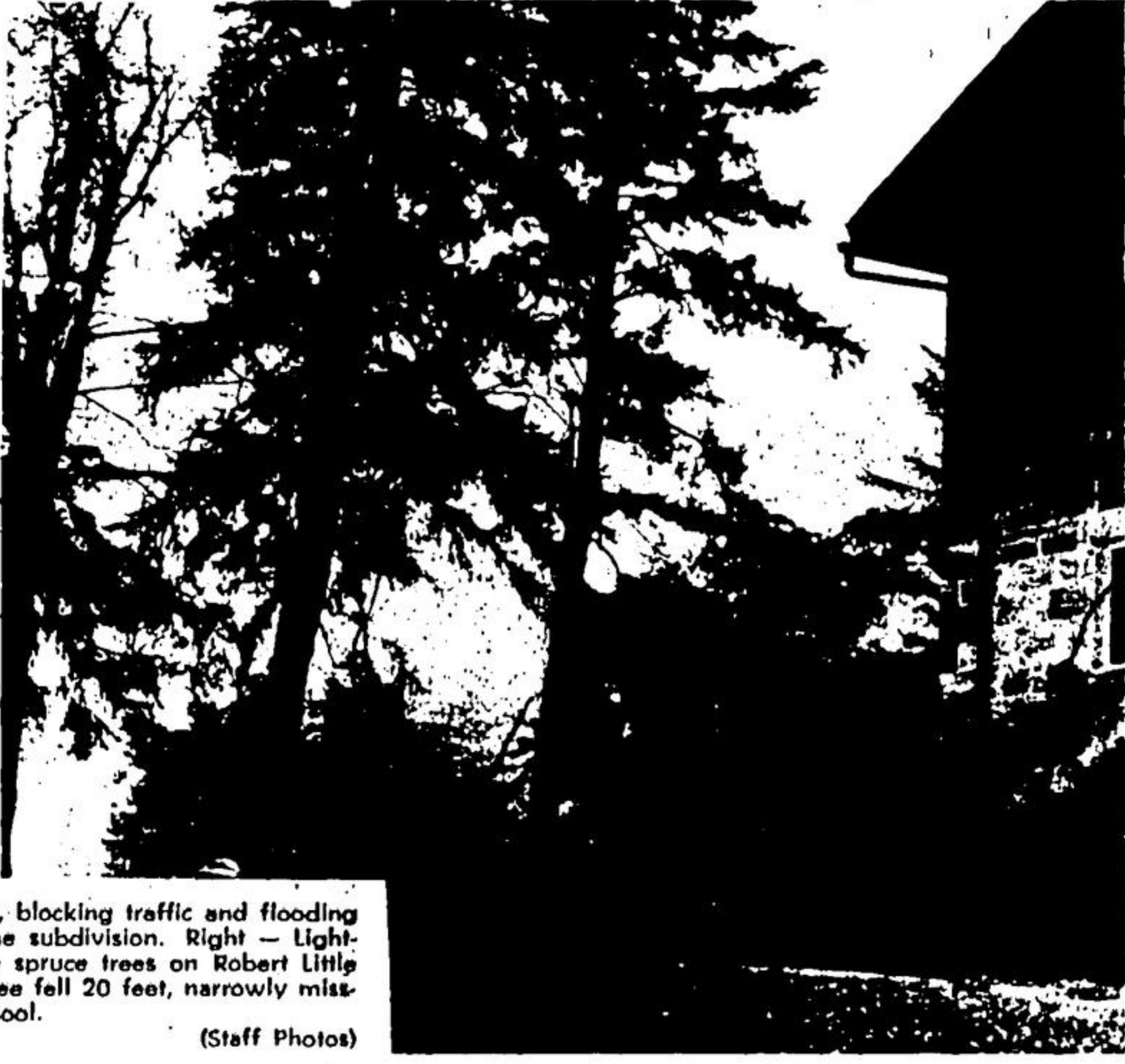




THE MORNING AFTER one of the worst storms in years bore the scars in misty calm. Heavy rains and almost continuous lightning lasted most of Thursday night keeping firefighters and hydro workers on red alert. Left — Two water-enthusiasts took advantage of flooding in School Creek that created a pond back to the flag pole in front of the library. Centre —



Tyler Avenue became a swamp, blocking traffic and flooding driveways and basements in the subdivision. Right — Lightning struck one of the massive spruce trees on Robert Little grounds. The top half of the tree fell 20 feet, narrowly missing the corner of the Stone school.



(Staff Photos)

Blackout, fires due to lightning floods general

Fires, flooding and washouts lay in the aftermath of a fierce summer storm that lashed the area last Thursday evening.

Despite the darkness and downpour, flames lit the sky for hours, and the smell of smoke alarmed many in town. Stock and his entire harvest were lost in the lightning-caused fire.

In Nassagaweya township, the barn of Lou Focius was razed during the height of the storm. Lightning was the cause.

