

# Plan new high school convert old schools

Plans to build a new high school in Acton in 1978 or 1979 and to revamp school organization in the town were announced Thursday night during a Halton Board of Education meeting.

Director-designate Em Lavender explained the Acton schools would be under heavy pressure as housing developments increase school enrolment in the area.

The long range proposal as

approved Thursday would see both M. Z. Bennett and Robert Schools converted to junior public schools, the existing high school would be converted to a middle school and a new high school would be built on a site east of Churchill Rd. with an initial capacity of 850 or 900 students.

Up \$8,500

Lavender noted two plans of subdivision east of Church-

hill Rd. are expected to provide about 8,500 people. New elementary schools could be built to accommodate growth east of Churchill Rd. as needed.

"The timing of the conversion of the high school to a middle school would depend on the rate of growth and the Ministry's approval to build a new high school," Lavender told the board.

Lavender noted that the

high school was in dire need of maintenance and the cost is expected to run about \$85,000 to put the building back into shape.

A report from Jim Evans at the North Education Centre indicates repairs to walls, conversion of the heating system and installation of storm sewers are among the priority items.

A detailed study of the repairs needed and the cost

was authorized by the board. Those repairs are described as urgent.

While a new high school isn't anticipated until 1978 or 1979 and even then it will depend on ministry approval, Lavender suggested the enrolment problem could be eased in 1977 by bussing some rural students from Milton and Halton Hills to the new school in Milton.

## The Acton Free Press

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Twenty-six Pages—Fifteen Cents.



BERT DAVIDSON GETS his blood pressure taken by community health nurse Beryl Stevenson last Thursday at the mobile medical centre. Attendance was poor, but the clinic will become a monthly event.

### Poor attendance at medical clinic

Attendance was poor at the first Senior Citizens Medical clinic last Thursday as only ten people turned out.

Medical checkups were available in the parish hall at St. Alban's Church with the Halton Health Unit in charge.

Those attending the clinic went around to the different stations within the hall for foot care (toe nail trimming, callus removing), vision and hearing tests, urine analysis and an interview.

According to Mrs. Stevenson, the clinic is to become a monthly project. The next one will be sometime in January.

"I can't understand why we had so few people," Mrs. Stevenson said. "We advertised well, we even provided free transportation. It is very disappointing, but maybe on a regular basis more people will realize the importance of such a clinic. Georgetown and Milton had excellent turnouts with the same project."

### Nielsen appointed

Paul Nielsen, owner of Nielsen Clothing in Acton, was appointed to the Halton Hills parking authority Monday night. He will fill the one vacant seat on the authority. This is the first parking authority covering the two urban areas of Halton Hills.

### Monday set for publication

Next Wednesday is Christmas... and also paper day. "No way", declare the staff.

Christmas is a holiday and like everywhere else, the office and plant will be closed up tight.

The Free Press will be printed and distributed Monday afternoon instead. This issue will contain many special greetings in the form of ads. The advertising staff hopes that readers will persevere them and accept them as personal greetings from the merchants and businesses who serve them all year.

The next Free Press is due out Monday, Dec. 30. Special ads and feature stories are being planned for it, too.

The parties and concerts of the season have provided the news room with plenty of delightful pictures which will appear over the next three weeks.

### On the buses

The Christmas bus service is proving very successful. The bus continues till the day before Christmas.

The Chamber of Commerce has prepared a statement of finances of the venture. The balance of \$18.25 is to be turned over to the Tinkerbell Nursery for the Acton children there at Christmas.

**ACTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STATEMENT**

Acton Chamber of Commerce 1974 Free Christmas Bus Service:

Receipts: From Sponsors, Book 1—\$210.00; Book 2—240.00; Book 3—185.00; Other 4.00; Total \$640.00.

Expenses: Tyler Transport \$620.00; Receipt books 1.12; Marking pen 63 cents; Total \$621.75.

Balance \$18.25.

### Auto fire

A fire at 7 p.m. Sunday evening sent Acton volunteer firefighters rushing to Bill Toth's service station.

The firefighters quickly doused the fire which was in the front end of a 1965 Chevrolet car. According to Bill Toth, the car was being moved when it stalled. When it was started up again, the engine backfired and burst into flames. Mr. Toth attempted to put the fire out with the fire extinguisher, but to no avail.

He apparently was expecting to buy it at the time of the incident. He is still going through with the deal, although fire chief Mick Holmes estimates the damage to be \$750.

The engine and tires were completely gutted with some damage to the interior dashboard.

### New subdivision Legion pays \$20,000 in lieu of parkland

Acton Legion will pay \$20,000 to Halton Hills in lieu of five per cent parkland as a condition of approval of their subdivision between Mill Street and Fairy Lake, council decided Monday night, on an 8-5 recorded vote.

Councillors Ric Morrow spearheaded the battle to have the amount raised to the appraised value of \$28,440. He said, since the discussion had been held in camera, he would speak only to the planning board recommendation to set the amount at \$20,000.

