

Canada Battery expansion done by year end

Canada Battery will expand, hopefully by the end of the year.

Last week this newspaper carried a story quoting Canada Battery secretary-treasurer Barry Peddie who reported the firm was planning to expand, but nothing was definite yet.

In an interview this week Ed Wise, one of the owners of the firm, said tenders are out for a 5,000 square foot expansion of the firm's Commerce Crescent plant.

Wise explained the small discrepancies between the report Peddie gave and his new information by noting he has been most involved in the firm's expansion planning.

He said one tender has come back, more are due

to be returned, and barring the unforeseen Canada Battery will put an addition on its 9,000 square foot facility. Wise added he hopes the expansion will be completed by the end of the year. Last week they were working on the plant layout.

At one time the firm considered leaving Acton but improvements in the labor pool allowed them to expand here.

Wise said at one time "it was impossible we would have moved." The labor pool in Acton is a problem faced by most local industries he said.

The slump in the auto industry has meant highly skilled and qualified workers are available. The firm has hired some of those out of work auto workers, at least six recently, Wise reported.

Some already lived in Acton and a few have relocated here, he said. Searching for workers, Canada Battery contacted Ford and asked that workers being laid off be informed Canada Battery had jobs. Manpower has sent some Chrysler workers to Canada Battery.

The domestic market has been booming for Canada Battery so a year ago the firm cut back on its exports. The expansion may allow Canada Battery to jump back into the export market, it has had recent inquiries about products from the United States and South America.

For a little Canadian company Canada Battery has a splendid international reputation. It is the only battery company in the world with a corres-

pondence training course, which they developed. Firms in other countries wishing to learn how to maintain their fork lift batteries have their employees take the 10-week correspondence program.

Wise rejected reports that Canada Battery was thinking of leaving Ontario, maybe even the country. He said he considered looking into a move to either Quebec or Alberta, but not too seriously, and never contemplated leaving Canada, though places like New York state offer firms powerful incentives.

When they were considering leaving Acton, Canada Battery, which came here about five years ago from Mississauga, was going to move closer to Toronto again for the labor supply and to reduce

shipping and other costs.

Canada Battery has been turning away business but expects that will change in the future. The expansion will be primarily for storage, but some jobs could be created in the future.

A strengthened economy and provincial government assistance in buying some very costly equipment could grow from its 34 employees.

Wise said Canada Battery wants to be a good corporate citizen of Acton, create more jobs and help attract quality workers to the town. The expansion should improve productivity even more. He noted since plans for the expansion were announced to employees absenteeism has been cut to nil and morale in the plant is high.

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BUI Cook, advertising manager of the Free Press, is just one of many Acton residents who have had their dogs vaccinated in the past couple of weeks since Parvo Virus sprang up in Acton. Here Dr. Ron Trenton prepares to give Cocoa her shot. Photo by GORD MURRAY

Killer dog virus hits Acton

Parvo Virus is in Acton and has killed a few puppies, Dr. Ron Trenton, Halton Hills Veterinary Services, reports.

Two weeks ago, in a story in this newspaper, Dr. Trenton urged dog owners have their animals vaccinated against the killer dog virus. He warned that while the disease hadn't shown up in Acton it was widespread in Ontario, especially in the Toronto and Hamilton areas, and Acton wasn't isolated enough to prevent the virus from spreading here.

Dr. Trenton's prediction came true. As close as he can determine Parvo Virus broke out in this area the first weekend in August.

He said he and his staff have treated three dogs which had Parvo Virus, "no question". These animals were extremely ill, but lived.

In addition they have seen eight other dogs they suspect "very likely" had Parvo Virus. They also survived.

Two puppies they have seen which had the disease weren't so lucky. They died.

Dr. Trenton said he knows of a few other puppies in the area which he didn't see, but died and displayed Parvo Virus symptoms.

