

# High school to introduce semester system

A new system of semesters and credits will be adopted at Acton high school next September, and parents were invited to the school two nights last week to hear about the innovations. Students, teachers and time will be put together in an entirely new way as the school switches from a curriculum-centred to a student-centred system.

### Here's how

The school year will be divided into two completely separate semesters, of about 20 weeks each. Thus, courses will change at the end of January.

Each school day will be divided into six hour-long periods. Four go for subjects, one for lunch and the sixth for one of a variety of suggestions.

Students taking four courses each semester will end the school year with eight credits.

### No more exams

Formal exams? There won't be any. Instead, testing and other forms of evaluation will take place on a continuous basis throughout the year.

### Four classes

Just four classes a day minimum, of one hour each, opens new areas for teachers less restricted by bells. They are looking forward to a broader program and more flexibility for teaching methods. From the least motivated student to the most motivated, all will derive extra benefit from longer classes and fewer subjects per semester.

Of course laboratory classes, industrial arts and home ec., which involve set-up and clean-up time, will benefit most.

### Interest boost

All classes will be more intensive, with interest maintained with a short-term goal. The 10-month haul is a long one. Interest often sags by

spring. Now a new term will start in February with a new surge of student enthusiasm.

### Discuss scheme

The staff discussed this new scheme thoroughly before presenting it to the board, which has approved it.

Not many schools in Ontario operate this way — just a few in Toronto and area. The system was pioneered in Alberta, where practically all schools are involved in the semester system. The staff here think there will be many benefits. Parents at the meetings last week discussed problems that could crop up but the staff still think the complete change at the high school will give better results.

To gear the school year toward a brief peak at exam time is wrong, advocates of the system feel.

### Continuous effort

Last minute cramming and exam pressure will be replaced by continuous effort throughout the semester. Failure will never depend on one exam, flunked by a

student who can't work effectively under pressure. Surely this even tempo of attainment will produce a more successful employee when a student goes into the world, teachers think.

With just four hours in classes required, what about the rest of the day? One hour is for lunch. In the sixth hour, students will be encouraged to take a fifth subject.

### Speed system?

It's conceivable that a student could get five credits each semester — 10 a year; then attend summer school and have his graduation diploma in three years! Or, slightly more likely, finish grade 13 in four years by taking five subjects each semester instead of the required four. But the teachers don't expect too many will take advantage of this possibility.

There are other suggestions for the day's sixth hour. Students may become involved in clubs or special activities. (Included is assistance to public school teachers, which is already underway here.)

They may do special projects or research, generated by the regular program. There will be supervised study.

They may be busy in the anticipated new resource centre. They will have access to typewriters, business machines, laboratory and other equipment. They may follow up a subject they are not currently taking. Each subject means one credit. Students will be required to take

a minimum of eight credits each year — four each semester. Need 32 credits

32 credits are required for the principal to recommend granting of a secondary school graduation diploma (grade 12). Seven grade 13 credits will be required for the granting of an Honour Graduation Diploma (grade 13).

### Obituary

## Mrs. J. DeBaie

Following a short illness Mrs. Elizabeth Kathleen DeBaie of R. 4 Acton died in Milton District Hospital on Dec. 24. She was born in West Phallin, Germany.

In 1914 she came to Canada and lived in Springhill, Nova Scotia for the next 48 years. On March 3, 1939 she married John DeBaie and continued to live in Springhill until she moved to her last home at R. 4 Acton in 1962.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Springhill, N.S. on Dec. 29. Interment was in St. John's Cemetery. Pallbearers were Ronald and James Bryan and Richard Halverson of Springhill, N.S., nephews; Johnny and Roger Hindwood of Parrsboro, N.S., grandsons; Gary Kennedy and James Bird of Springhill, N.S.

Surviving are her husband John, daughters Phyllis (Mrs. John Cliffe) of Springhill, N.S., Edith (Mrs. Don Wood) of Parrsboro, N.S., Beverley (Mrs. Bill Brown) of Amherst, N.S., Dorothy (Mrs. Dennis Shubert) of Acton and son Donald of Milton. Also surviving are brothers Arthur and Erwin Halverson and sister Dorothy Bryan of Springhill, N.S.

Myriad details have been foreseen and worked out by the staff.

For instance, in the first and second years one credit each semester may be selected from each area of instruction, for a well-rounded term. The areas are: Communications — English, drama, French, German, theatre arts.

Social sciences—history, economics, Man in Society, world politics, geography, law.

Pure and Applied Sciences—mathematics, science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, biology, typing, office practice, accounting, general business, consumer finance, data processing, business machines.

Arts and physical education—physical education, industrial arts, home economics, art.

Both advantages and disadvantages come quickly to the mind of students and parents, and these were tossed around at

meetings in the school last week.

### Forget subject?

With math or French only studied half the year, won't the student forget? It's been proven that the "forgetting curve" evens off after two months—just the usual summer vacation time.

Transfers may be a problem. There'll be more work for office staff, guidance staff.

But students who drop out have two times each year to "drop in" again. Missed courses can be repeated more easily.

