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Unemployed Call Mass Meeting As Avro Arrow Cut Hits Acton



QUESTION MARKS hang over most towns in this area following cancellation of the Avro Arrow program at Malton. The layoff of 244 workers in Acton means loss of a \$20,000 per week payroll.

Unemployed Swamp Local Industries

Local industries have been swamped with enquiries this week from Avro workers seeking jobs as a result of the general close-down last Friday at Malton.

Some of the unemployed have driven to the United States looking for work while others are quietly sitting back waiting for the situation to clarify itself.

The Acton unemployed are following the pattern set by neighboring communities and are calling a mass meeting next Monday in an attempt to organize a local self-employment bureau.

Mayor W. H. Cook this week informed council the problem would have to be tackled in unity and that attempts to provide work for the unemployed had been made.

Meanwhile the public school board suggested a two week deferral of approval of a proposed 18 room public school addition.

Mass Meeting Called To Form Local Bureau

Formation of a local self-help Employment Bureau in Acton has been planned and a mass meeting of all unemployed personnel in Acton and district will take place in the Legion Hall on Monday morning at 9 a.m.

Dennis Lawler, Glenlea resident, reported this week that following individual discussions it was agreed to call a general meeting to form a committee to head the project locally.

Mr. Lawler stressed the importance of all unemployed persons in the area attending this meeting as it was for not only those affected by the recent dismissal at Malton, but for every person in the ranks of the unemployed.

Registration of each person present will take place to outline the individual qualifications and viewpoints of personal desire for employment in order to determine the necessary steps to be taken.

The need for such an organization was stressed by Mr. Lawler in order to provide complete and immediate answers to prospective employers.

Mayor Reviews Crisis in Area

"It is no business of this council to become concerned with discussions taking place with the Federal Government and the Avro officials, but we must be concerned with doing whatever is possible to assist the people affected," was the opening statement to Acton council Tuesday evening as Mayor Walter Cook spoke to members about recent happenings at Malton.

The mayor informed council he had contacted the people responsible for the financing of homes in the subdivisions and had been assured that if each homeowner contacted them individually, each case would be dealt with on its own merits.

"These people have no intention of forcing people out on the streets if the homeowners can prove they are trying to live up to their obligations... they may give a short respite for a couple of months," remarked the mayor.

Mayor, M.P. Meet

"Councils all over are concerned over the problem," Sandy Best, Member of Parliament, has attempted to contact me and has spoken to my wife and arranged a meeting of the three mayors for this Saturday.

"There may be something to offer as far as industry in this area is concerned," Mr. Cook continued.

The mayor informed council that Premier L. Frost had stated he had contacted all municipalities regarding the situation and stated "Up to this very moment I have not received any contact as to his intentions."

Mr. Cook outlined how he had personally contacted certain local industries and it was his opinion that industry would play their part.

Will Work Locally

"I am sure the people are prepared to go to work in local industry and local industry will attempt to find work for these people," Mr. Cook stated.

"The fact the company is recalling some of the workers is a very good sign," the mayor told council.

During his informal speech to council Mr. Cook said he was going to suggest that the company consider putting the men on a 25 to 30 hour week in order to share the work. He also suggested that if the company could see its way clear to employ double the staff even on a three day a week basis, something would be accomplished.

Will Feel Pinch

"The workers at Malton bring in between \$18,000 and \$28,000 to the town each week... One shopkeeper Friday night informed me he felt the change... our commercial business will soon feel the pinch," Mr. Cook stated.

"In conclusion the mayor remarked, 'The town has met worse than this and has pulled through... If we stand united and push and pull together we will survive this.'"

Loot Totals \$250

Thieves who pried open a basement garage door at Jennings General Store at Hamiltonville last week collected with \$250 in goods.

Police said wrist watches, clothing, cigarettes and papers were taken. Const. W. Bennett is investigating.

Delay Action on New School Addition Council Accepts \$1,610 Heating Bid

Council's action on a proposed \$200,000 ten-room public school addition was delayed for two weeks upon recommendation by the school board trustees, at the regular council meeting on Tuesday evening in the council chambers.

