

Illuminated street signs for Acton

Halton Hills works committee decided Monday to proceed with the installation of illuminated street signs in Acton.

These signs will also be retained in Georgetown.

Halton Hills works committee decided Monday to keep the signs in Georgetown and move ahead with the installation of illuminated street signs in Acton.

Last summer the committee decided to hold off on putting up illuminated signs in Acton until costs due to vandalism could be assessed at the end of the year.

Engineer Robert Austin informed the committee there

is a fair amount of maintenance for the signs. Last year the town spent \$5,300 on repairing broken street signs in Georgetown. The works department had only budgeted \$3,500 for repairs to damaged signs.

Austin noted a few illuminated street signs have been erected in new Acton subdivisions and the money came out of subdivision agreements.

"We have to decide if we will continue with the illuminated signs or phase them out and go back to the flat metal plates which are five times cheaper," Austin explained.

The engineer informed the

committee some of the illuminated signs are never touched in Georgetown while others are smashed two or three times each year.

Pointing out the bright side of things Austin reminded the committee that while maintenance costs were \$1,800 over budget, \$4,100 was saved because no new signs were purchased for Acton.

"They are a great asset to the town and I think they should be kept. It breaks your heart to see them broken and dangling there but I would still hate to see them abandoned," Councillor Ern Hyde said.

Councillor Dick Howitt noted the signs are only a

small part of the works budget and the advantages of the more attractive signs far exceed the maintenance costs.

Austin said generally only the plastic portion of the sign is broken and the biggest problem is the broken ones looking unsightly until they are fixed. The yellow illuminated plastic portion of the signs cost \$11.70 to replace. An entire sign costs \$135 to replace.

The committee decided to try and use the yellow signs exclusively because they are cheaper than the white illuminated signs.

The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1976

One Hundred and First Year - No. 28

Twenty-Eight Pages - Fifteen Cents.

No delay for h. s. addition

The addition to Acton high school will proceed as planned, school board trustee Tom Watson was able to report this week.

Tenders will be called in February on schedule for the new school off Churchill Rd. N.

The Department of Education informed the school board the project will not be delayed.

The board had expressed concern at their meeting Thursday, Dec. 17, that stringent new government guidelines might delay the construction of the new school here.

Mr. Watson, who had pressed at school board meetings for a new school in Acton, was happy to learn there will be no delay. He had presented Acton's case before the board, pointing out lack of room and facilities available in other centres. As a result, the board's list of priorities was changed.



MISS GEORGINA MCGILL, at 93, is one of the oldest residents to be transferred to the new Halton Hills Rest Home from the fire-damaged Meadowcroft Place in Guelph. Seven of the 51 residents who had to be evacuated found refuge in the newly-opened rest home in the former Legion building on Main Street. The Halton Hills Rest Home, slated to open early in February, was pressed into service during the emergency. There were no fatalities in the fire which swept through the Guelph building Tuesday, January 6.

Another increase

Hydro bills will see another increase in the near future, but the exact amount is not yet known.

It was revealed at Thursday evening's Acton Hydro Electric Commission meeting that Ontario Hydro have raised their rates almost 22 per cent on their bill to the local hydro company as of January 1. They had met before the Energy Board earlier and received approval for the hike.

Commissioner Ted Tyler Sr. told the rest of the group that in order to compensate for the provincial hike, there would have to be a local one.

The Acton Commission have made an application to Ontario Hydro to request approval to raise their rates. It will not be known how much of an increase they will receive until the auditors check their financial situation at the end of the month, according to office manager Audrey Urquhart.

Christmas mail down 40 per cent

Volume of Christmas mail at Acton post office was down about 40 per cent this year, postmaster Gord McKeown told The Free Press this week. This was the sum total of all mail, excluding parcels. Christmas cards were not tallied separately.

There was very little change in the number of parcels mailed and delivered, however.

For the first time ever, no extra help was hired to join the regular staff during the Christmas rush. Overtime work for employees was a part of their postal contract. Mr. McKeown explained. However, "had we not been able to handle it within the overtime regulations, we would have had extra help," he explained.

