

Suggests Experienced Teachers Would Boost Education Standards

The Editor,
Acton Free Press.
Dear Sir,
Most parents, as they watch their boys and girls grow up, have hopes of them entering University, doctors, or scientists. Give up those dreams if your children are attending Acton schools because only about one student in a hundred will manage it. The reason? A deliberate policy by Acton's School Boards of hiring too many inexperienced and sometimes poorly qualified teachers.

This is a serious charge but there is evidence to support it. Look at the record. In 1947-1948, when Upper School subjects were first taught in Acton, eight students went on to graduate from University, two girls became nurses, and another boy subsequently became a lawyer — this from a school enrollment of less than a hundred.

One Year
Since then the number entering University from Acton has averaged one a year from an enrollment now increased to almost three hundred. In this period, only one Acton student has entered Medicine at University and he took Upper School training in Guelph, which is noted for the quality of its schools. In proportion to 1947, at least six students a year from Acton should enter University. I know there are just as many intelligent, capable boys and girls in Acton as anywhere else, or, as there were in '47-48 — the only thing lacking has been expert guidance by highly qualified teachers.

As well, educationists now believe that preparation of children expected to enter University must begin in Grades 7 and 8. The only people who can interest children in the possibilities and demands of University work are teachers who have experienced this themselves. In our Public Schools there are no teachers with University degrees. This all important motivation towards University in the Public Schools is lacking.

I am not necessarily criticizing beginning teachers or the work of those who have taught in Acton's schools for many years. A new teacher needs about five years to develop his skills fully. Many teachers who began in Acton are now highly rated in their profession but they are no longer teaching here. Our schools have become training grounds for teachers; we pay them to learn their jobs and Acton's children suffer from the unavoidable mistakes of their inexperience. At the same time, experienced teachers spend too much of their time correcting the errors and redoing the work of the inexperienced.

Specialists Needed
What could be done to remedy this situation? Acton's High School needs a nucleus of five or six top rated, experienced, Specialist teachers to handle key subjects in Upper School courses. Supporting them, a group of experienced non-specialists and even one or two beginners under good supervision, would be adequate. To bring an inexperienced teacher into a school and assign

him five High School grades in one subject, or, a complete Upper School course, is ridiculous. It is unfair to the teacher and almost disastrous to the education of his students, particularly the weaker ones.

Our Public Schools are well administered; but when the Board hires new teachers, it should see that half or more of them have at least five years' experience and top qualifications. By top qualifications I mean a good Grade 13 academic record plus Teachers' College. There should also be degree-holding teachers handling some of the English, Science and Mathematics of the higher grades.

Harsh but Necessary
This has been a harsh letter but necessarily sometimes demands harshness. If parents are concerned about the education of their children here in Acton, and want the fullest opportunities for them, they must insist that properly experienced and qualified personnel staff our schools. They should discuss this matter with School Board members.

It is inevitable that a change in present policy will cost money and increase taxes on some level. We must decide, however, whether the education and future of our children, and incidentally of our country, is worth the sacrifices this involves. Which is more important, the few luxuries that the extra money would buy, or, the opportunity for our children to become well and thoroughly educated? These are our children; it is our choice.

Sincerely,
Concerned.

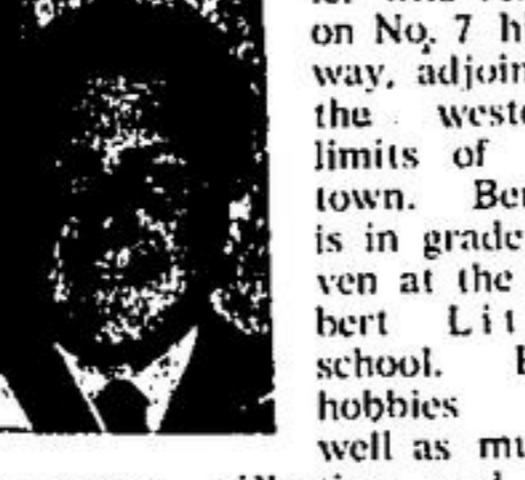
MUSICAL NOTES

By A.C.B.

