

# The Acton Free Press

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## Vandalism in holidays at schools disturbing

Malicious damage during summer months at both public schools alarmed school board members Tuesday night and consideration of how to deal with vandalism is now underway.

Members learned several windows had been broken at the Robert Little school and golf balls found inside the rooms. It was also learned two barrels of tar at a cost of \$120 each, being used for roof repairs, had been opened and dumped over an asphalt play area by vandals and two trees had been broken off.

Other damage to roofing materials was noted and members debated on posting the school grounds with signs regarding vandalism.

In the past vandalism at schools has cost taxpayers considerable money for repairs and board members are seriously considering laying charges against offenders.

## Bring new zoning by-law up-to-date at meeting

Planning Board members reviewed the proposed new zoning by-law again Thursday night of last week during a special meeting with planning consultant Dennis Flood of Project Planners.

Present for the meeting were chairman Aldo Braida, Neil Miller, Robert Drinkwater and Mayor Les Duh. Absent were William Wilson, Edward Footitt and William Pendleton.

## Pour basement new library

Pouring of concrete basement floor in the new library was accomplished Wednesday. Workmen continued into the night trowelling the freshly-poured cement to give a smooth finish in the basement area.

Masons are continuing with the brick work and expect to finish this week. A start has been made on the roof rafters and will proceed during this week and into next week.

Library board expects extra meetings to consider furnishings and future changes.

## \$500 scholarship for Stephen Coles

Stephen Coles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Coles has received word that he has been awarded a \$500 entrance scholarship to the University of Guelph because of an "excellent Grade 13 record". Stephen whose average marks on the 1966 Grade 13 examinations were the highest at Acton High School will enroll in the Honors B.Sc. program.

## Friday toot signals first train in week

The first C.N.R. train through Acton since the strike began blew its horn Friday evening. Commuter service was not restored, however, until Tuesday.

The seven men in Acton involved were notified by phone and returned to work Friday afternoon. The sectionmen, under Bert Urquhart, checked all the rails, switches, signals and other equipment in their territory.

The first train came through at 9 o'clock Friday evening, just a week after the strike began. Normal service was resumed after the holiday weekend.

## Forged cheques fake \$20 bills in circulation

Acton O.P.P. detachment this week issued a warning to local merchants to be on the lookout for forged cheques, bogus \$20 bills and counterfeit \$100 American travellers' cheques.

Several forged cheques on well-known industries, cheque forms have already been passed in other centres and merchants are being warned to be careful when cashing cheques on out-of-town industries.

Several bogus \$20 bills have already been passed in several places and police are warning local merchants to be on the lookout for these. The cheques appear quite authentic with only the serial numbers changed around.

Anyone who becomes suspicious of a forged cheque or bogus bill is asked to detain the passer as long as possible, obtain good identity of the person or persons, and procure a license number if he is driving a vehicle. Call police immediately so a check can be made.



FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL was no problem for five-year-old Colin MacColl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacColl Jr., as his grandfather Colin MacColl Sr. is caretaker at the M. Z. Bennett school. The youngster has made frequent visits to the school during summer holidays with grandad and was already aware the toy tractor was available in kindergarten for beginners. He headed right for it after enrolment! With him is first-year kindergarten teacher Karin Heller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heller of Acton.

## M.P.P. cuts white ribbon to open Robertson's store

Cutting of a wide, white ribbon by M.P.P. John Root (P.C. Wellington-Dufferin) Thursday afternoon marked the closing of an era of the last trading country general store and the development of the modern supermarket type of merchandising. Official opening of Robertson's Market at Osprey is expected to pave the way for modern suburban development.

A large crowd was on hand early to witness the official opening ceremony and congratulate store owners Mr. and Mrs. Dave Robertson who have operated a general store in the area since May 20, 1925.

Before officially cutting the ribbon, Mr. Root recalled the history of the village from the time of the first settler to the present day growth. He noted the former Robertson General Store located at the corner of Nos. 24 and 25 highways had been purchased by the Department of Highways and would be torn down to make a clearer view of the two highways for motorists.

He recalled the store had once served as one of the many hotels along the highway between Guelph and Erin.

In 1910, Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Stewart (father and mother of David Stewart of the village) purchased the building and after renovations opened it as a general store. A post office was moved in from across the road and Mr. Stewart became postmaster.

Mr. Root recalled how in the early days, farm produce was sold on the Guelph market by Mr. Stewart and on his return trip he brought general supplies which were sold to farmers in the area.