Both Georgetown and Milton post offices had extra help.

The peak day for mailing was Dec. 17, the date advertised as the deadline for local delivery.

January volume of mail is about average. January is usually a heavy month, Mr. McKeown says, because of Christmas bills and lots of advertising.

Some Christmas mail is still dribbling in from overseas. An embargo was placed on overseas mail when the 30-day postal strike began. Sea mail which would be docked at Halifax or Montreal is still being delivered.

Snow cuts power

Heavy accumulations of snow on grounding wires robbed some residents of Eramosa and Esquesing of power for periods as long as three hours Wednesday morning, an Ontario Hydro official says.

Bob Baird, of the Guelph Hydro office, said power was restored at approximately 8 a.m. Three trucks and all available men worked on the early morning breakdowns, he said.

Quiet week

Acton police force report an "extremely quiet week. There were a few domestic complaints and drinking incidents, but little else.

Minor accidents were blamed on ice and snowy road conditions.

Parking restricted on St. Alban's Dr.

Halton Hills works committee decided Monday to ban parking on the south side of St. Alban's Drive in response to requests from residents.

Parking has been a problem on the street for some time with people who work in downtown Acton parking there all day.

Councillor Joe Hurst told the committee the parking situation is so bad it is impossible for residents to back out of their driveways. He added it is difficult for two

cars to pass on the street when cars are parked on both sides.

Mr. Hurst would also like to see two hour parking restrictions on Willow and John Streets because they are also jammed with parked cars.

Both the engineer and police will be consulted about clearing up the parking problems on Acton's downtown side streets.

The problems on both Willow and John Streets will be discussed at the next works committee meeting.

Poultry shed home for fowl in winter

A different way of coping with the number of ducks wintering on Fairy Lake is being tried this year. Facilities superintendent Alf Doby and some of the town men have captured the remainder of the swans and many of the ducks and given them special motel accommodation for the winter.

The poultry building in the park, which housed the best birds of the fall fair, is now the winter home away from home for the birds.

Straw covers the floor and large areas have been closed off for the birds. Here they will be fed and watered regularly and the straw changed as often as necessary.

In barn

The first swans to be captured and some of the

ducks were taken away a couple of weeks ago and are boarders at Fred Kentner's barn for the season.

There had been concern among bird lovers that the swans would soon be frozen in, and the last three were picked up and housed just before they were trapped in the ice.

There is still open water on the pond for the ducks near the poultry building, where Alf Doby expects the melting ice from the arena pours out and keeps the ice from forming. There is no bubbler installed yet.

At dam

Some of the ducks not captured are over at the dam, where the water is kept open all winter by Beardmore who draw it from an intake pipe for use in the plant.

The birds now indoors were easily captured in the big wire trap, Mr. Doby said.

Of course there's no heat in the new motel, but it will be warmer than outdoors on the ice and frozen ground.

Last year the ducks kept indoors emerged in the early spring seemingly happy and healthy.

Keeping the ducks in the poultry building as well as the Kentner barn will hopefully cut away down on the numbers on the pond. Last year the increasing number of ducks caused problems.

Beardmore expressed a concern over the quality of water coming into their pipe at the dam, due to so many birds clustered overhead.

And open water is always a deep concern for parents of young children.

Superintendent Alf Doby agreed there is always worry associated with open water during the winter. Skaters, snowmobilers, walkers and those feeding the birds are all out on the ice surface during the winter.

"I like to feed the ducks myself," says Mr. Doby. "But I hate to hear the siren sound."

If the birds remain, he thinks a proper fence would have to be built extending out into the water.

The birds are an "attractive nuisance," he says. (Others have bluntly called them "freeloaders").

Council agreed a few weeks ago that the birds should be looked after and fed properly. Councillor Les Doby insists a proper solution must be found.

There have been differences of opinion on feeding the ducks here. So, as said the birds had become tame and would migrate, as they felt they would move along if they got hungry enough.

