

October 3 in Acton

# Rev. Clarke MacDonald, United Church Moderator will speak on global nuclear disarmament issue

The recently elected Moderator of the United Church of Canada, Rev. Clarke MacDonald, will be in Acton on Sunday October 3 to speak to the congregation of Trinity United Church and residents of Halton Hills about the nuclear disarmament issue.

Rev. MacDonald, 62, won his new post on the first ballot at the General Council in Montreal this past summer and was runner-up for moderator at the 1980 General Council.

He says the church "must get cracking" on nuclear disarmament and peace. "Everytime I look at these children at General Council or my own grandchildren, I wonder what is their future if this maniacal activity continues?" MacDonald says.

A recent "Profile" on the new Moderator from the Division of Communication of the United Church stated Rev. MacDonald believes in "commitment, evangelism and social action."

"He has what he calls 'a Christo-centric faith.' The Christian life, he maintains, puts Christ at the centre and all life revolves around obedience to him.

"Impatient with theological jargon and hair-splitting, he, nevertheless, believes that the coming of God in Christ is The Event in human history and the pivot of all genuine Christian action. This is what motivates him, whether he is preaching on grace or walking on a picket line for human rights.

"Rev. MacDonald was a pastor for a quarter of a century before taking responsibility as a Deputy Secretary in the Division of Mission in Canada and

as Secretary of the Office of Church in Society.

"Rev. MacDonald believes the Church must use the techniques of the '80s to communicate the Gospel as well as revive time honored practices. When he was minister at Saint Luke's in downtown Toronto for eight years, he could be seen on his 'soap box' in Allan Gardens Park defending his conviction against the attacks of communists, fascists, atheists, racists, and all kinds of right-wing 'Bible Thumpers.'"

"He is involved in world concerns. He is in frequent touch with government leaders about immigration, rights of native people, refugees, multi-national corporations and poverty. He has attended international conferences, travelled to the Middle East, to Eastern Europe, including the U.S.S.R., and taken a leading role in upholding human rights in Southern Africa and South America, as well as Eastern Europe. He was a United Church delegate to the Kirchentag in Germany and fraternal delegate to the East German Church in 1981.

Rev. MacDonald is convinced that there must be more sharing of the earth's resources—"unless something radical is done to close the gap between the rich and the poor, we are going to have a confrontation which will have disastrous results," he maintains.

"He is committed to work for peace. "Our military expenditures on this planet are an affront to God and could be the prelude to the death march for this part of the Universe." He is also a total

abstainer and a non-smoker, but he is tolerant of those whose views and habits are at variance with his. He has often visited taverns, in fact, and describes some of them as "crummy joints." He thinks the government should not license them unless they measure up to high standards and are less depressing to the lower income people who frequent them.

"Rev. MacDonald was born July 6, 1920, in the farming community of Green Hill, Nova Scotia. He said that he owes an unpayable debt to the United Church congregation of 25 families where he was brought up. "My parents were my first, and among my best teachers in applied Christianity." He attended public and high school in Pictou County and went to Dalhousie University and then to Pine Hill Divinity Hall in Halifax where he was ordained in 1943. Pine Hill granted him an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1969. For 15 years he held pastorates in Cape Breton, then moved to downtown Toronto Saint Luke's where he stayed for eight years.

"In 1971 he was appointed Secretary of the former Board of Evangelism and Social Service which a year later was integrated into the Division of Mission in Canada in which he still, although presently Moderator of the United Church maintains the title and some of the responsibilities of a Deputy Secretary. He is Secretary of the Office of Church in Society and Chairman of Project Ploughshares, as well as serving on other Inter-Church Coalitions and the Canadian Council of Churches."



Rev. Clarke MacDonald, recently elected moderator of the United Church of Canada, will speak at Trinity United Church in Acton on October 3 on the issue of global nuclear disarmament.



Tom Shepard

## More demand for recreation says director

Elected officials come and go at the whim of the electorate, but the Town staff who keep the wheels turning remain.

This series on the various department heads will introduce them and their responsibilities to the readers. This week we interview Recreation Director Tom Shepard.

The big man at the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department stands well over six feet tall. As Director of Recreation for the Town of Halton Hills Tom Shepard is in charge of overseeing all programs offered by his department.

"It's never a boring job," he claims. "There are always new programs and sports starting, so there are always new people to meet."

