

Hinton says

Need more businessmen to bring costs under control

Halt Board of Education needs fewer trustees who are academics and more trustees who are businessmen, so the board's finances can be brought under control, Acton and Esquesing candidate Bert Hinton said in an interview this week.

Hinton says he has been asked to run for a board seat by many Acton and Esquesing ratepayers and the recent contract settlement which saw teachers receive over a 10 per cent raise "crystallized things" and forced him into the race this December.

"I think it was irresponsible for the trustees to spend nearly \$5 million just this year of restraint and with taxpayers facing huge tax hikes," he declared.

He said fear of a strike by Halt teachers is a lame excuse for giving out exorbitant pay hikes. Hinton added the old claim that North Halt has only four votes at the board table, so trustees from Milton and Halt Hills can't affect decisions by the board, doesn't hold water.

"Six members from the south opposed the wage hike so if the four from the north had joined them it would have been defeated and I don't think there would have been a strike. When the demands are more than the public purse

can stand and you have been fair in your bargaining, then you shouldn't be afraid of a strike," he said.

He says education spending has gotten completely out of hand and instead of so many academics on the board, there should be some businessmen to bring about a logical balance.

"I'm a businessman and have had extensive municipal experience as a former Warden of Halt and Reeve of Acton so I know the effects of a mill rate hike," he stated. Hinton says he isn't against teachers. He believes the whole problem boards have been facing with their staffs the past few years can be blamed on a few people.

"The problems are created by a noisy minority who will find their influence decreasing because they have had their day. You find most of these people want the most pay they can get for the least work and it turns out they are the least skilled teachers. They are the ones who have started all this and dragged the whole teaching profession along with them," Hinton declared.

Like many other critics of the Halt Board of Education, Hinton thinks the pendulum has swung too far over to courses which have no real value. Discipline has broken down too, he claims.

"We have had too much of this cafeteria choice of subjects where the students take what they want and not what they need. Our schools have become too permissive. I am convinced the pendulum is starting to swing back and I hope it ends in the middle and doesn't go all the way back to the old style of education because it wasn't any better than what we have today."

Hinton thinks many good concepts have been developed in Halt for the education of children, but there are also many invalid ones which have to be weeded out and more basic education must be offered.

"The board has been challenged too often in the past few years on moral issues also, so something must be wrong with the education system," he said.



BERT HINTON

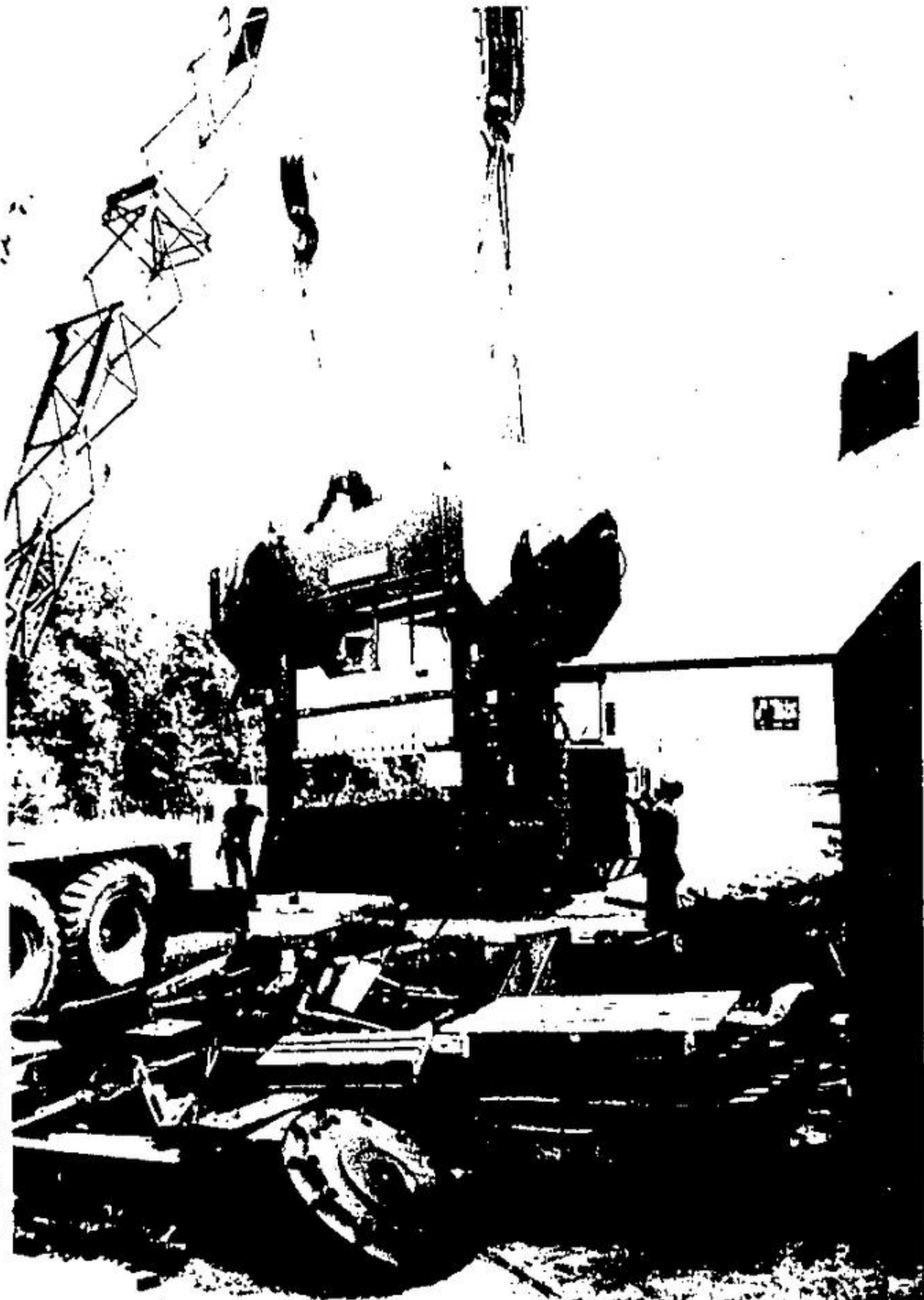
Alternate schools
The increasing popularity of alternate schools where the church plays a part in curriculum is evidence enough there is something wrong with the public education system, Hinton added.

