

Declining enrolment no problem with 2,944 pupils

Declining enrolment may be a major problem in other areas of the region but overall there has only been a decline of seven pupils for the eight Acton and area schools in Halton.

Four schools: Acton High School, Robert Little, Speyside and St. Joseph's all showed enrolment hikes last week while the number of students at M.Z. Bennett, Limehouse, Brookville and McKenzie-Smith dipped slightly.

Enrolment went up by 51 pupils at four schools combined and down 58 in total at four others.

In all nearly 3,000 students; 2,944 to be exact; went back to classes last week.

Robert Little enrolment dropped about 60 pupils between the 1978-79 and the 1979-80 school years but is up to 425 this year from 410 last year. And the future looks even brighter for the school after 79

kindergarten pupils registered when the school was expecting 67.

Speyside's enrolment has also taken a healthy turn upward. When the school was twinned with Robert Little a few years ago student population had slumped to the 130-140 range but it has been steadily coming back. Last year Speyside had 152 pupils and that figure is up to 181 this fall.

One of the most interesting enrolment situations is at St. Joseph's which has been surrounded in controversy much of the summer because of the parents' battle to have a new facility built.

St. Joseph's enrolment is up, from 195 to 203, but not up as much as expected.

There has been talk of pulling students out of St. Joseph's and sending them back to public schools but that didn't happen.

Principal Sean Briggs noted he had projected a student population of 225 at St. Joseph's but 16 moved away from Acton during the summer. Another two missing students are now going to other area schools, one to the French separate school in Georgetown and one to Robert Little. Neither students transferred because their parents were concerned about the present school building.

Briggs said he was glad to see there wasn't a boycott of St. Joseph's but wondered if there might have been more new pupils enrolled if there wasn't so much publicity about overcrowding at the school. He thinks some parents who want to send their child or children to a separate school decided to wait another year and see if a new school is built.

Enrolment at Acton High School, where it hasn't been declining in recent years, is always tough to

nailed down. As of Friday there were 762 students at AHS, up from 743 at the end of September 1979. However that growth could disappear because of drop-outs. Semestering also causes fluctuations in enrolment at AHS.

M.Z. Bennett expected a slight enrolment decline and a slight decline materialized. Enrolment is down from 383 to 372.

Principal Doug Magwood said enrolment at the school has been dropping in "drips and drabs" for a few years now. He noted it has had an impact on the school; as now M.Z. Bennett has one less teacher than in 1979-80, but that could change when staff is redistributed around Halton later this month.

New McKenzie-Smith vice-principal Gordon Eagle said that school suffered another decline in pupil enrolment, from 384 last year to 358 this fall.

The decline has been on for a few years now, but was greater this year than expected. The school had projected an enrolment of 370.

Declining enrolment hasn't caused McKenzie-Smith to lose teachers this year yet, but a teacher y wind up being moved later this month.

Brookville's declining enrolment problems resulted in one less teacher being assigned to the school this fall. Brookville enrolment has been dropping a bit each year for several years now. The school projected it would have 508 students and wound up with 507, down from 523 last year.

Declining enrolment has had little impact on Limehouse school since it was twinned with Joseph Gibbons in Georgetown a few years ago. Enrolment dipped from 163 pupils to 156, a little higher than the 153 expected this year.

The Acton Free Press

An Inland Community Newspaper

One Hundred and Sixth Year - No. 8

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1980

Twenty-Two Pages - Twenty-Five Cents

Marathon of Hope reborn in Acton

Acton is again responding to Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.

Details were sketchy at press time, with very little in the way of formal fund raising taking place, but all indications are Terry has again touched Acton's hearts and wallets. Terry is on everyone's lips and donations are gathering steam.

Acton and area greeted Terry warmly when he came through town early on the morning of July 22 during his cross-country run to raise funds for cancer research.

The community responded to the bone cancer amputee runner's call and donated about \$5,500 to the cause.

Terry continued his run until last week when he reached Thunder Bay. His marathon of hope has been shelved while he battles cancer again, this time in his lungs.

Terry has become a national hero and there has been an outpouring of donations and sympathy to the young man from British Columbia.

Acton hasn't been any different than any place in Canada.

People here are slowly climbing back on the Marathon of Hope bandwagon.

