

# The Acton Free Press

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## Porter Water Pressure Down Company Asks Council Relief

Lack of water pressure in the sprinkler system at the H. K. Porter Company may cause the plant to be considered "unsafe" according to insurance companies.

This information was given to council Tuesday evening following a meeting with No. 2 committee and plant officials Tom Shields and William Parsons. Committee chairman Hamilton Paul in reporting the meeting with the two men said insurance companies had threatened to class the plant as being without a sprinkler system because pressure was too low.

### Larger Main

Plant officials had asked the town to install a larger water main from the existing 12-inch main north of the company property in order to correct water problems. A tentative cost of \$12,000 was tossed around for council's consideration.

No decision was taken on the problem but No. 2 committee was instructed to investigate the water problem further.

### New Bridge Tenders

Tenders will be opened February 28 for construction of new bridges on Brock Avenue and Church St. W. Estimated cost for the two projects is \$24,000 of which the Department of Highways pays 80 per cent.

The bridge projects were budgeted for last year and tenders were called recently. No. 2 committee was asked to review the tenders and make a recommendation to council on its choice for a contractor.

Town engineers will study specifications from the chosen contractor before final approval is given by the D.O.H.

## Town May Buy Truck From Hydro for \$100

Town workers may inherit an heirloom from the hydro commission if council sees fit to spend \$100 to purchase the ladder truck.

During last Thursday's hydro meeting, commissioners agreed to let the old truck go to the town for a century note.

Thinking of safety, chairman E. G. Tyler wasn't too sure "If it isn't fit for our men then it's not fit for the town men," he said. He agreed to the transfer providing the town was going to wreck the vehicle and salvage the winch.

Superintendent Doug Mason wondered if approval might again be given to have his crew, equipped with the new squib beam, to assist town men in trimming trees. Other years this combination had "worked out fine" with the hydro trimming and the town men hauling limbs away. Approval was given.

### Red Flag

One commissioner asked if the superintendent was aware of the beam (which juts out the end of the truck) should be marked with a red flag according to Department of Transport rules. "This is a nice piece of business to have to go around with a \$1,000 unit flying a piece of red underwear," quipped Mr. Arbie. Commissioner Beatty wondered if insurance coverage was high enough on the truck.

Councillor Arbie thought the appliances donated to the Robert Little school should be identified as coming from the Acton Commission. During a recent visit to the school he noticed appliances donated by Ontario Hydro clearly identified with signs.

Members all agreed to take their turns during "Open House" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McLeod this weekend. The home is completely all-electric and the public will be allowed to tour the building.

Hour's Trial

It only took one hour to prove the Pleasant (near Brampton) Ontario Hydro power station is not large enough to supply Acton with power. The power supply normal received from Guelpf had been switched over to the Pleasant



**SCHOOL OPERETTA** presented by pupils from the M. Z. Bennett school last night (Wednesday) will play a repeat performance again tonight at the Robert Little School auditorium. Entitled "The Green and Silver Bowl", the three-act operetta is of Irish theme and depicts an eccentric earl who collects antique vases as a hobby. Three Wednesday night characters, left to right are leprechaun Nancy Lee, Frances Higgins who plays Eileen and Jackie Lee as Connell.

## Pack School Auditorium Wednesday Operetta Continues Again Tonight

Irish wit and charm were depicted to a full house at the Robert Little school auditorium last night (Wednesday) when nearly 400 saw the M. Z. Bennett school operetta entitled "The Green and Silver Bowl".

The three-act play set to hitting Irish tunes depicts eccentric Earl Dimwit in his search for a lost bowl from his collection. It is directed by music supervisor Glenn Banks and teachers Mrs. Arlene Bruce and Nell Edwards.

This was the M. Z. Bennett school's year for the operetta which will be presented again tonight (Thursday). The other school will stage an operetta next winter.

Main characters who exhibited enthusiasm and ability in playing their parts included Gail McHugh as Earl Dimwit, Frances Higgins playing the role of Eileen, Jackie Lee as nephew Connell, Mark Horst as the fool Bart, Julie Smith, Chris Brunelle, Terry Dowling and Jeanie Sproston.

Main character changes for tonight's presentation will be Jennifer Bishop, Bob Hart, Jim

### Donations

St. John Ambulance Brigade appeal total: \$227 to date. Donations go to Chester Anderson at the Bank of Nova Scotia. This is a local appeal for a local group which works here in our district. Brigade members are faithfully on duty at many events and have helped many.

Lee, Wayne Gohn, Heather McCutcheon, Jessie Ann Davidson, Lorene Paul and Brenda McKeown.

Scamus, one of the beggars was played by Henry Van Stralen Wednesday night and will be depicted by Paul Branda tonight.

Other beggars in the two-night cast are Bob Andrews, Dugald Dick and Brian Binnie.