Parvo Virus is basically the same as cat distemper. The afflicted dog becomes depressed and lethargic, they can't hold their heads up, and the most dramatic symptoms are bloody vomiting and bloody diarrhea.

Dr. Trenton said he has been encouraging his

clients to have their dogs vaccinated given Parvovirus, ever since it first appeared in 1978.

Despite the fact many had previously been vaccinated, in the past few weeks he and his associates have given over 300 vaccinations. He observed the story in this newspaper resulted in many people deciding to have their dogs vaccinated and that "probably prevented the outbreak from reaching higher proportions."

Parvovirus is in extremely short supply in Canada and the United States, but veterinarians across Ontario, including Dr. Trenton, have been giving substitute vaccines. He noted he is almost out of all vaccines but more will be in next month for booster shots.

Veterinarians are having to exercise extreme caution in giving substitute vaccines to puppies and pregnant dogs. Dr. Trenton says they must be very selective in choosing the vaccine.

Treatment of infected dogs and infected puppies varies with each and every case.

Puppies are "most susceptible" because the virus will reproduce itself in young, growing tissue. This means puppies are hard hit because they are growing so quickly.

The virus attacks, damages and destroys the cells lining the intestines. In puppies the disease will leave a large hole in the intestine while it isn't as serious in an adult dog if the virus knocks out a fully grown cell.

Dr. Trenton says there is really no treatment to fight the virus.

"You can only support the animal."

Not only does the virus attack the cell lining of the intestine but also destroys the white blood cells. Support is given to the sick dog in a number of ways.

Fluids, given intravenously, are necessary to combat dehydration.

The dogs often need antibiotics to prevent secondary infections.

Since the virus affects every animal differently "intensive care and symptomatic treatment" is required.

Drugs can be administered to coat the intestinal lining. An electrolyte solution is fed orally.

The vomiting or diarrhea can result in acidosis, acid or imbalanced blood, so the sick dog receives sodium bicarbonate.

In fighting Parvo Virus prompt diagnosis is "paramount", but sometimes difficult because the initial signs are mild. However the disease spreads quite quickly after the initial symptoms.

Not only does it damage the blood and intestine lining but Parvo Virus attacks the heart, causing the heart to collapse and pulmonary congestion. There is also some suggestion it can cause infertility in dogs and female dogs which contract the disease while pregnant can give birth to pups with birth defects.

Farmer resigns

Region deficit tops \$700,000

Halton Region Treasurer Don Farmer resigned late last week in the wake of further revelations about Halton's "surprise" budget deficit.

Wednesday councillors were stunned by information that the cavity in the region's 1980 budget of over \$400,000 may actually top \$700,000.

Without detailed information, Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson, the chairman of the Administration and Finance Committee told council auditors had found another \$165,418 in deficits and a probable \$103,191 in other areas for a new grand total deficit of \$703,609.

Region chairman Jack Rattis announced Thursday that council had accepted the resignation of treasurer Don Farmer. He will remain in a "less demanding" position after a successor is named. Farmer will be acting treasurer until a new treasurer is hired.

Auditors have not completed their work regional councillor Ed Wood said, but he expects the deficit will wind up being between \$450,000 and \$600,000 or higher. He allowed the figure seemed to be going up every day.

He suggested if the audit had been done in March the region could make some adjustments in its budget. What has happened is staff did projections and they haven't panned out. Bank interest and revenues from various services like day care haven't been as high as expected.

Wood doesn't expect there will be a reliev of

region taxes as some have expected. He says the region can now look at where it is going and defer some projects until next year and make other spending cuts.

He said the region has "serious personnel problems" and won't make any comment regarding the possibility of other senior staff, like Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid, following Farmer. Wood said the staff problems will be settled by the management study team.

Wood said he guessed Farmer felt the weight of these budget problems on his shoulder and being an honorable man with a lot of integrity he chose to resign. He added Farmer's department has had a lot of work added to its load in the last 18 months because of equalized water and sewers.

