

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Fourth Year. — No. 39

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1969

Twenty Pages.—Ten Cents.

Lightning bolt maybe hit car

Is it safe to be in a car during a thunderstorm?
Bill Knight of R. R. 2, Acton, is beginning to wonder after what happened to him last Thursday.
He was driving home from the hockey tournament in Georgetown during the storm, when at Silvercreek he suddenly saw a brilliant blue ball of fire right before his eyes. The car all seemed to turn blue — and then a split second later the sky lit up with the lightning.
The sudden flash of light had been so bright he had to stop the car before he could see properly to drive on again.
There were no marks on the car and he didn't feel any electric shocks. No one he has talked to since seems quite sure what the marks or results would be if the car had been struck.
"If it wasn't, that is as close as I want to come, anyway!" he exclaimed.

Water break Churchill Rd.

A letter on flood assistance read at Tuesday night's meeting of Acton council revealed a break in the water line on Churchill Road North Monday afternoon had required some long hours for the town work staff. They were in water up to their knees repairing the break from 5.30 in the afternoon until midnight.

The mayor told council they should appreciate the conditions town employees often have to work under. "Don't be surprised if we get a claim for damage, however," he said.

"Was there a flood in Lakeview subdivision?" asked Councillor Ove Chapman of a remark passed in the conversation.

Clerk Joe Hurst told council that some run-off water was following the old creek bed instead of going into the new tunnel but there was nothing serious.

Councillor Greer, in the chair for Committee of the Whole session, remarked that maybe council should ask Nassagaweya to take over Lakeview.

Minor accident in parking lot

A minor accident in the Station Hotel driveway was investigated by Acton O.P.P. Friday at 7.35 p.m. Cars driven by Florence Roadknight, Rockwood, and Richard Henderson, Cobblehill Rd., Acton, were in collision. The Henderson car had \$50 damage. This was the only accident investigated by police during the past week.



TEEN-AGE fashions and the sound of music are an inseparable combination as Cathy Osborne shows modelling a pant suit in the Rockwood Home and School fashion show last week. Pictures and story inside.—(Staff Photo)



DIANE FISHER struggles the bright red sheepskin rug she won as a door prize during the L'Arche spring fashion show last Thursday night.—(Staff Photo)

Council votes pay for two boards

Acton council passed a resolution at Tuesday's meeting approving an honorarium for Planning Board and Committee of Adjustment members.

The motion was a departure from previous policy which discouraged any of the appointed boards in town from receiving remuneration for services.

The original motion which was debated vigorously also included a provision that some form of compensation be given to members of other official boards serving the town — at council's discretion. However, an amendment which deleted this wording passed and all councillors went along with just paying Planning Board and Committee of Adjustment.

No figures were discussed. Councillor Earl Masales said the honorarium was an attempt to get more members to come out to the meetings. The work will get more demanding as time goes on, he asserted, and take up much more time. Reeve F. Oakes indicated that

No. 1 committee of council decided these two boards with a type of work relative to the general administration of the town should be given remuneration. They work in close liaison with council and can legally receive an honorarium. The Parks Act prohibits remuneration to Parks Board, he pointed out.

"The record indicates there have been mass resignations from both bodies," Mayor Les Duby said, "caused quite possibly by repeated rejection of recommendations from boards." The mayor pointed out the committees were formed from laymen using all the knowledge they possessed on particular things. Sometimes council had a little more knowledge on issues and turned recommendations down. He also favored remuneration since he felt they were called on to do much valuable work for the town, often of a dull, administrative nature.

Councillor Peter Marks felt if the motion did not include other boards some members would feel slighted. The mayor replied that certain people serving on town boards would reject any remuneration for their services.

The reeve and councillors Coats and Marks voted against the amendment deleting provision for compensation to the other appointed bodies but went along when the amendment won.

Skating carnival concludes season

A record number of 130 girls and boys will take part in the Figure Skating Club carnival this Saturday. For the first time there will be two performances, a matinee in the afternoon and a repeat performance in the evening.

The dress rehearsal is Friday. There have been extra practices preparing for the annual big show that ends the season.

Instructors Nancy Skuce and Sally Leatherland will also skate in the show. Special guests are brother and sister Patricia and Gordon Modde of Wallaceburg, both champions in singles competition. The two halves of the program are entitled Disneyland, and Sounds of Music, with a surprise presentation of trophies in between for top club members in different categories.

Questions were asked regarding the five per cent dedication. The location is presently landlocked. The plan will be submitted to the town engineer and consultants for their recommendations. Chairman Bob Drinkwater told Mr. Griese he would be informed as soon as possible. Clerk-administrator Joe Hurst was also present to outline the recent meeting held in his office February 12 which involved

Acton share \$408,140

EDUCATION UP

The County Board of Education will be adding local municipalities for \$18,435,842 to meet total expenditures of \$32,025,422 according to a budget approved by the Board on Thursday. The province will pay \$13,210,880.

Acton and Milton ratepayers are expected to see the greatest rise in the mill rate, unofficially estimated at 8.8 mills for Acton and 8.4 mills for Milton. The major reason cited for these increases was the pattern of beginning the past year with a

surplus and ending with a deficit on the part of former boards. This year, to raise of equal amount spent last year causes the mill rate increase.

It is estimated that Acton's education bill, to be raised locally, will be up \$401,140 while Milton's will be \$626,089. Esqueping township's school costs are expected to be \$862,751, and Nassagaweya's \$371,789. Oakville's cost will be \$7,642,554 and Burlington's \$7,339,572. Elementary school costs to

Halton taxpayers will be \$9,948,573, while secondary costs will be \$8,487,269.

Release of the provincial grant structures last Wednesday enabled the administration to prepare final projections on the effect of the new budget. Detailed reviews of the expenditure items had been held at a previous meeting.

