

Plan Acton-Guelph trail along old radial line

Care for a walk through some of the prettiest countryside in this section of the country, unencumbered by cars, distressing noises and polluted air?

This summer, if plans are not fouled up, you should be able to walk from Acton to Guelph under such ideal circumstances.

The Free Press was advised this week that plans are almost completed to turn the old radial line from Acton to Guelph into a trail for hikers, much like the Bruce Trail. The committee in charge of the project hopes parts of it will be in use by this summer. They intend to call it the Radial Line Trail.

Co-ordinator Jim Pierce of Guelph told the Free Press that the committee had contacted most of the land owners along the old radial line and approximately 90 per cent had given permission to use the old railroad bed for a trail.

The route runs along the attractive river valleys of the Blue Springs Creek and the Eramosa River, mostly through woods or bush, which is alive with the various kinds of wild life indigenous to this area.

The committee hopes to start building stiles over fences and marking the trail within the next two weeks.

"We are really surprised at the good will and co-operation

we received from land owners along the route," said Mr. Pierce. "Most were very co-operative and seem genuinely interested in the proposal."

He said about 15 people, all from Guelph, had each taken a section of the proposed trail and approached land owners along the route. Admittedly some owners were reluctant to give permission without consulting legal aid first. The Boy Scouts Association would not give permission to go through their property at Blue Springs. There were similar objections to crossing the property at what is known as the railway museum in Nassagaweya township, but Mr. Pierce was confident the route could skirt these properties without too much difficulty and still retain the character of the trail.

Mr. Pierce feels there would be fewer difficulties on projects like this if there was a change in the law so land owners were not liable in the event of injuries. He points out that the state of Michigan has already revised their laws so this is no longer possible.

The Toronto Bruce Trail Club is considering establishing a link from a section of the Bruce Trail at Limehouse to link up with the new trail, which will add more scope to hikers. Hook-up point would be at Fairy Lake although Mr. Pierce thinks there may be a problem going directly through Acton along the

old radial and suggests they may have to come up with some alternative route.

The old radial line goes directly through the river valleys through relatively untouched land, with the Blue Springs Creek and the Eramosa River flowing alongside or within a few yards. These streams are two of the purest examples of water in this section of Ontario.

The committee planning the Radial Line Trail wants to retain the historic as well as the natural characteristics the old radial line possesses. Most pressing need at the moment is for wood to build stiles over fences. Anyone with some to donate can get in touch with Mr. Pierce at 4 Cadillac Drive, Guelph.

Mr. Pierce, a native of St. Catharines, has been living in Guelph the last four years. He is a member of the Caledon Hills Bruce Trail Club, continuing the hiking hobby he has been interested in the last few years, including a year in Florida where he lived after graduating from university.

He sees the new trail as a fine recreational value for residents of the area as well as an opportunity to view nature in almost pristine purity on our own threshold.

Anyone from this district familiar with the old radial line, its history and the scenery along the valleys, will agree.



The Radial Line Trail



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TED TYLER SR.

Ted Tyler Sr. Citizen of Year

An impressive record of service to Acton backs Ted Tyler Sr.'s nomination as Acton's Citizen of the Year for 1971. He was selected Tuesday evening by the Chamber of Commerce, and asked if he would accept about 10 p.m. Announcement was made by the executive later last night.

Presentation of his traditional plaque will be made at the annual Citizen of the Year dinner and dance Saturday, April 24.

A special award will also be made to Ron McKnight for outstanding contributions to sports in Acton.

Former mayor, reeve, deputy-reeve, councillor, hydro chairman and commissioner, Mr. Tyler has rolled up terms extending 22 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Tyler are long-time residents of Acton. He started Tyler Transport business in 1929 and now his wife Gwen and son Ted Jr. are also associated in the business.

Chop budgets

But tax rate up 4.5 mills

Acton home owners will pay 4.5 mills more in taxes this year while the commercial and industrial levy is up 3.9 mills.

Council passed the 1971 budget Tuesday night setting the residential mill rate at 87.1 mills and the commercial and industrial rate at 96.2 after an hour and a half session which drew little comment before it was unanimously passed.

The biggest increase in the budget was an 8.1 raise in the general mill rate with a .7 increase in the county rate. The Board of Education's share was reduced this year by 4.3 mills on the residential rate.

Figures were based on an assessment of \$9,076,688 with \$423,830.64 to be raised by taxation.

An average home assessed at \$3,500 will pay approximately \$15 more in taxes this year as the result of the hike.

Budget committee chairman Reeve Frank Oakes intimated the committee had taken some large chops out of budgets this year at special meetings before the final figures were ready for council Tuesday. One of the biggest cuts was a \$9,000 cut from the parks and recreation budget.

Council went over items on the budget item by item with Councillor Masales explaining the town would have liked to have another \$10,000 to \$15,000 for roads this year but does not qualify for a subsidy on the amount.

The sidewalk budget was cut \$5,000 but Councillor Greer said he felt the town would still be able to construct sidewalks to the new senior citizen and geared-to-income development on Cobblehill Rd., on Cameron St. and from Main St. N. along Elizabeth Drive, with the money available. Similar work was done last year with \$9,000 and Mr. Greer based his assumptions on that figure.

It was pointed out that operation of the community centre was down almost \$7,000 this year because ice rental rates had been increased 50 per cent to bring them in line with other centres. Councillor Chapman pointed out this gave the recreation committee considerable more revenue to operate on. Council chopped \$2,000 from the operation budget.

