

Acton BIA board opposes arcades bylaw change

The Acton Business Improvement Area (BIA) board of management is going to send a letter to Halton Hills opposing a change in the arcades regulatory bylaw which would permit these businesses to locate in the BIAs only.

As the bylaw is now written no arcade could locate in Acton because it wouldn't be the required 300 metres away from a residence or a church. Last Wednesday the BIA board met and the next day members Paul Nielsen and Henry Stachyra confirmed the board is opposed to the change. Stachyra said board members have heard from many downtown merchants who are opposed to arcades being located there, as well as customers.

He noted there has been an application to the municipality to set up an arcade in the old AB building.

Merchants feel downtown is too small for more arcades, Stachyra said. Such a business could create a loitering problem, though all arcade patrons can't be characterized as "undesirables." He said 25 boy scouts going to an arcade could still block downtown Acton's small sidewalks.

Stachyra said the BIA needs the support of the public and other groups in Acton in their opposition to the proposed bylaw change.

Business people "are down on it," Nielsen said of the proposed bylaw change.

He noted Acton parents are concerned about the loitering and vandalism which has taken place downtown this summer.

Arcades are a "legitimate business" and have a

place in the community but with traffic and people congestion, downtown isn't the place. Nielsen noted there is already one arcade downtown.

Another BIA board member, Larry Greaves, said merchants shouldn't be put in the position of dictating where businesses locate, that is a job for the politicians.

The BIA needs to know "what advantage is there in changing the bylaw."

There are more "beneficial" uses to the community for the old AB building, he added.

Salvation Army

Funding approved for new Citadel

Financing for the new Halton Hills Salvation Army Citadel to be built on Mill St. East in Acton has been approved.

Envoy Douglas Vale said in an interview this week the project, which was announced last January, has moved a step closer to being started.

He explained the Territorial Finance Committee has approved the funding for the nearly \$300,000 church facility.

The architectural plans have now been sent to Lt. Col. William Kerr of the Property Section for approval. Envoy Vale expects tenders will be called for the project in September.



Miss Acton Fall Fair, Cindy McGilloway, will be vying with over 100 other girls from fairs around Ontario for the coveted title of Miss CNE-Queen of the Fairs and Sweetheart of the fairs at the opening of the Ex today. This is the 11th annual pageant. Saturday night she tried out her speech about her year as Miss Acton for the home folks at the Acton Agricultural Society appreciation night dance at Branch 197. See story inside today's paper on her remarks.

More study of Beardmore chemical waste runoff

The Ontario Ministry of Environment directed Beardmore to have its consultants gather more data about chemical contamination of surface and ground water near the tannery.

The province received and reviewed a year's worth of studies this spring. Ministry and Beardmore officials were to sit down and discuss ways of solving the chemical contamination problems earlier this summer, but Ministry spokesman John Budz said in an interview this week their hydrologist wanted still more information. Budz explained once the new study is completed

he expects ministry and Beardmore officials will sit down towards the end of September or early October and "review the problems and see what can be done."

In May, after everyone concerned at the ministry except the Toronto ground water section had reviewed the report, Budz said chlorides were getting into the Black Creek and killing fish near the tannery and was also the chemical found in ground runoff posing a human health danger and he said the problem was very localized and fairly minor.

Repair Mill railway crossing for a week next month

by Gord Murray

Mill St. East at the railway crossing will be closed for about a week in mid-September while CN rebuilds the crossing.

Councillor Dave Whiting reported this week the long-awaited rebuilding of the rough crossing has been delayed because of a strike at the Belleville plant where rails are made and CN is way behind on its maintenance work.

He noted he has received numerous complaints about the poor condition of the crossing. Last winter a citizen raised the deplorable condition of the crossing at council drop in. Councillor Ross

Knechtel checked with the Town engineer and found CN had scheduled work for this summer. He also advised Halton Hills couldn't go in and fix up the crossing.

Engineering staff have been keeping in touch with CN all summer to make sure the work on the tracks isn't shelved.

Whiting noted the tracks CN use now aren't little sections but are tracks up to a quarter mile long.

When the work begins the old track will be ripped up, the road excavated, tracks re-laid and the crossing re-paved. Whiting noted the crossing has sunk and will be two inches higher after completion of the work.