He says he has entered this election six months before the polls open so everyone will have ample opportunity to examine the issues and so the public can hear lots of dialogue between himself and the incumbent Actonian Tom Watson—who has indicated he will be running for re-election.

Hinton thinks his experience in business and municipal work will help him bring some common sense to the board table and feels his years on county council will prove valuable in dealing with people from South Halt, since he knows what makes them tick.

He has been busy talking to people living in Esquesing and thinks they are even more concerned about rising costs than Acton voters.

"Rural people always tend to be more aware of costs and fiscal policy, since farmers have to use their heads to make money. Esquesing voters are very concerned about high education taxes and what they are getting for their money," he concluded.



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Pet of the week



Four baby raccoons were found in the McMullen garden on Bower Ave. after their mother had died. The babies were kept alive and fed by bottle until two of them were old enough to give away.

Now Lana McMullen, 13, and Jackie McMullen, 9, are raising the remaining two with the help of an interested neighbor Kristin Spielvogel, 10.

The two temporary pets will likely be set loose as soon as they are older. They are about a month old now.

They are called Rascal and Albert. Once Albert is fatter, the girls plan to call him Fat Albert. So far he hasn't earned the full name.

The other two were Pepper and Rachel.

The lively creatures eat from bowls now and they particularly like pabulum, strawberries, eggs and table scraps.

They climb up the girls' pant legs to sit on their shoulders making a typical raccoon noise that the girls interpret as either a giggle or a purr.

The McMullens live at 97 Bower.

Overnight camp new experience

On Saturday, June 25, 23 Brownies boarded a bus at Rockwood United Church, 9 a.m. enroute to Camp Corwin for an overnight stay.

Members of the pack were Laurie-ann Baldwin, Cheryl Baldwin, Tracie Bedford, Cheryl Cunningham, Laura Davey, Kristen English, Valerie Galley, Barbara Hawkins, Beth Haworth, Tanjila Hughes, Cathy Lawton, Jayme Moss, Collett Nightingale, Leanne Thatcher, Tracie Tomlinson, Donna Thomson, Margaret Thomson, Rennie-Sue Smith, Elizabeth Noble, Tara Waller, Colleen McKendry, Monika George, Veronica George, Lori Geisel (Absent), Leanne Spencer.

Leaders were Brown Owl Mrs. Julie Thatcher, Tawny Owl Mrs. Ellen Thomson, Snowy Owl Mrs. Janet Cunningham. Adult assistants included "Billy" R.N., Mrs. Betty Petrie, District Commissioner for badge testing, Mrs. Marlene McKendry, and Miss Sandy Root for crafts and games.

Planning Prior to camp, Brownies participated in several planning activities. Miss Barb Kelly, R.N., explained the importance of first aid and assisted in packing a first-aid

kit that goes everywhere with the pack. Menus, what to wear, and lend-a-hand duties were discussed together.

Rules for safety, health, courtesy, and conservation were planned and observed. Charts were made to organize duties. Sit-upons made from newspaper and plastic bags were ideal for seats around the campfire. Dish kits made dish-washing individual and unique. Each girl washed her own dishes, packed them into a bag and hung them on a clothes-line to dry.

Reports
After a hike it was interesting to hear about the things each girl heard and saw. Most mentioned the baby rabbit that Tracie T. caught; others will never forget the oven birds that fled from their dome-shaped nest to escape 24 pairs of feet.

During the evening most Brownies participated in a talent show. Songs, skits, poems, dancing and all sorts of humorous things kept laughter around for some time. A camp-fire and marsh-mallow roast brought the first day to a fitting close. Well practised songs, chants, and yells could be heard for miles.

Theme of camp, chosen by the Brownies was Rosebuds. Throughout camp a bouquet

of roses decorated the dining tables. Camp was new to all of the Brownies, so the theme did not follow through into the games and activities.

Crafts included animals made from clothes pegs, and pebble base; cork and styrofoam balls. Many strange little creatures were safely packed for camp souvenirs.

Mid-Sunday afternoon, parents visited Camp Corwin to take their daughters home. Pow-wow became rather humorous when the leaders presented special camp awards to each child, also, badges for Holiday and Outdoor Adventure. 1st Rockwood Pack qualifies for the pack certificate for an outdoor experience.

The camp was successful! The leaders extend thanks to all parents and resource people who assisted in the past season, and especially in this last endeavor which included an expense-free-camp for all. Have a happy and safe summer. Remember the Brownie motto: Lend a Hand.

Note of Interest: Camp Corwin is a Guide Camp, originally a rural school in Pusheeh Township south of Arkell.

Ellen Thomson

13 women attend clinic to see if physically fit

Thirteen women between the ages of 21 and 50 attended a fitness clinic held at the high school last week.

The clinic was put on by the Halt Hills recreation department, with Judy Patterson organizing it.

Included in the agenda were home fitness tests, flexibility tests, sit ups and measurements according to norms for various ages.

Recreation co-ordinator Anne Pickering thought the people attending enjoyed themselves and got something out of it.

Another such clinic is planned for the near future, according to Miss Pickering.

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