

The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Second Year—No. 15

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Twenty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents

Approve \$50,000 study of streams

A Toronto Engineering firm has won approval from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for a \$50,000 proposal designed to study hazards and erosion control on the Credit River.

Subject to approval by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Totten Sims Hubicki Associates will be awarded the contract, not to exceed \$50,460. The study will outline hazard areas and suggest erosion control techniques while mapping fill and construction boundaries.

Silver Creek and Black Creek areas will be included in the study. A projected \$7,135 of the total figure will

be spent on the Silver Creek study and \$6,285 is slated for Black Creek.

\$26,190 in permits

There was \$26,190 in building permits issued in Acton for the month of September by the Halton Hills building department.

They were: three residential alterations totalling \$4,190; one swimming pool at \$2,000; and one municipal—for a new mausoleum in Flarview Cemetery valued at \$20,000.

Core subjects taught here: AHS principal

Ontario Education Minister Thomas Wells' announcement that a core of subjects must be taken by high school students next year will mean little change for AHS, principal Dean Fink says.

"In this school, because it's so small, we have a core of subjects that he's (the student) more or less obliged to take", Mr. Fink said in an interview. There are 676 students at AHS.

"The only significant change for us is that there'll have to be records kept", Mr.

Fink said. But he said that the bookkeeping would not be difficult. "It's easy to set up administration procedures to sort these things out", he said.

Queen's Park

Starting next September grade 9 and 10 students will be required to take two courses in English, mathematics, Canadian history or geography plus a science course. Students will select additional subjects to fill out a slate of eight subjects, the education minister said last week at Queen's Park.

Mr. Fink said that the core of subjects offered at AHS is almost identical to those outlined by the education minister as compulsory next year. The alternatives to the core are art, music, French and theatre arts, he said.

"In reality it makes little

significant difference to the programs of 95 per cent of the kids in school", Mr. Fink said.

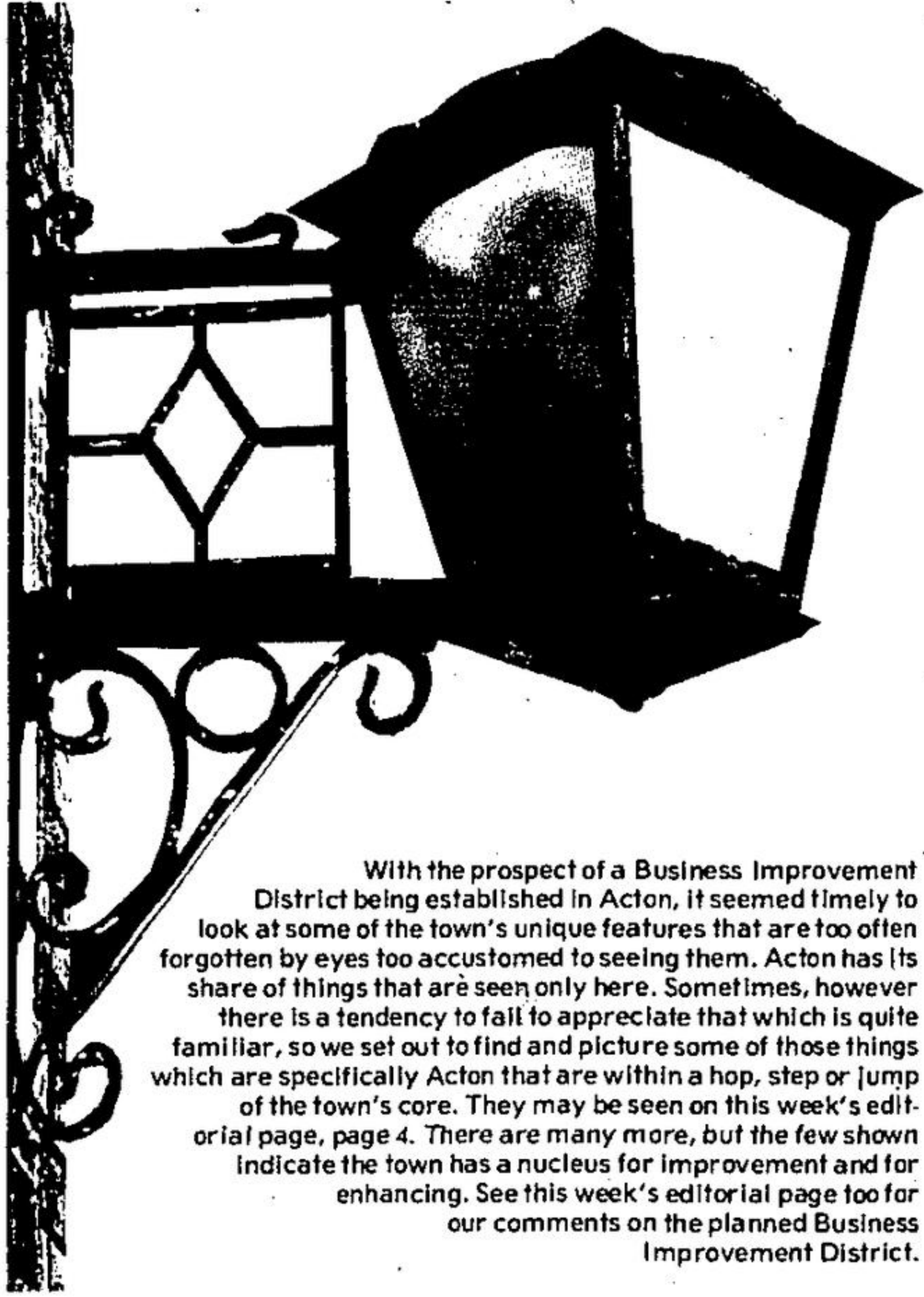
All students take English and Canadian studies and the principal said that he's sure that less than ten students do not take mathematics at AHS. Virtually every student takes science, he added.

