

The Acton Free Press

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Only Slight Increase In P.S. Board Budget

Public school board members burned the midnight oil Tuesday as they sharpened pencils and wore out erasers to finally adapt a budget for presentation to council.

Last year's budget amounted to \$67,715 and this year's request to council amounts to \$68,520. In spite of increased staff salaries and an estimated \$2,000 for repairs to the roof at the M. Z. Bennett school, board members were happy with their efforts in keeping the budget as low as possible.

Roof Problem

At the start of the meeting Nick Owens, West Rooding proprietor, was present to discuss the roofing problem and give the board a tentative price for repairs. Inspector W. L. McNeil is attempting to obtain a government grant which will offset the large portion of the cost of a new roof.

It was agreed to continue the practice of allowing senior grade pupils from Brookville to take home economics and shop training at the Robert Little school. Last year the Nassagaweya school board was assessed \$2,000 per year for three classes per week. This year the charge will be \$3,000 due to an extra class plus operating costs. Last year's amount didn't include any replacement of shop equipment or repairs. It is hoped this year's cost is sufficient to allow for a slight margin for this purpose.

The property committee reported it had agreed to proceed with a few repairs at the stone school as a start in a facelifting program to allow use of the building again. Accounts totalling \$7,219.11 were approved for payment.

Operetta Twice Packs R. L. School Auditorium

"On the Range" — a rollicking operetta in which good prevails and the bad is trounced out — filled the Robert Little school auditorium Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The choice, a popular one as far as the many Robert Little school students were concerned, was loudly applauded by the audiences.

Comedy, a kidnapping, a long lost sister, robbers, Indians, cowboys — and even a band of students with their professors — comprise the cast. Many of the lead roles were given to different students each night of the production.

Junior Grades

Before the operetta, skits or musical numbers were presented by the lower grades, most of them with a western theme. Mrs. Webb's kindergarten students presented a dramatized story "Brave Little Indians" and "Ten Little Indians." Marianne Coley was "reader."

Dancing songs and dances on different nights were classes taught by Mrs. Byerman, Miss Jones, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Cope, Mrs. White, Mrs. McCaw, Miss Golem, Mrs. Gamble and Miss Dubs.

Boonie Garsen spoke the prologue to the operetta. Leonard Van der Polder on his guitar and Joseph Petric on the accordion played the overture.

The main characters were all played by different boys and girls on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, as the cast lists show.

Mr. Spinks, Tuesday, Sharon White, Wednesday, Jackie Palmer, Florida, college graduate, Marsha McKenzie, Johanna Van der Bos, Jack Bean, hotel clerk, Fred Fink, Gordon Morris, Miss Lee, English teacher, Yvonne Yuteman, Elizabeth Hurst, Donald, brother of Harry, Harry, Barbara, Rosa, of Florida, graduate, Carol Masales, Carol Patterson, Ezra Spinks, Professor, John Beatty, Nancy Gray, long lost sister, Nancy Morris, Marianne Coley, Truman, graduate, Bob Krul (Both nights), Jim Gray, Nancy's brother, disguised as Indian, Clive Stewart, Bill Pendleton, Mr. Gray, ranch owner, Brian Sampson.

Pokass, Hugh O'Rourke, Big Bill, Peter Marzo, Doug Hewitt, Tony, Bill Spicher, John Roszell, Wild Hawk, Bruce Segaski, Finch, David Manes, Bob Manning, Betty, Beverly Norton, Jo Ann Wasowicz, Max, Karen Townsend, Linda Perry, Bell Hop, David Ford, Cowboy Bill Fabian, Mayor Mike Howe, Sherrill, Rodney McEachern.

Groups

Ladina Lancers are Elaine Johnson, Sandra Coker, Brenda Denton, Lane Watson, Linda Lou Moss, Lucienne Pratt.