In 1919, the store and dwelling were sold to Robert Lindsay Gordon, who came from Atkell where he operated a business. Like the former owner, Mr. Gordon traded with the farmers to produce in exchange for groceries. In 1923, the Gordons sold to Mrs. Ada Ecclesstone and son Fred, who later sold to the present owners.

Mr. Root recalled when the gravel road between Guelph and Erin was taken over by the Department of Highways and paved in 1951. This created more traffic and business began to boom in the village.

After the ribbon had been cut and the new store proclaimed officially open by the request of the owners Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, the first two customers to cross the threshold were Mrs. Gertrude Sunter who clerked with the Robertsons for 25 years and an aunt Mrs. Martha Jackson. Mrs. Sunter recalled the days when she was in charge of keeping the oil lamps filled and lighted before the introduction of electricity to the village.

George Reid, from the firm of Laing, general contractors for the new building, handed over the keys to Mr. Robertson and congratulated the owners on their new venture into business.

Reeve Mel Barden of Erin Township also congratulated the couple and said their store would provide a great service to the community and township. Gordon Aitken was chairman for the ceremonies and introduced the guests.

Unable to be present for the official opening, Wellington South M.P.P. Al Hales sent a letter of congratulations and his regrets for being unable to attend due to pressure of business in Ottawa due to the railway strike. After the new store was proclaimed officially open the large crowd flooded inside and began filling shopping baskets with opening bargains. Kiddies received free pencils.

## Girl twirler returns to fair

Acton Citizens' Band played Saturday in a parade and a concert afterwards in the arena at Elmira Fall Fair.

In spite of heavy rains a crowd of over 5000 paid admission. Due to inclement weather a band tattoo in the evening was called off.

While at the fair, band president Ted Fyfe Jr. met Cathy Szwed, 13, of Kitchener, who is a drum major and lived in Acton some years ago. She took first prize at the C.N.E. last year. Arrangements have been made for the young drum major to perform with the Acton band at the Friday evening performance in the arena at the Acton Fall Fair.

Cathy expects to do several solo numbers and if possible bring a friend who will join her in a duet twirling batons.

## Tom McKeown to university

Acton's top grade 13 graduate, Tom McKeown will be attending the University of Guelph, taking the honor science course. He has been awarded a \$800 scholarship from the university. He is the son of postmaster Gordon McKeown and Mrs. McKeown.

## Rotary pennants given by traveller

Two pennants from other Rotary clubs were presented to Acton Rotary club this week by member Mike Bevan. He has been away for a year and brought the club the souvenirs from Brooklyn, New York and from the Walthamstow club he attended while in England. He was teaching for a year on exchange.

He spoke on his experiences to the members, and next week they'll hear member Jim McCulloch, who spent the summer in England.

## Firm given tentative approval for lower-priced hydro building

Acton Hydro Commissioners gave tentative approval to Whitney Construction, Toronto, to proceed with erection of a new hydro building on Alice St. pending final approval from Ontario Hydro at Hamilton.

During a special meeting of Hydro Thursday of last week, D. R. Crawford of Whitney Construction was present, along with architect Donald Skinner, to review possible changes in the plan in order to reduce the cost to \$59,500.

Commissioners discussed the proposed changes and agreed to most minor ones. It was agreed to have the architect study the changes and submit a list of these to Ontario Hydro for final approval of the project.

It is hoped the building can be started by September 15 and completed before Christmas.

It was also agreed to co-operate with Ontario Hydro in the annual promotion plan for the sale of electric clothes dryers. Each person purchasing a dryer from a co-operating dealer in town will receive an electric blanket free.

## Roofs leak, vandalism causes concern but schools shine, staff experienced

The perennial problem of leaky roofs at both public schools is still bothering trustees. Tuesday evening, at the first meeting since the summer recess, members learned a leak had cropped up at the recently re-finished roof at the M. Z. Bennett school. This was a gabled leak no. 1 by principal Elmer Smith.

Hoping leaky roof problems had been overcome with installation of a complete new roof deck, trustees were alarmed to hear the report. It was noted, however, the roof is under complete guarantee and would be repaired to satisfaction.

During the summer months, the roof at the Robert Little school, which had leaked on several occasions, was repaired. Although the job is not completed, the main areas have been finished, leaving only a small portion to be done between the north wing and main school.

