

# New provincial guidelines could delay high school here

Construction of the new Acton high school may be delayed, as a result of a provincial announcement Thursday morning. As part of its crackdown on government spending, the province issued stringent guidelines concerning the building of new schools.

At the school board meeting that same evening director of education Em Lavender said the door isn't closed on the Acton school but if the guidelines are strictly enforced, the project will have to be postponed.

The board had expected that M.Z. Bennett school and the Robert Little school would require portable classrooms until the completion of the new high school and the conversion of the old high school to a middle school, scheduled for 1977. At that time the M.Z.B. and Robert Little

schools would become junior schools.

Concern Trustee Tom Watson this week expressed concern at the possible change in plans. Acton now has top priority for a new high school. "I would hope the govern-

ment will see fit to go ahead with the Acton project because it's necessary," he said. "We'll be in dire straits if we don't have it."

The school board Thursday also considered the future of Campbellville school. Although it is small, the board has been advised to leave the school open because Brookville school could not handle the number of extra students the closing of Campbellville would generate.

Members of the board were also advised Thursday that the Robert Baldwin school in Milton is operating at

capacity and will continue to require portable classroom during 1967 and 1977.

Families moving into the Milton area bounded by Cabot Trail, Woodward Ave., Maple Ave., Cedarbrae and Thomson Rd. N. will have their children bussed to Pineview and Stewarttown schools.

The board reports that the Robert Baldwin school in Milton wouldn't be expanded until after the W.I. Dick school in Milton is expanded and improved.

Postponement of the Acton high school would set back construction of a new high school in Milton as well.



Babes in toyland

RECEIVING BALLOONS AT THE Legion Christmas party are Bobby Andrews and Daryl McMillan. Clowns were Darlene McDonald and Mary Daigle. Santa appeared during the party and distributed gifts to the children in the audience.

# The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1975

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## Snow smothers area Sat. Christmas bus proves boon

The first major snowstorm of the season smothered this district Saturday - a day before the official arrival of winter.

Both walking and driving were difficult during the day-long storm of snow and wind from the east.

Plows and sanders started out from the Halton Hills works yard at Georgetown at 8 a.m. Saturday morning and the men worked through till 7 p.m. By then the gale had abated with less drifting over the roads.

The men were back at work

at 6 a.m. Sunday and worked continued all day and all through Sunday night.

Street clearing The street clearing program began Sunday at midnight in the towns of Acton and Georgetown. The main streets came first with all possible equipment out.

In Acton Tuesday morning one grader, one front end loader and four dump trucks ground their way along Mill clearing the roadway. Workmen were hampered by cars left on the streets.

The manhole cover at the Mill-Willow intersection was caught by two of the plows Saturday.

In the second accident, about 8 p.m. a foot-long bolt was hurled from the cover through a double-hung window beside the front door of the Toronto-Dominion bank. A big jagged hole was the result.

Police called manager Earl Steckley who "stood guard" until the window was boarded up about 9:30 p.m.

Although local people abandoned thoughts of

shopping at out-of-town plazas because of the snow, it was hard to shop in Acton, too, by car. Driveways were plugged with drifts and walled in by the snowplows. Downtown parking was nearly impossible. The Mill St. parking lot was plowed by Halton Hills crews by the afternoon, however.

Quite a few people found the businessmen's Christmas bus service the perfect answer.

Figures show Saturday was the best day yet for use of the bus.

## Three collisions last Thursday

Last Thursday at noon two cars were in collision at the corner of Queen and Meadvale when both made turns. Driver Brett Tatton, R.R. 4, had estimated \$200 to his car and William Laasche, R.R. 2,

Acton, about \$150 to his.

At about 4 p.m. the same day there was a collision at Main and St. Alban's drive. Lucienne Elliott, R.R. 2, Acton, had estimated \$200 to her car and Kathleen Hassert, 119

Kingham Rd., about \$100 to hers.

A third accident the same day involved two cars at the corner of Young and Mill. This incident happened about 8 p.m.

Douglas McGilloway, Main N. had about \$1000 damage to his car, according to police, and Harry Allan, R.R. 3, Acton, about \$300 to his.

More On Dec. 11 an accident at the corner of Church and Elgin produced \$50 damage to the car driven by Nahe Krikourian, Don Mills and \$400 to the car driven by Weldon Morrison, Limehouse.

## Three fire alarms in four days

Acton firefighters answered three calls in four days.

An accumulation of smoke and dust in a Dissan chimney caught fire Thursday, Dec. 18, at approximately 7:45 p.m. Firechief Mick Holmes said

the fire burned itself out. He said at the fire that it was not serious.

Stuart Robertson's Quonset hut on the north side of Highway 7, just west of Crewson's Corners caught fire Friday afternoon. Acton firefighters

responded to the call, even though the location is in Rockwood's district. See accompanying story for details.

Robert McGinn was thawing pipes with a torch in his house on Church St. when some insulation caught fire Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Chief Holmes said there was very little damage.

The new fire truck has not yet been used as it is not fully equipped.

## Library appointee

George Lee, a professional engineer and resident of Acton has been reappointed

to the Halton Hills Library Board as the Halton Board of Education's representative

## Y's Men start Robertson fund

Acton Y's Men are spearheading a fund raising campaign for Stuart



FIRE VIRTUALLY DESTROYED THE QUONSET HUT housing Stuart Robertson's welding shop Friday. Firefighters from Rockwood and Acton were called out to the blaze on the north side of Highway 7, just west of Crewson's Corners. Rockwood fire chief Carl

Meadows estimates the damage at approximately \$30,000. The future of the shop is not known, said Mr. Robertson. Stored near the hut was the Y's Men's snowman used in the Santa Claus parade and three ponies. All the animals were saved.