The minister's statement in the House included French and Physical Education as subjects which high school principals would encourage students to take. The absence of Phys-Ed, as a required subject is viewed with regret by the Acton High School head.

"My one disappointment is that I see Physical Education as a subject that should be mandatory", Mr. Fink said. The thrust of the education minister's policy change was

directed at high schools, although he traced revisions in education policy to elementary schools. A 23-page document—The Formative Years—introduced changes in public school curriculum last year. "It strongly stressed the basic skills represented by the three Rs—reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, spelling and so on—and it also covered all of the other curriculum areas that make for a well-rounded and well-prepared child", Mr. Wells said.

Public schools Both public school principals in town welcomed Mr. Wells' statements. "The basics have never been out in this area—in elementary schools", Herbert Little principal Hazen Allen said. "I concur with restoration of a (Continued on Page 11)



With the prospect of a Business Improvement District being established in Acton, it seemed timely to look at some of the town's unique features that are too often forgotten by eyes too accustomed to seeing them. Acton has its share of things that are seen only here. Sometimes, however there is a tendency to fail to appreciate that which is quite familiar, so we set out to find and picture some of those things which are specifically Acton that are within a hop, step or jump of the town's core. They may be seen on this week's editorial page, page 4. There are many more, but the few shown indicate the town has a nucleus for improvement and for enhancing. See this week's editorial page too for our comments on the planned Business Improvement District.

'Accomplish nothing'

Terry Mannell blasts Human Services

Oakville Councillor Terry Mannell blasted Halton Human Services Council for failing to fulfill its mandate, when Chairman Peter Marks and several members of the Human Services Council attended a meeting of Halton Regional Council Wednesday.

They had attended the meeting to comment on the successes and failures of the Council over the past 18 months.

After the presentation, Councillor Mannell said the usual polite response to a presentation of this sort is to thank the delegation and congratulate them on the job they've done, "but it is not appropriate in this case."

"I want to say I appreciate the individual efforts and contributions, but I am disappointed at the result. You had a mandate and a clear mandate, one that was supported by this council."