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WILD WESTERN THRILLERS had nothing on the performance at the Robert Little school Tuesday and Wednesday evening as pupils presented their annual operetta. Some of Mrs. Arthur Gamble's grade 1 pupils who performed are: David Maroux, Sherry Phillips, John McCutcheon, Becky Blackley, Cathy Roach, Cathy Frizzell, Jimmy Hurley, Kim Kirkness and Joey Kentner.

Acton Still Digging Out Worst Storm in 15 Years

Praise was heaped on town workmen for their tireless efforts in clearing snow last weekend, following the heaviest snowstorm in an estimated 15 years. They are still hauling away snow from many plugging sections of town.

Mild Start

What started out as a mild snowfall Wednesday night of last week ended up in a real blizzard, halting traffic and wrecking havoc throughout the area.

Acton Jersey Dairy milkhouse Nellie Gray had to be dug out of deep snow Thursday morning on one occasion by driver Lorne Masales.

Cars Abandoned

Motorists abandoned cars at the side of roads and trudged the rest of the way to work. Some living in rural areas didn't even make it to work. Some plants shut down early. Thursday to all low workers to get home. Trains and buses made trips but were late in arriving.

Two town snowplows were put to work first thing Thursday morning. Shortly afterwards one broke down but was repaired and back in action by early afternoon. A plow owned by Norm Turner was called in to help. Town workmen had little sleep. Thursday night as they trucked away snow from town streets. This was repeated again Saturday night. Three extra trucks were hired to assist with hauling snow.

At the height of Thursday's storm around 10 p.m. a phone call was received at the town office from a woman complaining hers was the only street in town not ploughed out and the milkman couldn't make a delivery at her home.

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Ontario Hydro Rejects Dual-Purpose Building To House Town, Hydro Offices

A dual purpose building to house both hydro and town offices has been rejected by Ontario Hydro Thursday evening of last week. Hydro secretary, treasurer Mrs. Audrey Upphart read a letter from Ian Stubbs, consulting sales service engineer with Ontario Hydro in Hamilton, which turned thumbs down on the plan.

Classified by architect Donald Skinner as plan D, the combined hydro and municipal building with separate offices, had been under consideration by both hydro and town officials at an estimated cost in the neighborhood of \$700,000. The plan called for use of the present hydro workshop on Alice Street with expansion to accommodate the office area.

Alternative plan A, about \$200,000 cheaper, is designed strictly for use by the Acton Hydro, and with minor modifications suggested by Mr. Stubbs was approved by Ontario Hydro.

After learning of the decision, Mayor Lay Dubs' council representative on the commission, commented: "Now we know where we stand. We've got that off our hands." He thanked the commission for their interest in considering the dual purpose building.

According to Mr. Stubbs' letter the combined building proposal, under terms of a rental basis to the town with the local commission footing the bill, was unacceptable and was in excess of anticipated future needs required by the commission.

Approach with Caution

Mr. Stubbs advised the commission to approach a building project with caution and noted the dual-purpose building would require a debenture issue. The debenture would represent an "incurable" future obligation, according to terms of the letter.

Architect Donald Skinner, who drew from Kitchener, Ont., the storm, produced drawings which the commission began to peruse and consider the tentative approved plan with suggested modifications.

Committee to Investigate

Next possible move toward erecting a new hydro structure, it decided by the commission, will (Continued on Page Five)

Train-Truck Crash Worst Since '58 Claims Life of J. Brinklow, Guelph

Acton district's first fatality involving a train and motor vehicle since October, 1958, claimed the life of Jack Brinklow, age 35, Heam Avenue, Guelph, Saturday morning. Mr. Brinklow, a married man with one child, was driving a milk truck for Acton Jersey Dairy at the time the accident occurred.

Back in 1958, a train-car crash at the Main Street crossing claimed the life of an H. K. Porter Co. worker, George Bowen. At that time, the victim was killed instantly. Saturday, Mr. Brinklow died after being admitted to Guelph General Hospital.

