



Esquosing council

Delegation asks by-law regulate quarry blasts

Armed with a petition signed by over 200 ratepayers, a delegation complaining about excess blasting from township quarries extracted a promise from Esquosing Council Monday to talk the problem over with quarry owners.

Mrs. E. Nagels read the petition to council. She was accompanied by Will Fortowsky, Percy Hicks and Paul Colbourne, all ratepayers who lived in the vicinity of the quarries and felt quarry blasts were excessive.

The petition asked council to immediately institute a by-law to prohibit blasting in the township except for small blasts necessary for stump removal and other necessary work. Council balked at some provisions of the request, however, and would agree only to talk the problem over with the quarry owners.

"I might as well speak my mind now," said Reeve George Currie. "We've no intention of closing these quarries. They are the biggest taxpayers we've got. Taxes would be a lot higher for ratepayers if the quarries weren't in the township."

The petition claimed the present large scale vibrations were a serious encroachment on the rights of individual property owners. It also asked council to include a provision for rehabilitation of the area quarries have already defaced and discourage further defacement of the escarpment.

Whistle still brings comments

Several more weekly newspapers have commented on Acton's Bring Back the Whistle episode.

The collection of clipped columns and comments grows. What a surprise to Beardmore officials, the Free Press and probably the general public, that the issue provoked so much comment.

And the reverberations continue.

Police seek man

Police warned children to avoid strangers in town following a case of indecent exposure reported to them.

A young girl was accosted on Church Street at Elgin by a man in a white '62 or '63 Chev. Tuesday night. She notified police.

Mrs. Nagels complained about cracks in windows, plaster, brick and foundations as a result of large blasts. She said phoning Dufferin Quarry every time a large blast occurred had been good for a courteous answer but the Quarry officials indicated their seismograph did not record any breach of blasting regulations.

"I phoned the Department of Mines and they said they can do nothing unless there is a petition," Mrs. Nagels continued.

Council consulted a letter they received in reply to one they had sent to the Department of Mines after a previous complaint. The Department said their prime concern was the health and

safety of workmen. Claims for blasting were matters for the civil courts.

Ground vibration damage was rare, the Department's engineer E. S. Riddall maintained. He doubted vibrations could do the damage attributed to it and thought it was likely due to other causes. Quarries employ seismographs for records and personal protection and the tapes were sent to Harvard University in the U.S. where an authority on ground measurement examined them. His readings indicated no structural damage would occur.

Will Fortowsky challenged the accuracy of the seismograph readings. The information the Department gets is supplied by

the quarries, he maintained, and they "could tell you anything." No one checks their stories. "We're left completely at their mercy," he complained.

Councillor Pat Patterson concurred. "People over there have been in difficulty as long as I've been on council," he said. "It was at our insistence that seismographs were placed. I understand, but can't plough for information—that the seismographs are there only for small blasts, not the large ones. But how do you catch them?"

Mr. Fortowsky said one quarry official had replied to his complaint that "If you think this is bad, wait till we really get going."

Pressed by Councillor Patterson, Mr. Fortowsky said he would be willing to back up his statement with a signed affidavit. He also blamed the blasts for lowering real estate values along No. 5 sideroad. He claimed large blasts, which produced unexpected tremors, could affect people with heart conditions adversely.

Reeve Currie scoffed at suggestions the quarries were lowering land values. "I clerked for a sale Saturday where a farm sold for \$110,000. I also belong to the Authority and know the prices paid in that territory for property."

"Would you buy property on No. 5?" Mr. Fortowsky asked the reeve.

"Not at \$110,000, I wouldn't," replied the reeve. His solution to the problem was to invite quarry owners over to a meeting and talk to them.

The reeve cited one case at Limehouse where excessive blasting had shaken houses in Stewarttown and Georgetown and a meeting with the owner had settled the problem. "We talked and said no more of this stuff. He recommended the same treatment now. Tell 'em there's going to be trouble if they keep it up," he declared.

Percy Hicks, a resident of Lot 8, Con. 5, told council he made a complaint about blasting three years ago when council promised to do something but nothing was done. He listed the nuisance trucks from the quarries caused as spilled stones, sandblasting of cars, dust and noise. He said ratepayers in the area of the quarries were determined to stop excess blasting.

Both Mr. Hicks and Mr. Fortowsky bridled at the reeve's inference that the petitioners wanted to close the quarries. They wished only to police the blasting. Councillor Lawson told the delegation sandblasting of cars, etc. were police matters. The delegation left with council's promise they would talk to quarry owners but said afterwards they didn't intend to let the matter drop until they had some action.

