

Lens opens eyes for color deficient student

by Jennifer Rowe
For most people the colors they see each day are such a common occurrence that they are taken for granted without really thinking what it would be like if they weren't there. For sixteen year old Ross Rennie, colors dazzle his eyes. Ross has recently been fitted with a special contact lens to correct the color deficiency he has put up with for the last 16 years. Ross's color deficiency, known to many as color blindness, became apparent from an early age. Ross's mother says she knew Ross was color blind when he was a baby. When bright cheerful toys were put in front of him, Ross was not attracted to them as other babies were. Mrs. Rennie's suspicion was confirmed when Ross started nursery school and began to color animals green and could not distinguish between his crayon colors. Tests showed that Ross was red-green color deficient which is the most common form. Ross says he sees red and green as a dark color and often cannot distinguish them from black or brown. Ross also has a problem with

purple which appears blue in color. Through school Ross had problems in art and often was the target of practical jokes by fellow classmates when it came to colors. Ross worked at his art work despite his handicap and has become quite good. He is planning to become a commercial artist. Other problems arose when Ross had to cross streets with lights. The confusion with the red and green of the stoplights made him nervous about crossing and often he would wait for someone to cross whom he could follow. Comical incidents include going strawberry picking and coming home with a basket of green berries. Thinking nothing could be done for his condition, Ross had to work around his handicap as his interest in art grew. After reading an article in both the Readers Digest and Popular Science magazine, Ross's mother discovered the use of the contact lens. The raspberry-red hard contact lens was invented by Harry I. Zeltzer, a Massachusetts optometrist. The new lens can only be

worn in one eye and used as a contact not in glasses. Acton optometrist Dr. Robert Schumacher says the use in one eye only lets the red through and keeps other colors out. The other eye that is not covered with a lens provides entry for other colors. These two sources of color information are sorted out by the brain and shifted to the eyes. The lens gets its name, X-Chrom, because color blindness is a recessive genetic trait passed from the female genes. Outside of his color deficiency problem, Ross has very good vision. The red contact shows up more noticeably on Ross because of his blue eyes. However he will use the lens for doing art work both at school and home. Mrs. Rennie feels that without the lens many doors would be closed to Ross. Ross says he enjoys just looking at the beautiful colors he can now see. "It's a whole new world." Before Ross was fitted with a contact his favourite color was brown, but now red dazzles his eyes.



ROSS RENNIE has recently been fitted with a red contact lens to correct his color deficiency. Ross, who works at the Royal Variety, could not identify red or green items by color until he got the lens. Ross says he is dazzled by the colors he can now see.

Charter presentation for Optimists July 15

The new Optimist Club of Acton, will hold its charter presentation banquet at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at the Royal Canadian Legion hall, 15 Wright Avenue, Acton, president Bill Chagnon of 27, Main St. S. announced. Dr. Bob Wahby, Governor of the Ontario District, from Dorchester, Ontario, will present the charter. Opt. Moon Kawasoe, past Governor of the Ontario District, will be the principal speaker at the banquet. The following officers will be installed with president Bill Chagnon: vice presidents Bob Hart, of 341 Orville Rd., and David Henderson of Ballinafad; together with Bert Huisman, of 78 Longfield Rd., as secretary-treasurer. The board of directors includes Dave Boycott, of R.R. 1 Acton; Clive Jago, of 8 Clare Court; Walter Barlow, of 35 Church St. E.; Bill Johnston, of 12 Wright Avenue; Al Burns, of 77 Bower St.; and

Harmen Vanderheide, of 89 Essex, in Guelph. Governor Elect Gord Watson, of Oakville will install the new members. New club building chairman, Ab Flood, of Stratford, will install the officers. Local officers were selected at the organization meeting of the club on May 16. Regular bi-weekly supper meetings of the club are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Acton Restaurant. This new men's civic service club became a part of Optimist International's Ontario District. Dr. Bob Wahby of Dorchester serves as Governor of the district. Bob Hart, of 341 Orville Rd., and Clive Jago, of 8 Clare Court, co-chairmen of the charter presentation banquet committee, explained that when President Bill Chagnon received the charter for the Optimist club

of Acton, Ontario, this group will officially join the more than 3200 clubs which make up Optimist International. With in excess of 112,000 individual members, the Optimist organization is one of the world's largest men's service groups. Its stated objectives: "to develop Optimism as a philosophy of life; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people and to aid and encourage the development of youth," bring into productive action many programs and projects designed for mankind's benefit. Acton Optimists, wives, representatives of other clubs in the district, district officers, town officials and guests will attend the banquet.

