

A bear tale



HOW'S DA WEATHER UP HEAH?

A scarcity of available groundhogs on Sunday, despite beautiful sunny weather, forced Free Press reporter Barb McIntosh to look for some other indicator to comment on the weather over the next six weeks.

In her search for some thick-furred caterpillar or a keen-eyed Indian, she accidentally stumbled on old Humpty Dumpty the bear emerging from his winter hide-out, not very far from the plant.



LOOKS LIKE AN AWFUL LONG SHADOW...

Old Humpty, his pot belly full of swab cotton and jarsfuls of cream soda which have turned his tummy to a bright cherry, looked none the worse for wear, after the first few weeks of winter.

Barb hardly completed her introduction before the jolly old bear saw his shadow. He staggered to a tree for support.

"Not another six weeks of winter," he groaned.



...WHICH MEANS SIX MORE WEEKS OF WINTER

Back he went into his den, by the school creek, until the crows tell him it is time to come out again.

Miss McIntosh, knowing her tale would be hard to take recorded the entire episode on film.

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Fourth Year. — No. 32

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1969

Sixteen Pages.—Ten Cents.

Nassagaweya balks at plans for region

The apparent consideration of the Township of Nassagaweya as a mere "negotiating tool," as Councillor Art Bigson phrased it, in any discussion of a Halton-Well regional government merger; as well as several other unsavory aspects of the Township's future, resulted in a number of proposals from the council at Monday evening's meeting... all unanimously opposed to any dissolution of Nassagaweya.

Reeve William Hoey noted the Department of Municipal Affairs' tentative plan indicated Nassagaweya will be divided along County Road No. 10... a road which does not even exist in the township.

Communication with M.P.P. George Kerr, the reeve reported, indicated this meant the dividing line was undecided.

Mr. Kerr suggested the Township offer the Department several alternatives.

Deputy-Reeve Mrs. A. MacArthur disagreed.

"Offering alternatives will only weaken the Township's position," she stated.

"Nassagaweya must be kept as a unit, with representation as a unit to any regional government."

The Deputy-reeve noted Nassagaweya is perhaps the only municipality within Halton which has no large urban centres, and under the representation by population method suggested by Minister Darcy McKeough, would be at the mercy of the urban areas... perhaps even be

transformed into a growthless, undeveloping "playground" for town-bound weekenders.

"Mr. McKeough emphasized the rep-by-pop system was in keeping with our democratic history," she recalled. "But there is one element in his democratic intentions missing... provision for the minority."

She also called for the rental of Halton County as a regional unit... without merger with Peel.

The County will, by 1980, have a population large enough to warrant its recognition as a single unit, she said.

Councillor Gordon Agnew also objected to the representation-by-population aspect of McKeough's plan.

"It's less rep-by-pop and rape-by-pop," he stated in his presentation. "By the department's criterion for representation, a farmer and his wife living on their own 200-300 acre farm would have only one-seventh the voice of a couple living in a rundown shack with 12 children."

He noted Nassagaweya has no per-capita debt except for school debentures, and the McKeough plan could place many township residents under the jurisdiction of local governments requiring appreciable tax payments to meet already established indebtedness.

Based on voluminous research of statistics, Mr. Agnew devised a "regional index" by which a municipality's representation would be selected after taking

into consideration both population and acreage.

By his figures, the Nassagaweya index of 49 would be the basic unit... allowing one representative.

Other municipalities' indices, under this proposal, would include: Exeter with RI 97... having two representatives including one for Georgetown and one for Acton-and-rural; Oakville with an index of 134 having a representative for Milton and two or three for the rural and urban-Oakville area; and Burlington... regional index of 125 giving in three representatives.

There would still be nine representatives from Halton

County, in keeping with the Minister's wishes.

Councillor Agnew took into consideration seven points, and computed the 1980 population of Halton County by at least 400,000; possibly 600,000 if the increase in immigration continues. Three years after, there would be three-quarter million people living in the county.

The points taken into consideration included reduction of death rate, increase in family formations due to offspring of the post-war Baby Boom, in-migration of 29.5 per cent per five-year period, greater opportunities developing and higher income prospects.