Property committee member Orval Chapman reported the contractor had run into several problems. Two barrels of tar had been opened and dumped over a portion of the asphalted play area by children.

Quered by other members why the repair job took so long, Mr. Chapman informed members the contractor had suffered severe burns to both feet and was hospitalized. After returning to work, he fell from a ladder, breaking a wrist.

He also noted the contractor found it difficult to keep men on the job at the time the old roof was being removed on account of the former Fibreglass insulation causing itching.

Chairman Vic Bristow stated he was dissatisfied with the way the contractor had left a section of the roof unprotected; during a rainstorm, five classrooms had been flooded. He recalled how the caretakers, two young boys and himself had mopped up water in order to prevent extensive damage.

Board members learned representatives from the general contracting company would be at both schools to inspect the roofing jobs and make any necessary repairs.

During principal Elmer Smith's report, he noted total enrolment at the M. Z. Bennett school opening day was 364, which is down by 24 pupils. He told trustees he had 26 new pupils enroll, which indicated a number of families had moved away and several new families moved into the area.

He expressed his pleasure at seeing the vast improvements in the appearance of M. Z. Bennett school opening day with painting completed and the interior work finished by caretakers. Trustee Murray Smith remarked, "I saw the school on Sunday and it was a perfect picture. It made me proud to be a board member."

Principal Smith told members he had hired Mrs. Mary Irwin for three half days per week as a relief teacher, which would allow him more time for administration duties.

Board members agreed to charge Esquising school board \$100 a month for each of two unfurnished rooms being used by Speyside pupils in the old store school.

It was also agreed to charge the Nassagaweya school board \$3,500 this year for use of Home Economics and Industrial Arts rooms. The increase from \$3,000 is due to increased costs in teachers' salaries.

In the event Esquising school board wishes to place a class of senior students in both Home Economics and Industrial Arts at the Robert Little school, they will be assessed \$700 for the year. Principal G. W. McKenzie informed board members there was an hour and a half period per week open in the event Esquising wishes to use this time.

Enrolment at the Robert Little school is 548. Mr. McKenzie said.

In a brief discussion regarding council's proposed by-law revisiting a two-year term of office, trustee Murray Smith expressed his objections to school board members being elected in this fashion. At present, public school trustees are elected on the basis of three each year for a two-year term of office. The local hydro commission also elects members in this way.

Under terms of the new proposed by-law for a two-year term, if approved by council, all school board and hydro members will be elected at the December election for a two-year term. In place of an annual election, voters would only

(Continued on Page Three)

## Miss Acton Fair entries sought

Who'll be Miss Acton Fair this year?

The deadline has been extended to this Friday to permit more entries in the contest. Judging, by impartial, out-of-town judges, is at the high school this Saturday.

Here the finalists will be selected, and there will be a second judging at the Friday evening program at the fair to name Miss Acton Fair and the two runners-up.

There are several entries in already and not a single one of them from an Acton girl! Announcements are being made and posters put up to remind the Acton girls to help make the contest a big success by getting a friend and entering. It will be fun for the girls, good experience, and will help boost the fair.

Anyone is welcome to watch the judging program (this Saturday) at the high school. Judges include Patricia Knox, the vice-president of the Junior Farmers of Ontario, Charles Wells, president and owner of Guelph Business College, and Major R. French from the 11th Field Regiment, Guelph.

One of the judges at the Friday, Sept. 16 finals will be Norm Jerry of the Guelph radio station. The other will be the campus queen of the University of Waterloo.

See the ad in this week's paper or the posters for details.



GETTING HER NAME CARD for identification for teacher and other pupils is Sheila Whitmore when she started kindergarten Tuesday at the Robert Little school. Teacher Miss Mary Beth Elliott had a full house for both morning and afternoon classes on opening day. As usual a few tears were shed when mothers left their children but the teacher, well-trained for such situations, had everything under control.



RIBBON SNIPPING to officially open the new store at Osprey was completed by M.P.P. John Root Thursday afternoon of last week. The Robertson Market area was opened during the ceremony and shortly afterwards a large crowd toured the building. Left to right are Mrs. and Mr. D. G. Robertson, M.P.P. John Root and Reeve Mel Barden of Erin Township. First to enter after the official opening was a former clerk for 25 years, Mrs. Gertrude Sunter and Mrs. Martha Jackson, an aunt. The new Building replaces one occupied by the Robertsons for the past 41 years.