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ACTING LION CHIEF John Griefeneder discusses the new County Board of Education with Interim School Organization Committee (I.S.O.C.) members Doug Lawless, left, and Bruce Edwards after a special Lions Club meeting Monday to hear details of the new board. Both I.S.O.C. members are from Burlington. Members of council, the clerk-administrator and school principals attended the meeting as guests of the Lions. (Staff Photo)

Lions, guests informed on new County Board of Education

Composition and purpose of the new County Board of Education which takes office in the new year was described to Acton Lions Club and guests by two Burlington members of the Interim School Organization Committee (I.S.O.C.) on Monday night.

Bruce Edwards, chairman of the Burlington Board of Education and Doug Lawless, Assistant Director of Education for Burlington, outlined the organization, administration and operation of the new board and fielded questions from members of council and school principals afterwards.

I.S.O.C. committee, the two representatives explained, will make recommendations to the new county board which they can either implement or discard.

Mr. Lawless reviewed the history of Bill 44 for the meeting, explaining there would be 20 members on the new county board, 18 elected to represent the various municipalities in the township and two elected from the Separate School Board which is undergoing a similar reorganization.

Acton, explained Mr. Lawless, would share a representative on the new board with Nassagaweya. The township clerk, since Nassagaweya has a higher residential-farm assessment, would be responsible for calling and running the election.

To provide continuity, remaining members of the present school boards will act as a standing committee until June 30 or at the pleasure of the new board. All assets and liabilities of the present elementary and secondary school boards will become vested in the new county board.

Arbitrators will be appointed to adjust all the assets and liabilities. Taxes will be raised by informing councils of the various municipalities of the amount to

be raised. Tax bills will clearly indicate the money which must be raised for school purposes. The new county board will be completely autonomous. They will also assume responsibility for all retarded children schools after Jan. 1.

The law also allows some provision for one or more municipalities to be detached from one division, such as Halton, and added to another, if it is geographically or financially more feasible, effective Jan. 1971.

Mr. Edwards, aided by an overhead projector, outlined the present structure of schools in the county. Total enrolment for 85 schools is 45,222, with 2,072 teachers. Acton has 1,024 elementary students in two schools and 38.5 teachers. Milton, surprisingly, with only 54 more students than Acton in four schools, employed 54 teachers.

This, said Mr. Lawless to a question from M. Z. Bennett principal Elmer Smith in the later question and answer period, was one imbalance which the new board would have to redress.

Mr. Edwards emphasized that trustees on the new board could no longer be "nut and bolt" men. Their work would be largely administrative. He said one of the difficult problems would be to get the new board members to forget geographical boundaries and parochial sentiments and think of the county's school needs as one entity.

Among the points listed by Mr. Edwards as necessary criteria for the new board:

Integration—in theory and fact with all staff and services. Burlington has had a successful program for the past two years.

Communication—all the way down the line.

Flexibility—to provide for expansion as population grows and additional services and programs are required.

Accessibility—Advantages of centralization can be weighed against the disadvantages.

Representation—Ample opportunity for all areas of thought to allowance for people of the community to participate.

Uniformity—Certain practices can be enforced all over the county but others ought to be preserved as a matter of local decision.

Personal leadership—Increasing difficult problem of exerting personal leadership by all levels of the board's officials must be met by personal contact and immediate accessibility.

Mr. Edwards affirmed I.S.O.C. had no authority but must set up the groundwork for the new board with firm recommendations.

Deputy-Reeve Frank Oakes was assured the number of people it takes to run the new board would not create a lot of high-priced positions citizens were not aware of. Mr. Lawless said the staff would be approximately the same size as it is now but an entirely new grant structure would take place Jan. 1.

Reeve Bert Hinton, referring to the chart showing the break down of authority in the board, said he could see if the county board operates efficiently there would be a substantial reduction in top brass and it would pick up in the lower echelons. Mr. Lawless said although the same number of people would operate the education system special services will require increased personnel.

