

# Objections flood

(Continued from Page 1)

exception to the confidentiality of the aspects of the CN cost analysis. Mayor Smith and Mr. Hals joined in the objections.

Mr. Hals attacked the CN's attitude, saying the company assumed that it "can't lose" no matter what the outcome of the hearing is. He said the CN had failed to show how it had attempted to attract customers or cut costs (such as keeping a locomotive running all night, since it's difficult to start.)

Representing the province, David Duncan said a report due May 5 may show Guelph as a proposed satellite city with Toronto as the centre, which would have a bearing on whether Guelph would get GO train service.

## No needs data from CN

The presiding chairman David Jones took the CN to task for its lack of information regarding future transportation needs of Guelph and other areas concerned. He said while the committee was concerned about reported losses it was also important to determine the needs of the public.

Mr. Gonder of the CN was unable to supply the information requested, although he said surveys had been taken.

Director research for the leader of the opposition in the Ontario legislature, Clifford Brown claimed if the railways wish to discontinue mail service, they introduce facilities which discourage postal officials, and the scheduling of trains does not encourage mail service.

Wellington South MPP Harry Worton said the number of commuters boarding at Guelph has increased in recent years to between 30 and 40. He is opposed to the removal of the commuter and said Guelph would need a GO train by 1980.

## Deliberately "scuttling" service?

Perth MPP Hugh Edgihoffer said much has been done in recent years to discourage the use of rail transit in his area.

John Medcof, Mount Albert, said the CN should prove unprofitability "and it would appear that to do so, they have taken steps to arrange losses and then use the losses as an excuse to cancel services." He said a five-car train can be chartered for the Guelph to Toronto route for \$960 a day, compared to the CN per day cost of \$1,044. He felt either the cost was deliberately set too low, or existing figures are inaccurate.

Mr. Medcof accused the CN of deliberately trying to scuttle services, and he recommended market studies, co-ordinating train and bus schedules, competitive rates, and enlisting support of local rail enthusiasts.

## Road traffic would soar

A transport economist with the provincial government, Kirk Foley claimed the government would have to spend an immediate \$4,000,000 on highways if the approval was granted. The volume of traffic would increase 10 per cent if the commuter train stopped. Normal rate of traffic increase in the area is eight per cent.

John Walter of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers presented a brief saying discontinuance would misinterpret rail legislation: it was not the intention of parliament to denude the country of rail service.

Prof. W. Cotes, U. of G. school of landscape architecture, said the railways should recognize their social obligations, and called for provincial support.

Also opposing the change were W. S. Gordon of the United Transportation Union and Abraham Kellerman of the Borough of York.

## Acton's objection by letter

Dissatisfaction was general after the hearing in Acton January 13 when, despite unanimous objection, the Transport Commission announced the removal of station agents at Acton, Rockwood, and four other towns. Deterioration of service was stated by the town, Chamber of Commerce, development commission, high school students and M.P. Rud Whiting in what Actonians had thought was impressive proof. Their claims went unanswered, however, or given vague answers and those attending concluded the wishes of the people here were being ignored.

The only concession made, when the agent was removed, was that the station would be kept clean, heated and lighted as long as a passenger train stopped.

Acton did not make personal representation in Guelph since evidence had already been presented here, but a letter was sent to the C.T.C. opposing the discontinuing of the two commuter trains which stop in Acton. The town would be left without any train service whatsoever, the letter stated.

(A recent survey taken by the Chamber of Commerce found 32 per cent said they would use a commuter train to Toronto.)

## Goderich in similar position

Goderich is another town keenly interested in the outcome of Canadian Transport Commission hearings. Goderich service has been reduced to one dayliner, yet large amounts of freight leave the town each day.

Hearings were held in Owen Sound by the C.T.C. following application by the C.N.R. and C.P.R. to discontinue passenger service in the area bounded by Owen Sound, Goderich and Toronto.

