

# Need assessment to pay for sewage plant — Mayor



WONDERING WHAT these gentlemen are pondering over? Turn inside. A clue - - from left to right, they are high school geography teacher Keith Black and Hugh Patterson, and it is possible their thoughts are far away. —(Staff Photo)

Acton needs new assessment to pay for the town's \$4 million water pollution control plant addition, Mayor Les Duby told members of the Acton Hydro Commission, defending council's decision to agree in principle to overhead rear yard services in the proposed Hulad development on the former Seymuck farm.

Speaking to the Commission which had gone on record as insisting on underground wiring for all new subdivisions, the mayor said the town was already running into problems subsidizing the new pollution control plant. The only way to eliminate extra costs was to get extra assessment, he felt. Council considered underground, he said, but agreed they had to be practical and assess the total picture.

The mayor admitted he had supported the Hydro resolution but was outvoted at council and he now supported the resolution from the town. He urged the

commission to understand the position of council.

"We've taken a final position," he declared, "but it doesn't mean we won't have underground wiring in the next subdivision."

Chever or caddy?

The Mayor said he was not suggesting Acton was a Chevrolet as opposed to a Cadillac town, but he felt council had delved deeply into the underground wiring question with developers and considering the tax rate and costs of running the pollution control plant had come up with the only possible solution.

Mayor Duby asked the Commission to co-operate with council in spite of their feelings on the subject. He said he supported a separate hydro commission away from the thumb of council but if the commission bucked council's decision it would lend support to those who were opposed to a separate commission.

Commission chairman Will

McEachern said he couldn't agree that the \$250 difference between overhead and underground wiring could persuade any developer to defer building homes. He also claimed overhead wiring meant the Hydro would run into problems trespassing on private property as well as making it necessary to build two lines.

"What bugs me," said the chairman, "is that all subdividers say they are going to build tomorrow but then they turn around and sell their land at a profit to someone else." He suggested the Hulad development was the place to start underground. "We have to start some place," he declared.

Council's decision

"There is no question the Hydro Commission is elected to service hydro but in the final analysis it is council which must make the decision," the mayor asserted. He asked the Commission to look at Lakeview

subdivision with its overhead wiring. "I've had engineers who are in no way related to the town tell me what a nice subdivision it is."

Mr. McEachern replied that the modern trend was to underground wiring because it was cheaper in the long run, easier to service and he couldn't see any developer pulling out because of the small extra cost, which he would just pass on to the buyer, anyway.

The mayor reminded the Commission that the Seymuck farm has sat growing weeds for the past three years, presented a fire hazard, and a growing list of complaints. He compared the development to the industrial park and asked if the Commission wants the property to sit for nine years as the park did.

The mayor also told reluctant Commissioners that overhead wiring in existing parts of town surrounded the proposed Hulad

subdivision and there was no way the town could afford to "take the 400 district underground."

He claimed each new agreement with subdividers cost the town tax dollars and time and there was a definite need for more revenue to run the water pollution control plant. He said council must still ratify the subdivider's agreement and the builder would likely start early in the Spring.

"I certainly hope that a what council wants," said the hydro chairman McEachern.

Other projected building for Acton this Spring is slated for Churchill Rd. S. where 25 homes are planned by Revenue Properties and 40 homes at the Altheo site on the "cemetery hill."

Vice-chairman T. Tyler, toying with a resolution in which he might express some of the commission's wrath, decided to tear it up in case he said something he might later regret.

## SUNDAY

### Sports—church? clergy concern

The Acton Clergy Association has expressed its concern over the "growing tendency" to allow certain sports activities in Acton to interfere with Sunday worship services and church and Sunday school programs.

In a press release to this newspaper, the Association declares:

"We realize that not everybody attends church or Sunday school: each is, of course, free in this. However, we should avoid placing our youth as well as others before the dilemma—church or sports.

"Let's respect each other's convictions and feelings on this score," the release continues. "We urge all of you to use your influence to see that sports activities do not compete with the activities of our churches on Sundays—at least before 1.30 p.m.

"As far as Sunday labor is concerned, our employers are urged to allow—continue to allow—their employees the necessary day of rest on Sunday so that they can be with their families and attend Divine worship services if they so desire.

"Our maker ordained one day in seven as a day of rest for all His creatures. Let's not violate this altogether salutary and just arrangement," the release concludes.

