

# Rick Rocher's 93% tops local Ontario Scholars

Five of this year's 11 Ontario Scholars at Acton District High School gained the honor at the end of the June semester just completed.

Rick Rocher topped the year's list with an average of 93 per cent. In this semester he was followed by Ian Coats at 89 per cent and Ian had completed the five year program within four years.

John Hansen 81 per cent. John was also a four year graduate from the five year program. Ontario scholars are those whose average is 80 per cent or more in grade 13.

Mrs. Charles Rocher of 190 Main St. N., plans to attend the University of Guelph for his B.A. in Math and child psychology. Until then he is working as a playground superintendent for Halton Hills in Acton and Esqueping.

University of Western Ontario in London and study for his B.Sc. Presently he is working in Mississauga in drafting and is training for the Scarborough Optimists track team. He is taking part in a juvenile championships this Saturday.

Tineke Vryenhoek daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kory Vryenhoek of 74 Cook St. graduated as an Ontario Scholar with 83.3 per cent. She plans on attending York University in the fall for her B.A. in physical education. She is working as a

lifeguard at Lions pool and in the playground. John Hansen, son of Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Hansen of 70 Young St. graduated with his Ontario Secondary School graduation diploma. Secondary school honours diploma and was an Ontario

scholar with 81 per cent in four years. Mr. Hansen will be attending the University of Guelph for his Bachelor of Arts degree and is presently working at Beardmore and Co.

Those obtaining Ontario Scholarships after the January semester, and announced earlier were Sherri Anne Livermore at 91.3 per cent; Janet Allan at 91.3 per cent; Barbara Reed at 84.2 per cent; Donna Gorjup at 83.2 per cent; Suzanne Kamel at 81.7 per cent and Robert Vinski at 81.3 per cent.



Today it's official. The Free Press is 100 years old—or young. But before we get too far into the second century we wanted to share some of the history that has kept the community paper around for 100 years. When you turn to the special inside section you'll see an exact reproduction of the very first issue. We've expanded it with the story of the century and something about the people who have contributed to that 100 year record. We hope you enjoy some of the reminiscing and a look at today's staff.

After University he said he may attend teacher's college because he would like to keep working with children. Mr. Rocher graduated with 93 per cent.



Rick Rocher, 93 per cent



Ian Coats, 89 per cent



Frank Houston, 85.5 per cent



Tineke Vryenhoek, 83.3 per cent



John Hansen, 81 per cent

# The Acton Free Press

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Forty Pages - Fifteen Cents



HALTON BOARD of Education Trustee Tom Watson, escorted Acton High School officials to the site of the new Acton High School Thursday at noon. At a meeting Thursday evening, the Halton Board of Education selected the site from three proposed and agreed to proceed with the purchase of the 25-acre cornfield at \$6,500 per acre. Brian Skerret, Ian Downs, Tom Watson, Dean Fink, Bill Coates, and David Katz look over the area located on the east side of Churchill Rd. N.

## New high school site approved property costing \$6,500 an acre

Halton Board of Education decided Thursday to proceed with the purchase of 25 acres of land for the new Acton high school, which is slated to open in 1977.

After hearing recommendations on three alternative sites from Bruce Lindley, Superintendent of Business and Finance, the Board decided to buy 25 acres of land on the west side of Churchill Road North, across from the Acton Curling Club.

The property, belonging to Alteo Construction, is located on Lot 29, Concession Four.

The Board is paying \$6,500 an acre for the 25 acre parcel of land, so acquiring the site will cost over \$150,000.

Lindley said cost was the determining factor in the decision. Two alternative sites were both located on Highway 7, east of

Churchill Road, one to the north of the highway and the other south of the road.

"With the exception of the other two sites being close to Highway 7 there weren't any advantages to picking them over the site I recommended. The two Highway 7 sites cost from two to three-and-a-half times greater than the one on Churchill Road North," Lindley said.

