

# The Acton Free Press

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**NEW EXECUTIVE OF Acton Chamber of Commerce:** treasurer Dave Whittaker, secretary Stuart Johnson, president Michael Worthington, first vice-president Mike De Jong, second vice-president David Swetman. Annual meeting was at Acton Meadows.

## Acton arena roof goes to tender

Work on Acton arena roof will start as soon as weather permits. Tuesday night Halton Hills gave Morrison, Hershfield, Burgess and Higgins consulting engineers to advertise for authority tenders with the closing date February 26. Councillor Dick Howitt said the arena was built in 1929 and the measures proposed would fill a threefold purpose. He said it would bring the roof up to safety standards for snow loads, by strengthening trusses and beams, and installing a new roof. He said insulation would be added which would extend the ice time at the beginning of the season, and overstrutting would be added. Councillor Les Duly said this renovation would conclude a five year program of reconstruction on the arena and said he was pleased that Halton Hills council had called on the work started by Acton council.



Sherri Livermore 91.5 Janet Allan 91.3

## School board trustees vote 120% raise

Salary increases of 120 per cent were approved for board of education trustees last Thursday despite some opposition. The trustees voted themselves the increases during a meeting that lasted past midnight. Trustees will receive \$6,600 a year, effective this month, while board chairman Judy Alexander will receive an increase from \$4,500 to \$9,900. The increase is higher for the two separate school representatives on the board, Len Auger of Oakville and Bill Priestner of Burlington. They have been receiving \$2,400 since 1971. The board's 18 public school representatives have been receiving \$3,000 a year. The salary increase was approved by a 12 to 8 vote. In favor were Fred Armitage, Burlington; Jim Clelland, Oakville; Noel Cooper, Burlington; Len Crosier, Oakville; Irene Goubie, Oakville; Tony Goodyear, Burlington; Dr. Helen Howard-Lock, Burlington; Bill Priestner, S.S. Burlington; Edna Robinson, Burlington; Don Venus, Burlington; Tom Watson, Wards one and two, Halton Hills, and Doug Wood, Oakville. Opposing the increase were Ernest Hodnar of wards three and four Halton Hills; Rev. Gary Morton, Burlington; Len Auger, separate school, Oakville; Alex Aitken, Burlington; Dick Goodin, Oakville; Bill Herd, Oakville; Bill Lawson, ward two Milton and Mrs. Alexander, Oakville. Past chairman Priestner's motion that would have given trustees the maximum allowable \$7,200 a year, was defeated. Mr. Priestner explained there was no honorarium in Burlington in 1964. In 1965 the salary was \$30 a month and between 1967 and 1969 this went to \$60 and \$150 a month. That was a 150 per cent increase, he pointed out. Fred Armitage of Burlington commented he felt his contribution was worth well over \$3,000. He said the board members were paid like "paupers" and he didn't agree with sitting for a "piddling amount". Board vice-chairman Gary Morton said he couldn't approve such an increase at a time of rising costs. "I think it's getting out of line."



Barbara Reed 84.2 Donna Gorjup 81.7

### Retailers active

## Elect new executive Chamber of Commerce

Several newcomers joined incumbent Michael Worthington on the executive of Acton Chamber of Commerce. The annual meeting and elections were held last Wednesday evening at Acton Meadows golf course with a sparse attendance of under 30. Michael Worthington was unanimously returned as president. Mike De Jong, who has been on the executive before, returned as first vice-president. Three newcomers fill the next three slots. David Swetman of Swetman's Shoes is second vice-president, Stuart Johnson of Halton Cable TV is secretary and Dave Whittaker of the Bank of Montreal is treasurer.

Directors elected for a two-year term are Bill Coats of the high school staff, Mrs. Elsie Syme of Blue Springs florist, Mrs. Doreen Mitchell of Family Pool Sales, and pool sales representative Bill Anderson. Elected for a one-year term is Jake Kulken of Halton Hills Furniture. Bert Hinton of Hinton's store, Dave Manes and pharmacist Bill Yundt remain as directors. Tribute was paid to the years of work of Paul Nielsen, who is not on the executive for the first time in 16 years. "There's no way he'll get out of helping!" predicted Roy Goodwin.

Guests Roy Goodwin chaired the brisk meeting. He introduced head table guest Fred Wright, who had turned 82 on Robbie Burns day shortly before. Mayor Hill invited anyone interested to come and listen to council. We're starting to shove the ball the same way now, he commented, although last year was rough. President Mike Worthington reported a "hectic year" and Mr. Goodwin touched on some of the problems and disappointments. Good reports This was somewhat offset by good reports given by retail chairman Paul Nielsen who stated the retailers are the core of the Chamber and this was a banner year for them. In March, business hours were set under a gentleman's agreement. In May 32 retailers participated in the centennial days and draw when "truly the town felt as a town." He especially praised the banks. In the fall there were 19 participants in loss leader ads. Later there were 29 taking part in the Trip to Nassau promotion. He presented financial statements on each of these schemes to promote shopping in Acton. Pull together The merchants are pulling together, he said. It's the only way the central business district will survive. He ended by expressing real optimism as he looked for

### No estimate on damages

A leaky roof is believed to be the cause of an electrical fire at Canada Building Products last Wednesday, January 29. The rain coming in through the leak shorted the electrical panel sending sparks and flames flying. Nearby plastics caught fire but were quickly extinguished by Acton volunteer firefighters. Power was turned off at the transformer by the firefighters employed by Acton hydro, and the fire was extinguished by dry chemicals. As of yet, there is no estimate of the damages incurred during the blaze.