This giant step to a semester system leaves room for the next obvious giant step—to the trimester system. Much mooted is the idea schools should be operating all year round. (Neighbors, Acton District High and the University of Guelph would then be neatly aligned for graduates.)

But, one giant step at a time!

## Return Wilf McEachern Commission chairman

Acton Hydro Commission returned Wilf McEachern as chairman and Ted Tyler Sr. vice chairman at the inaugural meeting of the commission Thursday.

Committees were also returned intact from last year with the vice-chairman and Commissioner Tyler on finance and Commissioner Orville Brown and Mayor Les Duby on property.

All members of the Commission were returned in the year's municipal elections. All were present for the meeting with chairman McEachern presiding.

## Fined \$200

Michael McCristall of Acton, pleading guilty to a charge of failing to remain at the scene of an accident, was fined \$200 in court in Milton January 11.

He was charged following an accident on Main St. N. in August in which Laurie Lynn Shaw, eight, was killed.

### Go ahead

Wife: Just suppose we wives should go out on strike? Husband: Go right ahead. I've got a peach of a strikebreaker in mind.



INAUGURAL MEETING of Acton Hydro Commission Thursday evening made no change in last year's committee line-up. Wilf McEachern was returned as chairman, Ted Tyler Sr. vice chairman. Secretary Audrey Urquhart is flanked by chairman McEachern,

right, and the vice chairman on her left in this photo. Standing are Commissioner Bob MacArthur, Mayor Les Duby, Commissioner Orville Brown and Superintendent Doug Mason.—(Staff Photo)

## Church Services

**MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
81 Maple Ave., Georgetown  
Pastor:  
Rev. Robert C. Lohmes

Here is our sincere invitation to the whole family to attend church.  
SUNDAY, JAN. 24th, 1971  
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School. All ages.  
11.00 a.m.—Morning Service.  
7.00 p.m.—Evening Evangel. Georgetown 877-6665

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**  
**KNOX CHURCH, ACTON**  
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. — Minister  
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master

SUNDAY, JAN. 24th, 1971  
9.45 a.m.—Church School for Kindergarten through Grade 8.  
9.45 a.m.—Minister's Church Membership Class for Teen-agers.  
11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship. Sermon theme, "Who Fills the Role of God for You?"  
7.30 p.m.—Moderator Evars in Milton Church. Special Youth Forum after. Everyone Most Welcome

**BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
Minister:  
Rev. P. Brouwer, B.A., B.D. Acton, Ontario

SUNDAY, JAN. 24th, 1971  
10.00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service. Nursery and pre-school Sunday School.  
11.10 a.m.—Sunday School.  
2.30 p.m.—Afternoon Worship Service.  
7.30 p.m.—Teen Meet at the church.  
Tuesday evening, 7 - 10 p.m.—Catechism Classes.  
Come, worship and study with us to be better equipped to serve God and men.  
Everyone Welcome

**ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
80 Mill Street W. Founded 1842  
Pastor:  
Rev. Frank M. Byrne, B.A., B.Th.  
Parsonage:  
Cheltenham 416-838-2068  
Church Office 853-0860

Wednesday — 7.30 p.m. choir practice; 8.30 p.m., Bible discussion.  
Friday, 7 p.m.—B.H.F.  
SUNDAY, JAN. 24th, 1971  
9.45 a.m.—Morning Worship. "I am the Bread of Life."  
11.00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
Thursday, January 28—Church Supper. Annual business meeting.  
A Cordial Invitation To All

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH**  
Minister:  
The Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.  
Director of Music:  
Dr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, JAN. 24th, 1971  
10.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
10.00 a.m.—Nursery.  
10.00 a.m.—Church School to Grade 4.  
11.00 a.m.—Church School (Grade 5-8)  
We Welcome You and Your Family to Take Part in the Life and Worship of Trinity

**EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE**  
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road  
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor  
853-2715

SUNDAY, JAN. 24th, 1971  
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
7.00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.  
Speaker, Evangelist Robert Switzer speaking, both services.  
Remember our "special treat" Switzer Brothers Quartette, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer Service and Bible Study.  
Thursday, 6.00 - 7.30 p.m. — Crusaders.  
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Christ Ambassadors.  
Ecc. 8:11-12 — Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Tho' a sinner do evil 100 times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him.

**CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Churchill Road North  
Minister:  
The Rev. A. Walter Fosbury, B.A., B.D.  
124 Tildey Ave.  
Phone 853-2386

SUNDAY, JAN. 24th, 1971  
11.00 a.m.—Worship Service and Church School. Sermon subject, "Is the Church Necessary in Our Modern World?"  
Visitors are Welcome at all Church Gatherings at the Church on the Hill

**THE CHURCH OF ST. AN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN**  
Corner  
Willow St. and St. Alban's Dr.  
Rev. H. J. Dawson, B.A., B.Th.

SUNDAY, JAN. 24th, 1971  
Epiphany III  
9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.  
10.30 a.m.—Masses.  
10.30 a.m.—Church School & Nursery.  
7.30 p.m.—Annual Vestry.  
Wednesday, 10 a.m. — Holy Communion.

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