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MUGGING FOR a camera was just one of the day's pleasures Tuesday when this high-spirited Springbank school class came out from Toronto to spend a day in the country. They toured a farm about 10 miles north of town and then, bundled in warm clothing, had their lunch in the park here. Their lively teacher (sitting centre back in a kerchief) is Mrs. Hartman. — (Staff Photo)



WIDE NEW BEACH along the north shore of Fairy Lake was created this summer by bulldozers. cleaned and dredged and soon became an inviting spot for swimmers. — (Staff Photo)

Council authorizes Hydro to negotiate agreement

Despite opposition from several councillors who objected to what seemed excessive costs to the subdividers, Acton council authorized Acton Hydro Commission to negotiate a separate written agreement with the Reisman Group, which proposed a new subdivision in the Seynuck property.

Cost for an all-electric subdivision as figured by the Hydro Commission comes to \$872 per lot but the developer could recover \$100 per lot if the development is completely electric, including heating. Complete cost will be borne by the developer.

Councillor P. Marks objected to the fact that R. V. Anderson, the town engineer, had done a survey and found Acton's price was double some other municipalities and it was because of the material being used. Engineer Ken Hyde said if his firm used the same philosophy as Acton Hydro they could use glass sewer pipes. "It distresses me when Mr. Hyde makes that statement," he said.

"Didn't Mr. Hyde also state that other fees have not been updated for two or three years?" asked Councillor Chapman. Councillors nodded.

"The Commission is trying to save us money," insisted Deputy Reeve Tyler. "Sure they can cut costs with inferior material but we will pay for it in the long run. Acton was only \$100 or so higher than Brampton at the last estimate and Brampton is now revising their prices."

Councillor Bill Coats wondered if condoning Hydro's

attempt to use top material for jobs did not run counter to the town's effort to cut costs and use less expensive materials. "We seem to be advocating Hydro put in the best material but we are also advocating the best roads, sidewalks, etc."

"Maybe we want top of the line but maybe something cheaper would last as long," Councillor Greer commented.

"It irks me that I sat a whole night and discussed this and now we have to rehash it all," complained the deputy-reeve of

the objections. "It makes us look like a bunch of donkeys."

Councillor Marks disagreed. "We were asked to keep quiet until this meeting," he said. "I have done considerable research on this and find aluminum wire is only half the price and has almost as high a quality."

Acton Hydro insists copper wire be installed in the subdivision. Their findings were that aluminum wire has a life span of only 10 years underground while copper has an expectancy of 30 to 40 years.

Safety contest now underway

Competition between the two public schools for the new safety plaque is well underway, says safety officer Roy Wood. The police are registering any infractions of bike and pedestrian rules, and these will count against the school. At the end of the month, the school which has the least offenses will be awarded the Alec Johnson safety shield. (It was pictured in last week's Free Press.)

The police aren't going to keep all their information to themselves. The principals will be told which students broke the safety rules, and how.

Cons. Wood has been working nights this week, but next week, when he's working days again,

he will be up at the schools talking up safety again.

Consider paving

Resurfacing of roads in Lakeview subdivision started this week and Acton council is now considering whether to resurface Churchill Rd. N. where sewer installations have torn up the road.

Mayor Les Duby advocated some work on Churchill Rd. since there would be heavy traffic using it to and from the new curling club.

Turn down land offer

An offer of purchase on the recently advertised, annexed, town-owned land bordered by Cobblehill Road and Mill St. was turned down by a committee of council but negotiations for the sale could still continue.

Neiman, Sequin, Bloomsfeld and White, a Toronto firm, offered to purchase approximately 23.6 acres of the 44 at a price of \$3,500 an acre with stipulations for services which would be required for subdivision development.

"Why was it turned down?" asked the deputy-reeve. Councillor McKenzie explained the committee turned down the offer of purchase

because it was the intention of the advertisement to sell the entire property.

"They wanted the choice land and not the marshy part as well as wanting to dictate terms of the sale," Mr. McKenzie said. He also explained that any purchaser would have to abide by the terms of a subdividers' agreement.

"He wanted us to put the services in," said Reeve Frank Oakes.

