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Twenty Pages—Ten Cents.

C.N.R. express service called shocking at meeting to discuss future of station

Six representatives of Canadian National Railways found that Actonians are more impressed by facts than theories when it comes to railway service.

Headed by H. B. Giles, Superintendent of Transportation for the London area, railway officials were grilled, lectured and admonished in a three-hour session in the council chambers, Thursday, presided over by W. J. Rupert, District Inspector for the Railway Transport Committee.

Purpose of the meeting was to review the application of the C.N.R. to remove the agent-operator at Acton and advise the Committee on the extent of the loss and inconvenience to the public it would entail.

Opposing briefs were presented by Paul Nielsen for the Chamber of Commerce and Development Commission, Bill Coats for Rud Whiting, Halton M.P., and Marianne Coles for the students at Acton District High School who opposed closing facilities here by a large margin in a vote the previous day.

M.P.P. George Kerr appeared personally to speak for increased railway service rather than removal, Jean Marcoux, a local manufacturer of plastics products, deplored the service provided for his plant. Roy Goodwin, an Acton merchant, spoke both from a business and a citizen's role.

Jessie Coles and Mrs. Howard Dwyer, managers of local mail order offices, spoke of the poor service they were receiving from the express.

Mayor Les Duby, Reeve Bert Hinton, Paul Nielsen and other private citizens voiced their concern over removal of railway facilities from Acton.

The chairman remarked on the lack of any opposition from Acton industry, which was to provide ammunition for town boosters during the meeting. C. of C. head Paul Nielsen, first to present his brief, said the Chamber had approached industries in Acton with a questionnaire and all the industries declared they were not satisfied with the service they were getting from the railway.

Those who answered the questionnaire considered it futile to protest since they were convinced the C.N.R. would do what it liked anyway.

Mr. Nielsen, speaking for his own business, scored the express delivery which often ran into weeks. Before the express was moved to Guelph, he said, service had been prompt and satisfactory. There were deliveries in Acton Saturday

mornings. "With overnight service we can operate like Simpsons or Eatons," he declared.

Mr. Nielsen also foresaw the day when there would be intensified passenger service—possibly GO trains—operating out of Acton.

Mayor Les Duby said he was concerned with the overall effect removing the operator and closing the station would have on the community. The ideal location of Acton made it "inconceivable" that the service should be eliminated.

Plastics manufacturer Jean Marcoux was more emphatic. Due to the poor service and inconvenience of delivery time, his firm had to buy a truck to deliver its own express.

Don Croft, terminal manager from Guelph, interrupted Mr. Marcoux's testimony to tell the chairman that the speaker was the operator at Acton station until Nov. 1967. Mr. Marcoux immediately replied he was representing Ontario Plastics, not the C.N.R. and "let's leave it that way," rejecting the inference his words were "sour grapes."

Mr. Rupert repeatedly said it was no concern of the hearing to discuss express since the purpose was to discuss objections to removal of the agent.

"Then if we had a meeting on express you would say it was not the business of express," quipped Mr. Nielsen. He also said there was a vast difference between the C.N.R.'s theories on

express and the "way it works," referring to an incident where he had to placate a groom who didn't have a suit to get married in because of poor service.

Admittedly wearing two hats—representing M.P. Rud Whiting and as a private citizen with a student delegation—teacher Bill Coats said Acton passengers on C.N.R.

trains were treated as "second class citizens." He spoke of his own experience riding old trains and his inability to purchase commuter tickets when he wished to make use of the service.

Railway representatives said the ruling on commuter tickets was not aimed at Acton. There was a mileage, deadline and

Acton was beyond it. Passenger sales representative Harold Sharpe insisted the railway certainly didn't intend to treat Acton passengers as second class passengers.

There were several snorts. "It is incongruous that a town in the location of Acton shouldn't be getting increased service rather than cutting it off," remarked M.P.P. George Kerr when the chairman asked for his observations. "I've never used the service here," said Mr. Kerr, "but I'm well aware of the complaints."

He foresaw the railway's hearing having a psychological effect that a national transportation system was going to discontinue. "It's like saying to the citizens of Acton they are not progressive and giving them a second hand service," Mr. Kerr continued.

"I can't imagine a more suitable place to establish a satellite town than Acton," said the Halton West M.P.P. Everything is being done to encourage growth away from congested areas. If the town was able to say a commuter service was available, people would move here to enjoy a small town and continue to work in the city.

Everything is there to establish a service. Mr. Kerr told the meeting, and it makes sense to take maximum benefit from them.

"You can't look at this in a sterile, economic sense alone," he maintained. The railway is owned by the people and there are many lines now existing on subsidies. Extra cost to maintain facilities here would be balanced by the extra distance trucks travel duplicating miles already travelled by train.

