

# Winter driving tricky - OPP

The reporting week of February 17 to 23 was a busy one for officers of the Acton O.P.P.

There were 43 general occurrences ranging from found license plates to domestic complaints.

There were three minor accidents reported during the week with no injuries. One accident involved a snowmobile being struck by a car on Bower Ave., near the post office. All three accidents resulted in charges of "Failing To Yield The Right-Of-Way" against one of the drivers involved.

There were three liquor seizures during and three persons charged as a result of this. Two local men were charged with "Having Care and Control Of Their Car

While Impaired."

**Safe distances**  
Following the car ahead too closely can make you the cause of a rear-end collision. Always have enough stopping distance—just in case you'll need it. Remember, the minimum safe stopping distance under good conditions is at least one car length for each ten miles per hour of speed.

**Winter care**  
Winter driving can be tricky, but not if you adjust to winter conditions such as uncertain weather, slippery roads, and reduced visibility. Always keep windshield wipers and defrosters in good condition. Keep headlights clean and keep remembering—special care is the basis of safety on the road.



NEW EXECUTIVE of Acton Junior Farmers, in their best bib and tucker for the annual banquet and dance, lined up for a photograph Saturday. Front row left to right Ray Swackhamer

# Sharon Henderson wins top trophy

Saturday February 23, Acton Junior Farmers held their annual banquet at Ebenezer United Church. A delicious meal of roast beef was enjoyed.

Sharon Henderson was awarded the Outstanding Member Trophy presented to a member of the club who has contributed greatly to the organization.

The new and past execu-

tives were introduced to the 118 attending. Past president Rick Britton was chairman of the evening and gave an account of the club's activities of the past year.

Norine Noble, one of the Acton members, entertained with a piano solo.

Winners of the door prizes were Mrs. Donna Hamilton, John Krapek and Glen Britton.

The 50-50 draw winners were first prize \$75 Henry Clark, R.R. 2, Rockwood; second prize of \$35 Harvey Burt, R.R. 2, Acton, and third prize of \$15 went to Norm McDonald, Limehouse.

The Acton Free Press, Wed., Feb. 27, 1974 3

## Plan two thermometers

According to organizers on the Lions Club pool committee, the drive for funds is making headway and canvassers will be on the job for the next few weeks.

Lion Art Gordon indicated the Lions are considering another thermometer to be set up in their Mill St. headquarters. One will give the total of the grants, the other, monies raised in the community canvass.

At the present time the door to door canvass gauge shows a reading of \$3,300 but the enthusiastic pool boys hope to see the mercury rise at least another few degrees before this week is through.

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THERE'S STILL TIME For WINTER FUN

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NEW OFFICE for deputy fire chief Mick Holmes is Hugh Patterson's former corner in the town office. He has moved from quarters in the fire hall.

## New office for chief

What does a full-time fire chief do, in a town where during this normal week, there was only one minor fire?

Mick Holmes has established his new office in the former town offices and is finding plenty to do. First of all there is a much increased amount of "paper work" and he's preparing an Acton budget. He has begun making inspections of schools and stores and will go to nursing homes next. He will inspect private homes and factories by request.

He has given talks at the Robert

little and one to the high school baby sitting course so far.

He also expects to speak to service clubs on fire prevention.

New number  
He can no longer be reached at the fire hall by phone. Only number there is the fire emergency one, 853-1212. His number now, at the town office, is Halton Hills switchboard in Georgetown, 877-5185, extension 20.

Hugh Patterson's former cool green (albeit smudgy) walls have been repainted "fire glow" yellow for the Acton chief.

## Says Region missed chance for harmony

West Oakville ratepayer leader John Sommerville expressed concern about a number of issues that Halton Regional Council has dealt with recently, when he addressed members of council Wednesday at their regular meeting.

He warned the councillors the salary issue would come back to haunt them and urged members to consider establishing a penalty for absenteeism.

He suggested members not prepared to dedicate full time or close to it should resign and make room for someone who could devote more time to the job. He noted two councillors were absent when the vote was taken to locate regional offices in Burlington temporarily.

Last chance  
Sommerville said council had lost an opportunity to install some harmony in the region, as they did not give sufficient consideration to the people in the north when that office decision was made.

