer.

Next year would see gravel put on the road, and 2004 would bring

a hard top surface. "On any gravel road, there becomes a point where looking at maintenance dollars, it is more cost effective to hard top a road than to maintain a gravel road," explained Project Coordinator Rick Tipping. "If we want to hard top this road, we need to fix these knolls first. These knolls have been identified as unsafe and the Town is obligated to fix the road for safety."

The residents of McNiven Road fear the road changes will make their road more appealing to motorists, who will increase both their use and speed on this road, which also contains a very tight 'S' bend.

Resident Sue Anderson warned by eliminating the buffer zone a car accident could become fatal.

"By upgrading this road and not correcting the safety issue at the 'S' bend, you are setting the scene for someone to die."

Mr. Yep outlined residents' fears.

"We're concerned about the speeds and this is going to increase traffic accidents. With a wider, flatter road, the speed will go up to 80 km/hr. What you're proposing is a nice drag strip with a tight 'S' bend at the end. If you accept this motion, I believe you are voting for increased accidents, I believe you are voting for taking away rural beauty and I believe you are voting for not respecting the wishes of the constituents."

"Road management goes beyond the neighbourhood," said Mr. Tipping. "Council has a responsibility to protect the safety of the motor traffic."

Mayor Krantz echoed the project coordinator's statements.

"How do we address safety, road speed, and the motoring public as well as the residents of your road? Would you sooner have us politicize a thing or would you

(Continued on page 3)

For today and tomorrow



Photo by Deborah Quale

Each year the Grade 8 graduating class at Hitherfield school in Campbellville plants two trees on the property - not only as a gift to other students who will continue their studies there - but also to mark Earth Day/Week. The two blue spruce were planted by (left to right) Ceili Andrew, Jason Fowler, Max Budnick, Jessica Hughes, Andrew Welland, Chris Lajoie, and Andrew Sidnell. Teacher Mr. Gover (not shown) directed the proceedings.

Inside this Month's Compass

Shoebbox Memories

John Howson I, a native of Lancashire, England - south of the village of Hornby - and wife Ann Foster raised 11 children, eight of whom came to Halton County and settled in Esquesing Township in the 1800's.

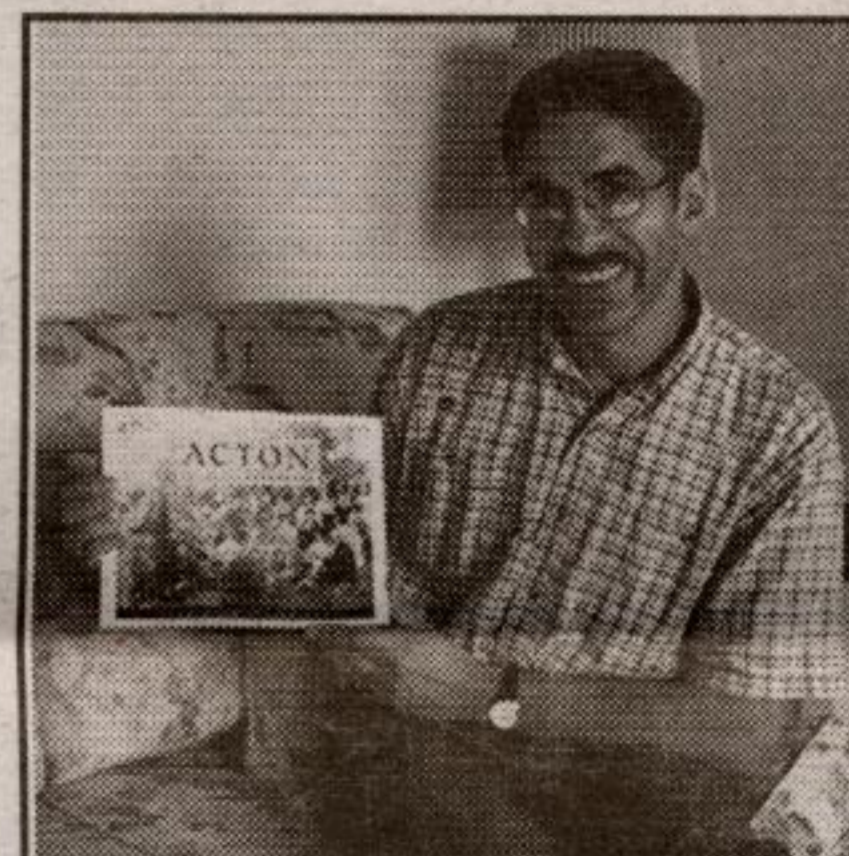
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Idle Pursuits

Acton residents' request for a book outlining the town's history has been fulfilled. Author John Mark Rowe is gearing up to launch his new book *Acton: The History of Leathertown*.

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Community Cornerstone

Acton's Curling Club will sure miss the familiar face of their very own Ice Man - Pete Vidler. The well-known icemaker and all round good guy is retiring from his craft and leaving Acton's ice in the capable hands of his son.

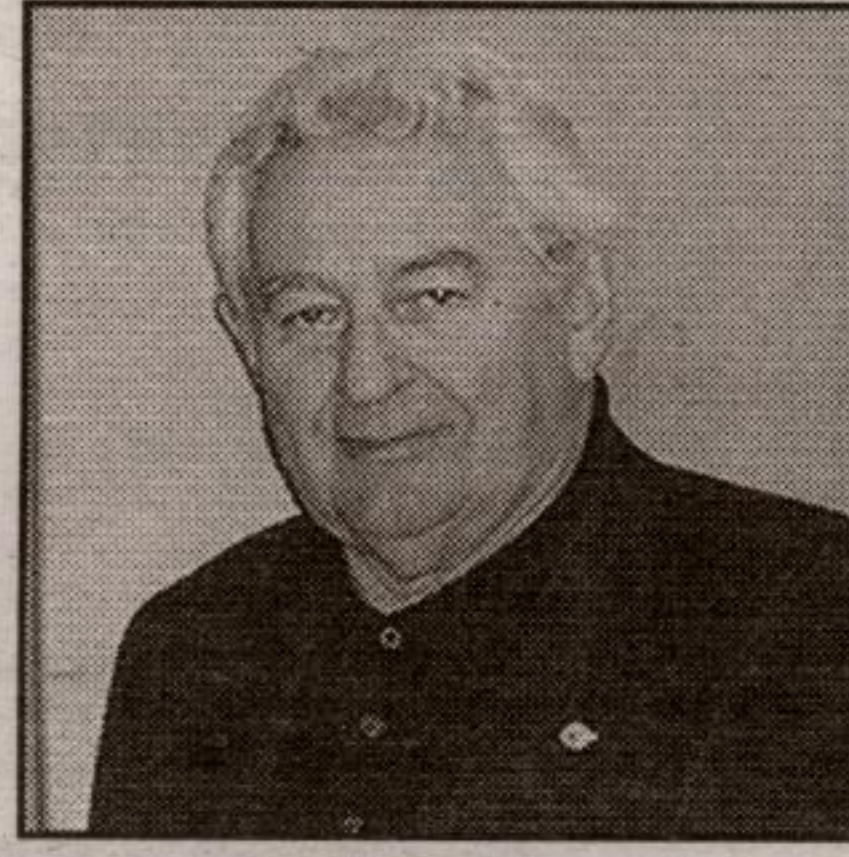
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Board & Batten

A volunteer's efforts can often seem endless. Bert Stewart of Hornby is a prime example. His 35 years with the 4-H program is just one amazing accomplishment for which he was recently honoured.

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