Castle Monks in last night's cast included Beverly Brunelle, Deane Williams, Pam Panchon, Irma Anderson, Pat Lush and Heather Ann Dunbar. Tonight's castle maids will be Judy Jordan, Debbie Jordan, Janet Branda, Heather McCreachin, Margaret Churchill and Lynda Reimers.

Music supervisor Glen Banks plays the piano while, as an innovation, pupil Jean Bulmer directs the choir seated in front of the stage.

The operetta was capably put together in only three weeks. There were many hours of sewing and pressing for mothers' who assisted teacher Mrs. Norm Turner with costumes. Property and scenery was in charge of assistant principal Walter Bulbos, teacher Earl Hoops and Mrs. Dubois. In charge of makeup are R. R. Parke, Mrs. William Spivak, Mrs. Jack Dowling, Rae West and Bob Duby.

Prior to the three-act play pupils of the junior grades presented songs and skits which delighted the interested audience.

## Commission Remains Unpaid Chairman Breaks Tie Vote

Acton Hydro Commission members will remain unpaid.

On Thursday evening, February 13, a motion to pay the chairman \$12 and members \$10 per meeting was voted down in last minute action, with only seconds to go before the 10 p.m. adjournment hour.

Chairman E. G. Tyler Sr. cast the deciding ballot to break an evident deadlock as newly elected members Doug Dawkins and Wilfred McEachern nodded in the affirmative while commissioner Gord Beatty and council representative and former commissioner Ray Arbie held fast in the negative.

### Hour-Long Discussion

Mr. Beatty, who sponsored the original ban on the commission payment plan at the time when the former P.U.C. was changed over to Acton Hydro Electric Commission, sparked the nearly 60-minute discussion when he referred to newspaper reports of the previous hydro meeting (when he was absent) at which time the payment issue had been first raised.

During that last meeting Mayor Les Duby had indicated as a paid member of council he was hardly

in a position to oppose a reasonable payment to commissioners but urged postponement of any action until a full slate of members was present.

Throughout Thursday's meeting Mr. Beatty quietly referred to the payment question several times, finally put the subject formally renewed when he asked outright what had taken place at the previous meeting.

### "Didn't Get Far"

Chairman Tyler said the subject had been discussed briefly when new members had asked what happened to payment to former P.U.C. members and wondered if it might be renewed. "It didn't get too far," he said.

Councillor Arbie, who Thursday was representing the mayor who was chairing a public hearing at the town hall the same evening, told commissioners he had been asked by the mayor to attend the meeting and speak on his behalf.

Commissioner Beatty admitted he only had newspaper reports to go on and both Fay Brown and Guelpf Mercury accounts of the previous meeting agreed on several main points. He also said there was very little mention of the payment subject recorded in the minutes.

Mr. McEachern thought the minutes "pretty well told the story" of the payment issue discussion.

To point-blank queries asked Mr. McEachern, commissioner Beatty received affirming answers that the following points

had been raised at the previous meeting: (1) better candidates are attracted by payment to commissioners; (2) the Acton commission was the result of laughter from other commissions on account of not receiving payment; (3) the public generally favored payment to the commission.

Mr. Beatty said the statement a higher calibre candidate would be lured into office if pay was received was "dead wrong."

### Upholds Position

He also claimed too many were in public office for what they could get out of it. "That's what's wrong with municipal government in our country. I feel it's going to bring our small communities like ours to set an example of public service," stated the commissioner. Any person who runs for financial gain is not likely to make a useful contribution to the commission, he said.

Councillor Arbie said he didn't feel he was in an awkward spot in opposing the payment issue because he was a paid councillor. He also told the two new members he did not fault them for raising the fee question but was of the opinion the issue should be resolved immediately.

Who's Laughing? Commissioner Beatty wondered, "Who was laughing at us?" but his query was not answered. Mr. Arbie said in recent talks with both Gelpf and Mercurys that the amount would not include gamemexical or industrial collection, gathering of Christmas trees or a

performance bond for the contractor.

Councillor Ray Arbie told members No. 2 committee had estimated labor plus 75 per cent of operation and covering garbage, not including maintenance on trucks, cost the town \$790 last year.

He said it was the committee's feeling, location of a new dump site would be the cheapest method of overcoming problems at the present dump. "In effect it means a cost of two mills to taxpayers would result if garbage collection was tendered out and only about half the town garbage would be touched," he stressed.

"Horrible Situation"

Truck depreciation for garbage collection only was the main concern of councillor Alex Johnson, who was of the opinion garbage

## Residents Oppose Zoning Change For Sale of Leishman Park Land

The residents take the view the park area was designated as such and chose their lots because of this play area. The park was a factor in their decision to move there. The park adjacent to their property does improve the value of their properties and they resent any attempt to remove the facility from them. They feel there should have been consultation before the park was taken from them. The transactions are backward—there should have been a hearing first. The board is required to follow the Act. The Minister's approval has not been received. The board will have to follow the rules if it is going to proceed; emphasized solicitor Bruce E. Payne, representing ratepayers in the area of the Leishman park area of Mill Street East.

