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CHILDREN ENROLLED in the Acton Parks and Recreation summer playground are learning to pull together with their leaders. Tug-o-war was one of the big events in the fun and games day program Friday. Leader in the foreground is Susan McPhail. Children enjoyed a wiener roast in the park

Monday night and those in the 9-12 age group visited Centre Island in Toronto yesterday (Tuesday). Big event this week is "Australian Christmas", scheduled for Friday afternoon.—(Staff Photo)

Bullet wound caused death

Joseph Roger Lapointe died as the result of a bullet wound in the head, an autopsy performed by Dr. Waldorf has revealed. Police said the bullet was from a small calibre firearm.

Acton Firefighters recovered Lapointe's body from the front bedroom of his burning Spanish-style bungalow, south of Acton, shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday July 10. A barn and small shed on the same property were levelled, in what may have been an entirely separate fire. Police suspect arson.

Two possibilities
North Halton OPP Constable Jim Hodson, one of the investigating officers in the case, said this week police are still working on two possibilities, one that Lapointe was murdered, the

other that he took his own life. He said police are awaiting further reports from the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto and expect a report from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, anytime.

Police believe Lapointe's death could have occurred anytime between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. Acton Firefighters received a call to the fire about 5 a.m.

No service
Lapointe's body was cremated Monday, July 12, a spokesman for McKersie Funeral Home, Milton, told this paper.

Lapointe's only known relative was Joseph Ernest Lapointe of Toronto, a brother. Inspector MacCloud of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch, Toronto and North Halton OPP Corporal Jack Frosch are also working on the case.



PAT MURRAY

Blue jays attack protecting young

A Tides Ave. couple, who host a bird's nest in their yew tree, had a surprising and upsetting experience this week. Recalling the popular movie The Birds, they, too, were suddenly attacked by birds one day last week in their own garden.

Two blue jays suddenly dived-bombed Mrs. Walter Fosbury and actually pecked her several times. She ran into the house to avoid them. Then the Rev. Fosbury also had a brush with the

strict warning of the over-protective birds.

Young in nest

The Fosburys think probably their young in the nest were just about ready to try their wings for the first time, when the parents attacked with such vehemence.

The Fosbury's main concern was for the many children who pass their house each day. Nearby neighbors — the Eastwoods and McLeods also report attacks from the jays.

R.R. 1 girl named Dairy Princess

Halton's Dairy Princess was unanimously acclaimed this year, and she's Pat Murray, 16, of R.R. 1, Acton. Pat entered the County contest last year but was too young to enter the C.N.E. competitions. This year she has been named the winner, and there were no other entries received.

And she just squeaks in under the line for age — she'll be 17 on August 31.

C.N.E. contest
With no contest in Halton, Pat doesn't get practice in the competition which she will face at the C.N.E. She's slated for the second half of the preliminary competitions so she'll be able to watch the other girls from other counties first.

The contest involves an interview, giving a short talk and, of course, milking a cow. The contestants always wear all-white outfits for the big competition in Toronto.

A formal presentation to the Halton Princess will be made at a milk commission meeting in Milton on August 4.

She has already attended one event as Halton's Princess — the open house at the United Breeders in Guelph last Sunday. She returns there this Sunday for another open house.

Pat has just finished grade 10 at Acton high school, and lives on the family farm on the sixth line of Nassagaweya township. Haying is the order of the day at their farm this week.

Joe Brent of the Agricultural and Food Department in Milton said future competitions to select a Halton Dairy Princess may be made in the fall.

Article stirs up ferment over Acton youth centre

An article in a recent edition of a Toronto daily which quotes Acton recreation co-ordinator Brian Campbell as saying Acton has the highest delinquency rate in any town of its size in Ontario, has been described as "irresponsible journalism" by Councillor Peter Marks, chairman of Acton Parks and Recreation's program committee.

The story along with a silhouette photograph of three youths was displayed prominently on the front page of the third section of the daily with the headline "YMCA opens in Acton, teens needn't break in".

The remark attributed to Mr. Campbell appears in the story, as well as in the caption to the picture. Besides Mr. Campbell, the story quotes two local girls, Bonnie Bristow and Sandy Ross, and Lorna Sutherland, who now lives in Edmonton.

Many Acton and district people have taken exception to the article, claiming it distorts the picture.

Denies statement
This week Mr. Campbell denied he made the statement and says he was misquoted.

"What I said was that Acton had a high delinquency rate, not that it had the highest rate in any

town its size in Ontario," he told the Free Press.

"The only reason I even mentioned it in the interview was that I was asked why Diane Hollands was stationed here," he added.

Campbell said he understood the reason Miss Hollands was sent to Acton was because it had a high delinquency rate. Miss Hollands is working in town for the Addiction Research Foundation during the summer.

Peggy Palmer, Halton County community consultant for the Addiction Research Foundation, is presently on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

Verifies quote
Campbell verified another statement in the story which read, "The kids here are just beginning to take drugs that found their way into larger communities two or three years ago."