(Continued on Page 3)

O.P.P. asks children to stay off ice in mild weather

General occurrences in town during our reporting week of January 26, 1969 to February 1, 1969, saw a sharp increase over the past. On January 31 and February 1 a total of 13 people were charged with various offences under the Liquor Control Act of Ontario.

Two property damage accidents were investigated which resulted in \$1,300 damages. One personal injury accident involving a car and pedestrian was also investigated. The erring drivers have been charged. Eight charges and four warnings were issued under the highway traffic act.

Thirteen people were convicted of various offences in Provincial Court at Milton on Monday January 27. Fines and costs totaled \$264.

During the past mild spell experienced in this area, it was noticed that children were playing on Fairy Lake. The radio and TV was constantly warning snowmobilers to stay off lakes and ponds where the ice might be thin and unsafe. If the ice was not strong enough to hold a snowmobile, how is it going to hold a dozen children playing on it? Children have been warned to stay off the ice when it may not be safe, but the police can't stay at the lake to see that their wishes are met.

With the dredging of Fairy Lake this past summer, there are areas in which the depth will

reach 20 feet or better. The Police do not want to have to investigate drowning deaths as a result of children falling through thin ice.

May we ask the assistance of parents to please keep their children off the ice during mild weather.

Rash of accidents

Several Acton and district residents were involved in a rash of accidents Milton O.P.P. investigated on area roads in the past week. None were seriously injured.

Wednesday on Highway 7 east of 30 Sideroad vehicles driven by Dorothy Kulken of R. R. 2, Acton and Margaret Riley of Georgetown were involved in an accident. Both drivers were slightly injured and damage totalled \$1,750.

Vehicles driven by William Bickell of Burlington and Dan S. Johnson of R. R. 4 Acton collided on Highway 25 south of 25 Sideroad Thursday, causing \$1,300 damage.

An accident on the Third Line near the Acton town limits Sunday saw \$550 total damage to vehicles driven by Earl H. Near of R. R. 2, Acton and Brenda J. Denny of 120 Elizabeth St., Acton.

Three thefts on Thursday

Three break-ins were reported to Acton police on Thursday last week.

First in the day was the break-in at the C.N.R. station. George Paul discovered a broken window when he opened up the station at 6:45 a.m. for the morning passenger train.

A railway investigator who recovered several stolen flares said he blamed children.

At noon hour, the minister's study in the United Church was broken into and \$20 in cash was discovered missing. Locks were broken by the thief.

Later in the afternoon a black leather purse, containing papers and some money, was stolen from the car of Bill Stuckey of Guelph. Owner of the purse was Mrs. Crawford Vollett of Guelph. The car was parked by Acton Home Furnishings. Mrs. Vollett and Mr. Stuckey were attending a funeral.

Sign in a florist's shop: "Dirt cheap."

Bad weather delays M.Z.B. addition

"It'll be another month and a half before the M. Z. Bennett addition is ready," architect Donald Skinner ruefully reported to school board Tuesday. (It had been originally hoped to be able to end the staggered classes there in February.)

The group is now the continuing committee of the Acton public school board for the Halton county board of education, temporarily continuing regular business until the new system is fully in operation.

Bad weather has held up the work at the school addition, Mr. Skinner explained. He distributed minutes of an on-site meeting and another one Feb. 14 was planned.

He explained several necessary or suggested changes and the orders were approved. Discussed were a change in the water main, outdoor spotlights, moving the p.a. console, drinking fountain

and an alteration in wall construction.

Outside work and paving cannot be done yet to complete the R. L. Resource Centre contract, Mr. Skinner explained.

It was the fourth meeting of 1969, for the continuing committee. As well as a regular meeting in January the members have had two budget meetings to prepare figures for the new county board.

Present at the meeting in the Robert Little staff room Tuesday were chairman Cyril Bishop, Doug Manning, Charles Heard, Vic Bristow with secretary Bill Middleton.

Both principals were away attending a meeting called by the county board in Oakville. Former board member Orval Chapman, now a town councillor, was absent.

Mr. Middleton reported he had completed all the detailed budget forms for the county

board and they had been delivered.

