

The Acton Free Press

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Second Section

Honor 17 Grade 13 Graduates At Commencement Exercises

"I cannot urge you too strongly to continue your education in some form or other after you leave high school for education of all types is now our chief tool for survival in this world, both politically and economically," stated Dr. S. G. B. Robinson, professor at the University of Waterloo, as he addressed the Grade 13 graduating class at the Acton District High School Friday evening.

The guest speaker noted the vast change in the education system during the past few years and told the graduates and large commencement crowd that 40 years ago in high school courses were much shorter and distractions fewer, although the grade 13 school year was about three weeks longer than now. He noted it was much easier at that

time to get into university than it is today.

Dr. Robinson told the graduates that 40 years ago competition was at a slower pace than it is today, then students could succeed reasonably well with only average effort.

He stressed the fact that today this is not so. "The world which faces you is a far tougher place and far more demanding of youth. Good enough is no longer good enough. You can't really succeed in the world today by comfortable average effort," he stated.

Seek Excellence
In conclusion the speaker told the graduates "you need more education of a more diverse nature than was ever required before. You need, above all, the will to achieve excellence in whatever field of endeavor you may enter. You must learn to work hard and enjoy working hard."

The speaker was introduced by teacher William Coats and thanked by student council president Merl Harris.

Principal E. A. Hansen welcomed the large crowd of parents and friends who jammed the auditorium to see the graduation exercises.

In his address, he told the parents that education was becoming more complex. He also noted that attendance this year is down slightly but he was of the opinion it was just a temporary leveling-off period. He predicted additional building in the near future as the existing high school buildings just house the student body comfortably.

What Students Need
The principal said that all the teaching aids today were no use

unless a student wishes to learn. He remarked "It is essential that we have in our schools students who have a respect for learning, a desire to learn and a knowledge of how to work hard."

Mr. Hansen noted the prize list had increased this year and he thanked the donors for their generosity.

Congratulate Winners

In congratulating the prize winners and graduates Mr. Hansen stated "we wish you continued success as you prepare yourselves for the challenge of living in this somewhat perplexing world and we hope that you will strive to leave it a better place than you found it."

High school board chairman Roy Daught Engle and members Duncan Moffat and Chester Anderson were also on hand to distribute board awards and scholarships as well as the many donors who congratulated the young winners and wished them every success in the future.

Members of the grade 13 graduating class receiving certificates included Mrs. Elizabeth Mac Ashley, William Wayne Bennett, Ronald J. Daly, Neil Andrew Franklin, Allan Hall, Karin Helena Heller, Ronald Richard Heller, Jill Kathleen Hurst, Peter Noel Lawson, Frederick Lloyd McIntyre, Mary Catherine Moffat, Stella Ann O'Gorman, Donna June Pennington, Donald William Reed, Bruce Albert Shultz and Carl Mathew Weir.

Six Presentations
Highest award winner in the graduating class, Neil Franklin, who is taking an engineering course

at Queen's University at Kingston, made six trips to the platform to receive his graduation diploma, the Acton District High School proficiency scholarship amounting to \$200, the Department of Education award for history; the Duke of Devonshire scholarship award, the Micro Plastics award for Grade 13 physics and the H. K. Porter Co. (Canada) Ltd Grade 13 algebra award.

Of special interest to the audience were two mothers who won awards during the exercises. Mrs. Clifford Ashley, a mother of three; Karen, Kathy and John, received her grade 13 certificate as well as the C. F. Leatherland award for Latin. Her husband, mother Mrs. Eli Masters and her three children watched proudly from the audience.

The second mother, who passed five subjects this year in grade 13 and is attending Guelph University this term, watched as her daughter Jill received her grade 13 certificate before going on stage herself to receive the Dr. D. A. Garrett award for grade 13 history.

Last week's Free Press carried a complete list of award winners.

New Band Heard
During intermission, the newly formed high school band played numbers. In the orchestra are Anne Shortall, David and Bob Watson, Steven Dubois and Barry Buchanan as well as a grade eight pupil from the Robert Little school, Jackie Holmes.

At the conclusion of the valedictorian's address, student council president Merl Harris presented Mrs. Moffat with the valedictorian's medal on behalf of the student council.

Valedictorian Reviews Changes Over Five Years

Grade 13 graduate Miss Mary Moffat gave the valedictorian address Friday evening at the annual commencement exercises. In her brief but interesting address, the attractive graduate expressed the feelings of the entire class.

Miss Moffat, daughter of high school board member Duncan Moffat and Mrs. Moffat, now attends Guelph University.