A subsequent letter from the firm requested another meeting with No. 1 committee, however, indicating they were still interested in purchasing the property.

Four break-ins

Four break-ins were investigated over the Thanksgiving weekend by Acton police. Two of them were into churches.

It was Saturday noon when Rev. Harry Dawson reported that St. Alban's church had been broken into. Entry was first made by an unlocked door and then the door into the vestry had been broken by force. There were no signs of the use of tools.

Nothing was stolen and nothing disturbed, according to the rector. However, a flashlight was found at the back of the church.

On Sunday noon, one of the officials of Knox church reported a break-in there. Entry was gained by slipping the lock on the front door. A cupboard had been ransacked, and between \$8 and \$10 was missing.

Police expect both break-ins occurred at night.

A resident of 4 Mill E. reported a man in her upstairs apartment. Mary Rose Stuffs screamed and the man fled, falling down a flight of steps. The incident was reported to police Sunday morning. In this case the intruder had removed a pane of glass and slipped a lock.

On Thanksgiving day, Cornelius Snock discovered the kitchen of B.P. snack bar had been entered, and he informed police early that morning. A screen had been removed and a window broken. The till was rifled and about \$8 in cash taken. The theft likely occurred during the night.

A weekend break-in also occurred at the Christian Reformed church which is in Esquibing township. A basement window was broken.

Two vehicles in collision

A two-car accident at Main St. N. at Elizabeth Dr. was investigated Friday night by Acton police. A car driven by Harold Speaker, 110 Mill W., was making a turn and received \$10 damage to the rear bumper.

The second car involved was driven by Glenys Patricia Newman, R. R. 2, Rockwood, and received \$200 damage to the front.

No control over messes

Mayor Les Duby admitted council had little or no control over messy properties in town where absentee land-lords often let garbage and weeds pile up and grow high.

Councillor McKenzie asked council if something couldn't be done about the area east of the new apartment buildings on Churchill Rd. south.

"It's a heck of a view for people who come out of brand new apartments," said Mr. McKenzie. "There's nothing but garbage littered all over the area. It was used for building purposes and just left as it was."

Suggests trees for bare lots

Councillor Bill Coats recommended Acton organize a new tree planting program to beautify town streets at Tuesday's meeting of council.

He suggested new subdivision home owners could be given a tree. "I was raised in a town where such a program existed," said Mr. Coats, "and it did a lot to beautify the town."

Nothing changed on O.H.C. project

Acton council authorized construction of six additional Ontario Housing Corporation units at the proposed development on Cobblehill Rd. at Tuesday's meeting but could set a time for a hearing.

"Nothing has changed regarding the rezoning of the O.H.C. land," explained clerk J. Hurst. There must be a zoning amendment by-law and the people within 400 feet of the

property notified of the proposed change. They have 14 days to object. If there are objections they will be forwarded to the Ontario Municipal Board and they will set a time for a hearing.

"We could have another hang-up on this project," predicted the mayor gloomily telling council that seven other municipalities were starting O.H.C. developments, and for some it was their seventh or eighth project.

Library centres in all schools recommended to Halton trustees

Library resource centres should be established in all schools, the report of the Library Resource Centres Council recommended to the Halton Board of Education.

The 20 page report presented by chairman John Fazio of Burlington Central High School also recommended the integration of the audio visual and library departments and expansion to include graphic arts and electronics.

The need for a central library service for cataloguing and maintenance of equipment was also probed in the report.

Mr. Fazio noted the current requirement for accommodation in the resource centre for 10 per cent of the school enrolment may not be adequate as the demands on the centre increase. He also maintained that in new school construction the librarian should be employed in time to

work with the architect in planning the facility.

Elroy Rilett, associate chairman of the committee and a teacher in Champlain Public School, reviewed the role of the librarian suggesting the importance of overcoming the feeling she was a clerk. It was vital for the librarian to work with the children and be available to help them discover through research.

Trustee W. Priestner observed that what the council was suggesting could get to quite a staggering amount of money. "It's dubious whether this board or any board could afford it".

The board received the report.

If the stove catches on fire, grab the salt and pour over flames. Never use water.

