

Two Acton athletes inducted into Halton County Hall of Fame

Two Acton athletes were among the 10 of Halton County's all-time greats honored before 1,200 persons at Oakville Saturday night.

Neil Gibbons and Charles (Sonny) Townsley were inducted as charter members of the new Halton County Hall of Fame, a project conceived by Ken Brown of Oakville in an effort to honor county sports achievements.

The ten selections, made after lengthy arguments that

resurrected much sports nostalgia, were made by a committee headed by Magistrate James Black and composed of Acton's "Dude," Lindsay, Oakville's Bill Cotton, Milton's Dick Clement and "Scotty" Patterson of Georgetown.

Charter members were selected from the county as a whole and the committee dug deep into sports history before coming up with the selection. They purposely overlooked the exploits of many Halton athletes

still active. The feeling was they would have ample time to gain recognition later.

Picked to head the parade of all-time greats was 77-year-old Ollie Johnson, of Oakville, a living legend in baseball circles. Ollie played on the Oakville 1924 Ontario Int. A baseball champs and was also a crack runner. He also played pro baseball for the old Cuban Giants.

Neil Gibbons was possibly the best all-round athlete ever to

come out of Acton. He starred for Acton baseball and hockey teams during the 1920's and 30's when Acton was a powerhouse in these sports.

Charles (Sonny) Townsley, now an Acton resident, was a star centreman on the 1934 Oakville hockey team which took the O.H.A. Int. A championship. The smooth-skating Townsley was a threat every time he was on the ice with linemates Bert Peer and Pearcy Allen.

Other greats honored were: Babe Clement, the slugging Milton baseball star who could pitch or catch as well as poke a ball a long way.

Len Andrews, the colorful Campbellville manager who led his baseball clubs to more O.B.A. Int. titles than any other man in the history of the organization.

Ed "Lefty" Jordan, a former Burlington councillor, who played pro football with the old Hamilton Tigers and the

Toronto Argonauts of the C.F.L. He was also an outstanding lacrosse player.

Perc Blackburn, one of the best baseball prospects ever to come out of Georgetown. He had several major league tryouts but came back to play for Georgetown each season. He was also handy on the hockey rink.

Bob Goldham of Georgetown, a star in the N.H.L. while playing hockey for Toronto and Detroit, probably one of the best defencemen the league ever

"S. A. B. (Mac) McCleary, manager of the 1934 Oakville champions who also coached and managed teams in the 20's and 30's.

The late Pete McMullen of Milton, who was connected with baseball most of his life. He was president of the O.B.A. and headed the Halton County league for years.

McCleary and Perc Blackburn were honored posthumously. Certificates were presented to the seven other honored guests.



QUELPH BROTHERS, Angelo and Tony Verdonia outlasted 40 other competitors to win the second annual roller skating marathon at the community centre over the weekend. The pair endured 29 hours on the rollers, starting at 8:10 p.m. Friday evening and finishing up at 1:10 a.m. Sunday morning. Story and more pictures inside. (Staff Photo)

May drop deer hunt

There may be no 1968 deer hunting season in Halton after all.

Halton County Council decided last week to allow a three-day hunt again this year, if the neighboring counties of Wellington and Wentworth went along with the idea. But Wellington County has turned thumbs down on a deer season this year.

A letter was received by Halton's clerk Garfield Brown

last week, informing him Wellington has nixed the hunt. It is felt Halton will also turn it down, even if Wentworth approves of a season—because Wellington County hunters will flock to Halton for the local hunt and increase the risk of a hunting accident.

In earlier years Halton has only approved a deer hunt if the neighboring counties also stage a season, to spread the hunter population over a wider area.

50-75 classrooms year predicted need

"Population growth in Halton County suggests a need for 50 to 75 additional classroom units per year for elementary education. Secondary schools will require approximately half of the elementary needs for each year."

That was one of the points noted in a hefty report to the Interim School Organization Committee for Halton, presented Monday evening by

the Program Appraisal Committee. The Interim Committee is receiving detailed reports for presentation to the County Board of Education to be elected this year. All present School Boards will cease operation this year.

D. Lawless, assistant director of education for Burlington presented the committee report. Other members of the

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Will lodge protest

Propose mini-election Acton board candidate

It's possible that Acton would be unrepresented on the new county school board.

Or Nassagaweya could find itself without a representative.

