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# Sparse audience queries panel on changes in county education system due January 1

Although nearly 3,000 invitations had gone out, just under 70 interested persons sat scattered throughout the high school auditorium for "education night" last Wednesday.

Vice-principal Joe Bray, who

introduced the program, explained parents of students at Brookville, Speyside, Linchouse and the three Acton Schools had all been informed by letter of the only opportunity in the district to learn about the changes in the county.

Principal Ted Hansen introduced the participants in the evening's program.

Three school area superintendents took turns explaining the new set-up to the sparse audience, and then a panel discussion soberly responded to written questions. Some of the questions were submitted well in advance, and had been mimeographed. A few more came up from the floor.

Facts and figures, singling out Acton's place in the Halton picture, were projected on a giant screen by area superintendents O. G. McDowell and W. L. McNeil.

The Interim School Organization committee has the system all set, ready for elections in December. Even the date of the first meeting of the new board is established.

Parents won't notice any difference for the first six months at least, according to area superintendent George Cromb. His section of the program gave him 15 minutes for "program". There are "exciting" programs going on, however, in team teaching, huge classrooms with adjoining seminar rooms, rotary program, discovery methods for science.

He looks forward to more adult night school courses. Some schools such as Esquimes and Nassagaweya schools must be equipped up to standard in some areas such as play equipment. All schools will have resource centres and can call on psychological services.

Halton will need 50 to 75 more school rooms a year, he concluded.

On the platform panel were Interim School Organization committee members Horace Blyth of Nassagaweya, William Lawson of Esquimes, Murray Smith and Tom Watson of Acton, and Acton public school board chairman Cyril Bishop.

Facts produced by their answers to questions follow.

ADULT education will be favored by the new board, along with recreation, in the public and high schools. Likely a general policy will be set down by the board, which the principal will operate within. "Class participants should share expenses" felt Mr. Watson. "When people pay, they show up."

EXISTING agreements will all be honored. Some teachers might be moved but not unless they agree. The move should be an improvement for the teacher.

BOUNDARY changes are likely. Mr. Blyth pointed out at present some students living north of Acton attend Stewarttown school.

BUDGET for education supplies and P.T. supplies is higher in the north. Possibly there won't be as much available here as before, since it's reasonable to assume funds will

go by a set plan from January on. Quantity buying in the south may explain the disparity.

REMEDIAL reading teachers will be retained.

ALL STUDENTS finishing grade 8 will have access to a variety of courses in the reorganized program. Already Esquimes, Nassagaweya and Acton students are going to the new General Brock Vocational school in Burlington. Another such school in the north was foreseen. Mr. Lawson said "Ratepayers will find vocational training worth the cost."

Students will be bound to move out of Acton, since there will be no attempt made to have all high schools provide all courses. Transportation is up to the board, and for too few it's not feasible.

FRENCH instruction will eventually reach the only schools without it in Georgetown, Esquimes and Nassagaweya. Said Mr. McNeil, "Parents are not going to sit back and help pay if they don't get it. There are more teachers available now."

RESPONSIBILITY of the new board is to the public. They work within the Act.

STUDENTS and faculty could at any time attend the regular

open meetings of the new board. "A faculty would be wise to send observers," said Mr. McNeil. Added Mr. Cromb "I foresee student and parent councils working to help committees of the board."

WILL TAX rate be constant? Not a chance in the world. As the county grows and facilities expand via assessment each municipality will pay its share, after provincial and federal grants are deducted. The tax rate will be equal, but not constant. Acton and Nassagaweya now pay one-sixtieth.

Mr. Watson: In a few years we'll reap the benefit and pay less than we might, if we had stayed with the present system.

Mr. Bishop: The province must assume an increasing share. FREEDOM is becoming more apparent; there will be more choice for students.

WHAT RE-COURSE have we? Do we in the north have to accept decisions without appeal. Will Acton receive less priority? Mr. Blyth: The new board members will do their best for all.

Mr. McNeil: I can't see board members giving thought to one area alone. The board is elected to look after all the children of the county.

Mr. Watson: Knowing the

principals, they'll not let themselves be neglected.