Mr. Marks said it is regrettable the paper chose to display the negative side of the story.

"They've tried to sensationalize and capitalize on the town's problem and blow it out of all proportion," he commented. Mr. Campbell



Brian Campbell Denies Statement

agreed that the story was not in the proper perspective.

Admitting that Acton definitely does have a problem, Mr. Marks at the same time said Acton isn't likely much different from any other community as far as the problem goes.

Referring to the opening of the youth centre this summer, he

said, "We recognized a problem and felt we had to do something constructive to correct it. We tried to find the type of recreation that would be conducive to this segment of the population."

Sports good
Mr. Campbell expressed the opinion that as far as organized sports go, programs in Acton are more than adequate.

"But there's always the segment of the population that don't dig organized sport," Mr. Marks explained.

Mr. Marks, who said he has had several phone calls about the story, pointed out most of the information contained in it was obtained from the three youths, who he said were not speaking for the centre, just stating their opinions.

"I'm glad they called though. I wish everyone would call when they have a doubt, so we could straighten these things out," he offered.

Remarks reversed
Contacted by the Free Press, Miss Bristow said she wasn't quoted exactly and said some of her own remarks were attributed to Miss Ross. Miss Sutherland, who is visiting in town, said as far as she is concerned the story was fairly accurate. Miss Ross could not be reached for comment.

Acton OPP said they have no figures on juvenile delinquency here which would substantiate a charge that Acton has the highest juvenile delinquency rate of any town its size in Ontario.

Meanwhile, activities at the centre continue. Six short films will be shown tomorrow (Thursday) night on movie night and an outdoor barbecue and an outdoor concert are being planned. The concert will present both folk singing and rock groups.

Mr. Campbell reports approximately 60 youths attend the centre on an average night and says several others are taking advantage of recreational facilities during the daytime. The centre was opened in the YMCA building in June.

Nine injured in crash

Nine persons, including five youths, were injured in a two-car collision in Osprey, at the intersection of Highways 24 and 25 early Sunday afternoon.

Amy Davidson, 44, wife of the driver of the first car, Kenneth Davidson, 48, of R. R. 1 Honeywood was taken to Guelph General Hospital suffering from head injuries and later transferred to Hamilton General Hospital. Officials there list her condition as fair.

Children hurt
Mr. Davidson escaped with

lacerations to the face and hands, while daughter Karen, 3½, suffered a possible fractured pelvis, as well as lacerations to the arms and legs. Son Bradley, 17, suffered lacerations to the scalp, hands and elbows and son Fraser, 9, received bruises to the stomach and knees.

Anna Hobbs, 34, wife of the driver of the second car William Hobbs, 39, of 77 Talbot St., Guelph, suffered a fractured vertebrae, in addition to lacerations to the head and shoulders. She remains in Guelph General

Hospital where officials describe her condition as satisfactory.

Suffer cuts
Mr. Hobbs received lacerations to the scalp and elbow. Daughter Susan, 10, suffered lacerations to the legs and daughter Margaret, 7, lacerations to the head and legs. Both were passengers in the car.

Each vehicle received approximately \$2,800 damage. The collision occurred about 1:45 p.m. Constable Duguid, Guelph OPP investigated.

Regional governments?—Bungling bureaucrats says Bonnette

Freshman planning board member Lou Bonnette minces no words when it comes to regional government and its implications for people in the small municipalities.

"As he sees it towns like Acton will be swallowed by their larger cousins such as Oakville and Burlington.

"We are gradually losing our identity," he declared and "are getting in a hell of a hurry to let the pros run things."

Discussion was precipitated at Thursday's planning board by Councillor Bill Coats' admission of an omission. It concerned a resolution emanating from council asking the administration committee of council and the board confer to draft up a resolution to forward to county council asking for a Halton Regional

Planning Board. Councillor Coats said he had to bring it up before colleague Jack Greer, an avid "Halton Alone" advocate, "kills me."

Giant steps
"Jack is really interested that Acton should take some steps to be sure of a Halton regional government and planning is one step it would be reasonable to set up on a regional basis," said Coats.

This brought planning board member Vic Bristow into the picture. He represents Acton on the Halton Planning Association, which is presently studying how the Toronto Centre Regional Plan affects the municipalities of Halton.

"Good idea," observed board chairman Sid Saitz of the study, "I wondered whether this was

another link in the chain to impede democracy and we'd have to go to another body for approvals."

"We meet and talk over plans for the whole county," pointed out Mr. Bristow, suggesting perhaps a resolution from planning board asking for a county regional planning board would duplicate the work already being done by the planning association.

For Dave Muckle the resolution was a good idea. He pointed out how many troubles Acton would have avoided if regional planning with Esquesing township was now working.

But an increasingly exasperated Lou Bonnette tartly observed, "All we need now in Acton is a manager and we will soon be like the county school

boards. It looks like everyone wants regional government."

On same fence
Councillor Coats, who aligns with Mr. Bonnette on the political side of the fence, said he personally favored a two tier regional government where towns like Acton would preserve their identity. They would also require a local planning board in addition to the one at a higher level.

