

# The Acton Free Press

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## O.P.P. Will Supervise School Safety Patrols

Public school board members were pleased to learn Tuesday evening that Constable Bruce McArthur of the Acton O.P.P. Detachment had taken over duties as supervisor of the school safety patrol and had visited both public schools to instruct the junior patrolmen.

Following the posting of Constable Ron Rupert from the Acton Detachment to the school patrol was left without police supervision and an appeal had been made to the local detachment for assistance. Both principal G. W. McKenzie and Elmer Smith had stressed the importance of keeping the school safety patrol active and outlined the need for police supervision.

Constable McArthur began his off-duty work at the schools a week ago Monday.

**Part-Time Staff**  
During principal McKenzie's report, board members learned two part-time teachers had been obtained for the Home Economics class to assist during the absence of regular teacher Mrs. Lorne Doherty.

It had been reported to the board earlier that Mrs. Doherty would be unable to continue teaching on a full-time basis but was willing to work part-time. As a result, the principal engaged Mrs. Mary McLachlan of Milton to work two half-days per week, Mrs. George Wallace, two half-days a week with Mrs. Doherty teaching the balance of the time. Mr. McKenzie reported Mrs. Doherty was progressing favorably and she expected she might be able to return soon on a full-time basis.

Both principals were instructed to obtain necessary materials for teaching the new mathematics course in grades 1, 2 and 3. Permission was also granted for the principals to arrange a board staff get-together this fall for all board members to meet new teachers.

Approval was granted Robert Little School caretaker Jim Bradshaw to have a fallen tree removed and order a drum of wax necessary for cleaning purposes.

**Help Others**  
Principal Elmer Smith of the M. Z. Bennett school received permission to send text books no longer approved here to the West Indies where an appeal for books had been made. The books have been stored at his school for some years and are no longer used in the curriculum but are essential to children in the West Indies.

**Employers?**  
An innovation at the high school this year, spearheaded by guidance teachers Miss Juhaaz and William Soules, is a part-time job placement service for students with sufficiently high academic standing. The students would like to work after school hours and weekends. The teachers are appealing to all businessmen to assist in the program in helping locate these students in part-time jobs. Enquiries can be directed to either teacher.

Teaching supplies necessary at both schools were approved for purchase and principals instructed to obtain these. W. E. Anderson was engaged as caretaker at the Robert Little school on a trial basis at an annual salary of \$3,200.

Principal Smith was pleased to report that arrangements had been completed with the high school board and principal for all his public school pupils to obtain one period per week of physical education in the high school gym.

A request had been made to the high school board for this action as the M. Z. Bennett school is without an auditorium and physical education during the winter months was almost nil.

Principal McKenzie praised the work of 10 teachers, some of whom are just out of Teachers' College while others have only taught one year and stated they are doing an excellent job.

**Property**—Chairman Murray Smith received permission to try an experiment on the roof of the M. Z. Bennett school this year to prevent frost from causing leaks in the roof. He told board members his committee intended to place cedar poles on the roof to prevent the frost from over-coming this problem.

Included in Principal Smith's written report but not stressed was the following question for board members' leisure thinking: "Do you feel that Acton is about to expand? Is it time to be thinking about two classrooms added to the north end of the school and an auditorium, toilets, library and storage room added at the south end of the school?" The report noted this would provide accommodation for 500 pupils at the M. Z. Bennett school allowing the pupil body to be replaced to its original place.

Mr. Smith told members he didn't wish them to take up time discussing the proposal at the meeting but was merely submitting it for consideration.

Accounts totalling \$8,224.48 were approved for payment.

**Youngsters Crowd Y to Start Season**  
A large crowd of eager youngsters was on hand Monday evening for the initial opening of the Y.M.C.A.'s fall and winter program. On hand to greet the members were instructors Miss Sharon Thinston, Jim Armstrong and Carl Chadbourne, all students at Guelph University.

Classes were so crowded in fact that had to split the groups up and utilize both upstairs gymnasium and downstairs banquet room.

A full-scale program has been mapped out and anyone wishing to join is asked to be at the Y on evening to obtain a membership card.

**Finish Curbs**  
Workmen are finishing installation of curbs on Mill St. W. prior to laying the new sidewalks and pavement.



**30 YEARS' SERVICE** as custodian of Acton's federal building for Cam Leishman was recognized by the post office staff Saturday evening. Mr. Leishman wound up his duties for the last time when he locked the building up Saturday evening. Long time friends and former co-workers were on hand at a surprise party to present him with a rocker chair. Left to right rear are Frank Terry, former postmaster, Murray Harrison, customs officer, Billy Middleton, former customs officer and postmaster Gordon McKeown. The retired custodian tries out his new chair right after the presentation.