Repairs to the arena originally were estimated at \$13,000 but council decided to lop \$5,000 off that figure and make only the most urgent repairs. "We are doing the most urgent work

	RECAP OF MILL RATE			
	1970		1971	
	COMM.	RES.	COMM.	RES.
General	38.8	33.8	46.7	41.9
County	6.2	6.2	6.9	6.9
Education	47.3	42.6	42.6	38.3
	92.3	82.6	96.2	87.1
	+ OR —			
General			COMM.	RES.
County			+ 7.9	+ 8.1
Education			+ .7	+ .7
			- 4.7	- 4.3
			+ 3.9	+ 4.5

this year and hope to work our way around the building in future years," said Councillor Chapman.

Council also chopped \$2,000 from the parks budget. Highlights of the budget included a \$19,000 hike for police protection, \$43,000 more for sewer debentures, a 1970 deficit of \$8,339.78 paid and \$11,868.68 ticketed for the water pollution plant.

The total budget was up about \$50,000 over last year's figures.

"They started out much higher than that," said budget

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12 per cent raise for town workmen

Town workmen received a 12 per cent raise in pay and another three per cent in fringe benefits over a two year contract ratified by Acton council Tuesday night.

Workers will receive a six per cent raise this year and another six per cent in 1972, retroactive to January 1 of this year. Fringe benefits were increased on a family drug plan which will see the town pay 8 per cent of the cost this year and assume the entire cost in the second year of the contract.

Accumulated sick leave was increased to 120 days from the former 80 days as another feature of the contract signed by both the union and the town's representatives.

"I feel it was good to get a two year contract instead of the usual one," said Reeve F. G. Oakes of the agreement, referring to past years when negotiations dragged on until it was almost time to start bargaining again.

Council agreed to the new contract unanimously.

One swat message

Hydro commission members took a long look ahead at their regular meeting last Thursday evening in the hydro office.

The trailer will not be available to them for display at next fall fair so they will consider some other way of advertising there.

Get message They ordered, to give out for publicity purposes, 2,500

"deluxe" fly swatters imprinted with the commission name, at the cost of 17½ cents apiece. Both flies and hydro users will get a message in one swat.

In past years, yardsticks and pens have been used to advertise the commission and its services. June is Hydro Month and commissioner Bob MacArthur is planning a special presentation for the local commission.

Order inquest

An inquest into the drowning of four-year-old Scott Post in Fairy Lake will be held in the town hall Wednesday evening, April 28.

Coroner Dr. Ivan Hunter, who ordered the inquest, will preside. Acton police were informed of the date Tuesday.

Bob Frank was authorized to repaint the main office in the hydro building and the outside trim. It hasn't been done since the building was built in centennial year.

The summer conference at Thunder Bay was discussed but no decision on attendance made.

The commission is looking into additional health coverage for the men under the Blue Cross plan. No decision was made.

35 tombstones toppled in Fairview cemetery

Town officials were horrified to discover 35 tombstones had been pushed over at Fairview Cemetery during Holy Week.

Town superintendent Alf Doby and clerk-administrator Joe Hurst discovered 11 stones were toppled when they toured the cemetery on Thursday. Eighteen more were pushed over since then, despite periodic checks by police.

Senseless desecration

Mystified by the destruction, Mr. Hurst said there was no doubt it was a clear cut case of vandalism and amounted to desecration of a spot sacred to thousands of residents and others with friends and relations. Police are continuing an investigation into the affair and conducting periodic checks.

"We're checking every angle," said Corporal Ray Mason.

The stones were knocked off pedestals singly in spots and there were other locations where four or five tombstones in a row were toppled.

One stone was hurled into a grave, opened for burial.

Not covered

The damage is not covered under the perpetual care agreement, the clerk told the Free Press. It was his understanding that the families of the deceased would be responsible for repairing them. None were broken but they must be returned to the base and resealed with the strong adhesive, an arduous task.

Town superintendent Alf Doby said it would take considerable strength to shove the head stones from the base as they are very firmly attached by sealer.

It is the second case of cemetery desecration in the last few months. A cemetery on 28

sideroad in Nassagaweya township was virtually destroyed by vandals last October. Although a \$1,000 reward was posted no one has been charged with the destruction.

Replace stones

Town workmen have already replaced all but three of the 35 headstones knocked over in Fairview Cemetery, clerk-administrator Joe Hurst told council Tuesday night.

Mr. Hurst said they decided to take the bull by the horns and put the stones back up although the liability ordinarily would fall on the people who owned the plots. Three of the 35 stones will require special equipment to haul them back into place.



Holy Week desecration

VANDALS knocked over 35 tombstones at Fairview Cemetery over the Easter holiday weekend, in a wanton display of destruction. Town officials noticed the first 11 stones were knocked over last Thursday and notified police. Vandals returned on successive nights

to knock more over and finished on the thirtieth Easter Sunday night. Police have some clues but would appreciate any information which could lead to identifying those responsible.—(Staff Photo)

Rumors rumors rumors

Rumors are rife of the imminence of an announcement about the location of the new international jetport.

Strong rumors are being circulated locally that Nassagaweya township has been chosen for the site and an announcement will be forthcoming shortly.

At Orangeville they are holding protest meetings under the assumption that the area is virtually assured of the site, although there are also indications that the number one spot is at Port Perry.

Leave for Amaranth

According to one district resident, an official of the construction company doing clearing work on Highway 25 told him their work was done on the highway and they were leaving now to start clearing for the new jetport in Amaranth township, near Orangeville.

Meanwhile, the two governments concerned, federal and provincial are sitting tight, noting the confusion, but reluctant to disclose the actual site, if it has been selected.

The Free Press has been unable to confirm any rumors. Despite assurance in four locations that they are number one on the list there is no positive word from any government level that any one site has been selected, although an announcement could be forthcoming at any time.