This week we are printing the biographies of two members of the band instead of the usual one. The reason for this is they are both newer members and young in years, and this combination makes it difficult to write a longer biography.

Meet Bernie

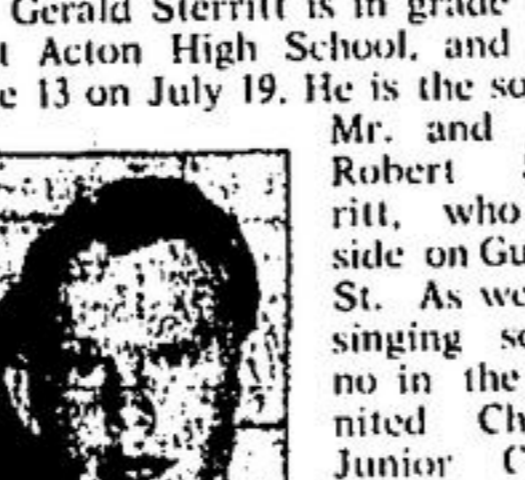
Master Bernie Freuler will celebrate his 11th birthday on April 7. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Freuler who reside on No. 7 High way, adjoining the westerly limits of the town. Bernie is in grade seven at the Robert Little school. His hobbies as well as music are stamp collecting and all sports, with the emphasis on hockey.



Before coming to the Citizens Band in 1958, he was a drummer in the Junior Pipe Band. Besides drumming in the band, he is also learning the trumpet.

Meet Gerald

Gerald Sterritt is in grade nine at Acton High School, and will be 13 on July 19. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sterritt, who reside on Guelph St. As well as singing soprano in the United Church Junior Choir, Gerald plays alto horn in the band. Being a member for only six months, he still has considerable practising to do in his spare time. Gerald feels he is still capable of hitting a few bum notes, so to relieve the tension between his three sisters and one brother, he does his practising in the cellar.



Although this may seem a full agenda for a young man, he still finds time to participate as a quarterback in football and deliver papers on a Star route.

Ontario Association Speakers Talk About Retarded Children

The Milton and District Association for Retarded Children held their April meeting in the J. M. Dunves school with a group of interested parents and friends present. G. G. Addison presided and his appreciation, to Stanley Hall, M.P.P. for his presence.

The routine business was dispensed with and concluded with the final arrangements for delegates to attend sessions of the annual meeting of the Ontario Association for Retarded Children being held this year in Hamilton.

Whirlwind Life
Wm. Kirk, Director of Ontario Association for Retarded Children was guest speaker and was introduced by Mr. Addison. Mr. Kirk also brought with him Mrs. Grace Lane, O.A.R.C. Convener of the Home Care committee, as well as Miss Cunningham, Public Health Nurse from Toronto.

Mr. Kirk impressed his listeners with his quiet, earnest and informative talk, reviewing his work of the past seven months. He referred to it as a "whirlwind of existence", but he was enjoying it immensely. When he started last September there were 56 local Associations while to date there are 63 in Ontario. The expansion and interest which is developing is most heartening, he claimed.

The importance of O.A.R.C. to the local associations was just as important as local associations to O.A.R.C., he said. One complements the work of the other while O.A.R.C. leads the way. The three attributes to success in this work were Liaison, Leadership and Guidance.

Mrs. Lane spoke of her first contact with a retarded child when she and her husband visited a prairie farm in Saskatchewan.

Halton Dairy Princess to Vie For Dairy Queen Title at C.N.E.

The search is on for a Dairy Princess to represent Halton in the Dairy Queen Competition for Ontario.

Mac Sprowl, chairman of the Halton Dairy Queen Competition, has announced that the final closing date for entries in the Halton competition is May 6. Young ladies in Halton from dairy farms are eligible to enter in the competition.

This event has always been keenly contested in the county. During the four years the competition has been held, Halton entries have been selected as Ontario Dairy Queen on two occasions, and runner-up once. Last year's entry, Mary Lou Taylor of Burlington, was a semi-finalist in the provincial competition.

Chosen at Meeting
This year's Halton Dairy Princess will be selected at the annual Halton Holstein Twilight Meeting to be held on Friday, May 20, at Hays' Sales Arena at Trafalgar.