The financial report for 1968 shows a surplus of \$11,672 which will be used for Acton schools.

The regular financial statement was approved. (Funds are now requisitioned from the county board.)

Committee members approved the use of a R. L. room for a six week course in investments, being arranged by the Y board and recreation and parks board.

A largish chart, showing the senior personnel in the county board, was displayed by Mr. Middleton. "Looks like a family tree back to 1066," quipped one of the committeemen.

Well armed

Swinging his arm in a cast, a local youth broke a glass window at Watson's restaurant on the weekend. The incident was reported to police.

Mr. Middleton reported he had completed all the detailed budget forms for the county

Susan Shoemaker tops public speaking

Pert Susan Shoemaker topped five other orators on Wednesday morning in the speaking contest finals between Acton's two public schools.

Miss Shoemaker, a grade seven student at Robert Little, captured the audience with a biography of Nancy Green and an animated account of her skiing accomplishments. Hers was the shortest speech of the

day, just two seconds over the minimum five-minute requirement.

She explained afterwards that she chose the topic because it was current, even though she doesn't ski herself.

Mayor Les Duby presented her with the Hydro Trophy on behalf of Commission Chairman Wilf McEachern. She also wins the Rachlin Trophy for her

school.

Placing second in the event was seventh grader Richard Rocher also of Robert Little, with his intellectual interpretation of the Bifra crisis. Both speakers go on to the Halton No. 4 finals this Friday night in the Robert Little auditorium to compete with the representatives from Milton and Nassagaweya.

Judging the event were Mrs. Orr, a retired high school teacher, Mr. Holmes, English instructor in the high school, and Anglican Minister Rev. Dawson. In announcing the winner, Rev. Dawson commented that he was impressed with the excellence of all the deliveries and the choice of subject matter.

The six finalists were chosen earlier in competitions within the schools.

Deborah Anderson on Smoking, Glen Lee on Forest Fires, and Karen Atkinson on the House Fly were chosen to represent M. Z. Bennett. Lorna Sutherland, Susan Shoemaker and Richard Rocher competed from Robert Little.

During the semi-finals at Robert Little, five other students presented speeches: Lynne Dawe grade 6, American Presidents; Carol Jones grade 8, Gravity; Debra Martindale grade 8, Susquatch; Heather Strange grade 8, Beboons; Helen Gunther grade 6, Teas. Mrs. Doberthien, Mrs. Sandford and Mrs. Cavanaugh acted as judges.

Eliminated at M. Z. Bennett earlier in the week were: Debbie Drinkwater grade 8, Dogs; Lynne Simion, grade 8, History of Stamps and Stamp Collecting; Bonnie Gillespie grade 8, Crystal; Robert Wisenz grade 7, Forestry; Bill Gentles grade 7, Boats. Judges there were Mrs. Smith, Mr. Brears and Mr. Smith.



TOP PUBLIC SPEAKER Susan Shoemaker, accepts the Hydro trophy from Mayor Les Duby following the town finals in Robert Little auditorium today. Second place winner was Richard Rocher. The other young orators who made it into the finals were (back left) Lorna Sutherland, Glenn Lee, Deborah Anderson, and Karen Atkinson.

Lock box lobby open 24 hours

Acton post office is among those chosen to conduct an experiment to determine whether post office lock box offices will remain open continuously 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Acton office started the round the clock lock box hours this week. If the experiment is successful, the new hours will continue.

Mail will still be sorted at the regular times but the post office department hopes the new hours will be an added convenience to the public. If the experiment is not successful regular hours will resume.

Postmaster Gord McKeown has posted a notice asking the public to treat the box office lobby with respect.

The Post Office department also recently announced an increase in lock box rentals. Rates have doubled for the three types of boxes available at the Acton office. Small boxes have increased from \$2 to \$4, medium size from \$3 to \$6 and the large boxes have gone from \$5 to \$10.

Lock box holders whose rent was due on Feb. 1 were the first to feel the increase. Some who had paid at the old rates were required to pay the same amount again to continue the rental. This arrangement has caused some dissatisfaction amongst the public and several box holders have switched to general delivery.