Following discussion at their Tuesday meeting, Acton public school board decided to lodge a protest with county council, concerning the way the board will be elected, and an Acton "mini-election" was proposed.

County council's decision was that Acton and Nassagaweya would share one representative. There will be 14 members from Oakville and Burlington, one from Milton, one from Esquew and one from Georgetown.

The decision was based on residential and farm assessments.

Board chairman Cyril Bishop, who had already declared he will run for office, exclaimed "This causes concern for both Acton

and Nassagaweya! Should more than one candidate run in Acton, it'll just be a popularity contest."

"It's ridiculous to think of three or four candidates running in Acton." He explained if they run just one from Nassagaweya the Acton votes are bound to be split, while the Nassagaweya votes would be solidly for the local candidate.

So far, two have positively stated their intention of running in Acton, Mr. Bishop and Tom Watson, and Murray Smith says "maybe" worried about just this problem.

Just one Nassagaweya man, board chairman Horace Blyth, has said he will stand for the new board seat.

"Surely with 1,300 school enrolment Acton should be entitled to a seat on the board," Mr. Bishop declared. "We're not

being considered enough in this respect."

Principal McKenzie pointed out it was county council that applied the act. "I think Nassagaweya feels the same way they're just as liable to be left out."

And the principal added, "The irony of it all is, you have to go to Brookville to qualify."

Board members all agreed a letter of protest should be drafted to county council, with a copy to area superintendent W. McNeill.

But Mr. Bishop had another suggestion as well.

If the election format isn't changed, then "we should have a mini-election in Acton first." This way, just one Acton man would run against the Nassagaweya hopeful, and the town votes would not be split.

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Shocked witnesses see

Woman struck, killed at Mill St. rail crossing

Struck and killed by a C.N.R. passenger train as she attempted to walk across the Mill St. railway crossing, Mrs. Elva Brydon's death shocked eye witnesses last Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Brydon, 62, of 14 Young St., was struck by a westbound train at approximately 7:20 p.m. while horrified pedestrians and

motorists, lined up to let the train go past, watched in disbelief.

Crossing signals were flashing when eye witnesses noticed the woman hurrying onto the tracks. She seemed to hesitate, turned her head and then started to run but lost her race with death.

Both engineer Hugh Dobbie of Palmerston and the conductor of

the two car "Dayliner" said they noticed a woman hurrying across the tracks but thought she had got clear until they felt the impact.

The train came to a halt about 200 yards east of the crossing where train crews set up flares after police arrived. Mrs. Brydon was pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Dr. H. J.

Chamberlain of Georgetown. Her body was taken to Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital for an autopsy.

Mrs. Brydon, a bingo fan, was on her way to the legion hall for the Wednesday bingo when the accident occurred. Her home is only a few yards from the crossing where she was struck. She stopped in at Duncan's store, next door to her home, before starting downtown and the proprietor wished her luck at bingo.

The former Elva M. Akitt, Mrs. Brydon lived with her husband James at 14 Young St. She leaves three sisters, Mrs. Margaret Peavy, Niagara Falls; Mrs. Agnes Allan and Mrs. Mamie Allan, both of Acton; and a brother Robert of Guelph.

Funeral services were held at the Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home Saturday with interment at Everton cemetery.

Constable Nick Farion investigated the accident and he was assisted by members of the North Halton O.P.P. in directing traffic. Dr. Craig Hutchinson was called to the scene.

Mrs. Brydon's death was the first fatality in four years in Acton.



SO WHO WANTS PARTRIDGE under glass when he bursts through the front window into your newly decorated living room? The freak accident happened at the home of Roy Weaver early Monday morning. (Staff Photo)

New subdivisions?

Forecast predicts overcrowding at M. Z. Bennett school by '70

By 1970, the M. Z. Bennett school with its new addition could possibly have 164 children too many—eight classrooms of children without classrooms.

Working on a projection of enrollment required by the area superintendent, Principal Elmer Smith explained Tuesday to school board he had had a hard time getting facts and figures about future subdivisions in his end of town.

Building permits are issued for a 22-suite apartment, but no permits are issued yet for the proposed subdivisions on the R. N. Brown property, McCullough farm, or Seynuck and Vyse properties.

If all the building programs are carried out in full, he said M. Z. Bennett school enrolment would be ideal this year; next year would be at capacity, and the following year would have "164 children we can't look at!"

This allows an estimated one child per new home.

