

Once household name here Hewetson Shoes closes doors

Hewetson Shoes—once a household name in Acton—is closing its Brampton plant which has been there since 1914. The company also operated a plant in Acton from the early 1920s until the mid '30s when the Acton branch was moved back to Brampton.

Many Acton employees were employed by the Hewetson Shoe Company which operated from the plant formerly occupied by Force Electric. The plant is located on the block adjacent to the CN railway tracks bordered by Church, Mill and Fellows Streets, and Eastern Ave. Shoes were once manufactured there and sold everywhere in Canada. When the plant returned to Brampton in the 30s many Acton breadwinners stayed with the firm commuting to Brampton daily. Some moved to Brampton with the firm.

Employees of Hewetson Shoe Company in Acton led a vigorous social life and sponsored many entertainments in the old town hall.

The company also was famous for its picnics. Spokesmen for the Brampton company blamed the current economic climate in Canada for the impending closure, saying imports combined with soaring costs dealt the death blow. Anthony Carrier, president of the parent J.D. Carrier Shoe Company Ltd., said the federal government's import policies have caused the company to go under.

But Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid says he toured the plant the week before it closed and they didn't mention it to him. He says there was

never any indication they were going "Down the tubes."

The company employs about 100. In 1977, the federal government slashed the quota on imports by 25 per cent in an effort to help Canadian manufacturers being hurt by cheaper imports. However, the cut affected the number of shoes being allowed into the country not the dollar value.

Foreign manufacturers responded by increasing the volume of high quality expensive shoes they bought into Canada which competed directly with Hewetson's quality men's footwear lines.

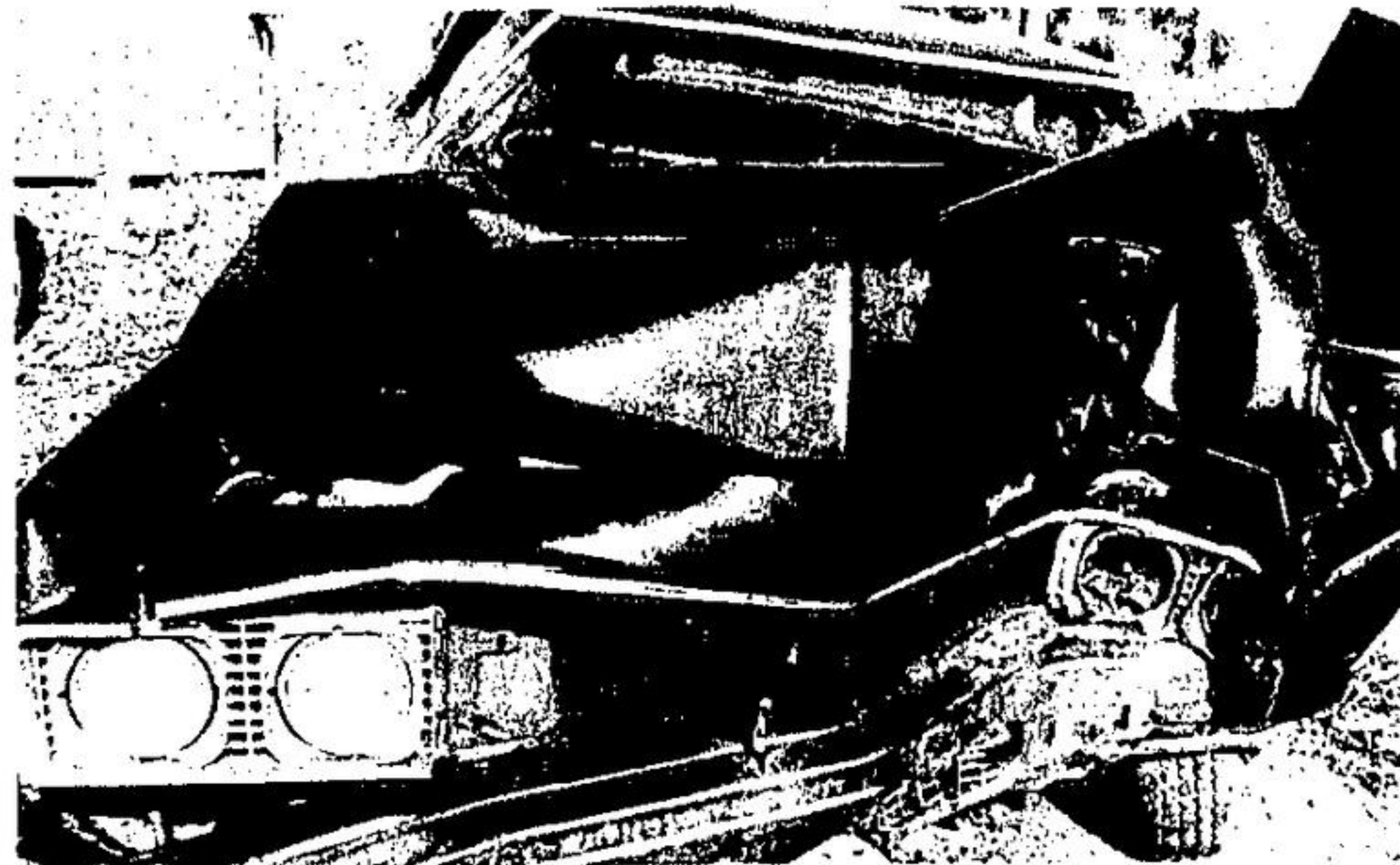
The J.D. Carrier Shoe Company Ltd. located in Toronto announced that it has begun to negotiate with unsecured creditors for a postponement of its debts in order to avert declaring bankruptcy.

