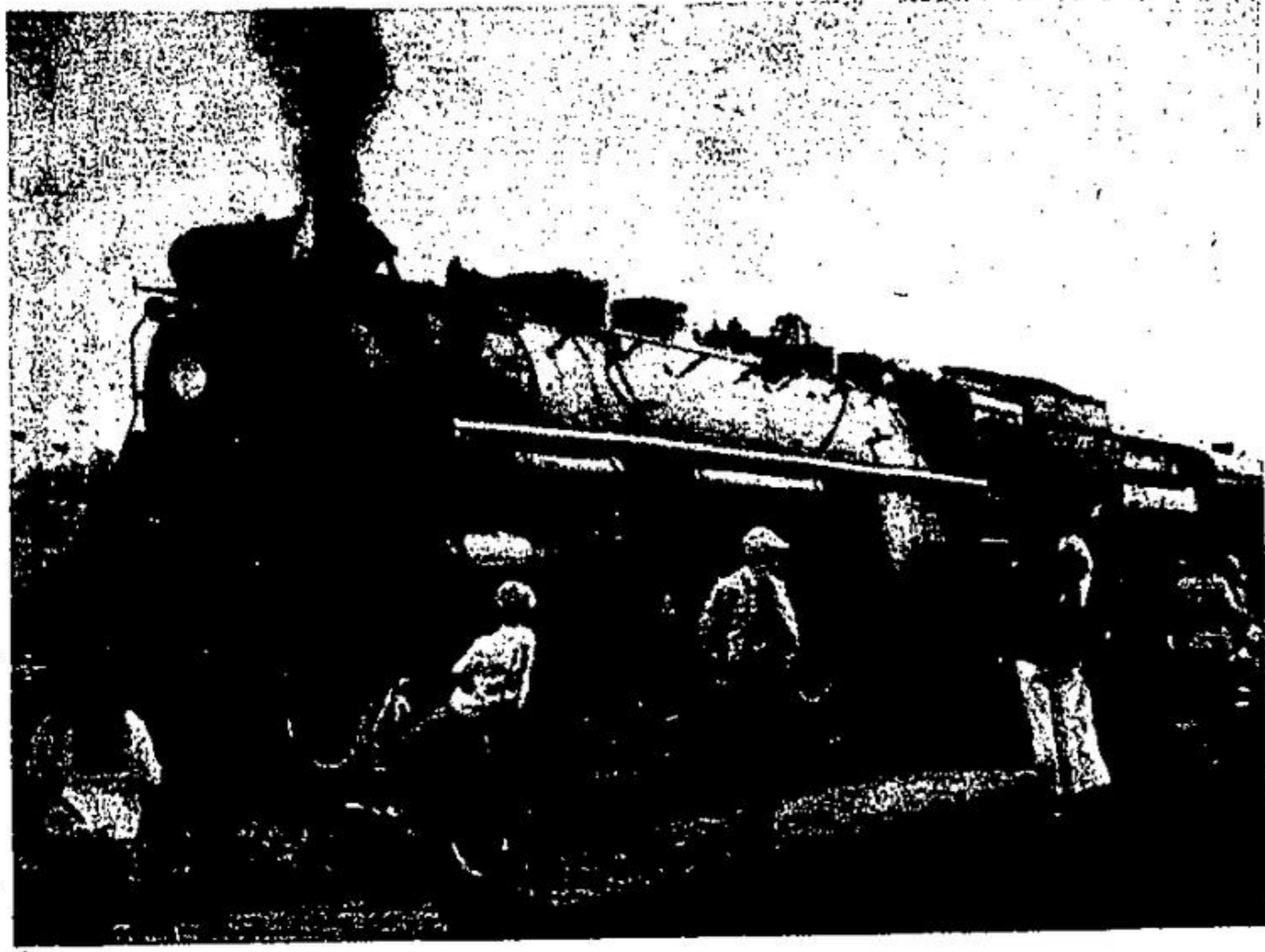


# Steam giant 6218 soon to retire



OLD 6218 is seen on its last run through Acton with crowds of curious spectators inspecting the puffing giant.—(Staff Photo)

Canadian National's famed 6218 — the only operating steam locomotive in Canada — is soon to make its last run.

