

Acton Cubs do well at Georgetown rally

Two Acton cubs were in the top three winners Saturday at the Kub Kar Rally held in Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown.

Phil Dodson and Darren Edmondson placed second and third respectively, following Fourth Georgetown cub John Jameson in first place. They will advance now to the regional meet in Milton this weekend.

Anthony Walton, Acton; James Erskine, First Georgetown; Victor Longo, Eighth Georgetown; John Bourque, Fifth B Georgetown

and Scott Hamilton, Second Georgetown were the other five finalists. Brian Steckley, Acton and Jim Peetzel, Eighth Georgetown, will see action if any of the eight are forced to withdraw from the race.

Each cub was given a Kub Kar Rally Kit and had to make their own cars. The kit consisted of a block of wood, four wheels, axles, decals and instructions. They could either work on the project themselves or have their fathers aid them. Maximum weight for the cars was

ounces, and they could be no longer than the original block of wood. Pharraphenalla from other kits, such as steering wheels, drivers, etc., could be used.

Two tracks were used, one made by the leaders in the Eighth Georgetown pack, and one by the Acton cub leaders. The Acton track had an electronic finish line which would flash a red light in the track of the winning car.

There were 77 boys participating in Saturday's event with 75 expected next Saturday.



GEORGETOWN AND Acton Cubs gathered at Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, Saturday for the first annual Kub Kar Rally. The Cubs watched intently as the cars left the starting line, zooming down toward the finish.

Opinion

Chairmanship battle might bring strike

by Gord Murray

A strike by Halton high school teachers next winter, if trustees and teachers don't budge from their current diametrically opposed positions on the issue of chairmanships, is possible. Parents and ratepayers haven't shown much interest in the battle which has been raging for almost two months. They likely will if the argument mushrooms into a strike, with teachers on the picket line and students out of class.

Halton Board of Education has decreed all high schools must dump the old department head system of school management for the innovative chairmanship system by next fall. Teachers are strongly opposed.

The idea of changing school management from the top heavy system of major department heads, minor department heads and assistant department heads, to the smaller and supposedly more efficient system of chairmen and associate chairmen was first hatched when an experimental school in Burlington was built, back at the start of this decade.

The board and others evaluated the Lord, Elgin experiment and branded it a success, including the venture into chairmanships. In fact, everyone thought so much of chairmanships the board decided all schools should have the same system.

At the same time, the board was realistic. Trustees surmised there would be resistance to the change so instructed all schools to make preparations for the changeover and then do it when they were ready. However, it was made clear right from the 1973 beginning that while switching over was a voluntary move for the time being, the day would come when it was made mandatory. The period of grace was there so schools could make the transition smoothly.

The board, principals' association and teachers' federation all got involved in helping schools get organized for the changeover. Six schools reorganized voluntarily. The other nine resisted the move and so were ordered last spring to switch over by September, 1977.

The board figures that by doing away with the old system it can reduce the number of bosses in each school, give the principal a more effective and efficient cabinet, improve communications and better coordinate inter-discipline course development and operation.

Under the new system there will be a chairman of social sciences with a couple of associate chairmen, instead of a history head and a geography head, along with some assistant heads. In addition, money now used as responsibility pay for people who won't get it under the new system, will be used for other things at each school like professional development.

While teachers supported the idea of voluntary re-

organization they have never endorsed mandatory change. They have been asking for evaluation of how chairmanships are working in the six schools which have switched. They say an evaluation of Lord Elgin's system isn't sufficient since the entire school was an experiment.

Teachers claim chairmanships have not been proven to be educationally sound and won't do much for morale since over 800 teachers in the nine schools which must switch over to the new system have signed petitions protesting the move.

Well, the long simmering dispute boiled into open confrontation in December when local teachers' federation officials called in the big boys from provincial head office for help, after failing to persuade the board to change its mind.

It didn't take the heavyweights long to start flexing their muscles. A short time after coming to the rescue they slapped an embargo on the board and told members they couldn't apply for chairmanship positions in Halton.

The embargo worked, too. The board received only seven firm applications from teacher all across the province for the over 100 well paid positions of authority.

The embargo displeased trustees who viewed it as a threat to their rights of management and a violation of the collective agreements.

The board has filed a grievance against the teachers and the problem is now in the hands of an arbitration team.

To further complicate the issue teachers have made it abundantly clear mandatory reorganization would be an issue in this year's contract negotiations. It could be the thorniest issue the two sides tackle during talks to work out a new agreement to replace the present one which expires August 31.