## Watson in favor of board increase

Trustee Tom Watson of Halton Hills wards One and Two agrees with the school board salary increase and voted in favor. He points out that when the Halton Board of Education was formed in 1969, the trustees' salaries were set by the provincial government at \$3,000 per year. "We were told two years ago that this was to be increased, but this was never done, nor was the allowance of ten cents a mile ever adjusted. This year the government has seen fit to raise the maximum salaries for trustees in a system the size of Halton county to \$7,200 which is much closer to the salaries our councillors set



TOM WATSON Approves Raise

for themselves last year." "The Halton trustees are not accepting the maximum, Mr. Watson points out. "They have voted to accept \$6,600 per year and an increase in car allowance to 18 cents a mile which is the amount we pay our employees."

"Personally," says Mr. Watson, "I have served as a trustee for 25 years. The first 14 years there was no remuneration, the next five years \$240 per year and since the inception of the county board \$3,000 per year." He comments that one of the things that really worries him is the public apathy towards the role of the trustees. "In the last two elections I was re-elected by acclamation and to me this indicates that the general public is not interested in the tremendous amount of time and effort we as trustees spend in trying to give our children the best possible education that we as a municipality can afford." "Maybe this increase in salary will make parents more aware that the trustees are committed to try and do an even better job than they have in the past. However, to do this we must have more feedback and dialogue as to what is going on in the classrooms of the county."

### Single collision

There was just one collision in town during the past seven days, and total damage was just \$125, according to police. In collision on Queen St. Feb. 1 were cars driven by William Schneider, R.R. 2, Acton and Martin Bouwhuis, Georgetown.

## Deportation for Mallards

Many of the birds at Fairy Lake will have to go, and soon, according to Harold Townsley who is in charge of them. Newest development is a letter from Beardmore pointing out the poor quality of water lately. Water is drawn daily from the dam for use in the tanning operation. Beardmore owns the lake. Far more birds than ever before are wintering at the dam, being fed by the town and neighbors. Taken elsewhere Mr. Townsley explained a trap will be built to enclose Mallard ducks - as many as 200 of them. They will be fed there and then captured and transported elsewhere. Dale Gartley of the Department of Natural Resources will be asked to relocate the birds. He had explained previously there are ponds where they can be relocated. Also to go are the hybrids and the domestic ducks, which Mr. Gartley had said were not compatible with a wildlife sanctuary permit.

Pets There have been several offers of good homes for the domestic ducks, according to Mr. Townsley. They will all go to local residents where they will definitely be kept as pets, not eaten. Mr. Townsley assured the Free Press. A few Mallards will remain here with the swans and Canada geese when the task is over.

## Six scholars in first semester

January 28 was the last day of the first semester at the Acton high school. Eighteen students completed enough credits for their secondary school graduation diplomas and nine pupils for their honour graduation diploma (grade 13). Six Ontario scholars were included in the honor graduates. Sherri Livermore finished with 91.5 per cent, Janet Allan with 91.3 per cent, Barbara Reed had 84.2, Donna Gorjup and Suzanne Kamel each had 81.7, and Boh Vinski had 81.3 per cent. Other honor graduates were Pearl Harris, Ann Johnston and Tineke Vreynhoek. Graduating from grade 12 were Susan Ancker, Peter Arbie, Ian Coats, Lynn Dawe, Lillian De Vries, John Hansen, Ken Hurren, Roma Kuchinak, Lene Larsen, Cindy Lott, Pat Marchmont, Susan McPhail, Dan McTavish, John Oudesluis, Teresa Steel, Bill Stark, Brett Tatton and Terry Yalowica.

## Swimming is change for handicapped

Swimming for the handicapped will commence on Sunday, February 16, thanks to Herb Dodds who has organized the weekly event. Mr. Dodds has got four handicapped taking advantage of the opportunity to go swimming. He hopes to get more people interested as the program goes along. "There was not that much enthusiasm about the whole project from the handicapped in town. The four who have agreed to go are people who I have approached myself," Mr. Dodds explained. The local businessman was disappointed in the turnout, but expects everything to pick up once the swimming has actually begun. Companions The swimmer will not be left alone at any time if he or she does not want to be, according to Mr. Dodds. He has several volunteers who have offered to provide transportation to and from the swimming pool as well as stay with them in the water. Swimming aids are provided as well as floats etc and everything will be done to ensure the safety of the handicapped. Anyone interested in the program is asked to call Herb Dodds.

## H. Ruppert resigns

The Committee of Adjustment is short one member, because of the resignation of H. E. Ruppert of Acton. Halton Hills council accepted the resignation with a regret, Monday night, and thanked Mr. Ruppert for his service. Council decided to advertise for a replacement from Ward One, (Acton). The ensure the vacancy would be filled by someone from the Acton area, the advertisement will ask for applications for a representative from Ward One to fill the vacancy and complete the unexpired term of Mr. Ruppert.

## Public forum with council

Got any questions you'd like to ask Halton Hills council? Acton and Escaping residents will have that opportunity, when the Chamber of Commerce sponsors a panel discussion with all councillors taking part. Regional chairman Allan Masson will attend as well. Chamber executive members are hoping for a large crowd on Wednesday, Feb. 12. They had hoped to have the program right in town but couldn't get a vacant school gym or hall. So it's a short drive out to Acton Meadows Golf Course. Council has changed the date of a meeting to accommodate the Chamber's invitation. It's all free.



**CONSTRUCTION BEGAN** this week on the 300 foot cable television tower near Speyside. The footings were poured on Monday. Halton Cable Systems Ltd. will soon be finishing their work, with all systems ready to go some time in April. Workmen had to dynamite stone from the site in order to dig deep enough for a stable base.



"FIVE FOOT two, eyes of blue" turned into 160 unromantic centimetres at the Think Metric session at the high school last week. Norm Douglas measured Lois Turkosz for the unmusical answer. Allan Eastwood instructs.