

The Acton Free Press

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H.S. board receives gavel for last year of operation

In its final year, Acton district high school board finally has a gavel for its chairman.

A special presentation was made Monday evening to chairman Duncan Moffat, a member of district school boards for some 15 years, by board secretary Fred Salt.

Before the inaugural meeting, in January Mr. Salt had made inquiries and learned that the high school board doesn't have its own gavel. In years gone by, former secretary Billy Middleton simply borrowed the public school board's gavel each year for the inaugural ceremonies. So Mr. Salt put in a request to the industrial arts department of the high school for the missing item, and a fine walnut gavel, mounted on a varnished base, was produced.

"Since this is our final year, it's yours to keep," Mr. Salt told Mr. Moffat.

It's teacher hiring time again. Board members agreed to reserve rooms at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, for two weekends, March 1 and 2, and March 8 and 9. If all the teachers required are hired the first weekend, the second reservation will be cancelled. An offer from Althouse College, University of Western Ontario, to go there for interviews was not taken up.

"Our best source is people living in this area," members agreed. Due to past success, 27 more workshops will be held for grade 13 teachers in various locations in Ontario through February, March and April, on Fridays and Saturdays. Principal Hansen explained he will have more details later.

The town requested the school board again provide the annual five year capital expenditures forecast. This is updated each year.

The Pairs and Squares square dance club requested use of the larger high school gym for a graduation dance in mid-March. Learners are completing a 20 week course at the Robert Little school.

The board agreed they would be subject to the same regulations and \$50 fee as previously established.

Teacher Bill Coats was granted a day's leaving of absence without pay to attend the national leadership convention in Ottawa early in April. He is alternate delegate and the only person from North Halton expected to attend. He'll be away Friday, April 5.

After years of discussion, attempts at use and recurring disappointment, the school's greenhouse may finally be disposed of. It was suggested by the property chairman, Ray Arbic that if George Mason does not want the greenhouse, tenders should be called for its removal. Mr. Mason's father gave the greenhouse to the school, but its

operation has never been successful.

Vice-principal Joe Bray explained it has been replaced by artificial growing benches.

Repairs to the boiler are complete and payment will be made in full.

The staff had been asked to estimate the value of school property for possible insurance adjustment. Mr. Bray said the

Micro denies move rumor

Rumor circulating in Acton that Micro Plastics division of Building Products Ltd. were contemplating a move to Montreal were vigorously denied by plant officials this week.

John Arnold, manufacturing manager of the plastic products division of B.P. told the Free Press 15 men were laid off but they could return to work as soon as market conditions changed. There was no intention of moving elsewhere.

Mr. Arnold said the company was "conscious of the difficulty a fluctuating market presents and the need to adjust to current

conditions." He said the 15 men laid off constituted less than seven per cent of the working force.

The company has built another similar plant in the west to circumvent high freight costs but the company spokesman could find no basis for relocation and wholesale layoff rumors.

Mr. Arnold said the company was seeking the full co-operation of employees to retain the sound financial position.

Over a million dollars recently went into improving facilities for material handling in the Acton plant. It employs over 200.

Guineas winner, road super planners receive plaques

Nassagawya Council presented awards Monday as a token of the township's appreciation to two retiring Planning Board members: Grant Campbell and Alec Near. Bill Lasby was honored for winning the Queen's Guineas prize at the Royal Winter Fair.

Plaques were presented to the retiring planning board members while Mr. Lasby received a desk set with an engraving on the stand.

Grant MacMillan, Nassagawya Road Superintendent received a certificate qualifying him as a certified superintendent. Mr. MacMillan recently graduated

from a course held at the University of Guelph. The award came from the Ontario Good Roads Association.

Reeve William Coulter presented the awards. On receiving his award Mr. Near told council "when you grow old you grow useless, and now I can look at this and know I was good some time."

Mrs. Campbell received her husband's award as he was unable to be there due to ill health. Mr. MacMillan thanked council for making it possible for him to attend the course.

Unreliable forecast

Last week an article in this journal cast some cold water on the ability of the groundhog to forecast the state of the weather for the next six weeks because of dependence on a shadow.