## Cam Leishman Retired Saturday, 30 Years Post Office Caretaker

After serving the past 30 years as caretaker of Acton's Federal Building, Cam Leishman turned the key in the lock for the last time Saturday before heading for retirement.

Although no representative from the Public Works Department was on hand, the retiring caretaker was not forgotten by postal employees and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Leishman were guests of honor Saturday evening at a surprise party in Luxton Memorial Hall. They were presented with a platform rocker as a memento of his service.

**Began in 1935**  
He first started his duties at the former post office building located on Mill St. in 1935 and moved to the new building on Rower Ave. when it opened.

Present for the surprise party were Postmaster and Mrs. Gordon McKeown, former postmaster and Mrs. Frank Terry of Owen Sound, assistant postmistress Mrs. Chris Britton, cus-

tom officer and Mrs. Murray Harrison, former customs officer and Mrs. William Middleton, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Leishman of Barrie, postal staff members Mrs. Irma Coles, Mrs. Wilma Chapman, Vic Bristow, Alex Frank, Mrs. Marge Kirkwood, Mrs. Grace Perry, Miss Alice Pilkington, Mrs. Jean Coombs, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jocke, Harold Webster, Frank Thompson, Wilford Britton and Mrs. Betty McIntyre.

**Short Program**  
Postmaster Gordon McKeown was master of ceremonies for the brief after-dinner program and Mr. Terry made the presentation of a reclining rocker chair. St. Alban's Guild catered for a turkey dinner.

After the presentation, Vic Bristow led the group in a sing-song with Mrs. William Middleton at the piano. Euchre was enjoyed to complete the evening.

Mr. Leishman, who lives now in Glenora, will continue as the popular crossing guard at the Willow Mill corner, beside the old post office which was also the couple's hospitable home for many years.

**No Replacement**  
Caretaker of Acton's Federal building (Post Office) Cam Leishman completed 30 years on the job Saturday. To date no replacement has been named but keys were handed over to Joe Jocke, rural mail carrier, who is handling chores until the Department of Works names a new man.

## Board Members Learn

### H. S. Greenhouse to Operate Again Will Install New Heating System

The controversial "greenhouse" at Acton District High School might now be back in operation again after sitting dormant for almost a year.

The greenhouse, which was left abandoned on the estate of the late Amos Mason, was originally used for experimental purposes in agriculture classes. A heating problem arose when plants and flowers froze and experiments were abandoned.

From time to time former assistant principal Michael Bevan requested board approval to have the building repaired and a new heating system installed.

Monday evening at a board meeting property chairman Ken McPhail reported the greenhouse would soon be back in

operation with a new heating system.

**To Plowing Match**  
Board permission was given for the agriculture class to take a bus to the International Plowing Match at Milliken again this year.

The trip will be supervised by assistant principal Joe Bray and teacher Ted Currie. Students in the agriculture course last year attended.

The mystery of the missing name plate at the school arose during the principals' report when E. A. Hanson noted the name plate had been removed during the building program and never replaced.

Middleton was instructed to contact architect Don Hubbard regarding replacement of the plate. Mr. Hanson said several strangers were confused as to what school

it was when they didn't see any name on the outside.

Permission was granted for guidance teacher Miss M. K. Juhaaz to attend two guidance conferences in October and November. Teacher R. J. Green was also granted permission to speak at the Kitchener Water Club Kiwanis Club dinner meeting October 15.

**Within Budget**  
After the secretary reported on the financial statement to date chairman Dwight Engstrom remarked:

"It appears as though we are staying within our budget. Members were quite pleased with the report to date comparing disbursements with the estimated budget for the year.

Accounts totalling \$19,584.46 were approved for payment.

## Hear By-Law Objections Council Meets in New Bldg.

A by-law approved by Nagsaga weva council regulating the use of land and the erection of buildings in Nagsagaweya could result in the township's third Ontario Municipal Board hearing in less than a year.

Township clerk J. C. McIntyre received numerous letters protesting the new by-law and on Monday evening, 15 ratepayers attended a council meeting and heard Reeve William Coulter explain why the controversial by-law had been passed.

All the letters objecting to the by-law will be studied at a special meeting of the council on October 20 and council will attempt to amend the by-law so it will suit the majority of ratepayers. An Ontario Municipal Board hearing will follow.

In brief, the by-law zones all the township as "agricultural" governs the erection of buildings

and outlines for and building requirements including the minimum lot area size of 25 acres.