Hydro officials lectured on subdivision costs

Officials from Ontario Hydro who arrived on the Acton Hydro Commission's doorstep Thursday evening bearing charges of rate discrimination to a subdivider, left somewhat chastened, and partially convinced the Acton Commission knew what it was doing in negotiations with proposed subdivisions in Acton.

Phil Garlough and Bob Hanley of the parent Ontario Hydro system told Acton commissioners that the solicitor for Reisman group, which proposed to build a large subdivision on the Seynuck property, felt his client was being discriminated against by Acton Hydro's demands for \$840 a lot for an electrical distribution system although they realized it was for a complete system.

They admitted they were partially in agreement with the solicitor since the Acton charges seemed unnecessarily steep when compared to other places.

"We're not here to tell you you can't do this because legally

you can," said Mr. Garlough from the Hamilton office, but he felt individual rate levels were set to finance the distribution system out of revenue and any other methods could run into difficulties.

"Anything you do also affects the other municipalities around," he reminded the Acton Commission.

Mr. Hurley viewed the rates set by other towns and found the Acton figures specially steep by comparison when it came to underground wiring, which the commission has insisted on for future Acton subdivisions.

He questioned if the Acton Commission was going to charge all new users of power the same rates, charging it could be interpreted as rate discrimination if they didn't. If this is your policy for new subdivisions what about the rates on vacant lots and possible industrial subdivisions?" he asked.

"The debt here is almost nil," said vice-chairman Ted Tyler Sr. "That is the reason I think the people in town shouldn't be

discriminated against by paying for new subdivisions where a developer can walk in, make a "sockful" and then leave." Burlington, Georgetown, Milton, Thorold and Brampton were also named as in the middle of working out agreements making developers pay all the electrical distribution costs.

"It's an overdue," the veteran commissioner-councillor told the Ontario Hydro man. Developers go into communities and have to pay for roads, curbs, services. "Why not hydro?" he enquired.

"I guess because that's the way it has always been," answered Mr. Hanley.

"People are being asked to contribute to somebody's wealth," under the present system Mr. Tyler charged. Mr. Hanley agreed "but said developers merely took the charges and put them on top of the house price, anyway."

"Should I worry about someone coming from Hamilton?" Mr. Tyler replied. There are people going to live in

the Reisman subdivision who don't even know of Acton. Haven't we got enough taxes here in Acton? We have had to pay all through the years for our hydro system and if it wasn't here they wouldn't be able to come here and hook onto it. Other places are also considering placing a tax on sub-stations, too.

Mayor Les Duby referred to the bitter experience the town had with the previous two subdivisions developed in the last 15 years where much of the cost burden fell on local taxpayers. Developers came and went and after the A. V. Roe layoffs the town was left with empty homes.

"Council has come up with a strong subdividers agreement and we expect developers to carry their own cost," he told the visitors. Acton is justified because the cost of land is so reasonable here. People come to save \$10,000 on a home.

"It's not a case of being anti-developer," the mayor continued but simply a means of

making the developer pay for what he is responsible. "Let's not be cautious and careful," he urged since this had influenced too many things in the past.

"We're not here to make dollars out of the subdividers," agreed Mr. Tyler who told the Ontario Hydro officials that they would scream to "high heaven" if they did.

The mayor stressed the government was strongly opposed to municipalities subsidizing industry unless there was a "depressed" label on the town. "We're a small town and with exceptional growth the assessment balance could go all to pieces," he asserted.

Would the subdividers' agreement affect the end price of homes in Acton? Quite likely, agreed the commission, but it would be mostly people from Toronto who will buy in the Reisman subdivision. The reason they come to Acton is the lower price for homes. "It is no problem to live here and work in

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SIX HUNDRED tulip bulbs were presented Tuesday night at council meeting to clerk administrator Joe Hurst and mayor Les Duby by representatives of the Acton Liberation Committee. Jake Kulken (left) and Hank Klein Dieters (right). They asked specifically that some of the gift tulips be planted at the canal. Money is being raised here through the sale of 2,500 bulbs. National proceeds go to purchase of a gift for Canada to commemorate the liberation of Holland by Canadian troops 25 years ago. — (Staff Photo)