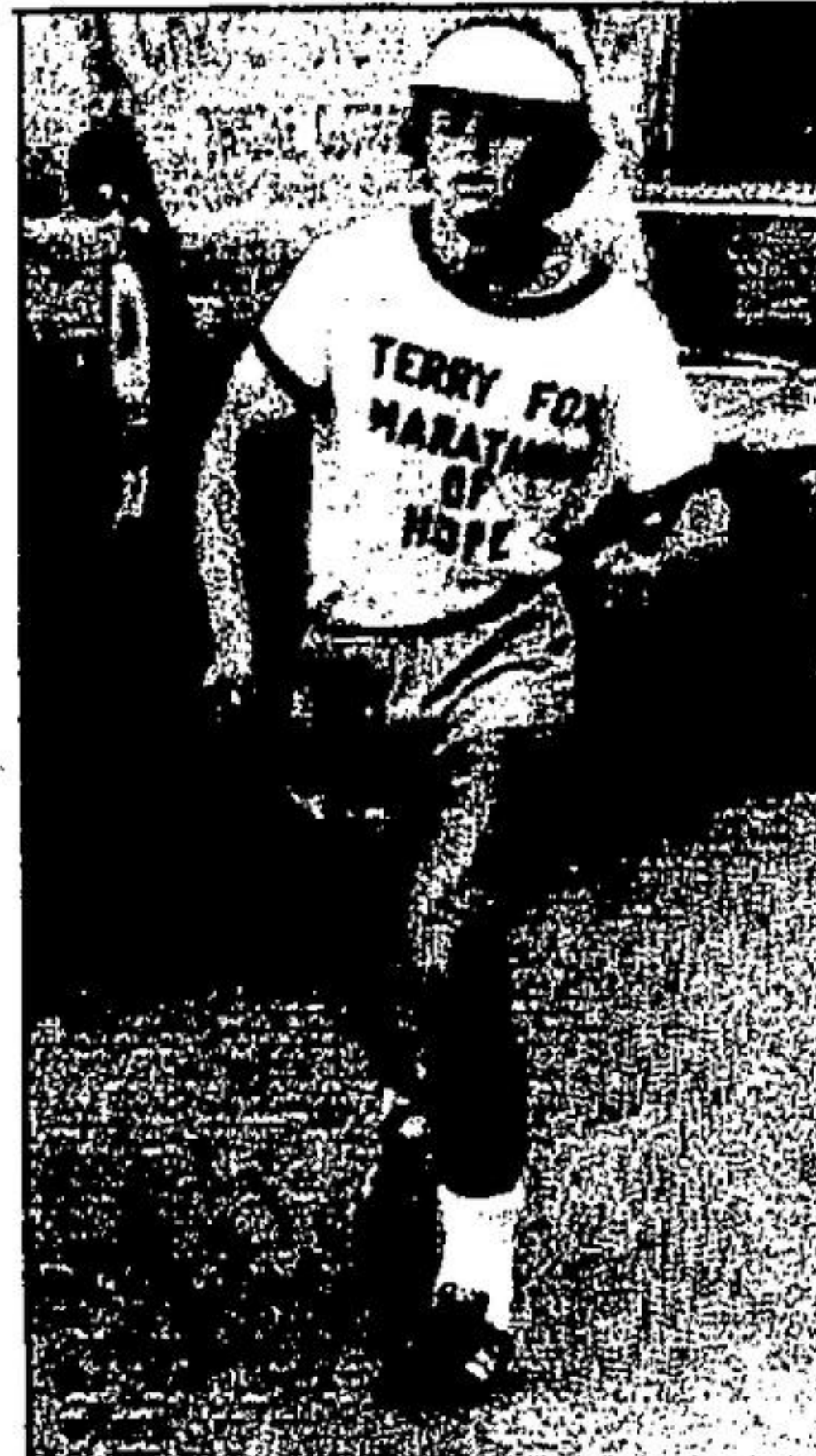
Some called in and made donations during the five hour telethon Sunday night.

Robert Real Estate of the Acton Condo League is sending in a \$100 donation and challenging all of the other men's ball teams in Acton, Limehouse and Georgetown to match their pledge.

Jake Kulken of Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances will donate two per cent of his sales during September to Terry Fox and cancer research.

Acton High school students are also chipping in to raise more money for the Terry Fox cancer fight. Some students have set up boxes in the school with the aim of collecting \$1 from everyone—fellow students and teachers—in the building. There are 766 students enrolled at the high school.

Elma Braida, an Acton cancer official, said there has been quite a reaction in town the last few days to Terry's campaign for funds and it is gathering



Acton's downtown was jammed that early that Wednesday morning in July when Terry Fox ran through town.

steam. Tuesday morning she was swamped by calls and over \$200 was donated to the cause. Arlie White was out collecting money from people on the street even.

On Monday she reported she had received six private donations: "a couple of hundred more dollars," and even received \$35.11 collected by a little girl.

"People are getting enthused all over again," Miss Braida declared.

Former area minister dies

A former Rector of St. Alban's Anglican Church, in Acton and St. John's in Rockwood, Rev. Philip Arthur Sawyer, died this week. He was 90.

Rev. Sawyer was in Acton in late June, along with his daughter Rev. Elizabeth Kilbourn to help St. Alban's celebrate its 100th anniversary. He was the 16th rector of St. Alban's.

Rev. Sawyer died Monday at St. Catharines General Hospital.

