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Bill Benson Chairman Public School Board

Three newly elected trustees, one a veteran of school board, and three present members of Acton public school board received their oath of office Tuesday evening during the 1965 inaugural meeting.

Chosen chairman to head the board this year, William Benson said the board had always operated very competently in past years and he is a firm believer in everyone getting his feet under the table and discussing problems. "Ninety-nine per cent of the time, we will come up with the right answer and I hope this is the procedure this year," he stated.

Name Chairman
Vice-chairman for the year will be Murray Smith, a veteran trustee with many years' service on the board. Finance chairman is Doug Manning, property chairman Murray Smith and management chairman Vic Bristow.

In attendance for the meeting were present members, William Benson, Vic Bristow and Murray Smith, as well as newly elected but seasoned trustees with the board, Doug Manning, who served as chairman last year, and newcomers Orval Chapman and Cyril Bishop. William Middleton was reelected as secretary for another year.

Judge George E. Elliott Dies Suddenly Wednesday



Haldimand County lost a faithful servant who was held in high esteem by his many friends and associates, Judge George E. Elliott died suddenly Wednesday afternoon in his 63rd year as the result of a series of heart attacks.

Taken ill Tuesday, he was treated at home by his family doctor and Wednesday morning taken to Milton District Hospital where he died in the early afternoon. Judge Elliott conducted his usual duties Saturday in the courtroom.

On November 25, 1961, he was sworn in as County Judge of Hal-



MIDNIGHT-OIL was burned by Acton council during its inaugural meeting Monday night. A lengthy agenda kept council members in session close to 12 p.m. Seated front row left to right are reeve H. H. Hinton, mayor Les Duby and deputy-reeve Roy Goodwin. Back row left to right are clerk administrator Jack McGeachie, councillors Albert Irwin, F. G. Oakes, William Williams, Ray Arbie, Robert Drinkwater and Mrs. Doris Fryer.

Mayor Duby's Inaugural Address

At the inaugural meeting of council Monday, Mayor Les Duby addressed councillors as follows:
I should refrain from suggesting to the individual chairmen what specific points they should keep in mind for 1965, because this will come automatically as we meet our problems from day to day.
I am, however, greatly concerned about Wallace Street, with regard to safety, lighting and traffic. The progress of the Centennial Library project, an answer to our dump site problem; and a close watch on our highway widening program, which we should all enjoy and appreciate when completed this year.

In Contest for Warden
Before I proceed, I understand that our Reeve intends to contest, once again, the Wardenship of the County, and I am sure that we should convey to him, at this time, our very best wishes. Also, we shall not dwell on the possible mill rate, or what we propose to do this year, because, in any event, we shall only be able to do what is possible, keeping our ratepayers in mind and promoting the most progressive, efficient and economical program that we can, to make the future of Acton secure.

I should like to mention a few basic factors which should always be uppermost in our minds, and that should help to establish the policy of this council.
Teamwork
Municipal government is most efficient when the council works as a team. When a council mem-

ber takes political advantage of other members, when comments are made primarily for the sake of the press or the listening public, instead of as a contribution to solving a certain problem, government does not function at its best.
Most councils, except a few large cities and some very small municipalities, function on a committee system. It is the only way that a large volume of business can be handled and given the necessary attention by members of council. Not always do councillors get the committees of their choice, but a sincere public servant will give his very best effort to whatever field is allotted to him and refrain from interfering in the routine operations of the other committees. It is his right — his duty, to assure himself that all committees are carrying out the wishes and policies of council, but this can be done most properly and effectively by discussion and questioning of committee reports at the council table.
Committees, on their part, should be always conscious of the fact that theirs is an investigating, reporting, recommending and (to a lesser degree) administrative job, and that final decisions are always rest with the council. It is therefore important that they present full reports of their activities and recommendations to council.

Employee Relations
We should resist the temptation to unjustly blame the staff, either publicly or privately, when there is criticism of municipal operations. There is sometimes a tendency on the part of council members to blame this official or that official for not fulfilling a ratepayer's request, when, in fact, the request is contrary to the policy of council.
It is true in the smaller municipalities with little staff and limited operations, that council members must use their own information and good judgment in making decisions. Often they have to look after much of the administration too. However, the prime job of the council is that of policy-making and nothing disrupts efficiency more than the chairman of a committee constantly looking over the shoulder of the department head, telling him how to do his job.
Often, members of council have ideas and opinions, even on technical subjects, which may well match those of professional consultants. They may also be able to give valuable advice and assistance to the administrators. It is not always that the experts have all the answers. But, in general, we ignore, at our own peril, the recommendations of our engineer, assessment commissioner, planner, or our clerk administrator.