He said he had been in favor of that amount when administration committee came up with that exact figure, but after a great deal of discussion council decided the only fair method was to have an appraisal. "We paid for that appraisal."

He claimed the town was

not dealing with the Canadian Legion as such, but was dealing with a developer. "I hope we apply the same rules to everyone," he commented.

Morrow said town-owned land was always appraised before a sale, and claimed the town had never settled for less than the appraised amount.

Councillor Pat McKenzie pointed out the town had only one appraisal, and claimed many times appraisals differed. "This group is vitally concerned with the community, and have put up a \$500,000 building. They've set aside land that won't be developed, and it will be just like a park. Maybe \$20,000 is too high," he concluded.

Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested the Legion should have the right to have another appraisal at their expense.

Councillor Ern Hyde said a

second proposal after the figures were made public would be ridiculous. He said "supposed experts had been hired frequently in the past and councils had ignored their recommendations. "We have to make up our own minds."

Hyde said the Legion was going to make valuable land available to the people of Acton. "Maybe it is in the Legion's name but the people will have access to it."

Councillor Roy Booth said the original administration recommendation was \$20,000 and the lot levies. "We've come full circle, and another appraisal now would be pouring money down the drain."

Councillors Harry Levy, Len Cox, Mike Armstrong, Ric Morrow and Dick Howitt voted against the \$20,000 amount.

### Close doors hear appraisal

Councillor Ric Morrow objected to Planning Committee going behind closed doors to discuss the appraisal of land which would govern the amount to be paid by Acton Legion to the town in lieu of five per cent parkland in the subdivision proposed between Mill Street and Fairy Lake.

He said the Legion and their consultants Windlands Associates had the appraisal before council who ordered it. "Both parties know what it is, so I move we accept Stephen

Saxe's appraisal and incorporate it in the subdivision agreement."

Councillor Pat McKenzie urged the meeting be held in camera since the public does not yet know the price.

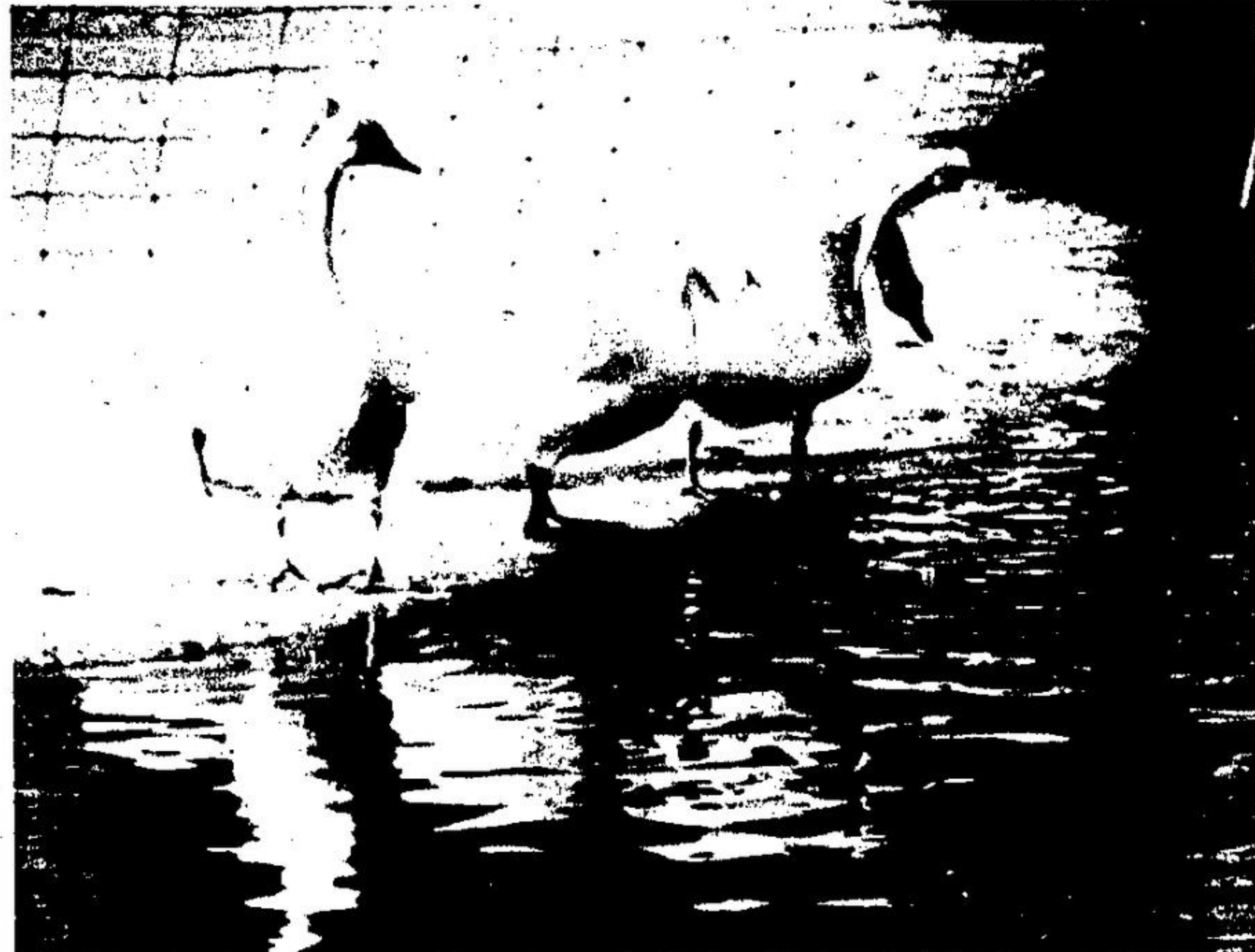
Councillor Dick Howitt agreed with McKenzie, pointing out the Legion has not sold the property and are still negotiating. "If information gets out it could be prejudicial to the sale."