WOULD A French family be allowed to send children to Holy Cross school, Georgetown? The problem is not one of being allowed, but of feasibility of transportation. In the case of one deaf child, Mr. McNeil recalled the family's solution was to move to a city where special classes were available. The time is not here yet for us to pay for bilingual schools. Mr. Cromb added under upcoming legislation it is possible to form a committee to investigate possibilities.

TOPHEAVY? The new system could be providing new "jobs at the top", one questioner felt. Mr. Watson explained there are five gentlemen working with the board—two existing directors of education and three area superintendents—who would all be excellent directors in Halton, but only one is required. However, in plenty of counties becoming directors. The new system is strictly functional one director, one assistant, with supervisors of program, instruction, special services, and business administration. The positions will be advertised.

Although questions were submitted on the Hal-Dennis report, they weren't put to the panel as it's not yet implemented and it would be "unfair and not valid."

A ROTARIAN student exchange program brought four students from Ohio to Georgetown, and four local boys went to the States. The kids went to school, visited industries and nearby cities, and were Rotary guests.

## BELL LINES



by L. G. Denby  
your telephone manager

Just about everybody has heard or read stories about telephone operators helping to avert tragedies, saving lives and property. But it's the little things that really show the demands placed upon our operators' ingenuity—like the summer bacletier who called an operator to find out how best to cook spaghetti, or the exhausted mother who tried to placate a bad-tempered child by dialing "411" and ordering her truculent offspring to "stop crying and say hello to granny".

Christmas, normally a joyous season for everyone else, can become a headache for the information group. So many calls are received from children wanting to talk to "Santa in Towland" that operators begin to wonder if the jolly old gentleman really does exist.

There are some 707,000 calls to Bell Canada Information during an average working day, and while such queries as those outlined above represent a relatively small percentage of the total, they still must be answered and they do take up precious time.

Information operators are required to use their good judgement in handling customer calls. When they receive unusual requests for information, they normally direct the caller to the reference department of the public library where they are quite sure the required information can be obtained.

For the rest, they grin and bear it.

### "HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?"

Names make news as they say and if that's the case, one of the newest items of the year is on its way to area residents. It's your new telephone directory, of course. Although the cover is outstanding from a design point of view—a real award-winner I'd say—it is really the new and changed listings that are most important to you. I find that it is always a good idea to double check my personal list of frequently called numbers against the new directory listings.

We have a handy new Personal Directory to help you make and keep a list of those numbers you call most frequently. It has room for more than a hundred addresses and numbers; a section that lists Area Codes in Canada and the United States; a section with a four-year calendar. Plus a section that doesn't list anything at all. You can use it to keep track of birthdays, anniversaries and special events. What's more, it is free. Just call our Business Office and we'll send you one. It's a handy little book to have around.

*Lloyd Denby*



DIANE YIMBERS, chief safety patrol at Robert Little got assistance from Constable Bruce McArthur in raising the new Elmer flag donated by the Acton Lions Club. Lion Vic Bristow was on hand to add a bar to the school's Elmer safety plaque marking their fourth year free of accidents.

20 AUCTION SALES 20 AUCTION SALES

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ANTIQUES — Small cabinet, very old; applewood chair; nest of tables, Duncan Phyfe legs; brass light fixture.

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bination, just 2 years old, in excellent condition. Fleetwood record player; camera; apartment size G.E. refrigerator, automatic defrost, 11 1/2 years old, is like new; 4-burner electric stove; bathroom scales; 2-burner hot plate (brand new); wringer washing machine (Easyl); new motor; deluxe vacuum cleaner with attachments; Comet floor polisher; Acme portable sewing machine; Mitchell bedside radio; 2 portable hair dryers; quantity of records.

MISCELLANEOUS — Bird bath; umbrella clothes line; step ladder; lawn chairs; 100 ft. garden hose; 20 ft. extension ladder; carry-all tool box; tool box with drawers; power lawn mower; assortment of nails; bolts; screws; assortment of furniture finisher; Coleman picnic cooler; Coleman stove and all accessories; the regular kitchen utensils, glasses, dishes etc.

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