

Fairy Lake claims life of six-year-old Debbie Wardle

The body of six-year-old Debbie Wardle was recovered from deep water about seven feet from the shore of Fairy Lake Saturday evening after a five hour search through Lakeview subdivision and dragging operations by firefighters, police, E.M.O. members and volunteers.

Searchers in the Wellington E.M.O. rescue craft located the little girl's body only a few feet from where her brother, Rick S, said she had entered the water and never came out.

Her running shoes, found only a few feet away earlier in the evening supplied tragic evidence that the pretty young grade one student had gone into the water at a point where the shoreline drops precipitously. Debbie was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wardle, Elmore Drive.

Earlier, searchers combed the subdivision in the hope she was playing somewhere else. Children assured the father, Robert Wardle, that the girl had been paddling but came out of the water and gone elsewhere.

Her body was located at approximately 12 minutes after midnight by men in the E.M.O. boat after the area had been dragged several times without results.

For Bob Wardle who stayed with the search until his daughter's body was found, it was the culmination of over six hours of anxiety. He arrived home from work about 4.50 in the afternoon and asked Debbie's whereabouts. Her five-year-old brother Ricky told him Debbie had been paddling in the lake at the foot of Elmore Drive and Elizabeth Drive.

When he investigated further, children told him Debbie had been paddling but had come out of the water and gone elsewhere.

5 hour search to locate child

He became more worried when the little girl did not come home for supper and notified Constable Roy Wood of Acton O.P.P.

Further questioning of five-year-old Rick brought out the fact that he had been with Debbie when she paddled at the lake and Mr. Wardle took him there. Rick pointed out where his sister had gone in the water.

With this information Constable Wood borrowed a canoe from a nearby resident and the two men searched the shoreline of the lake for some trace of Debbie. At 7.45 Constable Wood summoned Acton

firefighters who joined police in the search with row boats.

Three local scuba divers, Paul Braida, John Hartman and Ken Boudreau, members of the Guelph and District Underwater Association, were called to help. The trio searched until they were forced to quit at dusk because of poor underwater visibility.

When attempts to reach Halton E.M.O. headquarters were unsuccessful, the Wellington branch was contacted and Arthur Harris, Dave Harris, Brian Boarder and Jim Dales, all of Rockwood, answered the request for aid. Floodlights were set up and the team of trained men assisted firefighters and police in the search.

Meanwhile, as a precaution, Constable Wood organized a volunteer search party which covered every house and garage in the subdivision as well as fields east of the lake and property behind Knox Avenue

where it was possible the little girl might be. When she wasn't found the Constable knew he was dealing with a tragedy.

