



**EVENING COMMUTER TRAIN** pulls into Acton each day about 6.30 p.m. On Monday, when this picture was taken, five people emerged and two—trainmen—got back on again. There were two coaches on the train which had a 30-second halt. Meanwhile two Grey Coach buses crossed the track, signalling changing times. This train will be cancelled Nov. 14. Right, the station was a focal point of the village at the turn of the century.



## CN kills rail service town fought to keep

CN has been forced to cancel its Guelph to Toronto morning commuter train because of the tremendous success of the Georgetown GO train. The decision to cancel the train comes just five years after Acton and Georgetown residents fought hard to keep the service running.

The Canadian Transport Commission announced Thursday they have given CN permission to cease operations on November 14 of

trains 160 (Guelph to Toronto in the morning) and 161 (Toronto to Guelph in the afternoon). The commuter train started in 1962.

CN first tried to cancel the trains in 1969 but the Canadian Transport Commission rejected CN's application following hearings in Guelph where municipal officials and residents along the route, including people from Georgetown and Acton, argued the commuter train was badly needed. One ob-

server described the hearings as 'wild'.

Both commuter trains continued operating with a federal government subsidy.

Canadian Transport Commission spokesman Ron Ward said the 1969 application to discontinue the train was just one of several CN submitted to the commission that year.

"Many people from communities all along the train route appeared at hearings in Guelph in the

early part of 1970 and near the end of the year the commission decided since there were 300 people riding the trains CN should continue operating the service under subsidy," Ward explained. The morning train begins in Guelph and stops in Rockwood, Acton, Georgetown, Brampton, Malton and west Toronto areas before ending at Union Station. It makes stops in Halton Hills shortly after 6.30 a.m. in the morning and around 7 p.m. in the evenings.

He said by monitoring the number of passengers boarding the train at various stops along the route the commission was able to determine that the business at stops after Acton had been almost completely wiped out after the GO train service began.

"The average number of people boarding the train in Acton was six and it never exceeded 10 during the numerous tests. Rockwood's average on eight tests was three and Guelph averaged 27 passengers," he revealed.

Ward said last year the train lost \$400,000 and that studies showed many of the people still using the train were CN employees who were commuting to Toronto. They took the train because they could get reduced fares.

GO transit announced the same day the train cancellation was revealed that they will start a GO bus service November 17 to serve Acton, Rockwood and Guelph commuters. The buses will connect commuters with the Georgetown GO trains.

## Highway reconstruction slated for spring '76

Drivers of Acton who travel to Guelph and Rockwood on shopping or dining excursions will no longer be submitted to the roller coaster ride of Highway No. 7.

The Phillips Planning and Engineering are planning the total reconstruction of the highway as it runs from the city of Guelph to Acton. Hills and gullies will be recontoured and sharp turns re-erected.

Early in September Halton Hills councillors viewed the

plans of the highway presented by project chairman, Edward Stevenson of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

In the summer months, the Ministry opened a forum in the town hall in the village of Rockwood to obtain feedback from residents and those who will be affected by the reconstruction. Stevenson said the preliminary planning stages have been completed and the engineering firm is working on the final designs.

Substandard A study prepared in June 1972 showed the highway as substandard with the accident rate between Rockwood and Acton above the provincial average. A pavement condition survey of December 1970 describes the pavement performance as only fair due to cracking, dishing, ravelling, and alligatoring over the majority length of the highway.

The existing cross section of the highway features 20 feet of pavement with six foot shoulders. This will be increased to 24 feet of pavement and eight foot shoulders to accommodate a proposed speed limit of 60 MPH.

Change curves Between Rockwood and Acton, passing opportunities are limited to 18 per cent of the length, or, 3.75 feet of pavement for each 1500 feet. Lot one concession five has been purchased by the ministry and will be used to redirect the curve located

south of Rockwood and east of Eden Mills.

Widening of the curve at Crewson's Corners is also being considered in the plans.