West of Town

The accident Saturday occurred at the C.N.R. crossing on the First Line of Esqueving Township one and three-quarter miles west of Acton. The milk truck was proceeding north over the tracks and the through train was travelling west to Stratford. Train traffic was tied up for over two hours.

The victim was dislodged from his trapped position in the cab of the truck by Dr. Craig Hutchison, taxi owner Bill Hanna, Acton O.P.P. constable Bruce McArthur and one of the trainmen, who used a fire axe and crowbar.

The westbound train, which doesn't stop in Acton, was due around 8:30 a.m. and it is believed the accident occurred within minutes of this time. The milk truck with driver was carried close to 1500 feet west, on the tracks from the point of impact, with the driver trapped in the cab.

Use Taxi Radios

Bill Hanna, owner of Ken's Taxi Service, was sitting in his cab in front of Gordon's Hardware when he received a call in the radio-dispatched car to pick up a passenger. As he turned to go north on Willow St., he met a man frantically waving his arms.

The stranger, later identified as Dave Jones of Georgetown, was driving west to Guelph at the time the accident happened.

Volunteer Ambulance was called. He was too seriously injured to be taken in a car. Shortly after the Guelph ambulance arrived and the injured man was placed on a stretcher, the ambulance from Georgetown arrived as well.

O.P.P. constables from the Milton detachment were also on the scene prior to the arrival of Dr. Hutchison and Mr. Hanna.

Fry Truck Laws

After the injured man was en route to Guelph hospital, a tow truck was used to winch the damaged vehicle from in front of the train and cutting torches were needed to free metal from in front of the engine. Engineer on the train was Clarence Kent, Toronto, and fireman was W. E. Crossland. Port Credit.

The milk truck, a 1963 GMC van, was a complete wreck and the train received about \$1,000 damage, said investigating officer Const. A. E. Jordan.

Mr. Brinklow died about an hour after being admitted to hospital. He had just started work for Don Timmings, owner of Acton Jersey Dairy, the first part (Continued on Page Three)

Try Again Saturday Board Votes H.S. Salary Increase To Attract Experienced Teachers

Hopes of hiring experienced teachers as high school staff replacements here were shattered last weekend as a result of Toronto school board unexpectedly offering more enticing salary schedules.

Trustees learned Monday evening the acceptable salary schedule for present staff members would have to be altered if experienced teachers were to be obtained to replace staff resignations.

During the weekend teacher hiring trip to the Park Plaza Hotel, Toronto, principal F. A. Hansen, board chairman Dwight Engel and trustees Tom Watson and Chester Anderson found the large flow of traffic heading towards rooms rented by Toronto school board, where signs indicated higher salaries than offered by other school boards present.

Back to Toronto

After a thorough discussion at the regular meeting Monday night, it was agreed to raise the present salary schedule \$200 across the board in order to obtain experienced teachers. Trustee Kerwin McPhail opposed this move. A return trip to Toronto to hire teachers will be made again this weekend.

Teacher management chairman Tom Watson told board members the teacher hiring committee failed to interview any teachers Friday night or Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon approximately 1500 interested teachers visited the Acton room in the hotel. Of these only a possible three were selected to replace present teachers leaving this term.

Other Boards Increase

Mr. Watson said he had noticed on the Saturday issues of Toronto papers other boards had increased their salary schedules in order to compete with Toronto board. "If we want to stay in competition we'll have to go along with increases in some categories," he stressed. Principal Hansen said the board wasn't in a position to bargain with the present schedule.

Following a recent meeting at which the new proposed salary schedule had been discussed, present staff members had accepted it graciously. Now teachers remaining for another term will be faced with accepting an increase whether they wish it or not.

Mr. Watson said "It's not all the teaching profession's fault. Many school boards are to blame for adopting a higher salary schedule." Trustee Kerwin McPhail was of the opinion the Department of Education might be at fault as well. Trustee Duncan Moffat thought \$4,800 would get a fair teacher but the Toronto offer of a starting salary of \$400 to \$400 more was obtaining good teachers.

