

\$261,000 grant to acquire Silver Creek area

A \$261,000 grant for the Silver Creek Conservation Area, five miles east of Acton, has been announced by the Ontario Government.

This area comprises some 264 acres of land located within the Niagara Escarpment in Silver Creek gorge, one of the most scenic areas in Esquesing.

The grant goes to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority

which is now proposing to acquire a further 320 acres of land adjacent to the present conservation area for the purpose of establishing a large multi-purpose conservation area on the Niagara Escarpment. The Authority recently acquired about 40 acres and the new acquisition will add more to the area which will eventually comprise approximately 1,000 acres. The area runs from the Eighth to the Tenth Lines of

Esquesing including precipitous cliffs, towering hills, babbling brooks and waterfalls. Eventually the authority hopes the new conservation area will be linked with the one at Terra Cotta, which is being used to capacity. It is proposed to leave a large portion of the new area in its natural state and construct nature trails.

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Twenty-Eight Pages—Fifteen Cents.



ON THEIR WAY to a camping trip in Northern Ontario in July July because of the generosity of sponsors in Saturday's "Outers Club" walkathon are these four ambitious Acton High students Tracy Spear, Roma Kuchmak, Jeff Patterson and

Chuck Thibodeau. Twenty-nine students took part in the walkathon which raised over \$1,000 to buy equipment to be used on the trip, as well as in subsequent environmental science classes at the school. (D. Gibbons photo)

"Outers" walkathon raises \$1000

Over \$1,000 to be used for the purchase of camping and outdoor equipment was raised in a walkathon Saturday by 29 members of the "Outers", an Acton High school group which will be making a camping trip to northern Ontario during the summer months. The equipment will also be used for subsequent environmental science classes at the school.

One girl, Kathy Frost who was sponsored for a total of \$4.52 per mile over the 30 mile route produced revenue of \$135.60 herself.

Map route
Walkers started out from the community centre at 7.30 a.m. and followed a route which took them out the First Line of Esquesing to 25 Sideroad, west on 25 to the Guelph Line, south to Five Sideroad, east to Highway 25 and north back to town. The home of teacher Sue Burns just

north of Five Sideroad was used as the third checkpoint along the route. Sean Ahearn and teacher Bill Coats toured the route in cars to supply refreshments and band-aids where necessary.

First walker to arrive back in town was Glen McKenzie. He arrived at 1.05 p.m. Teachers Wally Rowley and Dr. Paul Tamblin participated in the walkathon.

Students participating included

Mike Degen, Cindy Morris, Leslie Schipper, Don Cragg, Tracy Spear, Paul Petric, Deb Legate, Danny Lamarche, Sheena Johnstone, Yvonne Galbraith, Jill Farady, Kathy Fuchs, Marg Slingerland, John McHugh, Eric Kuchmak, John Gorjup, Ted Waites, Kathy Lowe, Deb Chafe, Roma Kuchmak, Kathy Frost, John Vos, Gloria Browne, Pete Arbic, Jeff Patterson, Glen McKenzie, Yvette Leroy, Chuck Thibodeau and Ron Moore.

New grants may alter the budget

Additional grants for municipalities announced by the Ontario Government last Wednesday could alter the Acton budget, possibly lowering the rate by as much as seven mills.

The province did not have figures for 1972 — the year from which grants will be tabulated — but listed an additional \$69,000 for Acton, based on 1971. A mill represents a little better than \$9,000. Based on the 1971 figures this would represent better than seven mills.

"As far as I am concerned this should be passed on to the taxpayer," budget chairman Reeve G. W. (Pat) McKenzie told the Free Press, but he said council will have to decide what to do with the additional grants when they receive approval.

A call to Queens Park Monday confirmed that the town must apply for the new grants on forms the province will supply. Conceivably, the grant could be higher than the \$69,000 of 1971. The town fathers are keeping their fingers crossed.

The tax rate is almost half-mill lower than 1972 now.



Dog days

THE HAWES children Tammy 1½ and Karen 6 have become very attached to their newest Black Labrador "Sam". Their parents Mr. and Mrs. Art Hawes however are reluctant to let "Sam" run loose along the Sixth Line, since they lost another "Black Lab" in a poisoning case March 12. (D. Gibbons photo)

Investigation continues in dog poisoning

Investigation of the alleged poisoning of two dogs on the Sixth Line of Esquesing, March 18 is being continued by North Halton OPP. As yet no charges have been laid.

Two black labradors, one belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Del Linstead and the other to Mr. and Mrs. Art Hawes were let out about 8 p.m. March 18. They returned about 15 minutes later; convulsed in agony. By 9 p.m. the dogs were dead.

The deaths brought to eight the

number of dogs that have died from what is believed to be strychnine poisoning within the last year. Eight dogs on the line died early last winter. Others were poisoned but survived.

Post mortem

A post mortem report the two black labs issued by the University of Guelph confirmed traces of strychnine were in their stomachs. It is believed hunks of meat are impregnated with the poison and tossed into yards or alongside the road.

Sixth Line residents are now reluctant to let their dogs run loose. The Linsteads, who have now lost two dogs have decided not to get another one.

Close watch

The Hawes' who live only about 100 yards to the north have bought a new black lab "Sam" but are keeping a close watch on the dog.

"We take him out for walks, but there's no way we'll let him run loose," Mrs. Hawes says.

The Hawes children Tammy

1½, and Karen 6, became very attached to the first Black Lab and missed it greatly. This prompted their parents to purchase the second one.