After graduating from Fanshawe College in 1972, Shepard worked at the London Recreation Department for four years, before going to Walkerton to work. Almost three years ago, he came to Halton Hills.

"My experience in both urban and rural centres makes it a good place for me," he said.

He added that he recognizes the differences between Acton and Georgetown, but still believes strongly in Halton Hills. "I like to think that this department tries to suggest Halton Hills, rather than Acton, Georgetown, or Esqueping," he said. "We try very hard to make Halton Hills a reality, if you will." Still, he said he "realizes how hard it is to lose an identity."

The user pay system, initiated by Shepard, is something he is proud of. "The interesting part of the job was literally starting over with the user pay system for facilities."

Asked about the opponents who resent the system, Shepard admitted it is frustrating. "But that's also part of a municipality growing up," he maintains. "Obviously I believe in it."

The user pay system is just one of the ways the recreation field has altered in the past few years. "It has become a business," he said, simply. "I think we've progressed in the last few years. Today's lifestyle which reflects health and fitness has placed more demands on the recreation department. People demand more without realizing it costs."

Recreation, to Shepard is no longer seen as just a "soft service" anymore.

Asked if his role hasn't changed to a business administrator, he agreed. "The progression of recreation from leisure has made it a business."

One of the brighter spots in his three years, was being part of the beginning of the Cultural Centre. "There has been a lot of little satisfactions, like reorganizing the department, but I was really happy to be part of bringing in the Cultural Centre."

One of the things that really bugs Shepard is the lack of one large building for his staff. "It's a major chore to get together," he said, adding that he can't just go across the hall to speak to someone. "You have to get in your car and drive over—it's quite an inconvenience."

In the future, he hopes to have a central administration building so his staff are not "spread across the Town."

Using other people's facilities is a constant frustration to Shepard and his staff. The school board and the recreation department have joint use of all the facilities, but the recreation people are not responsible for maintaining the facility.

Problems occur, according to Shepard, because of this "lack of direct control." He said many complaints come to the recreation department about schedule problems. As the school has first choice in choosing times for the schools, a recreation course could be cancelled. "So we take the flak," he summed up.

A time that's "no fun" for him and his department is, not surprisingly, budget time. "There's a certain amount of static when budget time comes around," he said with a smile. "I submit my budget to council. In the past, the council has been very fair, but it is a long, frustrating process."

He mentioned the upgrading of Halton Hills parks as the big improvement done by his department. "The parks have improved dramatically since I've been here." He points to signs posted and new playgrounds as part of the park upgrading.

"The Town has too much green space not to take advantage of it," he said.