Kramosa township council sent a letter to the ministry requesting acceleration and deceleration lanes be placed south of the highway on the Guelph Eramosa townline to accommodate drive-in movie traffic. A deceleration lane on Fall St., entering Rockwood village from Guelph, is also under consideration.

Bottleneck The bottleneck at the junction of Highways 7 and 25 in town will be improved but not eliminated.

Halton Hills engineer, Bob Austin, said recently that two strips of land will have to be acquired by the town. A three to four-foot wide strip, 100 to 150 feet long on both sides of the tracks, will be used in widening of the Y-shaped intersection.

Highway 25 will be raised four feet at the intersection with Highway 7, which will allow better vision for drivers turning onto highway 7 from 25 and coming over the railway tracks.

The widened roadway includes generally 24 foot pavement with eight-foot shoulders, and two feet rounding to a slope of three to one drainage ditch which parallels the roadway. The back slope of the ditch is two to one back to the original ground.

Mr. Stevenson said the final design has started and forecast work starting in the spring, with completion date about a year later.

## New GO bus service to bring commuters

The already crowded Georgetown GO trains will be hit with an influx of even more passengers when GO Transit starts a new bus service for Acton, Rockwood and Guelph commuters next month.

Thursday the Canadian Transport Commission revealed they have allowed CN to discontinue the Guelph, Rockwood, Acton, Georgetown, Brampton, Malton, Toronto commuter as of November 14.

Stepping into the breach Minister of Transportation and Communications John Rhodes announced the same day that a GO bus service will start on November 17 and take commuters left out in the cold by the train cancellation

from Guelph, Rockwood and Acton to the Georgetown GO station where they can board GO trains for the rest of the journey to Toronto.

Beginning in the new year there will also be a full time GO bus service from Georgetown to the York Mills subway station in north Metro Toronto.

The combination service of Georgetown GO trains and GO buses will offer Halton Hills commuters two alternative destinations, one downtown at Union Station with the trains and one in north Metro with the buses.

White the trains will operate only during peak commuter travelling hours in the morning and afternoon the GO buses will run throughout the day, evening

and weekends. Though plans have not been finalized GO expects to operate its new GO bus service for Acton only during the commuter rush hours in the mornings and afternoons.

## 15 night courses begin at school

There are 15 night school courses offering instruction and enjoyment this fall and winter to district people. Organizer Boris Shean is very happy with the registration figures at the courses run under the Board of Education again this year.

On Mondays there are Conversational French, off-loom weaving, Sewing I and II, and

typing. On Tuesdays there are Knit I, landscaping, skin diving and macramé lessons.

On Wednesdays there are bookkeeping, Brush up your typing and office skills, general shop, yoga for beginners and crochet classes.

Thursday sees just the advanced yoga class.

## P. McKenzie replaces Coxe on conservation

Halton Hills councillor Garnet W. (Pat) McKenzie has been named replacement for Len Coxe on the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

At his initial meeting Thursday night Mr. Mc-

Kenzie said he regretted the way his appointment came about but that he believes in conservation and will do his best in the job.

New vice-chairman Mr. Coxe, whose sudden death last month shocked fellow members of the Authority, was vice-chairman of the conservation body. He was replaced in that position by Councillor Kelly New of Oakville.

## Lights flashing

Acton motorists crossing the railroad tracks on Mill St. yesterday (Tuesday) evening had a good reason to be confused.

The signal lights would not turn off, leading drivers to believe a train was coming down the tracks. The cars would stop and wait... and wait... and wait.

The lights started their continuous flashing at 4:30 A Halton Regional Police officer arrived on the scene at 5 o'clock to wave the traffic on, and stop them when an actual train came looming down the steel tracks.

C.N.R. worker Bertram Urquhart relieved the policemen at six o'clock and stayed at the site until eight when the failure was temporarily fixed.

He told this newspaper a bond wire had broken and was fixed for the evening but more extensive work will be done today (Wednesday) to permanently fix the problem. Mr. Urquhart said that salt from the road had rusted out some bolts, causing the wire to break off. To replace the bolts, digging into the ground is needed.