No funds are missing, the deficit has appeared as an accounting problem.

The region thought it ended 1979 with a surplus of \$365,000 but two weeks ago it turned out the region had a 1979 deficit of \$69,000. Because 1980 budgeting and the mill rate were based on the surplus of \$365,000 the surplus and 1979 deficit must be combined for a deficit of nearly \$435,000 which has since grown to over \$700,000.

Council met behind closed doors for about two hours last Wednesday.

inside

Halton Region finally has an official plan. Details on page 2.

L & L Ford has expanded. Story and photos on page 6.

Must study market value assessment to be fair to old and new residents

It wouldn't be fair to the old or new homeowner of Acton to bring in market value assessment without a thorough review of all the ramifications, Councilor Ross Knechtel says.

Knechtel is the chairman of Halton Hills special market value assessment review committee which will examine the controversial form of local property tax assessment and then report the facts to council. The committee won't make recommendations, Knechtel noted in an interview, but simply give council all the facts the committee uncovers.

"People think it (market value assessment) is a yes or no situation. Well it bloody well isn't. It is very complex and we have to look at as many ramifications as we can. If we didn't study it it wouldn't be fair to the old or new residents."

So far the committee, which isn't complete yet with more citizens to be named has met only once. Acton's other voice on the committee is former Beardmore treasurer Lorne Youngblut.

One thing the committee wants to determine is the effect of market value assessment on taxes for vacant land. Knechtel said right now the information the committee has on this aspect of the new form of assessment is contradictory. The com-

mittee especially wants to find out the effects of market value assessment on vacant land that is zoned anything but rural.

Also the committee has no reliable information right now regarding what market value assessment does to the industrial and commercial tax base.

The committee needs more information about the present assessment formula and its impact on Acton, Esquesing and Georgetown. Knechtel noted a time period is involved in the present form of assessment and that time frame is different in all three former municipalities.

Taxes on a large number of homes in all three communities in Halton Hills will be studied. The committee will compare present taxes and what the taxes would be under market value assessment of houses with the same sale value. The study will determine how big the difference is in taxes between an older home and a new home with the same sale value.

If a new industrial subdivision was planned the committee wants to determine what market value assessment would do to the taxes once the property was rezoned. Knechtel said councillors fear no land would be rezoned for industry if taxes then triple.

