

P.S. Board, Principals Irked By Blame for H.S. Failures

Teachers flared Thursday night of last week when public school trustees and principals took objections to statements made the previous week during a secondary school board meeting by vice-principal Michael Bevan. The vice-principal had put the blame for the high rate of failures in the Easter exams on wrong streaming and urged closer liaison between public and high schools as a corrective measure.

A full-length discussion followed reading of a letter from Dwight Engel, Chairman of the high school board management committee requesting a "frame of reference" for streaming students by teachers and suggesting a meeting be held with the high school board to include representatives from Acton, Exeter and Nassagaweya public school boards. (This meeting is planned for Wednesday, May 20.)

Principal Elmer Smith of the M. Z. Bennett school remarked "I am very disturbed by some of Mr. Bevan's remarks and would be glad to meet with him."

Principal Smith described any attempt to blame elementary teachers as "a colossal nerve." He pointed out the registration forms for grade eight pupils are issued by the high school and are sent to the pupils' parents to be filled out.

Mr. Smith charged the high school was not carrying out the Roberts plan and should have a two-year course as well as four and five year courses. He cited an example in 1963 when he had spent two hours persuading a pupil to enter the four-year course instead of the five. "What happened?" he related. The high school vice-principal recommended a switch into the five-year stream on the basis the public school staff had underrated the pupil's academic abilities. Mr. Smith thought the student would be lucky to end up with 28 per cent.

Wants Restriction
Principal G. W. McKenzie of the Robert Little school said, "Mr. Bevan is going to have to retract some of his statements or there

is going to be fur flying around here." He also reported he had phoned high school principal E. A. Hansen, who said he personally didn't attach any blame to the public school staff for the streaming or failures.

Mr. McKenzie said he was of the opinion the Roberts plan called for a two-year course but had learned before this could take place there had to be a student population of at least 1,000. He had also thought Acton would be able to enroll some students at the new Georgetown Vocational School as Acton taxpayers were helping to foot the bill. When he enquired he learned there wasn't any room "About 50 per cent of the pupils should be in special trades but there isn't any place for them," he criticized.

To Guelph
Mr. McKenzie said he had contacted principal Fox of the John Ross school in Guelph requesting permission to send some pupils to his school and Mr. Fox had

complied with the request. The Robert Little principal also quoted Mr. Hansen as saying there was very little difference between the four and five year courses at the high school. "I have no quarrel with Mr. Hansen. He has attempted to co-operate fully," he stated.

Other Reasons
Trustee Murray Smith said, "It seems Mr. Bevan had to find a scapegoat for the failures and picked no streaming. If he wants to analyze failures, there are more reasons than this to pick on."

Trustee Bill Benson stated the letter from Mr. Engel was out of order and should never have been sent.

When the Board agreed to have trustees Vic Bristow and Louis Bonnette attend the meeting with both principals, Mr. McKenzie (gesturing with his hands) remarked "I will meet them at the same level. Not with us away down here and them away up there."

FUN FAIR ATTRACTS CROWD



MOTHER ADMIRES CAKES while daughter Janet enjoys a sucker during the M. Z. Bennett Home and School Association Fun Fair Saturday. Mrs. Jerry Jerome shows a box of small cakes to Mrs. John Rowe. A large crowd attended the event and many booths were sold out early.

Area Farmer Loses Stock In Barn Fire

One Acton district farmer, Wilbur Donnell, R.R. 4, hopes the saying "lightning never strikes twice in the same place" rings true. Thursday afternoon he lost 61 farm animals and his barn when lightning struck the building causing a flash fire.

Mr. Donnell was sowing grain in a back field when lightning struck the barn and before he could reach the building it was a mass of flames. Lost in the fire were 11 head of cattle, 10 sows and 40 pigs.

Rockwood Fire Department was called to the scene and by the time they arrived the building was beyond saving. Water was poured from portable tanks onto the burning shed to prevent flames from spreading to nearby buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnell and their children moved to the farm two years ago after which he remodelled the barn. It was burned to the foundation. Also lost in the blaze were some grain, straw, hay and a few pieces of equipment.

Rockwood firefighters were recalled to the scene after 6 p.m. when flames began to rear again from the collapsed framework and contents of the building.

