

Five suspected rabid foxes reported in Rockwood

Another incident of rabies, this time within Rockwood limits has aroused more public concern. Fred Meadows, a village resident, feels citizens cannot be warned strongly enough to make them aware of the potential danger prevalent in the area of the village and district at present.

Thursday's blow was one dealt to the family of Alan and Betty Eastwood of Station Street, recent newcomers to Rockwood from Acton. Shortly after noon Mrs. Eastwood heard strange snarling sounds outside her house in the vicinity of the kitchen window.

Alone in the house at the time, she thought the family dog, a large pedigree English bulldog was upset at the approach of a stranger. Looking out the window

however, she saw the usually serene animal locked in fierce combat with a rabid fox, whose fangs and jaw were dripping with saliva.

Contacting the Guelph veterinarian, Dr. N. A. Hawkins, and the Health of Animals Branch in Guelph, the Eastwoods were informed that, despite their great affection for the family pet, his direct contact with the diseased fox made him suspect. Although he had been only recently inoculated, according to the authorities, the obvious action for the anxious family was to have him destroyed.

Dr. Hawkins pointed out that, as far as he knows, there is no place or kennel where animals suspected of having picked up the disease can be kept as no one wants to run the risk of relaying the disease to other animals or

people.

"Sometimes in the case of an animal biting a person we keep him for observation at the clinic for a two week period. We want to ascertain that it wasn't rabid at time of biting," he said. "But, when the animal stays healthy, we let him go." The doctor said that, in case of an animal in actual known battle with a rabid animal, the risk is sufficiently great that the pet should be destroyed immediately.

The fox on the Eastwood property was only one of five seen in the vicinity of village limits over the weekend. Two local men, Wayne Nightingale and Bill Wingate, both of Rockwood, searched for the fox on Friday but to no avail.

The same day, another fox was seen by June Jansen in the vicinity of the Mill End



store on Main St., another near the Hwy Gas Bar. On Friday, one other was found and shot in the grain area of a barn on the Bernard O'Brien farm on the outskirts of the village on the Fifth Line. Farmers in that area are becoming greatly alarmed, and keeping close watch on livestock.

Another incident occurred

on Friday when Pier Meindertma, on the 4th Line of Eramosa, behind the Rockwood Conservation park, opened his barn door to get a manure spreader. He saw a strange animal which dolefully followed him into the driving shed and then onto the garage and from there to the house.

Recalling the incident, Mrs.

Meindertma said the fox followed like a dog, making pathetic noises like groans of pain. Her husband attempted to catch the fox with a pitch fork but couldn't manage. He went to the house to look for pellets but couldn't find them, so called the township office for assistance.

"All the time the animal's mouth was hanging open as if in dire pain," Mrs. Meindertma said. By the time the man from the township had arrived, the fox had disappeared. "They looked for at least an hour," she said, pointing out that her husband was concerned about the heifers in the pole barn which could be attacked if the fox was in hiding.

George Smith, on the 3rd Line Eramosa, sighted a fox close to his back door. The possibility of a healthy fox coming close to any house in

considered inconceivable, according to authorities. Recognizing the need for action, a search was triggered Saturday with the newly fallen snow, presenting some assistance for tracking the animals.

A fox posse consisting of Fred Meadows, Carl Meadows, and Bill Wingate was organized and the trio sighted a fox digging into a gopher hole. Frightened by the approaching men, it ran away and disappeared.

Saturday's dawn brought three other foxes onto the village scene, one in the vicinity of the Centennial public school grounds, one other in the area of the Main Street Gary Hateman property which was trailed to the farm of Harry Bonner but disappeared; one other was seen in the area of the Ed Pasmore farm, just below the

village.

Fred Meadows has appointed himself a one-man fox hunting committee. Each day he has been going out methodically attempting to run down the rabid creatures. "Just no way it's the same fox each time," said Mr. Meadows who feels that people just aren't scared enough.

