

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Second Year—No. 14.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1966

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa

14 Pages—Price 10 Cents.



**MOTHER AND DAUGHTER**, Mrs. A. H. McKenzie and Marsha McKenzie were the only two local models taking part in the fashion show sponsored by the Daughters of Knox last week. The rest of the models came from Guelph and Ryan's

of Guelph supplied the fashions. Left to right are Mrs. Jerry Collins, Guelph; Marsha and her mother and Miss Eleanor Martin, Guelph. A crowd of close to 275 watched the show at the high school auditorium.

## Long struggle by principal may result in auditorium

A three-year struggle waged by principal Elmer Smith of the M. Z. Bennett school for an auditorium-gymnasium at his school may possibly pay off.

Tuesday evening during the board meeting, the subject arose again and board members were in accord to obtain the views of Inspector W. L. McNeil regarding the need of the addition. This is the first step on the ladder toward approval of a gymnasium.

There is an auditorium at the Robert Little school but not at the M. Z. Bennett school. In the past, all school functions have been held at the R. L. school and pupils at the M. Z. B. school have had to trail to the other school for practice sessions. Physical education courses at the M. Z. B. school have been limited until last year when the high school gym was obtained part time for this purpose.

The subject was opened by trustee Cyril Bishop (who formerly supported the principal's request) after a report of preschool children had been presented. Report showed 95 children at the age of five years, 102 at four and 295 at three or under. It was also noted registration for kindergarten at both schools this term was 104.

Mr. Bishop said it was evident additional classrooms were not needed but asked principal Smith to submit his immediate needs regarding a gymnasium. Secretary-treasurer Wm. Middleton noted that before grants could be obtained proof of the need of any addition had to be submitted to the Department of Education.

Principal Smith challenged the secretary and said, "I don't have to prove the need, it is already here. The Department says there must be three physical education classes per week and by using the high school gym each class is getting one half hour per week. At no time have I asked you to consider classrooms, the population doesn't

warrant it. All I ask is for you to consider finding out the costs and see about grants, and it is always put to one side."

Chairman Vic Bristow was of the opinion the board should wait and see if additional classrooms might be required due to the expansion of homes in Lakeview Heights and possible change in the school boundary.

"This doesn't make sense. It's like having two bald tires on your car and waiting for the other two to go bald before buying new ones," remarked principal Smith.

He informed the board the possible location for the proposed gym would be at the south end of the school between the high school and the M. Z. Bennett school. He also reminded board members once Acton Boulevard is extended to meet a proposed road from Churchill Road N., the school parking area would be lost. He proposed the parking area

could be included alongside the gym.

The board chairman wondered if the Plunkett report might have some bearing on the school situation and perhaps the board should be thinking of the future, not just a year or two ahead. "Not that everything in the report is going to be done or is right," he remarked.

To conclude the discussion Mr. Bishop and trustee Doug Manning moved a resolution to approach the inspector and everyone was in accord.

Approval was given for use of the Robert Little school auditorium to the town Thursday, November 24 for the annual Nomination meeting.

It was also agreed to increase the hourly rate of the part time caretakers from \$1.25 to \$1.35 per hour. Principals Smith and McKenzie were authorized to obtain ice time at the arena again this year for school children.

Accounts totalling \$22,406.36 were approved for payment.

## Vehicles halted all this week safety check discovers defects

Department of Transport officers are assisting Acton O.P.P. detachment with a car safety check this week with equipment set up on Fellows Street.

Motorists are being stopped by police and pulled into line-ups along Mill Street, by the former tennis courts to wait their turn for a car check.

First stopping point is a check for lights, horn, windshield wipers, rear license plate light, driver's and ownership license and signal lights. The next Department of Transport officer checks for wheel alignment and headlight beams. As the vehicle moves along the front end is thoroughly checked and finally the brakes.

If a car does not pass the check, motorists are notified to

have faults corrected and report back to the checking point or to local police. When the check started Monday, police had lined up back to the Canadian Fire store waiting for the check.

Corporal Ray Mason and his detachment are being assisted by Constable Doug Bricker of Burlington Detachment. Department of Transport officers include Paul Wade of Millbrook who is in charge, Bert Licht of Woodstock, Floyd Brown of Milton, Grant Bruce of Bancroft and Hugh Strath of Burlington.

The traffic check was closed Tuesday morning due to heavy rain during the night which prevents an accurate check. It opened in the afternoon again. The safety lanes will be operating until Friday.

## Plunkett's report recommends major municipal reorganization

### Plunkett at a glance

The Plunkett report—"Peel-Halton Local Government Review" is its official title—which was released Thursday recommends:

- An Urban County of Mississauga encompassing Burlington, Oakville, Toronto Township, Port Credit, Streetsville, Brampton and Bramalea, with a 19-member council to assume all the present power and responsibilities of these municipalities.