Last year in September there were about 200 employees working at the plant which was paying out an annual payroll of \$1.5-million.

Hewetson began laying off employees about six months ago and two weeks ago told all its remaining employees it could no longer afford to stay in operation.

Hewetson Shoes first began in Toronto in 1906 making children's shoes and had moved to Brampton by 1914 employing 50 people and making 240 pairs of shoes a day. By 1956, the company merged with several other Canadian shoe makers and in 1970 sold out to J.D. Carrier.

Its Acton plant was a going concern until it closed in the 1930s. Force Electric Co. occupied the building until the company closed in the 1970s.



Halt Regional Police are continuing to investigate the Monday night accident on the Third Line which sent three people to hospital. Damage to the car which struck a hydro pole is about \$2,000 according to officers.

Accident injures trio

Three people were taken to hospital after a car struck a hydro pole on the Third Line about 10:30 Monday night, cutting electrical power in the area.

Julie Page, who lives on the Erin-Halt Hills

Town Line, Debbie Dempsey and four-year-old Heidi Dempsey were all taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, according to Halt Regional Police.

Damage to the auto is estimated to be \$2,000 by police. A hydro pole equipped with a transformer was damaged, and the cost on that is about \$1,000. The mishap took place at the base of south slope, to Churchhill. Electrical power was cut in the area.

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Robert Gray of R.R. 4, Grand Valley was the lucky winner of 100 gallons of furnace oil at the Acton Fall Fair on the weekend at the Co-op's nail driving contest. He had the best time of 1 minute, 30 seconds. Other winners were Paul Forbes, John Dunn, Sam Pupo, Pete Hayden, Vern Koreck, Hilda Timmerman, Glenda Connor, Mrs. Hetherington, Mrs. Hayden and Mrs. Ray.

Anyone for what nots?

Credit Valley Artisans are holding an auction and what-not sale Saturday in Cedarvale Park, Georgetown. Anyone attending Summerfest will remember seeing some of the beautiful work done by members.

With the municipal by-election nearing on the calendar, (October 9), those eligible will want to get to know the candidates, and perhaps hear their views on certain issues.

The perfect chance for this will be October 1 at the High School when the Chamber of Commerce is holding a meet the candidates night.

The fall fair was an outstanding success, in spite of what the chronic complainers say. Everyone involved work-

ed extremely hard, and all on a volunteer basis. Some even schedule their vacation time around the event. How's that for loyalty?

The Free Press photography special was once again very successful, with 58 entries.

In the color category, Harold Denny took the top prize with last year's winner, Clark Semerville taking second. Third prize went to Margery Box.

In the black and white class, Robert Jennings took first and second and Sheila Smith won third.

All photos will be returned by mail within the next few weeks.