This action was suggested by the board in view of the situation at Malton and followed an earlier request for council's consideration of the proposed addition.

Award Contract

Ted Oakleaf of Clarkson was awarded a contract to install a heating system in the town hall at a tendered price of \$1,610.

Three tenders were received by council for the installation of a heating system with one local contractor and an Everton contractor also submitting bids on the project.

Prior to opening the tenders, council discussed at length if they would open the tenders in a public meeting or have them dealt with at committee level.

Councillors H. Lowe and W. J. McLeod both insisted the tenders should be opened and discussed by the council.

When the vote was called to let the tender to Ted Oakleaf, the show of hands indicated a tie vote and the mayor cast the deciding vote in the affirmative.

Analysis Report

During the committee chairman's reports, sewer and water chairman Reeve J. H. Goy informed his colleagues that an analysis report from the new well recently opened on Churchhill Road showed a much lower hardness test than the south spring well and lower alkalinity, chloride and sodium content.

A letter from County Council instructed the Acton council to make application for a railway crossing

signal system on the Main Street C.N.R. crossing.

Mayor Cook informed council that engineers from the C.N.R. had been in Acton on Tuesday morning and had recommended that lights and a warning bell be installed at the crossing.

Hold Town Responsible

A letter from Spencer, Addison and Scott, solicitors for Mr. Acton, owner of the property adjacent to the new well site on Churchhill Road, informed council that in the event the water level was affected on their client's property due to the new well being installed, responsibility would rest with council.

The letter was ordered filed when Reeve J. Goy informed members the O.W.R.C. had already ascertained the town's position on this situation.

Motion Re Parking

A motion to adopt a by-law to prevent parking on certain streets in Acton, to be designated as fire lanes, was defeated following a discussion by members.

Councillor F. Watts, chairman of the fire committee, reported the suggestion had received considerable attention by his committee and was thought to be a proper solution.

Streets outlined in the proposal were as follows: the west side of Willow from Mill to Bower Ave.; both sides of Bower Ave. from Willow to John; and the east side of John from Bower to Mill Sts.

Reeve Goy and Councillor Lowe argued it would be adding more confusion to an already congested area. Reeve Goy however agreed that he would favor designating Willow St as a fire lane.

Council discussed the inconvenience which the proposed fire lanes might cause the funeral home,

Reeve Goy and Councillors Rachlin and Lowe agreed the most probable route to proceed to the eastern part of town from the fire hall would be directly east on Bower.

It was pointed out that at times, due to buses stopping on Mill Street, traffic was tied up as far back as John St. and it would cause a tie-up with the fire equipment at this corner.

20 Applicants

Mayor Cook presented the administration committee report. He pointed out that a meeting recently held to deal with applications for a male bookkeeper had resulted in viewing 20 applications. He also noted that, of the 20, eight had been selected for a personal interview.

Mayor Cook also pointed out that an enquiry from the recently formed Committee of Adjustment for consideration of a yearly honorarium had been turned down by his committee.

He reminded council that other municipal boards have been organized much longer than the committee of adjustment and they were not receiving any remuneration.

Grim Picture

Councillor J. T. Hurst requested committee chairman to submit their respective budgets as soon as possible to the finance committee, remarking, "The picture is grim up to now."

During the enquiries by members, Councillor Rachlin asked why it appeared that one garage seemed to have all the maintenance work on the town vehicles.

"Other garages are good taxpayers. Why shouldn't this work be distributed around?" Has this garage any special qualifications?" enquired the councillor.

Mayor Cook informed the council

he had the garage in question did not have any special qualifications but it was the only garage that could do the work when it was required.

Deputy Reeve J. M. Greer, adding to the mayor's explanation, noted it was a case of who was prepared to do the work when it was required.