Lions Present Three Cheques

Feature of the regular dinner meeting of Acton Lions Club Monday night was the presentation of cheques to each of three organizations which are active locally.

Lion Chief Pete Papillon presented cheques to Mrs. John Buckman and Mrs. Norm Price of the Retarded Children's Auxiliary, to staff officer R. S. Hart and superintendent George Hargrave representing the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and Constable Ron Rupert representing the Acton Safety Council.

In his preface the Lion Chief outlined some of the activities the three organizations sponsored and he wished them success in their various ventures.

Replying briefly, Mrs. Buckman, Mr. Hart and Constable Rupert acknowledged the gift and assured the Lions the donations would be put to good use.

Constable Rupert also outlined some of the features of the safety program which is being sponsored by Acton Lions.

In Element
Official Greeter Lion Al Lauer was in his element as he extended the hand of friendship to Lions and their guests but a fine imposed by Tail Twister Dave Hunter prompted him to greater efforts and he was last seen greeting guests at the hotel entrance. Earlier he led a lusty singing in his capacity as program director.

The club had a visit from Norm Fryer, representing the Orange Order and he explained some of the details of the July 11 celebration which is being held in Acton this year. The Lions are considering an activity to round out the big day. One suggestion was a street dance.

Included in the round of introductions were prospective new members Neil Miller and Gordon Morton.

Plans for the Lions spring carnival were outlined by committee chairman Lion Vic Bristow and he was given the green light to proceed with the annual event.

Closed for Holiday

The Acton Free Press plant will be closed all day Monday for the holiday. The cooperation of advertisers and correspondents in submitting copy by Tuesday is requested to compensate for the Monday closing. Have a good holiday and drive safely. We like to keep our population up.

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Council Lowers Red Ensign Rejects Support for Flag

As far as Canada's national flag is concerned Acton councillors are still doubtful. Tuesday evening a resolution to support the Red Ensign went down to defeat with three voting in favor of the motion, four voting against and one member undecided.

The resolution, sponsored by councillors Hamilton Peal and Mrs. George Fryer, asked council's support of the Red Ensign with a notice to this effect to be sent to Halton member of parliament Harry Harley. Voting in favor were the two sponsors along with Mayor L. A. Duby. Undecided was deputy-reeve J. Bert Wood, while opposing were councillors Albert Irwin, Eric Johnston, Alec Johnson and Ray Arbie.

Need More Time
Councillor Arbie stated he was not against the Ensign but felt council had not had enough time to consider the proposal. Councillor Alec Johnson was of the same opinion and councillor Eric Johnston said he favored the Union Jack. Deputy-reeve J. Bert Wood withheld his vote on the basis insufficient notice had been given for discussion.

During No. 1 committee report it was learned engineer Ken Hyde had presented a draft plan of subdivision at the Hrafnagel property and he had said the land was suitable for future industrial expansion. The committee was instructed to proceed with soil boring tests before decision to purchase the property was made by council.

New Man
No. 2 committee chairman Hamilton Peal reported nine applications for a position on the town work force had been studied at a recent committee meeting and two applicants interviewed. As a result, Clarence Shepherd was hired. Mr. Peal noted the other person interviewed wasn't certain at the time if he wished to leave his present employment or not, but later decided against leaving.

Industrial Commission
Council appointed Neil Bowles, John Guy and Aldo Braila to serve with the industrial committee of council on the Industrial Commission. Newly appointed members will be asked to name a fourth member to the commission.

It was also noted a design prepared by the engineer for Queen and Young Street renovations had been discussed at committee level. During a discussion on a by-law to sign an agreement with the C.N.R. regarding drainage

ditches to relieve flooding on the eastern end of Bower Avenue, clerk-administrator Jack McGeechie outlined the project to be undertaken. It was agreed to run drainage pipes to the creek from Bower Avenue.

Poles Rusting
Mr. McGeechie also pointed out the bad condition of some of the steel hydro poles and warned council repairs would have to be made immediately or serious trouble would develop. The clerk stated council is presently paying a maintenance charge on the poles but still has to pay the cost of having them painted.

Council agreed to check the situation with the hydro department and attempt to arrange to have rust removed and the poles painted. Councillor Ray Arbie informed members he had frequently stopped children from throwing stones at the poles and clipping paint.

