

# The Acton Free Press

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Outdoor gardens are a long time hobby for many around town. However, not too many extend their gardens indoors. Lily and Jim Higgins have converted a bedroom into a mass of greenery where they can sit and enjoy plants and flowers inside, while looking out over their outdoor garden.

Photo by Helen Murray

## M.S. principal

### Gary Dawkins dies suddenly on Monday

McKenzie Smith principal Gary Dawkins is dead at the age of 40.

Mr. Dawkins died suddenly at his home on Elmore Drive, Monday morning.

He was a life long resident of Acton, having attended Robert Little and Acton High School. He was active in school sports, being the captain or co-captain of the high school football team for three years. He was a member of Acton's only undefeated football team. He was also active on the students' council.

Mr. Dawkins earned his B.A. from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University, and attended Lakeshore Teachers' College, and held a permanent Standard Four Teaching Certificate and a permanent Principal's Certificate.

Starting out his teaching career at Speyside school, he served as a teacher for three years, and principal for ten. In 1973 he was transferred to M.Z. Bennett school, where he headed the staff until McKenzie-Smith was opened two years ago. He was the youngest man to be named principal in Halton at 24 years old.

Mr. Dawkins has been a member of the North Area Principals' Advisory Committee, and was active in the Halton Principals' Association. He served on the executive for four years. He was

president as well as chairman of the Professional Development Committee and the Economic Policy Committee.

Mr. Dawkins served as principals' representative on the staff board committee and the Halton Elementary Teachers' Association Council.

A member of the Rotary Club, Mr. Dawkins served in almost every capacity, including president for two years. He is also a past member of the Legion executive, and the Knox Church Board of Management.

Mr. Dawkins has been involved in the Progressive Conservative party since 1960. In 1975, he sought, and won the P.C. nomination for the new riding of Halton-Burlington. He was edged out in the provincial election by Liberal Julian Reed.

Mr. Dawkins is survived by his wife, Rosealee Higgins, sons Mark and Michael, at home, his parents Edgar and Helen Dawkins, and brothers Don and Fred, all of Acton.

Funeral service will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church tomorrow (Thursday). Interment at Fairview Cemetery. A Masonic memorial service will be held tonight at the funeral home.



Gary Dawkins, principal of McKenzie-Smith Middle School died suddenly Monday morning at his Elmore Drive home. He was 40 years old.

## Disston reps meet with town council

Halton Hills council is doing everything it can to find new industry to locate in the Disston plant when it closes in September.

Acting mayor George Maltby said that council is committed to finding new industry to locate in the Disston plant. Council also hopes, he said, that R. Hoe and Co., the firm

which purchased part of the Disston line, from owners Sandvik Canadian, will choose to locate permanently in the area. Mr. Maltby explained R. Hoe and Co. plans to continue some of the woodworking products for some time.

Mr. Maltby met last week with representatives of Sandvik

Canadian, Julian Reed, member of provincial parliament, Otto Jelinek, member of parliament, Paul Nielsen of the Halton Hills Industrial Board, and four other councillors.

A meeting is being arranged by Mr. Maltby for mid August, at which time the Union Executive and the R. Hoe and Co.,

will meet with council. "The council is most anxious to do whatever it can to assist in the re-establishment of a viable industrial base and where necessary the re-positioning of the affected workers," he concluded.

R. Hoe and Co. have been around for over 15 years, starting their bu-

iness in 1865, during Thomas Jefferson's second term of administration. They are the oldest business continuously operated in the United States.

At that time, R. Hoe manufactured the first production presses in America. Most of the news during the country's formative years

was printed on equipment of Hoe design. As the country grew, so did the company. R. Hoe's presses got better, and so did their line of

DEPRESSED? A recession, says a wit, is when your neighbor is out of work. A depression is when you are out of work.

## Sewers cost blush -- \$1m

There's \$1-million worth of sanitary sewers, water and road works underway in town this summer.

Lamco Construction, of Markham, has a joint contract from Halton Region and Halton Hills

for work on Mill St. W. and Main St. S.

Several workmen and pieces of heavy equipment are engaged in a project on Mill St. W. between the dam and Ziegler's Flour Mill. The street has been closed off to through traffic. According to region spokesman Doug Inouye, Lamco has permission to close the street for two weeks.