**JULIAN REED** (centre) signs the register at Queen's Park Tuesday afternoon after being sworn in as Halton-Burlington MPP. With him are wife Deanna and Clerk of the Legislature Roderick Lewis.

## D. Howitt, G. Maltby switch committees

New Halton Hills councillor George Maltby, ward two, and administration committee chairman councillor Dick Howitt, ward two, are going to swap jobs.

Maltby joined council last month when he was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of councillor Len Coxe and took the late councillor's spot on works committee.

At the same time councillor Dick Howitt was appointed by council to fill the ward two vacancy created on regional council while both administration and finance committee's had two regional councillors each. The late councillor Coxe had been the works committee's regional

works committee and council thought Halton Hills should have a liaison between the region and area councils where works is concerned.

Howitt said at the meeting he was in full agreement with the switch and Maltby said he was in favor of it also. Maltby termed it regrettable that Howitt must give up his committee chairmanship to make the move.

Until Howitt was switched to works committee Monday night the committee did not have any members of regional council while both administration and finance committee's had two regional councillors each. The late councillor Coxe had been the works committee's regional

council member. Vice chairman of the administration committee ward one councillor Les Daby is expected to assume the job of chairman.

## Three charged

Three Acton and district juveniles were charged under the Juvenile Delinquents Act by Halton Regional police in Acton this week, following investigation of nine break-ins at town homes.

Police recovered rings, coins, cash, a purse and other property belonging to residents of five homes.

One of the people whose house was chosen by the young people observed one of them in his back yard, caught him and took him to the police station. As a result several charges were laid.

The break-ins had been on Arthur, Mill, Churchill, McDonald and Peel Sts. The trio will appear in juvenile court.

## Thefts

Theft of rings was reported to police from the Holland Shop this past week.

Two chandeliers were reported taken from empty houses in the Bovis subdivision. A hydraulic jack was taken from outside a Mill W. home.

## Passenger service on Acton rail ends

The only trains that stop here currently for passengers are the commuter train from Guelph to Toronto, stopping at about 7 a.m., and the return evening train at about 6.30 p.m.

two gleaming white Grey Coach buses bounced busily over the railroad tracks. An era is ending.

This past Monday the homebound evening train disgorged just five people at Acton's tiny glass cubicle which replaced the station. And two of them got right back on again—they were trainmen.

The train with four coaches stopped here about 30 seconds, yet during that time

## Resigns

Halton Hills recreation director, Doug Collison has resigned his position with the town it was announced at council Tuesday night. He leaves October 31.

Mr. Collison, who served as recreation director for the town of Georgetown before Halton Hills was born in January 1974 will be going to the City of Mississauga where he will be the co-ordinator of physical programming.

Prior to coming to Georgetown in 1970 he worked for the Mississauga Recreation Department

## Racing

Mohawk raceway at Campbellville opens its fall season of harness racing this Sunday.

## Strike planning

In the event of a postal strike this month, Free Presses regularly mailed to subscribers will be held at the office in Acton for mailing when the strike ends.

Subscribers who want to pick up their copy at The Free Press office will be able to do so. Those not called for will be mailed later.

Carrier delivery and store sales will continue as usual, and only mailed copies will be affected if postal workers decide to go out on strike this weekend.

## Street changes to be debated

Plans for rebuilding of Acton's main business streets and parking will be discussed at a meeting being called by Paul Nielsen for Thursday night at 7:30 in the fire hall.

Mr. Nielsen feels that some of the new town engineering proposals need commenting upon by concerned Actonians, and he hopes that from this meeting will come a submission to be presented to council.

"We want to approach this in a positive way," Mr. Nielsen says. He is hopeful merchants and anyone concerned will come to give their input on Mill rebuilding and parking.



**REMEMBER HIM?** A. W. Adair and Harold Heath look at an early photograph of the 164th Battalion C.E.F. at their annual reunion at Acton Legion Saturday evening. In 1916 there were 750

members in the battalion and 24 members attended this year's reunion. They shared the mud and smog of World War One and now share memories. More photos page two.