Ice Possibilities

Councillor McLeod informed council that a committee had been formed to investigate the possibilities of installing artificial ice in the arena. He suggested council may be approached to pass a by-law to change the management of the arena to bring it under the

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**Skull Fractured
Acton Area Girl
Struck by Car**

Betty Anne Harris, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Harris, R. R. 1, Acton, received a fractured skull, broken right thigh and two broken bones in her left forearm, when she was struck by a car Tuesday morning, approximately half a mile south of Acton on No. 25 Highway.

Police reported the youngster was proceeding to school when the accident took place.

The driver of the car reported he was proceeding north on the highway, approaching an oncoming vehicle, when the Harris girl darted out from behind the car proceeding south.

Driver of the car was Gordon Bailey of R. R. 1, Guelph.

Public Meeting Supports Artificial Ice Plant Committee to Seek Council's Co-operation

A special committee to investigate possibilities of installing artificial ice in the Acton arena was authorized to apply for council's approval of a by-law to set up a Community Centres Board.

This Board would then be in a position to apply for grants under the Community Centres Act.

This action followed approval being given for an all out campaign to raise an approximate \$80,000 for arena renovations and installation of an artificial ice plant, during a public meeting on Monday evening in the Y.M.C.A.

Orville Davie and Alec McIntosh, representatives of the Canadian Ice Machine Company, displayed a working model of an artificial ice plant and explained the working principles of the machine to the gathering.

Guarantee Equipment

Mr. Davie explained that his company would guarantee the equipment for one year after in-

stallation and make periodic checks of the equipment. He also outlined a chart for the superintendent's records which would assist his company in the checks.

The representative told the citizens present that when the ice-making machine was put into operation, the person responsible for its operation would be under the supervision of an engineer from his company until all details were understood.

Mr. Davie stressed the installation of a brine system in the Acton arena above any other type of refrigeration.

Best Method—going chairman for the public meeting outlined reports of the special committee formed to investigate all channels of installing artificial ice in Acton.

Similar Project

Mr. Wood reviewed a similar project undertaken at Napawan where \$140,000 was raised for a

new arena among a population of 4,000 people.

The chairman read from a newspaper clipping that the money was raised at Napawan from public subscription through various projects and no taxation was imposed on the people.

Mr. Wood suggested it had been worked out mathematically that the town could debenture the proposed amount over a 10 years period, which would amount to \$700 per year on an assessment of \$3,500. He pointed out however, that it was agreed that any increase in the present tax rate for that purpose would be frowned upon.

The chairman suggested the amount could be raised in the community and district by means of various projects such as raffles, bingo and other fund raising methods.

Don Bothwell high school teacher, suggested that school per-

sonnel be asked to assist as there were many projects which could be sponsored with their approval.

Grants Available

The group was informed that a \$10,000 grant can be realized from the Department of Agriculture in the event that an auditorium and other additions are included in the renovations.

It was also pointed out that a grant of \$5,000 only would be paid in the event only an artificial ice plant was installed.

Various questions pertaining to financing, drainage, types of piping to use and general building plans were discussed prior to the project being approved unanimously by the meeting.

The need for an artificial ice plant was stressed at length. Emphasis was placed on the lack of skating experience of the Acton youngsters when they are in competition with outside towns who have artificial ice.

Erection Radio Antenna on Water Tank Receives P.U.C.'s Tentative Approval

Following representation by D. M. Laughlin of the Bell Telephone Company, the Public Utilities Commission gave tentative approval to Bell's request for permission to install a radio antenna on Acton's water standpipe and repeater station equipment in the pump house on Main Street South.

Final approval will be given on Council's acceptance of a satisfactory agreement with the Department of Works in matters of responsibility and payments to defray costs involved.

The installation is part of a Department of Works plan to install a radio communications system for the Highways Department. Bell enters the picture through their contract with the Department for the initial survey and the supply and maintenance of the equipment.

A Repeater Station

The installation is a repeater station, one of four in this Highways

district which would operate from central headquarters. No operating personnel would be required here.

Equipment to be installed includes a 20 foot antenna on the water tower, a 200 watt receiver and a 500 watt transmitter in the pump house. A coaxial cable would run from the antenna, on the water tower, to the pump house, through the brick wall under the eaves, in a conduit and then to the receiver and transmitter inside the pump house.

