

# Investigate closing of Acton CN station

A three-man committee has been formed to investigate the closing of Acton's CN station. Charles Leatherland Q.C., Paul Nielsen, and councillor G.W. McKenzie are to compile specific data that can be used at the expected hearing sometime next month.

The committee was appointed at a public meeting in Council Chambers Monday night during which 26 people, many of them council members, voiced their opinions.

Bill Middleton expressed his view that while the railroad station used to be the centre of the community, things have changed. "I just came down to help you keep your chin up, but I think the hay is all down," he said. "I'm sorry about it."

Charles Leatherland disagreed. As chairman of the Acton Development Commission he felt, "A lot can be done about it, the people want to do it, and industry wants to do it."

However, it appeared that industry is not too concerned.

David Lindsay was the only industrial representative at the meeting. He expressed concern for the inconvenience of shipping under the present conditions.

"It's an awfully poor outfit that can't keep one man there," he said.

Dr. Oakes agreed with Mr. Lindsay. He stated that under the present system the express service is so poor that he has had to forget about it, and deliver his shipments of blood to Guelph in person.

He was backed up by Mr. Nielsen. "I had an air express parcel which left Montreal Friday at two in the afternoon. It used to be a 16-hour service and it was a suit for a groom on Saturday. I didn't get it until Tuesday."

"Centralized service deteriorates," commented Mr. Drinkwater. "Industry interested in moving in, looks at the rail service. When they see it practically all they have second thoughts about it."

Bert Hinton disagreed that service was poorer. He felt the CN had acted with a great deal of courage. "They can deal with a whole area of trains that formerly were beyond the responsibility of the local official."

"We are getting very efficient truck service from Guelph. We have to be fair about it. I think industry isn't here because they are being treated so well."

He said he gets better service if the truck picks freight up at his door in the

morning and has it on the train in Guelph by afternoon, than he did driving it himself to the Acton station. "There is no drop in service because of personal service built up with the truckers."

Mr. Nielsen added, "We are dealing not only from the standpoint of industry, but also from a citizen's standpoint." However, he admitted that industry will ultimately decide the fate of the station.

Mayor Doby mentioned that three other small stations had succeeded in bucking the CN by public pressure, but their survival was uncertain.

Mr. Nielsen felt that the CN had in effect said to Acton, "We are going to run this railroad the most economical way possible and we are not interested in how much money you are making."

He felt that the meeting should decide if they want to try to keep the station or not, then form a committee.

"Industry won't come to a meeting and the CN won't tell you why they are doing it. A committee of citizens can look into it while a meeting cannot."

Ted Tyler Jr. stressed that his remarks were not personal. He is part of one of Acton's major trucking firms. "Competition never hurt anyone. What helps Acton, helps me," he said.

Then he added, "They are not tearing up the line here, but are merely re-organizing the system." He drew a comparison to pants in Nielsen's store, saying that if a 21 inch knee wasn't selling, he would ship it out and bring in a 19 inch knee. "It's the same thing with the railroad."

"You've got to have tonnage reports, passenger pledges and a transport lawyer if you want to get anywhere."

Mr. Leatherland admitted that industry had not been specifically invited to the meeting or any definite figures obtained from them. A questionnaire had been sent out by the Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday but the results are not yet known. No brief has been prepared.

It was agreed that a transport lawyer would be costly but the matter would be suggested to Council.

Mr. Hinton said he was getting a rash from the thought of the expense.

Mayor Doby was quite satisfied with the

turn out of interested citizens. He felt that industry was not there because they had been able to set up alternative methods of shipping by truck that was satisfactory.

However, he stressed that now, "the most obvious interest of the individual in Acton, is that the station should be kept open in the view of easing the load on the public highway system through a commuter train set up."

"The Road Down - Kitchener-Waterloo-Toronto is a natural."

"Future need will justify action today. The growth of our town indicates that future residents will include more commuters to metro."

He feels that the fastest way to solve the transportation problem is to use the rail facilities that are already here.

Industry, he felt, would bring about its own pressure for adequate service. Emergency small freight could be shipped by a transit system to and from Acton in much the same way the buses do now.

The three-man committee is to report their findings to Council and if will then be made public. The last chance for presentation will be at the Board of Transport hearing next month. The actual date has not yet been set.