Mayor Les Duby was assured centralization for special courses was another matter I.S.O.C. was working on and they hoped to achieve uniformity in courses around Acton.

"There is a need here for a careful study," commented Councillor Earl Masales, relating a personal experience in another nearby community which confirmed his thinking that housing prices are steep all around Acton.

Town won't sell annexed land

Council decided to inform the Rubin Corporation the town was not interested at the present time in disposing of the town-owned land recently annexed from Esqueping township. The company had made a request asking how they might approach the town with an offer to purchase the property.

Council felt the proper uses and zoning of the property, which lies on the boundaries of Fairview Cemetery and off Cobble Hill Road, must be determined, before any attempt is made to dispose of it.

Reeve Bert Hinton said the town might benefit more when the land is ready for sale by calling for tenders.

"There is a crying need in Acton for a high class

subdivision where they can build \$40,000 or \$50,000 homes for executives—a prestige development—for men moving around," said the reeve. He felt the town should call the shots on the property instead of a subdivider developing as they see fit.

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Coulter not seeking re-election

Reeve W. J. Coulter told members of Nassagaweya Township Council Monday he would not be seeking re-election in the December voting.

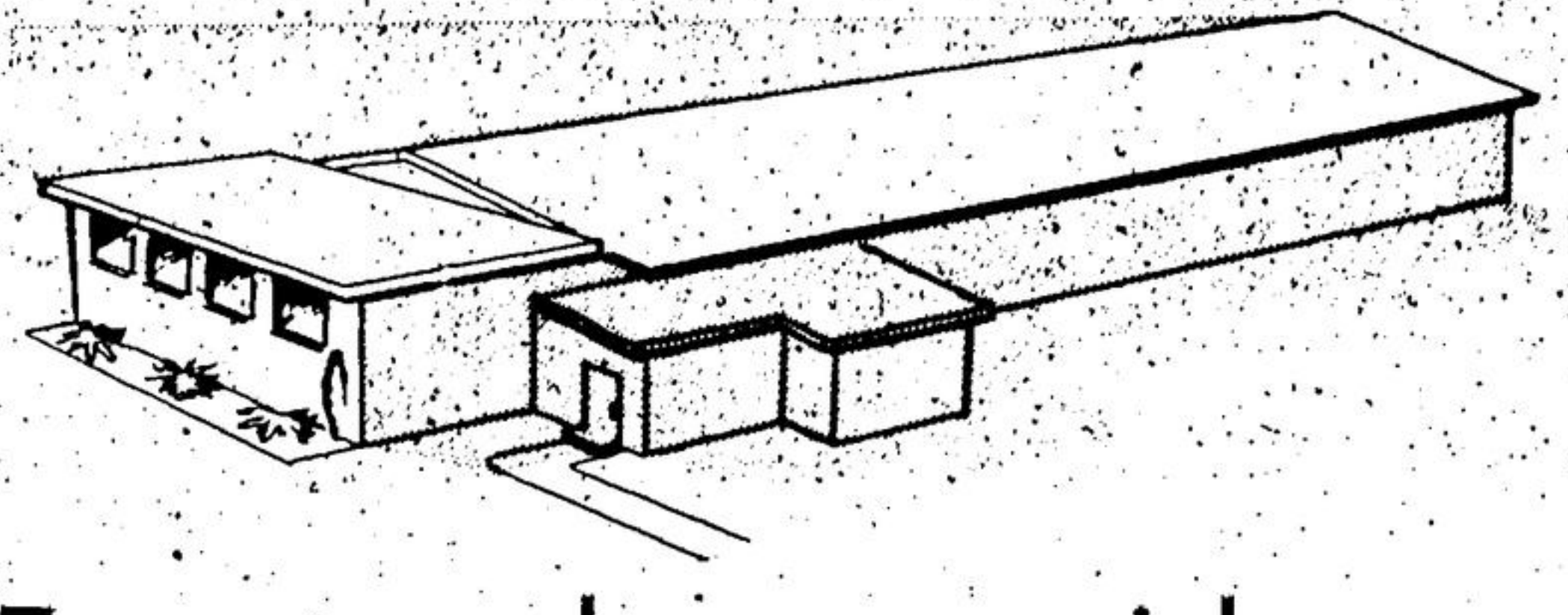
He cited an expansion of his business; the desire for further education and the need for more time with his family as reasons for his decision, after eight years on the Council, not to seek re-election. Mr. Coulter served a term as deputy reeve, two as councillor and five as reeve during which he was elected Warden of the County in 1967 and served on most county committees.