The subject was discussed at the most recent meeting of the Clergy Association which includes ministers and priests of all major denominations in Acton.

### Children, adults hurt in collision

Four children and three adults were injured, two of them seriously in a head-on collision between a car and a pickup truck on 15 Sideroad west of Speyside early Friday evening.

Milton OPP said the two vehicles appeared to collide head-on at the crest of a knoll 450 feet east of the Esqueving-Nassagaweya town line. Damage totalled \$2,300 and the pickup truck ended up partly on top of the car.

John Barrett, 32, of R.R. 1 Acton, driver of the truck, suffered severe facial cuts.

Sent to hospital Driver of the car Roy Rowley,

22, of R.R. 1 Acton was admitted to Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington suffering facial lacerations, a fractured jaw, broken hip and pelvis and broken hand. A passenger Helen Mae Klinck, 26, also of R.R. 1 Acton was sent to Milton Hospital with a broken left ankle and facial lacerations.

Bruce G. Klinck, 8, and Timothy Klinck, 7, were both sent to Hamilton General Hospital with concussions and facial injuries. Their sister Barbara May Klinck, 9, was treated for head and leg cuts.

Kimberley Rowley, nine months, received facial cuts.

### Forgiveness Will welcome prodigal books

Two hundred books are missing from Acton library. And have been for many weeks.

Board members were astonished to learn this week there are 200 seriously delinquent books in the records of the library staff. Despite notices and even follow-up phone calls, many readers still haven't got around to returning the books.

Some of the prodigal books have been missing from the library shelves as long as six or seven months!

\$1,000 worth

About 60 of the absentee volumes are from the adults shelves and 120 from the juvenile section.

They represent \$1,000 worth of books—a large amount for a small town. And they should be in constant circulation.

"The board is very, very concerned," secretary Bill Mullin told the Free Press this week. "So we have decided to declare a forgiveness week during the school break." No fines will be charged. All will be forgiven. The librarians just want to welcome their books back!

No embarrassment

Mr. Mullin urges the absent-minded readers concerned not to be embarrassed about coming in next week. After all, the librarians know who they are anyway.

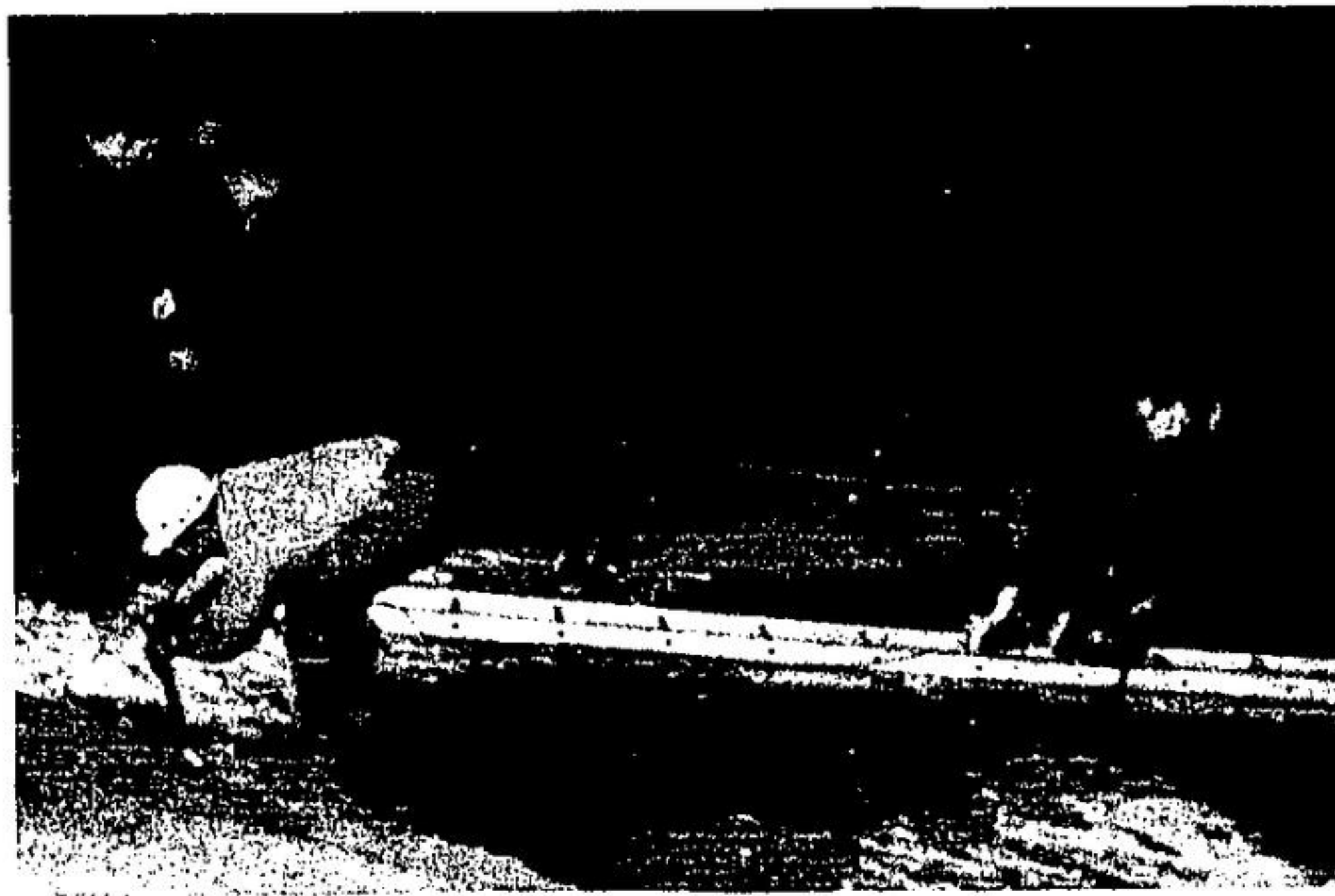
He suggests they could just leave the books somewhere in the library if they don't want to engage in a conversation about the reasons for the delay!