He is adamant that dogs should be tied up and not allowed to roam. Health authorities point out that saliva on any animal in combat is what carries the disease and, if touched by seemingly healthy skin can be picked up through the slightest break in the skin.

"Any person with the most minute scratch will be contaminated," warns the health authorities. Mr. Meadows feels that running dogs are potential threats. By

scaring out the foxes, they get into combat and could pass the disease on to unsuspecting children.

"Kids are what count," says the anxious Mr. Meadows and, for the next few weeks, he intends to be on the lookout, with the possibility of setting up another posse very soon.

Meanwhile village animal owners are keeping their pets indoors and parents of children waiting for school buses are rightfully worried.

The Eastwoods have managed a philosophical approach to the necessity of destroying their valuable dog. "It could have been one of the children who was attacked," Mrs. Eastwood said.

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Power adjusted

The annual adjustment in the cost of power for 1973 was established at last Thursday's meeting of the Acton power commission with the local commission paying out an amount of \$3,083.81 as opposed to the usual procedure of crediting the adjustment.

A letter received from Ontario Hydro instructed the Acton commission to take another look at their earlier request for a new bucket truck. Hydro suggested that equipment on hand was adequate considering the size of the present Acton staff. The local commission decided to have the truck demonstrated with decision to purchase, left pending.

The commission discussed a letter received from Ontario Hydro where they explained that, contrary to expectations of inflationary costs, power product costs in '73 did not rise to the level originally expected. Higher than anticipated stream flows, the exceptional performance of Pickering generating station, and substantial increases in revenue from export sales were, according to the letter, significant factors that tended to ameliorate cost increases.

Official Plan price drops

Prices are rising everywhere, but there's a big bargain in Esqueping.

Copies of the official plan which first sold for \$35, then was dropped to \$25, will now sell for \$10, if council adopts a committee recommendation.

Copies of the official plan for Georgetown and Acton will cost \$5.

According to town planner Mario Venditti the prices vary because it costs more to print the Esqueping plan than those of the towns.

Small scale zoning maps for the average person who doesn't want the whole official plan sell for 50 cents and \$1.

Previously Acton did not sell copies of the official plan, but sold copies of the zoning bylaw for \$2.

