

The Acton Free Press.

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Eight Pages—Seven Cents.

Hot Debate

County Council Clamor On Assessment By-Law

It took an hour and a half of, at times, heated debate for County Council members to give three readings to the annual equalization of county assessment by-law at the regular session Tuesday afternoon.

Reeve Robert Shannon spoke and argued the longest in an effort to have the assessing program altered. He wanted higher assessment on properties held by speculators. In a question to the county assessor, Ford Rodgers, council learned that land assessed for \$28,000 had been sold for development for some \$70,000.

Merchants' Draws Give Away \$1,380

In its first six months, \$1,380.83 has been given away to shoppers in the Appreciation Day Saturday draws, figures tallied this week revealed. The draws started on December 5.

Mrs. George Robertson won \$20 and another \$5 for knowing the name of the Merchant of the week, at the draw Saturday. The total is up to \$420 for next week.

323 Pre-School Age Children — P.S. Board Told

Acton's Public School Board, which holds property in the eastern end of town for a projected second public school, learned at a regular meeting last week that there are now 323 pre-school-age children in town. Also revealed from a survey is that 93 children will start kindergarten primary classes next September.

The trustees noted 683 pupils are now enrolled at the public school. Principal G. W. McKenzie advised the board of the Home and School Association banquet for Grade VIII pupils this week, also reported the senior grade pupils would make their annual trip to Toronto June 26.

Final exams are being written June 15 to June 22, set by Inspector L. Skuse.

The property committee was asked to procure wire for a ball diamond at the school, also to arrange for removal of a partition in the music room and transfer the home economics equipment to that room. A portable partition for auditorium was authorized and the industrial arts room is to be plastered and whitewashed or water painted.

The board approved purchase of a junior encyclopedia set, also authorized the purchase of crests instead of diplomas for pupils in recognition of high music marks.

Purchase of a new stoker feed worm was sanctioned.

The board indicated it was glad to comply with a request from the Acton Agricultural Society that school children parade on the annual fall fair day.

Regular finance statement of \$319.22 was approved and payment authorized. The secretary reported \$49 received in non-resident fees, also \$20 in auditorium rental.

Work Donated for Clay Ball Diamond

The grass ball diamond just inside the gates at the park is being replaced by a trim sand and clay diamond. Those who take an active interest in the Legion-sponsored Minor Sports are donating their work to the recently formed Parks Committee, and Mansell Neilis has donated equipment.

Find Acton Growth Surpasses Salary For Town Auditors

Acton's auditors Tuesday night requested a raise in pay. Local growth, they wrote council, has so increased work in keeping touch of the town's financial conduct that the present annual \$850 isn't enough. They asked for an extra \$100.

To substantiate their request the auditors quoted some interesting figures on town growth in the past three years:

In 1953 Acton's gross expenditure was \$178,642; last year it was \$290,925, up 46 per cent.

Total assessment in 1953 was \$2,424,485; in 1955 it was up 23 per cent, to \$2,989,944.

In 1953 the town's debenture debt was \$668,450; last year it was \$966,650, up 12 per cent.

Public school expenditure in 1953 was \$70,066; in 1955 it was up 39 per cent to \$97,653.

June Bug Trap Startles Farmer With Success

Everybody knows the June bugs are bad this year, bringing their wings stupidly against closed windows, flopping underfoot and swooping through the night like small bats.

But only A. E. Currie, who lives on No. 24 highway, knows just how plentiful those pests are.

Interested in protecting his fields, he rigged up an ingenious trap for the June bugs. He put some water in a barrel and hooked a lighted bulb over the top of the large container.

To his astonishment, the morning after his trap had been operating silently all night, he discovered not hundreds — but thousands of bugs in the barrel. He measured out a few in a pint, and after quick calculations, estimated he had captured 7,000 of the large bugs that night alone. The second night he guessed he had trapped 5,000 brown beetles.

By the end of the week, his full total catch was 20,000 June bugs snared from one small area! He explained that anyone interested in protecting his crops or garden could easily rig up such a trap. Mr. Currie himself could scarcely believe how effective it was.

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P.U.C. Employees Frown on New Health and Accident Group Plan

Salaries of employees of the P.U.C. indicated last week they had little desire to change to a health and accident group plan recently outlined before a meeting of all municipal employees and later before council and the Commission.

At present, municipal employees are protected under a combination of Blue Cross and Physicians' Services. The new plan, explained at last week's and other meetings by Mutual Life of Canada representatives, also contains loss of time indemnity. This feature was reported attractive to hourly-rated employees.