Councillor Ern Hyde said he would hate to see the Legion embarrassed. "If it

was private enterprise I'd say it should not be held in camera," he added.

Morrow claimed it was a business deal no matter who owned it, and said it should be treated the same as any other transaction. He said the Legion was unwilling to accept the administration committee's recommended amount, "and now we find it is higher than ever considered by the committee."

On a vote of eight to three, they went behind closed doors.



The lake shrinks in winter but the wildfowl remain ALL'S WELL with the wildfowl at the park. They're fed daily and water is now kept open by the Beardmore bubbler. Arena superintendent Harold Townsley explains that either the arena staff or Esther Taylor feed the birds regularly. Peter McCusker Saturday watched the swans standing on the brink of the ice, admiring their reflections in the open water.



BEARDMORE Christmas party is one of Acton's oldest traditions, dating back to the years the Beardmores themselves were here. Carol Parent, five, sat gleefully on Santa's knee Saturday while Miss Acton Fair Karen Hilfman and first runner-up Charlene Hubbell help him distribute gifts. More pictures inside.

### Three outdoor rinks are ready for winter

Three outdoor rinks have been constructed in Acton, under the direction of Halton Hills recreation department. They are at the high school, park and Sir Donald Mann park in Glenlea subdivision.

The recreation advisory committee of the past had considered and constructed outdoor rinks but this is the first year Acton has had three.

Although the committee had mentioned the M. Z. Bennett school, the high school was chosen by the department. The rink is located on fill on the ball diamond which freezes faster. There was skating there last week.

"We want them to be able to survive a few days of thaw," recreation director Doug Collison told the members of the recreation advisory committee at their meeting last Thursday.

Will supervise Chairman Diane Spielvogel and Gil Malcolm both

reported that they had offers from people willing to help supervise the rinks. "Fantastic!" exclaimed Mr. Collison. "The more families involved the better."

He said the recreation department would put up a sign which would list public skating hours. Neighbors could supervise particular events in other hours. The rinks cannot be rented for

private parties. Any group wanting to skate together may join in with the others.

The public skating at the arena is inadequate, Mr. Malcolm pointed out.

The rinks are sorely needed observed Mrs. Spielvogel happily.

The committee had previously decided they would prefer not to be involved in clearing ice on the lake for skating.

### Philbrook votes for pay raise

The proposed raise for M.P.'s, which is currently before the House of Commons, is justified Halton M.P. Dr. Frank Philbrook said this week. He added he plans to vote for the legislation.

Dr. Philbrook said "It is only about six to six and a half percent per year and is certainly in line with salaries and raises in the private sector."

He explained the raise is 50 percent but will have to last M.P.'s until the next election. "It is policy to give the raise all at once and only adjust it once each Parliament."

Dr. Philbrook pointed out the new wages would be in line with other professional people's and M.P.'s have a lot of expenses. "We have to maintain two residences, two offices, travel, entertain, and maintain a reasonable appearance," he said.

He noted that he has to scale down his lifestyle

considerably, including moving to a smaller house. "I could probably make two to three times as much as a doctor. We haven't had a raise for four years and there has been tremendous inflation. This raise is justified and I will vote for it," Halton's M.P. stated.

He explained the legislation is not a government priority but is being put forth under the initiation of private members. Dr. Philbrook noted that if there develops opposition among the M.P.'s then the bill will be dropped.

Dr. Philbrook said he had letters, phone calls and one petition, which were against the raise, from Halton residents. He added he has also received some support from his constituents who are in favor of the raise.

Dr. Philbrook's salary will increase to \$27,000 taxable income and \$12,000 tax free income if the bill becomes law.

### 10 lbs. marijuana seized Saturday

The largest drug seizure ever made in town took place Saturday night, when 10 pounds of marijuana was seized in an Acton home. An Acton man was charged with conspiracy to traffic in narcotics and trafficking in narcotics. A Limehouse man is also charged, and warrants are out for another person on charges of trafficking.

The arrests were made at 9 p.m. Saturday.

Bail hearing was Tuesday in Burlington.

The arrests were made as a result of two months' investigation by the undercover RCMP unit.

The investigation is still continuing.

Street value of marijuana is roughly estimated at \$150 a pound.