He said water and sewer service is available for the new high school from Acton.

The new high school is being built with an initial capacity of 850 to 900 students in mind but provisions will be made to allow for future additions to the building.

The old high school will become a middle school housing grades six, seven and eight students. Robert Little and M. Z. Bennett schools will have kindergarten to grade five.

## Land Price stuns council

An appraisal of 1.25 acres of land South of Elizabeth Dr. Acton, at \$262,500 stunned Halton Hills Planning Board, Tuesday night, and provoked the comment "Somebody's out of their cotton-picking mind," from Councillor Harry Levy.

The estimate was contained in a letter from J. E. Byrne, deputy-clerk of Halton Region. The Region valuation report pointed out that if the Credit Valley Conservation wanted to acquire the property the town of Halton Hills would have to pay 47 1/2 per cent as the benefitting municipality.

At one time there was a plan of subdivision on the land showing eight lots for 16 semi-detached homes. The CVCA see the area as a passive walking park to preserve open space around Fairy Lake.

The town's share would be \$110,000. Planner Mario Venditti said the owner paid \$220,000 for the land in 1973.

The planner suggested the appraisal had been made on the basis of fully serviced

land, in lots ready for a subdivision.

Councillor Joe Hurst agreed the appraisal was probably made on the ultimate use as the developer intended.

Councillor Les Duby asked "Why won't someone realize, we wanted the land appraised as parkland?"

Councillor Pat McKenzie said he was disappointed to hear senior citizens' apartments may be built on the other side of Elizabeth Drive. He claimed he had thought the town would buy this land and sell a portion back to Ontario Housing for the senior citizens' apartments.

The planner pointed out the owner could build semi-detached homes on the land since it is zoned R3.

At Levy's suggestion, planning board decided to advise the Region and the CVCA that the land is not worth more than \$50,000 as the town's portion, meaning the total amount would be \$115,000.

"It's still fairly high for one acre of land," commented Councillor Ric Morrow.



ACTON CITIZENS' BAND drew an attentive audience when they performed following dinner at Prospect Park yesterday. The band ushered the evening half of the day long activities at the park.

## Dominion Day activities provides entertainment

Acton Rotarians and Firefighters jointly sponsored Dominion Day celebrations held yesterday at Prospect Park were a success again.

A fishing derby started holiday activities and drew 47 avid anglers to the shores, tree stumps, and waterways of Fairy Lake. Clayton Oakley turned in a 17 and one-half inch pike which won him a prize for the biggest fish of the day.

Registration fees for the contest ranged from 10 cents per child to 25 cents for adults. Robert Evans was awarded

a prize for the longest bass, being a 15 inch, two lb. bass. Second largest pike was caught by Mike Doyle which was 15 and one-half inches.

Malcolm McKenzie caught the largest bass, however, not the longest, which was 11 and one-half inches and weighed one and one quarter lbs.

Eddie Allen caught the second longest bass which was nine and one-half inches, and Jamie McMillan caught a 10 inch catfish for which he won a prize.

Heraldic bands amassed music fans to shady areas of the park as three groups, Rocking Horse of Acton,

Country 'D's of Rockwood and Rockin' Ronnie and the Rainbows, performed under the hot afternoon sun at the front of the community centre.

The Rotarians' chicken barbecue offered a quarter chicken and half-chicken for a fee which included all the trimmings. This is Rotary's fourth year for the dinner at the park. Entertainment was provided during dinner by the Acton Citizens' Band.

Firefighters sponsored the evening's fireworks for their eighth year. Members of Rotary and Firefighters credited organizers of the day's events. They are Harold Townsley, Herb Dodds, Wayne Moss, Ted Hansen, Grant Schultz and Don Van Fleet.

One Acton Rotary spokesman said there was a larger turnout last year for the day's events. However, he noted last year's celebration was held on a Monday which allowed more people to attend.