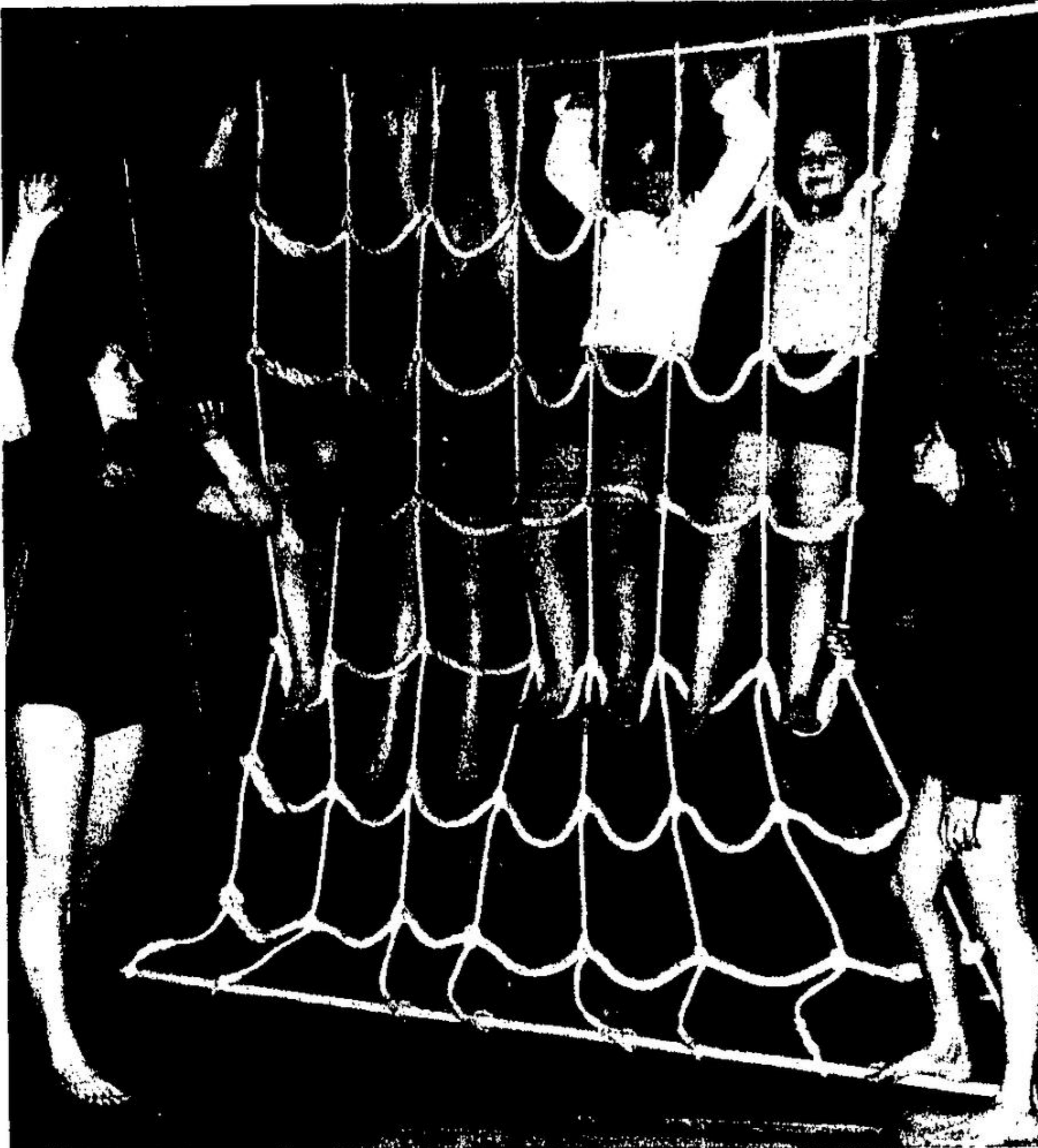
Investigate break-in

Acton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police laid two charges for possession of narcotics, one against an impaired driver, two charges of minors consuming liquor under the age of 18 and officers seized liquor on two occasions during the past week. In all Acton OPP investigated 39 general occurrences.

An investigation is underway into an entry at M.Z. Bennett school over the week-end in which damage was done and some money taken. No charges have been laid in connection with that break-in.

Police report a \$250 chain saw stolen from a truck parked behind the Station Hotel. The investigation continues.

Officers quelled two disturbances at the Dominion Hotel on Saturday night but no charges were laid.



ATHLETIC AND KEEN, graceful Lee Anne Gurak is a grade 12 student from Acton High who enjoys participating in the electives program at the Speyside school every Friday noon hour. Interior design is one of her greatest interests but,

enjoying all types of sports has thoughts of a career in physical education. She is seen with Linda Duncifffe, Sandy Hewitt, Janet Britton, Gretchen Sankey and Patti McClure all on the ropes.

Halton Board of Education

\$52 million budget approved some trustees demand cuts

Halton Board of Education members gave tentative approval to the \$52,166,693 education budget at their meeting Thursday. The vote carried 10-6 after the board heard suggestions that the estimates should be cut by five percent or by up to 10 percent.

Trustee Tony Goodyear described the budget as mind-boggling. He said he couldn't find fault with any particular area of the budget but called on the staff to cut the budget by five percent across the board with the exception of debt charges.

Goodyear noted inflation was the worst it has been for many years and said government spending was a key factor in inflation.

Trustee Dick Goodin asked that the budget be referred back to committee for cuts of up to 10 percent.