Last Friday, as far as this reporter could make out, was a dull day. But there was one period in the morning when Old Sol broke through low hanging clouds and flooded the earth with sunshine.

If some hibernating woodchuck stuck his nose out of a hole at that time he'd beat a hasty retreat for undoubtedly another six weeks of winter were forthcoming.

On the other hand, if he appeared from his winter's nap while the day was dull he'd be confident Spring was on its way.

The only conclusion we can draw from these episodes is the groundhog is as unreliable as the weatherman.

Cords of wood dump problem

Dutch elm disease is causing a new kind of headache for Esquimaux council.

Some unknown person on Monday's meeting, his piling, cords and cords and cords of elm logs on the township dump. There they now sit.

The dump custodian said they must have come in at night or when he wasn't working because he didn't know who brought them in.

Suspicion was thrown on a crew of men working for the Department of Highways cutting trees along No. 7 but the reeve school council's opinion "it was a funny thing no one saw it."

"Wood, in the form of cut up trees is not a dumpable item," declared Councillor Lawson. "If we did know and told them they'd probably tell you they didn't know they couldn't dump them there."

"Do you think it would do any good to put a notice up at the dump entrance prohibiting this sort of material?" asked the reeve.

Several heads nodded but Councillor Pat Patterson observed sardonically they could put a gate on the dump and close it and very likely people would dump their refuse at the side of the road.

A suggestion from the deputy reeve that a letter to the custodian pointing out elm logs was one type of refuse not allowed in the dump was followed up with instructions to the clerk.

Council will wait and see the results of the letter, aware elm logs don't burn very well.

Skunk tested rabies found

A case of rabies has been confirmed, following the testing of a skunk killed at Harvey Bayne's farm, P.R. 4, Rockwood, on the Everton line. Mr. Bayne went to the barn to do chores, smelled skunk and discovered the animal had climbed into a pigpen with seven brood sows. Mr. Bayne killed the skunk and informed Dr. Frank Oakes, Tests confirmed the reason the skunk was behaving so strangely was because of the disease.

Mr. Bayne was not bitten, and at last report the sows were in good health.

Partial approval given zoning by-law

Partial approval for Acton's third attempt at a comprehensive zoning by-law has been received from the Ontario Municipal Board.

The board confirmed the decisions they made verbally at the hearing here in a report to the town. Several changes must be made in an amending by-law to get the O.M.B.'s stamp of approval.

New zoning for the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. property and the Leishman park was refused.

The Dills property was to be placed in three zones, industrial,



WINNERS in the public speaking contest at Acton public schools are congratulated following the contest in the Robert Little auditorium Friday morning. Seven finalists spoke to the student audience. Steven Van Fleet's talk on the atomic bomb

was judged tops with Diane Bousfield runner-up. Left to right, M. Z. Bennett teacher-coach Mrs. Bob Bruce, Steven, chairman Earl Brears with the B. D. Rachlin trophy, Diane, and Robert Little coach Donna Riseborough. (Staff Photo)



PLANS TO RE-OPEN deserted Silver Spur ranch near Ballinacred were announced by new owner Fred Caruk of Port Credit, recently. Mr. Caruk is already making improvements to the western village and he intends to run a winter sports program in addition to summer attractions. (Staff Photo)

Warn property owners

Don't sell land to speculators

Property owners in the area of a proposed dam at Everton, have been warned against selling to speculators.

James S. Bauer of Waterloo, chairman of the Grand River Conservation Authority, delivered the warning while addressing a public meeting at Osprings public school, held to outline the authority's plans for the dam. About 200 people attended the meeting.

Mr. Bauer cautioned against speculators "who offer big prices

with a dollar down and \$2 a year."

The authority will pay fair market price for property, he said, and owners will receive cash.

The Everton dam is one of five planned by the authority in a \$30,000,000 program to be spread over 12 years.

About 50 property owners are involved at the Everton site. They were told that the authority could not give them a definite date when purchases will begin because the federal government has not yet approved the program or agreed to pay a 37 1/2 per cent grant.

The Ontario government has agreed to contribute 37 1/2 per cent. The remaining 25 per cent will be paid by the 71 municipalities in the valley.

Mr. Bauer said current discussions about regional government in parts of the valley may be futile unless the dams are built soon.