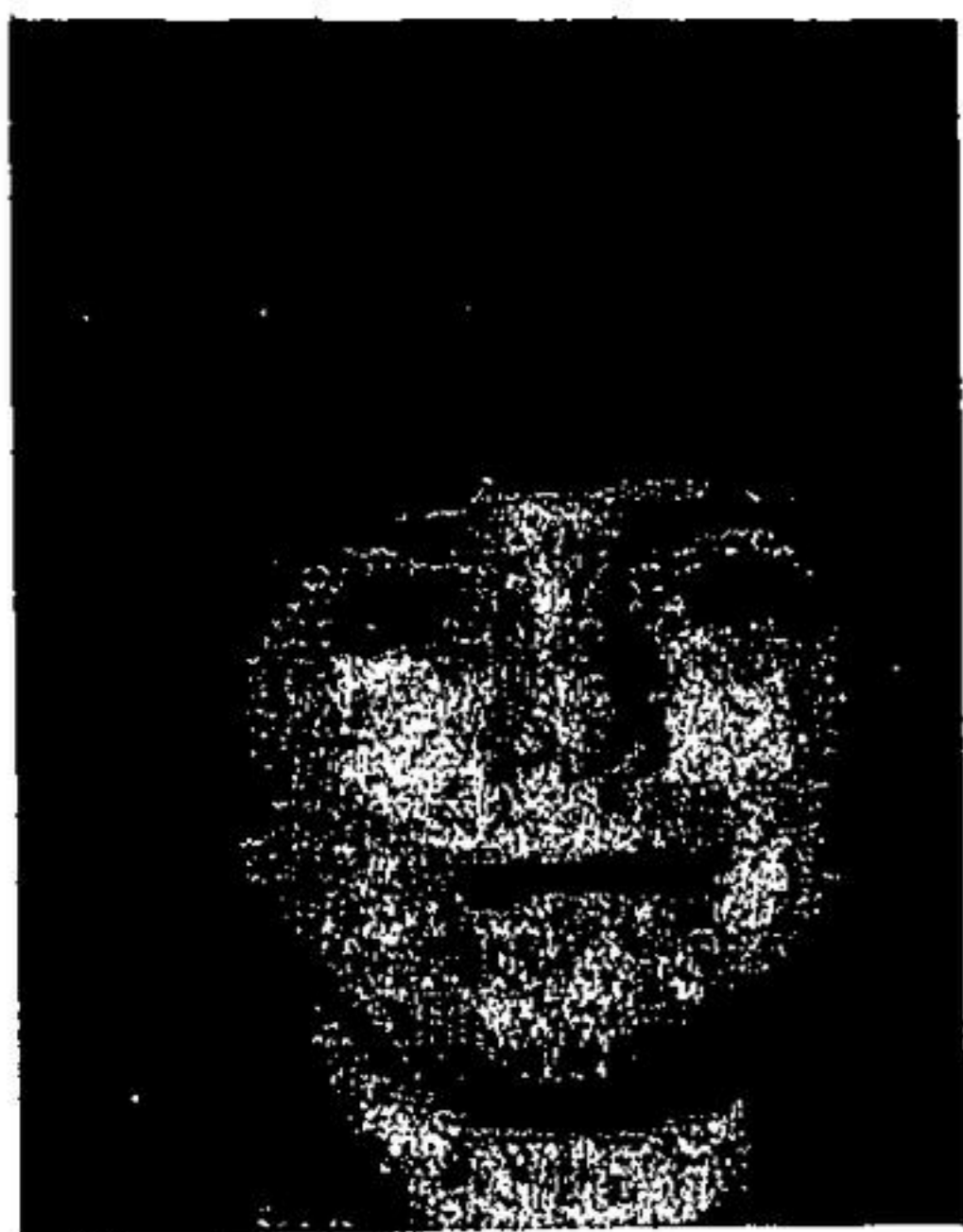
Spectators in the hundreds lined the banks and motorists lined cars up and shone their headlights across the lake to assist in the search. Searchers paddled up and down the lake following the drag lines for four hours before the body of the girl was located.

It is thought that Debbie slipped while she was paddling and sank in about 10 feet of water. She was last seen at home around 4.30 Mr. Wardle told The Free Press.

The drowning—the second in the family in the last 10 years—was a shock to residents of the neighborhood and the many who watched and assisted in the search operations.

The Wardle family moved to Acton from Eden Mills in November to a house

(Continued on Page 3)



DEBBIE WARDLE



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Weather outlook

COOLER

Official Toronto weather bureau forecast for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday indicates a little cooler weather is coming.

It will be: "Mostly fair with little or no precipitation; lows 45 to 50, highs around 70." The weather report was

provided by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food office in Milton, where three-day forecasts are available to farmers three times weekly. New official forecasts are received by the ODAF each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Teachers walk out on Board

Representatives of Halton's 802 secondary school teachers walked out of a meeting with school board representatives last night (Tuesday) after failing to come to agreement on any of the issues raised.

Meetings are being held to negotiate two types of items — discussable items and negotiable items. The meeting bogged down during discussable items. Negotiable items have not yet been reached.

Discussable items include class size, pupil-teacher ratio, etc. Negotiable items include salary, special allowances, maternity leave, etc.

As they discuss each item, members of the negotiating teams must make one of three decisions — to agree, defer, or refer for further study.