To all those who entered, but failed to win—better luck next year. There was excellent competition this year, perhaps the best yet. So instead of being discouraged, accept the challenge to win next year.

There's a new Beaver and Cub pack forming in town, thanks to the Trinity United Church group.

Twenty-four Beavers will be taken in, and 30 Cubs. Although the general public is invited to register, preference will be given to church members. Registration is September 26, at the church.

Landfill site cleared not polluting river

The Georgetown landfill site is not polluting the Credit River, a report from Gartner Lee Associates told the regional public works department, last week.

The report emphasized their conclusions were made after only one series of sampling tests, and pointed out while the leachate volume from the landfill site would be expected to be minimal at this time of year, so would the dilution of the Credit River since it is at its lowest at this time.

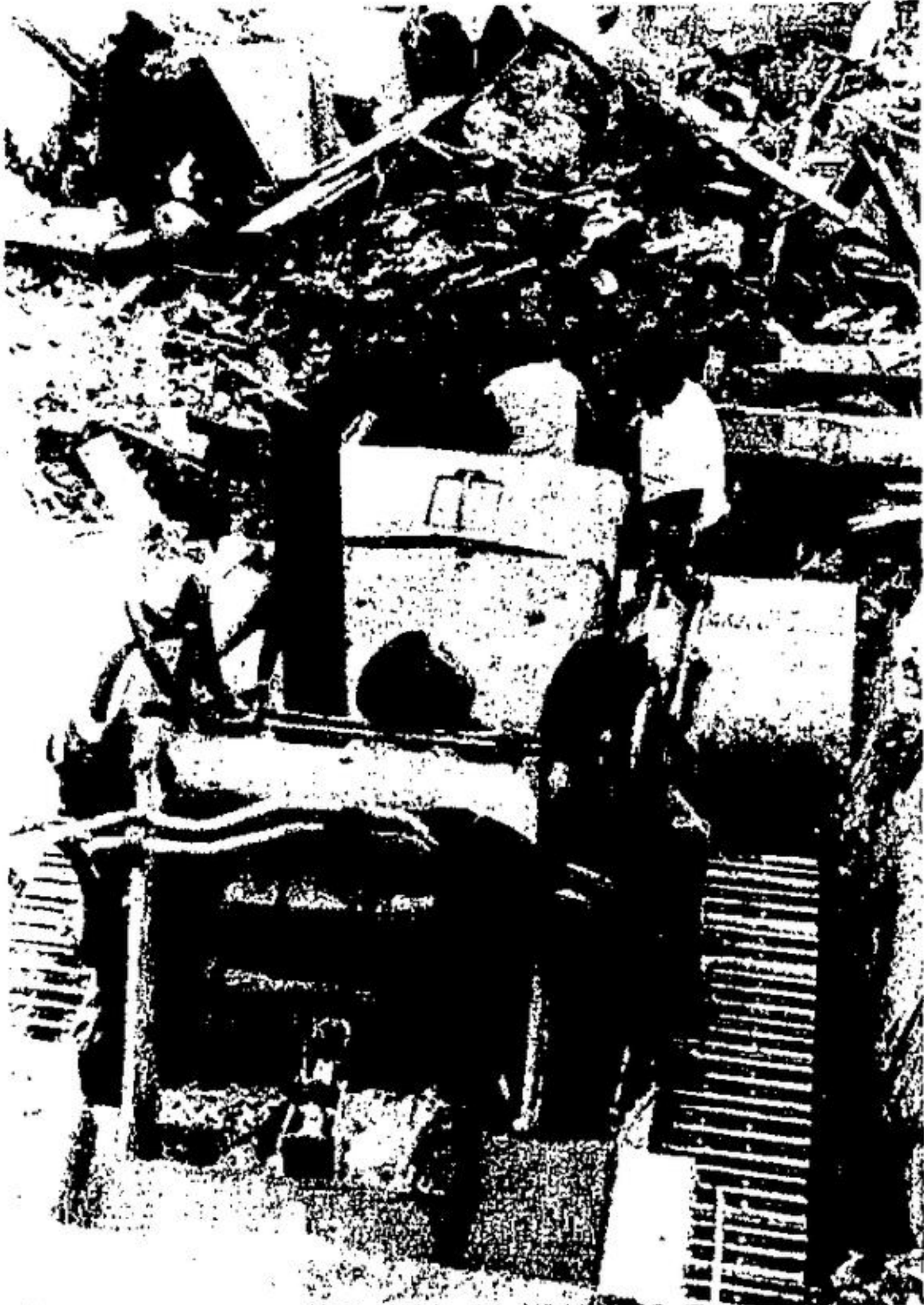
The report said effects of the landfill on the chemistry and aquatic life of the river are barely detectable and pointed out chemically the river waters was of almost the same quality from above to downstream of the landfill site.