Following is the valedictorian address, in its entirety.

Mr. Hansen, ladies and gentlemen:
One year ago, we watched from the sidelines as the graduates received their diplomas and we longed for our special day. Now it is here. We welcome all those who have come to share our happiness but we especially welcome those who have helped us achieve our goal.

We entered Acton District High School five years ago in search of an education. Everything seemed so new, so strange, so big, that first week. Some of us had come from small town schools and others from still smaller country classrooms. What a change to see so many rooms all together and to actually move to a new one every 36 minutes. Then, too, there seemed to be no end to the number of teachers we met. However, we soon became accustomed to high school routine and this new phase of our lives.

The school has grown and changed since we came here. The enrollment has increased every year, making additions to the school necessary. What was considered the new wing then, is the middle-aged wing now. We all remember those invigorating walks at noon hour when the high school was so over-crowded

that the Robert Little House had to be used. Then last year, a new addition was built, allowing us once again to spend the whole day in one school.

During our years at high school, besides learning the facts of formal education, we learned to accept responsibility, to enjoy each other's society and to participate in pleasant recreation. I am sure I speak for all when I say that our life here has been pleasant and fulfilling.

Having finished high school, we must not assume that our education is finished, rather it has prepared us to enter new and greater fields of learning. It has been said "This education forms the common mind, just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined. If a young sapling is knotted, it will grow into a tree that carries this knot throughout its lifetime. Just as the knot cannot be taken away from the tree, neither can our education be plucked from us.

Knowledge can be compared to light. There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or to be the mirror that reflects it. It seems that there are few people who are candles or originators of knowledge. The majority of us are mirrors, the reflectors of knowledge. It is our responsibility as reflectors to take an active part in community affairs, to be aware of the needs

(Continued on Page B4)



GRADE 13 GRADUATES were honored at the high school Friday evening during Commencement Exercises when they received diplomas. Front row left to right are Mrs. C. Ashley, Neil Franklin, Mary Moffat and Stella O'Gorman; back row left to right are Pam Heller, Ronald Daly, Don Reed, Jill Hurst, Donna Pennington, Allan Hall, Lloyd McIntyre and Karin Heller.

School Driver Training Vehicle Donated by Frank Toth Motors

Acton district high school students enrolled in the student driver training course will now be able to "get behind the wheel" for practical experience.

Frank Toth Jr., Acton, donor of a new 1966 Plymouth car handed over the keys to the new car Friday afternoon. Teacher for the course, Clara Rognavaldson and two of the student drivers, Donna Landsborough and Carl Fryer, were on hand for the brief ceremony.

The new model car is equipped with automatic transmission, power steering and brakes, four seat belts and an additional hand brake for the instructor to stop the vehicle in the event of an emergency.

The all-white vehicle has lettering on each side marking it as a student driver car and a large sign on top noting it has been donated by Frank Toth Motors.

The Department of Transport sponsors the course and provides literature and exams as well as the dual control brake system. The car, which received priority at the Chrysler plant, was donated by the local dealer.



DRIVER TRAINING CAR supplied by Frank Toth Motors was delivered to Acton district high school and keys were handed over by garage owner Frank Toth to teacher instructor Clara Rognavaldson. Student drivers Donna Landsborough and Carl Fryer watch.

Acton Shows Interest 50 Hear About Regional Development

Acton indicated its interest in formation of a regional development association through Mayor Les Duby, during a meeting of Halton representatives in Oakville last week.

The meeting was called to discuss the provincial plan to unite Ontario, York, Peel and Halton counties in an economic development organization. A steering committee from Halton was formed with Mayor Duby, Councillor William Reaume of Oakville,

Reeve Gordon Gallagher of Burlington and Reeve William Coulter of Nassagaweya.

The meeting Thursday in the Galaxy Club was attended by about 50 representatives from Acton, Nassagaweya, Esquesing, Burlington and Oakville. Milton and Georgetown were not represented. The meeting is the first to be held in each of the four counties involved.

Chairman A. H. LeMasurier of the Regional Development Department of the Ontario Department of Economics and Development presided.