Inside The Free Press

Pee Wees do well at Goderich
Widow farms, trains horses
Tall towers not appreciated
Bessems have rocks in head
We get letters

Page 4
Page 12
Page B2
Page B5
Page B3

Trustee Ernie Bodnar said there were some specific areas where he felt cuts should be made.

Trustees who have specific areas to question or urge cuts were invited to attend a meeting of the budget committee tomorrow night (Thursday).

Finance Chairman Tom Watson of Acton defended the budget and told trustees it was utterly ridiculous to think the budget could be cut by five or 10 percent without compromising the service offered.

He termed the suggestions to cut the budget as false economy. Watson argued the budget increase of 11.56 percent was in line, considering the rapid pace of inflation.

Also higher limit
Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley said the ministry of education had earlier said eight percent was the limit by which they would increase the ceilings. He noted that after examining inflation, further increases of two and a half to three percent were authorized. "We're right in line with that," he said.

Trustee Edna Robinson presented the final section of the budget at the meeting Thursday. She noted instructional costs would account for \$37,031,048 or 73 percent of the total budget.

She noted inflation and a more experienced and better qualified staff were key reasons for the increase.

She showed a series of charts indicating that a larger percentage of teachers have higher qualifications and more experience than at any time before.

Towers to march down Halton Hills

A 720-foot-wide swath of hydro towers will likely be cutting through the centre of the new town of Halton Hills as the result of a report by the Solandt Commission revealed this week.

Dr. Ormond Solandt has recommended the north-south 500 kV hydro corridor to the Bruce Generating station cross the Niagara Escarpment just west of Limehouse and down the centre of Concession 5 to a junction with the east-west lines from Nanticoke just north of Highway 5, approximately where the farm of well known beef producer Reford Gardhouse is situated.

The towers will be within view of Acton and Georgetown, standing 160 feet high with three double circuit 500 kV lines (two in 1977 and one in 1980) and two later 230 kV lines.

Unveiled Friday
The long-awaited Solandt Commission Report on the 500,000 volt transmission line from Nanticoke to Pickering was unveiled in the Ontario

Legislature Friday and it recommended the route follow, where possible, the province's proposed Parkway Belt which extends westward from Toronto to Milton.

The corridor jogs north-east of Milton, proceeds along Five Sideroad, skirts Mohawks Raceway and Campbellville, before joining up with 401 Highway approximately at the Halton-Wellington border, proceeds past Highway 6 before turning abruptly and traversing the Beverly swamp.

Dr. Solandt said the route he picked was shorter, likely cheaper, less damaging to the environment and a major contribution to the evolution of the Toronto-Centred Region plan. He admitted his

findings during the 20 months of meetings and study were arguable but suggested there were no simple, easy answers to the route of the 160 foot towers which march five abreast from hydro's new thermal generating station at Nanticoke at Lake Erie to the Pickering nuclear station.

People upset
The route Dr. Solandt recommends is also designed to send corridors through the centre of Halton Hills and south to a station east of Milton. Although widely hailed in other areas, residents of the new towns of Milton and Halton Hills are upset by the route of the corridor.

Dr. Solandt told this newspaper he spent much time investigating the route through Limehouse before reluctantly deciding it was suitable.

He noted his report differed from the Bruce Howlett recommendations in that it followed an existing Hydro route through Beverly Swamp and eliminated the Rattlesnake Point option in order to cross the Escarpment at 401 and Limehouse. Cost of the 20 month's commission work was \$30,000.

The commission was appointed to look into finding a suitable route when residents opposed Ontario Hydro's main proposal to run lines on a more northerly route through Terra Cotta, Eramosa and Nassagawes townships. The commission hired the Bruce Howlett firm to undertake a study which was studied by Dr. Solandt.

His recommendations must be approved by the Ontario Government but he has urged the province to get on with the job. Delays in getting cheaper nuclear power from Bruce to Metro markets could cost Hydro \$1 million a week, Hydro claims.