Chairman Dwight Engel said the problem of hiring teachers might decrease within three to four years as two new teachers' colleges would be opening this year. This would possibly produce more teachers to fill the gap.

Trustee Watson said "This is false economy to hire teachers at the present rate. It is costing the taxpayer plenty now but we have to increase the rate to get good teachers." In continuing he stated "If we're going to move today's the day to do it."

Increases Across Board

Outcome of the discussion was rate increases across the board to the present salary schedule in hopes experienced teachers can be obtained this Saturday. Mr. Anderson concluded with "None of us like this but we can't do a thing about it."

The increase amounts to \$7,000.

The Certain

Teachers who have indicated intentions of not returning next fall are Miss Norma Moulton, Miss Marilyn Way, Miss Diane McConnell, Ron Hakinos and Jim Lavis. Two teachers are undecided at present.

(The unexpected increase may change this picture)

Rev. D. H. West Moves To Hamilton Parish

A letter from the Bishop was read at St. Alban's and Holy Trinity on Sunday, announcing the changes.

Mr. and Mrs. West will be missed by the congregation and many friends they have made during their stay here and best wishes from Acton will go with them to their new home.

Rector of St. Alban's church for the past three years, The Rev. Donald H. West is to become rector of Holy Trinity Church, Hamilton. His successor has not yet been named.

The parish on the mountain at Hamilton is recently expanding. The former church had to be replaced by new buildings to accommodate the congregation. The rectory is about six blocks from the church on Glenwood St.

Former pastor at Holy Trinity, The Rev. Huether will be moving to Dunville.

Mr. West does not know exactly when he will commence his duties at his new church, but expects it will be the end of March.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Niagara, the Right Reverend C. R. H. Wilkinson, will consult with a pastoral committee from Acton and after consultation Mr. West's successor will be named.

Mr. and Mrs. West, who live on Jeffrey Ave. in Lakeview, have two children, Gregory four and Catherine, two.

He is presently chairman of the Ministerial Association, and has been a member of the library board. He was recently appointed rural dean.



