

Block Parent meeting at M.Z.B. 25 take home application forms

About 25 willing women took application forms Wednesday for the proposed Block Parents program in town. Although the turnout at the meeting in the M. Z. Bennett auditorium was not large, organizers were well satisfied with the response. Those who attended asked questions and seemed interested in participating. They were asked to take forms for friends, and to contact others.

Community Services Centre co-ordinator Judy McLin was also there to answer questions.

Police check
Application forms taken home will be filled out and returned to the Community Services Centre or the Harkins home on Rosemary Rd. They will go to regional police headquarters in Oakville where the names will be checked to see if there have been any criminal charges against them. Cons. Woods explained that such things as traffic violations would not be considered, only serious offenses. The police do not visit the home.

It takes five to six weeks to process the applications, he said, since many areas are

starting similar programs at the same time, and the lines to Ottawa can only be used at certain hours of the day for transmitting such information.

Cover costs
When the names are cleared, the applicants will make a small donation to cover the cost of buying the block parent signs, which are 33 cents each.

The group talked over other small expenses which would include the printing of lists of emergency numbers, letters of information, and purchase of the official teachers' manuals. One suggestion was that each Block Parent donate as much as a dollar to cover these expenses.

There is no sponsoring

group, and no regular source of donations.

The cards are of white cardboard with red lettering, 10 by 10 inches.

Co-operate
Both public school principals are willing to co-operate in setting up the program, Mrs. Harkins said. Cons. Woods added that he will introduce the program in the school in the fall. He regularly speaks to children about safety, and he supports the Block Parent Plan fully.

The signs not only signal there is help at hand, but deter troublemakers, the organizers feel. Mrs. Roy reported that in the eight months she had been a Block Parent in Toronto, she only had two calls, one from a

child escaping a bully and the other from a child frightened of a dog.

Great!
Cons. Woods warned of people becoming discouraged because nothing happens. "It's great if nothing happens!"

He could not recall any serious incidents in Acton, to his knowledge, but repeated the plan might prevent problems arising.

Mrs. Rae explained that in her subdivision of Dorset Park in Milton there are street chairmen, making contact by phone easier. Parents take down their signs when they are out for any length of time, but only report their lengthy holidays to the chairman. Any number of

homes on a street can carry the signs, which must always be indoors so they cannot be stolen.

She pointed out working mothers may also be Block Parents, and would only have the sign up in the evening.

Information sheets were given out by Steve Harkins. The group checked over these, noting the Block Parents are not to give food, drink, rides, toilet facilities or first aid. They are called on only in emergency.

The Block Parents will have precise instructions on contacting parents or police if the emergency is serious. Information sheets and application forms are available at the Community Services Centre office in the Y.



BLOCK PARENTS sign was shown to about 25 interested parents at a public meeting in the M. Z. Bennett school last week. Milton Block Parent Mrs. Gayle Rae shows one of the signs to meeting organizer Mrs. Lonnie Harkins and Cons. Keith Woods. At the left is Steve Harkins, who helped distribute literature.

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Wet weather ruins Halton hay but grains, vegetables look good

Halton farmers have taken only about 60 per cent or two-thirds of a heavy hay crop from fields this year because of the unusually wet weather and Agricultural Representative Henry Stanley says hay which has been saved is low in protein and feed value.

Much of the hay cut in anticipation of warm dry weather has been lying in the fields for the last two weeks in swaths. It is practically useless, says Stanley, good only for bedding or beef cattle but no good for dairy cattle.

Farmers are also having problems with second crops of hay. Those who managed to get early crops of hay off the ground and into barns before the wet weather arrived are experiencing difficulty growing alfalfa for a second cut. New growth has not appeared and Mr. Stanley believes the combination of wet weather and the alfalfa weevil has stunted growth.

Halton farmers usually have haying done by the first week in July, Stanley says, and they may still be able to save some of the crop if we experience some warm dry weather for a week

or so and conditions return to normal. Buds are appearing on alfalfa signifying some of the second crop could be saved.