Lakeview subdivision quickly began to revert back to swampland as the storm swept the area. Ditches were full of rushing water; some children even went swimming in them.

More swimming could have been done in some of the basements.

The works crew received many calls, and they worked on into the night at repairs. They set up barricades and began immediately to fill and repair washed-out roads.

Three new driveways were washed out.

The creek which flows along Tyler Ave. washed through a garden, taking with it part of a fence.

Some householders even called the fire fighters - who had had a busy night themselves - asking them to come and pump out their cellars.

A combination of problem spots - all blamed on lightning - resulted in the power being off for varying periods in different parts of town.

At Forc's a bank of three transformers was hit by lightning. Three new transformers were installed there that night. The fire siren there, which had to be operated manually after the blowout, was repaired Tuesday morning.

Lightning struck the Beardmore chimney, coming down into the plant and blowing out electrical installations there, leaving Beardmore's Acton Industrial Centre and Agnes St. in darkness.

Lightning also hit switches at

A. P. Green Co. and Ajax Engineering.

Repairs kept the hydro department out till 2 a.m., although most power was restored long before. The Beardmore crew worked at their repairs till 4.30 a.m.

Deep puddles on the roads brought cars to damp halts. One bad spot was on Church St.

In a road washout, the fire truck slid off the road at the Masses barn fire. Town equipment was brought to ease it up again.

A hydro meeting, called for the night, was soggy. The new building leaked as it had never leaked before, leaving the new ceiling tiles stained. Even the ashtrays on the desks were overflowing. All the hydro commission did was mop up and pass accounts.

While the firefighters fought two barn fires, some of the Georgetown fire brigade came here on standby duty.

Several trees were cut down by lightning bolts. A small scale tornado toppled trees in Nassagaweya.

The devastating wind, rain and hail storm lashed the Ontario Scout Jamboree at Kelso Conservation area right at supper time, washing out the campsite and closing the Jamboree a day and a half early.

Ball games were washed out, and the closing program of the Daily Vacation Bible school was cancelled.

In Guelph, storm sewers at the bottom of a hill were gushing up like Artesian wells, an Actonian on his way home discovered. The highway at one point was eight inches deep in water, and passing cars made waves right up over the hoods of stalled cars.

Thunder and brilliant lightning held the centre of the stage for hours.

The storm sewers, emptying into the creek, were spouting with all the force of the motor-driven water from the dredger's lines.

The Acton Free Press

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Clerk - administrator takes post in Milton

Shock and dismay followed the surprise reading at council Tuesday of a letter of resignation from long-time clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie. He becomes clerk of the town of Milton Monday, September 30. His resignation here becomes effective Friday, September 27.

Mayor Duby, after slowly reading the letter as the final item of business, said in his nine years on council and six as mayor he had never been as disturbed. "It's been clear how I placed confidence in him... The nature of his work caused unfair criticism at times. He has taught me much. He has been our

liaison with the works staff and management. Our auditors tell me they are amazed every year at the well-run operation here."

Exploded councillor McKenzie: It's a shame to lose him when the town is starting to grow! We've been penny wise and pound foolish. He hasn't been paid for his experience and knowledge. We'll pay more for a man with half his experience.

Councillor Tyler presumed the clerk's reason was to better himself and recalled he suggested

before that a young man should have been trained in the clerk's duties. Instead, a woman had been hired for the office.

Ruefully councillor Drinkwater observed "He's a progressive person and we in this town are not progressive."

Each councillor in turn had sincere words of praise for the clerk.

After sitting in his usual seat in silence during the comments, Mr. McGeachie ended the longest meeting of the year,

shortly before midnight, by thanking them and assuring them the decision was not made hurriedly.

An urgent meeting was called for Thursday evening to discuss the problem.

Two delegations appealed to council for repairs.

A group of residents complaining of the drainage problem on Cobble Hill Road included Mr. and Mrs. Dan Porty, Mrs. E. Cooper, Price Henderson and Steve Flank.

of Monex Construction outlined plans for improved drainage at the new homes.

Councillor Drinkwater said his committee would look over the location. "Come when it's raining!" the delegation urged as they left.

Art Gordon informed council of the road situation at his business. Cars can't get into his bays and customers are complaining.

Defending his road committee councillor Drinkwater explained an attempt at repair had been made but Mr. Gordon was not in agreement with the road superintendent. He outlined difficulties.

A special meeting at his store was set for Wednesday.

A contract will be signed with Clairson Construction Co. for the construction of a \$672,538 extension to the town's Water Pollution Control Plant. Only Reeve Hinton opposed the bylaw authorizing the signing of the contract, suggesting the tenders should be called again in a few months and they might be lower.

Mayor Duby reminded him of the hydro commission's experience in this attempt and

(Continued on Page 8)

21 years as clerk

Mr. McGeachie has been clerk of the town for 21 years. He served as secretary-treasurer of the Acton Public Utilities Commission until it was disbanded, was secretary-treasurer of the planning board and committee of adjustment and North Halton Urban Board.