Goderich town solicitor Ken Hunter reported to town council on the well-attended hearings and his comments are found in the town's weekly, the Signal-Star.

Mr. Hunter said representatives were present from provincial and federal governments and from railway unions, all speaking on the matter and all objecting to the proposal. "Nobody except the railways showed any support," he said. Later representatives from the bus lines showed alternate means of transportation were available.

Mr. Hunter said the chairman refused to allow cross-examination of the railways' claims of losses stating the losses had been established by the commission. He said the losses were just between the board and the railways. Mr. Hunter said he questioned this because no one was representing the public, but the chairman replied the board was representing the public. Mr. Hunter said he thought most of the people there felt the board could not represent the public.

He said an attempt was made to bring in the bill of rights as it was felt the board was not fairly representative of the people. "If we are not allowed to question the railway's figures, it's not fair to the people," he said.

Goderich, like Acton, feels the effects of the "continual downgrading of passenger service in the area."

## Refused test man charged

### Stop cars

One car backed into another Friday afternoon on Bower and Mill St.; the driver refused to take the breathalyzer test and was charged by O.P.P. The Acton man had \$10 damage to his rear bumper.

The other car, driven by Janet Haverly, Elmore Dr., had \$35 damage to the hood and headlight.

As a result of a Toronto bank robbery Wednesday afternoon of last week another roadblock was ordered for district police.

MILTON hospital can drop out of the limelight now, with a new board of directors and its two top nurses re-instated. There was plenty of controversy and no one seemed to know the whole story.

# NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

By Mary Ann Freuler

The last in the series of money making schemes by the grade 12 students was held last Thursday and Friday, in the form of a slave auction. Several girls volunteered for the honor, only to find themselves sold to the highest bidder. Teacher, John Cristello and student, Rae Swackhamer were auctioneers for the event.

Friday, the masters put their slaves to work carrying books, washing cars and all sorts of other duties. One especially cruel master, ordered his servants to roll an egg down the hall.

Here is a list of the slaves and their masters.

Sue Powadiuk - Paul Cooper; Susan Kidd, Julie Smith, Linda Perry - Rob Davidson; Bonnie McKenzie, Heather Thompson - Barry Buchanan; Paula Prycuik - Harry Oehlrich; Jean Elliot - John New; Cindy Lee - grade 13; Lyn Nielsen - Bob Smith; Brenda Dale - Mrs. Ott; Dolores Jordan - Judy Middleton; Cathy Smith, Karen

Atkinson, Karen Pierce, Wendy Hannal - Bob Lindsay; Joyce Denny - Susan Somerville; Hoiko Bollert, Lucienne Pratt, Barb Pratt - Rick Lambert; Chris Anderson, Sue Hachey, Chris Brunelle - Don Powadluk; Dianne Fisher - Paul Petric; Bonnie Bratow - Danny Manes; Sheri Johnston - Nigel Scott; Marg Slaven, Nancy Abram - Gord Morris; Dianne Timbers - Rae Swackhamer; Debbie Drinkwater - Dave Pink; Barb Browne - Alex Gray; Karen Manes - Jim Hobson; Sharon Froelich - Ray Denny.

The only males auctioned were our two auctioneers, who both went for high prices. Rae Swackhamer was purchased by the grade 13's. Mr. Cristello was thrown to the hands of several grade 11 students.

Last Thursday evening the high school auditorium was packed with people wishing to see the movie "True Grit" starring John Wayne and Glenn Campbell. Proceeds from this movie will go towards future student council projects.

## Chosen to perform in piano recital



On Saturday, Susan Shoemaker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Shoemaker and pupil of Dorothy Richardson Scull, performed the Stolzel Minuet in G Minor in the recital for intermediate music students given by the Canadian Trinity Teachers Association at the North York Public Library auditorium, Willowdale.

Other pupils of Mrs. Scull playing in this recital were Barbara Cherry of Erin and Michele Mundy of R.R. 1, Georgetown. All performers had been previously auditioned and received concert rating.

