

## Railway on track?

Last week's front page appeal for comments on train service in Acton produced plenty of talk and several replies to the questionnaire. One apt "Letter to the Editor" is found on another page.

M.P. Rud Whiting asked to know the opinions of Actonians, since he had received a letter from the Railway Transport Committee, indicated they had been informed the majority of Actonians were satisfied with freight and express service. (The letter did not mention the passenger service.)

It's expected a new presentation may be made by the town, although a public hearing has already been held when general dissatisfaction with the CN service was expressed.

Meanwhile, here's a repeat of last week's questionnaire.

If you want trains to stop here — the station to remain open — freight and express to go direct from Acton station — PLEASE fill it in and send it to the Free Press for forwarding to Mr. Whiting. Please sign your name.

Are you satisfied with CNR service in Acton for

1. Passengers.....
2. Express.....
3. Freight.....

### 1. PASSENGER SERVICE:

Have you had difficulty learning times of trains and buying tickets?

Do you ever use the passenger service?

Would you use it if there were better service?

Would you like to see a Kitchener to Toronto GO train service?

### 2. EXPRESS

Has your use of express service increased or decreased since the implementation of the "master agency" plan in Guelph on July 3, 1968?

Was your use of the service declining previous to that time?

Were you satisfied with the service prior to 1968?

Are you satisfied with the service since 1968?

### 3. FREIGHT

Has your use of freight service increased or decreased since the implementation of the Guelph master agency?

Was your use of the service declining previous to that time?

Were you satisfied with the service prior to 1968?

Are you satisfied with the service since 1968?

Do you think the CNR station should be fully opened again with an agency selling tickets and handling freight?

Do you feel the present lack of service in Acton is a hindrance to Acton's development?

Do you feel the service has been deteriorating?

## Are we dancing round ring when other boxer's gone?

Commenting on the latest step in the CN's phasing out of services at Acton, Mayor Duby commented he is sorry to see us losing a good service. "I'd like to see more trains but we have to see if there are people to get on them."

He explained that council had anticipated another hearing in Guelph as the next logical step. However, unknown to council, another survey has been taken in the town and only the bare results forwarded by letter. The industries are taken care of now and commercial firms have made satisfactory arrangements.

Our big argument, he recalled, was that we were in no way losing money — but we went down with the rest of them. "It's not our wish to give up

the fight, but we can't dance around the ring if the other boxer's gone."

He had expressed to council the feeling that M.P. Rud Whiting could not be expected to continue to press for a station service here, if he did not have the general backing of Acton people.

Now it's our turn to progress and grow here, said the mayor, and we're losing one of our most valued assets.

# Board chairman lashes back at education critics

Halton Board of Education chairman Fred Armitage lashed back at criticism of Board members' honoraria emanating from the last meeting of Esquering Council by charging it costs taxpayers two and a half times as much to pay municipal councillors as it does to pay Board members.

Sweeping pay cuts suggested by Esquering councillor Ken Marshall were criticized, as well as other suggestions cutting the cost of education in proposed by the quiet speaking chairman.

"The concern of ratepayers represented by some municipal educational costs at budget time consistent with their demand for programs, improved facilities and qualification of teachers during remainder of the year", Mr. Armitage declared in a prepared statement for the press, which dealt step by step with criticisms advanced by Mr. Marshall which were endorsed by Esquering Council at last meeting.

The suggestion that members of Board of Education cut their honoraria by 50 per cent with no mileage allowance destroyed by the fact that this comes from the one council which has its own honoraria this year, the chairman stated.

A survey of the honoraria paid members of council in Halton showed to the Board's satisfaction that their cost of 33c per capita as compared to 80c per capita paid to councillors was reasonable and in line. "There does seem to be behind the motion the naive belief that if a cost is scattered into smaller packages in many places, it is not as large," the chairman declared.

Following are the results of the survey by municipalities:

Municipality	Amount of Honoraria in 1969 Budget	Cost per Capita
Acton	\$10,200	\$2.13
Burlington	36,000	.44
Esquering	8,000	.22
Georgetown	25,000	.82
Milton	9,250	1.23
Nasaspwys	3,200	1.02
Oakville	20,520	1.23
County Council	31,300	1.23
Total Halton County Councils	\$143,370	1.23
Upper County Board of Education to Board Members	\$58,600	1.23

The suggestion that the use of existing buildings and temporary classrooms is not an acceptable one, Mr. Armitage said. The board is subject to the most stringent controls from other agencies. The amount of ceiling height, the volume of air conditioning, enclosed stairwells, fire escape all restrictions upon the accommodation used and the requirements in the community do not differ from those of the Board.