The installation of new sanitary sewers on Mill St. is absorbing much of the cost because of the water problems, Mr. Inouye indicated.

Halton Region's portion of the cost covers the sewers and watermain. The town is mainly concerned with roadwork, curbs and gutters.

Lamco is also engaged in some sewer work on Main St. from Church St. to south of Kingham Rd. There is also a project at Agnes St.

## Brewers ponder appeal

The Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers is adopting a wait and see stance regarding last week's decision against it by the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB).

The OLRB did not uphold the complaint by the union against Superior Glove Works Ltd. If the board decided in the union's favor, about a dozen workers would have been reinstated. They were laid off by the company in February.

"We're leaving the appeal open," union regional director Bill Rannachan said Monday night. Meanwhile Canadian Brewers last week filed a complaint which has the aim of getting it automatic certification as the bargaining agent.

Superior Glove employs about 80 people.

## Halton above average in crime-solving rate

Halton police have a higher than average rate of solving criminal cases. Acting Chief James Harding told Halton Police Commission, this week, when for the first time they held a meeting in Acton.

He said the average rate of clearing cases during May and June was

42 percent, and predicted that rate would improve. He said there are certain type cases where the rate is much higher such as assault, where 83 per cent are cleared, but admitted theft was below the national average.

He attributed the higher than average rate to hard working officers

on the street and the support of the public.

Statistics for May showed a 90 per cent clearance of shoplifting cases, 87 per cent for fraud, and 100 per cent for drug cases.

According to the report, break and enter of commercial establishments, with an 11 per

cent rate, are the most difficult to solve.

In June the same pattern was followed with one homicide listed as unsolved, but Harding said it has been solved now, but the person who would have been charged committed suicide.

According to the statistics, adult females do

more shoplifting than adult males, but juvenile males do more shoplifting than females.

In the last two months 39 adult females and 33 adult males were charged with shoplifting, but 46 juvenile males and 27 juvenile females were charged with the same offence.

## LDC "morals" block Hydro line

Halton's Land Division Committee (LDC) broke new ground in order to shaft two Ontario Hydro corridor severance bids last week.

LDC members put a new wrinkle in the normally used planning criteria and also followed, not unanimously, the course charted by what one member described as a "moral obligation."

Ontario Hydro ran into the moral question on a type of application that's usually been passed without much fuss. Previous bids were granted pending amendments to the Official Plan. Those amendments however, have been tied up in complex battles involving Halton Hills, the OMB and the Supreme Court of Ontario.

The application which took most of the committee's attention was from Gerrit Johanna and Arent Duenk, R. R. 4 Acton, concerning their land on Lot 25, Concession 5.

LDC member Des Morrow, of Hornby, stated the application in its simplest terms: that of changing a lease arrangement with Ontario Hydro to a purchase agreement. And he and LDC chairman Brian Fletcher saw nothing wrong with that. It's been done before.

Pam Sheldon, LDC member from Speyside, disagreed. "I feel we have a moral obligation to the views of councillors who are spending money in opposition (to the hydro corridor)," Mrs. Sheldon told fellow members in the old

Esqueping town offices. Halton Hills and a group of citizens also opposed to the hydro corridor, the Interested Citizens Group (ICG) are waiting for a court decision in which they challenge the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and indirectly Ontario Hydro.

Mrs. Sheldon introduced a motion to deny, based on moral grounds. It succeeded. She argued that if the LDC approved the Duenk severance committee, members would be giving Ontario Hydro tacit approval for its line.

The Duenk property is within a zone which comes under the jurisdiction of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC). That means Halton Hills plans do not apply there. The NEC, according to Ontario Hydro representative Dan Markovic, issued the provincial utility a development permit.

Mrs. Sheldon's motion hinges on local planners and council which have no jurisdiction on the property, noted LDC fellow member Morrow.

Another member, Lloyd Chisholm from Milton, looked to the courts to decide if the 500 kV line is indeed necessary. "On the east-west line only half the wires are up, and someone said, of course it's hearsay, they (Ontario Hydro) don't need the line."