## Bless them all

The possibility of at least two subdivisions being built in Acton, with small plazas adjoining, induced Reeve H. Hinton to register his objection to piecemeal commercial building, at the last meeting of council.

Councillor Ted Tyler found the reeve's stand amusing.

"I suggested this could happen some time ago when I suggested a mall for the business section and the reeve was the first one against it," mused Mr. Tyler. "Now he's changed his mind."

Nevertheless, Councillor Tyler continued, "It's time to get cracking about doing something on Main St."

## Cookie Day best yet; raise \$93

Considered the most successful to date, Guide, Brownie and Ranger Cookie Day on Saturday raised \$93 to be divided among the four groups.

There were 840 boxes of cookies sold Saturday morning, and this is the first year all the cookies were sold so promptly.

Acton was in fact lucky to even receive the full order of cookies, since other nearby town's orders couldn't be completely filled. Phone calls for more cookies couldn't turn up an extra crumb in the district.

There were over 60 girls taking part, and some had non-member friends along with them knocking on doors.

They were surprised this year that at some homes as many as a half dozen boxes were sold.

Cookie Day is the annual fundraising project for the girls.

"Thank you, Acton, for a very successful cookie day," Mrs. Ginger exclaimed. She expressed special thanks to drivers who safely shepherded the Brownies, Guides and Rangers along the highway routes.

## R. L. students marathon this Saturday

To raise money for the Red Cross, 80 eager public school pupils are undertaking their own walkathon this Saturday. They're starting out from here at 5.30 a.m. to begin the day-long, 30 mile stroll from beyond Ferris to Acton.

Joining the R.L. grades 6, 7 and 8 students who wish to go are some high school students and a few M.Z.B. Bennett students.

Miss Donna Risborough and her student organizers held a very successful walk last year from Orangeville to Acton. This one is just three miles further and the youngsters are keen to prove they can do it.

Parents are lining up carpools and rest centres. The boys and girls have contacted their own sponsors, to pay a set sum a mile. Some have multiple sponsors to add to the total.

The walkers will come by the Shand dam, down to highway 24, along to Ompinge and down the second line to Acton.

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# The Acton Free Press

## Nassagaweya tax rate increases 10 - 18 mills

A mill rate increase ranging from 10 to 18 mills -- depending on location of properties and services provided -- will mean a hefty increase in taxes for residents of Nassagaweya Township this year.

Residential and farm mill rates will rise anywhere from 10 to 16 mills, while commercial and industrial rates will be hiked from 11 to 18 mills. Council on Monday reviewed the finance committee's rate forecast and adopted it without change. The proposals are expected to be ratified by a by-law covering expenditures and the mill rates at the next council meeting.

A rising education budget is blamed for a large share of the increase, although increased expenditures are noted in other areas too this year. The township's public school trustees plan to spend a record \$387,607 this

year, up nearly \$100,000 over their 1967 total -- and debt service payments have more than doubled to a 1968 total of \$49,840.

While he described it as a "bare bones" budget, the township's general expenditures have also risen about two mills, Reeve Coulter pointed out. Council faces increased staff salaries, \$1,400 for Moffat Street Lights, \$1,000 for storm drains at the township office building and \$9,000 extra this year for the planning board, among other smaller increases across the board.

The township mill rates will produce a total of \$395,573 for 1968. This is broken down as follows:

County of Halton \$34,625; township general rate \$37,417; township roads \$52,108; Acton High School \$21,681; Milton High School \$67,813; Public School \$166,472; Eden Mills Police Village \$2,801; Acton Fire Area board \$3,287; Milton Fire Area \$855.

While the school board's demand on the township council is up, it could have been \$20,000 higher. The council took \$15,000 from its own capital reserve fund to help pay off a \$17,854 shortage on last year's addition to Brookville School, and the school board cut \$5,000 from its general expenses in order to keep the mill rate increase to a minimum.

Councillors noted the major school increases were a \$60,000 increase for instruction staff caused by the addition of nine new teachers last fall, nine-twelfths of whose salary comes due in 1968; a \$10,000 increase in instructional supplies which includes a library expansion program; and a \$4,000 increase in transportation costs.

"We are treading on dangerous ground by cutting the school board," warned the reeve. He said the rising school costs were due to the boom in housing in the township, and the end was not yet in sight. He noted there were 16 new homes started in Nassagaweya last month alone and the township already has 334 children four years of age and under. He noted about 106 of these will

be of school age next year -- "so we can look forward to further increases in the cost of education."

