

Tour of high school offers insight to costs

by Helen Murray
To sum it up simply, the new high school is beautiful, and it is still in the concrete floor, no paint stage yet. Although a tour of Acton's newest education facility with principal Dean Fink is confusing, as you step around ladders, extension cords, boxes, paint etc., one can get a general idea what the finished product will be like come September.

Located on Churchill Rd. N., the four-million dollar school is set off the road, behind a row of houses. Its red brick makes a good backdrop for the lettering which spells out the words Acton High School, high enough off the ground to discourage vandals from walking off with a letter or two.

Walking into the front foyer is a bit like walking into the Toronto Eaton's Centre. The area is bright and airy, thanks to the huge skylight many feet up. Workers are busy painting bars in the ceiling a bright yellow, to make the area seem even more cheerful.

Bear pit
Students have a choice of either a ramp or three stairs to walk down to an area which eventually leads to various halls. There are three sets of up-stairs leading to locker bays, and two sets of stairs going down, also leading to more bays. There is also a bear pit, where, according to Mr. Fink, students may gather to talk between classes, play the guitar, or just relax.

All the brightly-painted lockers are located in bays, situated in such a way vandals can easily be spotted and detained. Another advantage to all the lockers being in the same place, the principal

says, is to avoid noise in the halls during classes. Students may go to their lockers without disturbing an entire classroom.

Grillwork gates pull down at the entrance of each bay. These can be locked at night, with no danger of vandalism.

Offices
The school's office is to the right of the entry doors in open concept style. There are no walls or forbidding doors dividing the "office" from the students. A gate can be pulled down at night to block off the area from the rest of the school. This gate is similar to those found in a large shopping mall, when store owners close their shops for the day.

The cafeteria is also located in this part of the school. There are folding walls which can make one section of the room into two classrooms, while another larger part of the area can still be used for the cafeteria. A stage, supposedly the best laid out in the region, is also located in this room, as is the teachers' lunch room.

Behind the stage is a huge room in which behind-the-scenes activities can take place. Instead of everyone cramming within a few feet of each other, and the inevitable knocking of the curtain or scenery, everything can be handled in an orderly fashion, with plenty of room to breathe.

A built in school store will be situated just outside the cafeteria, and fronting on the main foyer. Showcases will also be built into the walls, and will have students' work and downtown merchants' wares on display.

Two gyms
Down one hallway, presently past ladders, boxes of paraphernalia and workmen, is the gymnasium, and Bruce Andrews, contribution to the planning of the school.

The gym is made up of two fairly large gyms, separated by a large folding door. Mr. Fink explained two gyms were needed because of the shortage of class time for one gym. Once the wall is folded back, one huge gym is exposed for such events as basketball, volleyball, etc. There will be folding bleachers along the side, so the games can be attended by spectators.

Further down the hall is a shuffleboard court, with numbered tiles right on the floor. Off the change rooms is a special room designed by teacher Bruce Andrews. This will be used as a training room, with equipment readily at hand for anyone who wants to practise a sport while the gym is in use. Mr. Fink said it is hoped students will take

advantage of the room during their lunch hour or free time.

Shops huge
Set aside in an area to themselves are the shops and home economic classes. The electrical course at Acton high school will be extended with the new modern facility. There is plenty of room to move about and lots of area in which to experiment and learn.

Down a few doors is a huge auto body tech shop. This room, as well as in the electrical shop, has a loft which is used for either storage, or extra teaching space.

In the same area of the school are the home economic classes. One large room will be used for the sewing room, the other for the cooking classes. Both will be furnished with brand new equipment.

The music rooms are located in this area also. They are next door to a vocal music course classroom. Mr. Fink explained that the school is too small to have such a course, and therefore hopes to use the room as a continuing mini-school room. He further explained that instead of having one whole day a year as the special school, there could be one a day in this room.

Taking short-cuts through



PRINCIPAL Dean Fink proudly shows off the new school.

out the uncompleted corridors did not help much for orientation.