The Acton Free Press

A Metroland Community Newspaper



One Hundred and Eighth Year—Issue 6

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1982

36 Pages—Thirty Cents

Trustee, parents concerned

No fencing between new school and lake

By Gord Murray
Free Press editor

Halton Separate School Board staff aren't planning to put up a fence between the back of the new St. Joseph's School property and Fairy Lake, but Trustee Irene McCauley thinks there should be a fence.

On August 3 at the property and planning committee meeting she raised the issue, but trustees decided a fence wasn't needed.

Last week this newspaper was contacted by a reader expressing concern about the lack of a fence on behalf of parents, pointing to the tragic double drowning at Fairy Lake earlier this summer as ample reason for a fence.

McCauley said she hasn't heard from parents, but was expecting she would at the next St. Joseph's Parents' Association meeting.

"I told them (trustees) that I will be backing the parents on this issue," she declared. The Halton Hills separate school trustee urges parents call her at 877-7359 or write to her at 6 Elena Crt., Georgetown, if they are concerned about the lack of a fence.

Board administrator John Birett confirmed there are no plans for a fence and felt there "is no grave danger for children." It is 200 to 300 feet from the back of the playground at the new school

on Mill St. West to the back of the site and Fairy Lake, he noted.

He said the conditions at the school will be much different than at the beach at Fairy Lake where two little boys drowned.

Birett suggested if children want to get out to Fairy Lake from St. Joseph's a fence won't stop them, they'll just climb it.

It is board policy that school property isn't fenced except where it abuts the backs of private residences. Open space areas aren't fenced.

Birett contended there are more hazardous conditions faced by children on their way to and from school every day, such as railway crossings and traffic, than a playground over 200 feet from Fairy Lake.

The parent who contacted the paper said a teacher on duty at recess wouldn't eliminate the danger of Fairy Lake being so close. It was also noted children will use the St. Joseph's playground after school hours.

McCauley said she had always been given to understand the back of the school site would be fenced.

She said she informed trustees one of the drowning victims attended St. Joseph's and she felt the lack of a fence presented a danger.



Last Thursday night, Camp Prospect children from Acton and Georgetown Newcombe, Heather Gage, Kevin Caswell and Ian Callaway put together their camped out at Blue Springs and here Vikki Callaway, Laurie Gillespie, Kim tent. Photo by DAN MCGILLOWAY.

Island mission for area man

An RR1 Acton man spent two weeks in the Philippines doing missionary work for the Kennedy Road Tabernacle.

John Kent, 29, is a sound engineer for the Tabernacle's radio program Rejoice. Tapes of the 15 minute show are sent to the Far Eastern Broadcasting Company (FEB) where they are broadcast to China and Russia.

According to Kent, the Philippines is the only place where signals are allowed to go out to those two communist countries.

The Brampton group's tapes are also heard in Japan, Australia, Malaysia and South America.

Kent was one of 18 church members to go on the mission on the FEB's 34th anniversary, leaving May 31 and arriving back home June 19. The purpose of the trip was for the Philippine people to meet the faces behind the voices they hear each day.

The trip took him to Hong Kong first, where he was amazed at the number of people living on Junka. Thousands of people, are born, raised and die on the floating homes and never know anything different exists in the world.

On June 5 the Canadian entourage arrived in Manila the largest city in the Philippines, and started their missionary crusade. They were booked engagements at the International Cultural Centre, Barrio Fiesta and the ministry to FEB staff, church and school engagements.

It was on to Legaspi, home of the world's most perfect cone-shaped volcano, Mayon, where they did live radio shows and other public rallies. The small provincial city of Bacolod was next on the agenda with a rally in a school auditorium and private homes.

Cebu, home of the managing director of FEB, was where another outdoor rally took place. Six to 10,000 people were expected to come out for the show.

On June 14 the group returned to Manila with a side trip to Paganjan Falls. The river up to the falls, Kent points out was where the famous river scene in the movie Apocalypse Now was filmed. June 16 had the group in Honolulu with a two day rest in Waikiki.

Even though Kent had worked in the shums in Vancouver, he had never witnessed anything like the streets in Hong Kong and the Philippines. In Canada, he said, the shums is a choice. Anyone has the chance to pull them-



John Kent

seives out of it. In the other places, he noticed, there is no other way of life.