## Longest bus trip in county for Acton vocational students

The longest journey to school for any students in the entire county is made by Acton students to General Brock high school.

And next year, when occupational classes at Milton and Georgetown high schools will be dropped, even more will be making the long trip from here.

Next September occupational students from North Halton high schools will all be transported to Burlington's General Brock high—a 50-minute bus journey and 25 minutes longer than the maximum recommended by the department of education.

A school bus will leave Acton around 8 a.m. with the Acton students, then travel east to Georgetown to pick up about 40 students there, then south to Milton to collect the remainder and then to Burlington, arriving at General Brock some 45 or 50 minutes later.

It will be the longest journey for students anywhere in the county.

The 36-mile trip becomes necessary when the board sets up a new program in vocation education next September. Occupational classes at Georgetown and Milton will be dropped, and the 100 students

involved will go to General Brock where there will be a wider range of subjects.

There are already about 20 Acton students going to General Brock. Technical courses for Acton students will still be available in Georgetown.

When the new term starts, General Brock will provide a three-year course instead of the current two-year course.

Ken Armstrong, superintendent of special education, says the vocational program at Georgetown and Milton had been very limited and the change is part of a general program of expansion.

## Official visit to Walker Lodge

There were over 50 members and 42 visitors at Walker Lodge Monday evening for the annual official visit of the District Deputy Grand Master, the Rt. Wor. Bro. Edwin Wilson of Credit Lodge, Georgetown, with his district chaplain the Rev. A. H. McKenzie of Acton and district secretary Bob Lawson of Georgetown. Dinner was served in the lodge rooms.

# Bonspiel, trophy presentations end high school curlers' season

The Acton High School Curling Club completed a very successful season last Wednesday, April 8 with a closing bonspiel and dinner at the Acton Curling Club. Special guests were principal and Mrs. Ted Hansen and Joe Hurst. Trophy donors Tom Watson and Jack Ridley were unable to attend.

Rene Watson and a group of curlers' mothers served the meal. Mark Hurst and his rink consisting of Glen McKenzie, Cheryl Leo and Denise Drinkwater were first in the Bonspiel with 36 points, and received leather wallets donated by Norman Braida of Beardmore & Co. Tied for second place with 32 points were rinks skipped by Anne Watson, Steve Van Fleet and George McPhail. All curlers received prizes, some of which were donated.

Anne Watson and her rink,

consisting of Elaine Johnson, Neil Anderson and Trev Patrick received the Watson Trophy for top points in the season's play, and Anne herself was awarded the Ridley trophy and crest for Most Valuable Player.

At the conclusion of the presentations, coach Nan Hurst extended thanks for the donations of prizes, food and trophies to Beardmore and Co., Symon Hardware, Acton Pharmacy, Ted Tyler Sr., Tom Watson, Jack Ridley and the mothers of the curlers. She also expressed regret that several senior students would be unavailable to the High School Curling Club next season, but hoped for new members and as successful a season as was enjoyed this year. The coach also praised the two CWOSSA teams that represented Acton District High School in competition.



AWARD FOR top points in high school season play went to Anne Watson's rink with Neil Anderson, Elaine Johnson and Trev Patrick.—(Staff Photo)



FIRST PLACE rink at the high school bonspiel: Glen McKenzie, Mark Hurst, Denise Drinkwater, Cheryl Lee.—(Staff Photo)



MOST VALUABLE player award at the High School bonspiel was presented by coach Nan Hurst to Anne Watson.—(Staff Photo)

## Free Press briefs

R. L. GRADE 8 students are starting to make plans for their trip to Ottawa in June.

GRADE 12 students are off to Washington this Thursday.

THE GOLF season has started. Acton Meadows opened Sunday.

OVER 200 applied to work in the new Foodland store for positions advertised in last week's Free Press.

SOME OF THE Acton students at Lakeshore Teachers College are practice teaching this week back home.