THE REV. D. H. WEST

Exchange Teacher

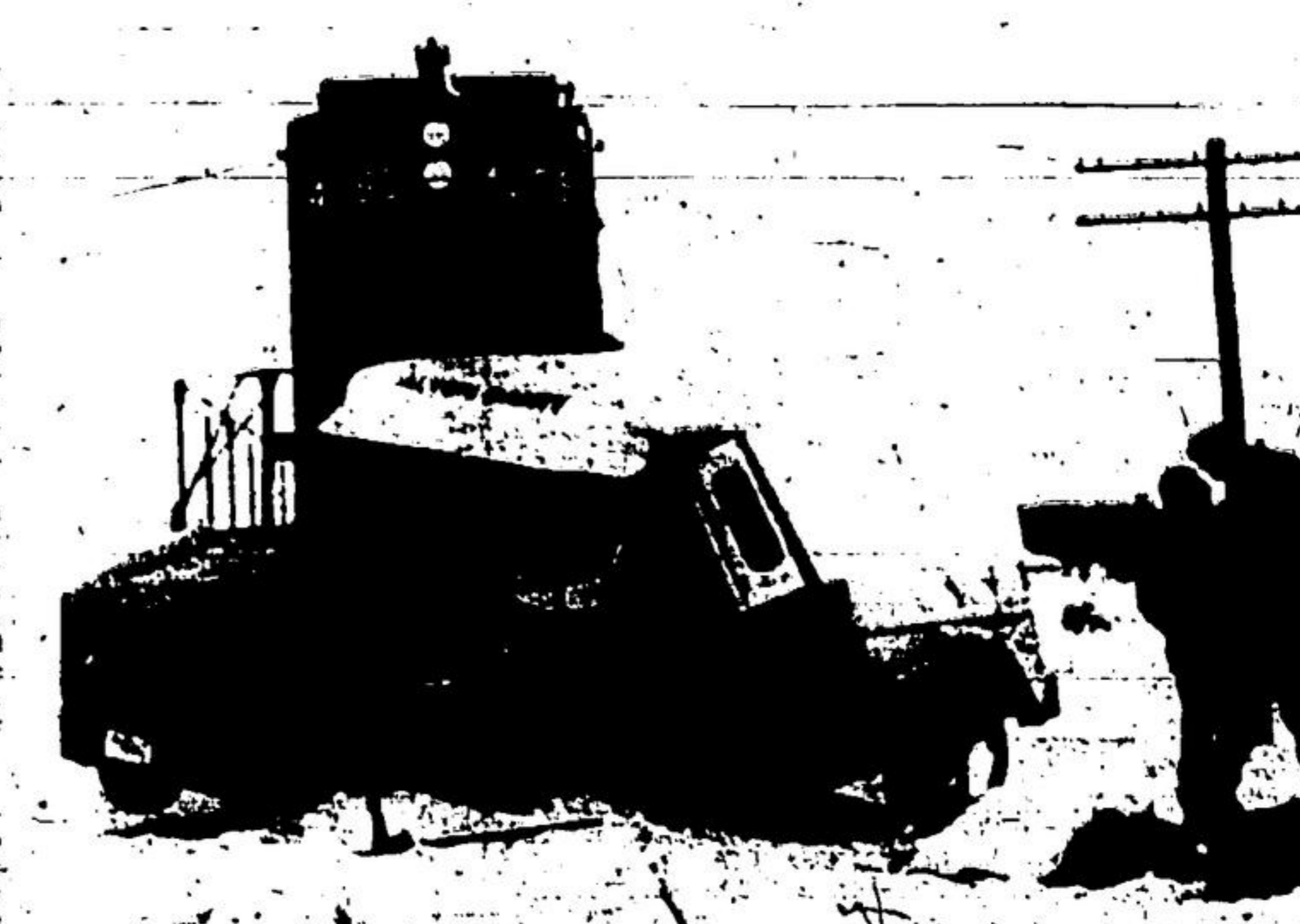
An exchange teacher from Great Britain will be on the staff of Acton district high school next year. Miss Rosemary High, 25-year-old teacher from England, will come to Acton on an exchange basis with assistant principal Michael Bevan who will spend next year in England. She will teach biology.

Fatalities Up Accident Toll

Two fatal accidents on Saturday — the first in seven months for the area served by the Milton detachment of the O.P.P. — brought the district's mounting accident toll even higher.

During February, figures released by the O.P.P. on Monday showed, there were 48 motor vehicle accidents which saw two killed and 10 others injured. Property damage reached \$39,230, and of this total, \$17,500 came from truck accidents.

During February, figures added to January, toll, the figures total two dead, 23 injured and \$63,610 damage in the 110 accidents to date this year. Saturday's two fatalities were the first for the O.P.P. detachment since last July. The detachment covers the Townships of Esqueving and Nassagaweya, plus Highways 401, 7 and 25 in the north Halton area.



JACK BRINKLOW, GUELPH, was killed when the milk truck he was driving last Saturday was struck by a C.N.R. train at the crossing on R.R. 1 sidelpod of Esqueving west of town. The truck, owned by Don Timmings, proprietor of Acton Jersey Dairy, was a complete wreck. The victim died in Guelph General Hospital about an hour after his arrival. Standing by the wrecked vehicle are Dr. Craig Hutchison and local taxi owner Bill Hanna.

FROM PALEFACE to Indian maiden in a few short minutes wasn't hard for Lucienne Pratt. She played the part of an Indian maiden in the Robert Little school operetta Tuesday evening and Rae West, one of three makeup artists, applies a little brown color.