In his statement to council, the reeve noted the work load of council is increasing and the township was deserving of officials who could fulfil its demands. He observed that his senior partner in business was nearing retirement and his own absence on township and county business would place an unfair

burden on his junior partner. The reeve noted, too, he was beginning an extension course on business administration at McMaster and this would be a further demand on his time.

"During the regular meeting members of council approved a bylaw setting the date for the nomination meeting as November 18. Nominations will be received between 7:30 and 8:30 with the election scheduled for December 2. The dates will co-incide with those established throughout the county for the election of representatives to the County Board of Education."

A letter from the Minister of Education noted Nassagaweya's objection to sharing a county board representative between Acton and the township. The letter suggested this could not be altered since the legislation determining representation was (Continued on Page 5)



Expect work on new rink to be started within month

By Rev. A. H. McKenzie

Now we break the news so many have awaited eagerly. Last Wednesday evening the Executive of the Acton Curling Club unanimously concurred in a decision "to proceed with all haste consistent with our financial resources to construct the new curling rink" on the site on Churchill Road N. The sketch by the architects and engineers of the proposed building appears above.

Loose pooches

These are dog days in Acton. Loose pooches, according to Councillor Bob Drinkwater, are causing countless phone calls to him and he asked council to consider asking the dog control unit to exercise more control.

"Whereabouts?" asked the reeve.

"Poplar Ave. and the cemetery is where the calls are coming from," said the mayor. "Dogs are creating havoc at the cemetery."

The mayor was also critical of golfers who use the cemetery grounds for a golf course and demanded a stop to the practice.

Members of the Building Committee, headed by Ted Tyler, Sr., have been moving quickly to procure quotations from contractors for the footings and foundations, based on recently-acquired plans for same, and, it is confidently anticipated that the work will be underway within a month. This means that, barring lengthy delays between the principal contractors who will be involved in the erection of the structure and equipping it for curling, the completed facility should be completed in February or March, 1969.

The Executive also decided last week to keep the fee for curling in the 1968-1969 season at exactly the same figure as last year in the belief that this "rock-bottom" price will encourage many would-be-curlers to take up the game. This fee, which covers social privileges as well as curling, is as follows: \$30 for the first adult member of a household and \$20 for each additional adult member. In other words: \$50 only for a man and his wife! The fee for Junior curlers (up to age 21) remains at \$7.

Already the Membership Committee has a list of 40 persons, most of whom have never curled before, who have indicated their wish to curl this

season. This list will undoubtedly lengthen as members of this committee (Continued on Page 5)

Pass by-laws

At the regular meeting of Acton Council Tuesday night six by-laws were read the required number of times and passed:

* Unanimous approval to issue a debenture for public school purposes for \$387,000 passed for additions at the M. Z. Bennett and Robert Little schools.

* Another by-law to authorize and regulate the erection and maintenance of a Cable TV service in Acton passed without opposition. The company will erect a tower in Acton. The reeve pointed out the by-law was useless unless agreements with the company were signed.

* By-laws to establish the office and binding duties of the clerk-administrator and to appoint Joe Hurst to the post passed but not without some discussion.

* Municipal nominations and elections were also set up by by-law and the clerk-administrator told council voting for the new county school board member Acton will share with Nassagaweya will take place at the regular polling places in town on a separate ballot.

* A supplementary by-law to raise money for complete piping of the water course in Lakeview passed with the deputy-reeve and Councillor Tyler opposed. The clerk was advised the only way to get necessary Ontario Municipal Board approval for the project was to approach the Board personally and explain the situation. In order to collect a subsidy on the work, it is necessary to pass a supplemental by-law. A further resolution authorized a delegation to make application to the O.M.B. to discuss the project with them with the same two opposed.

