

Acton Roman Catholics to pray for new school

Acton Roman Catholics have set aside Friday, September 5, as a special day of prayer for a new separate school here.

Last week the St. Joseph's parents' association executive met Tuesday and then the membership Thursday to discuss their battle to have a new separate school built in Acton.

Association president Vince Whelan said about 25 parents attended Thursday's meeting and decided since the Halton Separate School Board says securing a new school is "out of their hands we are putting it in God's hands."

Whelan said "being Catholic, praying for the new school means a lot." They hope either Archbishop Paul Reding or Bishop McDonald of the Hamilton Diocese can attend to celebrate the mass that day.

Parents are also launching a letter campaign to Ontario Minister of Education Bette Stephenson. Whelan noted 40 to 50 letters from parents here should let the minister know first hand their concerns about having a new school and how they feel about sending their children to the present St. Joseph's, a rented 100-year-old building.

Whelan said no date has been set yet for a meeting between board officials and Stephenson which he and Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed will also attend.

Discussing what he will tell the minister, Whelan said, he will point out the overcrowdedness at St. St. Joseph's, the lack of proper school facilities and the fact Acton is being treated "second rate."

A new school is something Acton was promised within two years three years ago and most parents

wouldn't have pulled their children out of local public schools and enrolled them in Acton's first separate school if they had known they'd be stuck with the antiquated stone building this long. "I'm sure most parents wouldn't have placed their children in St. Joseph's if they knew then what we know now."

Parents aren't happy either that Acton doesn't have its own voice on separate school board. Acton is ward one of the lone seat for all of Halton Hills at the board. Whelan acknowledged parents have even talked about putting up a candidate from here to contest the Halton Hills seat in the municipal election in October, but feel it would be a difficult battle electing an Acton person to represent Georgetown and Esquesing. The Halton Hills seat is held by veteran trustee Hartley Sherk from Georgetown.

Whelan said parents would like to see some redistribution of board seats to give Acton a representative but that can't be accomplished by the upcoming election. However, it is something parents will work for before the 1982 municipal vote.

The enrolment of St. Joseph's has more than doubled in three years so parents feel Acton "is in the big leagues now so we shouldn't be treated second class."

Whelan said if a new school were built Acton would have an even higher separate school population since there is a long waiting list for the present St. Joseph's.

"We feel Acton is being overlooked and now is the time to stand up and be counted."

Parents had received assurances in the past from the board that a new school for Acton was the number one priority.

However, earlier this year parents learned Acton was an equal number one priority with a new school for Oakville when the province approved funding for that new school and not Acton. The province has since revealed Acton doesn't meet its criteria for new school funding, but funding will be reviewed again this fall.

Parents have met with the board regarding this issue and the board will hold its regular meeting here tonight (Wednesday) in the gym at Robert Little School, there isn't a room large enough in St. Joseph's for a public meeting.

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It was Christmas in August last Wednesday at the Acton Library and Mary Kekle delighted children with her authentic St. Nicholas costume. St. Nick also judged the bathing suit competition and these are some of the top contenders for

the prize, from left to right, Louisa Mercuri, Heather Cheyne, Jennifer Bumstead, (the winner) Shelley Donstan and Cynthia Donstan. Photo by GORD MURRAY

Import quotas welcomed help

Acton's largest leather firm, Beardmore, welcomes the recent federal government decision to extend the import quotas on footwear for another year.

In a recent interview Beardmore president Peter Dunham said he was pleased to see Ottawa extend the import quotas for a year past the current November 30 expiry date. Quotas were put in place three years ago.

He is even more delighted to see the Anti-Dumping Tribunal will again probe the impact of imports on the Canadian footwear industry. The investigation is to be completed by next January and will lead to a federal footwear import policy.

At the same time glove manufacturers in Acton and area are eagerly awaiting word on extension of glove import quotas.

Back in 1976 Canada was snowed under with imported shoes from low wage countries so the following year, in response to concerns of Canadian shoe manufacturers and tanners, the federal government imposed quotas on imports.