ICG spokesman John Minns, of Glen Williams, attended the meeting to bring LDC members up to date on town, region and

citizen group opposition. "We lose sight of what these are about. The property has already been expropriated. All we are doing is accommodating the small land owner who wants to sell," said Morrow. His was the solo vote in favor of Duenk.

Mrs. Sheldon, Mr. Chisholm and Joe Willmott voted against the severance application.

On the next Ontario Hydro application, Halton Hills raised no objection but the LDC again sank the public utility, this time on planning grounds.

Ontario Hydro wants to shift a house it owns on 15 Sideroad on the 5th Concession. The house's new location would be out from under the wires of the same 500 kV proposed power line.

LDC member Morrow libbed the committee will not support "this immoral thing" though council, local and region planners do not oppose the moving of the house.

Morrow spearheaded the argument against the moving of the house, which Ontario Hydro owns.

"If it's not viable under the line, it's going to be a nuisance," said the member from Hornby.

Ontario Hydro representative G.E.C. Dowell told the committee that if approvals come for the line, construction will start immediately and there would be no time to

move the house. "We'd have to demolish it," he said.

"Why should we let you come back and create a potential problem. All you're doing is trying to save a few dollars and that's insignificant compared to the cost of the whole project," said Morrow. He moved denial of the application. "Let's not do it, it'll create jamming against the line."

Mrs. Sheldon seconded the motion. The Halton Hills section of the hydro corridor is about 12 miles long and part of it within the town is on ground governed by the NEC.

The town and ICG appealed an OMB decision, which permitted Ontario Hydro inside Halton Hills borders, for a judicial review by Ontario's Supreme Court.

Most of the Ontario Hydro corridor is constructed from the Bruce nuclear generating station on Lake Huron to Belwood junction a few miles north of the Halton Hills-Erin Township line. From Belwood lines take the power west to Kitchener and east to near Orangeville.

The ICG opposes 109-mile long corridor because there has been no independent study done for the provincial government. Ideally the ICG would have a royal commission study the north-south line, just as the Solandt Commission studied the east-west line, the line on which Mr. Chisholm said has only half the wire strung.

## Zap!

### More power in town lines

Acton's power lines are about 16,000 volts richer thanks to a near flawless conversion to heavier equipment.

Acton Hydro crew men worked with linemen and station men from Ontario Hydro on upgrading the number of volts coming into town to 44,000 from 27,600.

The change means a steadier flow of voltage said Acton Hydro-Electric Commission chairman Will McEachern.

The switch to higher voltage is part of an Ontario Hydro plan that has already gone into effect east of town and more recently in Fergus and Orangeville.

Final steps on the conversion will take place this week when work on the Queen St. transformer station is finished. Most of the weekend work concentrated on the station in front of The Acton Free Press office on Willow St. N.

A temporary mobile unit transformer will be used to help with the change over on Queen St.

The conversion work Friday, however, was marked by a brief power cut. Warren Grove housing probably was out of power for the longest time, according to Acton Hydro Superintendent Doug Mason. The traffic lights were also knocked out, and power was cut to the arena.

The try at the conversion was made, starting Friday, because as Mr. Mason said, so many people are away while some industries such as Beardmores and Disston are on holidays.

The conversion to the higher voltage means Acton Hydro will be able to supply backup power in case of an

interruption in the line from Fergus, according to Mr. McEachern.

If there is a breakdown on power delivery from the northwest, equal voltage can be drawn from the east. That is a fact Acton Hydro has been unable to perform for about five years, since the east went up to the higher voltage. Now that both areas are equal, the change can again take place.

Ontario Hydro had several crews of linemen stringing wire from Disston into the Willow St. station and along River St. There was one three-man crew working in the station. Work continued from Friday through the weekend.