Set nomination, election dates

Municipal nominations and election dates were set by Acton Council at their Tuesday evening meeting for the offices of mayor, reeve, council, hydro commission.

Nominations will be held at the Robert Little school auditorium Monday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. Election day will be Monday, December 2, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Four polling places will handle the voting election day.

No. 1 will be located at Acton Y.M.C.A. with Alice Waldie as Deputy Returning Officer.

No. 2 will be located at the B.P. service station on Queen St. with Mae Dummarsh as D.R.O.

No. 3 will be located at Luxton hall (St. Alban's) with Laura Dittrich as D.R.O.

No. 4 will be located in Knox Presbyterian church with Annie Anderson as D.R.O.

Nominations for the new county school board member will be held in Nassagaweya municipal offices Monday, November 18, but voting for the member will be in the regular polling places on a separate ballot.

Washer motor burns out

Friday afternoon Acton Fire fighters were called to the home of Tony Van Manen on No. 24 highway near Ospringe. They discovered the washing machine motor had burned out, filling the house with smoke. The firefighters checked to make sure no fire had spread.

Beardmore whistle — last toot Friday

For generations, Acton townspeople haven't really needed clocks. They had the tannery whistle, the post office clock and the Angelus.

Now, with changing times, Beardmore officials have decided the whistle will sound no more.

Beardmore president and general manager Norman Braida in announcing the decision admits he wonders if they are "doing the right thing." He'd be interested to hear reactions to the decision. (Or write a letter or phone the Free Press, if you have an opinion or comment.)

Last day for the whistle to sound the time is set for this decision.

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Friday, October 11, at 5 p.m. Although changing work week hours or summertime changed the whistle times sometime, its standard hours are at five minutes to eight and 8 a.m.; five minutes to 12 and 12 noon; five minutes to 1 and 1 p.m.; five to 5 and 5 o'clock.

The whistle will still sound in the event of emergencies such as fire or accident at the plant. Then it is sounded in a series of whistles, in code. For instance, a series of four blasts would mean a fire at the Industrial Centre.

Beardmore's has its own fire brigade.

The decision to stop the

whistle is considered in line with "modernizing." When it began, before the turn of the century, people weren't wakened by clock radios or alarms. Many of the workmen had no watches.

Through the years, the helpful whistle became a town tradition.

In the neighborhood, the sound wakens and warns plenty of people who are not tannery employees. Children are warned to come home "when the tannery whistles."

The old post office clock, whose melodious chime had the ring of tradition about it, no longer keeps the sleepless company in the night. It stopped

sounding when the building was converted to apartments.

St. Joseph's church maintains a more recently-instituted tradition, the sounding of the Angelus at 7 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m.

But one by one, most traditions seem to pass away. This one lasted over 100 years.

But tannery officials are quite willing to change their decision—if there's enough public reaction.

Please let us have your comments! How about a "Preserve the tannery whistle" campaign?



NINETY-THREE YEAR OLD Mrs. N. Tovell from The Elliott in Guelph was among those who jammed the Acton Baptist Church last Wednesday to hear missionary Rev. James Rudd,

right, speak. Mr. Rudd is a former pastor at Acton Baptist Church. Present pastor Rev. Stanley Gammon is on the left. (Staff Photo)

Halton County film wins Cindy award

Halton County's recently produced film has won a Cindy award, it was learned this week and Warden William Hunter is flying to Palm Springs, California for the presentation banquet Saturday evening.

The film has been selected to receive one of the two highest awards for a promotion film offered by the Information Film Producers of America Inc. The event takes place during the organization's three day conference at the El Mirador Hotel at Palm Springs, California.

Halton County—The Man and the Boy, was produced under the direction of the County Industrial Committee during a two year period and was completed early this year. It has been seen by local groups and in schools and will be featured in the county's display at the International Plowing Match later this month.
