The Acton Free Press.

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CAUCUS CLOSES COUNCIL CHAMBER

C. Bishop Escapes Death As Car Crushed by Train

Cyril Bishop of 150 Wynford Place, Acton, narrowly missed certain death when the late model car he was driving was demolished by a C.N.R. train at 7 a.m. last Friday morning on No. 7 Highway. He leapt from the vehicle at the railway crossing at Pleasant, approximately five miles west of Brampton seconds before the shattering impact.

Travelling alone and proceeding west from his work at Malton, Mr. Bishop was approaching the crossing when the flasher lights began to operate.

As he applied the brakes, his car went into a spin and turned completely around stalling in the middle of the tracks.

With only seconds to spare, Mr Bishop jumped from his stalled vehicle and was able to take only a few steps when the giant engine struck the car and carried it for several hundred feet down the tracks before it was tossed to one side.

A later investigation of the wigwag system at the crossing revealed that the driver only had 15 seconds from the time the signals began to flash until the car was struck, to escape from behind the wheel.

Ironically enough, had the highways been in normal condition, Mr. Bishop would have been almost to Georgetown at the time the accident happened.

—Staff Photo

HALTON'S CHAMPION public speaker in the public school age bracket is 11-year-old Billy Andrews, son of Mr. and Mrs. Len Andrews of Campbellville. A grade seven student at Campbellville (S.S. No. 10) school, he topped the Nassagaweya contestants and went on to cop the county Championship Friday at Georgetown, in competition against the county's best.

Board Approves Zoning Change No Appeal on Committee Ruling

Planning Board indicated approval to a request to change a property owned by Mrs. Kate Murray on Mill Street South from the present residential zoning to C-1 which includes commercial area, following a request by C. F. Leatherland and J. Holmes on behalf of a client, when they held their regular meeting in the town hall on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Leatherland pointed out his client had a prospective buyer to purchase her home providing the zoning by-law was changed to allow him to operate a plumbing and electrical business from this location.

The solicitor for the home owner explained that his client would make the application to the Ontario Municipal Board for the alteration and also suggested that if any other residents in the area wished to make application for a similar change, applications could be included at the same time.

Mr. Leatherland informed the members that he would appear before council on the situation but requested the board's viewpoint before appearing.

Discuss Amendment

A recent alteration to the town of Acton zoning by-law by the committee of adjustment which allowed a variance to side lot clearances on five lots in the Lakeview subdivision was accepted by the board following a discussion. No appeal by the planning board will be made.

J. Whitham, board chairman, stated his only objection to the variance allowed by the committee of adjustment was that in his opinion the change was of a major nature rather than a minor one. He also reported that negotiations on other lots in the area were underway and the recent amendment could have a bearing.

Mr Whitham suggested that any variances regarding the by-law should be made by the committee of adjustment on individual merits of each application.

"If you are going to build a ranch house, you should do it on a ranch, not on a postage stamp," remarked the board chairman.

The board agreed not to appeal the committee of adjustment's decision on the variances in the subdivision.

Campbellville Pupil Tops In County Public Speaking

Winner of the Halton County Principals' public speaking competition at Georgetown Friday was William Andrews of Campbellville school. Runner up was Peter Adamson of Burlington with Helen Bottom of Acton and Eva Hoover of Esquesing tied for third place.

All ten competitors, representing schools in Acton, Milton, Georgetown, Esquesing, Nassagaweya, Oakville and Burlington spoke on the assigned topic Hydro. Each addressed the crowd in the Hospital [illegible]

Bill Andrews will represent Halton County in the Provincial Public Speaking Competition. Finals will be held at the Teachers' Convention in Toronto at Easter.

Judges were Rev. A. McKenzie of Acton, Nevile Stephenson [illegible] College and Jack Hughes of Oakville.

Mr. McKenzie spoke to the contestants commenting on the addresses.

B. Andrews was presented with a [illegible] by Women's Institute [illegible] received a pen and pencil set from the Lady Teachers. The runners up were given books by the City of Acton Schoolgirls and the Teachers of Halton.

All Town's Water Supply Now From Churchill Site

Water consumers in Acton are presently using nearly 150,000 gallons per day, all supplied from the new water source on Churchill Road, according to a report from Reeve J. H. Goy, chairman of the sewer and water committee of council.

Mr. Goy pointed out last week that all other water supplies have been shut down in order to conduct further tests on the new water supply.

The chairman pointed out that the static level of the well at the new pumping station had not varied since it was first put into operation and that analytical tests had been taken but reports have not been received from the O.W.R.C. and Department of Health.

A survey of the Churchill Road water supply since [illegible] to note that the town mains now [illegible] the 200 gallons per minute pump is supplying the town with demand by pumping only [illegible] of each hour.

Residents [illegible] the new supply [illegible] to the department [illegible] Dr. A. B. [illegible] Halton County Health Unit.

Rotary Canvass Passes $900

[illegible]

Councillor Rachlin Calls for "Caucus" Press, Public are Barred from Session

At the request of Councillor B. Rachlin, a "caucus" excluding the press was held following a special meeting of Acton Council on Wednesday evening in the council chambers.

The "caucus" was requested by Councillor Rachlin during the enquiries by members, at which time the press and Clerk J. McGeachie were requested by the councillor to be excluded.

Mayor W. H. Cook informed Councillor Rachlin that the clerk would not be requested to leave the meeting as he was conversant with one point in question.

When the mayor called the vote for the "caucus", all members voted in the affirmative with the exception of Reeve J. H. Goy.

Press Remains

Following the adjournment of the regular business, council members arranged chairs near the stove at which time members of the press remained.