At Conference
Mr. McGeechie reported on the recent town and village conference held at Simcoe last weekend and pointed out a few of the resolutions which had been proposed, including raising of county levies for municipalities, asking the provincial government to assume responsibility for ambulance services, prohibiting municipal employees from going on strike and requesting the government to establish arbitration boards to deal with these situations.

Also contained in the report of the convention was a three-page report which dealt with educational and educational grants. Councillors each requested a copy of this report for further study.

Latest on Land
During enquiries by members, councillor Eric Johnston asked what was happening regarding the Leishman park sale. He was told the application for a public

Queen's Grad

Donald Claude Cook, 22, will receive his Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from Queen's University, Kingston, at convocation on Saturday, May 16. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cook, who will be attending convocation with his sister, Miss Carolyn Cook, and aunt, Mrs. Vellich of Ottawa. He will begin employment with Dow Chemical Company, Sarnia, May 25.



DON COOK

School Fun Fair Nets \$562 Most Successful Event Held

Even more successful than last year's was the Fun Fair at the M. Z. Bennett school Saturday, sponsored by the Home and School Association, which grossed \$612 for a clear profit of \$562. Promptly at 11, when the doors opened, the corridors and classrooms were jammed with eager customers. Wares were especially arranged to suit both adult shoppers and the youngsters with limited allowances at their disposal.

Pennies could buy used books, toys, jewellery and other white elephants and rummage. There were low-priced games, fish pond and refreshments. Mothers shopped eagerly for baking and candy, and the booth was soon sold out. There was a country store and plant booth. Plenty of draws attracted everyone anxious to take a chance.

Band Played
Acton Citizens' Bandmen played for about an hour in the afternoon, and two clowns, Bill Taylor and Bob Loutill, delighted the children who roamed the halls, unwilling to leave even when their money was all gone.

Paper hats and booklets were given away.

Very Successful
The general conveners, Mrs. Owen Coultrup and Mrs. Patrick Fisher, are delighted with the very successful project. The money will be used to purchase requirements for the school—perhaps sports equipment or more books for the library. The conveners have plenty of praise for the many people who helped them, from all the conveners to the staff and principal, caretakers and older students who assisted all day with the games.

Caretakers Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacColl prepared the rooms and were assisted in the cleaning up by some H. and S. fathers and some eager-beaver students. Just some rummage and white elephants were left unsold.

Owen Coultrup and principal Elmer Smith made the draws which concluded the event, climaxed months of preparation.

In Charge
Booth conveners were: fish pond, Mrs. George Ware, Mrs. Barry Inscow, games, Owen Coultrup, Patrick Fisher; rummage, Mrs. Lawrence Mills and Mrs. Joe Soika; candy, Miss Eric Lynch and Mrs. Jack Blundell; potted

plants, Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, Miss Barbara Anderson, Mrs. Gib Jordan.

Dolls' clothes and draw, Mrs. Maria Pataky, Mrs. John Barr, jewellery, Mrs. Robert Lee, country store, Mrs. Thomas Gungor; baking, Mrs. S. Jerome, Mrs. Ray Mason; penny sale, Mrs. George Haggitt, Mrs. George Wallby, cards, Mrs. D. Van Stralen; cookbooks, Mrs. Patrick Fisher; Mrs. Owen Coultrup; white elephants, Mrs. John Buckman, Mrs. Morris Courtney and Mrs. Gary DeBruyn; hot dogs, Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Hartklev, Mrs. L. Streets assisted by Mrs. Tom Perkins and Mrs. Ken Marchment.

In the kindergarten room, afternoon tea was served under the conchership of Mrs. George Williams and Mrs. John Turkoz, assisted by Mrs. Sam Brunelle and M. Z. Bennett teachers Miss Gail Hannah and Miss Fern Small.

There was also a hot dog stand in the hall.

Draw Winners
Miscellaneous draw winners: two plants, Mrs. John Last; chocolates, Barry Inscow; bride doll, Kathy Wallis; scatter rug, Mrs. Joe Hurst; game table, Gary Turkoz; jewellery, John Blundell; toy pianos, Row Main prize, Mrs. Ray Thompson; candy, Andy Miller.