Kent and a woman from his group decided to visit two children's hospitals while in Bacolod. The first one was more modern, where people who could afford to pay for the rooms would go. There were about 20 beds in one area, mostly filled with typhoid victims.

The next hospital was provincial. There were one or two nurses for every 100-200 patients, and quite often there were two children to a bed. In some of the wards, if they were filled up, the sick would be slipped under the beds so they wouldn't be overflowing into the hall.

Even though the group took great precautions on getting all the necessary shots before they left the country, one person had an amoeba and had to be given four blood transfusions.

Kent owes his trip to an anonymous donor. He explains he had already signed up for the trip, wanting to go desperately but did not have the \$3,000 needed.

He prayed and prayed that the money would come his way, he said. Then, one day, a donation had been made to the church in his name and he was able to go. Only one other person in the 18 also received an anonymous donation.

Kent hopes to return to live in the Philippines in a capacity with the FEB. All he needs is the financial support.

Doug Mason retires following long career on local hydro lines

by Helen Murray

After 35 years, two months and four days, Doug Mason is retiring from his post with the local hydro commission.

This Friday, Doug calls it quits on a career which has spanned numerous hydro commissions, and seen technology expand to better serve the community and make his job just a little bit easier.

Doug, until this Friday the meter superintendent for Halton Hills Hydro, has been a familiar sight around town since June 16, 1947, when the Acton commission of Charlie Hansen (chairman), Bob McArthur and Fred McCutcheon hired him. He was engaged to repair lines, climb poles, read meters "and whatever else needed done," Doug recalls.

Doug came to Acton after four years with Ontario Hydro's travelling gang. He was a greenhorn and was taught the linesman trade. However, his job took him from Windsor to the Ottawa Valley and sometimes he was gone for up to two weeks at a time. Doug realized this didn't make his wife and young family back in Rockwood very happy, so he jumped at the chance for a job in Acton. He left a job paying 44 cents an hour to come to the Acton job paying \$2,300 a year.

Charlie Wilson was the superintendent at the time, Doug remembers, with Jessie Walker and Jack McGeachie were in the office. Outside staff were Doug and Kerwin McPhail. Acton had a population of about 4,500 people at the time, with 13,000 volts being brought into town. Now he estimates, there are about 7,500 residents, with 44,000 volts being brought in.

On October 25, 1950, Charlie Wilson died, and the next month Doug was given his job, which he retained until 1980 when Acton Hydro ceased to exist and Halton Hills Hydro took over. For his added responsibilities in 1950, Doug was given a \$50 a year raise.

Over the past 35 years, Doug has seen many changes, besides the increased voltage coming into town. Transformers in the Willow Street



Doug Mason

station have been replaced and a new substation built on Queen St. Some of the larger industries have their own substations now, and staff now have papers.

Back in 1947, Acton Hydro had one truck which

was used for everything. Now, even before the regionalization of the commission, they had a fine fleet of trucks and other vehicles.

In 1952, Doug says, Mill Street services were ripped out and some placed underground, some went to feed the stores and homes from the back, thus improving the look of the street. Doug, and Leno Marzo and Doug Dawkins were hired about then to wire the new sewage disposal plant.

Also in 1952, Doug and Kerwin joined the Legion. Both are still members.

Over the years there have only been two employees who have stayed around for quite a while, Doug says. Dobbie Frizzell and Ken Hodgeson are both long time employees who Doug has worked with and become friends with. Both have worked for the Hydro for over 20 years.

Life was very busy for Doug. Besides his job as hydro superintendent, he was also a volunteer firefighter for 27 years, retiring on June 7, 1980. He was a member of the Y's Men's Club and the Masonic Lodge. Eventually he left the Y's Men's, but still maintains his memberships in the Masonic Lodge and the Legion.

(Continued on Page 8)

inside

Ed's Midgets won the Limehouse tourney. See page 9.

District news is on page 11.

Stan Matthews turns 80. Story and photo on page C5.

Doreen Uranick set a women's race mark. Story and photo on page 9.

17 streets want overnight parking. More on page 2.

Neighbors lodged a complaint with the police over noise from the Yugoslav Centre. Turn to page 6.

15 Sideroad repairs have been planned for some time. Details on page 5.

St. Joseph's School is really shaping up. See This Week Thru the Lens.

There will be a preliminary hearing into the theft of hides case in October. See page 2.



If last leaders make a good sale, we're ready for one.