

Show of hands signals RC approach for School

Separate School Board officials can start talks with the Board of Education, knowing they have the backing of some Roman Catholics to lease the Old Stone school house for classes starting a year from next September.

If negotiations between the two Halton boards go as smoothly as they have so far, Acton's first Roman Catholic public school may open in 1977 with kindergartens to grade six, Cliff Byrnes, separate school director of education, told last Thursday's meeting in St. Joseph's Church basement.

"(The Stone School) would be leased, assuming everything goes well", Mr. Byrnes said. "I doubt if there'd be grade sevens", he said.

After the first year, the next grade could be added, and then another, Mr. Byrnes said.

Exploratory

To date talks between the separate and public school boards have been exploratory in nature, Mr. Byrnes said. No commitments have been made by either side, he added.

The new school—the name St. Joseph's was suggested by a parent—will have its own principal and staff. The school would share the site and some facilities of Robert Little public school, Mr. Byrnes said.

The meeting was called so that the separate board officials could gauge support for a separate school in town. Twenty-six parents from

Acton, Speyside and area attended the meeting. Some said their children go to schools at Milton and Guelph.

Hands

A brief show of hands by the parents gave board officials a green light to continue discussions—but with the aim of opening a school. No one spoke against the idea.

"Now that we've had an indication, we'd like you to spread the word", separate school board chairman Hartley Sherk said.

A survey of Acton and area carried out in April of last year, indicated that there are about 150 school age children available for a separate school, Mr. Byrnes said. There were also about 40 children of pre-school age in the community according to

the survey.

The new high school, on Churchill Road N., and the separate school may open at the same time. The present high school will become a middle school which will absorb some of the public school grades. The shift in student population will make room for a separate school.

Separate school officials toured Acton's high school and public schools earlier this year. "I was quite impressed with the structure of the Stone School house", Mr. Byrnes said. The four class rooms and shop will undergo some renovation if the project goes forward, he said.

Gym

"I can see no problem with time tabling into the gym", Mr. Byrnes said. He said the

board would buy shop and home economic lessons. Mr. Sherk said that home economics is a course which is not available in Georgetown.

Mr. Byrnes said the separate school board may use the Stone School for three or four years. The separate school board chairman said that if the public board needed the return of the Stone School, the separate board would look for some advance notice to give it time to relocate the operation.

The board's previous meetings with local parents have discussed the construction of a new building for a separate school, but that is not possible under the present restraint conditions, officials said.

"If a new (school) building

program comes in, we would want to be part of it", Mr. Byrnes said. The board is looking at a site south of Highway 7 on Churchill Road, he said.

Provided

Transportation for pupils living in the Speyside area would be provided to the separate school, Mr. Byrnes said.

Public school supporters who may direct their tax dollars into the separate school system "shouldn't pay more than public", Mr. Byrnes said. For the past decade the taxes for the two Halton school boards have been about equal, he said.

A lady said that at the last meeting there had been some opposition to the idea of a separate school in Acton. Mr.

Byrnes said that last Thursday's meeting was called about supporting the idea.

People left their addresses for officials. Five parents said they'd be willing to form a committee to keep the community informed of further developments.

Halton Hills has one representative on the school board, Mr. Byrnes said. Last September there were 14 representatives supported by 200,000 people. Milton also has one representative.

Priority in teacher hiring would be given to Roman Catholics, Mr. Byrnes said. He said, however, that there has been a shortage of RC teachers and if one is not available for a position, the board would hire from the outside.



SHOWING OFF her stylish blue and white socks is AHS student Judy Krul. She was one of several models during a fashion display that featured Dominion Simplicity Patterns last Friday. About 100 girls took in the hour-long show in the gym. More pictures on Youth Page.

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Twenty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents.



ACTON HIGH URBAN geography teacher Harold Mahatoo, second from right, checks over some of the traffic stats gathered by students during a three day survey of the downtown area. Standing with their teacher are Rick Van Fleet, Laurie Pierce, Henry Roke, Kent Nielsen, Brad

Buchanan and David Marcoux. Thirty-one students counted up parking spaces and pedestrians. The students were from Mr. Mahatoo's and Keith Black's classes. The town was split into 15 sections for the study.

