

## Stone School is up for sale

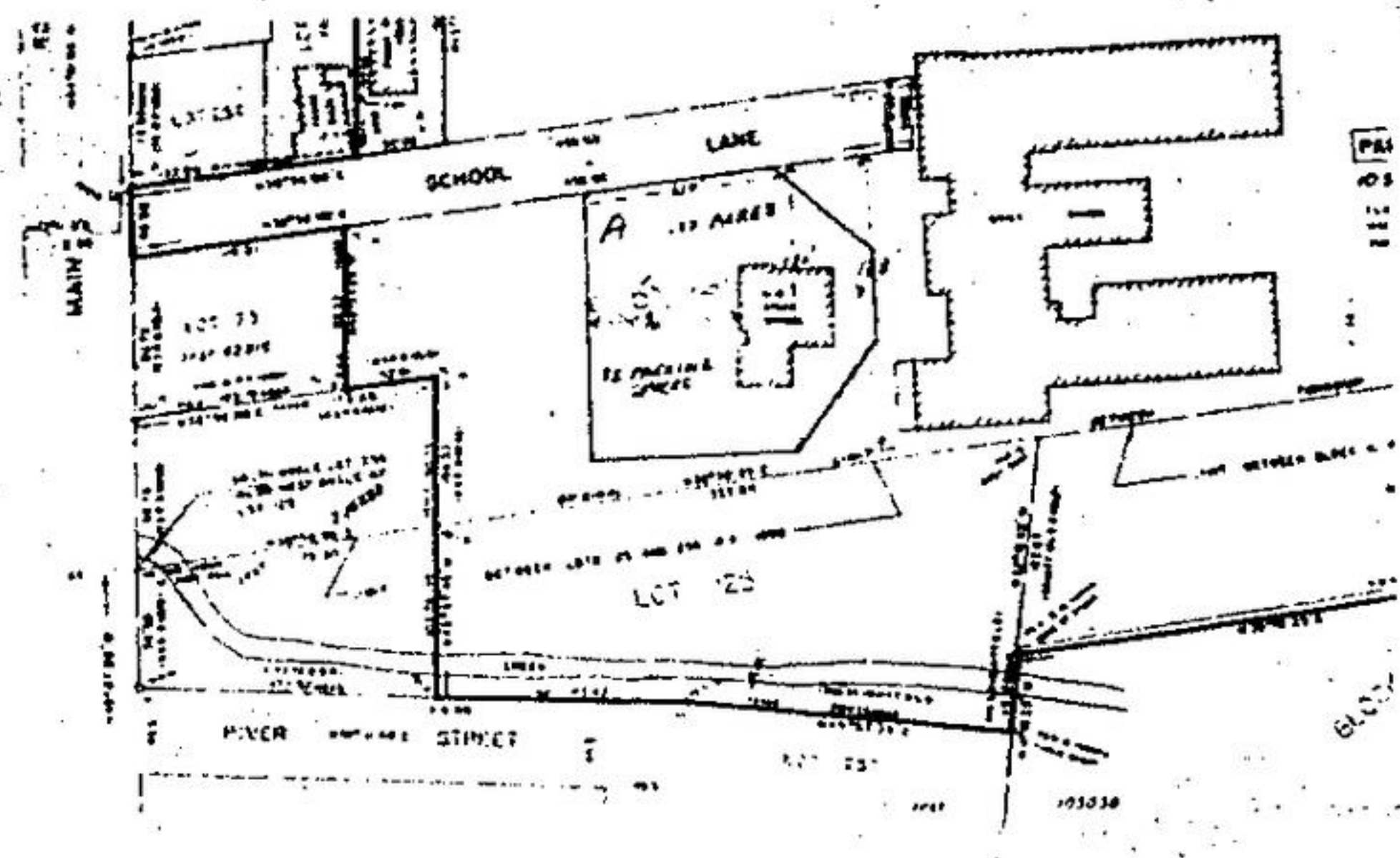
The Stone School will soon be placed on the real estate market.

Halton Board of Education last Wednesday evening voted to sell the building and the land after it was declared surplus property.