That's the story to this point but speculation as to what lies ahead for the two sides isn't difficult.

The board is holding far fewer trump cards in the confrontation than the teachers.

If the arbitrator rules against the board over the embargo, then the embargo stands, and the board is left with nobody to be chairman.

There is also a question of the legality under the Education Act of chairmanships as a replacement for department heads. The board could lose there, too. If they did, the entire system would go down the drain, and not just at the nine schools which haven't switched.

On the flip side the teachers appear to be in a much better position.

If they win with the arbitration team, the issue will probably disappear, since without chairmen the system won't work.

The same goes for a winning court battle.

But even if the teachers' embargo is quashed and the courts say chairmen are legal, they can still scuttle the board's plans by refusing to settle the next contract with-

out chairmanships being scrapped.

Under Bill 100, provincial legislation governing teacher negotiations, the two sides have seven months to come to an agreement after notice of intent to negotiate is given. Negotiations started early this month so both sides have until June to reach a settlement and call on a mediator at any time for assistance.

If there isn't an agreement by school year-end, Bill 100 sets out three alternative routes they can follow. First they can go to binding voluntary arbitration.

Another option is called final selection where an arbitrator takes the best offer presented by both sides and picks the one he views is fairest.

The third option appear to be the one teachers would most likely follow if they want to kill mandatory chairmanships. A fact finder would be appointed to investigate how negotiations have proceeded and make recommendations on how to get talks back on the rails.

After the fact finder's report is filed the two sides can either go back to the bargaining table or else teachers can take a strike vote.

It is thought the two sides aren't far apart on any issue except the chairmanship question. If the board wants to avoid a strike it could give in and abandon a plan, which if forced through, might not work well in the face of so much opposition.

On the other hand, the board might expect, public sympathy will be on its side, and stand firm allowing the teacher to go out on strike. No matter what happens now, it is clear teacher-board relations in Halton will take a long time to recover.

Both sides have always been proud of the fact all dealings were conducted by local people. Teachers have broken that long tradition by calling Toronto for help in the form of the embargo. They are also getting provincial OSSTF assistance in negotiating the contract.

It might not be long before the board is calling the province for help. Maybe even back to legislation to end a strike.

Bus drivers tell their side

School bus drivers who attended the meeting at Pineview School regarding an incident involving one of their number and children during the blizzard Friday, January 28, are concerned their image has been tarnished by charges of incompetence.

"We, being parents ourselves, are not the unfeeling, uncaring drivers that was implied. We do our jobs with care and to the best of our ability. We are human beings, not computers, and are subject to human failings just like any other human being," they declared in a prepared release to this newspaper.

"It seems to us, from what came out of the meeting, we are expected to babysit, be child psychologists, licensed mechanics, nurses, and anything else parents feel we should be," the drivers said.

They pointed out they are professional drivers, have special licences, take a medical and driver's rest every three years, attend compulsory safety workshops, meetings, a fact of which they feel most parents are unaware.

Bus drivers train the children how to behave on a bus, how to cross roads and innumerable other things. They listen and try to correct abusive language as well as contend with traffic and weather conditions, the drivers maintain.

Drivers could have refused to drive through the storm, they said, but they kept going and all children were transported home by 4:30 p.m. and no accidents occurred despite the adverse conditions. Drivers said not all the drivers were told to return children to the school as

stated in last week's newspaper account of the Pineview meeting. They also claimed one of the frostbitten children was not adequately dressed, the responsibility of parents.

"Let's take other days, good or bad weather conditions, 10,000 Halton area children are transported daily safely to and from school," they note. "There was one isolated incident during the snowstorm, and no defense was allowed to be given by bus drivers present at the meeting to uncalculated remarks made about school bus drivers in general."

"We are not miracle workers (if that were the case we would be paid as such) just human school bus drivers."

The drivers said they were appreciative of the few who helped drivers during the storm with special thanks going to Logan McDonald of Stewarttown school for his letter of appreciation to management and drivers. The release is signed "Concerned Bus Drivers of Esqueping township."



DARREN EDMONDSON, Acton, (left) placed third in the Kub Kar Rally held in Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown on Saturday. Greg Barrett, first Georgetown Cub pack and Darren place their cars on the starting line and watch for the go-ahead signal.

Hold over

A request from the Acton Agricultural Society to the Eramosa township council for a grant for 1977 has been held over until budget time.

Scout and Guide news

By Rick Saville

The past weekend was a very busy one for the Acton Scouts and Venturers, as it was time again to haul out all the camping equipment. Not one group was camping, but both groups were busy preparing for a cold battle with nature.

