

# St. Joseph's School...

(Continued from page 1)

Birrett says he never discussed financing with Whelan. Byrnes is away on vacation. Whelan says it wouldn't be "economically wise" for the trustees to consider interim financing. He expects it would cost \$200,000 just to get a hole in the ground at the

site, so the board, with taxpayer's money, would wind up paying \$20,000 to \$25,000 in interest charges to break ground this fall rather than wait for next spring. This is a time of restraint, Whelan observed, and Acton must bear the "brunt" of restraint by waiting for the

new school. He said he is sure parents won't mind waiting. Whelan is convinced the board won't start construction until next spring and open the building in September 1982.

He says he also learned from Byrnes that the project is estimated to cost \$1.2 million, while the provincial grant is for \$1 million. He says board administrators don't think there will be any problem securing the extra \$200,000 from the ministry of education. He says he learned all this while calling Byrnes on another matter.

Birrett said he did express his personal concern to Whelan that the new school won't start being built before next spring. He said he would rather be negative than give parents hopes it will be open sooner, than the fall of 1982. He said he has seen delays crop up with similar projects. The timetable depends on the ministry of education giving its approvals. If the province is slow it will cause "crucial delays."

He believes if footings can be in by late October or early November then the project will proceed on schedule. Any delay in approvals will cause a holdup which would put off the start of construction.

Birrett allowed there haven't been any holdups in approvals yet and his most recent report to the trustees on the project indicated everything was still on timetable.

Brady, who is Birrett's supervisor, allowed there is a drainage problem at the rear of the site and the board must make provision for once a year type major storm runoff. He said this problem might take a while to solve, but couldn't be more specific.

However, he did say it shouldn't delay the start of construction since the board can still proceed with securing other approvals.

The final design has been approved by the board and must still be approved by the ministry. Then both the board and ministry must approve the working drawings before the project goes out to tender. The working drawings are being prepared now, Brady said. If the board is able to get the tenders back by late September or early October, a target which is still attainable, Brady says he sees no reason why construction can't begin this fall.

In the past the board has arranged interim financing and he doesn't know if the interest rates will prevent that from happening in the case of St. Joseph's. Brady notes nobody can say what the interest rates will be next month or the month after. He pointed out the entire question of interim financing will be settled by trustees, not the administration. Trustees may "see fit" to go ahead despite high interest rates. There has been no discussion at board of interest rates delaying the project.

The board's aim has always been to get started on the school this fall and open next spring. If that wasn't possible then it would open the fall of 1982. The board hasn't changed that timetable Brady declared, and nothing has happened to change the timetable.

In addition he wonders how anyone could know the final cost of the project until tenders come back and he knows of nobody who would have told Whelan it will be \$200,000 over the ministry's grant.

After the province approves the working drawings the school project goes to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval, a formality Brady says. He explained this is because 88 per cent of the project is subsidizable by the province while 12 per cent will be financed by debentures.

He said he was certain all trustees would say their goal remains to open the school next spring and nothing has changed to scrap that timetable.