No agreement was reached last night. Following the meeting a statement was prepared on behalf of the teachers, signed by Hugh Childs, chairman of the negotiating committee, and Paul Martindale, president of the Halton County Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation. It reads:

"Negotiations between the Halton County Board of Education and the Halton county division of O.S.S.T.F. have ceased. In six months of discussions, the board has refused to negotiate any items pertaining to quality education and as of this date have not begun to negotiate salary."

This morning (Wednesday) the county board of education called a press conference to explain their position.

Board chairman Doug Wood says the board is ready to meet with the teachers any time, but since the teachers broke off the negotiations, it is up to them to set a date for the next meeting.

He explains discussable items on the agenda included class size, pupil-teacher ratio, secretarial ratio in schools, criteria for the appointment of department heads, audio-visual

technicians, educational leaves and province-wide moratorium on the hiring of teachers.

He pointed out the teachers' negotiating committee wished to discuss high school class sizes only while the board felt class size from kindergarten to grade 13 should be considered, in an integrated program.

Mr. Wood in his press release said:

"This issue at stake is not a vocalized salary dispute between the Toronto board of education and its secondary school teachers. The moratorium isn't really only the trustees' reaction to the O.S.S.T.F. pink letter on the Toronto board. The basic issue being discussed in Toronto with direct implications for the province is 'who shall manage the schools of Ontario?'"

"The Ontario school trustees' council believes that trustees, subject to the discipline of the electorate every two years, are responsible and accountable for the management policies of the schools."

School board members at the

meeting included chairman Doug Wood, salary negotiating committee chairman Fred Armitage and board member Tom Watson.

(The teachers' decision to leave the meeting does not necessarily mean they intend to resign en masse, as the final date for submission of resignations was May 31.)

Tree stump fence on fire

Acton Firefighters were called to extinguish a fire that started in a tree stump fence behind the home of Del Jordan, 248 McDonald Blvd., Monday night about 11.30.

Cause of the fire is unknown.



100 tomorrow

C. K. BROWNE, an institution in Acton, reaches the century mark on Thursday, June 4, and friends are throwing a public birthday party at St. Alban's parish hall. — (E. Taylor Photo)



SPORTING a new face in brilliant color is the town water tower on Main St. S. Painted light blue, the letters "ACTON" stand out in dark red with black trim. — (Staff Photo)

Students clean up

Grade 8 students from the Robert Little school are staging a clean-up campaign along the school creek and the shores of Fairy Lake this week.

Principal G. McKenzie told The Free Press students broached the idea some time ago and a personal tour of the areas convinced him it was necessary. He has set aside Thursday and Friday for the clean-up campaign while other grade 8 students are visiting Ottawa.

Students at the high school are also considering staging their own clean-up campaign on the lake when they have available time.



We've got some of the best plumbing in Ontario-ri-ar-ioo

AERATION TANKS attract Mayor Duby, Ontario's Mr. Clean George Kerr and O.W.R.C. director John Barr at the opening of Acton's

attractive new water pollution control plant. George Kerr told guests Acton is leading the fight against pollution. — (Staff Photo)

Council affirms no by-law restricts apt. height to 35 ft.

The general belief that the height of apartment buildings in Acton is restricted to 35 feet was one topic for Acton council last Tuesday following a receipt of a resolution from planning board recommending four objections to the proposed 70 ft. height by-law be refused.

There is no by-law now restricting the height of apartments, it was explained, and the 70 ft. ceiling will restrict rather than increase the height of buildings in an RM zone.

Mayor Duby said he could understand people in the neighborhood of apartments objecting to the 70-foot height since it would deprive them of privacy they could still retain with lower buildings. He also thought there could be a fire danger in spite of what engineers said and fireproof design.

Councillor Earl Masales maintained fire protection was now built into tall buildings. The belief that special fire fighting equipment was necessary to reach tall buildings was also a fallacy, council agreed after discussion.

Clerk Joe Hurst told council other municipalities allowed highrises with fire fighting equipment similar to Acton's. Councillor McKenzie agreed, noting no one would be allowed to build unless they meet the Fire Marshal's specifications.

Deputy Reeve Ted Tyler said people were under the assumption no one could build over 35 feet and asked if those on existing houses were being deprived of rights when it was allowed.

