



HIGHER THAN A SCHOOL BUS and wide enough for only one vehicle at a time, this scene on the Third Line, Erin Township a few miles above Acton with Clarence Denny's bus is typical of rural roads through one of the worst winters in decades. Driver Gordon Allken had to chart a narrow course in this

particular stretch of road where snowbanks extended to this height for almost a quarter-mile. If rural residents wondered why school buses failed to make it sometimes the answer is the winter's dirtiest four letter word - snow!

## Winter, dogs take toll on deer area farmers report sheep loss

Three female deer were killed when they plunged over a 50 foot cliff near Milton Thursday. The deer, two carrying twin fawns and one with a single fawn, appeared to be running from dogs. The incident occurred on property owned by Dufferin Quarry on the escarpment.

Fish and Wildlife Deputy at the Hespeler Division of the Department of Lands and Forest, Harry Gingrich said the accident brought the total deer deaths to 45 since Feb. 1 in the six counties served from Hespeler.

Of the 45 deer killed, 15 lost their lives running from dogs or fighting with them. Others were killed by cars and trucks, illegal hunting, and some were caught in fences.

**Attack sheep**  
In Nassagaweya and the Rockwood area, the problem of wolves and dogs attacking sheep is mounting. Killings have been numerous in the Rockwood district where an estimated 3,000 sheep are concentrated on farms. One Guelph farmer is reported to have lost 40 sheep this year.

Roy Beilinger, predator control officer with the Department of Lands and Forests, is supervising trapping operations in the area.

**Receive complaints**  
He noted that some traps were

set last spring and more are being set this season in response to complaints from Rockwood area, Nassagaweya township, Beverly township and North Dumfries township. Farmers in these areas have been warned to keep their dogs tied up.

Precautions such as herding the sheep into pens close to the barns have been taken by some area farmers who fear their sheep may be attacked.

**Wild dogs**  
The department is very concerned about dogs which are running wild. These dogs have instincts of both a wild animal and a pet. They do not fear to come near to buildings and humans, but they cause a great deal of harm.

Last week a Nassagaweya man, who lives just north of Campbellville, saw dogs chasing a deer. One of the fierce dogs turned on him and he shot it.

Department officials report it was part St. Bernard and part German Shepherd - a massive beast of 100 pounds and standing high. This now-vicious animal was running in a pack of six. Department officials trailed the others into the bush, but were unable to locate them.

**Kill for sport**  
Dogs are protected from shooting, but may be killed if they

are on the trail of other animals. Department officials can pretty well tell by the body of a dead deer or sheep who the culprit is. A wolf will have killed for food. But the dogs will have killed for sport, then gone on to feed on garbage or anything they can forage near buildings.

**Deer defenseless**  
Deer find themselves at a distinct disadvantage in a dog chase over heavy snow. While dogs can run across the crust of the snow, deer sink into it. The problem is compounded at this time of year as bucks have shed their antlers and are defenseless. Many of the female deer are carrying young and are more susceptible to attacks.

"The number of deer killed by cars and trucks is staggering," Gingrich said. Statistics show that property damage to cars often exceeds \$500 in car-deer collisions.

**Advocate hunt**  
Mr. Gingrich explained deer can be a real problem if the population is not controlled. The department and local sportsmen's clubs have advocated limited deer hunting to control the population.

Paul Coulson, past president of Hutton Sportsmen's Association, is a strong supporter of a controlled hunting season. "I'd sooner see them hunted than starving to death. I'd like to take some of the so-called naturalists around in the spring and show them skeletons. It would really make them think," he noted.

Department of Lands and Forest officials and local sportsmen agree that if hunting is not allowed, nature will take the situation in hand. When the deer population becomes excessive, some either die due to starvation or disease or are killed in any one of a number of ways.

This winter has been particularly harsh. The lack of food is more acute with the heavy snow than it has been in many years.

Complaints of deer chewing on small shrubs and ruining young apple trees have been filed. Several area farmers advocated

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## Nassagaweya Council Briefs

At the regular meeting of Nassagaweya Council Wednesday, Council:

—Learned Puslinch Township was contemplating buying more machinery for snow removal and agreed this would alleviate problems on the boundary roads between Nassagaweya and Puslinch. Nassagaweya Council had received complaints earlier.