The current grant structure, outlined briefly to board members, means the grants will be paid based on the current estimates. Previously they had been paid on the basis of the past year's expenditures.

Application of an "adjusted rate" at the public school level complicates calculations. Superintendent Bruce Lindley explained the spread between the amount spent by some boards in 1968 over what they raised that year was reflecting in this year's levy. "These boards are faced with picking up last year's problems this year," he noted.

Increases in Acton requirements were based on the public school board's expenditure of \$20,000 of a surplus carried forward from 1967. At the high school level it was based on expenditure of the previous year's surplus of approximately one mill and the incurring of a deficit of approximately \$47,000.

Increases in Milton requirements were described as the result of the use of \$30,000 surplus in 1968 from 1967 plus the incurring of a deficit of \$10,000 and non-recurring sundry revenues of \$40,000.

Unofficial mill rates revealed at the meeting indicated a 1.7 increase for Burlington, 4.1 for Esqueping 2.6 for Nassagaweya, a reduction of 1.1 for Georgetown and .1 for Oakville.

Last year the municipalities raised \$8,345,097 compared with this year's requirements of \$9,948,573 for elementary schools. For secondary schools the last year's ratepayers paid \$7,031,850 compared with this year's requirements of \$8,487,269.

Overheated space heater trips alarm

Firefighters quickly extinguished an overheated space heater at the residence of W. C. Smallwood, R.R. 1, Acton, Saturday evening about 7:30.

The house is located on Smallwood Acres, a trailer and camp park on Fairy Lake, along the First Line, Esqueping.

Three services

Campus chaplain is Lenten speaker

The Acton Clergy Association has again organized a series of three Lenten services to be held on the evenings of Sunday March 30, Tuesday April 1, and Thursday April 3 in Trinity United Church. Time is 8 p.m.

The choirs of the various churches will participate. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Morris N. Greidanus, campus chaplain of the Christian Reformed Church.

Rev. Greidanus came as a teenager from Amsterdam, the Netherlands to Edmonton, Canada. He earned his BA and BD degrees at Calvin College and Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich., did post graduate work at the Free University of Amsterdam, served four years as the pastor of an established congregation in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and is now serving as campus chaplain at the University of Toronto and at MacMaster University in Hamilton. He is associate pastor of the Taunton Rd. Christian



ALL EYES FRONT AND CENTRE at the children's puppet show last Thursday afternoon in the Acton Public Library. More pictures and story on second front.—(Staff Photo)

Urge development of industrial park

Acton council heard pleas from several councillors and the mayor to get the industrial park property in the north end of town developed as soon as possible.

Two local concerns are seeking to expand on the property, the mayor told council. "I know myself we've missed choice industries by being negligent on development of the property," Representatives of prospective industries sent here by the Department had to "climb fences and hop over cow fops" when there was no road into it and this often discouraged them before they started out.

Council's first concern should be to help local industries expand in town, the mayor insisted but if the property is kept as swamp, brush and weeds, it is pretty hard to convince anyone of its worth.

Councillor Coats said the price of \$1,500 an acre offered for a five acre parcel by Acton Wood Products was not low. "Guelph is offering serviced land for \$1,000 an acre and Erin's giving it away. I don't think we can get the money out of it. It's a game municipalities play," he told council. "We may have to sell the land at a loss to get industry."

"After five years in the industrial park we can't be a bunch of Casper Milquetoasts and sit here and do nothing," the mayor went on.

Deputy-Reeve Ted Tyler said he wasn't totally against the idea of selling land for \$1,500 an acre but he'd like to be assured he was doing the right thing. "We won't subsidize a homeowner but a factory comes along and we're going to subsidize him," he argued.

"Can anyone hazard a guess within a million dollars what the town would realize if all the lots on the industrial park were filled up?" asked Councillor Marks. "We've invested 75 grand now. We've got to go ahead and develop it."

"If we don't get off our feet and get started we'll never know," said Councillor Greer. "The development commission has worked hard on this."

The mayor reviewed the history of another large local industry which located in Acton and told council the chance they took was never regretted. He advocated supporting the engineer's suggestion of a road extension into the industrial park all the way.

Council later passed a motion to extend the industrial park service road an additional 1186 feet and include water and sewer service.

Cons. urges safe biking

Parents, if your child rides a bicycle, be sure he knows and obeys the traffic rules for safe cycling says Prov. Const. Roy Wood, Acton School Safety Officer, this week.

Remember, to navigate safely through today's traffic, young cyclists need to know the same rules of the road that the car drivers are required to know. Don't forget, your child's safety could depend on his knowledge of the traffic rules for safer cycling.

Winter is just about over and that means young cyclists will be out in full force. Cons. Wood streams. Last year in Ontario, 40 children under 15 years of age were killed while riding bicycles and another 1,470 were injured.

The town of Acton was accident free in regard to bicycle accidents in 1968, and your Ontario Provincial Police Detachment will strive to keep it the same way during the coming year. "But we need the help of you, the parents, and all the motorists," he says.

If your child rides a bicycle, make sure he knows and obeys the traffic rules—and that his bicycle is safe to be on the road. (Bicycle safety tests will be held in April).

And last but not the least, Mr. Motorist, please keep a sharp lookout for youngsters zooming out of driveways and for the inexperienced cyclist wobbling shakily along the road. When you drive, always watch for children on bicycles. "I know you are all proud of our town. Let us all be proud of our safety record and drive the SAFE way," the Safety Officer concludes.



Reformed Church of Toronto, concentrating on work with university students. His overall theme will be: "What a way to win!" In virtue of his work and interest the speaker should prove stimulating especially for the younger generation, a spokesman for the clergy said. The Association extends a most cordial invitation to all the members of the community to attend.