

Council frowns on Nassagaweya-based fire school

A joint plan by major lakeshore oil refineries and Sheridan College to use the Nassagaweya based Heavy Equipment School for an industrial fire training course was viewed with skepticism by township councillors Thursday night.

Our municipality wouldn't benefit except from the black smoke which will be used to simulate industrial fires, Councillor Art Gibson told Dean Hamilton of the college and two representatives of oil refineries.

"We won't get any taxes from it

but the smoke will pose a great inconvenience."

Dean Hamilton informed council the proposed school would be a first in Canada. He said there is a definite need for one to teach industrial fire fighting techniques. Only one such school exists on the North American continent now. It is in Texas.

Close to refineries

It was suggested the school would be best located near the refineries and Dean Hamilton

said that the Sheridan College Heavy Equipment school would be an ideal site with its classrooms and space to set up equipment to make confined oil and gas fires of the kind which would be encountered in industry. Classes would probably be 30 hours a week with approximately two hours when fires would be set to simulate real conditions.

He told council there would be heavy black columns of smoke issuing from the fires but it was considered that the air

movement above the Niagara Escarpment made the site superior to anything in Oakville or Burlington, where air sometimes lay dormant, and could not be absorbed as well.

One part of the training would be to teach refinery workers how to cut off the supply of fuel from a fire, clad only in rubber coat and hat, training which could avert a major catastrophe in a refinery. At the school, fuel would come out of pipes into cemented areas where the lit fires would be contained. It was not, as one

councillor suggested, a backward way of dumping industrial sludge from the south of the county into Nassagaweya, Deah Hamilton insisted.

One refinery wants to put every man in the plant through the course, he said. When refinery workers were all processed, the school would be invaluable in training men in other types of industrial fire fighting. Different materials with less smoke-making chemicals would diminish the smoke from training fires.

Attract Money?

Gulf Oil representative Jim Coulson maintained the school would attract motels and spending of money in the township. He said it was next to impossible to book a room near the Texas school now and a similar situation would exist in Nassagaweya if the school was established there.

Councillors generally were unimpressed with the arguments but agreed to consider the request further in committee.

Reeve Anne MacArthur

declared a conflict of interest since her home would be in the direct path of the smoke and she was already opposed to the scheme.

Councillor Art Gibson said he had already seen similar fires at Malton airport and didn't want a similar operation in Nassagaweya, when residents already had enough to contend with.

"We have all the dams to flush out streams in the south and now they want us to flush out the air too," exclaimed Councillor Jim

Watson, displaying no enthusiasm for the school.

Councillor Cal McIntyre said he couldn't sanction the school until the College had a clearance from the district fire chief, the health unit and the Ministry of the Environment, which in the case of the township dump raised oleomargarine when it raised clouds of smoke. If council gave the school permission to go ahead classes would likely start in the Spring of 1973, Dean Hamilton said.

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Coffee house home community centre

Weeks of searching for a suitable location in town proved fruitless and it now appears a downstairs meeting room in the community centre will become the home of Acton's coffee house.

Adele Hurley, a York University student who will supervise the coffee house with the help of a grant from the Department of National Health and Welfare's non-medical use of drugs division, told the Free Press this week a request to rent part of the CN station has been officially turned down by government officials. They point out the station is still being used by passengers.

Work underway

Although no definite opening night has been set for the coffee house, Miss Hurley has been busy during the past two weeks arranging for the construction of wooden tables and seeking the support of local service clubs and organizations. She's already contacted people who have promised to help with the coffee house, but she'd be happy to hear from anyone else interested in helping at 853-1113.

"We'll need a sound system,

kids to bring records, posters, murals and even any new ideas," she says.

Adults welcome

Adults as well as teenagers 16 and over will be welcome at the coffee house, where coffee, cider and doughnuts will be on the bill of fare and entertainment in the form of folk singers, skits and movies will be available.

"The function of the coffee house is to give kids 16 and over a place to go at night where they can ward off other influences," Miss Hurley explains.

Similar coffee houses already operating in Oakville, Milton and Georgetown are proving very successful.

White in town Miss Hurley is staying with Miss Laura Wiles, Knox Avenue.

Stalled — approved

Construction of 76 townhouses, the first phase of a 140 home subdivision "Kingham Hill Estates" on the west side of Main St. near the "Cemetery Hill" is expected to continue at once.

Acton Council passed a by-law last week authorizing the mayor and clerk to sign an agreement with the developers Alteo Construction Ltd., with an added clause that the developer agrees to carry out to the town's satisfaction all of the requirements of the Minister of Planning and Development.

Construction started two months ago but had been temporarily stalled. It will be the first in Ontario, where the federal government has enabled people to purchase CMCH houses where the total salary is only \$5000.

The houses are two-storey three bedroom units built on poured concrete basements and feature electric heat.

The entire development will be professionally landscaped and fan out from a main artery which joins Highway 25 at a point where the town works yard and water tower used to be on Main St. S.

Summer playground to start Monday

Acton Parks and Recreation summer playground program gets underway Monday afternoon, July 10 at 1 p.m.

Playground co-ordinator Wendy Bell is in town this week planning activities and ironing out last minute details.

Registration for playground, as well as for swimming lessons will be held at the community centre tomorrow (Thursday) night between 7:30 and 9 and Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Registration fee for the six week playground program is \$5 per child or \$8 for more than one child in the same family.

Fee for swimming lessons is \$4 per child or \$7 for more than one child from the same family.

There will also be a special combined rate of \$10 for children who wish to enroll in both playground and swimming.

Both Prospect and Sir Donald Mann parks will be used this year.