Somewhere amidst the construction equipment and scaffolds is a large science room. Two folding walls quickly transform this room into three smaller classrooms.

To further add to the semi-open concept of the school, most of the upstairs class rooms have the folding walls.

Library area
Downstairs, down the hall from the locker bays, is the library. Skylights take the place of windows. There is a viewing area from the second floor looking down into the library. The principal explained this will allow the teachers to check that students went to the library when they were told to.

Off the library is a large class room, with two more folding walls. Mr. Fink proudly claims this is his room for teaching. Because of the walls he may have three groups of students, at different levels of learning. They will be in the same room for teacher guidance, but they will be separated from each other so each group may work at its own speed.

In each section of the school, there will be a room set aside for the teachers in that area. Each teacher will have a small built-in desk and a filing cabinet in which to mark papers, write exams etc. There will also be a staff room in which all the teachers can sit in and relax.

The school will be carpeted throughout, and air conditioned. Mr. Fink said summer school will now be able to be held here with the air conditioning.

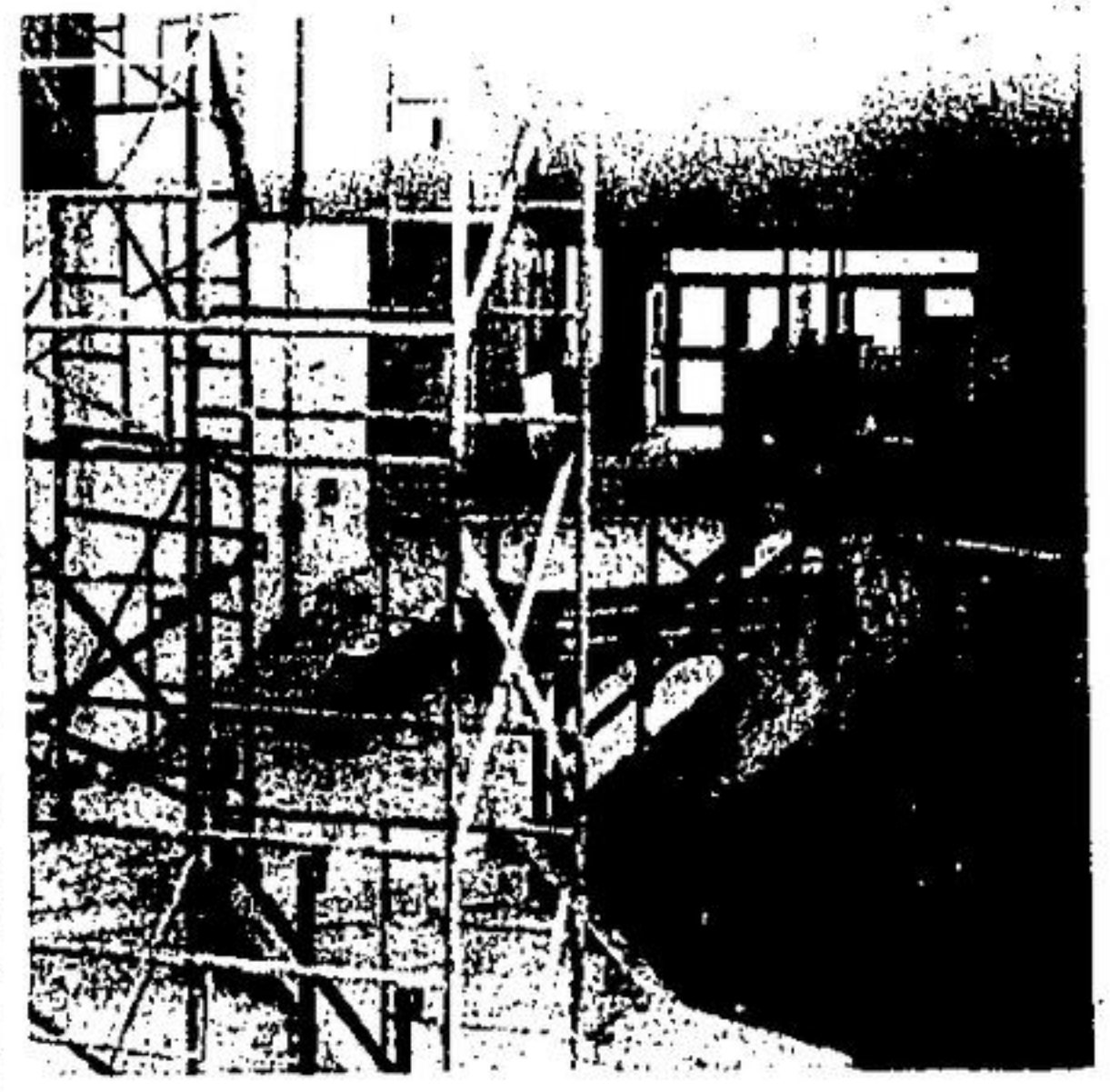
Save money
The teachers themselves have helped to design the school, thus ironing out any problems they have found in other schools. Some items which may seem unusual to the average person, when explained, are quite understandable and designed to