Dunham noted Canadian shoe manufacturers, Beardmore's biggest customers, aren't looking for government financial aid, only measures to create a climate in which they can compete. "We're all for free trade, but we want everyone the world over to play by the same rules." So far that hasn't happened with some European, South American and Asian nations not playing ball.

The first Anti-Dumping Tribunal to examine the shoe industry and tanneries was charged with determining if the industry had been "materially hurt" by dumping. It found the Canadian industry had been severely damaged by dumping of imports so the government decided to impose quotas for three years.

The limit is 32.5 million pairs of imported shoes, hardly a severe blow for producing nations or importers since that works out to about one-and-a-half pairs of shoes per capita. The quotas didn't really restrict trade because the Canadian consumer buys just marginally over three pairs of shoes per capita a year. It left very little for the domestic market, but it was an improvement and the industry was delighted with the opportunity to prove it could compete, both in quality and price, with the imports.

However, there was a gigantic loophole. There was no restriction on canvas footwear. The industry and government thought that meant there was no restriction on importation of running shoes.

The importers didn't see it that way. They jumped on the loophole and filled it with men's and women's shoes casual, dress shoes and sandals made from canvas. They "circumvented the intent" of the rules. On top of the 32.5 million pairs of shoes imported under the quotas another 12.5 million pairs came onto the Canadian retail market through the canvas loophole.

Tanners, shoe manufacturers and unions went back to the government earlier this year and pointed to the loophole and noted quotas hadn't been applied as intended.

They asked for a five year extension of the quotas and a redefinition of the canvas exemption to plug the loophole.

What they got was a one year quota extension and another Anti-Dumping Tribunal which will probe and make recommendations to Ottawa which will result in a footwear import policy.

While many firms have modernized and added new equipment updating isn't complete, some firms are introducing computers and all the technology isn't in place yet. They need more time, the one year extension and hopefully the new policy will give them that time.

The tanning and shoe manufacturing industries have become pretty sophisticated in the past few years and are convinced they can compete if the game is fair, especially since wages have shot up in Third World and other countries. Canada used to compete world-wide in footwear markets and can again, Dunham says, if the government creates the right climate for them.

However, so far quotas haven't proved beneficial enough. In fact, despite quotas imports have increased and domestic sales have decreased. For the past year Beardmore has been running below capacity. Production at all Canadian Tanneries was down 25 per cent last year and slumped 35 per cent in the first three months of 1980.

Dunham believes the new government review will produce positive results. The Anti-Dumping Tribunal will listen to both domestic manufacturers and tanners as well as importers and decide if the importers have a valid case. Last time they sided with the domestic manufacturers and Dunham expects they will again. "Do we want to lose 25,000 jobs?" he asks.

No question, a positive government policy, will inevitably help Beardmore so Dunham is "optimistic." He says Ottawa says it doesn't view the Canadian leather and shoe industries as being expendable.

On the glove front Frank Geng, Superior Glove, says manufacturers made briefs to the Textile and Clothing Board in the spring and their recommendations will go to cabinet soon.

Glove import quotas expire in the fall of 1981 and a two year extension has been requested. There have been problems with glove import quotas too. Thirty to 40 per cent more work gloves were imported during the past couple of years than were supposed to be.

But Geng and other area leather firms have said quotas did help somewhat. With wages and raw materials costs going up overseas it has become a little easier for Canadian firms to compete.

inside

Councillor Terry Grubbe wants garbage bins at the sewage plant. Details on page 2.

Churchill Road North residents will take their case for stop signs to council next month. Turn to page 7.

Acton-Esquesing board seat split so both wards have reps

Acton and Esquesing will each have their own representatives on Halton Board of Education after the next municipal election.

Monday it was revealed at Halton Hills council that because of assessment redistribution throughout Halton, Burlington will lose one seat and Halton Hills gains a new seat.

