

Education, Highways Ministers open heavy equipment school

A host of dignitaries from the Departments of Education and Highways and the Ontario Road Builders Association were on hand last week at the official opening of Ontario's first "Heavy Equipment School" at the new school's 200-acre site on the Sixth Line Nassagaweya Township.

The school has been in operation since late May of this year, and to date has graduated 32 students fully qualified to operate the heavy road-building machinery that is used today. Another 16 are now enrolled in the third course at the school, and principal C. C. Lloyd reports classes are booked solid into next August.

The great degree of co-operation between government, road builders, construction machinery manufacturers and suppliers to the industry was emphasized at the official opening last Wednesday afternoon.

P.C.s name delegates

Halton - West Progressive Conservatives have appointed five voting delegates to attend the annual Ontario meeting of the association in Toronto on October 30-31 and November 1. The delegation will be headed by George Kerr, M.P.P., Halton. The delegates appointed are Andrew Frame, John Savchuck and Graydon Petty of Burlington, Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie of Acton and Mrs. June Andrews of Campbellville.

Mrs. Gladys Sprung, Mrs. Audrey Ryckman, Eric Gudgeon, Robert Wade and John Vola will be alternative delegates. Many other members of the association are expected to attend parts of the three-day meeting.

Delegates will elect officers and debate resolutions submitted by Conservative associations from all parts of the province.

The meeting will hear John Diefenbaker on Monday evening, October 31, in what is expected to be his major speech prior to the Federal Convention in Ottawa on November 14-15-16.

Premier John Robarts will address the annual banquet on November 1.

Area Church

Members of the Christian Reformed Church of Georgetown district are hoping construction on their new church on the Seventh Line of Esquesing will be wrapped up by Christmas. The building is adjacent to the Georgetown District School, opposite the Esquesing municipal building.

Construction began in early August. Since the church sold their Main St. N. building in Georgetown to Halton and Peel Trust and Savings Co. in early May, the congregation has been meeting in the Georgetown District High School for services.

The school was the idea of the Ontario Road Builders Association, a group of contractors engaged in building the provincial, county and township roads of Ontario. They approached the Department of Education for assistance when they recognized the need for a central facility where inexperienced but mechanically-inclined workers could be properly trained in the operation and maintenance of the bulldozers, scrapers, backhoes, graders, trucks and other heavy equipment necessary in their operations.

From then on the idea mushroomed and within about six months the school was underway. The Department of Education provided the two instructors and an administration staff under the Provincial Institute of Trades and Occupations and set up the organization of the school. Dufferin Construction, owners of the extensive quarry lands in Halton County, donated 200 acres of land facing on the Sixth Line. The Ontario Road Builders put up the pre-fab building containing a large workshop area, classroom, office and lounge, and began contacting contractors and suppliers to loan or donate the main ingredient of the school — heavy equipment.

The co-operative effort paid off. Today at the school 19 large machines are in use daily, a good \$1,000,000 worth of equipment that cost the school virtually nothing. The Department of Highways donated two machines; the contractors and equipment dealers the remainder; oil companies helped out by giving gasoline and oil and grease guns; and one firm loaned a \$100,000 grader it could spare for six months.

Students are enrolled by paying a fee covering the cost of the course. They can also be referred to the school through the "Manpower" offices, and some are sent by their employers. School staff includes principal C. C. Lloyd and vice-principal M. Sykes who work from the Toronto office of P.I.T.O., and instructors George MacDonald and Wilf Fournier who do the teaching at the school.

The students are put to work building roads about the property, and each man gets two weeks training on each type of machine. They are also given experience in repairs and maintenance of the big rigs.

School vice-principal Sykes said at the opening that the school has been so widely accepted, it is expected two more instructors will be engaged next year and the school will run on a double shift to accommodate more students.

Education Minister William Davis officiated Wednesday as the school was officially opened. He was assisted by Minister of Highways, Charles S. McNaughton.

Platform guests also included Federal government "Manpower" representative R. E. Helmer and Ontario Department of Labor "Manpower" executive director R. M. Warren; president



TWO FORMER ACTON RESIDENTS now serving as deputy ministers of Ontario government departments were on hand Wednesday of last week as the new Provincial Heavy Equipment School was officially opened on the Sixth Line in Nassagaweya. Deputy Minister of Highways A. T. C. "Cam" McNab, left, and Assistant

Deputy Minister of Education W. R. Stewart, right, are the former Actonians and they are shown chatting with Ontario Road Builders Association general manager Martin MacDonald. The Departments of Education and Highways co-operated with the road builders group to launch the school in May of this year.

