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Establish Committee to Co-ordinate Pupil Transition from Grade 8 to 9

Streamlining problems for pupils graduating from Grade 8 to High School will in the future be closely followed by a co-ordinating committee made up of the high school principal and public school inspectors.

This action was taken Wednesday evening during a joint meeting of representatives from Acton high school board and staff, Acton public school board and staff, and Esquesing and Nassagaweya boards and staff.

The meeting was called by members of the high school board following recent complaints regarding streamlining problems at the high school.

Attending the meeting were high school board members Jack Reid, Chester Anderson and

Dwight Engel with staffers principal E.A. Hansen and vice-principal Michael Bevan; public school board trustees Doug Manning, Louis Bonnette and Vic Bristow with their two principals, Elmer Smith and G.W. McKenzie; Esquesing board chairman Mrs. Shirley Armstrong and principals Ralph McKenzie and E. Halkind; Nassagaweya trustee Dr. Cliff Young and principal Kenneth Trowbridge.

Chairman Jack Reid told the delegates the purpose of the joint meeting was to attempt to reach some solution to prevent streamlining problems and establish a system to guide students into proper courses when entering high school.

Establishment of the co-ordinating committee received full approval and the suggestion by principal G.W. McKenzie of the Robert Little public school to establish an education committee as well as also accepted. The educational committee will comprise representatives from each board, who will work with the co-ordinating committee. It was also learned other centres had already adopted this same system.

Main Purpose

The purpose of the co-ordinating committee will be to supervise the transition of pupils from grade 8 to grade 9 by providing principals, teachers, pupils and parents with sufficient information regarding a pupil's ability to assist in selecting the right course in high school.

At present, there are two courses which a pupil can enter—a four or five year stream. Principal McKenzie urged adoption of a two-year stream geared for slower students unable to complete either of the present two courses.

Mr. McKenzie stressed the importance of the two-year course, which would give a student grade 10 standing. He told the delegates most trade schools will not accept a student with only grade 10.

Mrs. Armstrong wondered what was being done for these slower students at present and learned they were receiving extra industrial arts training. Principal Hansen pointed out lack of facilities and equipment prevented a complete occupational course at the high school.

Trustee Dwight Engel thought some action might be taken if sufficient students declare their intention of taking a two-year high school course.

Public school trustee Bonnette wondered if streamlining was the problem at the high school or if it was guidance. He suggested the streamlining done in the past was not accurate and there should be no blame attached to the public school principals. High school board chairman Jack Reid assured Mr. Bonnette no blame was attached to the public schools.

M. Z. Bennett principal Elmer Smith pointed out forms were sent from the high school to pupils in grade 8, who in turn took them home for their parents to complete. He stated the public school principals had no say in what course was selected.

Principal Trowbridge of Brookville public school said public school principals kept a complete report of each child who entered their schools from grade 1 to grade 8. He wondered if it would be possible to obtain similar reports from high school principals on these pupils to help with future streamlining.

Public school board trustee Vic Bristow wondered why only Georgetown students could attend the new vocational wing at Georgetown when district taxpayers helped to pay the cost of the building. It was his opinion enrolment should be set up on a quota basis for each municipality who had contributed to the cost.

Mr. Engel said the problem bothered the high school board, but members had learned it was a Federal school and nothing could be done about enrolment of Acton pupils. Mr. Reid told the meeting a similar system as Georgetown couldn't be adopted until the Acton school reached a student population of 1,000.

Mr. Bonnette remarked, "It boils down to the fact that if you live in a small town, you can't get an education, but if you live in the city, you can."

"Important Move"

Mrs. Armstrong stated the transition from a public school to high school was an important one for pupils and each child should be well advised. High school board trustee Chester Anderson pointed out parents' teacher interviews were held at the high school after forms had been completed. Principal Hansen said only about 30 per cent of parents turned up.

Mr. Bristow suggested that interviews be conducted by high school staff at the public school level with both parents and pupil allowed to speak freely. At present, interviews are conducted in the high school auditorium with all teachers and parents in the room at once.

Principal McKenzie reminded board members they were dealing with "human clay," not plaster, where a bad batch could be thrown out. "Once a boy is ruined, he is ruined for good," Mr. McKenzie emphasized as he stressed the importance of proper streamlining.

It was agreed to get an immediate start on the co-ordinating committee and have each board appoint one member to the education committee at the next meeting.

An Editorial

The End of the "Buck"

There appears to be a growing tendency among holders of public office to solve some of their relationship problems between themselves and the public by hauling out the old chestnut of "I was misquoted" or "I was taken out of context." While in many cases this lame duck excuse will momentarily relieve pressure it is only "buck passing."

The latest group to hide behind a curtain of "misquote" has been in the high school. Here vice-principal Bevan has indicated he was misquoted and taken out of context not by one but by two news reporters. Two weeks ago we carried a report in which it was said that Mr. Bevan blamed poor streamlining of grade 8 graduates for the high rate of failures in grade nine. He said some students in the five year stream should not be there at all.