The giant locomotive — which made its last trip steaming through Acton in September, 1970 — will be withdrawn from revenue service March 24. Weighing 340 tons it has been available to railway clubs and community organizations since 1964.

### Need repairs

Soaring operating costs, lack of qualified operating and maintenance personnel and the need for extensive boiler and running gear repairs are blamed for the retirement. No. 6218 will likely be taking a number of CN-sponsored trips from Montreal and Toronto.

Built by Montreal Locomotive Works in 1942, 6218 represents the last of a breed of locomotive which once numbered 200 on the CN roster. It's a giant—measuring 85 feet, coupler to coupler. No. 6218 is the last of five steam locomotives used by CN for special excursions, when diesels took over all regular operations across the CN system.

Shrine at Guelph  
First excursion engine of the diesel era was the northern type

6187 which is now on permanent display at an outdoor shrine adjoining the CN station in Guelph. It was enshrined there in 1964.

The popularity of the steam locomotive among the people, however, convinced CN management that nostalgic memories of the steam era should continue for a few more years. So they refitted 6218 at the repair shops in Stratford and runs continued.

When steam excursions terminate this summer, the five steam locomotives will have accounted for some 150 special trains. Almost 90,000 enthusiasts have taken trips behind the vanishing giants.

No. 6218 will likely be placed somewhere for appropriate public view since it is the last of more than 4,000 steam locomotives once on CN's registers, but neither the where nor when have been decided yet. It is not for sale despite repeated requests from railway clubs, individuals and communities.

## New speaker at NDP noms

Stephen Lewis will be unable to attend the nominating convention of the Halton West New Democratic Party on Friday Feb. 5.

Pat Lawlor, MPP for Lakeshore, will take Mr. Lewis' place as guest speaker at the convention to be held at Bay Centre Hall, 1325 Plains Road E., Burlington.

# Oakes and Harris warn grants should continue

To cut out county grants to charitable organizations in Halton County would be a step against equalizing service across the county, Milton Reeve, Ron Harris told the committee of Social and Family Services, of which he is chairman at a meeting Friday.

He deplored a move recommended by the finance committee to cut out the grants. He said the county had agreed to grant \$4,000 in a one shot effort to Georgetown Red Cross so they could offer a home care service for North Halton.

### More expensive

Harris explained the Halton County Health Unit would have to set up the program if Red Cross did not, and it would be far more expensive to do it through the Health Unit.

Oakville Reeve Al Masson who is finance committee chairman and a member of the Social and Family Services Committee, told the committee the move wasn't an attempt to "chintz or be miserably." He said the move

was recommended to fight duplication of grants. He said if a community wanted a service they should pay for it and if they didn't want it, why should the county obligate them to pay for it.

### "Super government"

Burlington Reeve Jim Swanborough agreed equalization across the county was important and in the future the county would be the "super government" and be responsible for equalization.

Mr. Swanborough suggested "the committee should look at the whole ball of wax and study it." Reeve Masson welcomed the discussion on the matter. "I want to see what you birds think about this," he commented. He criticized the county policy of giving a few bucks here and a few there without any policy or principle. He said there were too many groups depending on handouts that should stand alone and be self-supporting. "If they want to do it, let them pay for it," Masson said.

**Damaging effects**  
Warden Oakes said if passed "the move would have most damaging effects and we would regret it, I'm sure," he noted. "Finance committee never even looked at the effect on agriculture. It is a life or death matter for many groups," he said.

"You wouldn't say what you said if you knew the whole story," he told Reeve Masson.

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# Friendship, fun and speakers fill happy year for Golden Agers

By Mrs. Elsie Reed

I wish to present a concise report of the highlights of the activities of Golden Age Club for their seventh year of progress.

