



DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION for Halton County Jim Singleton points out a proposed seating arrangement as Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong, Acton Trustee and vice chairman Tom Watson and newly elected chairman of Halton County Board of Education Bill Priestner look on. The board held their inaugural meeting Thursday. (Photo by B. Burt)

Elect Tom Watson board vice-chairman

Bill Priestner of Burlington was elected chairman of the Halton County Board of Education. Priestner won the seat by acclamation when Noel Cooper declined nomination, Thursday at the Board's inaugural meeting in Burlington. It was Priestner's second attempt at winning the seat. After service as vice-chairman he ran against Doug Wood in 1971 but was defeated. His move at that time was challenged by Fred Armitage, a fellow trustee, who argued Priestner shouldn't hold the chairman's position because he was a Separate School representative on the public board and was only elected to the board by a minority group. He suggested the chairman should be someone who could speak for a wider segment of the population. No such opposition was evident to Priestner this time around. Priestner is a charter member of the board and has served recently as chairman of finance and he has worked on most of the major committees.

Watson elected
Tom Watson of Acton was elected vice-chairman. A charter member of the county board and one with 22 years experience in school board work, Watson won praise from fellow members last year for smooth negotiations with teachers at salary negotiation time.

Outgoing chairman Ernie Bodnar of Georgetown said he wouldn't stand for the position again because of a time shortage due to a job change.

Looking over the year's work he noted the priorities and expenditures committee report was probably the most important the board dealt with. He said the board's commitment to a thrust in primary education, kindergarten through grade three, was a result of the report and one of the key recommendations.

Get message across
Bodnar said the board would have to strive harder to make the public aware of the work the board is doing. He said the press fell short of the mark and he chastized them for it.

Bodnar told trustees he felt they'd have to change their ways and instead of going along with the low profile image they have and just going about their job, they must adopt a higher profile. He noted municipal councillors seemed to take a high profile and suggested trustees should lean a little that way.

After the meeting Bodnar told reporters that news emanating from the board meetings seemed to centre around the items that could be sensationalized and the real "gut" issues and achievements of the board went unrecognized.

Judge Alan Sprague, senior county judge in Halton County, officiated at the swearing in ceremony at the board's inaugural. Outgoing Halton County Warden Jim Swanborough offered greetings from Halton County Council.

Don't look back
It's a long way from Wilson St., he told Priestner who by that

Chamber preparing for general meeting

Acton Chamber of Commerce is holding the annual general meeting on January 17 at the Dominion Hotel to elect directors and give year-end reports.

Prior to the general meeting, Paul Nielsen, chairman of the Chamber's retail section, will chair another meeting to discuss 1973 store hours, Christmas lighting, local bus service at Christmas, and parking. Chamber officials are hoping there will be a large attendance.

The Acton Chamber is making a special appeal to all businessmen in Acton and district to join the organization this year. Officials point out that chamber programs such as advertising of store hours, Christmas lighting and other projects confer benefits on all, and responsibilities should be shared by every registered business.

"Only by receiving strong support can our program be extended to assist in developing and improving our community," the Chamber declared in a written plea.

Conservation authorities raise ire

Conservation authorities escaped any New Year's good wishes proposed at last Wednesday's inaugural meeting of Esqueving Council.

Deputy-reeve Len Coxe suggested a roof could be built over the entire Grand River for the same price, when he discovered the cost of the construction of the \$1,127,500 Grand River Conservation Authority administration building in Galt. A minuscule corner of Esqueving in the Crowsons Corners area is in the GRCA region, so Esqueving must share in the cost of the building.

No consolation
Clerk-treasurer Delmar French's information that the township share would be only \$104.94 proved to be no consolation to Reeve Tom Hill, who roared he didn't care if it were only a penny. Councillor Dick Howitt suggested council write a letter to its representative on the authority, asking that it be informed of such projects in the future. The township does not have an official representative, but is supposed to have the mayor of Ferguson as an agent.

Levels attack
Deputy-reeve Coxe also levelled an attack against what he called the "dictatorial attitudes of some conservation officials," after he read a Credit Valley Conservation Authority report, which criticized the township for granting a building

permit for a storage shed to B. Carney of Norval without first consulting with the Authority. According to a CVCA investigation, the building is located eight feet below the regional storm line and could be subject to flooding.

Coxe charged exact building sites are not always inspected and often officials don't know whether the land floods or it doesn't. Reeve Hill voiced his agreement with the deputy-reeve's charge.

"I know in the Glen they only check the river when the sun's shining on both banks," he said. "When the water's on the rampage, you don't find the conservation officials, because they're nowhere to be found."

Folk mass

For the last two Saturday nights there has been a folk mass at St. Joseph's church. Mrs. D. McIntyre, Bruce McArthur and Hector Daigle play guitars and Ann Glendenning leads the choir.



BR-R-R-R! HOW LOW CAN IT GO! Mrs. C. K. Browne looks to see where the temperature dipped well below the zero mark on the thermometer during the past week. The weatherman promises moderating temperatures this week. —Photo by J. Jennings

New LIP program could benefit Acton—Chamber

Officers of the Acton Chamber of Commerce are urging companies in the district be fully conversant with the new proposals announced by the Local Initiatives Program (LIP) of the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Ten million dollars has been set aside from the overall LIP budget for the program entitled "Private Sector Local Initiative Program."

The proposal is aimed at companies who are victims of the annual winter slowdown which forces them to lay off workers for the winter months. The main objective is to keep employees productively employed under the supervision of their employer at their normal rate of pay, but engaged in performing a community service through the normal layoff period.

Under the Private Sector LIP program the government would provide grants to employers to cover regular wages and benefits normally paid to employees, plus an allowance to cover the added

overhead and depreciation costs incurred during the contracted period of time.

Must have space
In order to qualify for assistance, employers should have plant space available and be willing to supervise the special activity to be performed by LIP participants, which should be of a community service nature. Among several hypothetical projects suggested was a lumber plant normally destined for layoffs where they could be engaged in producing park benches and picnic tables if the need for them was identified as a priority by the community.

A construction company could build a swimming pool if a pool of community interest indicated a need for one. In this case there would be a need for an in-depth consultation with municipal officials since maintenance costs after completion would become the responsibility of the community. The Department has indicated

it will consider all reasonable proposals which meet two basic guidelines:

(1) That the project satisfies a community need and,

(2) That it does not duplicate an existing activity. It is expected also that in the case of major construction projects the proposers would secure the support and participation of the municipal authorities who might agree to supply the materials necessary for the project.

Commitments for the program must be made in January, and sent to L. E. (Larry) Davies, National Director, L.I.P., Department of Manpower and Immigration, Ottawa, Ontario.

Acton Chamber officials are anxious to co-operate with anyone who might be interested in the program and they have suggested to the Centennial Commission that much of the costs associated with rebuilding the community centre might be recovered under the LIP initiatives.

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Re-open Thursday, February 1st
at 10 a.m.

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THE CULPEPPER CATTLE CO.
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ATTENTION RATEPAYERS
Town of Acton

The council of the town of Acton has two immediate appointments necessary to fill current vacancies on the Acton Parks and Recreation Committee and is inviting volunteers for these positions.

Interested residents of the municipality, with related qualifications and having a desire to become active in this field of municipal service, are urged to submit to the undersigned a short resume of experience and aptitude with the reasons prompting such personal interest.

DO IT TODAY!

J. T. Hurst
Clerk Administrator
Town of Acton

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