Public Relations
I am convinced that a good relationship between members of council and between council and staff is essential for best municipal operations. One other relationship is important too. It is the one between the council and the public and it can be covered very briefly. Always keep the

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Over at 12 p.m.

Long Inaugural Agenda Keeps New Council Busy

Customary procedure at Council's inaugural meeting was followed Monday evening when Rev. A. H. McKenzie representing the Acton Ministerial Association congratulated council, gave an inaugural prayer following the administration of the oath of office by clerk J. McGeachie.
First Mayor Les Duby was his recommendation for appointment to committees for the coming year. Unanimous approval was given the mayor's choice. Council ended its first meeting close to the stroke of midnight.

Name Committees
Members of No. 1 committee for the year will comprise the following sub-committees with each member serving as chairman of his respective committee: administration, Reeve H. H. Hinton; finance and education, Dr. F. G. Oakes; assessment and development, R. Drinkwater; welfare and property, Mrs. G. Fryer.
The following will comprise No. 2 committee: roads and maintenance, R. Arbie; sewer and water, A. Irvine; lights and sanitation, R. Goodwin; fire and police, W. Williams.

Council will revise this year will comprise the following sub-committees: for No. 1 committee and the second and fourth meetings; for No. 2 committee meetings.
Signing authority was granted the mayor, reeve and treasurer and approval given to join both the Municipal Clerks' Association and Assessors' Association at a fee of \$10 each.

Approval was also given the mayor and treasurer to pay certain accounts when due in order to obtain discounts and also pay employees' salaries.
Present for the inaugural session was a full council — Mayor Duby, reeve Hinton, deputy-reeve Goodwin, and councillors Arbie, Fryer, Irwin, Oakes, Williams and Drinkwater.

Curling sessions for high school girls and boys have begun on Tuesdays after school.

Approach Final Formalities Acquisition Industrial Park

Two readings were given a by-law authorizing the issuing of \$50,000 in debentures to finance the purchase of industrial property on Main St. N. at Tuesday's inaugural council meeting. The by-law now is sent to the Department of Municipal Affairs for approval.

In summarizing the present status of proposed industrial park, clerk Jack McGeachie outlined the steps that have been taken so far on the project. The offer to purchase the property from Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Holmgren had been made subject to the approval of the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Ontario Municipal Board. The by-law to purchase the property was submitted to and approved by the OMB and the Department of Municipal Affairs.

In Spite of Opposition
These two approvals had been given in spite of a petition in opposition to the purchase which was submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs. The Department held up approval for three weeks, then after considering the petition in opposition, approved the project. The application to the OMB for approval was made, and approval granted on December 30, 1964.

The present by-law to authorize the selling of the debentures to complete the purchase has now been given two readings by council and is to be submitted to the OMB for their approval prior to the third and final reading.

Councillor Frank Oakes expressed his opinion that the point of no-return had now been reached.
Could Default
However, Reeve Hinton said that he felt it would be economically sound, even at this date to not proceed to issue the debentures and to default on the offer to purchase their \$1,000 deposit. He felt the present proposal was "considerably more reasonable" than was presented at the start.

Addition Done
The high school addition, in use part by part since September, will be finally completed this week, according to Jack Gordon, work superintendent for J. B. Mackenzie and Son, the contractors. There were crews of workmen in the new section during the Christmas holidays and only minor tasks remain to be done.

Some of the rooms were in use in September, and all have been used since October despite the presence of workmen. One of the last jobs in installing the mosaic slab siding at the front door.
An "Open House" is being planned so everyone may see the addition. A date hasn't been set yet.

He pointed out it would cost the taxpayers one mill to finance the purchase of the property and an additional one mill to develop the property to its first stage.

Will Learn
Mayor Duby said the new councillors "will get a deeper understanding of the project as the year progresses. The reeve has pointed out the very worst position we could be put in. All the information will be brought out in committee discussions and new councillors will be fully informed as soon as possible."

