

Businessmen danders up different kinds of waste

Cory Van Merkestein, owner of the Chicken and Pizza Spot, is concerned about the waste of taxpayers' money and told Halton Regional Chairman Jack Raftis so at the councillors' drop-in Friday afternoon.

Van Merkestein asked the councillors and Raftis why town workmen were snowplowing the streets one day this winter even though the weather forecast was for mild weather which could have melted the snow? He explained it was an unexpected snowfall during mild weather.

Councillor Ross Knechtel told him someone had made a decision on where and when snowplowing was going to be done, and the decision to plow Acton's main street was made.

Van Merkestein also wanted to know why the police headquarters in Oakville recently underwent a large expansion. He remarked how he needs a lot of work done to his business, but he can't afford it so it can't be done. He said he felt the region should work on the same premise.

Regional Councillor Dave Whiting was annoyed at Van Merkestein's comments and retorted "You cannot complain about the lack

of policing and then complain about costs going up." He explained the costs of the expansion were debentured over 25 years, and will barely be seen on each year's tax bill.

Van Merkestein explained his costs are going up also but he does not turn around and double the price of pizza. "I do not need a pizza," Whiting remarked, "but we need social services, we need the police."

Raftis pointed out to the local restaurant owner that Acton has greatly benefitted from regional government. He had large maps illustrating the sewer and water work done in Acton since the inception of regional government. He explained the former town of Acton would not have been able to afford the millions of dollars of work which have been done since 1974.

Ted Tyler, of Tyler Transport, feels he has been given the royal run-around from the town as well as the region and would like to see his problem solved as soon as possible.

Tyler attended the drop-in to demand fair treatment in sewers. He explained that his business is just outside the Acton urban area, and is on his own sewage

and water system. If he wants town facilities he must pay for their installation. He doesn't feel he should have to.

However, Tyler told the chairman, in 1978 he complained to then mayor Tom Hill, and then councillors Pat McKenzie and Peter Marks. Tyler explained that McKenzie told him he had just missed that year's budget, but it would be put in the next year's budget. Now he is told he is outside the servicing area and will not be getting sewers.

Tyler told the councillors he has to get his septic tank pumped out every seven to ten days at an approximate \$50 a shot.

Tyler noted the town is always making the local scene look appealing to attract new business but doesn't look after existing industry.

Current Mayor Peter Pomeroy pointed out to the councillors and Raftis that Tyler is about 900-1,000 feet outside the urban service boundary. "Unless he is willing to pay, (to have the service brought from Churchill Rd.) then I don't see any way it can be done."

Raftis wanted to know why Tyler didn't ask for the services extension

Profiles

with Jennifer Barr



Bill Coon doesn't appreciate being called a truant officer. He's a school social worker with an emphasis on keeping kids in school and assisting them with jobs if they insist on dropping out.

Years ago he would have been chasing bare bottomed boys out of the swimming hole with a willow switch. However, today's changing education system demands something a little more empathetic.

A school social worker acts as a backup for school staff and a counsellor for youngsters needing extra help in various areas.

Bill has been with the Halton Board of Education for 11 years and has lived in Acton all his life. Prior to becoming a school social worker he was a recreational director with the Department of Correctional Services.

Eleven years working in correctional institutions has provided Bill with many interesting stories. He saw the department go through a decade of "terrific change" and enjoyed the staff camaraderie that "you don't see now", he says.

Several of his early career years were spent working at Hillcrest maximum security institution in Guelph trying to rehabilitate youngsters, working as court supervisor and in probation areas. He also worked at Grandview Girls School in Galt and co-initiated the rec program at Hagersville in 1967.

He was often a parent figure, and adds he had a chance to get very close to a lot of youngsters.

Utilizing his sociology degree, Bill started working for the school board in 1970.

"My job is to encourage kids to stay in school". He's very proud of the early school leaving

program operating within the region since 1975.

Although legal school leaving age is 16 "sometimes kids reach a stage when they should be out of school for a time", Bill explains.

Bill works closely with school and youngster to see if a change of school will help. Failing all else, he'll establish the youngster, usually at 14 or 15 year old, in a job. Job opportunities are available, Bill says, adding the nature of this area lends itself to small business openings and jobs such as workers at Mohawk Raceway. Often a student will work part-time and work on a couple of school credits.

Success rate has been about 25 percent return to school since the program started. Bill is proud of the two students out of a total of 40 who went on to community colleges.

"With the new E.C. Drury high school (in Milton) and its beautiful technical set-up, we don't see many programmed youngsters from the North." (Only four this year).

Early school leaving is a small part of Bill's job.

"We're a support person—an auxiliary counsellor", he states, part of an educational team made up of the school principal, public health nurse, psychological services, remedial resource personnel and social working staff.

"There's lots of services available and people do use them" Bill referring to the 131 key parent interviews he's conducted in 1981. "I've touched 800 cases this year and carry a monthly caseload of 45", he adds.

Of the many areas Bill works with students he enjoys his group talk sessions or positive peer interaction groups.