Mr. Giles said he understood citizens of Acton would be apprehensive if it was the railway's intent to make Acton a second class municipality. But that was not the intent. He traced the implementation of master plan agencies and said it would soon cover the entire country, often shutting down services in places with much larger populations than Acton's. He mentioned Trenton and Kingston as examples. Loss in revenue from Acton if magnified across the country would be serious.

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Up 8,079—five per cent

Halton population 168,731

There are five per cent more people within the boundaries of Halton County than there were at this time last year, according to a report from county assessor Robert H. Beach.

While at the end of September in 1967 the county had a total of 161,652 residents; figures from a similar period in 1968 showed 169,731 people.

Georgetown headed the growth race with a 15 per cent increase of 1,905 persons to a present population of 14,528; while Milton remained most static with a mere 56 people, or .84 per cent, rising from 6,670 last year to 1968's figure of 6,726.

Other municipalities' changes included Acton increasing by 175 persons (3.95 per cent from 4,429 to 4,604; Burlington jumping six per cent with 4,294 people raising the 1967 total of 71,781 to a 1968 population of 76,074; Oakville gained 934

residents (1.70 per cent) and changed its welcome sign from 55,218 to 56,152. Esquesing made the second biggest percentage gain, adding 568 persons (7.10 per cent) for a total of 8,405 raised from last year's 8,037; and Nassagaweya

stayed closest to the county average with a 5.10 per cent gain of 147 people to 3,041 population from 2,894.

It was noted population figures for Milton, Georgetown, Burlington and Oakville included persons in institutions.

match. Les wasn't a front runner—in plowing. The Ingersoll mayor placed first and the Fergus mayor second from a field of 20.

(Staff Photo)

Bill Hoey runs for reeve's seat

Deputy-Reeve of Nassagaweya William A. N. Hoey announced this week he will be seeking election as reeve of the township in the December elections.

The door to the number one seat on the township council was opened two weeks ago when Reeve William Coulter announced he would not seek re-election. Mr. Coulter's announcement came after eight years of service on council.

Mr. Hoey made his first bid in township politics in December of 1964 when he was defeated by Mr. Coulter in their race for the reeve's seat.

In December 1965 he ousted

Dr. B. D. Young from the deputy-reeve's seat and he was acclaimed to the same position the following year for a two year term.

Mr. Hoey came to Nassagaweya from Oakville in 1957 after he retired from 25 years of service at Proctor and Gamble in Hamilton. He holds the rank of Lieutenant Commander on the retired list from the Royal Canadian Navy. He served in World War II as a torpedo officer.

He is presently occupied on his sheep farm near Moffat.

To date no opponents have announced their intentions to contest the seat.



OUY OF THE FUROR into the furrow? Municipal election campaign was left behind Saturday when Mayor Les Duby competed in the mayor's class at the international plowing match. Les wasn't a front runner—in plowing. The Ingersoll mayor placed first and the Fergus mayor second from a field of 20. (Staff Photo)

Hunting restrictions set in Esquesing township

The number of non-resident hunters in Esquesing Township has been officially limited to 200 following a special meeting of council last week.

The move came after Council received numerous complaints from farmers in the area of hunters invading private property and injuring livestock.

The new by-law reads as follows:

- 1 There shall be no limit on the number of resident hunting licenses issued, any bona fide resident of the Township may obtain a resident hunting license by paying the fee prescribed by the Department of Lands and Forests from time to time.

- 2 The number of non-resident hunting licenses issued shall be limited to 200 per year and no non-resident shall be issued a license until he has produced a letter from each of two resident farmers, each with at least 50 acres, either owned or rented in the Township of Esquesing, and the fee for each non-resident license shall be that prescribed by the Department of Lands and Forests from time to time.

- 3 Any by-law or parts of a by-law which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

The by-law goes into effect immediately.

Producers honor Legion Choraliers

A large, gold-sealed, hand lettered document was produced at Acton council meeting Tuesday evening to break the routine of regular business.

Reeve Hinton had been given the certificate at county council that afternoon, and it's on its way to the Acton Legion Choraliers.

Warden Hunter had accepted the certificate in Palm Springs, California, at the Industrial Film Producers Association when Halton county's new industrial film received an award. There was one certificate for the singers, one for Oakville band and one for Burlington band, all in appreciation for their co-operation. The Acton choir sang part of the background music for the prize winning half-hour production.

Mr. Hinton asked the town's other county council representative, Dr. Oakes, to present it to the Choraliers, and suggested the mayor might come along, too. Mr. Duby promptly accepted. "As an honorary member of the Choraliers that'll be a pleasure."

Despite the fact there are no assessment appeals in Acton, the county court of revision will come to Acton to sit in the Council chambers Thursday, October 31 at 10 a.m. The clerk had told the county assessor there was no need to hold the court of revision here, but scrutiny of the Act shows it's necessary.

County Assessor Beach, asked how much the day's non-work would cost, said the members of the court would likely be paid at a half day rate here—\$20 each. They will simply accept and sign the town's assessment roll. Inquiries showed even if the roll were taken to Milton the cost would be the same.