save the taxpayer money in the end.

The gates enclosing each locker bay are a good example of this. According to Mr. Fink, lockers are constantly being vandalized, costing the taxpayer money to repair or replace them. Wall to wall carpeting may also seem like an added cost, but this cuts down on the janitors' time cleaning the floors, and also makes the halls quieter. There are many more examples of how a few extra dollars spent now will actually be saving hundreds as time goes by.

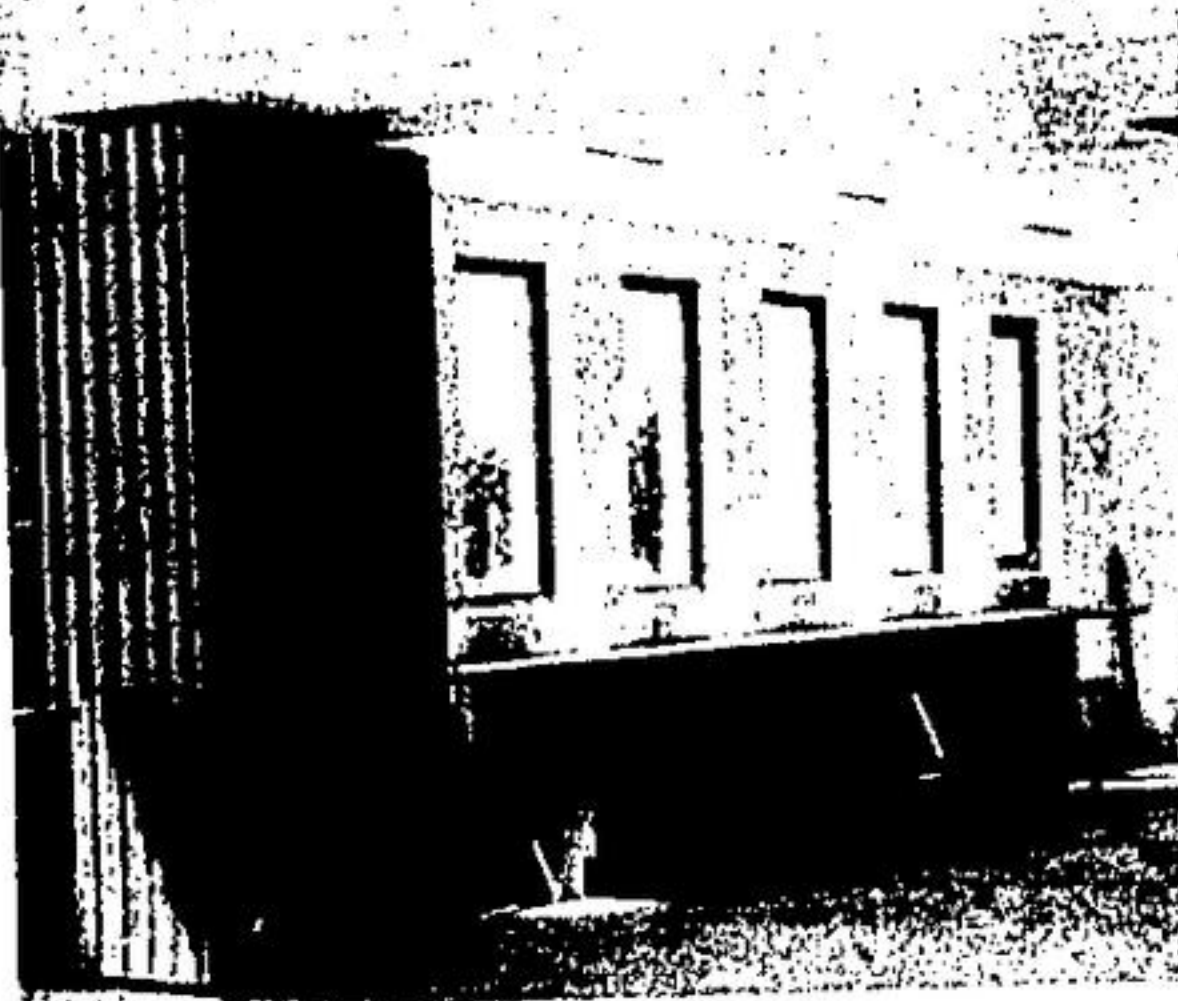
The budgetted cost of the school was \$4,295,000.