Acton trustee Arlene Bruce wanted to know what the board would do with the remaining land west of the property to be severed, since an irregular shaped parcel was being created. Superintendent of Business and Finance Barb Moore explained the severance as outlined on the map was not yet confirmed, and would be negotiated with any interested parties.

Newly sworn in trustee Dick Howitt, of Esquesing, wondered if anyone had contacted the Halton Hills library board, which has the abutting property. Mrs. Moore said no.

Any designation on the school as historical property would not affect the price. Georgetown representative Betty Fisher was told by Moore.



A site plan showing the Stone School and surrounding property which will be severed from the rest of the Halton Board of Education property on School Lane. The board plans to sell the old building and land, and according to a policy passed this fall will only sell it at full market value.

## Optimist youths named

Carolyn Gibson and Scott Nowlan, Acton High School students, have been selected Optimist's Youths of the Year, by teachers and staff.

Dave Hall, of the Optimist Club, explained teachers submit the names of students they feel worthy of the award, and from that list of name one male and one female student are chosen by the school. Participation in school, community and church activities is taken into consideration, Hall said.

Carolyn Gibson is a grade 12 student who is involved in a number of projects both in school and the community. She works hard in the Beavers organization and participates in the Boar's Head dinner each Christmas. She is also a Sunday school teacher and a member of the choir at Trinity United Church, and took part in the production Cool in the Furnace. At school, Carolyn is president of the band and has been involved in two musical productions (Superman and Charlie Brown). She is stage manager of this year's production "Done to Death." Last semester, the 17-year-old was in the co-op program and spent time at the Halton Developmental Centre (for handicapped children) and M.Z. Bennett School.

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Carolyn Gibson and Scott Nowlan were named Optimist Youths of the Year.

# The Acton Free Press



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Santa is consulting an old road map early to make sure he can find Acton on November 27, because of the fact Acton's not on the new Ontario road maps. Santa Claus parades are always colorful affairs, as the folks on this Actario

float from a parade a couple of years back demonstrate. A parade entry form is in today's paper, see page C4.

## St. Joseph's opening set for December 15

Acton's newest school, St. Joseph's, will be officially opened in a spectacular night of ceremonies and entertainment on December 15.

Trustee Irene McCauley said planning for the evening is still being done, but it promises to be one of the biggest and best school openings ever staged by the Halton Separate School Board.

Bishop Paul Reding will be on hand to speak at the official opening as well as tour the school blessing each room. Bishop Reding will be escorted for the evening by the Fourth Degree Honor Guard from the Oakville Knights of Columbus.

All parents and members of St. Joseph's parish are invited to attend the evening. As well former

St. Joseph's staff will be invited to attend, including the school's first principal Sean Briggs.

The long list of dignitaries will include trustees and board officials, the mayor and councillors. MPP and MPs, etc.

McCauley said Fathers Leo Speagle and James Smye will be invited to return to Acton and of course Father Ralph Diodati will be on hand.

She added all the children will participate in the evening by presenting an entertainment program.

There will be an official ribbon cutting ceremony and refreshments will be served.

McCauley added she will be meeting with principal Fred Springer to iron out more details of the program expected to last two or three hours.

## Break-ins down, — Don't know why

Police officials appear surprised that the number of break-ins have dropped this year in Halton Hills compared to last year. There have been 31 less break-ins in 1982.

Crime Prevention Officer Scott Pringle maintained there was no "pat answer" to account for the decrease other than people are more aware of crime and are protecting their valuables better.

Regional Crime Prevention Co-ordinator, Peter Whittaker, said the drop in break-ins represents a trend across the region which he says is "surprising in a way because Hamilton and Peel have gone up."

Whittaker said it was "hard to put a finger" on the reason for the decrease, but speculated it could be a combination of the crime prevention programs and detectives, effectiveness.

But Staff Sgt. Les Graham of the Halton Regional Police District 1 on Guelph St. maintained that break-ins continue to plague his criminal investigations department. "There are always a number of break-ins around here... no doubt they are a problem," he said.

The District 1 Division on Guelph St. has a 35 per cent clearance rate (success rate) for break-ins, which Whittaker claims is "higher than the national average."