In the matter of salaries for staff, the board has always acted responsibly, the chairman insisted. This year we may experience difficulty because of the size of recent wage settlements in commerce and industry. The special factors surrounding some of these jobs are not applicable to teaching. However, the greatest difficulty will be the fact that many municipal employees have received salary settlements far in excess of what the Board offer.

"We just wonder how we can explain what councils mean when a policeman

receives \$8,550 (and rightly so) and a teacher with a B.A. in a High School with the same experience receives \$7,800 and a public school teacher receives \$6,200. In the light of settlements in other sectors of the economy, the suggestion that we 'hold the line' is really not a realistic contribution."

The board has a responsibility to control and derive maximum benefit from every educational dollar; it also has a responsibility that the quality of education be consistent with the needs of students and the demands of the community. The suggestion that the use of existing buildings and temporary classrooms is not an acceptable one, Mr. Armitage said. The board is subject to the most stringent controls from other agencies. The amount of ceiling height, the volume of air conditioning, enclosed stairwells, fire escape all restrictions upon the accommodation used and the requirements in the community do not differ from those of the Board.

The Board particularly resented the suggestion that the use of existing buildings and temporary classrooms is not an acceptable one, Mr. Armitage said. The board is subject to the most stringent controls from other agencies. The amount of ceiling height, the volume of air conditioning, enclosed stairwells, fire escape all restrictions upon the accommodation used and the requirements in the community do not differ from those of the Board.

In the matter of salaries for staff, the board has always acted responsibly, the chairman insisted. This year we may experience difficulty because of the size of recent wage settlements in commerce and industry. The special factors surrounding some of these jobs are not applicable to teaching. However, the greatest difficulty will be the fact that many municipal employees have received salary settlements far in excess of what the Board offer.

"We just wonder how we can explain what councils mean when a policeman receives \$8,550 (and rightly so) and a teacher with a B.A. in a High School with the same experience receives \$7,800 and a public school teacher receives \$6,200. In the light of settlements in other sectors of the economy, the suggestion that we 'hold the line' is really not a realistic contribution."

The suggestion that the Board of Education publish estimates and hold public meetings to hear objections and answer questions is one which all public bodies, including councils, might follow, Mr. Armitage agreed. He said the Board publishes its budget and distributes this information widely. The Halton Education Board (including budget) goes to every parent; the minutes of every council; every library, every council; public meetings have been held to hear objections who reads the newspaper should be advised to adopt the procedure, he advised.

He said that Boards of Education should confer with municipal councils in setting the budget is a satisfactory arrangement that councils will do the talking with the Board on their own statement continued.

Such intercommunication as is between public bodies is a good municipal government. However, he stated that this suggestion means that Board or Councils have any control over in any matter, then what is proposed is a legal fiction. Both are responsible directly to the electorates and have been so for over a century in this province.

The Halton County Board of Education is always prepared to receive and study constructive proposals, Mr. Armitage stated.

"The board cannot, however, deal with attacks carried by the press against its staff even though the proposing body claims these attacks to be "constructive suggestions", the statement concluded.

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Fifth Year. — No. 20

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1969

Eighteen Pages—75 Cents

## Mayor does slow burn on Queen's Park delay

Has anybody got a deck of cards? asked councillor Greer when only "Enquiries by Members" was left on the council agenda Tuesday by five minutes to nine.

"I wasn't dealt an opening bid so I'll pass," quipped card enthusiast Coats.

Councillor McKenzie thoughtfully shuffled two books of matches.

Seeing the evening's business concluded, no burning issues coming up and his fellow councillors in a genial mood, Les Duby took the opportunity to set a match to his slow burn on the town's persistent problems with Queen's Park.

Council is being blamed for

the hold-up on the Ontario Housing project here, but the mayor put the blame right on the provincial government's big stone doorstep.

The zoning by-law has us all tied up in knots.

Until the last amendment to the zoning by-law is approved, and the zoning by-law in effect, no further applications for zoning changes can be made to permit the senior citizens apartments or other upcoming projects.

The town had been assured various times the approval would be through any day. This has been going on for months—and it was two and a half years ago the zoning by-law procedure

began.

For Acton, said the mayor, planning has been a curse. It's been the worst thing that ever happened because we can't get co-operation from Queen's Park.

Just this week a developer, disgusted with delays, has termed Acton the worst place he'd ever tried to build. The mayor said he had tried to explain to him that cities with

larger staffs could finance planners who'd be knocking on ministers' doors every day.

We had only appointed or elected bodies, with the clerk writing letters and making phone calls, he explained.

I want the people to know why the town looks slow, he continued. He intends to take his tory to Halton member George Kerr.

