

# Evaluation over—Apply to close station

The C.N.R. intends to go through with plans to close their station here. Representatives of the railway told The Free Press this week the C.N.R. has made an application to the Railway Transport Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission to close Acton station. It is now up to the Commission to set a date for a hearing which will likely be held in Acton soon to hear pros and cons of the railway's request.

The Commission will make a decision, based on evidence heard at the hearing whether the station should be

closed or left open.

Public relations officer Gordon Soutter and Express superintendent Lewis Woods, both from the London office of the C.N.R., said the railway's evaluation of freight services here had been favorable since it has been handled from Guelph. There have been no complaints about service since the first couple of weeks freight was first handled from the master agency.

The experimental stage of plans for the master agency are now over and the railway's findings, representatives said, indicate freight service is

run as efficiently as it was when it was handled from Acton.

Since there was not much opposition and everyone seems to be satisfied with the service as it operates from Guelph, the railway has applied to close the Acton station.

Asked if the C.N.R. had received no written objections about the proposed closing from Acton business and industry, representatives said they were not aware of any.

Objections have been made by Acton Council, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and some industries but

they were sent to the Board of Transport Commission as the Canadian Transport Commission was known then.

Both Mr. Soutter and Mr. Woods felt the new system would not affect the future of industry in Acton since the service would be as efficient as it was before. They said the system worked well in other small communities where the master plan agency was now in effect.

The two representatives maintained the entire master plan agency was a matter of economics. Its intro-

duction, they said, ended a lot of duplication where the station agent merely acted as a go-between, often being blamed for mistakes which originated in the central agency.

Inequalities of the passenger service between towns without stations and those with, escaped the two railway representatives. They said the railway was trying to enlarge its passenger service, but could give no answer why they were cutting off most trains from stopping at places like Acton, although they felt it was a matter of economics.

The concept that taxpayers in the smaller places should be entitled to the same benefits city dwellers receive since their taxes subsidized the railway also, was recognized but representatives admitted it was new to them.

Future of the Acton station now hinges on the decision of the Railway Transport Committee which could be swayed by massive reasons against closing.

Opponents of the proposal point out many other stations with a much smaller revenue than what the C.N.R. got out of Acton are still open.

## What Council did

The first regular meeting of Acton council since March 12 was held Tuesday night in the council chambers. Among many items of business Council:

\* Introduced, read and passed a by-law to establish Daylight Saving Time in town during 1968.

\* Authorized the clerk to pay the financial statement - \$6,664.85.

\* Deferred any expenditures for new furniture or alterations to the council chambers. Opposed to the resolution were Councillor Charlie Perry, a longtime advocate of the measure, and Councillor Pat McKenzie.

\* Approved the general expense portion of the 1968 fire-fighter budget, a resolution opposed by Councillors Drinkwater and Perry.

\* Agreed to purchase a one page advertisement in the Acton Orange Lodge program and authorized use of the town reservoir site for an Easter sunrise service by young people from Trinity United Church.

\* Endorsed a resolution from Etobicoke urging GO train service be established along the C.N.R. line from Guelph to Toronto.

\* Appointed Herb Dodds to fill the unexpired term on the Board of Parks and Recreation Mrs. Helen Otterbein left when she resigned. A letter of appreciation is to be sent to Mrs. Otterbein.

\* Authorized an advertisement for census takers to complete the town census started by the assessor who has been ill and will probably be unable to report back to work for another two months. Those hired will be paid 10 cents a name.

\* Authorized the clerk to hire part-time help for the town office at his discretion.

\* Agreed to purchase two additional matching chairs for the clerk's office over the opposition of the reeve who claimed the clerk can get along with what he has.

\* Instructed the clerk to send a letter of thanks to the Acton Hydro Commission for use of their facilities for meetings while the town offices were being renovated.

\* Authorized payment of \$2,712.84 to the C.N.R. for the town's share of the Eastern Ave. crossing signals.

\* Accepted the recommendation of No. 2 committee to send Superintendent A. Doby to the Roads School at the University of Guelph with all expenses paid.

\* Instructed the clerk to send a letter of thanks to Beardmore and Co. for 26,000 yards of fill they supplied for the water pollution control plant. "It was very generous of the company," commented Councillor Bill Williams, speaking for the entire council.