## Inside this week

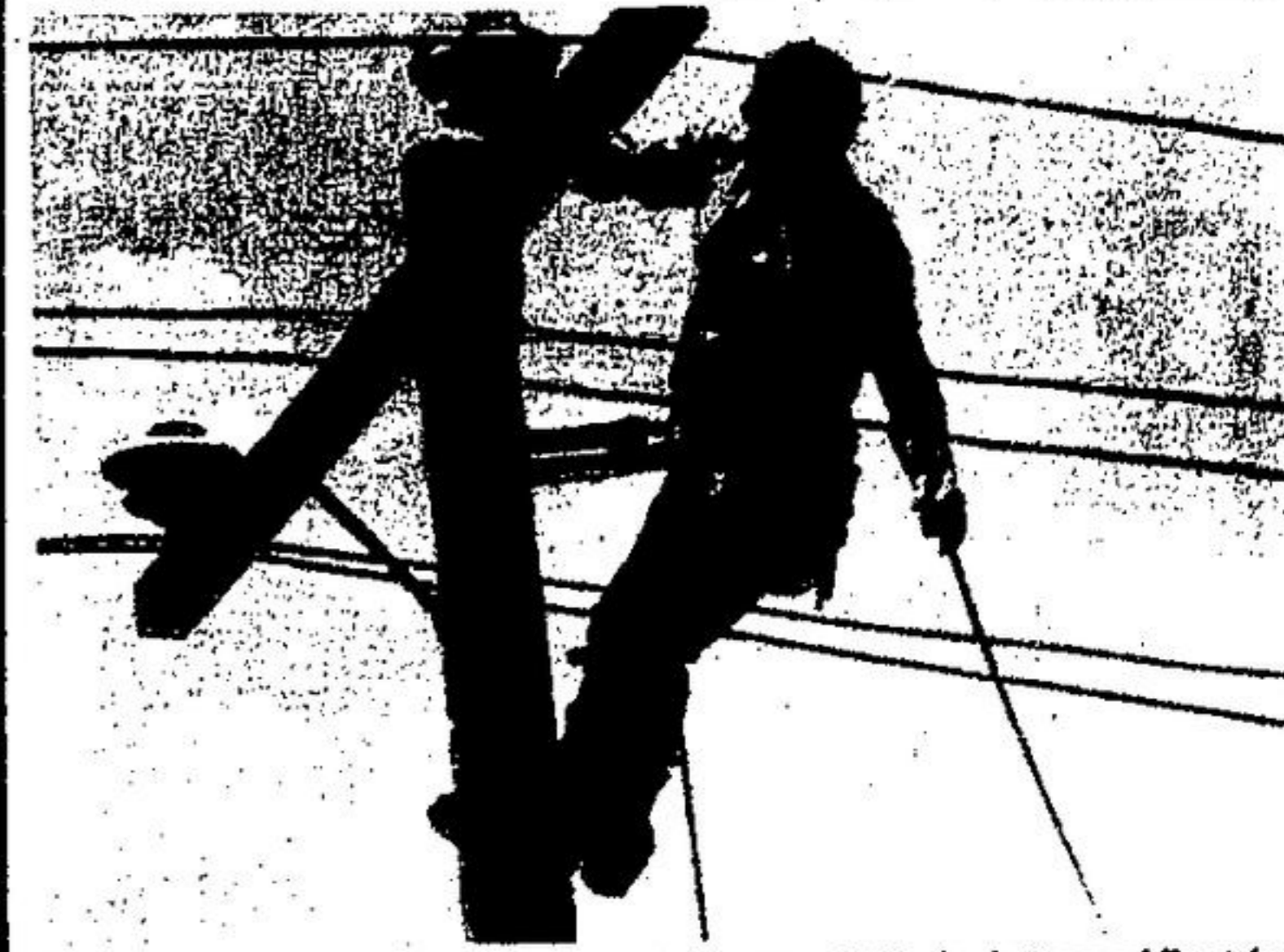
Jennifer Barr interviews a self-starting missionary to India. Page 2

Christian Reformed Churches aren't waiting to help the Vietnamese boat people. They're doing something about it now. Page 3

Contaminated sludge from Halton sewage plants, including Acton's is being dumped on farm fields and some officials are worried about its effect. Page 2

Halton Hills' clinic offers both social and legal advice. Page 10

There's a sound of music in Ballinfad and area as Winifred Smith reports. Page 7



Ontario and Acton Hydro crews harvested a crop of old wire in town while stringing some new wire. The replacement is part of a project to increase the voltage. See more pictures on Page 1.