The river will soon be unable to take any more sewage and wastes from the valley's expanding municipalities. Growth will have to stop because until the dams are built, there will not be enough water stored in upstream reservoirs to dilute these wastes throughout the year.

He predicted that by the late 1970s, the authority will be looking for sites for even more dams to ensure a continuing supply of clean water in the river.

Mr. Bauer said the authority hopes to be able to start buying land for all five dams within a year.

The Everton dam will be 37 feet high, 1,000 feet long, flood an area of 950 acres and hold about 4,100,000,000 gallons of water.

Poses as inspector enters Glenlea home

On Friday, February 2, a man posing as a water heater inspector entered a Glenlea home. The housewife, growing suspicious, began to question the man and he left her house, driving away. While she didn't recognize the man or didn't get the license number, she called police and gave them all the information she could.

Neighboring police detachments have been notified of the incident.

Seven-year-old struck by car

Seven-year-old Paul Robert Elliott of 169 Churchhill Rd. N. was struck Saturday afternoon by a car on Mill St. John James Cooney, 45 Longfield Rd., was driving west on Mill St. when the boy ran in front of the car. He suffered facial lacerations, according to police.

The accident occurred at 3:15 p.m.

Tentative approval for school addition

Tentative approval from the Department of Education for the proposed addition to the M. Z. Bennett school has been received by Acton Public School Board.

At the regular meeting Tuesday night board members were informed grants were available on \$277,482 of the estimated cost of \$356,425.

Area superintendent McNeill also present at the meeting, said grants could possibly be available on up to \$300,000 if separate bills for the utilities were submitted. It would depend on the new grant structure issued by the province.

"The next move," said Mr. McNeill, "is for the board to meet council with costs. They in turn must get tentative approval from the Ontario Municipal Board." Then the board can hire an architect.

"We appear to be beginning to feel the impact of homes in Lakewood subdivision," commented chairman Cyril Bishop

when Principal G. McKenzie described overcrowding in the Robert Little kindergarten. There's a total enrolment of 64; 31 in the morning and 33 in the afternoon. A normal class would be 25.

The board agreed to hire Mrs. Hines as a part-time teacher to assist in the kindergarten.

Overcrowding in the kindergarten and hiring another teacher also necessitates moving the school library. Trustee Vic Bristow commented, "Something has to be done. We can move the library temporarily into the small staff room at the stone school until such time as other arrangements can be made."

A motion passed authorizing the move.

A motion sponsored by the vice-chairman to entertain the junior safety patrol at the ice follies in Kitchener also passed after discussion on whether the children would like the skating show or a hockey game best. The board decided on the former for a change.

A request from the town for a five year forecast on capital expenditures in the next five years was turned down when trustee M. Smith observed, "They won't be affected by capital expenditures when the county board takes over." The secretary was to advise the town of the decision.

The board, after correspondence with the North Halton Music Festival, agreed to follow the policy of last year and underwrite one-quarter of the cost. The festival executive hopes to be able to present a third trophy in each class at this year's event as well as replace some existing cups and shields which are becoming marked.

Both Principals E. Smith and G. McKenzie submitted recommendations for new equipment, teachers and supplies for the board to consider in their budget.

Mr. McNeill recommended the board increase their purchase of books for the library this year since grants were still available. The Department recommends

schools should have 10 books per student.

Acton Rotary Club is looking after transportation costs conveying a boy with a broken leg to the Robert Little school, secretary Wm. Middleton informed trustees. Principal Smith disclosed the M. Z. Bennett school had a broken leg casualty, too.

In his report, Mr. Smith authorized the need for a school gym with the information only one physical education class had been able to operate since Christmas since the high school gym was not available.

Accounts amounting to \$21,407 were passed for payment. Chairman Cyril Bishop presided for the meeting with all trustees including trustee-elect Charlie Heard present.

The press was excluded from the discussions with the architect and reading of confidential teacher reports after the meeting.



NEW GAVEL for the last year was presented to high school board chairman Duncan Moffat by secretary Fred Salt Monday evening. The board has been operating without the tradi-

tional symbol of authority. The industrial arts department supplied the walnut gavel.

(Staff Photo)