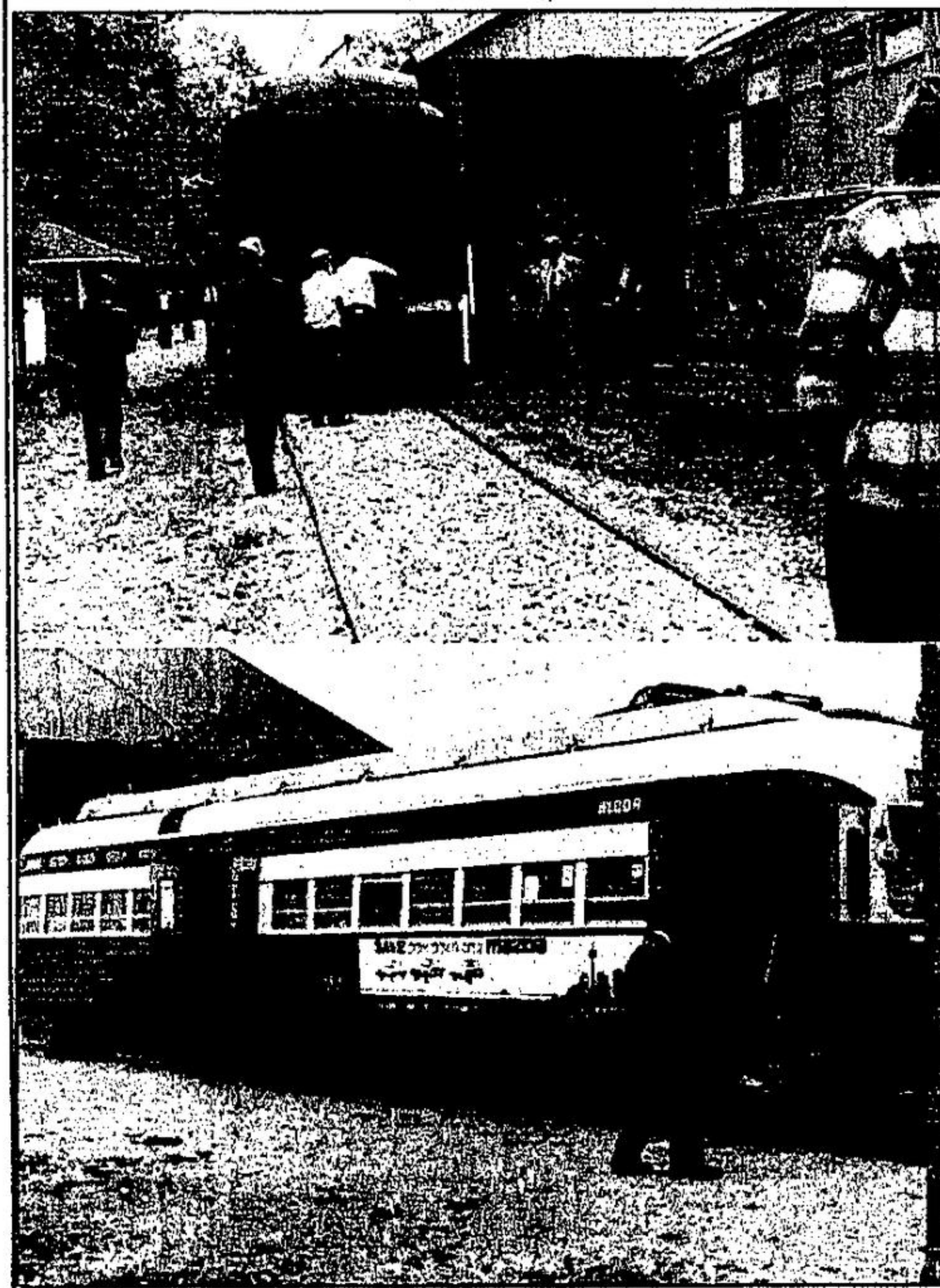
# newsmakers

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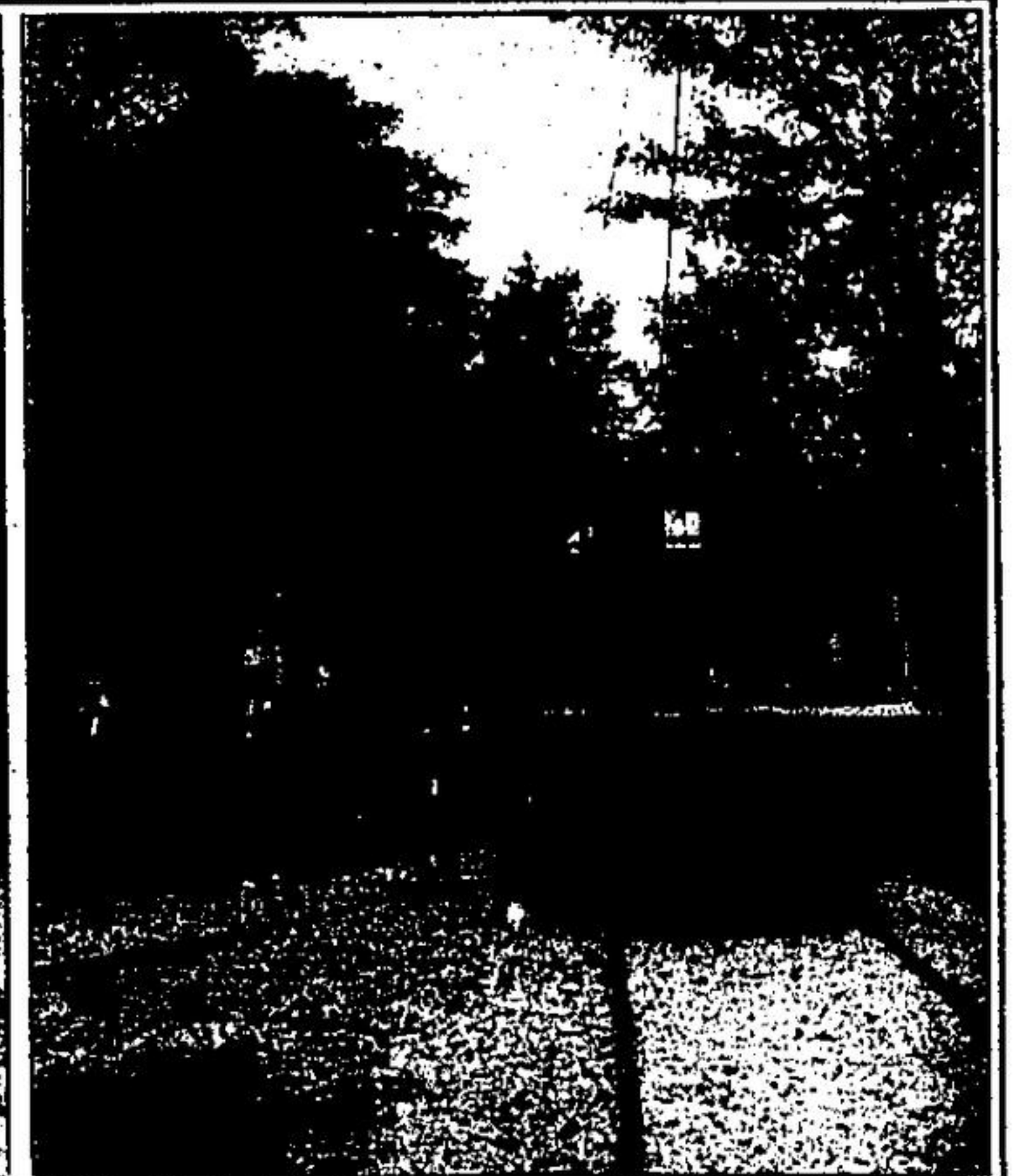
Wednesday, September 29, 1982