Persons who were able to eat their chicken early sat to an after dinner concert by the Citizens' band. Fireworks began popping into the sky at 9:50 p.m.

## Acton man sentenced for murder conspiracy

Manfred Baron, Acton, and Rywa Regina Wertman, Toronto, were sentenced this week to the maximum 14 year jail term for conspiracy to murder Mrs. Wertman's husband Isaac Wertman.

Mr. Justice Edson Haines handed down the sentence in Toronto on Monday saying that a person can be found guilty of conspiring to

murder, without performing the actual deed.

Upon receiving his sentence Mr. Baron said he was sorry for what he had done and for the anguish he had brought upon his family.

His conviction came after he and Mrs. Wertman conspired between August 1973 and May 15, 1974 to murder Mr. Wertman.

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## Teachers get \$10 million raise Board approves 33 per cent hike

Halton taxpayers will have to dip into pocketbooks and come up with nearly \$10 million to pay for an average 33 per cent wage hike won by teachers Thursday night.

Halton Board of education ratified the new one year agreement Thursday after hearing the settlement details from salary committee chairman Trustee Fred Armitage.

Trustee Tony Goodyear, who opposed the settlement, said the new contract would add \$120 to the average Halton taxpayer's provincial and municipal bills.

Trustee Ernie Bodnar said the contract would cost the average taxpayer an extra \$17.50 in municipal taxes.

Armitage told the Board the secondary school teachers' settlement will up the region mill rate .27 mills this year and .68 mills in 1976. The elementary school teachers' settlement will add .45 mills to the mill rate in 1975 and 1.13 mills next year.

The average salary for high school

teachers soared to \$18,705 from \$14,053 while pay for elementary school teachers climbed from an average \$11,349 to \$15,047.

The pay boosts represents an average increase of 33.1 per cent for high school teachers and 32.59 per cent for secondary school instructors.

Salaries for high school teachers now range from \$11,005 to \$23,500. Prior to the settlement the pay range for secondary school instructors was \$8,124 to \$19,250.

Last year elementary school teachers' wages fell somewhere between \$5,968 and \$19,259. Wages now run from \$7,706 to \$23,500.

Teachers will also receive a 3.5 per cent increment for each year of teaching experience. There is no change in fringe benefits. The allowance for a post-graduate degree has been increased from \$130 to \$730.

The highest paid secondary school principals now earn \$33,100, plus an \$850 increment. High school vice-principals can now make up to \$27,950 and a \$725 incre-

ment. Previously the most a high school principal could make was \$28,000 and a vice-principal was limited to \$23,650. The new minimum salary for a secondary school principal is \$28,900.

Elementary school principals, with more than 16 classrooms under their wing, can earn as much as \$28,950 while those with less than 16 rooms but more than six are limited to \$25,960. Vice-principals are limited to \$23,500 and both principals and vice-principals receive a \$990 increment. Last year the most an elementary school principal could make was \$24,500.

Principals' raises ranged from 16 to 23 per cent.

Armitage told the Board it was a substantial settlement but could only be viewed in relation to other settlements around the province.

He said his committee had looked at settlements in nine other areas of Ontario including Metro Toronto and compared to some of them Halton came out in good shape.

"It was necessary to reach an agreement and I think it is a realistic settlement in comparison with other contracts. We must preserve quality education in Halton and I think we have. It is an appropriate and good settlement when you look at others," Armitage said.

He noted there is no cost of living clause in the Halton agreement but cost of living agreements in other contracts are costing taxpayers a lot of money all over Ontario.

Armitage said negotiations had been conducted in a professional manner and jointly in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Goodyear said he couldn't support wage increases of over 30 per cent and added the inflationary tide had to be stopped somewhere.

"This is in excess of \$9 million over last year which represents an extra \$45 in taxes for every man, woman and child in Halton region. I think the real concern here is responsibility," Goodyear stated.

He said a house assessed at \$7,000 would

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