"Of 95 PCB and pesticide tests conducted there was only a single DOT

pesticide derivative found at the lowest detectable level," said the report. It went to point out the rocks on the stream bottom were not stained red by leachate, nor were bacterial slimes found.

The report said the greatest problem was a visual one, with papers and other solids stuck at the mouth of the channel draining a storm sewer near the north end of the site. Gartner Lee Associates said the garbage fanned out into the river and fragments carried downstream. They suggested improved housekeeping would control this.

The Region of Halton Public Works Department is calling for tenders by October 15 for a leachate control system on the side slopes of the landfill site facing the Credit River.



While removing rubble from the scene of the Dominion Hotel fire a bulldozer slipped through the remaining floor into the basement. After some thought Cosimo Murcari (right) and helpers loaded bricks under the dozer inching their way out.

Obituary

Harry Mainprize was town barber

A well-known resident of Acton since 1920, Harry Mainprize died in Guelph General Hospital on Sept. 4, at the age of 91.

He was a barber by profession, and retired in 1962 on his 74th birthday. At that time his shop was

at the corner of Mill and John Sts., in the front part of the building that is the family home.

He was the most senior elder in Knox Presbyterian church, ordained into the eldership in 1931. He was also a long-time usher in the church.

He was a friendly and cheerful man, always interested in his family, friends and the community.

He was born March 9, 1888 in Wingham. He and Martha MacDonald were married at Wyeale December 26, 1918. They happily celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year.

After living in Orillia, they came to Acton in 1920.

Mr. Mainprize is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter, William A. at home; Helen (Mrs. M. G. Egan) of Guelph, John of Montreal, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral service at the Shoemaker funeral home on Sept. 7 was conducted by the Rev. John Robertson of Knox Church. Interment was at Fairview cemetery.

Boat people to arrive shortly

Acton could soon have its first family of Vietnamese refugees.

Arlene Bruce, organizer of the privately sponsored family, received word last week the Department of Immigration has accepted their sponsorship application, and will be receiving their family about two weeks after the next notification.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Bruce explained, it is not known yet just when that notification will come. She says however, it could come any day, or in a few weeks. They are only the second group in Halton Hills to receive definite confirmation of the sponsorship.

At a meeting in Georgetown last week, Mrs. Bruce said, the problem of language was discussed. The best approach to get them to accept Canadian culture, she said, is by orientation, and to make the language relative to the environment.

Guidance will be extremely important she said and volunteers will be needed to spend time with the family a couple hours a week, to act as interpreters in Cantonese, Laotian and Viet-

Cars crash on highway

A two-car collision on Highway 25 Tuesday afternoon sent two people to hospital with cuts and caused \$6,000 in property damage.

Roger Martin, R.R. 2 Acton, and Helen Clarke of Brampton were taken by ambulance to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Milton OPP state that neither was seriously hurt in the mishap which occurred about 4:30 p.m. a mile south of Acton.

The Martin vehicle was turning into a private driveway while the Clarke auto was southbound, say OPP. Mr. Martin is 17 years old. Police estimate damage to the Martin vehicle to be \$4,500 while the balance of the damage was taken on the Clarke auto.

6 per cent hike...

(Continued from Page 1) Board negotiator Bill Lawson told trustees, "I believe it to be a fair and reasonable settlement in light of economic conditions in the public and private sectors."

The most three groups in the salary grid receive is \$1,545. A novice teacher would start at \$10,411 while a teacher in the highest category with 12 years' experience receives \$29,999.

Principals are also included in the deal. Principals can pull in as much as \$36,228.

Let's get together.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1979

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