- The Mayor to be elected at large and the councillors to represent districts—Toronto Township, Port Credit and Streetsville 7; Brampton and Bramalea 3; Burlington 4; and Oakville 4; They should serve a three-year term.

- An executive committee including the Mayor and two councillors to carry out duties normally assigned to a Board of Control. The Mayor is to have the power to veto, with limitations.

- Three separate boards to govern hydro-electric power, police and library services to be established. Administration of all other municipal services would be the responsibility of the county council with at least 12 separate departments under the general supervision and co-ordination of a Commissioner of Administration.

- A Rural County of Peel-Halton encompassing the remaining municipalities in the present Peel and Halton, with a 14-member council including the Mayor (elected at large) plus 13 councillors representing the following areas—Acton 1, Georgetown 3, Milton 2, Bolton 1, Albion 1, Caledon and Caledon East 1, Chinguacousy and Toronto Gore 2, Esquimes and Nassagaweya 2.

- Councillors here would also serve a three-year term and the Mayor would have veto rights. In the four urban areas (Milton, Acton, Georgetown and Bolton) local public service commissions would be elected to assume responsibility for purely local services. An executive committee would also be necessary.

- Administration of justice and operation of a registry office should be turned over to the Provincial government.

- A single, elected, one-level Board of Education to be established in each proposed county, with an elected board of trustees equal in number to, and for the same terms as members of the respective proposed county councils.

- The proposed urban county would contain 211,300 acres or 330 square miles, and have a population of 227,000 plus an assessment totalling \$457,000,000.

- The proposed rural county would have 326,300 acres or 510 square miles, with a population of 49,000 and assessment totalling \$67,000,000.

- The names Mississauga and Peel-Halton are not to be considered as definite names, but are used throughout the Plunkett review for identification of the two areas.

A two-county scheme to replace existing municipal governments in the present Halton and Peel Counties—an entirely new concept of local administration in Ontario—has been recommended for the neighboring counties by Thomas J. Plunkett, special commissioner who conducted the Peel-Halton Local Government Review.

Plunkett's new concept envisions two new county structures—the Rural County of Peel-Halton and the Urban County of Mississauga—stretching along east-west lines between Metro Toronto and Hamilton.

The proposed rural county would include Nassagaweya, Esquimes, Albion, Toronto Gore, Chinguacousy and Caledon Townships, plus the towns of Milton, Acton and George-

town and the villages of Caledon East and Bolton.

The urban county he is suggesting would include Burlington, Oakville, Streetsville, Port Credit and Toronto Township, Brampton and the new unincorporated town of Bramalea that is still under control of Chinguacousy Township.

Plunkett's proposals were unveiled Thursday evening at a joint municipal and press conference in Oakville, sponsored by the Department of Municipal Affairs. The 126-page report was grabbed up like hotcakes when Minister of Municipal Affairs the Hon. W. J. Spence announced they were ready for distribution.

The special commissioner's ideas for the future of the two counties are not mandatory, but will require "your most serious study and careful consideration," the Minister emphasized. Local councils and school officials were urged to study the report and present their praise or objections in writing to the Minister by Dec. 31.

The proposals for Peel and Halton's future constitute a form of "regional government"—a subject often discussed for this area. Hampered by a multiplicity of local boards and commissions, an education system that is outmoded, intermunicipal rivalry for industries and a hodge-podge of other problems, Halton and Peel need a larger structure of government, Plunkett recommends.

The rural and urban county system would wipe out most local councils and elected or appointed boards or commissions. For the southern urban county he recommends a 19-man council wherein each councillor would represent approximately

12,000 constituents, with a three-man executive committee comprising the Mayor and two other members to do the work a city's Board of Control would handle. The Mayor would have increased power, including the right to veto a council move.

A separate hydro-electric commission, police commission and public library board would be established to handle these three divisions of municipal work, and the council would supervise all other facets of administration.

The rural county would have a 14-man council with similar veto powers for the Mayor, and each councillor would represent about 4,000 people. In the four urban type municipalities, Acton, Milton, Georgetown and Bolton, an elected "public service commission" would be responsible for water supply and distribution, sewers, garbage, zoning, roads, fire and police protection and recreation; and an additional tax rate would be set by the local commission to cover these costs.

Plunkett recommends the administration of justice and operation of the local registry offices should be wholly assumed by the Province.

His plan also scraps local educational authorities (except separate school boards) and calls for a board of education in each new county to handle both elementary and secondary school education.

"The proposed areas are sufficiently large that real problems can be dealt with by a single responsible body and not lost in a bewildering confusion of intermunicipal arrangements, intermunicipal committees and intermunicipal agreements," he sums up.