Reeve Coulter explained to the ratepayers, the by-law was principally a temporary "holding" by-law and probably wouldn't be in use for more than a year. He stated a zoning plan was needed for the township and the holding by-law would only be in effect until the official plan could be drawn up.

He explained if the by-law was put into effect, a committee of adjustment would also be set up and it would be empowered to grant minor variations from the by-law, although as one ratepayer stated, "it wouldn't mean all requests would be granted."

**"Can Be Adjusted"**  
The reeve suggested the by-law is almost identical to those which are in effect in several areas in Ontario. He said that since a plan was needed, the only logical way to zone the township was "agricultural," since it could be adjusted.

One ratepayer objected to the fact that "you say there are

things in there but they're vague. People get up on their high horse and get mad because it isn't clear enough."

Councillor Ross Gordon agreed with the ratepayer but suggested "it's pretty hard to get all the questions answered on a sheet of paper."

**"Most Logical Way"**  
Reeve Coulter noted "we had had something about indiscriminate land use has to be controlled and this seems the most logical way."

Some of the Monday night council meeting was the right council chambers in the new \$50,000 township hall. Reeve Coulter invited visitors to tour the new building and hoped they would return to future council meetings and show their interest in the administration of the township.

Two previous Ontario Municipal Board hearings have been held in the township within the past year and they were both concerned with the erection of the new township administration building.

## H.S. Band, Sports Crafts Innovations

Opportunities for students at Acton District High School to engage in after-school activities have increased this year without interference with the regular curriculum.

Formation of a school band is hopeful and the first practice session was held Monday night in the auditorium. Members attending all had previous experience, some are members of Acton Citizens Band while others have played in local orchestras or groups. All have their own instruments.

Guidance teacher Miss M. K. Juhaaz anticipates the band will be able to play at school assemblies as well as for school dances and could be a marching band as well as an orchestral group.

Tuesdays, after school hours, teacher Ted Currie supervises badminton sessions and last week over 40 students turned out to take part. Keen interest is being shown for this sport.

Also on Tuesdays 20 students journey to Silver Spur Park for horseback riding lessons from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This activity was organized by Miss Juhaaz and teacher Jim Matthews.

Wednesday students not necessarily interested in music or sports activities enjoy arts and crafts supervised by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Matthews and Miss Rosemary High.

On Thursday a drama club is continuing activities started two years ago, now under supervision of Miss Jean Barber, assisted by members of the English department.



**ATTRACTIVE STUDENTS** at Acton District High School enjoyed themselves Thursday morning of last week as they paraded on stage wearing the latest fall fashions. Margie Sullivan models an evening gown flanked by Sharon White in a one-piece yellow dress, Jane Cooper wearing a pale blue empire waistline dress and Irene Anderson with a one-piece pink silver lame dress.



**JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS** ready for action? It's only make-believe as Acton Firefighters conducted fire drill at the Robert Little school Wednesday morning. Playing firefighters after the drill are left to right Scott Withers, Trudy Toebes and Colleen McGilloway. Scott and Colleen's fathers are firefighters.

## Give New Scholarships In H.S. Four-Year Stream

Monday evening, Acton District High School Board approved additional scholarships to be awarded to students taking the four-year course. These awards will be handed out at the annual commencement November 5 at the school.

In past years, school scholarship awards were given only to students in the five-year stream. New awards totalling \$200 include grade 9, business and commercial, first \$20, second \$10.

## School Drills, Inspections Mark Fire Prevention Week

This week is Fire Prevention Week and Acton Firefighters have a full-scale inspection program mapped out.

Wednesday, firefighters visited all three Acton schools as well as Brookville and Spey-side schools for inspection and fire drills. Junior grades at the public schools had an opportunity to inspect the fire truck and talk to firefighters.

Record evacuation at all schools was recorded as students filed off in orderly fashion at the first sound of the warning

buzzer. Fire chief Mick Holmes praised teachers and pupils for their excellent co-operation during the drill.

Firefighters are also conducting commercial and industrial inspections where requested and farm inspection can also be arranged on request.

Fire departments throughout Halton county are conducting a similar program.

Wednesday noon, representatives from Halton fire departments, along with inspectors and insurance adjusters, enjoyed a

dinner at the Georgetown Golf and Country Club.

Fire prevention chairman for Acton, Harry Otterbein and his committee have placed streamers in all business places in town, restaurants have been supplied with fire prevention place mats, and school children have been given booklets stressing fire prevention.

Fire chief Holmes and his 30 volunteer firefighters are hopeful Acton and area residents will observe fire prevention not only the remainder of this week but during the entire year.