The wet weather has had some good effects for Halton farmers, too. Rain has made excellent pasture and new seeding of hay mixtures is good.

Early seeded grains are also growing well and wheat is falling out with the abundant moisture. Yield from wheat should be excellent if better weather prevails now.

Grain seeded late, however, is turning yellow and could drastically reduce the yield. Stanley says he cannot adequately explain why the later seeded crops are progressively getting worse. He suspects root rot caused by wet conditions has prevented nitrogen from getting into stalks and is withering buds, but is not positive this is what is causing the yellowing.

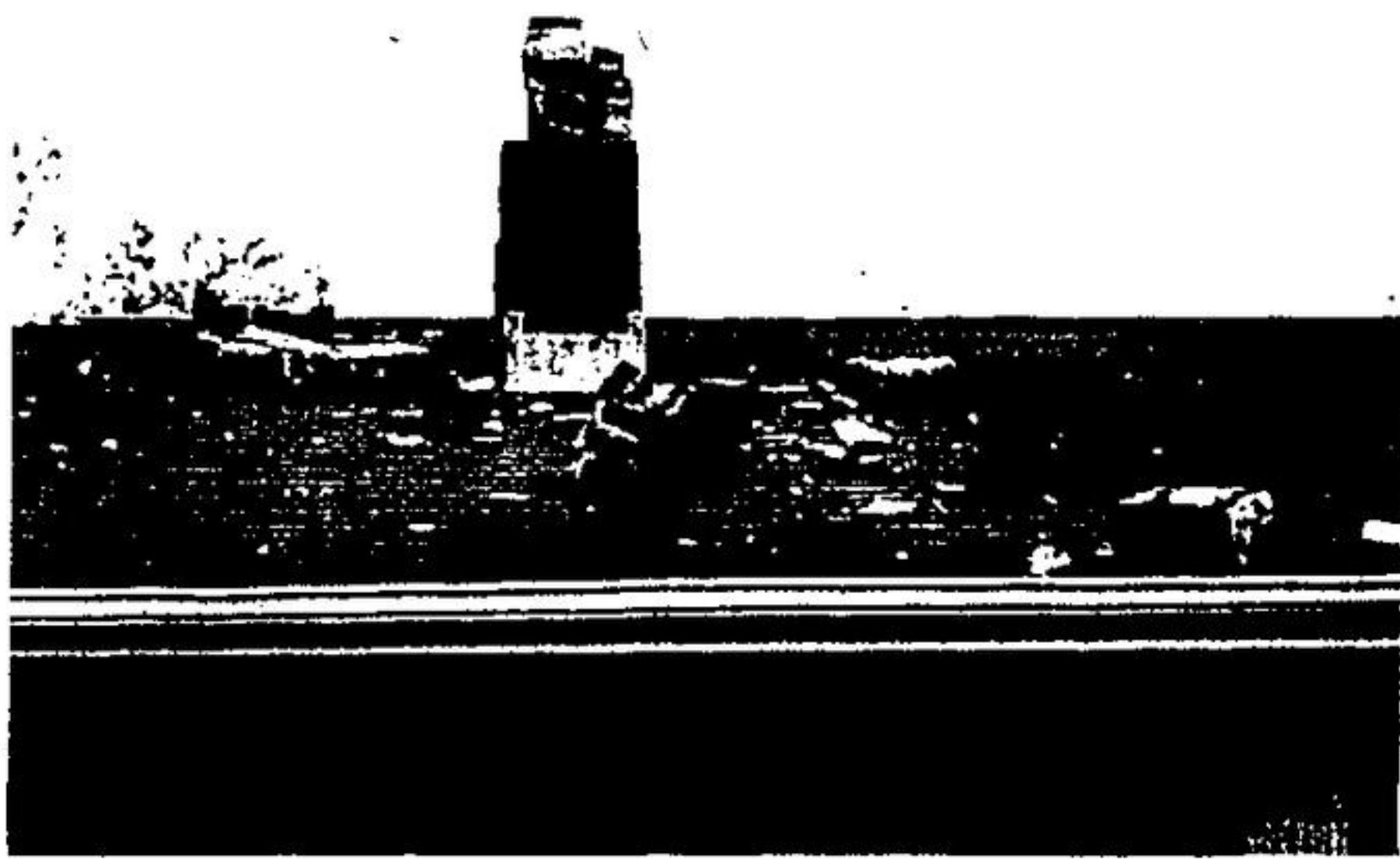
Corn, on the other hand, is coming along well except in low bottom fields where there is poor drainage. If warm dry weather comes back there should be an excellent yield of corn, Stanley says.

