

Chamber brief on parking asks Mill-Main changes

A resolution from the Chamber of Commerce objecting to the street of no parking zones contemplated when lights are installed at the corner of Mill and Main Sts. presented a point to council last night.

Spokesman Paul Nielsen was accompanied by D. Lindsay, T. Watson, F. Toth Sr., P. Hurley, L. Adams, Wm. Benson, C. Shanks, D. Munn, F. Gordon and G. James.

Mr. Nielsen read the brief explaining he was not speaking for everyone but for the majority of merchants in requesting changes in the Department of Transport's recommendations.

The brief stated:

"It should be noted that the Department of Transport recommendations of no parking zones of 100 feet, 168 feet etc., from the point of view of flow

of traffic is perhaps the best solution, but it should also be borne in mind that these streets are here not only as a thoroughfare for highway traffic, but for local use as well.

"These lights will be erected, not because of the traffic engineer's recommendation, but in spite of them. After repeated surveys, at Council's request, the engineers still refused to change the set-up we have today and only after a great deal of pressure was brought to bear up on the Department of Transport, did they agree to have stop lights installed.

"Since the Council was able to change the Department of Transport's mind once, we shall hope they will be able to do so again, because what we are asking is of a very minor nature in relation to the

whole project. As the proposal now stands, it will make it difficult for merchants and customers in two ways.

"1. It will deprive customers of parking space.

"2. It will make it exceedingly difficult for some stores to load or unload transport or delivery vans.

"It should be noted some of the stores in question have no access at all from the back of buildings.

"We therefore propose:

"1. That the No Parking zone on Mill St. north-east corner be 133 feet.

"2. That the No Parking zone on the north-west corner of Main St. be 140 feet.

"3. That the 33 feet adjacent to these zones be designated for commercial vehicles.

"In the case of the north-east corner of Mill St., the No

Parking zone would extend from the Main-Mill corner to the point in front of the edge of the Toth building and if the first 33 feet of parking was reserved for commercial vehicles, it could serve Gray Coach buses as well as the A & B delivery van.

"In the case of the north-west corner of Main St., the No Parking zone would extend from the Mill-Main corner to a point in front of the south-west corner of the Dominion Hotel and if the first 33 feet were designated for commercial vehicles, it would facilitate loading of the ROA delivery van.

"It should be taken into consideration that many corners with a far greater traffic density than Mill/Main, have only a 50 foot No Parking zone, and that our proposals are not id-

le solutions, indeed, probably the best solution is over and underpasses.

"The majority of intersections in Acton have only 10 foot No Parking zones and because some engineers, solely concerned with moving traffic, propose that the No Parking zones in the places mentioned should be 168 feet, it is perhaps not good enough reason, to jeopardize business, inconvenience the shopping public, and perhaps risk loss of commercial assessment, and a drop in real estate values.

"Certainly we have no intention to contribute to making Acton a less safe place to live, so we have, therefore, requested absolute minimum modifications.

"We further suggest that to relieve the parking problem, it might be possible to obtain an

agreement with the United Church and Delta Printing in order to use the land where the old church stood as a municipal parking lot, properly marked with signs and kept free of snow in winter. Also that the Council immediately obtain land on a suitable site for off the street parking. The merchants would render all assistance in such a scheme including paying a fair share of the cost involved.

"It is further suggested that the present by-law of two hours' parking limit on Mill St. be enforced.

"Trusting the information as noted in this letter meets with your approval and will be looked after to the best of your capabilities.

The Acton Chamber of Commerce."

Questioned by councillors after presentation of the brief, Mr. Nielsen was asked by councillor Ted Tyler Jr. if he was serious about the underpass and overpass. "Stop lights will not solve the problem, they tell us when to stop and go on corners," he said.

Mr. Nielsen admitted he was being facetious about underpasses and overpasses, but asked, "How far do you want to go to protect people?"

Asked by councillor Drinkwater how far the merchants would participate financially, Mr. Nielsen said the matter would come up for negotiation.

Deputy Reeve Oakes: "Is a majority of the Chamber of Commerce in favor of traffic lights then?"

Mr. Nielsen: "If there is any alternative, we would not be

in favor. Four-way stop lights are not necessary. Red lights hold up traffic. In a four-way stop, the onus is on the driver."

"It surprises me there's so much adverse talk now. It's been in the newspapers for the last two years. Why all the interest lately?" asked the deputy reeve.

"It would mean 25 to 30 parking spaces less. It could mean a loss of one million dollars in sales to downtown merchants," answered Mr. Nielsen.