Councillor Arbie expressed his opinion that the machinery of OMB and DMA has been set up to guard ratepayers against foolish and unnecessary spending. "In a project we must proceed methodically through these steps. Objections to the industrial project were made in the proper place at the proper time. I suspect the objection was considered many times because we have heard nothing from the DMA as a result of this objection."
Last Year's Discussion
"I sympathize with the new members voting on this issue who cannot be fully informed. They must rely on the decisions made by the men in these chairs last year. I can understand the reeve's position in presenting his objection but can we suggest any other action than this?"
"When industrialists arrive in Acton they cannot accept pro-

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Trustees Refuse \$15 Increase Settle for Same \$5 Honorarium

Acton district high school board members held their inaugural meeting Monday evening and chose Rev. Dwight Engel as chairman for 1965 after taking the oath of office from secretary William Middleton.

A veteran of many years on public school board, Tom Watson was present for his first meeting in the role of high school board trustee. He was appointed last year to represent the public school board. Chester Anderson was elected vice chairman and William Middleton reelected as secretary. He served notice this would be his last year as board secretary.

Discuss Pay
One of the major items of business on the agenda was payment of an honorarium to trustees. Last year board members received payment of \$5 per month plus a mileage payment to township representatives of 10 cents per mile for meetings.
According to new provincial legislation, board members can receive up to \$20 per month (normally Acton board holds one regular meeting a month) but final decision rests with a board agreement.

Monday night, trustees settled for the same honorarium as received last year but not before much discussion on the subject.

Vice-chairman Chester Anderson and public school board's appointee Tom Watson voiced strong objection about increasing the honorarium. Mr. Anderson said "Five dollars is peanuts but when it comes to \$20, I feel there are other citizens who are doing something for the community and sitting on the board is mine. Trustee Watson echoed the vice chairman's sentiments. Kerwin McPhail stated he didn't want to accept payment of \$20 either.
In stating his objection trustee Anderson began to propose a solution to increase any payment with the exception of 10 cents per mile for rural representatives.

Not for Nothing
Nassagaweya Township representative Duncan Moffat said "If you do that, Nassagaweya will get my resignation. I am not coming here for nothing." Mr. Moffat stated he would not take less than \$5 per month and noted the first year he was on school board he only received seven cents per mile.
Chairman-elect Rev. Dwight Engel told members he understood other municipal boards could vote payment if they wished. "School boards had never done this in the past until councils had raised their honorarium and other boards felt something would be relevant," he said.

Trustee Moffat said he had been called from either the field or barn on several occasions to answer questions from ratepayers regarding transportation problems. "I am not saying it should be \$20 but I'm not sitting for nothing and I know my municipality doesn't expect me to," he stated.
Vice-chairman Anderson said everyone was entitled to his own opinion. Mr. Moffat said "I am patriotic up to a point but I move we get paid \$10 per month." His proposed motion went unseconded.
It was followed by a resolution moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. McPhail to have the honorarium remain at \$5 per month with 10 cents per mile for rural representatives. During a recorded vote trustees Moffat and Watson voted in the negative and the mover and seconder in the affirmative. Chairman Engel broke the tie vote by an affirmative vote.
Mr. Watson pointed out his objection differed from that of trustee Moffat's.
Scholarship, Open House
Board members increased the annual \$800 scholarship payment to \$1,000 for the coming term.
It was also proposed to have "Open House" at the school as

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PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD trustees held their inaugural meeting Tuesday evening and took their oath of office. Seated left to right are secretary William Middleton, chairman William Benson and vice-chairman Murray Smith. Back row left to right are trustees Vic Bristow, Cyril Bishop, Orval Chapman and Douglas Manning.

ACTON HIGH SCHOOL TRUSTEES wasted little time in the New Year before they delved into their first agenda. Monday evening members took their oath of office, appointed a chairman, vice-chairman and committees and began work immediately. Seated front row left to right are secretary William Middleton, chairman Rev. Dwight Engel and vice-chairman Chester Anderson. Back row left to right are new trustee Tom Watson and Township representatives Kerwin McPhail and Duncan Moffat.

New Year Baby

Acton's New Year baby — a little girl was born at 324 p.m. January 1 in Joseph General Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Dunn, 118 Longfield Road, Glenora. (A Guelph baby was born earlier to set the record there.) The seven pound, three ounce baby, not yet home from hospital, is to be named Tamara June — Yarnable for short.