The Scouts made tracks up to Good Year Scout Camp in Orangeville while the Venturers made their way to C.W. Barber Scout Camp in Guelph.

The District Scout Camp was attended by about 55 Scouts and 15 Leaders. The program this year was set up a little differently, to the other years, because each group was responsible for running an event. These events ranged from cliff repelling to log sawing, to log transport race, to compass work. I believe a good time was had by all boys and leaders. The all round group winners for the camp were First Georgetown Scouts.

I mentioned earlier that the

Venturers of Acton were camping in Guelph. After many telephone calls were made, and letter writing, and trophy making, it was time to present the companies work to other groups of the district and surrounding area.

Acton hosts It was First Acton's turn to do the Winter Venturer Camporee. Some of the program which took place included the marked trail sled race, first aid and rescue, snow shoeing, skiing, fire lighting and cooking.

The program was enjoyed by groups from our own district, also groups from as far away as Woodstock, and Grimsby, Ont. attended. There were 76 boys and 15 advisors in attendance. The Venturers also had the assistance of the Fifth Georgetown Rover crew, and would like to thank them very much for their assistance.

When the camp came to a close, the top winners of the camp were Fourth Trafalgar and second place went to Fifth Georgetown "B" Venturers and third went to Fifth Georgetown "A" Venturers.

Well, that is another year of winter camps over with. Now we are waiting for the

summer. While the Scouts and Venturers were out camping, the Beavers were eagerly at work, with a sharing session held at the Acton Scout Hall. So as you can see the Acton Scout Hall was the centre of activity on this past weekend.

Calendar of events I would like to remind you of some of the events taking place this month. First of all, to all section leaders, don't forget to attend this month's Scouters Club which is being held tonight (Wednesday) at the Acton Scout Hall at 8:30 in the new hall. Some other events are the Acton Scout and Guide Banquet on February 22, also the Acton Church Parade on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church.

The District Church Parade to be held on the February 27, 2 p.m. at Holy Cross Church in Georgetown. The biggest event is that of Lord Baden and Lady Baden-Powell's birthday, on February 22. From the 20th to the 25th is Scout and Guide Week. Let us all get out and show people what we are all about, and thank those people in our community for their support toward scouting.

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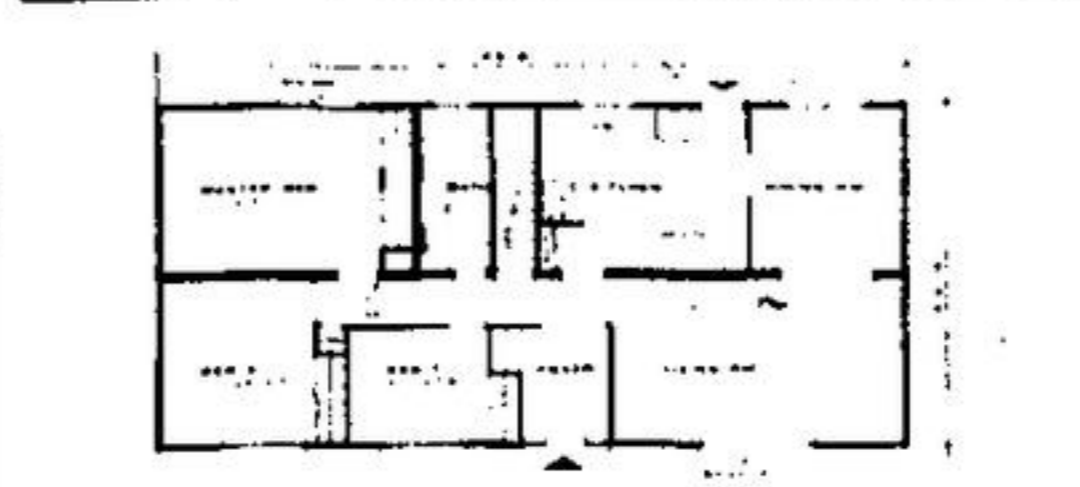
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Liquor charges

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Foretelling the Future Pt. I

6:30 p.m. Ontario Outdoors - Bob Ollivier
7:30 p.m. Karate - Bill Pickles
8:00 p.m. Scouting in Halton
8:30 p.m. Backstage Georgetown Little Theatre

NEXT WEEK
6:30 Ontario Outdoors
7:30 Karate 8:00 Scouting
8:30 Jehovah's Witnesses

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