An open house will be held in October for the general public to see the finished product.



STAIRS LEADING up to lockers at the new high school will be carpeted. The down stairs lead to more lockers and classrooms. The \$4 million building will be ready for students in September with open house planned for October.

LOCKER BAYS ARE shown from the front foyer at the new high school. All the lockers in the school are located in the one area, avoiding the problem of students going to their lockers during class and disturbing other students.



ONE OF THE classrooms shows the folding door which transforms the one room into two at the new high school. The semi-open concept saves taxpayers money, as some classes can be held together, rather than two teachers teaching the same thing to two different classes.



STAGE IN THE cafeteria at the new high school is the best in the region for viewing, according to Dean Fink, principal.

McKenzie Sutherland to Chicago

Halton Hills Councillor Pat McKenzie and Burlington Councillor Tom Sutherland will represent Halton Regional Council at the American Public Works Association in Chicago this September, according to a resolution passed at the Halton Regional Public Works Committee last week.

The resolution is subject to council approval. In the past the committee has met resistance from other councillors not on the committee concerning trips out of the country to conventions.

Public Works Chairman Jack Raffis told the committee the convention features sessions on solid waste, sewers and water facilities and most aspects of Public Works.

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On Thursday, June 9, Elect **GEORGE GRAY**
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- Graduated from high school in Burlington, and received an honours bachelor of science in agriculture degree from the Ontario Agricultural College. Received two major athletic awards for football and basketball.
- 49 years old, husband of Beverley, an R.N., active in red cross volunteer work in Halton Hills.
- Father of Cindy, 19, employed by Georgetown's Bank of Montreal, and Douglas, 18, enrolled in first year science at the University of Western Ontario. Mr. Gray's mother still lives in Burlington and is active in senior citizen and community affairs.
- Farmer—produces beef cattle and turkeys on farms at R.R. 1, Rockwood, and Orangeville.
- Builder—Partner with Fred Zorge in Zorge Construction and several associated companies in general construction and home building.
- Designed and built both senior citizen buildings in Georgetown, additions to elementary and secondary schools in Acton and Georgetown, as well as homes, churches, etc.
- Member, Lions Club of Georgetown.
- President, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.
- Director and Finance Chairman—Halton Peel Highland Games.
- Chairman, Halton Regional Board of Health.
- Member and past director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture.
- Chairman of the Board, Ontario Turkey Producers' Marketing Board.
- Past Member, Halton County Board of Education Committee. Developed a program to allow high school students to gain practical experience through work in industry.

—See future advertisements for Policy and Action Statements.

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