"Sounds far-fetched to me," said Mr. Oakes. "We've been hammering away at it for two years, why all the adversity now?"

Mayor Les Duby told C of C members council was quite appreciative of their concern and would give every consideration (Continued on Page Nine)

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Diane Bousfield, Carol Patterson win public speaking finals today

Diane Bousfield and Carol Patterson were selected Wednesday morning (today) to represent Acton at the district public speaking competition at Brookville school this Friday evening. The Acton finals were held in the Robert Little school auditorium today when the town's top public school orators were selected from a field of seven.

The annual hydro trophy was presented to Diane Bousfield by commission representative Miss Esther Taylor. The Ben Rachlin trophy will be retained by the Robert Little school.

An attractive book on Canada was presented to each of the competitors, Diane and Carol, Caroline Thompson, Robert Krul, Steven Van Fleet, Robert Ellerby and David Rochester. These were gifts of the school board.

Chairman for the program, principal G. W. McKenzie, expressed his pleasure that there were more boys competing than girls this year. Usually there are more girls.

Grade five students were special guests to hear the public speaking. "You will be up here some day yourself," Mr. McKenzie told the attentive and appreciative group.

The top orator, Diane Bousfield, spoke on the life of airline stewardesses refuting misconceptions and explaining re-

quirements. The average career is three years, she said, when the girls "exchange silver wings for golden rings". She pointed out one requirement is that the stewardess must smile . . . and smile . . . and never lose her temper.

"In another few years I shall hope they will be able to do so again, because what we are asking is of a very minor nature in relation to the

Judges were Mrs. Benton of the M. Z. Bennett staff, Mrs. Gamble of the R. L. staff and the Rev. R. McMurray. In announcing the judges' decision, Mrs. Gamble said "You gave us a hard time this year. The marks were very close."

English teachers who prepared the students were Mrs. Bruce and Miss Riseborough.

Preparation, voice, language, poise, and overall impression

count as well as subject matter.

Taking part in the finals today were the four top speakers from the Robert Little school and three from the M. Z. Bennett school, chosen previously at their own schools. The two winners were again this year from the R. L. school.

When the M. Z. Bennett school competition was held a couple of weeks ago, the three representatives were selected. Caroline Thompson, grade 8, spoke on One Hundred Years of Fashions; Robert Ellerby, grade 8, on Expo 67 and David Rochester, grade 8 on the Dropout Problem.

Judges were senior teachers Gary Bateman, Earl Brears, Walter Dubois, Mrs. Arlene Bruce and principal Elmer Smith.

Other public speakers entered in the school competitions, and the subjects, were: Brenda Browne, Canada-U.S.A. economic relations; Glen Lee, submarines; Debra Streets, the hardship of the pioneers vs. today's conveniences; Jeanie Metanic, memories of my trip to a newly-adopted country, Canada; Robert Parsons on sharks. A ninth contestant, Jo-Ann Vilestra, was suffering from mumps at the time of the finals so was unable to compete.

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regular meeting last Thursday and were amazed at the transformation from the previous week. Landscaping will be done as soon as weather permits in the spring.

—Staff Photo

Car-train collision fatality this morning

Ironically enough, C.N.R. crossing signals are under construction on the fourth line of Equestrating Twp. where an unidentified driver (name withheld pending notification of family) lost his life Wednesday morning in a train-car crash around 11:35 a.m.

North Halton O.P.P. detachment constable R. J. Burke investigated the accident and reported the station wagon was travelling north on the fourth line when it was in collision with the eastbound way freight.

In the past 18 days, North Halton O.P.P. detachment have investigated three fatalities. Saturday evening, February 4,

a Glen Williams youth, Abel Smedes, lost his life in a two-car crash near Silvercreek. Last Saturday, a two-car crash claimed the life of Loran Baker of R.R. 3, Campbellville.

The fourth line crossing was the scene of a fatality about a year ago when James Gregg lost his life in a car-train crash. Approval was given by the Department of Transport and Equestrating Twp. council for installation of a wig-wag signal system and this has begun. At the time of the Wednesday accident, footings for steel standards and signal equipment boxes had been installed.

ACTON'S NEW HYDRO building on Alice St. is rapidly approaching completion. Hydro commissioners made an inspection tour of the spacious new offices and workshop at their

Propose wage increases to work staff following negotiations with town council

Council is offering a straight 35 cents an hour wage increase across the board to the town work staff following negotiations between No. 2 committee and the workmen, it was revealed at a marathon session of council Tuesday evening.