"We want you to know an attempt to save money was made," said reeve Hinton philosophically.

Georgetown Cable TV's agreement will go back to another committee meeting. The company has requested changing the time limit on their agreement for 60 days to a year. (They still require a license and an agreement to use hydro poles.)

Councillor Bob Drinkwater, chairman of the planning board, protested the decision that no replacement be named to fill the vacancy on the planning board. The decision had been made at a committee meeting to defer the appointment until the end of the year when further appointments to the same board might be necessary.

The condition in which Monex Construction had left the

Producers honor Legion Choraliers

drainage installation on Cobblehill Rd. had produced a complaint to the company via the clerk, asking that the area be cleaned up in a week.

Answering Reeve Hinton's critical questions on the drainage problem there, Mr. Drinkwater explained the drain that appears sunken will be at the right level when grading is done and that Monex is billed for the work done by the town. Problem areas will be corrected as they develop.

Mr. Hinton continued his questions, and declared the system of drainage there "won't work."

Mayor Duby cut off the subject with an outburst to the reeve: "Every night we are confronted with your deliberate attempts to belittle someone's efforts. We're getting tired of it!"

Rev. Luewen's request for town water was not accepted. He sought a supply of town water for the proposed Kingdom Hall building on the old Lorne school property. The request would have necessitated the extension of the six inch water main for several hundred feet.

A special meeting with the Ontario Municipal Board representatives was held October 21 to discuss the expenditure for the proposed Tyler Ave. storm sewer project. Mayor Duby,

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JIM SLAVEN finished the three-mile Senior Cross Country race with a fast 14:17 time. It was the best time of the day during the CWOSSA Cross Country Championships in Guelph last Thursday. More on sports page. (Staff Photo)

Whistle tradition carries on

October 21, 1968



FOR THE SAKE OF TRADITION, Sharon Ellerby prepares to pull the steam valve on the Beardmore whistle and end the week's silence. Sharon, a grade eight student at M. Z. Bennett school collected 245 names from her classmates for a petition in support of the whistle. Beardmore's have bowed to public demand and the community alarm clock is in operation again. (Staff Photo)

The Editor
The Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ont.

Dear Sir:

The reaction of your paper and many of the citizens of Acton to our announcement that we had decided to stop blowing the tannery whistle, after more than a century, was surprising to say the least.

We actually felt it no longer served any useful purpose and that perhaps we were intruding on the privacy of many individuals.

You quote in your open message two men as saying "modern plants do not blow whistles" and a Main Street merchant who commented that "he couldn't care less." These were exactly the thoughts on which we based our decision.

But should we ignore the calls from the mothers who warn their children to start for home with the first whistle to avoid the heavy traffic—the pensioners who set their watches by the whistle—the 245 students from M. Z. Bennett School who agree with Sharon Ellerby that without tradition this would be a dull world—the little 3 year old boy who knows when to expect his father home, and the mothers who said they regulate their day by the friendly whistle?

We appreciate the countless calls we received from friends and strangers—perhaps this IS what makes the difference between a small town and a big city. It seems that traditions are still meaningful to young and old, and in a world where startling changes are taking place, this is a hopeful sign.

On Wednesday morning the whistle will blow again, and as long as this is the wish of the people of Acton, it will continue to sound its signal.

Yours truly,
N. J. Braida
President &
General Manager
Beardmore & Co. Ltd.

Pharmacist Bill Yundt takes over Newton's store

A large Mill St. store changed hands this week, and pharmacist Bill Yundt is taking over the location and stock of Newton's 5 cent to \$1 store. New name is "Dollar Daddy" store.

Mr. Yundt will continue to operate Acton Pharmacy, but expects that his original store at the Mill-Main corner will develop a more "professional" look. Many of his smaller items are being gradually moved over to his new store, such as hair products, toothpaste, baby clothes, stockings—many non-drug items.

The former stock remains there and he'll continue to sell clothing, toys, games and small household items and gifts. Changes in stock will come about gradually.

The store which has been operated by Mr. Newton for the

past 10 years will eventually be completely renovated. Some new shelving is already.

Mrs. Rosemary Cook is manager of the new store with Mrs. Dot Mellor as clerk.

In Acton Pharmacy, shelf space acquired will be used for more effective display, and the introduction of a larger veterinary line.

But Mr. Yundt points out many items will be duplicated in both his stores. Prices marked down in the "discount" section of the new store will be similarly marked down in the pharmacy. Mr. Newton is retiring. He and his wife will continue to live in Acton.

Quiet week for detachment

Police records show several lost and found bikes and lost wallets during the past days.

Theft of license plates from a motor cycle Saturday noon was also reported.

There were no major incidents or accidents reported this week.

New church

Work has begun on the Apostolic church to be built at the corner of Main St. S. and Ransom. The foundation was poured Monday.