Councillor J. T. Hurst doffed his overcoat and hat and bid his colleagues "good night", reminding council that the press was supposed to be excluded since it was a closed meeting. However, the councillor remained for the "caucus".

After a discussion, the mayor informed Councillor Rachlin it was his meeting and if he wanted the press excluded, then he must say so.

By this time, Deputy Reeve J. Greer had departed from the council chambers.

Reeve J. Goy reminded the mayor that since the motion to exclude the press had been passed in regular council meeting, it was the mayor's position to ask the press to leave.

Ejection Argued

No comments were forthcoming from the mayor other than a request how the press was to be excluded and he informed [illegible]

The representative of the Free Press reminded the mayor of council members that [illegible] passing of the verbal motion mentioned had been made. [illegible] was the intention.

The reporter noted May [illegible] and left the meeting to conclude the regular meeting.

The mayor [illegible] the press [illegible] the meeting.

Refuse Application

[illegible]

The letter, signed by O. Chapman of the O.M.B., pointed out that following a conference with the Acton mayor and clerk in Toronto, the board had been visited by Councillor Rachlin, who advised the board that the construction work had been undertaken prior to receiving the board's approval.

It was pointed out in the letter that under these circumstances the application was refused.

Council ordered the letter filed. Councillor Rachlin enquired if there was to be any discussion on it and was informed the matter had been dealt with.

Asks for "Caucus"

During the enquiries by members, Councillor Rachlin produced a small booklet and asked the mayor to read a certain paragraph. He then requested permission to hold a "caucus" at the conclusion of the meeting.

The mayor suggested it was up to council to decide whether a "caucus" was held or not and enquired the purpose of calling a "caucus".

Mr. Rachlin explained that the letter from the O.M.B. had been read and ordered filed with no argument and he would like to go into this and other things as well.

Atmosphere Poor

Mr. Rachlin remarked, "I have been laboring in an atmosphere for some time which hasn't been in keeping with good government, for my welfare and other people's. I find it difficult to carry on. I don't feel it proper to pull a Lamport deal but if it has to be that way, okay."

The mayor remarked, "You are saying in your opinion you are in disagreement with the government of the town and would like a special meeting."

Councillor Rachlin replied, "The atmosphere with me and yourself has not been good. I don't want to quarrel but want to straighten things out. I would like to discuss several matters and hope when it works out, things will be more harmonious."

Warning Signals

Council agreed to make application for warning signals at the Main Street C.N.R. crossing following receipt of a letter from the Board of Transport explaining the procedure.

Licenses to operate taxis were granted to Reliable Taxi and Mildred Beerman as well as taxi driver's licenses.

Councillor F. Watt informed council something had to be done regarding the new condition of the roads, as he explained the difficulty some of the residents in Lakeview subdivision had been having. He also remarked that no doubt other sections of town offered the same conditions.

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A Front Page Editorial

Taxpayers' Dollars Involved

Wednesday evening Acton Council, by verbal resolution, held a "caucus". When the Free Press representative declined to leave, the method of excluding the reporter was discussed. Force was considered. This we feel is an atrocious commentary on the state to which municipal affairs are declining in Acton.

A "caucus" has no legal standing in any provincial statutes (and they're 13 inches thick) that we could find. The press was excluded and by the same action the citizens of Acton were denied information that might have helped them swallow news of another $18,000 they may have to include in a mill rate that will be little less than fantastic.

The "caucus" was requested by Councillor Rachlin. It followed receipt of a Municipal Board letter denying the town debenture approval on three projects when sanitary sewers and watermains were installed on McDonald Blvd., Main Street and the Park that totalled about $18,000. The letter explains that the approval is denied following a visit to the Board offices from Councillor Rachlin, with the explanation the work was undertaken before the O.M.B. approval was received.

Last year the town ended with an anticipated deficit of $32,[illegible]. Add to this another $18,000 and Acton citizens have cause to tighten the holding of secret sessions, no matter what name is given them, is usually indicative of officials who fear the actions of those who elected them should they learn of their actions.

The [illegible] were not excluded by a written resolution [illegible]. All council resolutions are normally in writing [illegible] though members evidently felt a verbal motion could off to the clerk was sufficient. We don't.

Deputy Reeve J. Greer was the only one who, without comment, [illegible] to be a party to the caucus. Reeve J. Goy indicated his opposition to the move [illegible] the mayor.

The Free Press representative withdrew from the meeting [illegible] was advised the motion passed [illegible] from a part of the minutes of that meeting.

We [illegible] following the [illegible] seek the authority for a [illegible] Council or Rachlin. There is no [illegible] we can read with [illegible] the [illegible] meeting.

[illegible] what their representatives [illegible] they are spending [illegible] was placed [illegible] doubt as to [illegible] from those who attended the meeting [illegible] were there.

County Sells Debentures Bid at 98.10

The County of Halton Tuesday arranged the sale of $720,000 in five and one-half per cent 20 year debentures covering the additions to the Acton and Georgetown high schools. The staff of the Bell Gouinlock Co. Ltd. was accepted at $98.10 [illegible] interest rate [illegible] 5.64.

An earlier call for tenders on the same debentures resulted in six [illegible] to accept. The finance committee meeting [illegible] had passed the [illegible] recommended acceptance of the Bell offer [illegible] had.

Money Available

[illegible]

Happy Faces Evident as 46 New Canadians Receive Citizenship Papers

With hours waiting just and with smiles on their faces, 46 of Halton County's new Canadians declared allegiance and officially became citizens of the country on Monday morning. Judge W. M. Coy, presiding judge of the Court of Canadian Citizenship in Toronto, officiated at the colorful and impressive ceremony held in the Milton Court House.

[illegible]

Rights Require Duty

[illegible]

DDE Speaks

[illegible]

Bibles Distributed

[illegible]