\* Approved installation of water service to a new home being built by Bill Stuckey on Church Hill Rd. N. in the Township of Esquesing. The service is installed to the lot line at Mr. Stuckey's expense and he must pay double normal water rates for all water consumption. Councillor T. Tyler Jr. opposed the resolution with the statement he didn't feel township residents were contributing their fair share towards

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DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER D. H. Caughill of Waterloo paid his official visit to Walker Lodge Monday when a banquet followed the meeting. Left to right: G. H. Lepper, Toronto, Past Grand Steward; Mr. Caughill; Herb Ritchie, Past Grand Sword Bearer and Walker Lodge Secretary; George Lee, W.M. of

Walker Lodge and William Wilkie of Guelph, Grand Organist. Toasts were proposed by Melbourne Blow and Calvin McIntyre with Mr. Caughill and Bill Hamilton of Georgetown replying.

(Staff Photo)

## P.E.T.'s outgoing charm impresses Acton delegate

Acton high school teacher Bill Coats, an alternate delegate to the Liberal convention in Ottawa last week, was impressed by the "outgoing charm" of Pierre Trudeau, Canada's new Prime Minister.

In a brief meeting with Mr. Trudeau, Bill found him easy to talk to and commented on his affability although he favored John Turner personally for the post of Prime Minister. "I would have voted Turner, Turner, Turner and then switched to Trudeau on the fourth ballot," said Mr. Coats. Halton had six voting delegates at the convention, five from Oakville and one from Milton. Mr. Coats was an alternate.

Excitement at the convention which delighted T.V. viewers and has been termed the "most exciting political event" in Canada's history "was viewed with equanimity by the Acton delegate. He said T.V. viewers were able to participate more fully and be on top of changing trends at the convention better than delegates in the warm, crowded arena.

"We could only sit in the seats between votes and guess at what was taking place on the floor," he commented.

Mr. Coats sees the swing to Pierre Trudeau and an endorsement of his policies as an indication of the dividing of the ways between Canada's two major

## Mr., Mrs. Larsen daughter citizens

Mrs. and Mrs. Jens B. Larsen and their daughter Lene of R. R. 3, Acton, were sworn in as Canadian citizens at the last citizenship court held in Guelph. Judge R. H. Tugman of Hamilton presided at the court and presented 18 new citizens with their certificates.

He wished Mrs. Larsen a belated happy birthday during the ceremony when he noted she had celebrated the event the week before.

A reception in the Guelph Legion followed the ceremony.

political parties. "Voters will have a clear alternative now when they vote Progressive Conservative or Liberal," he felt. Mr. Coats flew home on Sunday from Ottawa.

## Announce plans for No. 7 Hwy.

Among the Ontario Department of Highways' construction projects planned for the 1968 season is clearing and grubbing the right-of-way on No. 7 from Georgetown to Acton. The work is being done in preparation for future reconstruction.

## Copper equipment reported stolen

Copper sprinkling equipment, valued at \$200, was reported stolen from Beardmore filter beds on Wednesday, April 3. Cons. Kressler is investigating the theft of piping, valves, sprinkler heads, etc.

## Council asks school board to cut \$30,000 off levy

Due to a substantial increase in the mill rate for 1968, Acton council has petitioned the Public School Board to reduce their request to the town by at least \$30,000.

Efforts to set the mill rate have been hampered by a lack of information on the school board levy from the Ontario Municipal Board and council passed a motion last night (Tuesday) asking the board to reduce their levy. Opposed to the motion were Mayor L. Doby, Deputy-Reeve F. Oakes and Councillor G. W. McKenzie.

"The way Public School Board has budgeted they keep coming up with a \$20 to \$30,000 surplus each year and tell us they are cutting to the bone," said Councillor Bob Drinkwater in proposing the motion. "Now we've got a five mill increase on the public school levy."

Deputy-Reeve Oakes said he would go along with the motion if its purpose was to keep the board aware council didn't want to go into 1969 with a surplus because of the new form of school government.

Scrutinizing the school budget Councillor Tyler stated the first three items alone on the budget were up from 20 to 30 per cent. "Can anyone enlighten me why?" he asked.