Hard for others "There have been dollars spent with no good results. This will make it difficult for others elsewhere to have the same opportunity."

Mr. Mannell said the council had spent \$70,000 over the

past two years and all it had to show for it was a few press releases that slammed everyone—except the Human Resources Council itself.

"You come here and your only request is to transfer some funds. That's a tragedy. It is an opportunity missed. I'm disappointed and I don't feel that anything will be accomplished by a transfer of funds."

Chairman Marks told the council that his group could

not affect co-ordination of services in the region because it did not have a clear mandate from regional council. He acknowledged under questioning that the group had never asked Regional Council for a more clear mandate during the two year term.

Co-ordination Halton's Director of Nursing Dorothy Craig told the council there is still a job of co-ordination for someone to do. There is a need for a body to relate to all of the social services in the region, she said.

The Human Services Council is suggesting that it be disbanded as a group but operate under the Halton District Health Council as a sub-committee of the council.

Former Human Services Council Chairman John Graham said the project was the first of its kind in Canada and had stirred a lot of interest. He said the group had given impetus to the United Way boundary change.

He said the group had made two major errors. "We kept the press out and didn't publicize what we did. Consequently we had no public support. Secondly, we did not enlist the support of the policy makers, and that was a mistake," he said.

Ask report No decision was made or direction given during the meeting but the matter was referred to the region's administration committee for study and a recommendation.

The experiment basically was aimed at eliminating duplication and filling gaps in the social services field in the region.

Mr. Marks told the council that it wasn't until a lot of documentation had been gathered that the Human Services Council realized it had become another add-on body.

He admitted some of the press releases sent out contained erroneous information and "rankled a lot of feathers."

"I am sorry about that," Mr. Marks said.



PETER MARKS

CSC to impress Region by raising third of funds

The Community Services Centre (CSC) aims at enhancing its chances for renewed Regional funding by presenting the top tier of local government with a third of its budget ahead of schedule.

"Administration committee at the Region will be looking at how successful this group will be at raising money locally. If we're not successful it'd be difficult for them to renew funding," Pat McKenzie told last Wednesday's CSC meeting in the Y building.

The meeting, chaired by Gail Maltby, passed a \$14,875 budget and aired ideas on how to make itself better known to schools and churches in town. Half the CSC's 12-man board attended the meeting.

First hand The board decided to canvass local and out of town industries and service clubs for funds. School principals and the new vice-principals plus clergy members will be invited for a first hand view of the Centre's Mill Street office and consulting room.

Peter Marks, who drew up the budget, but missed the meeting said later that the Region normally enters its budgets in March. We would like to go in January or

February if we can raise 30 per cent of the budget, he said.

The meeting started with the post of finance committee chairman open, but Judy McLin, CSC co-ordinator agreed to fill the job temporarily.

In the mean time, Bill Coats will be approached about taking on the task of heading up the finance committee, chairman Maltby said.

Mrs. Maltby indicated doubt that the Region would renew its funding. "They (Continued on Page 2)

Loads of gravel for Wallace St.

Halton Hills works committee decided Tuesday night to put some more gravel on Wallace Street so the road will be usable.

The committee received letters from Paul Nielsen and Councillor Pat McKenzie signed by numerous Acton businesses and industries all calling for Wallace Street to be brought up to standard and used as a truck route.

Nielsen's letter noted over 100 vehicles are using the road as it is now each day. He suggested there was enough traffic now to warrant im-

provements to the street.

Bypass Councillor Ern Hyde noted the committee has discussed Wallace Street in the past and considered making it a gravel bypass.

McKenzie's letter indicated Minister of Transportation and Communications James Snow has said there may be provincial money available for Wallace Street reconstruction and the town should apply for it right away.

McKenzie requested engineer Robert Austin prepare a report dealing with the



ACTON CITIZEN OF THE Year, Mrs. Isabel Watson listens intently to tributes extended to her Friday evening at a special banquet honoring her for 50 years of service to the Acton library. A plaque from the Acton Chamber of Commerce was the first of the recognitions to be presented to her.