Mr. Mullin understands how they feel. During the meeting when the board and chief librarian Mrs. Watson were planning forgiveness week, it gradually dawned on him his own books were a week overdue.

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Sixteen Pages — Fifteen Cents



ACTON FIREFIGHTERS Norm Price and Don Van Fleet crawled across a ladder stretched over the open part of water in Fairy Lake to help in the search for the body of four year old Scott Post, who was reported missing Saturday afternoon. Firefighter Price recovered the boy's body shortly before nine o'clock Saturday night.—(Staff photo)

## Tot drowns in icy lake

A six and a half hour search for four-year-old Scott Lloyd Post, ended tragically when the young boy's body was recovered by Acton firefighter Norm Price beneath Fairy Lake ice about 8.50 Saturday evening. The boy was reported missing by his father in the afternoon.

Firefighters Price and Don Van Fleet had been alternately dragging an open section of water near the edge of an unfenced walkway connecting Prospect Park and Lakeview subdivision, since about 7 p.m.

Scott had come to the community centre with his father to watch brother Bert, 10, play for Acton novices against Streetsville. It is believed the tot wandered off to play in the community centre with other boys while the game was still going on. Playmates later reported they had been playing "jail" with Scott inside the building.

Begin search

Missing his young son a few minutes later, Mr. Post began to search the building for clues, but the search uncovered nothing. He returned home, thinking perhaps Scott had gone home with friends three blocks from the community centre.

When he failed to find Scott at home, Mr. Post notified police about 4.35 that the boy was missing. An immediate search of the community centre was started, headed by OPP Constable Bruce Kressler. Boards were ripped up and every possible hideaway place in the building was searched.

In case the lad might have accidentally found his way into one of the cars carrying Streetsville players back home, Constable Kressler arranged to have the Streetsville coach contacted. This was done, but a survey of parents who had driven to Acton for the game uncovered no further information.

Constable Kressler, Mr. Post and a band of volunteers continued the search, checking houses in the area of the arena and questioning youths until after dark.

Discover footprints

Reports that a child had been seen playing near the walkway earlier in the afternoon, led to speculation Scott may have wandered from the arena out onto the lake. Discovery of footprints in the snow leading to the open section of water strengthened fears the child may have fallen into the water.

About 7 p.m., Constable Kressler notified Acton fire chief Mick Holmes, who in turn contacted six of his men by phone. A fire truck was driven to the edge of the lake. Headlamps shone out to provide light for firefighters and volunteers carrying out dragging operations in the open water.

At the same time, another group of firefighters, headed by Bern Van Fleet, carried out a third search of the community centre. Acton OPP Corporal Ray Mason and Corporal Frosch, Milton OPP, also arrived at the scene.