Public school principals were understandably disturbed and at their next meeting with their board, discussed the subject rather fully. As a result, a meeting of the high school board, the principal and vice-principal and representatives of the public school boards of Acton, Nassagaweya and Esquesing and their principals was called for Wednesday evening.

This was fine. It appears as though some sifting of the wheat and the chaff could be made.

However, in their wisdom, the high school chairman Jack Reid, Principal Hansen and vice-principal Bevan met Wednesday afternoon with Public School Chairman Doug Manning and Principals Garnet McKenzie and Elmer Smith. The purpose of accomplishments of this meeting we do not know.

At the open meeting on Wednesday evening there was no discussion on the accuracy or content of the press reports. In answer to a question, principal Smith was assured by chairman Reid the press reports were not correct. Later the chairman admitted to the Free Press reporter he had not read the reports but was basing conclusions on "what people on the street" had conveyed to him.

The chairman and vice-principal's congratulations extended to the Free Press on "sifting up a mess" are accepted graciously. It would appear to be impossible to stir something up if there was not something there in the first place.

Obviously the decision the press reports were incorrect was made at the private meeting in the afternoon. This we will not accept. If the charge that our report is not correct is to be considered, let it be made and dealt with in an open meeting.

In some interpretations a Kangaroo Court is one which is convened in secret at which only the prosecution is heard.

We don't ask for any special privileges as members of the press. What we do ask is that public business, and this includes public and high school business as well as municipal business, be conducted at public and open meetings of which all taxpayers have a right of full knowledge.

Harry Truman's famous and recently quoted slogan is recalled, "If you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen."

Call for Mutual Aid Quell Bad Bush Fire

Acton firefighters encountered their worst fire of the year Tuesday afternoon when they fought a bush fire at the corner of No. 17 Sidemont and the Sixth Line of Nassagaweya Township.

When firefighters arrived the bush was a blazing inferno and sparks and flames were leap-

ing to the east side of the Sixth Line into a reforestation area and a housing development containing four homes.

Mutual Aid

Two booster lines from the Acton pumper were put into play and firefighters used hoses to knock down minor fires beginning to start. A call was put in to Milton Fire Department for Mutual Aid assistance when Fire Chief Mick Holmes realized one truck and eight men couldn't cope with the fire.

Milton sent a pumper and utility truck which was loaded with hose and other equipment. Before long a nearby stream was utilized and two portable pumps were pumping water from the stream to the Acton truck and water was relayed to the Milton pumper as firefighters used both 2 1/2 and 1 1/2 inch hoses.

Dense Smoke

Heat was so intense and smoke so dense, firefighters standing on the roadway couldn't be seen a few feet away as flames licked through dry brush and trees.

Acton firefighters, first on the scene, fought the fire from 3 p.m. until a relief crew was sent from town at 5 p.m. Both Acton and Milton trucks stayed at the scene until 8:30 p.m.

The property, formerly owned by Miss Annie Stalker, had been sold to an Oakville man, Mr. Hume, and a portion of this had been resold recently. It was the latter area which burned out. Cause of the fire is unknown.

Several volunteers pitched in to help Acton firefighters before Milton trucks arrived and Fire Chief Mick Holmes extended his appreciation for their assistance. Acton Firefighters had just returned from fighting a shambled area and the pumper had been filled from a hydrant on Willow St., when the siren sounded for the bush fire.



THE WOMEN behind the scenes of municipal government were lauded Wednesday evening during an Urban Board tour of Acton. Left to right receiving roses from Acton Mayor Les Doby are Mrs. John Elliott, wife of Georgetown Reeve John Elliott, Mrs. Carl Martin, wife of Milton Reeve Dr. Carl Martin, Mayor Doby and Mrs. Doby.

Direct Distance Dialing Slated For Acton, Rockwood this Fall

Direct Distance Dialing will come to Acton this fall.

Northern Electric Company technicians are busy installing the crossbar switching machine which will bring Direct Distance Dialing (DDD) to the Kitchener-Waterloo-Guelph area. E. G. Denby, Bell Telephone Company

manager announced the machine is being installed in the St. Jacobs and Baden, an exchange owned and operated by the Willmott Municipal Telephone System. Multi-party line customers in Guelph will also receive this service for the first time.

Dial It Yourself

DDD is the new system which allows the customer to dial his own station to station. Long distance calls without the assistance of an operator. This service is continually being added to and eventually most telephone users on the North American continent will be able to place calls

from this service, Mr. Denby explained.

Bell installers will soon begin creating some homes in the area. Some telephony require minor adjustments prior to the introduction of DDD service.

In August some 7,000 to 8,000 customers who are large users of long distance service will receive special instructions on the use of DDD and its convenience for business calls. A number of Bell employees will be available to give talks and demonstrations on DDD to local church and community groups, Mr. Denby said.

Hydro, Town Co-Operate To Repaint Steel Poles

Hydro superintendent Doug Mason and town superintendent All Doby will meet to name a starting date and arrange work schedules for a cooperative project repainting steel poles.