## Council awaits public reaction

Council will wait to see the reaction from the Free Press questionnaire on CN railway service in Acton before taking any action. (The questionnaire is repeated in today's paper.)

A copy of the letter from the Railway Transport committee, which appeared in last week's Free Press, had been received by council, and councillors knew that Rud Whiting M.P. had contacted the Free Press asking for the opinion of the people on this matter. Mr. Whiting had re-affirmed his willingness to continue strong representation on Acton's behalf.

The clerk was asked to notify Mr. Whiting no action would be taken by town council until the reaction of the people was assessed.

Clerk-administrator Joe Hurst pointed out Mr. Whiting is going to the United Nations for two weeks in November and will be contacting the Board of Transport Committee after that.

"Some of the support we had before (at a previous hearing, when everyone but one expressed disfavor of CN proposals) is slipping away", the clerk mused.

Burst out deputy-reeve Ted Tyler "I'm sure this is behind it!" He outlined a chain of grievances in quick order: the railway's refusal to provide lights at crossings (requested following a death here); the lack of interest in passengers and the "atrocious" telegraph service. After 5 p.m. telegrams go to a

computer in Oakville, he said, "and I've lost several."

Mr. Tyler concluded with a thump on the table: "I think it would be a real good idea to rip the rails up and make highways for transport! We could even make money with the scrap iron!"

The mayor ended the discussion on a milder tone by expressing appreciation to Mr. Whiting. "But I'm reluctant to see him work hard on something that seems impossible."

The other items in the committee minutes which had helped raise Mr. Tyler's ire was a letter from the CN advising council that the railway engineers do not consider that there is much to be gained by flood lighting the train which is crossing the roadway. The letter suggested more adequate street lights which stay on during periods of darkness would serve the purpose just as well and that in any event it is unlikely that the Canadian Transport Commission would consider this work eligible for a grant and therefore the town would be required to pay the full cost.

This letter was in reply to a resolution submitted by the town recommending that all guarded crossings in the town have flood lights installed and actuated by the crossing protection mechanism.

No further action will be taken by council.



**We shall remember them**



SOLDIERS FROM the Lorne Scots Regiment stand smartly at the "present" at Remembrance Day services Sunday morning to honor

the dead of two wars. Grey, leaden skies provided a bleak accompaniment for the traditional service attended by about 300.

## Underground matters decided by council

Installation of water and sewer mains on Main St. N. for 346 feet past the present hydrant to accommodate the extension to Building Products of Canada plant was approved.

"We wouldn't do that for the industrial park," commented councillor Bill Coats.

"It's good business," replied deputy-reeve Tyler. "They're entitled to services."

"We'll recover it in taxes in the first year," smiled finance chairman Dr. Oakes.

"I still see an inconsistency," said Mr. Coats.

Another underground matter concerned approval given to Acton Curling Club to connect their new building on Churchill N. by lateral to the existing town sewer main. The curling club, in Esquering, has township approval and will make the connection at their own expense.

While another inconsistency in ruling was mentioned, councillors agreed the club is of benefit to the people of Acton and this is the practical approach. "They may soon be annexed, anyway," said Reeve Oakes.

Arrangements are to be made by the superintendent to complete the ditch from No. 7 highway on the east side of Churchill N. to the Monex property for water runoff from the new houses. Ditching from there to the town boundary will be completed when the builder is finished.

### Furnace fire

A faulty furnace at the home of L. (Paddy) Dick, 175 Longfield Rd. gave Acton Firefighters a run early Wednesday morning.

Smoke ejectors were used to remove smoke and fumes. The call came at 6:45 a.m.

## Merrier Christmas for Acton shoppers

Five Acton shoppers will receive an unexpected big boost in their weekly budget this Saturday at 3 o'clock, when the first draw is made in the merchants' Santa-Rama program. In front of the Y.M.C.A., names of five lucky winners will be drawn for vouchers worth \$30, \$25, \$20, \$15 and \$10.

They're redeemable for merchandise at the stores of any participating merchants—Nielsen's clothing, the Family Store, Manning Electric, Acton Home Furnishings, Dollar Daddy, A-B supermarket, Dills stationery, Benson's shoes, Gordon Hardware, Sports Corner, Lovell Bros., Acton Fabric Centre, IGA food store, the Holland Shop, Red and White store, Cameo Shoppe, Symon Hardware, Hinton's store, Lakeview discount centre and Custom Cleaners.

Starting this week, all these shops are giving out special coupons with purchases, which are being placed in boxes in these stores. All will be collected Saturday to go in the gala first draw. (If anyone misses the Saturday collection, the coupon will automatically remain for the draw the following week.)