Penny sale winners: Susan Peche, two aprons; Mrs. John McGeechie, two cups and saucers; Susan Jerome, tablecloth; Mrs. Herbert Cook, perfume; Mrs. Alex Mann, a doll; Mrs. Arthur Field, cards and writing paper; M. Howson, teapot; Mrs. Allan Salt, tablecloth; Mrs. Griffin Sprawl, slippers; Mrs. H. Aldworth, Waterloo, dart game; Donna McCabe, blue vase; Mrs. John Barr, blanket; Mrs. M. Pothier, tupper ware; Mrs. W. P. McCabe, 24 quarts of milk; Mrs. Lloyd Golin, compact; Anne Connor, Toronto, dart game; Jim Stephen.

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Six New Teachers Next Term At Two Acton Public Schools

Both Acton public schools will have three new teachers on their staff next term. This was learned by the board Thursday evening of last week.

Principal G. W. McKenzie of the Robert Little school said he would have Ross Farrelly, Mary Golem and Robert Gowenlock at his school as replacements and principal Elmer Smith of the M. Z. Bennett school reported Donna Farrelly, Stewart Cowan and Edgar Leithard would be teaching at his school. The Farrellys are brother and sister.

The new teachers were engaged at Stratford Friday, May 1, and will attend orientation week May 26-29 at the schools. All are graduates this spring of Stratford Teachers' College.

Board members approved the appointment of James Bradshaw as head caretaker of the Robert Little school to work under the supervision of chief caretaker Colin MacColl. Caretaker

ker Robert Anderson will work under Mr. Bradshaw.

Permission was granted to Mr. McKenzie to engage Mrs. Ena Gibson to teach two full days a week at his school next term in order for him to provide more supervision for new teachers. Mr. Smith was granted permission to engage Mrs. Arlene Bruce for 3 1/2 days next term for the same purpose.

Mr. McKenzie received permission to take grade 8 students from his school on a visit to the Parliament buildings and museum in Toronto, Monday, May 25.

Property chairman Louis Bonnette reported a failure in the heating system which had been repaired by Neil Miller who worked all one weekend. He said a water softener had been recommended by Mr. Miller and this had been purchased from Riemer Electric.

Accounts totalling \$5,408.64 were approved for payment.

Tannery Staff Changes Shorter Day, Same Pay

Following a program aimed at increasing plant efficiency and production capacity, W. J. Beatty, president and general manager of Beardmore & Co. Limited, has announced further staff changes.

Jim Feenstra has been appointed foreman in charge of Specialty Department. Mr. Feenstra is an experienced finisher of specialty leathers for the small leather goods and luggage trade, and he has been in the service of the company for 11 years.

Charles Kingsmill has been appointed foreman in charge of all night shift operations. Mr. Kingsmill has been with the company since 1948, and until his recent appointment, was president of

Local 479, United Packinghouse Food Alliance Workers.

Bob Angell, under chief engineer Guy Ross will assume responsibility for the control and location of work performed by machine shop personnel.

Harry Rogers will assist Bob Angell by taking over machine shop stores, with the responsibility for control of tools—equipment and supplies used by the machine shop department in its operations.

In January of this year, the Company indicated its intention of reducing the work day from nine to eight hours without any reduction of take-home pay or increase in the unit cost of the product. Because of the complexities

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MRS. WILLIAM FINLEY received a life membership pin and a dozen red roses from the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary following her retirement as Zone Commander. Mrs. Finley has held the position for 12 years and is a charter member of the Acton Branch. Left to right are Mrs. Janet Rogers, Mrs. Finley and president Mrs. Fern Shullis.



BEARDMORE AND CO. LTD. officials entertained members of both Lakeside and Duke of Devonshire Chapters of the I.O.D.E. Tuesday afternoon. Nearly 40 ladies took conducted tours of the plant and saw how leather was manufactured from raw hides to finished product. Looking over shoes and handbags made from the new "Piggibuk" process are left to right Mrs. R. Spivey, Lakeside Chapter; R. R. Parler, plant manager; Mrs. H. R. Force, regent of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter; and W. J. Beatty, president and general manager. A story on Beardmore's newest process is on the first page of the second section.