Mother dies at Speyside

A 28-year-old mother from R.R. 5, Belwood (north of Ferguson) was killed at noon Tuesday in a single car accident on Highway 25 near Speyside. The victim was alone.

Milton OPP said Mrs. Donna Butcher was driving southbound when her 1975 Honda Civic went out of control into a ditch and struck a tree. The car was seriously damaged.

An ambulance crew rushed the woman to Milton District Hospital shortly after the 12:45 p.m. accident, but a hospital spokesman said the woman was dead on arrival.

The OPP said Mrs. Butcher is survived by her husband and an 11-month-old child.

Centre volunteers try two summer projects

Community Centre volunteers chose to take steps in setting up a block parent program in town and also to help high school students line up summer jobs.

Both projects require volunteers to get started, but once underway require little supervision. This feature made the projects ideal for the summer, until the volunteers receive more formal training which is slated for next fall.

Ten volunteers attended the meeting last Wednesday in the Y building on Mill Street.

Protect

It was felt that the block parent program, which offers protection to children, is needed because, as one lady put it there are "so many working parents". Brian Skerrett, who chaired the meeting, agreed.

Block parents open their doors to children needing help during emergencies such as attacks by vicious dogs, strangers, illness or accidents.

Children identify homes which subscribe to the

program because owners hang a special sign in a door or street level window.

Places such as Georgetown, London, Hamilton and recently Toronto have the program, Mr. Skerrett said.

Parents who join the program undertake to phone police if a child is molested, or the parents if it is a case of injury.

Fight

Block parents do not give food, render first aid or provide toilet facilities to children. If a fight is taking place, the police should be phoned.

"The only thing that is a bother that I've heard about, is people forgetting to remove the sign when they're not to be bothered," Mr. Skerrett said.

Lonnie Harkins of Rosemary Rd. is arranging with Guelph City Police for an officer to show a film on block parents in town.

High school students searching for summer employment this summer will be able to check job listings on a bulletin board in front of the Y building. If a job description takes their eye, they can enquire about details inside.

Count down

Census Canada forms came into the post office steadily yesterday, the day they were to be returned. Postmaster Gord McKeown said 2169 kits were distributed to households in Acton.

Spring gardening but the crop was wrong

Spring planting just brought trouble to one Acton man. He was apprehended by Acton police while planting 25 marijuana plants on property south of 22 sideroad east of the third line.

As well as the 25 marijuana plants in pots there he had 11 plants in pots at his home in town and was in possession of

a quarter pound of processed marijuana.

He was charged with possession and also with cultivating, which is more serious than a charge of possession. The charges were laid May 30.

The same day another Acton man was charged after a small quantity of marijuana was found in his vehicle.

No storm sewers for Cameron St.

Town plans to install storm sewers, curbs and gutters on Cameron Street have gone down the drain and Halton region is going to proceed with paving of the street.

The town had planned to install storm sewers to solve the drainage problems on Cameron Street but that idea has at least temporarily been scrapped.

Beardmore has informed the town they won't allow any more storm sewer water to be dumped in Fairy Lake without their permission since the tannery owns the lake.

Before going into a behind closed doors session to deal with the problem Halton Hills works committee revealed Monday the town will proceed to seek permission from

Beardmore but doesn't hold out much hope for having its request granted.

There may be another solution to the problem, it was suggested at the meeting. A lot of the water which is flooding basements on Cameron Street comes down from Mill Street so if Cameron is resurfaced with a tilt on it the water might instead flow down Mill Street.

Job

If they like the job, a student can then find out the time and wages from the person offering it.

The Centre's role is that of job-matcher. It helps to put job seekers in contact with prospective employers.

"We should make it clear that the service is just handing out names," Judy McLin, Centre co-ordinator, said.

Mr. Skerrett, who is an AHS guidance teacher, said he'd tell the students about the idea.

Another idea which Mr. Skerrett will put to several students is that of making money from collecting recyclable material. From there on it's up to the kids.

Face heavy costs

Water rates could double

Water rates in Acton could be increased by more than double to offset a \$300,000 program to correct deficiencies in the system and carry on proper preventative measures, according to Regional Treasurer Don Farmer.