The school costs accounted for about seven mills of the across-the-board increase in this year's mill rates.

Provincial shelter grants are expected to absorb about one-half the expected increase in taxes. The shelter grant (estimated at \$30.82 in the Milton end of Nassagaweya, \$30.51 at the Acton end, based on an average residential assessment of \$4,000.

Council agreed to call the taxes due on October 15, with a two per cent discount if paid in full by August 2; one per cent by September 16. A three per cent penalty will be added October 16 on overdue taxes, and interest at the rate of two thirds of one per cent per month will be added at the end of the year.

For next year, council is studying a two-payment basis, with an interim billing probably to fall due in May and the final payment due in September.

Councillors praised finance chairman Mrs. Anna MacArthur and her committee for the work they put into preparing the budget. The by-law establishing the rates will be passed on either May 13 or 21.



BARBARA McINTOSH

## New reporter at Free Press

Barbara McIntosh this week joined the news staff of The Acton Free Press as a reporter-photographer.

Miss McIntosh is a graduate of the three-year course in Journalism at Ryerson Polytechnic Institute in Toronto and a native of Brighton, Ont.

Editor Hartley Coles in welcoming Miss McIntosh to the staff noted it was a step in the program to expand news and feature coverage of the areas surrounding the town as well as covering in depth the news of the community.

At Ryerson Miss McIntosh served on the daily Ryersonian staff with particular emphasis on features and entertainment reporting.

Mr. Coles expressed the hope Miss McIntosh would receive the co-operation of officials and those she contacts in her news gathering to become familiar with the town and area.



CELEBRATING HIS NOMINATION as N.D.P. standard-bearer, Murray Kernighan poses with his wife Muriel and daughter Ruth after winning the nomination by acclamation Friday night. (Staff Photo)

## Milton businessman

### M. Kernighan for N.D.P.

Murray S. Kernighan of Milton won the N.D.P. nomination for Halton unopposed at the nominating meeting Friday night in Milton. It will be Mr. Kernighan's fourth try at federal politics. He ran in Halton in 1965 and for the CCF in West York in 1945 and 1949.

The father of three, he graduated from University of Toronto in Chemical Engineering and has owned and managed a chemical firm in Milton for 19 years.

He is a former chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, served on school board for eight years and Planning Board for five years before resigning last year.

Inflation, shortage of housing, division of responsibilities between the Dominion and the provinces, foreign ownership of industry, inequalities in taxation and the lack of medicare are issues ranking of importance in the N.D.P. candidate's mind.

He criticized both Liberals and Conservatives for lack of action on Medicare, which he said has been an issue in every election since 1919.

He criticized past governments for allowing Canada to become "the hewers of wood and drawers of water". He proposed to "buy Canada back" and save an estimated \$750,000,000 a year which is lost due to foreign investment.

Mr. Kernighan charged the government had been wasting time on elections and putting politics ahead of the business of the country. He pointed out this would be the sixth election in 11 years.

Guest speaker was M.P. for Lakeshore riding Pat Lawlor, who told the meeting he had beaten the popular Allan Eagleson not by personality but by slugging and knocking on doors.

Mr. Lawlor told of how he with M.P. Morton Shulman toured

ed the various institutions in the country, and how they would continue to visit the nursing homes, jails, reformatories and similar institutions to get the information first hand and encourage legislation.

He criticized the facilities at Guelph reformatory and said "it is a reformatory where nobody has a chance to reform and there is no hope for change under the present regime."

The speaker classed Prime Minister Trudeau as a "phenomenon with brains, a certain style, and although he was never actually in the N.D.P. he did write for the party. He is an unknown quantity," Lawlor said.

He went on to predict bitterness and division in the Liberal party which he believes has led to recent resignations.

Lawlor said "Sharp and Hell-yeer will be Trudeau's hands and Elliot will fiddle faddle. He is just a swinging MacKenzie King."

The speaker charged Trudeau did not act on the capital gains issue, and he should have. "The workman in the \$9,000-\$10,000 income is carrying society," he said, and the big business continues to find loopholes and pay little income tax.

When he was finished brandishing the Liberals the speaker still had a few words for the Tories.