Fruit and vegetable crops such as carrots and beets are much larger than normal because of the abundant moisture. Gardeners should look for record sizes, especially if weather turns normal after a drier, sunny period.

Will the shortage of hay and maybe grain affect feed prices this year? Stanley said he wasn't sure at this time.

The hay yield was higher than normal because of the rain and this helped ease the situation for those farmers who managed to get it off fields. However, the quality is poor and this means farmers will, have to feed more grains to keep cattle fit.

Will conditions improve? Much will depend on the weather we experience in the next two weeks. If wet weather continues it could be a difficult year for farmers in Halton and Peel. On the other hand, if the area experiences warm, dry weather for a week or so and then settles into a normal pattern other crops such as corn could have large yields and make up for hay loss.



BRICKS WERE THROWN askew after the chimney on the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Thompson on Churchill Rd. N., was struck by lightning during last Wednesday's violent thunderstorm. Some bricks flew north and hit the house next door, puncturing holes in the aluminum siding.

Lightning hits house, chimney pile of rubble

Bricks from the chimney of Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson, R. R. 2, Acton, were thrown several feet after being hit by lightning during Wednesday's short but violent thunder storm.

Around five o'clock Mrs. Thompson said she was fixing supper when she heard a tremendous crack, as if something exploded. Sparks flew from electrical sockets and the dishes in the cupboards rattled. She knew the house had been hit, but did not know where.

Because it was raining so hard, she decided to open the garage door for her husband so he could drive straight into the shelter. As Mrs. Thompson entered the garage she saw two columns of smoke, similar to mist, she said.

Neighbor
When she went to tie the dog up outside, she noticed bricks lying on the ground. Further investigation by Mrs. Thompson and her husband revealed the chimney had been struck and most of it was lying on the roof in a heap. Some pieces of bricks flew sideways, striking the next door neighbor's house, puncturing two holes in the aluminum siding.

The bolt of lightning travelled into the garage conducted

by wiring. When it reached the switch, it threw the plastic casing several feet across the room. In another socket there was a battery charger plugged in. The force of the shock threw the plug right from the wall.

Repair
Mr. Thompson checked all the wiring in the garage and discovered some to be melted

or bald. An electrician was called to check the rest of the wiring for a fire hazard, and returned the next day (Thursday) to rewire the garage.

Mrs. Thompson said she felt nothing when the bolt struck the house but felt a sigh of relief later when she realized how close she came to being seriously hurt, or the house burning down.

\$10,000 cost for Cobblehill

Halton Hills works committee decided Monday to go ahead and put storm sewer, curb and gutter work for Cobblehill Road in the five year forecast. Before it is finalized though the Acton councillors will be asked their opinions of the plan.

Deputy town engineer Ted Ballinger told the committee the work on Cobblehill between Homeway Place and Mill Street on the north side of the road will cost about \$10,000.

Committee chairman Mike Armstrong said the part to be graded was about 1,100 feet long and noted there is no way

the work can be done this year.

Ballinger said the work would improve conditions in the area of half a dozen homes.

Hyde noted the entire area is up to proper urban standards except the 1,100 foot stretch.

Outers receive \$1,000

The Acton high school Outers club has received a Winter grant of \$1,000 to go towards the purchase of a trailer and canoe.