## Halton County Radial Railway "All aboard!"



One of the most popular attractions in North Halton is the Halton County Radial Railway Museum in North Nassagaweya. Sunday there was a trolley extravaganza and lots of people came out to ride the wide variety of passenger as well as work cars in various stages of restoration. And there were lots of unique cars to see at both the start and finish of each ride. Visitors could even see workmen constructing a new loop at the end of the line. Conductors told passengers about the historic cars they were riding on; they ranged from an electric railway car which ran from London to Lake Erie on the line developed by Sir Adam Beck, founder of Ontario Hydro, to old Toronto street cars. They also got to see electric rail enthusiasts like Bob Johns operating the controls.



## No raise likely for trustees

There may be no raise for trustees on the Halton Board of Education.

Noel Cooper, Burlington, of the trustee remuneration committee told trustees Thursday evening it would be fair and equitable to keep their annual honorarium at \$7,200 for the next three years, where it has remained since 1974.

Cooper pointed out had the board members been receiving annual raises, their salaries would now be at \$15,000 according to the consumer index.

Trustees will vote on the matter at the next board meeting, next week.

Acton representative Arlene Bruce told the trustees she felt the committee was "sensitive and responsive to the problems of Halton taxpayers."

Bill Lawson, Milton, said he wanted to chastise those board and municipal members who gave themselves hefty raises "at not taking it easy (with raises)." He emphasized the honorarium was not intended to be the sole supporter (of a family).

Anne Fairfield, trustee for Oakville, pointed out the recent provincial government wage restraints of five per cent results in the other boards having their self-imposed 42 per cent raises rolled back to five per cent.

## Tribute paid Betty Walker

Halton Board of Education observed a minute's silence in memory of Esqueping Trustee Betty Walker who died September 5 following a lengthy illness.

In a tribute to Mrs. Walker, Florence Meares, vice chairman of the board said:

"Since our last meeting, the Halton Board of Education has been saddened by the loss of a friend and colleague Trustee Betty Walker, whose untimely death occurred on September 5.

"Betty was a social worker by profession. Through her work with young people at the Vanier Correctional Centre she became deeply concerned with school drop-outs. This concern motivated her to run for trustee, representing Halton Hills.

"During her term of office she served on the Early School Leaving Committee, the Salary Committee, Staff Board and was the board representative with the Halton Conservation Authority. In her own area, she had been very active in organizing a parent volunteer program at the secondary school level.

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