Council felt passage of a by-law would mean little and there was no adequate means of enforcement short of closing down the quarries.

Guided Fairy Lake tour conducted by R. Parker

R. R. (Bob) Parker conducted an interesting tour of dredging sites around Fairy Lake Sunday. About 40 interested people took part. The tour was arranged as a joint project of the Chamber of Commerce and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Mr. Parker, Acton's representative on the Authority, explained what was taking place on the lake. He said although rumors were rife that the contractor was being paid twice for silt he takes out, it wasn't true.

Fairy Lake will be approximately 15 feet in depth with graduated sides when the job is finished. Approximately 260,000 cubic yards of fill have been removed to date. It is expected 400,000 yards will be moved before the work is done, sometime next spring.

Mr. Parker explained the work



Remembrance Day

Acton's Great Peace Demonstration

Was Unshored in With a Monster Outdoor Thanksgiving Service

PARADE THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE

Rev. H. M. Jo privilege to get express some gratitude to G... have come to be called herself to for defence of Canada has lot That dedication been crowned a our tribute of the officers and in the great atz

Mark Remembrance Day Sunday services at cenotaph, Knox

The names of Acton's dead from world wars will again be read aloud during the few moments that the Remembrance Day parade pauses at the cenotaph Sunday.

The service is set for 10:45 a.m., with the parade forming up at the Legion at 10:15.

Acton Citizens' Band will play and Chuck Wright will play the Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths will be placed by organizations and individuals.

Church service follows at Knox Presbyterian church.

The United church service, which begins at 10 a.m. will be concluded early so members may join in the annual outdoor ritual of remembrance.

In the afternoon at 2:45 Acton Legion and bugler Chuck Wright will join citizens of

Nassagaweya for the service at the memorial at Haltonville, and afterward in Nassagaweya Presbyterian church.

In Rockwood, the memorial service is also Sunday morning at 11 a.m. at the cenotaph there, with a community church service following in the centennial school auditorium.

A veterans' dinner will be held at the Legion Sunday after the church service.

Remembrance Day falls on Monday, which is a school holiday. However, in recent years the service has been held on the nearest Sunday.

Saturday has been proclaimed as Poppy Day, but Legion members will also be selling them Friday afternoon and evening as well.

Details of the Santa Rama program are included in an advertisement inside this newspaper.

Every purchase at participating stores will allow customers a chance of winning cash vouchers worth \$90 each week. The program—Santa Rama—begins next week.

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Santa-Rama program starts next week

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Jim Slaven, cross-country champion

Jim Slaven won the Ontario high school senior cross-country

championship at Boyd Conservation Park near

Woodbridge last Saturday.



The Acton Cross Country track team became eligible for the competitions by taking all three top spots in the C.W.O.S.S.A. meet in Guelph two weeks ago. At that time, Slaven finished first in the Senior race with the fastest time of the day 14:17 for the three-mile course.

According to Slaven, the Woodbridge course was more difficult than in Guelph. There were two big hills, one at the beginning of the race and one about half way through. Slaven ran with perfect style maintaining a lead of about 200 yards throughout the 4-3/4 mile race. That will be his last big race this season outside of some indoor meets this winter.

Acton's Midget team placed 10th out of a total of 45 school teams. From the pack of 250 runners, Pete Morrison came in 17, Randy Coker 41, George McPhail 66 and Riny Schuts 138.

Unfortunately the Junior and Senior teams were short players and failed to make it in the top spots. Hamilton Southmount Collegiate won the senior team competition, Hill Park the Midget division and George S. Henry the Junior division. Acton was one of the smallest schools represented.

JIM SLAVEN came home as senior champion from the Ontario high school cross-country races in Woodbridge last Saturday. There were 650 competitors in the junior, midget and senior runs. (Staff Photo)



ACTON'S NEW ASSISTANT CLERK, Grant Usher, began his duties on Monday. He and his wife moved into Acton on Saturday from Woodbridge. (Staff Photo)

See pictures on page B5.

Appoint new Planning Board in Esquosing

Esquosing Council drew five names out of a hat to comprise the township's first Planning Board at their meeting Monday.

Appointed for a three year term will be Reford Garhouse and Fred Nurse. Two year terms will be served by Fred Helson and Jack Pemberton while Sam Penrise will serve a one year term.

Reeve George Currie and Councillor Bob Lawson will fill out the rest of the seven man board.