Hydro commissioners last Thursday concluded some poles in Lakeview, Glenlea and other places in town must have been painted with inferior quality paint.

There are about 120 poles altogether which will have to be repainted. Problem of children spoiling the job came up; the men will try to do as much as possible before school is out.

Hydro commissioners asked a letter be written to the manufacturer asking for advice on the best method and paint. The best paint for the job will be purchased in bulk.

Co-operative effort in the tree trimming had been very successful, Mayor Les Doby said as he recommended a similar "compatible agreement" for painting the poles.

Order Map

The new distribution system map for the hydro office wall was shown by Mr. Mason, and a motion was passed to complete it and send it to Hydro where it will be enlarged for hanging. Cost quoted was \$100. Sections could be added to the map if necessary.

Through Mayor Doby, the commissioners requested a set of plans for the Queen St. widening project. Their responsibility was discussed, but nothing can be decided until the plans are available. Council doesn't have plans to go by yet, either.

Widen Street

The Queen St. project has already been postponed three years by the Department of Highways, and would perhaps have been postponed again had not council urged its completion. The town will take over the contract work, which gets a government subsidy.

Queen St. will be widened from 30 feet to 42 feet. A change in grades, improvement at the tracks and "Calamity Corner" (now sandbagged) were talked over.

Elects Trial

Ronald McEachern, Acton, has elected trial by judge and jury on five charges before Magistrate Howitt in Guelph Wednesday. Preliminary hearing was on the charge of criminal negligence causing death, thereby committing manslaughter. Guelph police Officer Eric MacAulay died April 5 of injuries suffered in a traffic accident as he attempted to halt McEachern's car. Other charges are causing death by criminal negligence, dangerous driving, failing to remain at an accident and driving while his ability was impaired by alcohol.

Grade Seven, Eight May Get Exemptions

For the first time, grade seven and eight pupils at both Acton public schools will have an opportunity of being exempted from writing final exams.

On Friday, June 5, the fourth and final report cards will be sent home with pupils. Pupils who have done their best all term will be eligible for exemptions based on their achievement average. In the event staff members consider a pupil has not put forth his or her best effort all term no exemption will be granted.

This is the first year this has been adopted and the decision was made by school principals.

Firefighters Form Masonic Degree Team

Halton County Firefighters take the odd evening off from either fighting fires or practice sessions. They have formed a Masonic degree team and facilitate at county lodges when fellow firefighters are installed or take degrees.

The team has visited Milton lodge for an installation and on May 5, journeyed to Oakville for an installation. Taking part from Acton are firefighters Don Van Fleet, Doug Mason, All Doby, Harry Otterburn, Doug McEachern and Herb Deeds. Some from Milton and Oakville Departments also take part.

Nine Top H.S. Athletes Compete at O.A.C. Today

Acton high school athletes finished in fourth spot Saturday at the O.A.C. meet in Guelph when they competed against schools in the district.

As a result of their excellent showing, nine of the athletes are competing this afternoon (Thursday) at the O.A.C. grounds in the "A" meet. Those who are successful in obtaining either a first or a second will enter the provincial finals at Seagram's stadium in Kitchener May 30.

Set Records

Setting a new record last Saturday in the intermediate mile and half mile was Allan Hall who romped home first. Also setting a new record in the junior shot putt was David Ryder who won first.

Other Acton winners during the meet were John Cox with a first in the intermediate pole vault, Kevin Hall, third in the junior pole vault and Ron Heller third in the senior pole vault.

The intermediate boys' relay team placed second. Runners were Danny Arbo, David Liddell, Doug Garrett and John Gray.

In the girls' events Kay Chisholm placed third in the 220 yard dash and high jump Sandra Singarland placed third in the junior discus and Dorothy Field third in the junior 220 yard dash.

New Doctor

In June Dr. Craig Hutchinson will begin practicing medicine in Acton in partnership with Dr. Brian Moore. Dr. Moore's office at the Mill Man corner is being altered to accommodate the doctors who graduated from the University of Toronto the same year, 1961.

Dr. Hutchinson, his wife and three children will be living in Lakeview subdivision. He has been practicing in Cooksville. He will be the fourth doctor here.



UNITED CHURCH C.G.I.Y. mother and Daughter banquet was held Wednesday evening in the church basement. Each mother received a flower prior to the dinner. Left to right are C.G.I.Y. leader Miss Fern Small, Mrs. C. L. Poole who was an honored guest and assistant leader Lorraine Lasby.



CAVELL MARSHALL was presented Wednesday evening with her Blue All-Round cord by Guide Captain Mrs. Lowry. Cavell, Acton's fifth guide to receive the award, is the only present holder in guides. A member of the local guide company for three years she is now trying to win her gold cord before her sixteenth birthday in November. To qualify for the Blue Cord she was required to be a first class guide and to hold 12 proficiency badges. Some of the badges Cavell has earned are: hostess, housemaker, needlewoman, laundress, cook, carpenter, horsewoman, fires, athletics, first aid, home nursing and toymaker. With Cavell are guide captain Mrs. Lowry on the right and her mother Mrs. Ken Marshall.