The Outers is a group of students and some teachers who go on hikes, canoe trips and camping trips. They are known throughout the area for their enthusiasm.

Cameron solution temporary

A temporary solution to Cameron drainage problems is being tested out. Last Thursday the works department created a bump on Mill W. at Cameron, which they hope will divert water during a rainstorm.

A decision is yet to be made on how to cope with the problems of the residents on the street who are experiencing flooding during this summer's heavy rains.

Curbs and gutters are still being considered by council. A second layer of asphaltting is in the works for Mill St. eventually and the works department thinks once this second layer is applied, the catch basins will carry off the water better.

Seek planning report store-apartment bid

Ian Johnson hopes to build three stores with three apartments above, at the corner of Mill and Wilbur Streets, Acton.

He told Halton Hills planning board Tuesday night he intended to remove the existing house. He explained the apartment living rooms would be at the back with sliding doors on to a sun deck on the second storey.

Councillor Roy Booth pointed out the plan showed the building right on the lot lines. Mr. Johnson said he understood no setback was required under the Acton bylaw for a C1 zone.

Stores
Councillor Pat McKenzie told planning board all the stores around the property sit right on the street, without a setback. He explained the

area is a C1 holding zone now, with a clothing store besides the existing house, and stores across the road.

Planning board referred the proposal to the planner for a report.

Grassy green on street poles

An \$11,000 program of street light standard painting is due to begin today in Acton. The works department estimates the project will take about 38 working days to complete.

All the metal poles will be painted by a crew assigned to the job. It includes one summer helper.

A ladder truck was rented for the job.

The standards will no longer be silver. The color chosen for the job this time is "grassy green."

Booth down

Town workmen and recreation department staff tore down the old shed in the park, formerly the W. I. booth, last week. It is now being rebuilt.

OHA turns Sabres on Geminis, Flyers

In a last minute decision the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) reversed its stand and accepted Acton Junior "B" Sabres' bid to join Georgetown and Milton in the central division.

"Officially we were in Group Four (Waterloo-Wellington) up until 8 p.m. Wednesday night (July 7) Sabre secretary Bill Campbell said.

The decision to lump Acton with the other two North Halton communities plus the recent OHA go ahead for the Sabres to change their status from "C" to "B" means that the keen hockey rivalry between the towns may be revived.

Officials with the Georgetown Geminis and Milton Flyers welcomed the Sabres to the league this week.

For full details, see the sports page.

172 requests from North

Rent review office for Halton

Faced with over 4,000 requests from Halton tenants for rent reviews, Queen's Park has decided Halton must have its own Rent Review Board Office.

Ontario Rent Review Information Officer Bob Maxwell said this week that there have been 35 requests for rent review from Georgetown, 125 from Milton, 12 from Acton and 4,110 from Oakville and Burlington since last fall.

Executive director of the rent review program, Bill Robbins says an office will be set up in Burlington as soon as the Ministry of Governmental Services can find office space. He explained right now Halton is served by the Hamilton

office which takes care of requests for rent review from Hamilton-Wentworth, Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk and Halton.

The Hamilton office can't be expanded and Robbins noted the volume of requests for rent reviews have been much heavier from Halton than originally expected.

"The number of requests being generated in Halton is sufficient to sustain a separate office for the region," Robbins said.

It is hoped the Halton office will be opened this summer but that could be held up if office space can't be found and a suitable lease obtained.

The office is to be located in Burlington since it has the largest population area.

"We like to locate our offices near the most people so they don't have to drive a long way for rent review hearings. When there are hearings needed in outlying areas we can always send rent review officers out to hold hearings in a school," he said.

He said the average rent increase allowed in Halton since last fall when the rent review boards were set up is about 13 per cent. Robbins added the average difference between what was requested by the landlord and what was allowed is \$8.30 a month in favor of Halton tenants.



Help fight M.D.

A PAIR OF CLOWNS. Kevin Kroll, dressed up for the Kingham Rd. Muscular Dystrophy carnival he helped organize Saturday, prepares Patches for his role in the activities.