FIFTY YEARS ago January 1, Mrs. Isabel Watson assumed duties as Acton Librarian. She had been an assistant even before that. Story inside today's Free Press.

## Gail Maltby heads new centre executive

Gail Maltby was elected president of the Acton Community Services Centre board of directors at a meeting in the Y Tuesday of last week.

Vice-president is Len Ewing, secretary Alma Swelman and treasurer Brendan Aherne.

Members, who had been elected a couple of weeks before at a public meeting, were named to committees Finance, Brendan Aherne, Peter Marks, Pat McKenzie, Bill Coats, Len Ewing, Property Bill Coon, Lloyd Branstad, Ruth Taber, Program and Staff John Cooper, Dave Mitchell, Brian

Skerrett, Dorothy Craig, Alma Swelman.

Publicity and staff Kay Dills, Pat Garton, Celia Saxon, Craig Hutchison.

Meeting Incorporation, signing authority and insurance were discussed by members at the

meeting chaired by the Rev. Ewing.

A date will be set when councillors will be invited to come to see the two rooms for the centre in the Y.

Eight applications were received for the position of full-time coordinator at the centre.

## Tractor damage

A broken windshield was found on a tractor parked at John Hoare service station Sunday. Apparently a rock or bottle had caused the damage, estimated at about \$125. Clare Mathies, Lot 5, Conc. 2, Erin township owns the tractor.

Police investigated the incident.

## Longest holiday for town banks

Acton banks will close for an unprecedented four straight days over the Christmas holiday.

Bank branches will be closed Dec. 25 (Christmas), Dec. 26 (Boxing Day), Dec. 27 and Dec. 28 due to a special dispensation from Ottawa.

Grant Schultz, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia on Mill Street, said that the Bank Act states branches cannot remain closed for more than three consecutive days. Until now, when Dec. 27 fell on a Saturday, banks had to open in the morning.

"This is the first time ever," Mr. Schultz said about

the four-day holiday for bank employees. The federal government this year is letting banks remain closed as long as service to customers does not suffer.

Last minute Most bank branches will remain open until 4:30 p.m. to handle last minute customers on Christmas Eve.

The banks will open every day during New Year's week, except for Thursday Jan. 1. A spokesman said the Halton Hills Community Credit Union on Queen Street will remain open until 3 p.m. Christmas Eve, and re-open Dec. 29 at 10 a.m.

## Today's paper giant greeting

This week's Free Press is especially large. And there's a special reason for that. This issue is a giant Christmas card. Every page contains greetings to all its readers.

The regular advertisements are boosted by a great number of special Christmas greeting ads from merchants, businesses and private citizens.

The paper is published a day early both this week and next, Tuesday Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

This suits both staff and advertisers better than a Wednesday date, with subsequent late delivery outside of town.

The Free Press office will be closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

This issue comes with the best wishes of the Free Press staff in all departments - newsroom, office, make-up department, job printing, pressroom, carriers, correspondents and delivery service.

## Insurance jumps almost 500%

Halton Board of Education will face skyrocketing insurance increases this year on fire insurance, extended coverage buildings and contents and malicious damage.

The board learned Thursday that it will cost \$195,000 this year, compared to \$42,000 for the same coverage last year.

In a telephone interview, Area Superintendent of Finance Dana explained there were a number of factors boosting the cost of the premium.

An increase in the trend towards vandalism of school property is a key factor in rising cost. Other factors that boost the premium cost include a change in the basic insurance. It used to be the

board would only insure its properties and buildings to 90 percent of the value. Now it must be 100 percent.

On top of that, the value of the property and buildings has escalated rapidly since they were last evaluated.

The board had to look for new firms to handle the insurance policy after two costly fires took place at a Oakville school, and the former insurers refused to renew the policies.

"The end result is very disappointing, especially this year when we face serious financial restraints. But we'll have to live with it," Dana said.

The board has expressed real concern about the vandalism at schools.

## Escapes fiery welding shop

Stuart Robertson, injured during a fire which gutted his welding shop near Crewson's Corners Friday, will work again, but he does not know if he will re-open for business.

"I hope so," Mr. Robertson said when asked if he would use the large Quonset hut which housed his welding equipment. "Everything is up in the air," he said.

Mr. Robertson, 32, said in a telephone interview Monday, Dec. 22, that he was still getting over the experience.

"I won't be working for a while," he said. He also said the burn to his right hand was not as bad as he first thought it would be.

He said he was alone in the hut, on his back working underneath a car, when the fire started. "I don't know how it started," he said. "My hand caught fire, and I rolled out." The fire started just about 1:30 p.m.

Damage Rockwood fire department chief Carl Meadows estimat-

ed the damage to the hut at approximately \$30,000 including the interior. Most of the damage was to machinery within the building, he said. Damage to the interior of the building was estimated at approximately \$5,000 by the chief who also said it could probably be used again, once it is insulated. Mr. Robertson said the building is insured.

Acton firefighters arrived first on the scene, and tackled the blaze from the west end of the building, where a huge

column of grey smoke billowed into the clear sky. Rockwood firefighters arrived shortly after the Acton crew, and worked on the east end of the hut.

Several drivers slowed down to look to the north side of Highway 7 at the smoke and firefighters.

Acton firefighters chopped a hole in the ice of a near by stream and pumped the water onto the fire.

Mrs. Grace Robertson, Mr. Robertson's mother, said he

drove into Acton where his burned hand was treated by Dr. J.C. Hutchison.

Three ponies, which were kept in a trailer on the north side of the hut, were rescued by Mr. Robertson and his father Bert Robertson.

One of the ponies pulled Santa Claus' sleigh during the Christmas parade in Acton a week ago Saturday.

One more shopping day until Christmas.