—Received requests for financial support from Milton Parks and Recreation Committee and Campbellville Community Centre's Board.

—Granted \$500 as an advance grant to Milton Area Fire Department.

—Accepted an invitation to tour Milton Quarry and see the firm's plans for the future.

—Agreed to the formation of a committee from Milton, Esqueuing and Nassagaweya to investigate the potential of a site at Milton Brick for a dump.

## Accident at dairy

The only reportable accident of the week on Acton streets occurred at the Royal Dairy parking lot on Queen St. last Wednesday.

A parked car owned by Larry Ziegler, Kitchener, received an estimated \$250 damage to the left front. The other driver was Lammert Loyenga of Acton and his car had no damage. No charge was laid, police report.

## Charges collusion in truck route switch

Charges of collusion and intimidation of council by a group of truck drivers and quarry officials, were aimed at Esqueuing Council Monday night by John Michie, representing ratepayers in the area of the township's designated truck route fourth line and 17 Sideroad.

Mr. Michie also asked council to consider eliminating Fourth Line and 17 Sideroad as the township's truck route and returning the roads to normal status. If granted by council, the request would probably mean designating 22 Sideroad to Highway 25 as the new truck route.

**Change route**  
Ratepayers first presented grievances to council last September and council responded by changing the truck route back to 22 Sideroad to High-

way 25 in early October. However, later in the month, besieged by a huge delegation of truck drivers and quarry officials, council changed its mind and once again designated Fourth Line and 17 Sideroad as a truck route.

Monday night, Mr. Michie charged that "some sort of bargain was struck," and added although he was not at that particular meeting, the quarry group appeared to have intimidated council.

**Wise step**  
Although he admitted council took a wise step in setting up a meeting last fall with the Department of Transport, Mr. Michie chided some of the

suggestions made at the meeting have not yet been carried out. In particular, no signs warning that school buses pick up children have been erected along the roads.

**Budget over**  
Reeve Tom Hill reminded Mr. Michie the township had "gone away over on its winter roads budget."

"You can't afford to drop all of your budget to cater to one company either," Mr. Michie replied. Council promised Mr. Michie they would discuss his request in committee and give him an answer.

## Gun show

Another in the popular gun shows of the Halton Antique Arms Collectors' Association will take place Sunday in Acton from 9 a.m.

Venue of this show has been changed to the Acton Industrial Centre at the foot of Frederick St. where the gun collectors have obtained 8,000 square feet of room. They anticipate the show will be one of the biggest yet.

## Meetings held in T-D bank

The Chamber of Commerce executive has been holding its meeting lately in a new meeting area - the basement room at the Toronto-Dominion bank. Bank manager Donald McDonald is C. of C. secretary.

## Concerted drive C. of C. members

The new membership committee of the Chamber of Commerce is confidently setting out this week to attain a membership of 80 or 100. Present C. of C. roster has 67 members. Membership chairman John Secord feels certain that a concerted drive in the next couple of weeks will produce the desired result.

**Met Tuesday**  
His committee of eight, representing industry through retail interest in town, met last night (Tuesday) in the facility room of the Toronto-Dominion bank to plan their strategy. A letter will be sent out to all businesses followed by a call and a personal visit. Cost of mailing prevents mailing to individual members, but individuals are welcome to

## Reprimand

Two boys were seen taking articles from a parked car by an Acton O.P.P. officer Sunday. The lads, one 12 and one 9 years of age, had in their possession cigarettes taken from a car, on Main St. N. The boys were given a stern reprimand and turned over to their parents.

join and hopefully could contact any C. of C. member.

**Fees up**  
There has been an increase in Chamber fees this year.

Funds will be used for an expanded Christmas lighting program, signs, and preparations of projects such as downtown parking. Events such as dances and the Citizen of the Year dinner cover their own costs, through ticket sales.

"We intend to wrap the drive up in two or three weeks," says Mr. Secord, "but we will review the membership list the latter part of August."

"We are quite confident we can increase the membership considerably," he says. He personally feels membership is well worth the scale of charges set. Fees in other places, and for other groups, are higher, he points out.

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