"Our public works people realize Acton has serious deficiencies and that a coordinated preventative maintenance operation is needed not a hit and miss approach," he told the Region's administration committee Wednesday.

Mr. Farmer is forecasting a \$30,000 deficit in 1976 for Acton. He explained that water rates in Acton had not been adjusted since 1964 and while they are close to the rates paid in Burlington they are far below those paid in Oakville.

The rate had been stable since 1964 if work had to be done. Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said that all the study

on water rates is for is to justify equalized assessment.



John Cooper

Cooper resigns

John Cooper, Recreation Co-ordinator for Wards 1 and 2 is leaving Halton Hills to work for the City of Brampton.

His resignation is effective June 8.

Mr. Cooper came to Halton Hills in January 1975, from Etobicoke Parks and Recreation Department.

He will become program supervisor for the Bramalea area.

He questioned the need for that much work to be done. "When the region takes over, costs spiral and spiral. Acton wouldn't face this if we hadn't gone regional."

"It's an attitude that prevails up here, full steam ahead at any cost. Would Acton do this? Do they actually need it? The desire of engineers is often greater than the need of area residents," he said.

He said the region was using the water system as a way to sell regional government. He said the region seems to be saying "you can't afford to bring it up to date so we'll bail you out."

Power off 40 minutes

Power was off for 40 minutes in several areas of town on Sunday as the result of breaker failure in sub-station number one, according to Hydro Commission chairman Wilf McEachern.

Sub-station number one is

located in front of the Free Press office.

All of the Lakeview subdivision, Main St. from Church St. in the south to the town limits in the north, parts of Kingham Hill subdivision and several other streets were without power.

Middle school due in Sept.

The concept of a middle school for Acton will be the subject of a discussion at a public meeting being held Monday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

When the new high school is built and occupied in September, the old high school will house grade seven and eight students from both the Robert Little and M. Z. Bennett schools. The public schools will then only contain the grades from kindergarten to six.

Taking part in the program will be Ward 1 trustee Tom Watson; Keith Craig, the executive assistant to the director of the Board of Education and Dean Fink, high school principal.

The principal, some parents and students, will be here from Centennial Middle school, Georgetown. They will chat with Acton parents during a time set aside for informal discussions.

Decoration program Sun.

The annual Decoration Day service will take place this Sunday afternoon, followed by a parade through town at 2:30 p.m. Acton Citizens' Band will lead marching participants from Fellow St. to Fairview cemetery, where the interdenominational service will be held.

Clergymen participating will be the Rev. A. H. McKenzie, the Rev. James McFadden and the Rev. Charles Beaton. The Legion Choralists will lead the singing.

Legion members and those from participating groups will plant geraniums on the graves of former members afterward.

Usually families and friends have visited the cemeteries before the service, planting flowers and placing wreaths and bouquets. However this can also be done after the service. The band plays while the graves are decorated after the short program.

There is plenty of room for parking at the cemetery, which is reached off Cobblehill Rd. Many people bring their lawn chairs although some chairs are provided.

Graves at Fairview, St. Joseph's cemetery and the Pioneer cemetery will have geraniums planted for Sunday.

Agree money to stay here

The fate of the land on Mill E. known as Leishman Park went a step further on Monday night at the administration meeting of Halton Hills council.

The ward 1 and 2 recreation advisory committee recommendation was approved in principle by both recreation director Glen Gray and the members of the committee.

They recommend that in the event the land on Mill

Garbage pick-up is twice a week

Garbage will be picked up twice a week during the summer months beginning this week by the Halton Hills works department.

This will be in effect until October 1, the same as last summer, a spokesman for the department said.

Refuse normally picked up on Mondays will be taken on Monday and Thursday. For Tuesday pick-up, summer collection will be Tuesday and Friday.

The Free Press and the works department have received numerous calls regarding the garbage day dates. The Halton Hills advertisement in last week's Free Press gave the wrong day, resulting in wet, scattered garbage being left out all night in some parts of town.



TAMMY DUNN was one of 96 people who purchased bike licenses Saturday afternoon. The special hours were arranged by volunteers Cons. Tom Roduck and Pop Main. Tammy attends Robert Little and is 11.