Last winter the Hawes' lost a beagle pup, which was playing in a pen just outside their kitchen door.

Under the section of the Criminal Code of Canada dealing with cruelty to animals, a person can be fined up to \$500, jailed six months or both for poisoning dogs.

Citizen dinner Saturday

Family, friends and associates of Dr. George Elliott will be joining Chamber of Commerce members Saturday evening at Acton Music Centre for the annual Citizen of the Year dinner and dance.

The event is carefully arranged to be the highlight of the Chamber of Commerce year. Tickets are available from Chamber members or at Nielsen's Clothing.

Mill rate drops

Esquesing taxpayers to get some relief

Most taxpayers in Esquesing township can expect a small decrease in taxes this year as a result of the \$1,648,530.26 budget passed by the township council Monday night.

Council set the budget for farm and residential taxpayers at 60.58 mills—a reduction of 1.44 mills over 1972. The commercial and industrial rate was set at 67.77 mills—1.18 below last year's rate of 68.95.

Separate school supporters, however, will experience a slight increase as the mill rate jumps to the same figure as those with public school support. Their farm and residential rate is up .61 mills and commercial and industrial .76.

Council set the rate with no comments other than the reeve's. He asked the press to take note of the fact that the mill rate had gone down.

The budget is based on a total assessment of \$20,305,272 comprised of \$17,377,719 residential and farm and \$2,927,553 commercial and industrial. The township must raise an estimated \$321,366 in taxes after estimated revenue is subtracted from estimated expenditures of \$716,284.00.

General expenses for the township amounted to \$716,284 while the county levy amounted to \$150,220, separate school support \$21,109.37, public school \$412,961, secondary school support \$344,554 and street lights \$3,371.89, for a total budget of \$1,648,530.26.

Following is a breakdown of the mill rate, followed by a breakdown of the budget showing 1972 figures and the new 1973 mill rate and figures:

Township of Esquesing Mill rate for 1973

| Total Mill Rate with Exception of Street Lights | 1972 Mill Rate | | Increase | Decrease |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|----------|
| | 1972 | 1973 | | |
| Public School Support | | | | |
| Farm & Residential | 62.02 | 60.58 | 1.44 | |
| Commercial & Industrial | 68.95 | 67.77 | 1.18 | |
| Separate School Support | | | | |
| Farm & Residential | 59.97 | 60.58 | .61 | |
| Commercial & Industrial | 67.01 | 67.77 | .76 | |
| Township | | | | |
| Farm & Residential | 16.30 | 15.41 | .89 | |
| Commercial & Industrial | 18.96 | 18.41 | .55 | |
| County | | | | |
| Farm & Residential | 7.22 | 7.40 | .18 | |
| Commercial & Industrial | 7.22 | 7.40 | .18 | |
| Public School | | | | |
| Farm & Residential | 21.55 | 21.03 | .52 | |
| Commercial & Industrial | 23.94 | 23.36 | .58 | |

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LAKEVIEW SUBDIVISION residents found the bridge over the school creek on the park walkway missing this week when they attempted to cross to the park. Minor flooding conditions at the mouth of the creek washed the bridge out, but repairs are right at the top

of the list on parks manager Harold Townsley's agenda. Looking across to the other side are l. to r., Pat Cassidy a visitor to town with young Paul Holtved, Arlene Wilson and Neveen Kamel. (D. Gibbons photo)

Establish liquor lounge for Halton Manor residents

Halton Centennial Manor residents will be able to have a drink before their dinner in the near future. The Board of Management approved plans recently to establish a liquor lounge in the recreation room at the county's home for the aged in Milton.

Administrator Stanley Allan said many of the residents were accustomed to having a drink before or after dinner when they had their own home. "Just because they move shouldn't mean they can no longer do this," Mr. Allan said.

Until now liquor has been forbidden at the home under the restrictions of the Old Aged Homes Act. The provincial department, however, approves of the plan for such a

convenience. Some other homes in the province currently offer the service.

Fire damages new vehicle

Fire of unknown origin caused extensive damage to a brand new 1973 car on the L and L Ford Sales lot shortly before 10 Monday morning.

Acton Firefighters answered the call and were able to extinguish the fire.

The fire started when staff members attempted to move the car to another position on the lot.

Mr. Allan said methods would be devised to control the use of the bar and hours will be set after consultation with the residents.

The drinks will probably be the cheapest in town as the bar will be run on a non-profit basis. A small charge will be levied to cover the cost of the bar.

"This will give the opportunity to those who are accustomed to having a drink before dinner to do so without having to go downtown to do it," the administrator noted.

Mr. Allan plans to meet with the residents this week and work out details on the idea and get it going as soon as possible.

"We've made many forward looking changes in the past year and this will simply provide another convenience for the residents," he said.

Plan to replace bridge

Minor flooding conditions at the mouth of the school creek have temporarily washed out the bridge on the walkway connecting Lakeview subdivision with the park.

Repairs to the bridge were included on a list of upcoming parks jobs presented by parks manager Harold Townsley at Monday night's parks and recreation meeting.

Also in store for the park area are replacement of wooden cattle ties at the west end with portable ties, repairs to the block work at the side of the front steps of the community centre, replacement of the cracked glass in the front door, painting of the auditorium floor, seeding of grass on the Elizabeth Drive parkland and spreading of topsoil there and installation of playground equipment. Replacement of the cattle ties will be done as the expense of the Acton Fall Fair board.

Mr. Townsley suggested large plastic floats be purchased and installed in the swimming area this year instead of the usual steel barrels. He said the floats would require no maintenance.