"Sprowl" barn levelled Tuesday afternoon

(Photo by D. Gibbons)

Children said responsible for "Sprowl" barn blaze

One of the Acton area's rural landmarks, the huge red barn on the farm formerly owned by John Sprowl, Third Line of Esqueving, was levelled by fire late yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon.

Firefighters believe the fire was started by children playing with matches inside the barn.

Besides the barn, the loss was

confined to 400 bales of straw belonging to Frank Anthony, R. R. 1, Limehouse, who rented the facilities from Revenue Properties Ltd. There has been no livestock or machinery inside for some time. Hydro has also been disconnected.

Gives alarm

Mrs. Tom Charlton, who lives

in the house on the property with her husband and family, turned in the alarm. She first noticed signs of fire in the barn, while working in a nearby garden.

Although the blaze was well on its way by the time firefighters arrived, the Acton brigade took every precaution to prevent it from spreading, hosing down

wrecked vehicles and material in the barn area. The Charlton house is located about 75 yards west of the barn.

Fire hoses stretched from the first fire truck in the farm laneway about a half mile north to a hydrant at the Seneca Apartments on Churchill Rd., where a second truck was stationed to aid in pumping water.

Scholar motion supported

Ontario Association of Municipalities endorsed a resolution originated by Nassagaweya Reeve Mrs. A. MacArthur and supported by Halton County Council calling for the continuation of monetary awards for Ontario Scholars. The group held their founding convention recently in Ottawa.

Mrs. MacArthur reported the action taken, at a meeting of county council Wednesday afternoon. During her comments on the convention Mrs. MacArthur claimed the voting had been stacked and some people who were not eligible were allowed to vote.

"If they hadn't voted in favor on the scholarship in question, I would have declared the whole thing illegal. They were lucky," the reeve told her colleagues.

Argos here Centennial Gold Cup

Acton may have lost out in its bid to have the Grey Cup played in town but it is almost official that the Gold Cup will be played in Acton in 1974.

Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League have agreed to play an inter-squad Blue-White game in Acton sometime in June, 1974, in conjunction with the town's centennial and also as part of the Argos 100 year celebration. A gold cup will be awarded the winner.

Centennial Commissioner Jack Carpenter has been meeting with John Barrow, general manager of the Argonauts, to arrange the football game. A similar inter-squad game attracted 13,000 fans in pouring rain at the CNE stadium this year.

The Acton centennial commission hopes to tie the game in with a special Dominion Day weekend centennial celebration. However, final arrangements can't be made until the 1974 football schedule is set. CFL has agreed to officiate.

Meanwhile the centennial commission is busy planning other events for the day of the game tentatively set for Saturday, June 29, 1974.

"We'll have one of the biggest half-time shows ever seen," said commissioner Carpenter and they'll tie in with the centennial theme.

Included in plans are an ecumenical church service, field and track events, old home boys' day, and other attractions still in planning stages. The big weekend will conclude with the annual firefighters' fireworks display.

Plans are being laid to bring portable bleachers to house a crowd of from 10 to 20,000 for the football game and other activities from a Hamilton firm, which CFL officials have recommended.

There will also be other problems — parking, rest room and eating facilities — the commission is presently working on in a bid to make Acton's centennial the biggest celebration ever staged in the town.

Seven Ontario scholars at Acton high school

Acton high school has seven Ontario scholars this year a new record. This six girls and one young man attained over 80 per cent in their grade 13 marks to win the province-wide awards. Marks were released from the school Friday.

Top student in her final year was Carolyn Thompson with 92.2

per cent. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Thompson, 42 Young St., she attended M.Z. Bennett school and Acton high school.

Carolyn Mackenzie received 86.2 per cent to place second. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Finlay C. Mackenzie, 164 Churchill Rd., and attended

James S. Bell public school, Long Branch, and Georgetown district high school before coming here several years ago.

Gordon Morris, with 86 per cent, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Morris, 132 Elmore Dr., Acton. He attended Sherwood Heights school, Hamilton, Robert Little school,

and then Acton high school.

Carol Patterson attained 85 per cent. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russel Patterson, 67 Church St., she attended Robert Little and then Acton high school.

Ursula Fiedler has 83.1 per cent; she's the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Fiedler, R.R. 1, Georgetown. Before Acton high

school she attended Robert Little school, Acton; Blue Mountain school, Ballinafad and Limehouse public school.

Anne Cavlovic registered 82.1 per cent. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vinko Cavlovic, 162 Tyler Ave., she attended S.S. 2, Esqueving; Holy Rosary school, Milton, and then Milton high

school before Acton high.

Angela Pries has 80.1 per cent to put her in the acclaimed group of students. She attended Brookville public school and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Pries, R.R. 1, Campbellville.

Last year there were three Ontario scholars, Christine

Brunelle, Bonnie Garvin and Jacqueline Lemon. Stephanie Merrin had high marks but was ineligible.

Highest number of Ontario scholars in any previous year was four. The number in the graduating class is also unusually high.

Was afraid

Mr. Anthony said later he had been concerned lately about children from the area, who were using the barn as a playhouse.

Heat from the fire was so intense that firefighters said it was hardly possible for a person to hold their hand on the side of the house 75 yards away, when they first arrived.

Firefighters answered the call at 3:45 and remained at the scene pouring water on the ruins until 7 p.m.



CAROLYN THOMPSON



CAROLYNE MACKENZIE



GORDON MORRIS



CAROL PATTERSON



URSULA FIEDLER



ANNE CAVLOVIC



ANGELA PRIES

Police investigate minor accident

Two cars were involved in a minor accident Monday at Becker's Milk store. Drivers were Gary Foster and Edgar Hiscock, both of Acton.

Another accident on June 29 occurred when David Hunter Acton, swerved his car to avoid a dog and struck a tree. This incident happened on Young St. Police report a quiet week.