"We can pass a resolution," said Councillor McKenzie, "but it won't bear any weight. School board is an elected body responsible to the people. We can pass any amount of resolutions and they don't mean much."

"I agree with Mr. McKenzie," said the reeve. "We don't do any harm in asking them to take another look, however."

"I agree with the reeve," commented Dr. Oakes. "We can't

compel them to do it. The onus lies on us but if they are short we have to produce monies for them. It's a gamble we can take."

Councillor McKenzie said it was spelled out at a recent meeting in Milton that a surplus in 1968 would come back to the town, not to the new county board. The same thing applies to a deficit.

Councillor Drinkwater had another purpose for his motion, however. He said:

"We've got to take a stand on this school issue and take it now. We can't continually accept raises of five, six, seven or eight mills each year. The Minister of Education says school demands are going to break the country and I'll go along with him."

The motion came to the vote and carried 6-3, the mayor, deputy-reeve and Councillor McKenzie opposed.

## Competition keen in choir classes at North Halton Festival Tuesday

Again this year young singers from all of North Halton schools assembled at the Robert Little school in Acton for the traditional spring Music Festival. Milton, Acton and rural school children filled the auditorium and all available space in the school on Tuesday when the well-entertained choir classes were scheduled. There were solo classes Wednesday morning, with the annual final program on Wednesday evening.

Garfield Bender of Kitchener was the capable adjudicator, making his comments clear to the attentive youngsters as well as the many adults in the audience. He even had one group of entries rise and try something again - the way he preferred it. He commended the choirs on their uniformity of voices, refined tone and expressiveness, concluding with the vital placing that brought subdued squeals of pleasure from the competitors.

Tuesday's results: Triple duet, grades five and six, seven rooms and over, "Sleep Baby Sleep," Glen Williams, Robert Little, Acton; M. Z. Bennett, Acton. Eight entries, Primary choir, seven rooms and over, "Spring is Here,"

J. M. Denyes, Milton; Bruce St., Milton; Speyside, Ten entries, Junior choir, grades five and six, seven rooms and over, "Flow Gently Sweet Acton," Robert Little, J. M. Denyes, Brookville. Eight entries.

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## Four persons injured in two-car collision

Four Acton and Rockwood residents were injured in a front-end collision on Highway 7 just west of the Nassagawaya Fifth Line Friday evening.

Miss Elaine Johnson of R. R. 4, Acton, driver of the westbound car, suffered cracked ribs and facial lacerations and a passenger in her car, Miss Linda Damm of Fourth Line Esquesing had a broken wrist and lacerations to the mouth.

The occupants of the eastbound car were also hurt. Driver Jan Loof and Klaus Druel, both of R. R. 5, Rockwood, received numerous bruises in the collision.

Eastbound traffic was backed up two miles to the village of Rockwood before police and tow trucks could clear the highway.

Milton O.P.P. investigated and totalled the damage at \$3,200.

## St. John Brigade Citizen of Year

For the first time, a group rather than an individual will be honored when the Chamber of Commerce holds its annual Citizen of the Year night.

Choice this year, announced today for the first time, is the St. John Ambulance Brigade, a group of local volunteers whose faithful and time-consuming services go, in the main, unnoticed and unremarked. These dedicated men and women of the St. John Brigade attend every major function in Acton, their training, equipment and ambulance always at the disposal of anyone in need.

They have just concluded a season of regular attendance at hockey games ending with the starting carnival. They regularly

offer courses in home nursing and first aid. Their sponsorship of cadets brought valuable training to many Acton girls.

Their accomplishments will be outlined in detail at the special dinner which highlights the Chamber year. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 in the music centre. Also to be recognized for their achievement will be representatives of the champion Tri-County novices.

Chamber officials decided two years ago to announce their decision in advance, so relatives, friends and anyone especially interested would be able to attend. Before that, the announcement was a surprise the night of the dinner, and this made planning difficult.



CHRISTINE WEBB and Cathy Weldon make pretty sunflowers in the Acton Figure Skating Club's presentation of an "English Country Garden." A capacity audience greeted the

annual spectacle enthusiastically at the community centre last Saturday. Story and more pictures in the second section.

(Staff Photo)