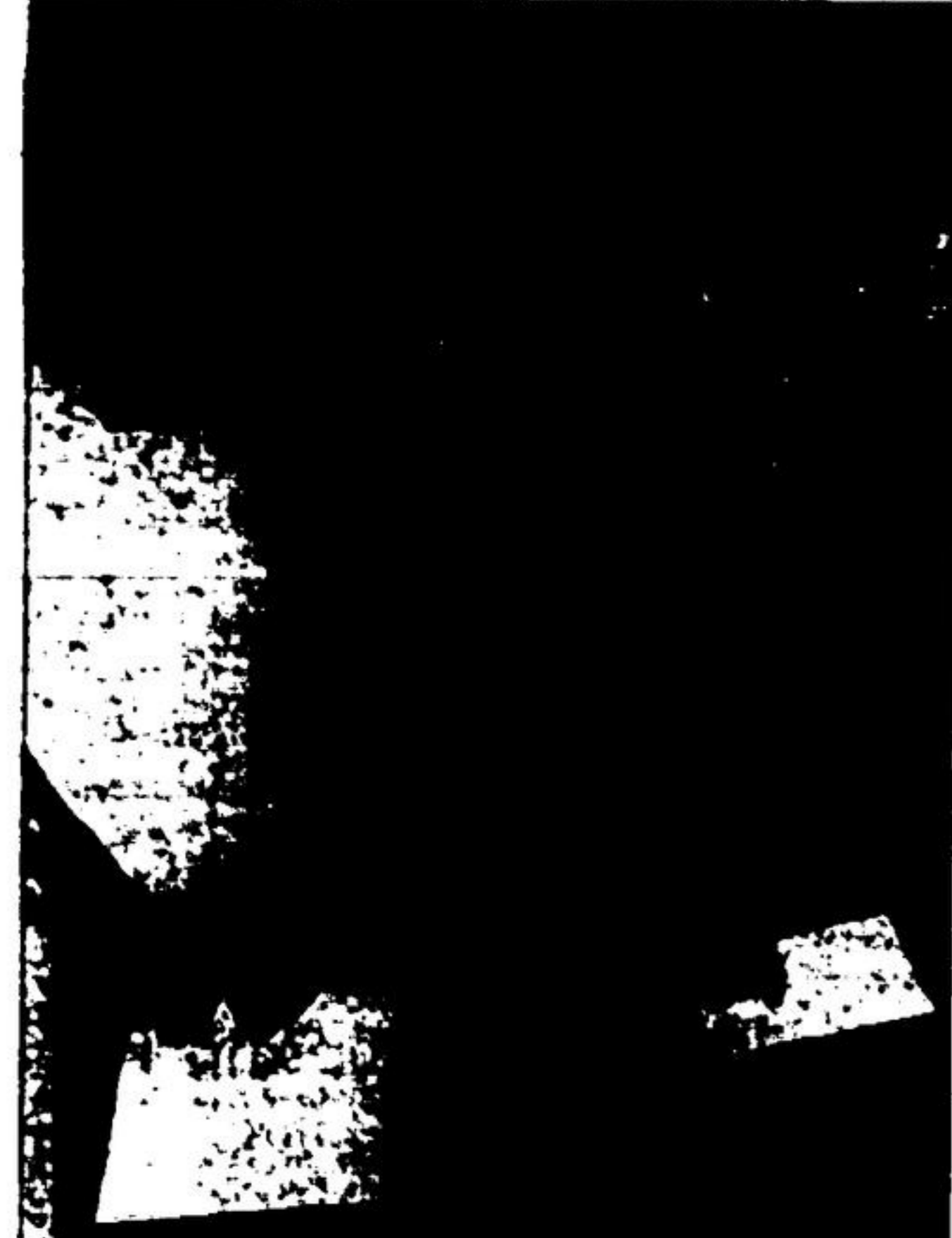
Warden Herb Merry expressed his favor of the idea of regional promotion and development. Halton M.P.P. George Kerr emphasized there was no conflict with the Needs Study now under way in Halton and Peel which would be concerning itself with boundaries, while the Regional Development Association would promote economic expansion of the region.

Two panellists, Reid Menzies, president of the Ontario Regional Development Council outlined the format of such an organization. He explained the provincial government matched expenditures and did not have to grant its approval on each project. He cited benefits to his town and region through the operation of the group.

Dr. Ego Benoit, professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario, suggested the importance of taking advantage of the opportunity to express needs on a regional basis.

A sound, firm strategy for change illustrated the benefits of the type of organization proposed.

The Metro Region is the only one of 10 in the province not previously organized. Department representatives outlined they planned to hold similar meetings in each county and then call a joint meeting of all county representatives for further discussion. The steering committee was named to assist in this organization.



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER were among the high school students who received awards at the annual high school Commencement Friday night. Mrs. Joe T. Hurst, who returned to school after 30 years' absence, passed five grade 13 subjects to enable her to enter Guelph University. Her daughter Jill, University of Western Ontario. Principal E. A. Hansen congratulates them.

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