Mr. Smith stressed his figures were not certain, but for the required projection he stated enrolment in 1968 could be 422, in 1969 552 and in 1970 719.

Even at this, he said he had not included figures from land which might be annexed from Esquew township.

"Remember what a hard time we had convincing council we needed four more rooms?" he recalled.

With workmen outside and staggered classes inside, and many minor inconveniences connected with both, M. Z. B. Principal Elmer Smith revealed he hadn't had a single complaint from a parent since school began. The staggered classes are operating very well, he said, and he is very pleased with all the teachers.

He read a letter he had just received from a former Acton family, now living in Michigan, telling him a teacher there had praised the very efficient teaching their son had evidently had. He said at times like this we have proof of how we stack up against other schools, and it was particularly gratifying to learn the child fitted in well with the

probably progressive American school he was now attending.

At schools in Forest Hill on Friday during teachers' (Continued on Page 8)

Appoint new deputy clerk

At a special meeting Monday night, Council decided to appoint Grant Usher for the position of deputy clerk-treasurer for the Town of Acton. Mr. Usher is presently deputy-clerk of Woodbridge.

Mr. Usher was picked from 21 applications for the job. The field was narrowed down to seven who were interviewed by the No. 1 committee of council.

The new deputy clerk-treasurer will commence his duties on Nov. 1. He is married and presently lives in Woodbridge.

Council also authorized the clerk-administrator to engage Ron MacKnight as additional office help for the town offices. Ron, an Acton boy, recently graduated from Variety Village Vocational School in Scarborough from a two year special commercial course.

Saw stolen from unfinished home

A Black and Decker skill saw was reported stolen during the night Thursday of last week. The saw and extension cord were taken from an empty house under construction by Rubin Corporation. Value was set at \$84.

Full results from fall fair

Complete results in all competitions at the Acton fall fair are included in this week's Free Press. The results are compiled from the judges' books and there may be a few omissions or errors which would be located later by the secretary.

There were 147 exhibitors at the fair, with some of the entrants, like Lakeside chapter I.O.D.E. and Bannockburn W.I. including a group.

Only about one-third of the exhibitors had an Acton or Acton rural route address. Some of the exhibitors brought animals or handicrafts from considerable distance to include Acton fair in their annual circuit.

Breaking and entering fatality for the birds

An uninvited guest crashed in for breakfast at the home of Roy Weaver on Nelson Court Monday morning.

Shortly after eight, a large partridge flew through his living room window, showering broken glass for 20 feet across the floor. The bird was dead in front of the television set by the time the Weavers arrived on the scene to investigate.

Complained Mr. Weaver, "I've

just spent \$1800 re-dorating this room. Thank goodness the broadloom is coming tomorrow."

The partridge was over a foot long, and strong enough to shatter both the storm window and the indoor pane. Luckily no one was in the room at the time.

Insurance will cover the cost of the window. Anyone for roast partridge?

Recommend curve warnings at Silvercreek on Hwy. 7

A coroner's jury has recommended signs indicating a slow, dangerous curve be placed at the north and south ends of the Silvercreek curve on Highway 7 to give ample warning to cars approaching the turn. The inquest was held in

Milton Thursday, to determine the cause of death of William Morden, 30, of Fergus; Joseph Francis Maloney, 44, of R.R. 3 Orton, and Robert Hunter, 37, of Elora.

All three were killed May 18 on Highway 7 at the Silvercreek curve north of Georgetown when the truck Maloney was driving collided head on with a car driven by Morden. Hunter was a passenger in the car.

Tests showed Hunter had .18 per cent alcohol in his blood, while Morden had .24 per cent and Maloney had .19 per cent. Assistant crown attorney Murray Roulston said this was equivalent to eight or nine drinks each.

Morden and Maloney were said to have died of ruptures when the steering wheel was pressed into their chests. Hunter died from third degree burns.

Constable J. Redpath and Corporal Kenneth Kingman of Milton O.P.P. both testified the truck had appeared to be travelling south and the car north when they collided.

Ronald Boulding, a registered professional engineer said it was almost impossible for the truck to be travelling south. He said it would have had to bounce back 70 feet.

The jury told the inquest, "We feel the reflexes and reactions of both drivers were reduced due to the quantity of liquor or beer consumed by both drivers."



A BUSLOAD OF GOLDEN AGERS left town on Tuesday morning for a color tour through the forest land of Muskoka. (Staff Photo)