NORTH HALTON music director Ken Harrison is preparing a school children's choir for a special church service in May.

LIBERATION TULIP bulbs planted last fall are coming up these days, reminding gardeners of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Holland.

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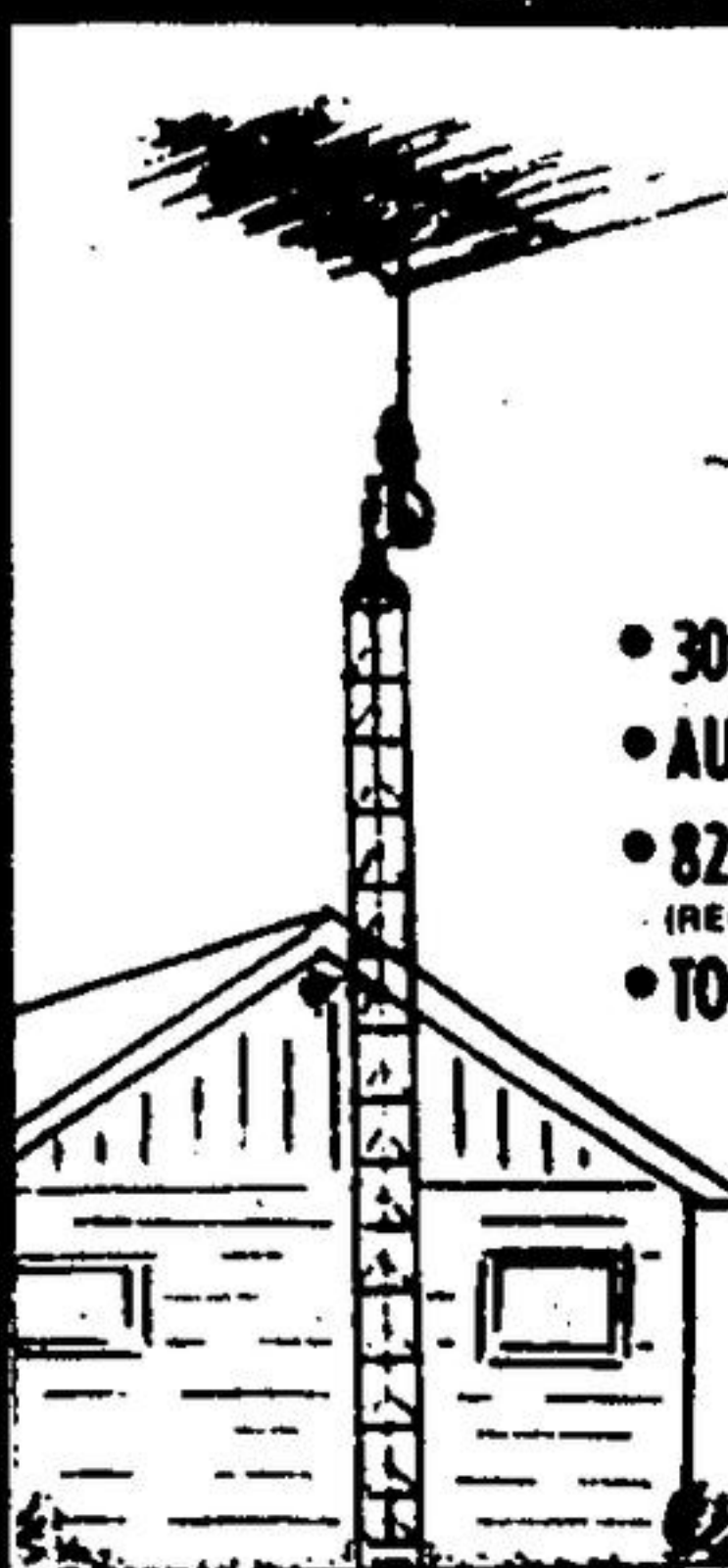
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