The 35c increase would include a 15c increase granted in November.

Negotiations between the two bodies have been going on for some time with the work staff asking for a \$2.30 skilled rate. Council determined the wage schedule which would be offered to its employees.

A shift differential of 10c an hour is paid in addition if the employee works 10 days straight and then has four off. It was not adequate when it came to standby time and additional pay for an employee on standby of one hour per day at time and a half was recommended when the employee was requested to be on duty.

Council also passed a motion setting an increase in salaries to the administration staff. Office staff are raised by \$7.00 and \$5.00 per week, the office manager and clerk-treasurer receive an increase of \$800 a year.

Reeve Bert Hinton opposed the increases on the grounds they were excessive. He felt a 5% raise would have been sufficient.

"The reeve did not offer any alternative at the meetings, but now he objects to these," said deputy reeve Oakes.

Mayor Les Duby said he would have no problem voting on wage increases in future. Other years he felt he didn't

Police attend Milton funeral

A variety of occurrences, including traffic, criminal, and safety work, consumed the 240 hours worked by the Acton O.P.P. personnel from February 5 to 11.

Traffic activities saw one accident, investigated; 11 traffic charges laid; 221 warnings issued; 40 vehicles safety checked and the student and adult Driver Training courses lectured.

One theft, one disturbance, both under investigation, one assault, resulting in a man being charged and lodged in the Halton County Jail at Milton, and two miscellaneous occurrences rounded out the complaints received and dealt with this week.

Traffic court produced a three month jail sentence and a two year driver's license suspension for one man charged with "Dangerous Driving", while a conviction for "Following too closely", as found in the Highway Traffic Act, brought a fine and costs totaling \$45 in an accident case.

The death of Provincial Constable D. Hardy of the Milton O.P.P. was met with as much shock here as it was throughout the whole of Halton County. Five members of the local detachment, in company with some 125 Police Officers from across the Province, attended the funeral on Saturday to pay their last respects to a man well-known and liked throughout the area.

"Statistics show that driving a motor vehicle can be dangerous", Corp. Mason says in concluding his weekly report. "Your attitude towards the vehicle, the law governing its movements, and the road itself may some day be the difference between life and death for you or someone else. Be a defensive driver; expect the unexpected."

During the reading of the minutes of No. 1 committee, it was revealed the committee and the representatives of the public school board had discussed an addition of an auditorium, library and a classroom to the M. Z. Bennett school at an estimated cost of \$200,000, of which \$60,000 was subject to grants approved by the Department of Education.

The lengthy meeting, attended by a full council, adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Okay variance but no garage

At a public hearing in the council chambers Monday evening, February 13, Jack McMullen's application for a variance was accepted, his explanation supported by the fact there were no objections registered.

The committee of adjustment learned that Mr. McMullen built his house on Wellington St. with a 4 1/2 foot variance on one side. He explained he moved the position of the house to avoid a tree, and although he phoned the town office to enquire, he felt the fact he went ahead with the building was a "misunderstanding".

The committee agreed that no garage could be allowed on that side of the lot.

Present were committee chairman Ernie Marler, members Murray Smith and Don Lindsay, and Jack McGeehan and Iain Williams acting as secretaries. (Mr. Williams is taking over the position). Mr. McMullen was accompanied by his solicitor Aldo Brada.



PUBLIC SPEAKING CHAMPION Diane Bousfield, seated centre, holds the hydro trophy presented to her Wednesday morning (today). Directly behind her is Acton schools' runner-up Carol Patterson. The two teachers who assisted the speakers, Mrs. Arlene Bruce of the M. Z. Bennett School and

Jack Marshall fair president for third year

At a special directors' meeting Jack Marshall was named president of Acton Agricultural Society for his third term. He will head a full board for the four-day centennial fair this year.

Wilmer Fryer was re-named first vice-president and Don Matthews is the new second vice-president.

All other directors were selected at the annual meeting of the board in January.

Y's Men plan centennial board growing contest

Chase up, gentlemen!

A centennial board growing contest is announced this week by the Y's Men's club and will start with its active members and by a host.

Cash prizes are offered in six categories—highest, best, most original, brightest out-

Y's Men plan centennial board growing contest

er, best dressed and for the best garden.

There's an entry form in this week's paper and entries, with \$1 registration to go toward prize money, are to be sent by Ed Lamberton of the Y's Men.

Judging will be done at the fall fair.