Commission members agreed that there was no point of changing to this type of employer-employee participating plan unless the majority of employees wished to do so.

Paul Garage Account Although the account of J. B. Mackenzie and Sons Ltd. for construction of the new waterworks garage, amounting to \$1,275, was ordered paid, some Commissioners considered they were not too satisfied with the original specifications. Work, however, has been completed to satisfaction, property chairman J. Stewart said.

Chairman F. Oakes reported a refacing job on the front of the hydro shop is to be done as soon as possible.

Motions were passed to reimburse D. Mason \$8 A.M.E.U. convention expenses; credit D. A. Bundy with \$1.15 for discount charged in error; write off the unpaid account of Wm. Coleman of \$10.46.

A motion was also passed ratifying recent salary increases to P.U.C. office staff, effective immediately and retroactive to the first of the year.

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Town Dump Said a Health Hazard Ratepayers Demand It Be Closed



SATURDAYS DISTRICT CUBAREE was mostly activated by young males—nearly 200 cubs from Acton, Milton, Georgetown and Erin—but the lads didn't steal the whole show as this feminine sextette suggests. At front, Doris Allan, leader of Acton's B pack, and, right, Hilda Hill, leader of Milton's winning Mohawk pack, are framed by local parade majorettes, left to right, Shirley Mason, Pauline Marks, Brenda Cripps and Faye Sagaskie, who marched in front of the Acton Citizens' Band.

Worn Coin of 1861 Mystifies Student

A young school pupil found a queer old object the other day and took it to his teacher to find out what it was. But Mrs. Wyman Little didn't know any more about it than the youngster.

Here's what it was: a dingy, worn octagonal metal coin, blank on one side. The other side, scuffed and bent, appears to read, Eden Mills C. P. CONG. 1861.

Would it be an antique token for a railway? A quaint advertising scheme?

Well, somebody in Eden Mills should know, and the Free Press is hoping to hear from that someone. Via the paper, we'll pass on the explanation to Mrs. Little and her curious student.

The piece is in the Free Press window.

Dismiss Charges Against Driver

Two Traffic Act charges, careless driving and impaired driving, were dismissed by Magistrate K. Langdon Tuesday when Henry Proteau, Hamilton, charged in connection with a recent downtown accident, appeared in court here.

Proteau was driver of a car which knocked down four-year-old John Seelen at the Mill-Main corner on May 6. The young son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Seelen suffered concussion and was hospitalized for some time.

Proteau was defended by counsel from Brantford, L. T. Pennell. Testimony for the crown was given by investigating officer John Hodgins, Cpl. R. Mason and by a witness to the scene of the accident, Hilda Braam, Carole Bradley, Dorothy Brown, Joan Courtney, Brenda Cripps, Edith Francescato, Jeffrey Fryer, Katherine Garrett, Dennis Gibbons, Carol Goodwin, Irene Gor-

Over 60 Graduates at Banquet Present Paintings to Public School

The public school auditorium was set for a banquet last night when the 60-odd members of the Graduating class were guests of the Home and School Association. A delicious cold meal of ham, scalloped potatoes, salads, cake and ice cream, ginger ale and coffee was served by members of the sponsoring group.

Mrs. Bill Wilson and Mrs. Charles Kirkness were conveners.

Peter Lawson was chairman for the annual event, and led the diners in the toast to the Queen. Grace was said by Rev. Gordon Adams.

Miss Evelyn Goodwin, the music teacher, led the singing, with Miss Cathy Laughlin at the piano.

Susan Wilson introduced the guest speaker, Fred Rowan of Guelph. A former high school teacher at Acton, he is now in the insurance business and active in the Guelph Minor Sports. Andrew Williams thanked him for his interesting address, containing sound advice for the graduates' life in the future, and presented him with a set of cuff links.

Fountain pens were given by Mrs. Whitman of the Duke of Devonshire chapter I.O.D.E. to the students who made the most progress. They are Susan Wilson and Peter Lawson.

Katherine Kirkness, on behalf of the graduates, presented a set of pictures to the school. For the school board, William Mattocks accepted the gift. Jean Johnston painted the two scenes, one of Fairy Lake from the far side of the lake, and the other of a clump of birches.

Judy Halladay thanked the Home and School.