The dairy princess will represent Halton at the Canadian National Exhibition in the Dairy Queen Competition for Ontario.

The decision to hold Halton's selection at the Holstein Twilight Meeting was made at a directors' meeting of the Halton

Holstein Club held in Milton on Tuesday, April 12, after reviewing a request made from the Halton Dairy Queen Committee. This decision should be a popular one, since the annual Halton Holstein Twilight Meeting is always well attended by dairy enthusiasts in the county.

This year's Twilight Meeting will follow the format of other years, with demonstrations in

judging, grading, plenty of prizes and lunch for all. Included in this year's program will be a panel discussion on dairy cattle management.

Entry forms and information for the Halton Dairy Princess Competition may be obtained from any member of the Halton Dairy Queen Committee, or from the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Milton.

Council also agreed to pay their share of an additional two classrooms to Erin Union public school No. 2, built at a cost of \$49,917.

It was also agreed to petition the planning and development department asking they budget for conservation purposes in order that no one municipality will be asked to contribute more levy than one-quarter mill per year. It was noted that any municipality desiring to contribute more must make formal consent.

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Erin Township Council Strikes 1960 Mill Rates
Erin township council struck the tax rates for municipalities under their jurisdiction during a special meeting Wednesday, April 13, in the Hillsburgh municipal hall.

Following is the breakdown of the 1960 tax rate for each municipality: area no. 1, 60 mills; area no. 2, 60.7 mills; Erin S.S. No. 2, 64.6 mills; Hillsburgh, 56.9 mills; Eramosa, 64.4 mills; Orton, 45.9 mills and Caledon, 77.7 mills.

Minimum tax bills issue per assessment was agreed at \$3.00 and commercial rates are listed at three mills above residential.

THIS SUNDAY'S Church Calendar

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario Rev. Reginald Brook Minister Mr. George Elliott Organist and Choir Master SUNDAY, APRIL 24th, 1960 Services in the Y.M.C.A. 9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer. 10:00 a.m.—Sunday school for all ages. 11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship. Children under 5 years cared for in the nursery at the 11:15 a.m. service only. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. SUNDAY, APRIL 24th, 1960 9:45 a.m.—Church School. 10:00 a.m.—Bible Class (15 - 25 years). 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship Theme: "High Time" Junior congregation (3 - 7) meets during sermon. Preschool children cared for at the manse during the service. 8:00 p.m.—Y. P. Society Fellowship meeting.	THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN Rector: The Rev. H. B. Stokroff, L.Th., S.T.B. 185 Jeffrey St., phone 265 SUNDAY, APRIL 24th, 1960 The First Sunday after Easter 8:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist and Church School. 11:00 a.m.—Mattins MID-WEEK CELEBRATION Monday, 25 April, 1960. Saint Mark's Day, Apostle and Martyr—10 a.m., Holy Eucharist All Are Welcome! ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE 33 Churchill Road P.A.O.C. Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor 75 Cook St., phone 649-W SUNDAY, APRIL 24th, 1960 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship 7:30 p.m.—Evangelistic Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors You Are Always Welcome CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH Rev. J. Nutma, B.A., B.D., Minister 301 Queen St., Box 46, Phone 689 SUNDAY, APRIL 24th, 1960 10:00 a.m.—English. 2:30 p.m.—Dutch. The Church of the Back to God Hour
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BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON
Charles W. Landsborough
Church Clerk
Phone 221
SUNDAY, APRIL 24th, 1960
9:45 a.m.—Church School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
Mr. McCormick Smyth, speaker.
7:00 p.m.—Service cancelled this week only.
Wednesday, 7:45 p.m.—Service for Prayer, Bible Study and Witnessing.
All Are Welcome

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MOOSE HARVEST

The 3,000 people, 300 of them non-residents of Ontario, who hunted moose in the Geraldton district in the 1959 season, took 1,030 animals, 850 going to residents and 180 to non-residents, a survey shows. Hunter success for residents was 31.1 per cent. and for non-residents 60 per cent. With a slightly greater number of hunters in the field, the moose harvest was about the same as in 1958.

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