## Ray Thompson buys garage

The building operated as a garage by the late Joe Whitham has been purchased by Ray Thompson of Thompson Fuels Ltd. and the Young St. location will be renovated and operated as a sales and service centre for the fuel oil business.

Mr. Thompson does not expect to take possession of the building for a short time. Meanwhile, Mrs. Whitham will continue to operate the garage.

## Fire prevention week stressed

The week of October 9 to October 15 has been proclaimed Fire Prevention Week. Acton Volunteer Fire Department joins with thousands of other departments throughout Canada in stressing the need of fire safety, not only during this week but every week of the year.

Inside this issue of the Acton Free Press are stories and advertisements stressing the importance of being fire conscious.

Acton Firefighters will be conducting an industrial inspection as well as checks at all schools within the Acton Fire Area during this week.

## Petty cash stolen at Customs Cleaners

A 12-year-old suspect was apprehended and questioned by Acton police Saturday after Customs Cleaners had been broken into Friday night and close to \$30 stolen from the cash drawer.

A tip from parents of a boy who had received some money from the suspect led to the apprehension. The front door window had been smashed and it is presumed the intruder reached in to unlock the door to gain entry.

The suspect had been passing money out freely to other youngsters and one of them went home with some of the money and told his parents, who notified police.

## Three alarms township dump

Acton firefighters made three rush calls within as many days to Nassagaweya dumpsite to extinguish blazing debris.

On Sunday, the tannery siren sounded but town sirens were silent until firefighters arrived at the dump to find relay switches controlling town sirens had tripped.

The call was for the dump fire and firefighters doused the blaze with water from booster lines. Shortly before 5 p.m. on Monday the second call came in and firefighters arrived at the scene to find the dumpsite blazing freely. Water from the booster tank was used but the fire was burning underground and impossible to extinguish with water.

Trees in a surrounding bush were wetted-down before firefighters left.

The siren went again Tuesday for a return call. On the way firefighters checked an over-flooded space heater at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morette on the fourth line of Nassagaweya.



RIFLING THROUGH their Plunkett reports at the dinner last Thursday in Oakville are M.P.P. George Kerr and Acton representatives high school board chairman Tom Watson, public school board chairman Vic Bristow, mayor Les Doby and deputy-reeve R. R. Parker. Reports are being studied and comments will be prepared and submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs.

## Competitive art for fair ruled out

Public school pupils will no longer be allowed to enter art competitions at the Acton Fall Fair.

This decision was made Tuesday night by school board members following a recommendation from the Department of Education.

In giving his report, Principal Elmer Smith noted that art inspector Blackwell had visited the schools and recommended no further poster or picture competitions.

Principal G. W. McKenzie informed the board that Milton and Acton schools were about the only ones entering Fall Fair competitions and next year Milton were stopping everything. It was also learned Mr. Blackwell was of the opinion "art is not competitive, but an expression of feelings."

Mr. Blackwell had suggested that one poster competition per year for one grade only might be considered. By resolution the board disapproved of any further Fall Fair competitions

and will advise the Fair Board of this.

Mayor Les Doby, councillor F. G. Oakes and clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie were present to explain the two-year term which will be adopted at the December election. Under terms of the two-year term by law, council members, public school trustees and hydro commissioners will all be elected on a two-year basis. Previously there was an election each year for all members of council and both school board and hydro commission, elected three and two members each year on a staggered system.

The mayor explained that council had taken the initiative to adopt the biennial system and through courtesy to the board, were explaining the new system to them by the visit. He noted that if the board and hydro had not been included in the new system, it would still mean an election each year for

three trustees and two hydro commissioners.

Trustee Cyril Bishop said it was possible an all-year board could be elected and continuity would be lost. Councillor F. Oakes remarked "This is the chance council has taken every year, but it seldom happens that way."

Board chairman Vic Bristow said he personally favored the two-year term as school administration was big business and generally trustees couldn't complete a job in one year. He also agreed it would be foolish to create an election each year for three board members.

Finance chairman Oakes informed the board it could now borrow directly from the bank instead of having to go through council. He said the difference in procedure was not in dollar savings, but channelling finance in the right category.

Clerk McGeachie reported the provisions for this were included in the school's administration act dated 1963. Secretary William Middleton was of the opinion this applied to all school boards only and was amazed the auditor or school inspector had not pointed this out. "I guess they were like you and me, they slipped up as well," remarked the clerk.

Mr. McGeachie said he had attended the clerks' and treasurers' convention at Honey Harbour this year and had sponsored a resolution only to learn it had been enacted in 1963.

In conclusion the mayor reminded board members a submission regarding reactions to the Plunkett report should be handed in by the end of December and suggested immediate action to have submissions compiled.

A meeting in camera (not open to the public) is to be held by the Halton County Consultative Committee and public school board to discuss the Plunkett report.