Late last week Oakville was going to get the new seat and the town was going to appeal the clerks' of Halton decision to county court, but Monday Oakville backed off and allowed Halton Hills to gain the extra seat.

Council debated which ward would gain the extra seat for considerable time before deciding Acton (ward one) should have its own representative, Esquesing (ward two) would have a separate seat and there would be a single seat for Georgetown (wards three and four).

On the current board wards one and two have a single seat, held by Betty Fisher, and wards three and four have a single seat.

Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson presented both assessment and population figures for all four wards, but that didn't really help council decide which ward would get the new seat.

Figures showed assessment and population just about even for wards one and two combined and wards three and four combined. Richardson suggested either wards one and two should each have their own voice at school board or wards three and four should each have an additional representative at board. He noted ward two is a large geographic area for one person to represent in conjunction with Acton and that could be a consideration.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson observed since most of the future growth would likely be in Georgetown then that was where the seat should go.

Since assessment and population couldn't be used to decide where the seat should go Mayor Peter Pomeroy said he consulted the two present Halton Hills trustees. He reported Georgetown trustee Barry Sheppard thought one representative for Georgetown was fine so the mayor suggested a seat for Acton and a seat for Esquesing.

Esquesing councillor Pat Patterson urged Georgetown have the extra trustee. He noted there are five public schools in Esquesing with about 1,000 pupils. Georgetown has six elementary schools with 2,800 pupils and a high school of 2,000 students. He

noted many Esquesing students go to Georgetown schools. On the other hand Acton has just three schools of 1,270 pupils and a high school with 600 students. Patterson felt with so many more students going to Georgetown schools the new seat must go to Georgetown.

However, where the students live, not which school they go to, was the key consideration Councillor Ross Knechtel observed.

Fisher told council Esquesing students go to Acton, Georgetown and Milton high schools.

Pomeroy stated if there is residential growth in Georgetown then assessment would change so Georgetown would likely get another seat then. He pointed out the new seat could be shifted to another ward in the future.

Taxpayers would feel "more comfortable" if Acton and Esquesing each had their own seats on school board, Councillor Russ Miller suggested.

Urban and rural school concerns can be quite different, even if a rural student goes to a school in Acton or Georgetown, so Esquesing should receive the new seat, Councillor George Maltby declared.

Fisher opts for Acton seat

Betty Fisher will run for the new Acton seat on Halton Board of Education in the October municipal election.

Fisher, who lives in Georgetown, currently represents both Acton and Esquesing at the board but wards one and two will become separate seats with the next election.

She said she is announcing her candidacy quite



Betty Fisher

early so everyone will know where she stands.

She said she was a little "stunned" following Halton Hills council's decision Monday night to split her present seat now that the town has a third representative at the board.