Depth of the water was estimated at 12 feet. The body was found about 15 feet from the walkway, which is on disputed property. The school creek flows



SCOTT POST

Lockhart and Eric Joyall, were pallbearers.

The drowning was the second in Fairy Lake in less than a year. Six-year-old Debbie Wardle lost her life last May 30, when she wandered into the water at a point where the shoreline dropped on the Lakeview side of the lake.

Acton Scout Steven Papillon rescued 10-year-old Suzie Hill from the lake's icy waters last March, after the young girl ventured out on the unsafe ice which gave way. Location of the rescue was very close to the site of Saturday's drowning. Steven was later named Acton's Citizen of the Year for his feat.

### Suggest program get meters outside

Hydro Commissioner Ted Tyler is in favor of the town compensating individuals in some way if hydro and water meters are installed outside.

The commission listened sympathetically to a letter from the town about customers not sending water meter reading cards back so they could be billed. Five customers, the letter disclosed, haven't had meters read for 10 months.

"We've got to get meters outside," declared Mr. Tyler. "People are not going to sit around and wait for the meter reader."

Trend growing

We have a lot of people in town who go out all day and this trend will likely grow as time goes on said Tyler. He advocated the Commission and the town should consider picking up part of the estimated \$30 tab if a consumer has his meters placed outside where it is accessible to the mutual meter reader.

Council's representative on the Commission, Mayor Les Duby was less than enthused about the Tyler proposal, however. Water and sewers don't bring in revenue, he said, and it would compound problems if the town started to hand out money.

People who are home all the time would say they won't subsidize installing outside meters, the mayor declared. He drew a bead on the people in town who made no effort to co-operate or put themselves out, wanting the town to cater to them.

"This costs the taxpayers money," he said, as well as showing a lack of respect for the meter reader.

No hydro problem

Secretary Audrey Urquhart acknowledged the hydro commission did not have the same problem as the town in having meters read. Many of the hydro meters in town are outside but all water meters are inside houses. The town has proposed the mutual meter reader should work overtime to read water meters, which the commission opposes.

The secretary suggested the town should try out some of the cards hydro uses and see if results are better.

### Robin, crocus message

Spring sprang a couple of days early!

Although spring starts March 21, Actonians boast a couple of advance notices.

Mrs. Fred Bennett, Elmore Dr., called Tuesday to happily report a robin perched on her lawn. And her next-door neighbor, Mr. Kevin Conroy, already has a crocus out in bloom and buds on daffodils!

Mrs. Henry Taylor, town line, rang in the news Tuesday morning that a flock of geese had just honked word of improving weather over her house.

"This week we can finally see over the snowbanks. And what we see is... spring coming.

### Police warn:

## Stay off lake

A total of seven general occurrences were investigated by the personnel of Acton detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police during the reporting week of March 7 to March 14, 1971.

Const. B. Kressler investigated the death by drowning of a four-year-old child. The body was located in Fairy Lake on the east side of the lake. Fire Chief M. Holmes and members of his crew assisted at the scene.

All school children have been asked to keep away from the lake in the past two days. The ice is breaking up in the area of the arena and it's not safe. We are now appealing to the parents to set an example and keep away from the lake, and remind the children not to use the path that runs from Elizabeth Drive to the arena.

Impaired driver

A charge of "Impaired Driving" was laid against a motorist from out of town, and

### False alarm at B of M

A false alarm sent police rushing to the Bank of Montreal Friday afternoon. No robbers... just staff and customers.

The alarm brought Milton O.P.P. in two cruisers as well as the local police.

### Narcotics cases heard

Three charges under the Narcotics Control Act, handled by the R.C.M.P., assisted by Acton O.P.P., were heard in court in Milton Monday. One Acton man received a suspended sentence with two years' probation, another Acton man a \$300 fine and an out-of-town man a \$200 fine.

—Prov. Const. Roy Wood.

### Stores, clinic coming

Leases have been signed for two stores which will neighbor Becker's Milk in the new plaza. First Line TV will have one of the stores. Mr. and Mrs. Verboon, Georgetown, will be opening a fish and chip restaurant.

Another change in the business section of town is being planned. Marks' store will be replaced by a sub-office of the Georgetown Animal clinic. (An outpatients' department?)

A shoe and repair store is locating in the former Rendezvous beauty salon location.

The boutique, the Purple Orchid, has closed.