

## No Negligence on Part on Board In Accidental Drowning Verdict

Continued from Page One  
 of Dr. W. G. C. Kenney, who had arrived at the scene of the accident later. He said he was called and arrived at the park at 8:55 p.m. Volunteers worked to revive the boy for an hour and ten minutes. The coroner also stated there were no marks on the child's body and all indications pointed to death by drowning.

Fire Chief Jack Newton informed the jurors and counsel he had been requested on the day of the drowning to put the department's loud-speaker system installed in a car into use in an attempt to locate the 10M youngster. The chief noted the time he received the call at 5:15 p.m.

**Human Chain**  
 It was also pointed out that firemen organized a human chain in the swimming area. When a search failed to locate the boy a call was put in for the fire truck with dragging equipment and resuscitators.

George Hargrave, a member of the local St. John Ambulance Brigade, informed the Crown Attorney he and his wife were on duty at the swimming area the day of the drowning but pointed out the Brigade was not expected by the Acton Parks Board to act as life guards.

Mr. Hargrave informed the crown he and his wife had been notified by Mrs. Labelle about 4 p.m. that they could not be reached for about an hour and immediately organized search parties in the park area.

**Search by Boat**  
 Constable Bob Moreau of the local O.P.P. Detachment recalled having been summoned to the park at 4:40 p.m. After commencing a search he patrolled the lake in search of the youngster. After his patrol of the water the policeman summoned the fire chief.

Constable Moreau informed the Crown Attorney he often swam in Fairy Lake and had failed to find anything he classed as dangerous. He also pointed out that there were no lifeguards at the swimming area but it was seldom children were not supervised by their parents while in the water.

H. R. Parker, chairman of the parks board, listed the various changes which had taken place at the park this year in an attempt to improve the park.

**Red Cross Survey**  
 In presenting the brief compiled by the Red Cross Water Safety Service, Mr. McMartin noted the following had been found at the swimming area when the survey had been made at the request of the Crown Attorney:

**ON THE BEACH:**  
 1. A sign stating "Not responsible—Swim at your own risk."  
 2. Signs along the road at the swimming area "No Parking."  
 3. No signs indicating that this is a dangerous area with stumps beneath the water and a dangerous deep drop-off.

4. That there is an admission charged to enter the park on weekends for use of the facilities there.  
 5. There is a gateway to the beach area from the road.

**WATER AREA:**  
 1. Buoy lines running north to south across the water designating an area where people can swim and where boats must slow down.  
 2. That there was a structure in the water which encouraged diving into dangerous murky water.

**CONCLUSION**  
 With the conditions as such in the beach area and water area, Ontario Division, Canadian Red Cross Water Safety Service, feels that swimming is encouraged even if obliquely.

2. The wording of the sign is unfair because the average person cannot assess the area as a dangerous one. The sign encourages rather than discourages.  
 3. There is danger here far beyond the normal risk, and no precautions have been taken.

**Made Recommendations**  
 Recommendations contained in the brief as outlined by the Red Cross officials included:  
 In view of the existing conditions at Fairy Lake, Acton, we would make the following recommendations:

1. Hire qualified lifeguards to supervise the swimming area. A minimum of two guards should be on duty during peak periods (Saturdays, Sundays). Supervised swimming periods should be clearly indicated on the shore sign.  
 2. The area should be sounded to determine depths of water, drop-offs and other potential dangers. Investigate removal of underwater obstructions.  
 3. Once these soundings have been completed the area should be buoyed as follows:

(a) You must use three-foot long, six inches in diameter, joined by half inch rope.  
 (b) Commercial marker buoys may be purchased if desired.

4. Signs in the water indicating the depth at the three foot level and signs at the five foot level saying "Deep Water" would indicate the water depths for the public. Limiting signs should be placed at each end of the swimming beach saying "No Swimming Beyond This Point."

5. A sign on the beach, preferably mounted on a guard tower, indicating rules for the swimming area should be established.  
 6. A shore tower for a lifeguard should be built on the beach to overlook the swimming area.

7. Establish an emergency search system which would involve police, doctor, and fire department. In case of suspected drownings, the search system should go into operation immediately.

8. Attempt to start an instructional programme in swimming and water safety for the education of children and parents in the community.

## Mrs. Angus Thompson Hostess to Greenock

The August meeting of the Greenock Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Angus Thompson with 12 members and two visitors present.

The president Mrs. C. Allan was in charge. The roll call was answered with "The most interesting day since the last meeting", which proved very entertaining.

It was decided to enter a display at Acton Fall Fair.  
**Motto Given?**  
 A splendid motto "Just for Today" was given by Mrs. C. Allan. Mrs. E. Peterson read an amusing poem entitled, "Chaos in the Kitchen".

A reading taken from an English Home and Country magazine on "Speaking to One's Own In-laws" was given by Mrs. C. Atkin.  
 A contest on guessing articles conducted by Miss E. Pearen was won by Mrs. C. Atkin.

**Meeting Closes**  
 God Save the Queen and the Institute Grace brought the meeting to a close after which refreshments were served by the hostess and lunch committee.  
 Mrs. A. McKeown thanked the hostess.

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## ART SUDDABY MEATS



HOME ECONOMIST for Halton and Peel Counties, Miss Frances Lampman took over her duties this month and will work from the Brampton and Milton offices of the Department of Agriculture. Miss Lampman was formerly home economist in Durham, Peterborough and Victoria counties.

## Harvest Flies Still Prominent

To keep the pot boiling in the busy fly business in Acton, this week Shirley Cohen, 14-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Cohen of Acton, turned in a two and a half inch monster fly to the Free Press Office.

The caption saying "Let's in your belief" might be satisfied by "Flies" as the large harvest flies as they have been termed seem to have taken refuge in the Acton area.

The first huge fly reported was by Adreanna Seelen, followed up by a couple of smaller specimens by Rose Balentine and then Wednesday of this week the two and a half inch monster by the Cohen girl. To date no definite explanation of the species or their origin has been forwarded to the Free Press, and we can only go on the assumption they are harvest flies.

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