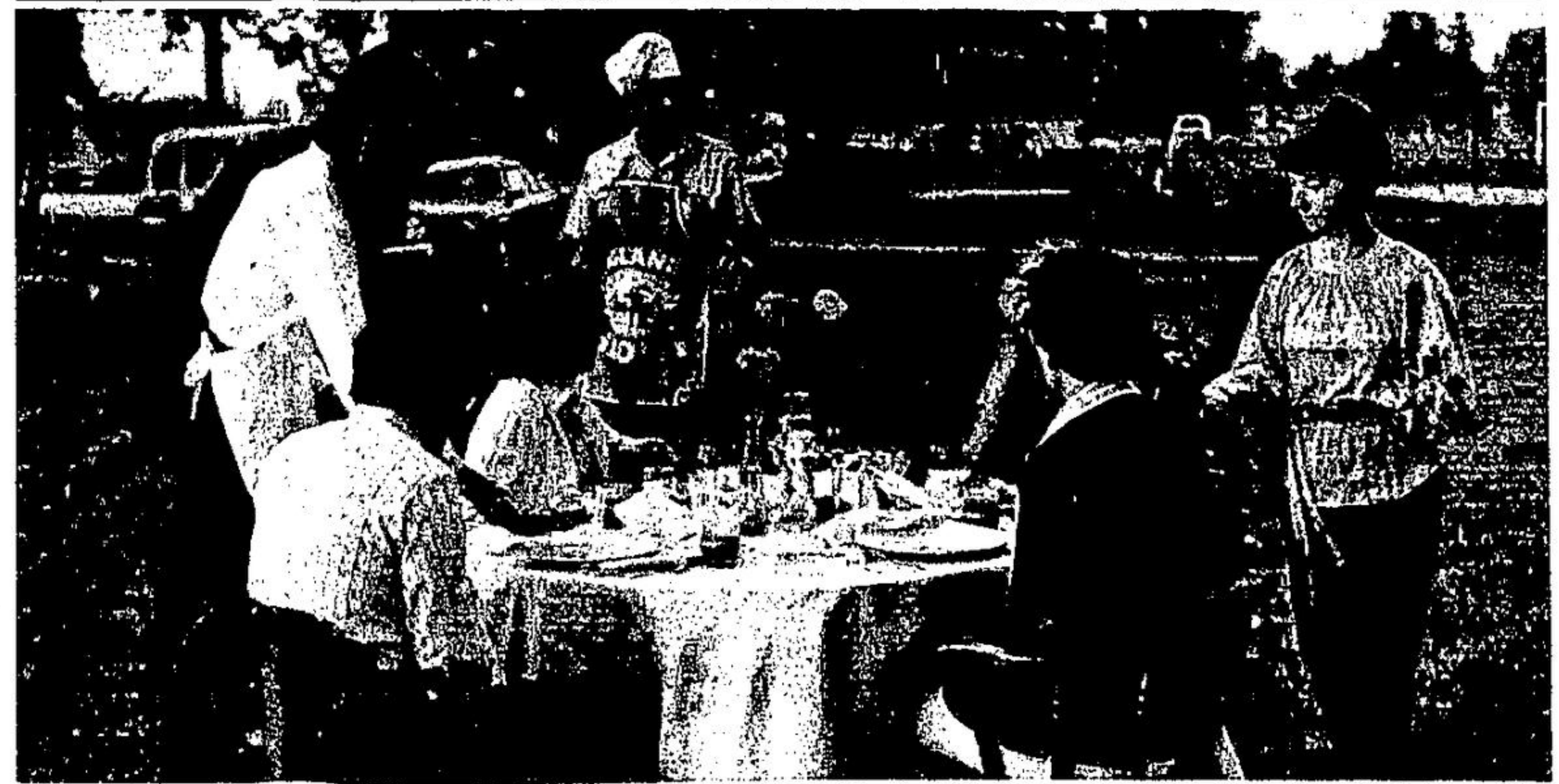
Fisher said it was a tough decision picking a ward to give up, "like choosing between two children," but announced Tuesday morning her choice was to run in Acton.

She observed when you represent Esquesing you work in conjunction with both Georgetown and Milton trustees because students from ward two go to school in those towns, as well as Acton. The ward two representatives job is shared with others, Fisher explained.

Acton on the other hand has just a single voice, which means the job carries heavy responsibilities. "You really dig into your Acton work."

She said she feels she has made gains and accomplished things for Esquesing but the bulk of her work has been in Acton. Fisher said she is only half way through the various education improvements she wants to see made for Acton and wants to complete the job here she has started. "I like to do things from A to Z, not A to M. My heart is in Acton."

Fisher said she realizes not being a resident of Acton has a bearing on the situation, but she didn't live in Esquesing either. In the last election she chose not to run in Georgetown but Acton-Esquesing and this time chooses to run in Acton because that's where she wants to place her efforts.



How would you like your steak done? Chef Ted Tyler primes the winners of the Actario early bird draw for the entree of their gourmet meal enjoyed beside Fairy Lake last Wednesday night. The lucky diners were Doug and Lena Mason

and Bernie and Carolyn Freuler. Tracey Tyler and Kathy Sanford served the delicious meal. More on Actario on page 5.

Photo by GORD MURRAY