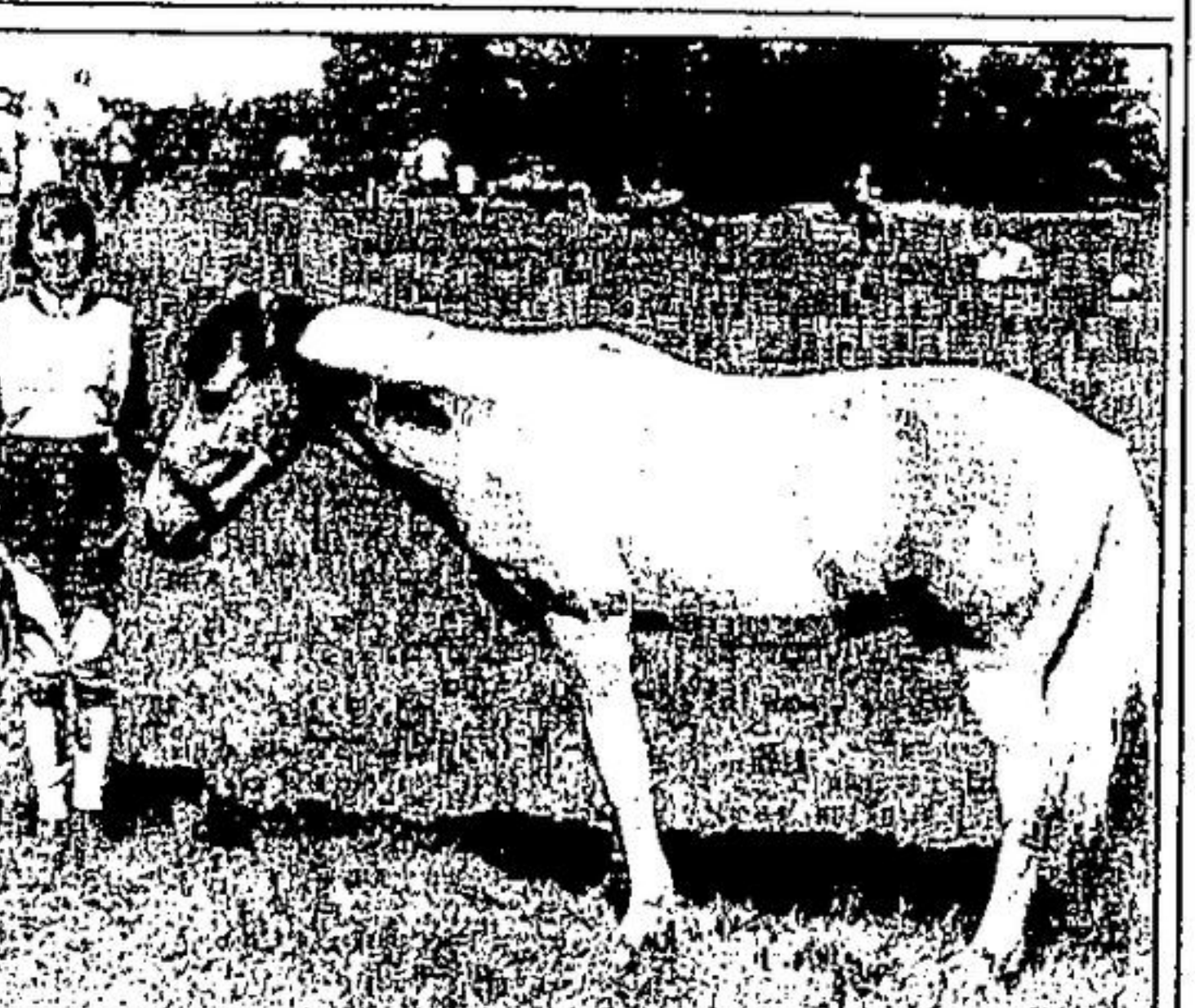
They're all wet. A group of Acton and Georgetown kids get pelted with water balloons during the fun at Mad camp last week.



An Ontario Red Cross small craft safety team was at Acton Lions indoor pool Thursday afternoon. Ken McCord and Kym Martin gave a demonstration with their canoe.



John McLean, RR 2 Rockwood, signs up for Acton Minor Hockey for the first time ever with help from Dale Billington and Jean McPhail, his mother Jean looks on.



Victoria Muspratt of RR 1 Acton was one of several Esqueping Pony Club members to compete in the Western Ontario Regional D Rally Sunday at Caledon Hunt Club. She rode Finnius Finn.

## Town aids fall fair

Once again Halton Hills will help the Acton Agricultural Society with the fall fair on September 18, 19 and 20. Monday council approved loaning the fair 30 rolls of snow fence and 350 stakes; a garbage packer for the Prospect Park cleanup will be available with the fair paying the labor cost; permission was granted for temporary signs to go up on roads leading into Acton directing people to the fair; and the Agricultural Society will be responsible for paying for repairs to any damages to the park turf.

A report from engineer Robert Austin noted this year's requests for assistance are the same as with past fairs and "no problems were experienced." Council also decided the parks and recreation director, engineer and an official of the Agricultural Society will tour the park before the fair to establish the condition of the grounds and before any repair work is done after the fair there will be another joint tour.

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Stacey Sproule aims her bow and arrow in the Summer Day Camp last week at Prospect Park.



Failing for mianows at Prospect Park is Mark Bergeron, who attended the Summer Playground Day Camp.



Shelly Russell, 9, gets painted by Rhonda Kavanagh, 5, during the fun at MAD camp at Prospect Park last week.



Clean-up time... Edward Kavanagh, 10, doesn't fool around when it comes to cleaning after having a paint fight last week during Mad camp.

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