P. J. McNally and manager Martin MacDonald of the Ontario Road Builders Association; Deputy Minister of Highways A. T. C. McNab and Assistant Deputy Minister of Education W. R. Stewart; S. A. Norton, administrator of Ontario's six technical training centres; J. L. Franceschini, president of Dufferin Construction; school principal C. C. Lloyd; F. G. Henderson, chairman of the operators training school committee and M. L. Baxter, the committee's equipment dealers representative.

Club nearby on the Sixth Line. Due to adverse weather conditions and rain which turned the school grounds into a sea of mud, a half-hour demonstration by the current course of students was cancelled.

Remainder of the 200 attending were representatives of the Road Builders Association, their guests, and one man "observing" on behalf of the Quebec association of road builders.

"This indeed is a co-operative approach to education, and I am delighted with the program that has been launched here," Education Minister Davis told the gathering. He reviewed the Province's specialized education and vocational programs, and pointed to the school as an indication education was not "in a vacuum" as some would suggest.

"In the long run, the investment we are now making will make itself felt not only in future generations, but also throughout the whole nation," he predicted.

Highways Minister McNaughton suggested "there is very little limit to what can be accomplished with such a splendid and co-operative effort between government and industry." He praised the contractors for their contribution to the school.

Road Builders Association president McNally, whose son was one of the first graduates of the school, said he was sold on the idea right from the start. "This is a unique co-operative effort — everybody pulled together," he said, adding a promise that the school's graduates would all be used to the best advantage.

Following the opening ceremony, guests attended a reception at Halton Heights Country

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y — Trip will not run Friday, March 24. — Trip will run Thursday, March 23.	

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Milton principal J. Bell heads teachers' group

The new president of the Halton number four Teachers' Institute for the 1966-67 season is J. M. Bell, B.A., principal of Martin St. Senior Public School, Milton.

The election was held at the annual convention of the teachers of the number four inspectorate in Ottawa on Friday.

Classroom work was observed in the morning and the afternoon was devoted to a tour of the Parliament buildings and mint.

Halton teachers were given a cordial reception by teachers of the Ottawa School System. Programs in Mathematics, Physical Education, English, Oral French, Geography, History and Science were observed.

W. L. McNeil, inspector of the Number four area, reports the facilities provided for enrichment classes, the teaching of Art, Industrial Art, Home Economics and the nature of the instruction given in the oppor-

tunity classes were especially commended by the teachers of these subjects.

A noon luncheon was provided by the ladies of Knox Presbyterian Church. President Earl Brears introduced special guests Public School Inspector G. A. Peacock, Rev. G. Stewart of Knox Church and Miss Margaret Gemmill, formerly of Milton who accompanied the group.

Other officers elected during the business session were vice-president J. Zehr of Brookville Public School, secretary Mrs. M. Harcourt of Milton, and treasurer Mrs. K. Alger of Acton.

The afternoon tour of the Parliament buildings and mint was of special interest. It was arranged by Dr. Harry Harley, M.P. for Halton.

The leader of the Opposition and other elected representatives were observed participating in the debate on fisheries in the House of Commons. The visit to the library, Peace Tower

and Senate Chamber was most interesting.

The tour of the mint, where all Canadian coined money is made, revealed the necessity for strict security regulations and accurate measurement of copper, silver and gold during the process of coin manufacture.

"The co-operative spirit so evident among the members of the Ottawa staff and the favorable conditions provided by the weatherman made the visit to that city a beneficial and enjoyable experience," Mr. McNeil summed up.

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County Council Briefs

- Upheld an earlier decision not to participate in a proposed three day deer hunt in the county.
- Received a "practical suggestion" a proposal of discussion with Peel County on the possible amalgamation of the Halton and Peel County Health Units.
- Declined payment to county councillors for attendance at the meeting to receive the Plunkett Report. It was assumed all invitations were to representatives of local councils, with the exception of the Warden.
- Received a report on the Halton County Family Counselling Services for the months of July, August and September. During that time 217 interviews were conducted, including 76 new cases. The vast majority concerned marital relations.
- Accepted the tender of Bot Construction Limited of Oakville in a total amount of \$124,472.49 for the reconstruction of County Road No. 1 between lots 15 and 16 in concession 2 N.D.S., Burlington.
- Learned there have been resignations received recently from eight employees. So far seven persons have been hired to replace those who resigned.
- Were informed that attendance at the Halton County Museum has practically doubled since last year.
- Learned a reassessment of all lands in the County is necessary. County Assessor Robert Beach recommended the reassessment.

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