

Parked car hit in fender

A parked car on Mill Street was hit in the fender by another vehicle which failed to remain at the scene sometime Friday. Damage to the vehicle owned by Madeline Payne of R.R. 2, Acton comes to about \$15, according to Halton Regional police.



THIS LITTLE BEAVER got hung up on a bump on the toboggan hill at Saturday's Beaver Winter Carnival. Schoolgrounds were the scene for a day of outdoor games.

Beavers have winter carnival

The Acton Scout Hall hubbed with activity last Saturday when approximately 100 Beavers got together to take part in the Beaver Winter Carnival. The Beavers are a section of the Boy Scouts of Canada designed for boys 5-7 years.

The day which was organized by Beaver Leaders from Colony B in Acton began at 10:30 and finished at 3:30. Activities such as tobogganing, snow games, following the leader, building snow sculptures and other fun-filled events made the day a complete success.

Beavers from Georgetown and Acton attended the event along with their leaders. Some Scouts, Cubs and Cub leaders assisted at the Car-

nival. District Leader for Beavers, Andrea Sharples also attended.

The boys enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs and hot chocolate while out in the cold weather. Beaver Leader Joan Phillips said the boys enjoyed getting together with other Beavers and working with other leaders. "Mixing and having fun together, that's what it's all about," said Mrs. Phillips.

The beavers are planning to get together again in June when they attend the Beaveer.

The Beavers were appreciative of all those who helped to make the day a success, especially the principal of Robert Little school for the use of the school grounds.



TODD DEFOREST, 5, of Acton, gets a shove from his mother to send him on his way down the toboggan hill at Saturday's Beaver Winter Carnival, held on the grounds of Robert Little and St. Joseph's schools.



GOING DOWN: Todd DeForest is all smiles on his way down the toboggan hill. Beavers from Acton and Georgetown got together for the Beaver Winter Carnival Saturday at St. Joseph's and Robert Little schoolgrounds.

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BRIAN SKERRETT leaves Acton High School to start his consulting business at Guelph.

School teacher's parting thoughts on education

Brian Skerrett this morning plunged full time into an enterprise which he planned for two years.

Brian Skerrett and Associates management consultants, on Dublin Street North, Guelph, is operating as of today.

Yesterday Mr. Skerrett left a job he has held for ten years. Mr. Skerrett, 36, was chairman of Student Services at Acton High School.

Mr. Skerrett first taught at Sudbury in 1965. Three years later he started teaching here.

The following are his views of education here, and in the province.

The main change Mr. Skerrett said he has seen is the shift in the attitude of respect between teachers and students.

Teachers have far more respect for students, Mr. Skerrett said. The reverse is true too, he continued. In 1965 at Sudbury he found the education system to be punitive.

There were some differences here in '68, he said, but much of it was the same as in the north. However, here he found people were more receptive to change.

Concerning the return to reading, writing and 'rhythmic' Mr. Skerrett said that a couple of Rs have been added to the old formula.

He said he thought a much better job is being accomplished in the emphasis on responsibility for one's own behavior, and in the field of social relationships.

Mr. Skerrett said he agrees in general with a return to the 3-Rs, but not if it means one can only graduate if for example, one has grade 10 or 11 math or French.

The basic skills I'm interested in seeing kids developing, are developed by the end of grade eight, he said. I think we should teach kids how to solve problems.

This school has become a leader in Ontario in many ways. For example, Mr. Skerrett said Acton High School was one of the first to use the semester system of organizing the school year.

Under the semester scheme a student may take four courses in the fall, and another four in the winter. The advantage to the student is that he can concentrate more time on his subjects. Another point is that a student who fails a subject in the first semester, may repeat it in the second.

Before the semester system was adopted students would take eight subjects from September to June.

Mr. Skerrett views today's students as possessing much potential. "I think kids have a lot more to offer than we give

them credit for," he said.

Although, in my opinion, we haven't gone far enough in this area, the concept of students playing a significant role in educational matters is one where I believe Acton High School specifically, and the Halton Board in general, are ahead of other areas.

Education matters include curriculum, time tabling and the school's administration. He said he was not thinking of student councils when he mentioned administration. "If we want kids to act responsibly, we have to give them responsibility."

The cafeteria is an example of a project partly run by students.

Staff development is another high point of Halton's program, Mr. Skerrett said. Where other school boards are lacking in this field, Halton's has spent a good bit of money. Acton's staff and many others have been exposed to some of the newest ideas of psychology and pedagogy, the science of teaching.

Student services offered by schools have also experienced attention. Counselors today are well trained. Many of them have master's degrees or more. Before a guidance teacher would often be someone just filling in time in his schedule.

Not all Mr. Skerrett's comments fell into the plus side of the education ledger.

He said he thought more work is needed on the evaluation of students, teachers, and teachers by teachers.

Sex education is a subject which has been forced upon the schools. I believe sex education should be handled in the home, but because a significant number of parents want and expect the school to do it for them, we've had to pick it up.

In addition to the above, Mr. Skerrett said the teaching of how to raise children is needed.

We expect a mechanic to be well trained, but how does one learn how to raise kids. Where does one get training

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Winter comes alive at Mountsberg Centre

Do you like the quiet open country and the great winter landscape? Are you tired of waiting in line to use ski tows rambling up crowded slopes? Experience the tranquility of winter at its best at the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, operated by the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

Horse drawn sleighs will take you through quiet woodlands and open fields on an interesting trail that is complete with feeding stations to attract winter birds. Join the cross country skiing boom and use the facilities at the 1,300 acre Wildlife Centre. Two well marked trails guide cross country skiers and snowshoe hikers across ten miles of varied terrain.

Skate on a well sheltered pond and keep warm near a crackling fire. Hot drinks and food are available in the Interpretive Centre where you can keep warm and enjoy one of the conservation interpretive programs.

Bring nothing but your family and warm clothes—cross country skis are available for rent. The program runs every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Dec. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Jan. 1, 2 and each Saturday and Sunday until Feb. 23, 1978. Cost is only \$2.50 per car.

Features include:

HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES: This year the Conservation Authority has a total of three working teams of horses and sleighs to accommodate the increase in participation of the Winter Experience Program.

SKATING: The skating area consists of a large well-sheltered farm pond with five fires set up to take the chill out of the brisk winter air.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING: This year the Conservation Authority has set up a rental concession for cross country skis in order that people may try the fast growing sport without initially investing in the equipment.

BARN: The barn is open each weekend for children to view the many farm animals on display.

Mountsberg is located on Town Line north of Five Side-road, three miles west of Campbellville.

Collision

A car passing through the lane on the south side of the Dominion Hotel collided with part of the fire escape stairs Monday afternoon.

The car, driven by Donald Gooding of Agincourt, has about \$20 in damage, according to police. Damage to the stairs is \$500, police estimate.

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