Members of the graduating class are: Jean Anderson, Pat Barr, Shirley Barratt, Michael Bennett, Hilda Braam, Carole Bradley, Dorothy Brown, Joan Courtney, Brenda Cripps, Edith Francescato, Jeffrey Fryer, Katherine Garrett, Dennis Gibbons, Carol Goodwin, Irene Gor-

Crushed by Log Dies in Hospital

A Kitchener man died in hospital Tuesday night following an accident at Speyside. He was crushed when a log fell on top of him during drawing operations at the farm of John Moore, just east of No. 25 Highway on the Speyside sideroad.

Arthur Hill, Kitchener, was working with Harold Townsend, R.R. 2 Tavistock, removing logs from the Moore bush when the accident occurred shortly after 7 p.m.

Dr. W. Kenney of Acton was summoned and the critically injured man was taken to Guelph General Hospital by ambulance.

At the hospital, the logger was found to have a fractured pelvis and ruptured spleen. He died about 9 p.m.

It is not yet known if a coroner's inquest will be held over the death.

No Comment on Report

Consultative Committee Urges H.S. District Remain

Halt County Council without discussion adopted the report of the consultative committee on high school education in the county of Halt on at the regular monthly meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The eight-page report concluded: "After full consideration of the other alternatives, the committee concluded that the division of the North Halt District was inevitable eventually, but premature at the present. They therefore recommended that the district be left as it is at present, but that the problem of division be reviewed within a period not exceeding two years."

The decision was based on the following considerations: (a) The extent and direction of growth in the North is hard to predict at this time and its effect on future educational needs equally hard to foresee. (b) An equitable division of the territory which might comprise each new district would at present be difficult to make and might prove unsatisfactory in a very short time.

(c) As it is claimed that there will be no need for further capital expenditures before 1960, the need for dividing the District is not immediate. It is the magnitude of a major capital expenditure becomes

necessary, a new consultative committee should consider the advisability of continuing the district. (d) According to the evidence submitted to the committee the North Halt District Board has worked well together in the past and will no doubt continue to do so for the present.

"In the meantime, the committee feels that it is their duty to point out that the adjustments of claims should not prove a serious obstacle to division and that such adjustments can be affected without undue difficulty either at present or at a later date."

Reviewing the histories of the establishment of high school areas in the county, it was found also that North Halt received only 5 per cent grant, Oakville-Tratfalgar 65 per cent and Burlington 60 per cent.

"On the basis of the present grant scheme, if division was made, the towns would receive only 30 per cent of the approval capital expenditures and of transportation costs (if any). An alternative division was suggested: Georgetown and part of Esquating, Acton and part of Esquating and Nassagaweya; Milton and part of Esquating and Nassagaweya. No serious attempt

was made at the present time to outline boundaries and secure actual assessments for the suggested districts."

Arguments advanced in favor of division of the district: (a) Originally the North Halt District was formed chiefly to enable the establishment of one central school—and such a school was not and will not be established. (b) The increase in both total population and in school enrollment (actual and potential) since the formation of the area.

(c) The difficulty of securing agreement among five municipalities when capital expenditures are involved. (d) A smaller and more efficient Board with seven or eight instead of 14, from only one or two municipalities. (e) If local residents have more direct control over their school, the resulting greater interest and pride may insure improved efficiency in instruction. (f) Such a separation would eliminate certain rivalries whereby each school is at present anxious to receive identical treatment with others under the present board. (g) The fear that one municipality may by excessive or unrestricted growth make recurring demands on the others without compensating benefits.

"On the other hand, it was felt by the committee that the following objections of Esquating and Nassagaweya to division of the District should not be overlooked.

(a) It would be difficult to adjust debture indebtedness of the five participating municipalities on a fair and equitable basis, if the present set-up were discontinued. (b) There would be a loss in grants from the department if the pupils in home economics from the Acton school had to be sent to another high school district for their classes, and similarly, if the pupils in shop work from Georgetown had to go to school in another district for their classes. (c) The township would have a minority representation on three different high school boards and would be more or less practically impotent on any of them. (d) Present accommodations, together with the proposed addition to Georgetown will continue to be adequate until there is a much larger population. (e) In view of these considerations Esquating and Nassagaweya strongly recommend that the Status Quo be maintained for the next five years, when it can be reviewed unless in the meantime some very drastic changes make an earlier revision necessary."

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LAST CONSTRUCTION STAGE for Acton's new Maria-Street bridge attracted considerable spectator attention last week when huge concrete slabs, 39 of them weighing eight tons each, were swung into place on the top of poured supports. In this photo the last of the slabs are let down by a crane. Cement packing and an overcoat of macadam will finish the bridge, expected to be in use this month.