"The conservative leader would be a fool to go on television. He has never said a pithy thing and is not aware of the issues," he charged.

He pictured Stanfield as "an interim caretaker for Roberts, the great white father."

He predicted the N.D.P. would gain in Metro Toronto and would hold in Manitoba and British Columbia, but Quebec was the big problem.

## Record!

### Esquising building permits over million dollar mark

Building permits in Esquising Township won't over the million dollar mark in the month of April, a record for one month said township officials.

Largest figure of the 59 permits issued by Building Inspector Tom McLean, was for a Krohn factory which will manufacture stainless steel tanks on Lot one, Fourth Concession for \$56,000. Most of the rest were for new residences with garages, ranging in price from \$13,000 to \$31,000.

Goy Cartage of Acton was issued a permit to build a garage at a proposed cost of \$30,500 on Lot 29, Second Concession.

Council viewed the spring building rush with some alarm and discussed trends in other townships to slow down the number of houses being built, which in turn was "filling up schools."

Some townships, they were told, allowed 10 acre lots but forbade building on them.

It is much safer to limit your speed than to speed your limit.

## Burning engine doused by brigade

When a '64 Volkswagen backfired and its engine took fire, the fire brigade was called on Saturday afternoon to the corner of John and Mill to extinguish the flames. The car, owned by William Dobbie Sr. of R. R. 2, Acton, was driven by William Dobbie Jr.

Curious shoppers and hordes of children surrounded the car and fire truck to watch the incident.

## May have staggered classes until M. Z. B. addition done

Staggered classes are a distinct possibility for the M. Z. Bennett school in September. To accommodate the extra pupils until the new addition is completed in December, principal Elmer Smith suggested some staggered classes as the best solution.

He made his proposal to the school board at their regular meeting Tuesday in the Robert Little school.

He discarded temporary measures such as church basements or doubling up of classes. With staggered classes, students would have the same teachers all year, and would simply change school hours and rooms when the addition is done.

He expects 15 classes in 12 classrooms for three months.

He recommended the staggered classes for the grades six, seven and eight. Teachers concerned are willing to teach the unusual hours which might be involved.

Boundary changes might be made in September to avoid changes later. "I'm thinking in terms of the least disruption to the children," Mr. Smith explained.

No decision is made yet.

An accident in the school gym when a girl's wrist was broken was discussed. Board members reviewed that even if the school nurse had been there, she would have referred an accident to the family doctor. Area superintendent McNeil said there is "nothing laid down" about a teacher having St. John Ambulance training. (Some teachers do have the training).

## Rotarians hear political talk receive it with great mirth

No visitors were present but 22 Rotarians attended Tuesday's meeting of Acton Rotary Club at the Station Hotel keeping the club in the attendance competition with the Georgetown club which has a 95.4 per cent average.

Gord McKeown reported 50 couples had already bought tickets for Friday's dance at the music centre. Goal is 60. Rotarians Ron Lewis and Dave Mans are tied for selling the greatest number of tickets.

The E. C. Storey trophy for the club with the best attendance at meetings was received by the Acton club Tuesday and it will hang with pride in the hotel. The club and secretary also received honorable mention in the District News Letter for keeping the entire Rotary district of 77 clubs well informed on developments here.

Andy McKenzie stood up to deliver what he considered a humorous political report. It was duly received with great mirth. Rotary club signs on Acton's boundaries are to be brightened up, the club decided. A letter was received from Poona, India, asking for technical help and financial aid. The area is suffering from the effects of a severe earthquake.

The regular meeting adjourned early so outgoing and incoming directors could meet jointly.

Mr. McKenzie had been in contact with the parents. He reviewed the usual procedure in which records are kept, the home contacted and a ride provided to the home or doctor. He added that the physical education supervisor warned him accidents could be expected.

Mr. McKenzie said one day when four teachers were ill and he couldn't locate enough substitutes Miss Jane Wong, a high school student who hopes to take teachers' training, successfully took over one of the classes.

The interim board of education has set up advisory committees, and principal McKenzie is to attend a meeting on programs, subjects and special services.

Two bats have appeared in the stone school. The "Batman" who guaranteed his extermination last time is to be contacted.

Trustee Vic Bristow questioned the distance of the Robert Little marathon walk, the highways concerned and the fact the children would be walking after dark. (Following a conference (Continued on Page 3)