

Loads are light but posties out

"We're doing the best we can," says postmaster Gord McKeown, as local postal deliveries continue in Acton and the rural routes.

At work every day are three union employees, all the mailmen and rural carriers. There are still four members of the Postal Workers union out on strike.

Since there is only local delivery, people are bringing bundles of Acton letters here from Guelph, Georgetown, Milton and other centres. Many of these are bills, Mr. McKeown thinks.

All the telephone and Ontario hydro bills have been delivered by local mailmen and welfare cheques which weren't picked up in the Y Monday went out in the mail on Tuesday.

Always something
The mailmen and rural carriers have never gone out empty-handed. Mr. McKeown says, although their loads are naturally light.

The inside workers are "keeping occupied", and have some busy times. Since the normal working hours at the post office last from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., not all employees are there together. As a result, the wickets are only open part-time.

However Mr. McKeown says anyone who comes to the post office and finds the doors locked may knock, and someone will be able to help. Stamps can be sold and any other business transacted.

Stamps are also available at the machine outside the building and at the sub post office at Glentea drug mart.

Boxes sealed
The street boxes are sealed to discourage mailing of out-of-town letters. These have to be stored in the post office since no trucks are moving.

"We're here, even if the doors are locked," says Mr. McKeown as he reminds people to knock. "We're trying to serve the people as best we can."

He has also had some enquiries about where to get workmen's compensation cheques. He passes on the fact they are at the Brampton Hotel, 226 Queen St., E., Brampton, and the people there ask that recipients phone first, 453-6664.

"Get us some more mail!" one mailman pleaded this week, as he saw a cheque delivered by hand on Mill St. Monday.



ERIC ELSTONE is the new reporter for the Acton Free Press. Eric is new to the paper, but not to Acton. For six months he's lived in town, and covered Halton Hills for the Guelph Mercury. He is reporting on general news and sports. A native of Toronto, he moved here immediately after completing journalism courses at Ryerson. If you have any news tips, Eric can be reached at 853-2010.

Auger advocates

Pupils in classrooms not on field trips

Trustee Len Auger thinks high school students in Halton are spending too much time outside the classroom on field trips.

During discussion by the Halton Board of Education Thursday of a report on field trips taken last year Auger noted there were 960 field trips for high school students last year.

"This amounts to a great cost for the board and considering the fact we have the semester system I think it means students are spending too much time outside the classroom," Auger stated.

Trustee Bill Lawson noted many of the field trips are on the weekends and some are three day trips involving only one day away from school. "There is such a thing as homework that should be done on the weekends. Even one day away from the classroom in the semester system is bad," Auger said.

Trustee Richard Goodin praised the good relationship between the board and Halton Region Conservation Authority. He said Halton is fortunate that students can become involved in outdoor education at Bronte Creek Park, Mounsbury Conserva-

tion Area and Kelso Conservation Area.

A total of 33,554 high school students took part in the various trips in the 1974-75 school year at a cost of \$33,125.11 to the board. Pupils contributed \$18,280.92.

It cost the board \$98,133.76 to send 140,499 pupils from kindergarten to Grade 13 on field trips last year. The students contributed

\$62,101.37 towards the cost of trips.

Besides trips to local spots such as newspapers, shopping malls, businesses, police stations and conservation areas in Halton, students went on trips to Casa Loma, Lion Safari, Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario Place, Niagara Falls, Sportsmen's Show, Science Centre and Royal Botanical Gardens.



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Lot of doggone work

Committee finds dogs here are well-behaved

"It took a lot of doggone work," quipped clerk Doug Pritchard as the finance committee of Halton Hills council poured over his recommendations for a suitable by-law to regulate licensing of dog kennels. He proposed putting teeth into the present controls.

Fritchard's three page report to the committee recommended incorporating parts of a Forgas by-law in one for Halton Hills but he warned it had not been tested in the courts so it would be wise to proceed with caution.

Licensing kennels is a tricky business now for license issuer Grant Usher, (also at the meeting), but the clerk pointed out his intent was to license the owners not the property and control the numbers and quality of kennels in that fashion. He said it would require the zoning administrator to view the property to see if it conflicted with residential amenities or abutting properties.

"What recourse do people around kennels have if the building inspector says it is a lovely building but the dogs are howling all night?" asked Councillor Pat McKenzie.

According to the clerk, he knew of no incidents where people complained of kennels in the proximity of where they lived. Kennel operators in Halton Hills and their dogs are very well behaved.

"But I just had a complaint this morning," said McKenzie, explaining it concerned a pending kennel, not an existing one.

McKenzie said he couldn't see the sense of legislation which refused a kennel licence but at the same time would allow the dog owner to

buy individual licenses for dogs if no kennel license could be secured.

Deputy treasurer and license issuer Grant Usher told councillors there were five applications pending for kennel licenses, one in the urban area and the others rural.

Councillors reviewed Esqueing's efforts at controlling kennels in the past, noting the former township had even stopped issuing licenses. Prior to that council looked at the individual merits of each case before committing themselves to granting a kennel licence.

Councillor McKenzie said he would like to see a by-law which did not restrict kennels but protected residents especially in the urban areas. He felt if an owner did not meet kennel requirements he should not be able to keep more than two dogs. He pointed out the loophole existed where if an applicant did not receive a kennel licence he could still get individual licenses for dogs.

However, the clerk pointed out provisions in the proposed by-law would make it pretty expensive.

Deputy Grant Usher said Oakville had a more expensive approach. Individual licenses there required \$7 for the first dog, \$9 for the second and each additional dog cost \$30, which was one way to control the number of dogs.

Chairman Harry Levy thought it would be better to control dogs by numbers than dollars but McKenzie said for residents who couldn't sleep because of howling dogs, dollars or numbers made no difference.

The clerk suggested those who purchased individual li-

cences also faced the expense of acquiring licenses for pups once they were 12 weeks old. A kennel licence covers all dogs for a year and \$25 is all that can be charged for kennel licenses by statute.

Mr. Pritchard said Fergus also proposed to protect by dollars charging \$3 for the first dog, \$6 for the second, \$15 for the third and each additional pooch would cost \$25. Asked again if urban residents had not complained about odors from dogs, the clerk reiterated his previous statement about no problems.

Councillor Levy said he doubted the wisdom of trying to limit the dogs by making square footage requirements such as proposed.

Councillor Ernie Sykes said he felt the committee should move slowly on the by-law and not put restrictions people can find ways around. He said his concern for the urban areas was real but if there are no problems he would not pursue it.

In the clerk's opinion the by-law should allow those kennels already licensed to continue but wanted to guarantee protection for the public when new kennels were erected. He said both municipal and health authorities had the right to cancel licenses when kennels were not properly maintained or health problems erupted.

License issuer Grant Usher agreed he had better guide lines after the discussion than in the past when it came to issuing kennel licenses.

Winter parking rules soon

As the first flakes of winter snow settles on Halton Hills the town is getting busy to try and keep cars from being parked overnight on streets. Halton Hills works committee is worried about cars hampering snow plowing operations.

Last summer the works committee thought they had the problem solved by limiting parking to three hours but council rejected the idea.

Now the engineer and committee members are working to find out how other municipalities handle the problem and a report will be ready early next month on various alternatives.

Austin said some towns have three hour parking limits, others have overnight parking bans and some prohibit parking from 1 a.m.

until 7 a.m. from December 15 until March 15.

New regulations to solve the problem of cars parked on the street overnight during the winter should materialize early in December.

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