But this was all nonsense for Mr. Bonnette.

"We are losing our identity," he declared. A county planning board? "I'd love to see the infighting if Toyota or Datsun decided to establish in Halton. We have one example in the regional school boards," he commented, "bureaucratic to the end." We still have representation on

the school board, said board member Muckle. But, observed Bonnette, a heck of a lot less control over everything.

He noted St. Catharines had rushed into regional government and now they don't want anything to do with it.

It is going to come, said Mr. Muckle, shrugging.

It is going to come if everyone wants it," retorted Bonnette. He noted "everyone was in debt" so it wasn't a case of one municipality helping a poorer cousin along the path away from financial ruin. "How could Georgetown help us out?" he asked. He pointed to regional assessment as another example of regional bungling, a sentiment not shared by Mr. Muckle who said he appealed his -- and won. "We might as well move into

Oakville and let them run us," snapped Bonnette.

Big stick
Mr. Muckle pointed out there were several good examples of regional government now. For instance council passes a by-law and sends it to Queens Park where it can be overruled. But he saw the formation of larger units of administration as protection against overzealous administrators at Queens Park, who would hesitate to tackle a strong region while they would easily kill legislation from a small place such as Acton.

For chairman Saitz, regional government indicated high costs. He, too, used the school board, as the whipping boy. As soon as they were in, salaries went "right out of this world," he said, and could see no reason why the same

thing wouldn't happen in political circles.

The resolution from council? Planning board took no action because of the work of the county planning association.

Not unanimous
Next to last word came from another councillor, Norman Elliott. He told the board council was a long way from being unanimous about regional government and that he personally had reservations because of its infringement on "our jurisdiction." He had few doubts about the county planning association as it is, although he noted Acton had to send a resolution to the county to get it reactivated.

The last word?
There will be more information coming from the county planning association, said Vic Bristow.

Ask approval for school addition

Halton County Board of Education will be asked to approve plans for a \$95,000 project including an addition and alterations at Acton District High School when they meet tonight.

The project will include the addition of a library resource centre and administration area as well as a conversion of the

existing library classroom and the existing administration area to a guidance room.

The school now has 14 classrooms, two laboratories, one home economics room, one commercial area and two industrial arts shops as well as library, gymnasium, cafeteria, health, guidance and administration areas.

Drinking brings police charges

Alcohol caused several of the incidents investigated by Acton police this week.

On Friday an Acton man was arrested, charged with being drunk in a public place, jailed, and subsequently fined \$25. The arrest was made at 1:45 a.m.

At 1 p.m. July 16 Friday a driver was stopped and failed the breath test.

Friday at 3:50 a.m. after a short erratic chase an Acton constable stopped an impaired driver who failed the breath test. He is summonsed to court in August.

An intoxicated person fell down in a store Monday, was examined by a doctor and subsequently jailed. He was charged with being drunk in a public place.

A 19-year-old youth, charged with possession of alleged drugs, has been charged with contributing to juvenile delinquency. The youth is alleged to have supplied drugs to two 13-year-old grade eight students. The drug possession charge was laid by the R.C.M.P. and the subsequent charge by Acton O.P.P. He has been summonsed to appear in court August 23.

\$230 pot for park



Anne Vuk

Anne Vuk nursing graduate

Miss Anne M. Vuk is a graduate of the Guelph General Hospital School of Nursing. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matija Vuk, 33 Brock St. Acton.

She attended M. Z. Bennett Public School and the Acton District High School and has accepted a position at Ajax and Peckering General Hospital.

There's \$230 left in the pot belonging to the Acton Parks Development Association waiting for a service club to clean up and improve parkland along the south side of Elizabeth Drive.

Officers of the association, formed following the drowning death of little Debbie Wardle, met Sunday to discuss what to do with remaining funds. Most of the money collected to grade the bank along the lake where the tot drowned was spent for bulldozers to do work.

The executive decided they would make a three month offer to any service club for a project to improve the parkland along the south side of Elizabeth Drive. Most of the money collected came from residents of Lakeview subdivision and the executive felt the money should be spent in the area where it originated.

Start building Winston Park

Heritage Homes will start breaking ground on a new subdivision on Churchill Road South to be known as Winston Park.

Building permits have been issued and everything is in readiness to begin building on the former McCullough property.

First phase of the project will be six model homes and then the company will continue with 17 more that are expected to be ready by September.

G. Alec Johnson, exclusive realtors for the project, told the Free Press the homes will have a 90 per cent mortgage and low down payments. It was decided to call the project Winston Park because of the proximity of Churchill Road.

Car hits hydrant

The only reportable accident in town this week occurred Sunday evening at 7 p.m. when a car attempted a U-turn on Main St. S. The car struck a fire hydrant concealed in high grass, and \$400 damage to the car resulted.

There were no injuries to the car's occupants, Sisters of St. Joseph, Guelph. No charge was laid by the investigating officer, Cons. Paul Brown.