

Coles' Slaw with Hartley Coles



Recently, a local councillor asked me if it appeared Halton Hills Council was all singing out of the same song book (almost wrote hymn). Acknowledged that sometime it does seem as if they are all of the same mind on one issue or another. However, my experience of over two decades covering municipal councils, has been the opposite.

Depending on a council's make-up they're usually a disparate bunch, reflecting just about every point of view on most issues of any importance. Sometimes there's a maverick amongst them that keeps things interesting.

The local councillor explained that the appearance of unanimity on the issues was the result of hashing out the issues at committee meetings where all points of view are exchanged. It makes sense and saves a lot of council's time when there's a regular meeting, where time is often at a premium.

Council no longer resembles these when every town and township had their own mayor, reeve, deputy reeve and a slate of councillors who could cover all the business every two weeks, or in the case of rural municipalities, once a month. The business is much more complex and covers a lot more ground. It was a simpler time and really "grass roots."

In my reporting "career" I covered township councils as different as Esquesing, Eramosa, Erin and Nassagaweya, the latter only a few times, but it gave me a pretty good grasp of things in the rural areas around Acton. I also spent innumerable hours in the old Acton town hall covering Acton Council, most of them under the mayoralty of the late Les Duby. When we moved into regional government as the Town of Halton Hills, I was privileged to cover the growing pains of the new municipality.

In view of the rivalry between Acton and Georgetown and Georgetown-leaning Esquesing, one would have expected a David and Goliath contest. However there was a tacit agreement among the mayor and councillors that Acton issues would be handled mainly by their local representatives as would Esquesing and Georgetown's. Of course, after a while, the preponderance of votes from Georgetown and area swayed decisions to the point where Acton's last mayor, Les Duby, said Acton had made a mistake by agreeing to the merger into Halton Hills.

It's my impression after over 35 years of Halton Hills that much of the disagreement that plagued those first few years has been solved especially since most of the issues are not Town-wide instead of peculiar to the borders of the older municipalities. I believe it is also due to the quality of the people we have chosen to represent us at the council table. With the odd mistake, of course.

If anyone asked me what was the most interesting of the rural councils I was privileged to cover, I would have to put Esquesing at the head of the list, followed closely by Eramosa. Esquesing Council was dominated by a triumvirate of three men, all of them now deceased – George Currie, George Leslie and the clerk, K.C. Lindsay.

The two Georges, it was rumoured, used to decide among themselves who would run for reeve each year when they had to face the electorate. K.C. Lindsay was the balance and a reservoir of the history of the township and municipal law.

Later, the personnel changed as Tom Hill, Russ Miller and Pat Patterson were elected to office. Pat Patterson, you'll remember was the top referee in the Ontario Hockey League for many years. He wasn't particularly liked in Acton due to his decision in an Intermediate hockey playoff between Acton and Georgetown to penalize Acton defenceman George (Podge) Riddell with only a few minutes left in a tie game.

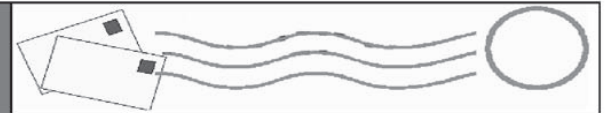
Georgetown went on to win the series by a goal and a suspicion was aroused that since Patterson lived in the Norval area and reportedly rode to the game with Norval players on the Georgetown team, he was giving Acton the old razoo. No matter he was an effective councillor.

Eramosa Township? It was true grass roots under Reeves such as Warren Parkinson, whose ethical leadership impressed me at a time when some councillors were "cooking" expense accounts and were difficult to deal with. But that's another story for another time.



MILITARY MARCHES: Under the leadership of Acton Citizens' Band Bandmaster Dr. George Elliott, the band played a series of military marches at a Remembrance Day concert on Sunday at Bethel Christian Reformed Church to honour the services and veterans. – Frances Niblock photo

Letters



Legion says thank you

To the editor

On behalf of Acton Legion and Mike Atkinson, I would like to thank Mr. Ted Tyler and the staff of The New Tanner for the splendid job they did by publishing the pictures of our comrades who gave their all for us and their country.

Considering the short time they

had, and the amount of work necessary to accomplish it;

They do indeed deserve our praise.

A reader will note that not all the names on the Cenotaph are represented by a picture; it is our sincere hope that with the help of the community we can rectify this in the future.

Anyone who can contribute to this end in any way is asked to contact me (Bob Doyle) at 519-853-2325. We are also looking for pictures of those local citizens who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War.

Thank you,
Bob Doyle.

Heritage is Alive and Well in Halton Hills

Dear Editor,

Heritage Acton is in the final stages of restoring the former Acton Town Hall after many years of planning. Community theatre, live performances and concerts will be available as a positive alternative to driving elsewhere. Kudos to Heritage Acton.

The drawkiln in Limehouse is nearing its final stages of reconstruction along with interpretive signage that will give the viewer a detailed history of the lime industry as it existed in Limehouse during the 19th century. This project was taken on by the Limehouse Kiln Society to highlight early industrial history in Ontario. Kudos to the Limehouse Kiln Society.

The Deveraux House on Trafalgar Road has been

restored and preserved as an example of Victorian architecture in this area. The Georgetown Soccer Club utilizes this space as well for their organization. Kudos to the Friends of the Deveraux House.

The latest good news story is that of Scotsdale Farm north of Silver Creek. Ontario Heritage Trust has been able to access monies to begin the challenge of preserving the homestead as well as the farm buildings. Trees are being trimmed; buildings are receiving a fresh coat of paint; windows are being replaced and the well has been restored. Kudos to Ontario Heritage Trust.

There is much to celebrate.

Heritage is alive and well in Halton Hills.

Mary Shier
Limehouse



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