The corridors will have a marked effect in this area, marching through Milton and then almost splitting Halton Hills in two with a steel curtain built on a 720 foot right-of-way for three double circuit 500 kV lines and 120 feet for two later 230 kV lines. The east-west and north-south corridors will meet smack at the Reford Gardhouse.

The town of Milton is ringed on two sides by the towering proposal. Dr. Solandt has recommended use of single shaft improved appearance towers along the route which according to Hydro involves an additional expenditure of \$40 million for the \$335 million project.

Cost of dying goes up

Former Acton Mayor Les Duby expressed concern about the high cost of dying during a meeting of Halton Hills Council Monday night.

Duby felt the recommended increases in the cost of cemetery plots was excessive. He argued Acton's rates had been considerably less than the former town of Georgetown's and yet Acton had never overspent the budget for that service.

Overspent?
Councillor Russ Miller said he had been led to believe Act-

on had overspent by \$3,000 and Georgetown by \$2,000 last year. Duby said that if the budget was overspent it would be because of extra fencing that couldn't be considered part of the ordinary operating costs.

Councillor Ern Hyde expressed concern about the high cost of those that were still living. He noted that at some point in time the municipality would have to acquire more land for cemetery use.

Single plots for residents

will cost \$90, double plots \$175 and children's plots \$26.40. Fees for non-residents are 25 percent higher.

Interment charges run \$60 for adults, \$23 for cremated remains and \$10 for unregistered stillborn children. Additional costs are levied for non-residents.

Extra costs are charged for emergency openings, winter charges, and other special considerations.

Council endorsed the recommendations of the finance and personnel committee in that regard.

Ask council pass bill it rejected

Halton Regional Council will be asked to pass the interim tax levy by-law it turned down at the last meeting when it meets today (Wednesday).

Oakville Councillor McLean Anderson and Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett led the opposition to the passage of the by-law. They argued the by-law, if based on equalized assessment, would be a precedent and could be interpreted as the way the region would be financed.

Both argued the region should operate with the benefitting municipalities paying for what costs are incurred.

During the administration meeting Wednesday, members endorsed the policy of chargebacks for water and sewer services. Once that was agreed, unanimous approval was given for the interim levy. The interim levy is a bill the region sends municipalities. The funds are used to finance the region's operation.

Barrett has continually argued against levying on

equalized assessment. He claims this would move control for development away from the area municipality and to the region. "My community won't have the rate of type of growth dictated to," he says.

He claims municipalities would be able to grow at the expense of the region. This would put those areas who did not want to grow quickly at a disadvantage, he said.

Anderson suggested having a consultant study the question of how the region should be financed.

Second degree

While the Lions Club pool campaign committee awaits the decision of grants from provincial government, contractors for the project are getting drawings and plan specifications down to scratch in preparation for official sanction.

"Everything's ready to move", is the word from Art Gordon, project organizer who feels that everything is lining up nicely with the Ministry of Education and other provincial departments involved.

"This week we hope to put up the second thermometer to inform the people how well the canvass is going," says the enthusiastic Mr. Gordon who adds that the thermometer already in operation is moving up by steady degrees with public participation showing stronger enthusiasm

Amerk teams to visit town

Bantam and juvenile hockey teams from Hale's Corners, a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin will be in Acton this weekend for an exhibition series with the local bantam Firefighters and juvenile Lions.

A bantam-juvenile doubleheader will be played in the community centre Friday night beginning at 8.15 and again Saturday afternoon beginning at 2.30. While in town the American players will be billeted with Acton boys.

The series was arranged through former Acton resident and junior hockey star Paul Lawson who now lives in Hale's Corners.

The Acton Minor Hockey Association is trying to arrange billeting for five couples who will travel with the U.S. teams. Anyone able to help should call Harold Townsley at 853-0487 or Don Lindsay at 853-2057.

Solandt Report details on page B1