Alejandro Guereca

Mexican student here for language

Alejandro (Alex) Guereca would rather sit and listen to the people around him speak, than do the talking himself. It is not that Alex is shy, it is because he speaks no English.

The 18-year-old high school student arrived in Acton on Saturday from Monterrey, Mexico, an exchange student with the International Fellowship Inc., Buffalo.

Spanish is the only language he speaks, but is able to communicate with others via 15-year-old Ariel Leal. Ariel and his family moved to Acton from Toronto, and to Toronto from Argentina.

High school teacher, Mrs. Eva Samson, is also fluent in Spanish and will help Alex in every way she can.

Canada different Life in Canada, through Alex's eyes is very different to that of Mexico. He arrived at his home for the next few months with Mr. and Mrs. Wellesley Jones and family on Tidey Ave. in time for Thanksgiving. The food was very different, but good.

The autumn colors are also new to Alex, he says through his interpreter but he was not aware the leaves would fall off the trees before winter.

He is looking forward to snow coming, as in Monterrey, it only falls one day a year. Alex is looking forward to learning how to ski and skate. He asked teacher Keith Black, one of the men responsible for his being here, when the snow was going to come and how long it lasts.

The daily routine hours are also different to Alex. In Mexico, school classes last from nine a.m. until 1 p.m., with classes starting in August and running through to June.

Breakfast is at eight o'clock, lunch at noon, but dinner not until 7.30 or eight p.m. There is usually a tea break around five p.m. he says.

Alex is enthusiastic about learning the English language and Canadian customs. He said he is unable to go home for Christmas because of his contract with the International Fellowship Inc. However, he is looking forward to a Canadian Christmas and comparing it with that of Mexico.

The student is also glad he is totally immersed in the English language. This way, he says through Ariel, he must learn the language in order to communicate.

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ALEJANDRO (ALEX) GUERECA, standing on left, a visiting Mexican student attending high school in Acton, speaks to interpreter Ariel Leal, a former Argentina resident now living in Acton and teacher Keith Black, the man responsible for Alex being here. Seated are Michelle and Lori Jones, members of the family with whom Alex is staying.

Fifty years of service to the Acton library, and to the residents of the town were recognized Friday evening as over 100 people attended a banquet and dance at the Legion honoring Acton's Citizen of the Year for 1976, Mrs. Isabel Watson.

Esther Taylor read a speech giving Mrs. Watson's history with the library. Her story began as a young girl moving to Acton from Hattlesnake point near Milton. Upon first moving here, Isabel Elliott purchased her first library card. Not too many years later she went to work for the same institution housed in the old municipal building. Through the years, she saw many changes in the library world. A verbatim copy of Miss Taylor's speech can be found elsewhere in today's paper.

Friend recalls Mrs. Stella Adamson a life-

long friend of the Citizen of the Year brought tears to Mrs. Watson's eyes as she recalled childhood days of moppies, and pranks played. Mrs. Adamson herself was overcome with emotion and had to cut short her talk.

It was announced at the banquet by library board members that the board room in the basement of the library would be renamed the Isabel Watson Room in her honor and a picture of the Citizen of the Year placed there. It was jokingly commented that even in Mrs. Watson's absence the children would be just at the sight of the picture.

Other speakers were Councillor Les Duby, on behalf of the hospitalized mayor of Halton Hills Tom Hill, Julian Heed, member of the provincial parliament, who read a telegram from

Premier William Davis, George Gray, president of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, and various members of the Acton Chamber of Commerce and the Halton Hills library board.

Several spoke of the importance of keeping Acton's identity in this time of regional government, something which is very important to Mrs. Watson.

Gifts presented Gifts, plaques, flowers and telegrams from as far away as London, England were showered upon Mrs. Watson as she became the Acton Citizen of the Year.

Last year's honored citizens were the officers of the Acton detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police. Corporal Bob Arbour represented the new disbanded force, Friday evening.