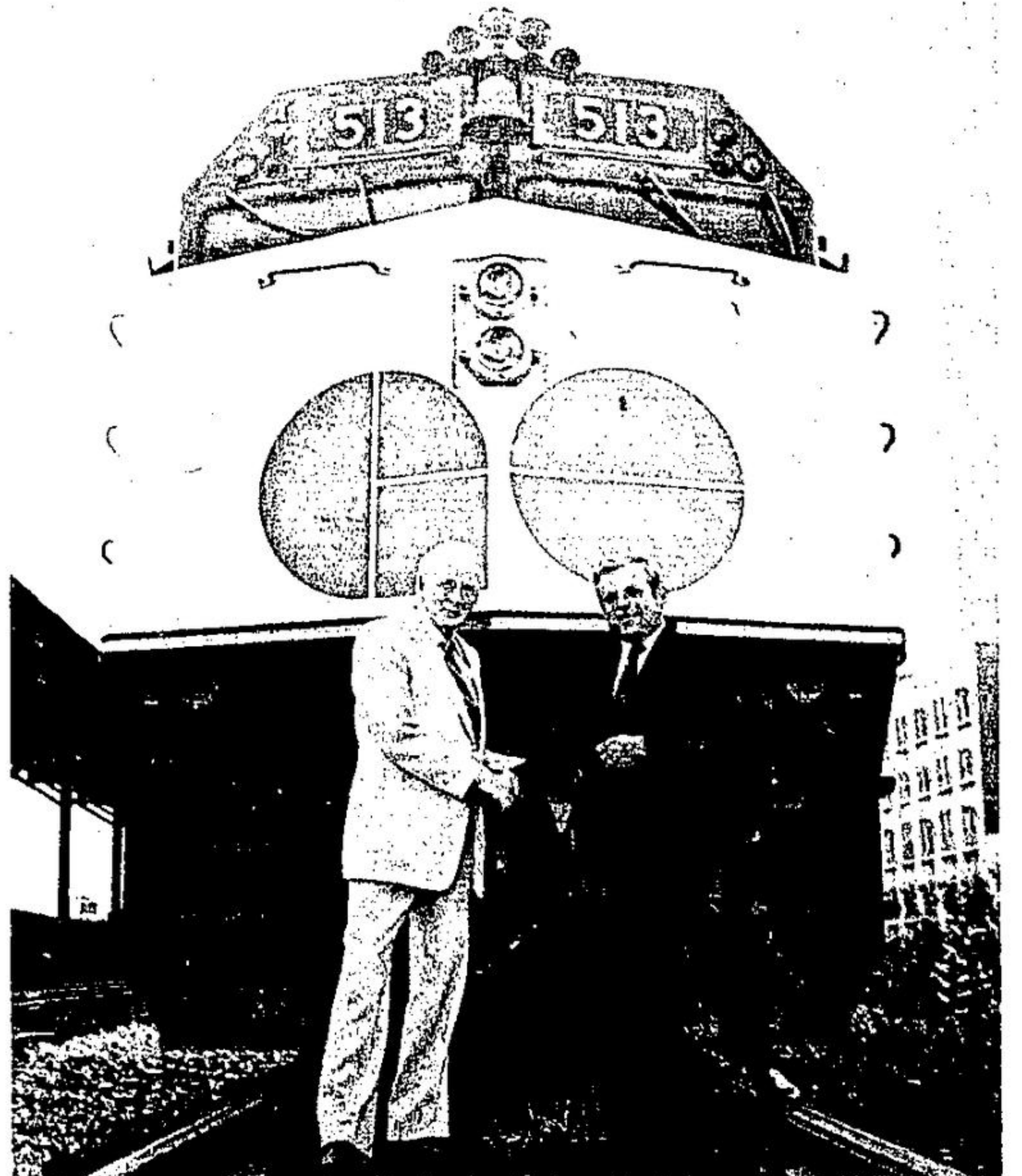
What would assessment be like in a new sub-

division after market value assessment is brought in is another committee concern.

The committee will probe to see what attempt is going to be made by the province to check into changes to properties since the last major assessment and what that would do to local taxes. Knechtel said the committee must determine what the effect would be on assessment if there was updating done as compared to the effect of market value assessment.

The staff will also seek information from municipalities, like Milton, where market value assessment has been brought in. With most municipalities it is still too early to determine all of the ramifications of market value assessment because assessment appeals haven't been completed and "the dust hasn't settled yet," Knechtel declared. He noted there has been an astronomical number of market value assessment appeals.

Knechtel said new provincial legislation dealing with property taxes and senior citizens may have some "modest" impact on the market value assessment question. Ontario has a new program which pays the first \$500 of property taxes for senior citizens so the impact of market value assessment on older homes occupied by seniors would be reduced.



Acton native Cam McNab turned over the chairmanship of GO Transit recently to former Peel Chairman Lou Parsons. McNab was born here and lived on Bower Avenue with his family until age eight when they moved to Toronto. However, he continued returning to Acton every summer for many more years to visit relatives. His father William, who came to Acton at a young age, and his uncle Neil, both worked at the Storey Glove factory. His mother, Emma Cameron was born and raised on an Esquesing farm near Acton. His sister Margaret Hayes now lives in England but also has fond memories of Acton. Another sister, Jessie De Long died a few years ago as did his uncle Neil. He was named GO's first chairman in 1974 after a long and distinguished career as deputy minister of both the Department of Highways and later the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. Photo courtesy of The Mississauga News