Region wants exempt PW

In spite of protests by Milton representative Jim Watson, Halton Regional Council voted to support legislation that would exempt Halton Region from provisions of the Parkway Belt West legislation. Watson insisted that by freeing the region from the provisions of the act, the region would be setting itself above the law. He acknowledged that towns and cities are exempt now, but he claimed local councils are responsible to the people who are effected by anything that would be done in the Parkway Belt. Watson contended that the region is not responsible to the people in any given area and he said regional council had demonstrated its lack of accountability in a number of

instances. "The region shouldn't be above the law," he said. He drew support from Oakville Councillors Carl Erikson and Laurie Mannell. Man reports cheque theft. An Eastern Avenue resident reported to police the theft of a Government of Canada cheque, for more than \$200 from his home. Thieves loot arena sweets. Some cigarettes and a bag of candy suckers made up the loot taken by thieves from the snack bar in the Acton arena last week.

NOTICE

All refuse normally picked up Monday, July 3rd will be picked up Tuesday, July 4th.

And further all refuse normally picked up Tuesday, July 4th will be picked up Wednesday, July 5th.

Works Dept.
Town of Halton Hills

Staff changes at schools

Halton Board of Education made two staffing moves Thursday which will affect Acton and area schools. The board announced the hiring of this September of David Dwdney who will teach at Acton High School. Limehouse School will lose teacher Paul Anthony at the end of the month. Mr. Anthony will be moving to Eastview School in Oakville.

Town Awards Night may be spruced up

In an attempt to make the annual Recognition and Awards night a bit more lavish, Halton Hills finance committee directed the Recreation Director to find out the cost of a banquet. Last year the town recognized citizens who had been honored at provincial, national or international level, in a simple ceremony, with only coffee, sandwiches and cookies, but councillor Roy Booth who presided at the ceremony said he had been a bit embarrassed at the sparseness of the celebration.

He suggested to cut expenses if a banquet is held, the guests other than the recipients pay for their dinner. Glen Gray said at a guess a dinner would be between \$7 and \$8 a plate. Chairman Russ Miller said if it becomes too expensive only the parents would come. He felt it might be better to buy some lasting gift and present it at a function where there is an audience. The Recreation Director was asked to investigate costs of a banquet and any alternatives.

New mileage rates for town employees

Starting in September the town will put a new policy on mileage into operation, if Halton Hills council accepts a recommendation from finance committee, Monday night. Department heads will receive a flat \$75 a month car allowance, and together with all employees required to use their vehicles on a regular basis will be paid 23 cents a mile for the first 5,000 miles and 20 cents a mile subsequently. The policy will be reviewed after six months.

Booth pointed out under the old system some employees were averaging 37 cents a mile. "I don't want people asking me about that again." He suggested if Austin is losing money that should be considered at salary negotiations. "Is it not worth something to the town to have the staff have a communication system in their cars?" asked Austin. "Didn't the town pay for it and install it?" asked Booth. Austin agreed that was so.

Clerk administrator Ken Richardson estimated the new policy would cost an extra \$1,500. Councillor Roy Booth suggested the drop from 23 cents to 20 cents after the first 5,000 miles, claiming the costs tended to level off after that.

Booth commented he assumed anyone would welcome a mobile unit in their car. He claimed in industry the flat allowance is paid to have that car on call when necessary. Councillor Pat Patterson remarked, "I think it's a damned good deal." Councillor Peter Marks said he supported the new policy, but said it is unfair to change what was said at the time of hiring. He said a cost of living allowance or some other allowance for "those who are caught", might be considered.

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(Continued from page 1)
year's figures, such a step would mean 176 fewer people per officer.

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The report ends on an upbeat call for the chief, commissioners and the association "to end old character and strength of the Force and together begin the beginning of a new Halton Regional Police Force."



H.R.P.A. PRESIDENT AL RUELENS releases morale report.

What was termed "the most frustrating" part about staff it will always cost thousands of dollars in overtime when you try to do anything out of the ordinary."

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The decline of the Halton Police Force is "the complete lack of incentives, motivation and planning for the future."

Energy van to visit here

The Energy Van will be at Acton library all day Tuesday, July 4. The van team of Nancy MacInnis and Jane Johnston will be on hand throughout the day to talk about the need for energy and resources conservation. They will also be providing practical advice and free booklets to help make conservation a household habit.

Also planned is a film and slide show in the library building beginning at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited and admission is free. The Energy Van will be in the area for three days, with stops at the Milton Mall on July 5 and the Georgetown Market Plaza on July 6. The van has been touring Ontario since June 15.

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