He is mourned by his daughters Elizabeth and Nancy Steele as well as 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Violet and a daughter, Peggy Hingston.

A graduate of Trinity College, Toronto, he served the diocese of Niagara as Rector of the following parishes: St. Alban's, Acton; St. John's, Rockwood; St. Paul's, Caledonia; St. John's, York; St. John's Thorold; and as honorary assistant and hospital chaplain at St. George's, Guelph.

Rev. Sawyer was honorary vice-president of the Winchester Cathedral, Old Choristers' Association. The family is receiving friends at St. John's Chapel Thorold, this afternoon and evening as well as last night (Tuesday) at William A. Lamb Funeral Chapel, Thorold.



100 years young

Margaret Buchanan, centre, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday at Maple View Lodge. To help her celebrate were her grandson Barry Buchanan, great-grandchild Tara, and daughter Margaret Gamsby who flew in from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for the occasion. Mrs. Buchanan has eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. See story on page 2. Photo by HELEN MURRAY.

Fall fair in 9 days

by Jennifer Barr

Bigger and Better—that seems to be the theme of next week's Acton Fall Fair.

Considered one of the best fairs in Ontario and certainly the largest in Halton, the Acton Fall Fair will attract thousands of visitors to town September 19, 20 and 21.

For 66 years the Fair has provided competition for area farmers and entertainment for urban residents. Now contestants come from all over Ontario, Quebec and the States for the widely acclaimed event. Fair president Brian Evans feels all directors need to make the 1980 fair the greatest ever in three fine days of weather.

Changes for the fair include a full Friday program this year as the Arabian Horse Show starts at 10 a.m.

A mini-boat show takes to the water Saturday, the tractor pull is now a mini-tractor and antique tractor pull, and the Canada Packers Quilt Display will be here.

Changes implemented last year, including new park layout, pet show, waterball contest, will be continued. Directors and visitors alike agree more efficient planning found extra room in the water bound Prospect Park location of the fair.

Advance passes are now available for the entire weekend for \$5 and can be purchased at any Acton bank, including the Credit Union.

A bus route will be travelling the streets of Acton at regular intervals (see bus map on back page of the Fair supplement Sept. 17).

Town residents are encouraged to use the bus as parking is very limited and nonexistent within the park on Saturday and Sunday.

Happyland midway are appearing to offer fun and games for all who brave the rides and arcades; junior sized rides will be available for small fry.

The fair kicks off Friday with the Arabian horse show commencing at 10 a.m. An opening parade with Acton Citizens' Band will declare the gates officially open at noon. The midway will be fully

operational.

Exhibit hall will be opened for a full view of prize winning baking, flower displays, domestic science exhibits, handicrafts, canned and preserved products, junior exhibits, schoolwork, fruits and vegetables.

The poultry building will be open to show off the many varieties of exotic birds—a remarkably colourful display and one of the best poultry shows around. The birds will be on display for two days. Rabbits take over the building on Sunday.

At 6.30 p.m. the popular heavy horse pull will take place featuring teams from Quebec and the U.S. as well as many from southern Ontario. Over 20 teams are expected this year.

The fair will be officially opened by Otto Jelinek at 8 p.m.

The annual Variety Show and Miss Acton Fall Fair contest will be in full swing by 8 p.m. in the Community Centre.

Fifteen contestants are expected to enter the well-attended Miss Acton contest. Two runners up and one reigning fair queen will be chosen by a panel of judges who include Judy Welch of the Judy Welch modelling agency, Gunther Oldenberg, film producer and production co-owner, and Dave Johnson, CFGM country radio disc jockey.

The girls will compete for \$250 in prize money and numerous gift vouchers and prizes and the winner will be entering the CNE Sweetheart contest next August. Last year's winner Kathy McGrath will be on hand to crown the winner.

Saturday morning the fun starts bright and early with the English pony show commencing at 9 a.m. featuring classes for young equestrians and their hunter ponies.

At noon the grand parade will move slowly from the middle school grounds down Mill and Main streets to the Park. One of the biggest fair parades in Ontario, this year it will include the renowned Acton Citizens' Band, Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band and Sandhill Band. Prominent local dignitaries and politicians are always a welcome feature.

The Carlsberg Wagon and Belgian eight horse hitch will attract hundreds of delighted eyes. Also included are a wealth of bicycle riders, horses and ponies, dozens of floats, clowns, and other participants.

Children's pony games and a full-fledged gymkhana will take place Saturday afternoon in the English horse ring.

(Continued on page 2)



Scenes like this, filled with happy smiling people, have been common for years at the Acton Fall Fair. This September 19, 20 and 21 there will be even more reasons to enjoy the fair many consider to be the best of its size in Ontario. Free Press file photo by JIM DILLS

inside

Acton children have been sent to the penalty box. Turn to page 7.

Betty Fisher has changed her mind and will run for trustee in Georgetown instead of Acton. More on page 2.