The hearing, called by council last Thursday evening, was to discuss and investigate the municipality's proposal to sell the property and zone it as residential land. Attending the meeting were 16 ratepayers of the area.

Mayor L. Duby outlined the steps taken by council in deciding to rezone the land to permit residential construction. In its investigation, council learned the park board did not consider it feasible to develop the property as a park. Planning board had agreed the area was suitable for residential purposes—with water and sewer services on the street, the municipality would like to derive any revenue possible in the area. A change in the official plan has been approved by the Minister, but the zoning bylaw has not been changed to conform.

K. Hardman of the planning board reported the size of the area and the proximity of the school playgrounds were factors influencing the board's recommendation for rezoning. Aldo Branda, representing purchasers of the property, pointed out his clients had purchased the lots from the town and subsequently purchased additional land at the rear of the park area to increase the size of the lots to meet area requirements. He assumed the ratepayers they need have no worries about the type of homes to be constructed. If the rezoning goes through, the homes will be a credit to the locality.

Mayor Duby pointed out the length of time the property had been in its present state and said "the parks board has never taken any steps to improve it." Mrs. William Russell pointed out Jim Morrison cut the grass last year. John Buckman suggested that if the property was level, the ratepayers might cut the grass.

Miss Jean Barber reported her uncle, John Leishman, was required by council to provide the park area.

Mr. Payne pointed out that the preamble to the deed, under which the land in question was acquired by the town, refers to the property as the "John R. Leishman Memorial Park."

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## Another Addict Town Dump Still Smoking New Site Council's Cure

The familiar tune "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" could easily have been background music for council meeting Tuesday evening as members discussed garbage collection and the inconvenience to residents near the present dump site.

During the report of No. 2 committee it was learned purchase of a new truck and covering of the dump by Nellis Construction would be included in this year's budget and a search for a new dump site would be renewed.

Could Cost \$12,000

It was reported an estimated cost for contracted garbage collection would run in the neighborhood of \$12,000 and this amount would not include gamemexical or industrial collection, gathering of Christmas trees or a

collection trips accounted for the biggest per centage of maintenance costs. He thought last year when council considered looking for a new dump site and tendering garbage collection out, it was on the right track towards eliminating the "horrible situation" created in Glenlea subdivision. Mayor Les Duby said this had been so at the time but costs prohibited contracting garbage collection.

Deputy Reeve I. Bert Wood said it didn't matter where a dump area would still complain of smoke caused from burning rubbish. Councillor Albert Irwin quipped "Another answer is to spend about a quarter of a million dollars for an incinerator."

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**DRAMA CLUB** at the Acton High School will present "The Valiant" Thursday, February 27 at the school. Members of the cast are busy with practice sessions. Pictured reviewing the script left to right are Nancy Rognvaldson, who plays Josephine Paris; David Lidkea as Warden Holt; teacher and drama club coach Miss June McConnell; Ralph Matthews as James Dyke and John MacDonald as the jailer. Missing when picture was taken is Rick Whyte who plays the part of Father Daly.

### At Speyside

## Would Build 32 Apartments

Esqueing Township Council Monday agreed to review with its planning board a proposal for development on 40 acres of land near Speyside by W. Ollen.

Mr. Ollen outlined to members his plans to build four eight-family units of apartments. Each of the four apartments would be located on 10 acres of land. He asked council's approval of the project.

Reeve G. Leslie noted the construction could create a school problem but members agreed to review the proposal with the Planning Board.

The council accepted the bid of Anderson and Co. agents for the Royal Bank, of \$8.25 per \$1000 interest rate for the Pleasant School. The bonds will be over 30 years and bear five and three quarter per cent interest. The bid was the best of seven received. The lowest bid was \$8.25.

Council approved the Milton District High School Board proposal for an addition at the Williams Ave. High School estimated to cost \$700,000, but only to the extent such costs are eligible for subsidy.

### Seek Breakdown

The Area Public School Board asked approval of a \$150,000 school expansion program that would add three rooms at Glen Williams and three rooms at Stewarttown. Council asked for a breakdown of costs before considering the matter further.

A meeting has been arranged, it was reported, to meet with the Minister of Highways concerning an improved road to the Terra Cotta Conservation area. Two routes are under consideration.

Share is \$16,100. The township officials are pressing for a greater than 80 per cent subsidy, arguing the road is more a convenience to city dwellers using the conservation area, than to township residents.



**FIRE CHIEF MICK MOLANES** looks through rubbish cleaned from the furnace at Peacock school following a minor blaze Friday. Pieces of paper and dust which fell through the large open register in the centre of the one-room school smouldered on the furnace baffle below, causing the room to fill with smoke. Teacher Mrs. Margaret Somerville vacated the school of pupils in a hurry when smoke began to pour out of the register.