Two bus trips were enjoyed by the club - the first on June 2 to Niagara Falls and surrounding country; the other on Oct. 8 to Collingwood, Meaford down through the Beaver Valley, through Fergus to view the marvellous beauty of our countryside.

### Zone picnic

The annual Zone picnic was held in the Acton park and the annual Zone Rally was held in Georgetown on Nov. 15. Both of these events were classed as "best yet."

Assistance was given by some of the members to two blood donor clinics held in the Legion Hall.

### Potluck suppers

Two successful pot luck suppers, one in the spring and one in the early fall, drew good crowds to enjoy the bountiful and delicious foods provided by the members.

Our float in the fall fair parade won first prize in its class and our display in the hall won second prize.

### Guest speakers

Special speakers during the year were Fred Barber from Georgetown Horticultural

Society and Mr. Bridle of Norton's Bus line. Both gave interesting talks and showed beautiful slides, mostly of Canadian scenes.

Purchase of a "mike" and a cupboard in which to store it and buying six card tables were our biggest expenses. Two card tables were donated. Acton Town Council gave us \$150 and some smaller donations were gratefully received.

### Many ill

There has been much sickness among our members, and several were hospital patients for operations and other care. Miss Jessie McGregor and Mrs. Mary McAuley were admitted to Halton Manor. Some broken bones also occurred.

There were three deaths; Mrs. Jacob Bauer, Nelson Anderson and Norman Somerville passed away. The family of each received a golden mum plant, and a moment of silence, in tribute, was observed at the meeting following.

### Happy occasions

Also receiving a Golden mum plant were those couples who celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries, Mrs. and Mrs. Milne, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warne. A Golden mum was also given to C. K. Browne when he celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary in June.

Mr. and Mrs. Cam Winn, our first members to move away, were presented with a farewell gift before leaving for their new home in Listowel.

### Holiday treat

The Rotary Club and the Canadian Legion Branch went together to arrange and provide a marvellous Christmas turkey dinner with all the trimmings, cooked by the men and served by them. An evening of entertainment was also arranged, afterwards and an exchange of gifts among the members brought in a jolly Santa Claus to help distribute the gifts. Beardmore Co. also sent gifts of leather wallets to the club's executive for this occasion.

### More frustration

The building of the Senior Citizens Units is still in the far future it seems, to the disappointment and frustration of several members badly in need of low rentals.

Lunch was served at each twice-monthly meeting, and small prizes given to winners in crokinole and euchre. There have been splendid evening programs, monthly, when our own, and local talent was much enjoyed. Time and talent has been freely given and much appreciated.

### Provide friendship

It is felt the Golden Age Club, open to anyone over 60 years, who wishes to take part, has been a wonderful thing for many who are alone and lonely, and need companionship and friendship and somewhere to go to be with those their own age.

This has been a busy, successful and worthwhile year and 1971 is looked forward to with

hope for more happy times and greater achievements with friendship and kindness to all.

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# Charges CN defies order

A Liberal member of the Ontario Legislature has charged that Canadian National Railways is not complying with a Canadian Transport Commission order to provide up-to-date equipment on the commuter trains between Toronto and Guelph that also stop at Acton.

"I can say with assurance that CN is defying the commission order," Donald Deacon said in a statement.

### New stock

Liberal member for York Centre, Deacon is also his party's transportation critic. He recalled the commission order issued September 30, 1970, called for new air-conditioned stock on the run, which CN applied to discontinue.

He quoted Commission Inspector C. W. Polley as saying

CN had reported it could not release the stock for the run because of disruptions created by the Christmas rush.

CN has requested discontinuance of the Guelph run, as well as five other lines, because it was uneconomical. The commission agreed but said the Guelph run alone should be continued because of the "probable future transportation needs of the area."

### Subsidy

An 80 per cent subsidy on all operating losses was granted the company.

Routes cancelled Nov. 1 included Toronto to Palmerston, Palmerston to Owen Sound, Palmerston to Southampton, Stratford to Kincardine and Stratford to Goderich.

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