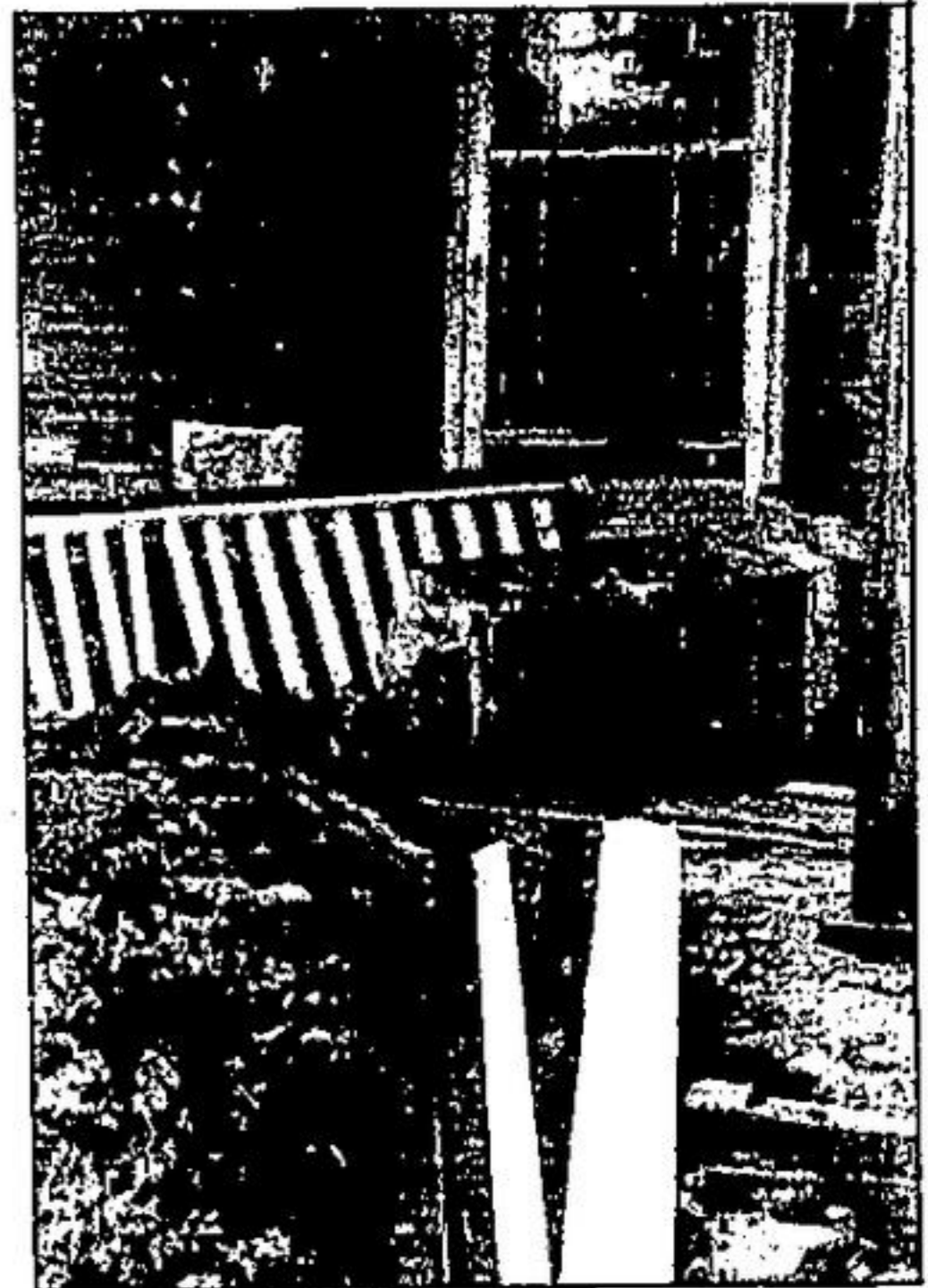
It's a great way to work with some kids," Bill says enthusiastically, "kids do have an advantage today."



Bill Coon

Fun at library

Acton library is chalk full of fun things to do this summer. They are even holding a munch to the Movies day July 15 from 12 to 1 p.m. Bring your lunch. And at 1 p.m. there will be a Bubble Gum Blowing Contest. Due to popular demand the library is once again having their Huff and Puff and Blow your bubble gum.



Halton Regional Police estimate \$1,500 damage to a house at 104 Mill St. after a car driven by Randolph Kay, 17, of 333 Queen St. rammed into it at 3.40 a.m. Sunday morning. There was \$2,500 damage to the car, police say.

Town-Union close to deal

Halton Hills outside workers and the Town are close to an agreement on the union contract, and hope to come to a definite settlement after a meeting this afternoon (Wednesday).

This is the unofficial word leaked from contract negotiations which have been in progress for the last three weeks.

One small issue still separates the two parties, this newspaper has learned.

Local 73 of Canadian Union of Public Employees, with 33 members, was in a legal position to strike June 11, but chose to negotiate.



M.Z. Bennett school held a volunteer's tea last Tuesday. Over 70 people were invited. Gina Mancini, grade nine student, and Darlene Blashuk a parent volunteer, chat with principal Doug Magwood.

Poster contest winners for Back to Acton Days

Winners of the annual Back to Acton Days poster contest for school children have been announced. Prizes will be presented on Saturday, June 27, to the winners of the contest sponsored by the Acton Chamber of Commerce at the Back to Acton Days opening ceremonies.

The Kindergarten winners drawing about the topic "What I Like to Do in Acton" were Kathy Pucz and Stephen Alfain both of Robert Little School.

"What I Like to Do in Acton" was also the poster topic for grades one, two and three with Boris Djurince of St. Joseph's School and Angela Yaworsky of Robert Little winning the competition for grade one. Grades two and three winners were Janet Kinjosa of St. Joseph's and Mark Manuel from M.Z. Bennett.

"Important Places in Acton" was the poster subject for grades four and five and Brian McKenzie and Mary Moore both of Robert Little School were the winners. There were no entries in the poster contest from grade six.

The poster topic for grades seven and eight was "Acton in the Future" and the winners were Pierre Agnes of St. Joseph's and Tila Jago of McKenzie-Smith School.

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wieners	1.59
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Devon 500 g pkg.

sliced bacon	1.59
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