When the park was first envisioned as a bird sanctuary, there was a concept that so many birds would decide to call Fairy Lake "home".

Mr. Doby points out there are only another 15 weeks of winter before the lake is open again and the doors will be opened to let the ducks and swans out.

The town men have also had a surprise visit from the R.C.M.P., making sure they have a trapping license. After explanations, the Mounties moved on.

More stories on Page 3.

Town may rename streets

Halton Hills might go on a street naming binge sometime this year so references to Georgetown and Acton could be eliminated.

At Halton Hills works committee Monday, engineer Robert Austin suggested changing some street names so the town can quit referring to the two towns.

Works committee bantered the idea about but decided it was too big a job to undertake at this time and it will come up at a future meeting.

Councillor Ern Hyde said there are at least 50 streets in Georgetown and Acton which have the same name and there are even some duplicated names in Glen

Williams.

All of the sideroads and lines in the rural area would also be given names.

The committee thought it might not be such a tough job in Esquesing but renaming streets in the two towns and hamlets would be a more difficult chore. Numbering of houses on rural roads could

be hard to do too, the councillors predicted.

Off the top of their heads the councillors could think of several duplications in the urban areas and hamlets, including Main, Mill, Guelph, Church, John and Queen Streets.

Austin said he first came up with the idea last year but the

committee never had a chance to take action.

The late Councillor Len Cox, who was a member of the works committee, had advocated giving the rural roads names rather than continue to designate them by numbers.

There are a number of examples in the rural areas

where a road will have several designations. The confusion over Trafalgar Road, Halton Road Three and Seventh Line is a good example.

The topic will come up on a works committee agenda some time in the future when the committee has a small amount of business.

Record snow removal

Halton Hills is experiencing the roughest winter in the town's three year history.

By the end of snow removal operations, Monday, Engineer Robert Austin says town works staff has cleared away as much snow so far this winter as they did all last year. There is no question the winter of 75-76 will be a record breaking one for the young town since more snow is expected to fall.

Austin revealed the facts at Halton Hills works committee's Monday night meeting.

The entire committee commended the works staff for the fine snow removal job they are doing this year.

Store replaces old Mill house

An old boarded-up house on Mill St. between Fellows and Eastern will be torn down and replaced by a store, and the Force Electric building in the rear renovated, if Halton Hills council endorses a planning board recommendation. The purchaser of the land, John Kovacevic, asked planning board Tuesday to rezone the front portion from industrial to commercial to accommodate the store.

Planner Mario Venditti favored the proposal saying the rest of the area was commercial and industrial. Councillor Joe Hurst moved the plan be approved in principle. Councillor Les Doby said he supported the proposal claiming it solved a number of problems. "It removes an eyesore, gives more parking, enhances the

building and improves the Mill and Eastern corner."

Councillor Ernie Sykes noted there are two apartments above the new store and asked if they are permissible in Acton. The planner said they are legal in Acton but not in Georgetown according to the individual official plans. Mr. Sykes replied the regulations should be the same in the two urban areas. Planning board unanimously approved the plan in principle subject to a favorable report from the planner.

After the meeting councillor Hurst explained the Force Electric plant was built for Hewetson Shoes around 1920. He recalled a heavy wind storm lifting the roof from the almost-completed building and dropping it on the train tracks. Hurst said



LYNN MARGETTS PUSHES OFF FOR THE START of the junior girls' 50 metre back stroke during the Tri-School Meet at the Acton pool Thursday. Miss Margetts finished second in the event with a time of 46.5. She also was a member of the junior girls' team with Linda Shadbolt, Anne Charlebois and Karen Chapman which won the junior 200 metre free style relay.

he'll never forget it because his wagon was smashed as he was delivering papers.



NEW MINISTER of Trinity United church the Rev. Charles Beaton is welcomed to town by the "dean" of clergy here, the Rev. A. H. McKenzie Sunday evening. At the left are the Rev. Don

Stiles of Georgetown and Ballinacraig churches who preached the induction sermon and the Rev. Anna Taylor of the Orton charge, who conducted the service.