Reeve Frank Oakes

maintained, however, that people must live with changes in the times. He said his own neighborhood is a far cry from the quiet streets that once existed prior to the community centre being built.

"We had to put up and shut up," he said. "People are having

a chance to voice their objections over this. That's more than what I got."

Council accepted the planning board recommendations rejecting objections to the 70 foot height, one which was based on the interpretation of the word "about".



... and the water's fine

PLEASING INSPECTION for sewer and water chairman Ted Tyler Jr. is the clarity of the water from Acton's new water pollution control plant. It is 98 per cent pure. — (Staff Photo)

Lakeview residents start grading fund

Residents of Lakeview subdivision are conducting a canvass to raise funds for grading of the area along Elizabeth Drive fronting on Fairy Lake, this week.

A meeting tonight (Wednesday) at the home of John Shadbolt, Tidey Ave., will

start the canvass off. All homes will be canvassed.

Prices have been obtained on grading by parks board chairman Peter Marks and residents, upset by last weekend's drowning, hope to have the fill along the lake graded to eliminate the sudden drop. It is expected to cost \$4,000.

Annexation sought by planning board

Planning board has recommended to council that preparations for an application for annexation of part of Esquesing township be started immediately. A joint meeting of council and planning board will be arranged as soon as possible.

Annexation proposals will be based on previous recommendations which have been considered by the planning board.

(Acton planning board recently sought a meeting with Esquesing planning board on the subject of annexation, without success.)

This action was precipitated by the attendance at the last meeting of C. F. Leatherland, representing Joseph Kirally. Mr. Leatherland said that Mr. Kirally

intended to apply to the Ontario Municipal Board for annexation of his property, 226 acres on Churchill Road North, into the town of Acton.

The planning board asked that the developer meet with other property owners in the area and mutually make a request to either council or the planning board.

Frank Simioni will fill the vacancy on the board caused by the resignation of Bob Drinkwater. Planning board's recommendation was approved by council.

Present at the meeting Thursday, May 21 were chairman Sid Saitz, vice chairman Meb Blow, Earl Masales, Vic Bristow and Paul Martindale.

Ask crime, sex books be banned from jail

The most recent Grand Jury inspection of Halton County Jail in Milton recommended magazines provided for prisoners should be restricted to those not dealing with crime, sex, gambling or detective stories.

While the Jury felt the building was too old to make drastic changes relative to lighting and ventilation, it felt the items should be looked into. They noted while staff appeared appreciative of the

improvements made the facilities were still not adequate.

The report noted clothing and menu for prisoners seemed adequate and kitchen facilities good but suggested some program should be instituted to occupy prisoners' time more constructively. The Jury did not see anybody there who was being improperly held or being refused their trial and the jury commended the superintendent and staff.

Decoration Day parade, service

The town's former citizens and especially servicemen will be prominent in the memories of Actonians this Sunday, when the annual Decoration Day service is again held at Fairview cemetery.

As usual, families will plant shrubs or flowers or place cut bouquets; members of service groups will plant scarlet geraniums on the graves of former members and Legionnaires will plant geraniums on the graves of all servicemen.

Pioneer cemetery, St. Joseph's cemetery and Fairview cemetery are all visited during the day, now held annually the first Sunday in June.

After a parade through the centre of town, the interdenominational service will be held at Fairview cemetery. Acton Citizens Band will be joined by the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band.

Parade marshal is Max Storey. The Rev. Walter Fosbury of Churchill community church will give the address and other clergymen assisting will be the Rev. Harry Dawson, the Rev. S. Thoman and the Rev. M. Campbell. The service begins at three o'clock.

Will pass

A by-law imposing operating restrictions will be passed before the Golden Horseshoe Drayway opens later this month, Reeve George Currie assured Sixth Line resident Peter Bowman at Monday night's council meeting.

Clerk-treasurer Delmar French also told Mr. Bowman he has notified the clerks of all bordering municipalities of the township's proposed agricultural holding by-law so that they may have the opportunity to raise objections.