Without naming him, Sommerville called on councillor Jim Watson to apologize to Burlington ratepayer leader Leo Haber

During a recent meeting Watson said Haber was an election loser and was looking for his name in newspapers. Haber had tried unsuccessfully to speak on the question of councillors' salaries at a meeting in January.

Sommerville said that Haber, on the other hand, owed council an apology for insisting on speaking and causing a disturbance. "We have to follow the rules and make the necessary appointments," Sommerville admitted.

## Some smoke but no fire

Oven mitts laid on a stove element in one of the apartments in the Diplomat apartment building on Church St. last Friday night resulted in investigation by the Halton Hills area no. 1 fire brigade.

The brigade was summoned by caretaker of the building when neighbors smelled smoke and made the report.

Mrs. Civic was removing a hot pot from the stove and laid the mitts on the burner. The brigade was alerted about 5:40 p.m.

## Small increase seen by board

Since the Halton County Board of Education's inception in 1969, the education mill rate levied by the area municipalities has generally followed a downward trend, reports a statement issued by board members Tuesday.

The education mill rates in 1973 were less than the education mill rates in 1969, with only one exception. The average decrease across the county was 7.7 mills.

This substantial reduction was the result of two major influences. Provincial government grants have steadily increased from 43 percent of the budget in 1969 to 60 percent in 1973. The other major influence was the

board's control over costs and their increases.

In 1969 the Provincial average cost for an elementary student was \$632 which by 1973 had risen to an estimated \$900 or an increase of 42 percent. The cost per pupil for Halton went from \$585 to \$768, an increase of 31 percent. The Provincial secondary cost per pupil in 1969 was \$1,220 which rose to approximately \$1,465 in 1973, an increase of 20 percent. Halton's secondary cost per pupil for this period went from \$1,027 to \$1,261, an increase of 23 percent.

Rising costs  
The Board like the people of Halton, is subject to rising

costs and inflationary forces that go beyond its control.

Chairs, 1974 price is up 34 percent; art, paint brush, 1974 price is up 106 percent; erasers, 1974 price is up 66 percent; bond paper, 1974 price is up 68 percent; secretarial desk, 1974 price is up 26 percent; paper towels, 1974 price is up 79 percent.

It is expected that the increased cost in this type of expense, coupled with the increased cost in the utilities area, and the increase resulting from adjustments of the salary schedules for all classifications of personnel, will result in an increase in

the cost per pupil per year of about 10 percent for 1974.

It is not anticipated that the provincial government grant for 1974 will go beyond the 60 percent support level reached in 1973. If this is true then the local municipalities will have to provide their share of the 1974 increased cost. This will generate a small increase in the mill rate for education.

The 1974 budget has not been completed, but the board is well aware of this potential property tax increase and considerations will reflect this concern. "We shall continue our efforts to maintain the present high levels of education in Halton at the most responsible costs," the statement concludes.

## Central site favored for regional offices

The permanent site for regional government headquarters in Halton should be at the geographical centre of the region, according to the committee of regional council which has been appointed to choose a site.

The committee chaired by Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill drafted and circulated a list of six points which will be considered when the committee makes its recommendation.

The committee suggested the site should be a minimum of 50 acres, have complementary surroundings and be accessible from all parts of the region.

Joint use  
The committee will investigate the possibility of having government agencies such as Halton Region Conservation Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Children's Aid

Society, Regional Police and Halton Board of Education housed under one complex.

Sewer and water service availability will be considered but it isn't necessary that those services be provided from a town supply, the committee report indicated.

Committee chairman Hill said he hoped to provide council with a list of sites being considered within three weeks. He said the committee would be examining the sites when the snow cleared. He hoped to approach owners with proposals but without having it known the land was to be used for regional headquarters.

Previous attempts to buy land for headquarters saw the price jump considerably. Oakville Councillor Terry Mannell wondered if the committee might be wise to advertise for proposals, rather than conducting a search similar to the one for a temporary headquarters building.

"The sooner we get this settled, the sooner we'll be able to pull all parts of the region together. This has been a thorn in the side of many of us for a long time and it is continually bubbling under the surface," Mannell said.

Temporary move  
Regional council approved a move to Burlington last week. The move was to be a temporary situation. The lease on the building there is for three years with an option for two more years.

It is estimated that a permanent site won't be built much before three years from now and some councillors feel the two year option will be near expiry before the building is erected and ready to house the staff.

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