In an attempt by the Commissioners to determine if there would be any remuneration for the space occupied and the electric power consumed, the Bell representative suggested, "It would be a courtesy by the Town to Bell. Possibly a fee of \$1-per year to make it legal."

Nothing Free

Commissioner Tyler posed the question, "Does the Bell provide the service to the Dept. of Highways free of charge?" To which Mr. Laughlin said, "No, Bell gives nothing free." Mr. Tyler's return was, "Neither do we."

Chairman Stewart mentioned that he was not too happy about allowing free access to the equipment in the pump house because the water superintendent was responsible for the building and equipment installed there.

Thanks for Help

A letter was received from the Chamber of Commerce thanking the Commission for their assistance in making possible the outdoor lighting program during the Christmas season.

A report on water samples taken on January 21 was received. The report showed that the sample taken from the Main Street South spring showed a hardness of 750 with a chloride content of 1095. The Churchhill Road well test revealed a hardness of 284 with a chloride content of 7 and a small amount of iron. In discussing the report it

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Charge Four Acton Men Shot, Stole Farmer's Hogs

Four Acton men have been arrested and charged jointly with the theft of four hogs from an Allison district farmer living in Tecumseh township, and have been arraigned to appear in court in Allison Friday morning.

Charged with the theft, which took place early Tuesday morning, are Robert Reynolds, age 30, Murray Hargett, 28, Earl Beerman, 27, and Mel Shepperd.

The four men travelling in a light pick-up truck were first stopped for routine questioning in Orangeville by the Orangeville O.P.P. detachment Tuesday morning for failure to have proper lights, according to police reports.

Two Escape

At the time, two of the four were apprehended and lodged in Orangeville jail. One escaped on foot and the fourth escaped in the truck.

Police reported that a 30 mile chase took place with police following the truck in the newly fallen snow. The trail led to the Acton area.

Constable Bud Buckwald of the Acton O.P.P. detachment, on duty in Acton at the time, was following reports of the pursuit on the police radio, when he was asked to stand by to assist.

The chase ended when the truck failed to climb a steep, slippery hill near Acton in Esqueping township, sliding down the hill into the ditch.

When police arrived on the scene, the driver had disappeared and the four hogs were nowhere in sight.

Hog Recovered

Close scrutiny of the area revealed one of the hogs had been tossed near a culvert in a creek at the side of the road.

Foot tracks in the snow were followed by Constable Buckwald until the tracks came to an end at the suspect's home.

Frank Toth, local garage operator, was called by the police later in the morning to tow the vehicle to Acton and retrieve the hog from the nearby creek.

With one of his workers, Mr. Toth towed the truck from the ditch and then began his operation to remove the hog's carcass from the water.

Before completion of his chore, Mr. Toth located a total of four carcasses which had been tossed from the truck and had floated part-way under the culvert.

Police of the Allison O.P.P. detachment reported this week that a 22 calibre pistol was found in the possession of one of the arrested men and it is believed this weapon was used to shoot the animals.

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Year Round Revenue

It was agreed that a year round revenue could be derived from a properly constructed arena to include an auditorium, meeting rooms, curling club, and cement floor.

The chairman outlined the possibility of including roller skating and many other summer and fall programs, which in turn would assist in offsetting the cost of operation of the arena.

Asked if an artificial ice plant could be financed, Mr. Davie pointed out that 50 per cent of the cost would be requested upon completion of the installation and the balance could be financed over a period of three years.

Following the conclusion of the business session, citizens present reviewed proposed plans sketched by Ted Tyler Sr. and Ted Tyler Jr. for arena renovations and agreed that the sketches outlined necessary renovations.

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FOUR HOGS stolen early Tuesday morning were recovered from a stream near Acton by Frank Toth, garage operator, when he was instructed by police to tow in a truck believed to have been used in a robbery. A 30-mile chase by Orangeville O.P.P. Officers ended near Acton when the vehicle was abandoned. Four men, charged with theft, will appear in Orangeville court tomorrow (Friday).