He has been active in the community and in church work. In Milton, Mrs. A. Brush, who has been deputy clerk and treasurer for several years, will continue in that position. Milton has been without a full-time clerk since 1966.

There were 20 applicants for the Milton position and five were interviewed before Mr. McGeachie was chosen.

Mr. and Mrs. McGeachie and family expect to move to Milton.



JACK MCGEACHIE

Nix subdivision Van Gils land

On Monday a joint meeting of No. 1 committee of council and planning board was held concerning the rezoning of the Van Gils property.

As a result, council Tuesday re-iterated its former position that the property not be rezoned to permit a subdivision there.

A visit to the site brought objections because of nearby industries, the railway track, rock formations, and springs. The outlying location was also felt to be unfavorable.

The joint meeting was most beneficial, Mayor Duby told council Tuesday. "We must decide which way the town intends to grow."

At the August 19 committee meeting Mrs. C. Mathews representing Starr Real Estate and J. J. Gelleny had presented a brief plan of subdivision to councillors, asking the changing of zoning from industrial to residential. Planning board had previously recommended to council the change not be granted.

All students will feel changes new ways of learning three R's

With M.Z. Bennett and Pineview school additions not yet ready and one portable classroom added in Nassagaweya, no students in the area are going back to school Tuesday to fine new classrooms.

But the physical aspect of education aside, all the students will feel the important impact of much-discussed changes in the system. Some of the courses and methods are as shiny-new as the floors of the schools will be on Tuesday just before nine o'clock.

A moving toward lack of grades in the primary division, senior school rotary system in town and a separate senior school in Esqueving, introduction of oral French in Acton and Eramosa public schools, expectation of a new school resource centre, changes in courses and methods at the high school - all reflect today's new concept of education.

Staggered hours at the M.Z. Bennett school mean better accommodation after Christmas.

In town on Tuesday, over 1,500 boys and girls start a new reason of learning. A new high of 1,700 is expected in Esqueving.

In separate articles for each town school and each township area, the Free Press this week gives a glimpse of the new ways in the new days ahead.

Individual progress at R. Little

Stressing "individual continuous progress," the Robert Little school will see many innovations in education this September.

The primary rooms - formerly grades one, two and three - will work in groups and students will be promoted during the year as they complete the work. There are nine sections now, three for each year.

The junior division of the school will comprise the former grades four, five and six.

Beside the remedial teaching done by each teacher, Mrs. Mary

(Continued on Page 7)

Staggered classes for M.Z.B.

There will be approximately 475 students, an increase of 100, in attendance at M.Z. Bennett School. This number may increase opening day.

Of these students 85 were transferred from Robert Little by boundary change. This means that until the addition is completed 15 classrooms will operate in a 12 room school necessitating three classrooms operating on staggered hours.

If the new addition had been completed for September opening as the board had planned, accommodation would

(Continued on Page 7)

H.S. exams reports in changes

The Acton District High School will open September 3 with an expected enrolment of about 450 students. Of these students 63% will be enrolled in the five-year program Arts and Science Branch. The remainder will be divided equally between four-year Business and Commerce and four-year Arts and Science.

The expected registration by Grades is as follows: Grade 9 - 134; Grade 10 - 110; Grade 11 - 100; Grade 12 - 76; Grade 13 - 30.

The total figure represents an

(Continued on Page 7)

M.Z.B. addition can't be ready

After a disappointing delay, Ontario Municipal Board final approval for the M. Z. Bennett school and Robert Little resource centre was only received last Friday. School board secretary-treasurer Bill Middleton immediately advised the architect, Donald Skinner, who informed the contractors.

Workmen are expected to begin as soon as possible but had not arrived at last report.

Although the M. Z. Bennett principal hoped to have his new addition in operation after Christmas, this will be impossible now since the contract time is 24 weeks. Classes may be able to return to normal by February, but till then staggered classes will be in effect. McNally Construction, Georgetown, is M.Z.B. contractor at \$308,600.

Paragon, Weston, was awarded the resource centre contract at \$51,640. Both contracts were awarded in mid-July.

Write new page in town history

A portrait draped in black of Ukrainian General Roman Shukhevych and a typewritten "Declaration of Human Rights" were presented to council Tuesday by Reeve Hinton, who had accepted them from the Ukrainian Youth Association. The brief ceremony had taken place on the town office steps while Mayor Duby was away at a convention.

"We do understand, accept and appreciate this," stated the mayor. "It will be part of our town's history."



THE THREE OLDEST MEMBERS of L.O.L. 465, George Holmes, C. K. Browne and Harry Borden shared the honor of cutting the cake to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the lodge in Acton at a meeting in Crewson's Corners hall on Tuesday night.

(Staff Photo)