"It shows we're on top of things more," he added.

He suggested due to the economy people are staying home, lessening the chance of break-ins.

Homes were broken into 10 times less in Georgetown this year, and six times less in Acton. However, businesses were broken into 20 times more in Acton, but were decreased in Georgetown.

"Businesses of course are more lucrative," said

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## Warning: will ultimately fall into disuse Y needs volunteers, funds

The town hall isn't the only old building some citizens want to restore, a group dedicated to the Murray Memorial YMCA building have already started refurbishing efforts.

Y board president Doug Leys, board member Gord Chapman and Y staffer Eileen Dix took time out from working with a crew of volunteers painting the gym a recent Saturday afternoon to discuss their efforts to give the old building a facelift.

They noted the community has a fine building in the Y albeit in need of repairs and sprucing up, and it isn't being fully utilized.

The Y board needs not just financial support to turn things around, but also volunteers to help with the work. The Y receives no government or public funding and it has survived all these years on donations and the efforts of committed volunteers.

Back when the Y began and the Y board and Y's Men's Club were the "things" to belong to in Acton, both bodies were filled with prominent citizens. "It was the thing to be part of the Y."

However, with service clubs and other organizations being born as the community grew, the Y board and Y's Men's club have fallen on hard times, both need members and the building needs to be better utilized by the community and fixed up.

A step in the right direction in turning the Y around was the hiring of Dix a couple of years ago, as the first staffer in two or three decades. She's bolstered the Y programs, this year they reached their goal of \$8,000 in registration fees (though most of that money goes towards operating the programs and paying instructors). There will be about 360 people take part in Acton Y programs in

1982. While registration for other recreation programs have slumped, the Y has gone up.

But that progress hasn't been enough. Currently there are about 15 volunteers working on the modest beginning to building refurbishing, including about seven or eight active members of the Y board.

One financial setback for the Y was the board was forced to take out a loan to buy a new furnace and have a new roof installed. Approximately 25 per cent of the annual budget of about \$20,000 has been going towards paying the loan. Approximately \$7,000 remains to be paid off.

Y officials feel the organization and building have a lot going for it, but the community hasn't been taking enough advantage of the facility. For example its now brightly colored gym is the only one available to the public during the day and it can be rented by the public.

The board is planning a drive to get new Y members and members would be able to use the premises at any time, seven days a week. Being a Y member would be inexpensive and a great way to participate in a variety of activities.

Besides painting the gym, they want to fix up the front hallway, spruce up the exterior, renovate the washrooms, insulate the building, extend the basement rooms for more space for weight lifting and boxing and install a handicapped ramp.

They note people in Acton are always talking about getting young people off the streets and doing something, the Y is the perfect place. The Mug, a hit with local teens, isn't currently operating because adult supervisors are needed, it should get going again in the New Year.

Besides planning a membership drive, the Y is hoping to do public fund raising, funds must be donated so they can secure a Wintario grant to help pay for renovation.

Besides needing members for the Y board, Y's Men and Y's Menettes clubs, they are looking for about 30 volunteers to help with repairs and programs.

The Y was built in the spring of 1934 and there has never been a facility or services provided in Acton quite like the Y. Through rentals and program fees they have tried to keep the old building and programs going on a break-even basis. But with ever increasing utility costs and the costs

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Jean Phillips, Ian Boyle, Carol Leys and Dereen Cooper are just a few of the volunteers busy these days refurbishing the Acton Y. Here they give the gym a bright new look.

**inside**

Police chase ends in Acton. See police beat on page 3.

An Acton woman's life was threatened in a Georgetown motel Saturday. Turn to page 3.

Band stranger is making big noises. More on page 6.

Sabres have gone 12 games without a win. See page B1.

RR2

If goose down is the world's best insulation... how come they fly south?



Two homes on Church St. were demolished last week to make way for a new downtown off-street parking lot. Halton Hills bought the land for a reported approximately \$120,000, with the Acton Business Improvement Area kicking in \$75,000 from its provincial government loan of \$150,000 to help with property acquisition and construction of the lot. The BIA will also pay to maintain the lot. The BIA has 10 years to repay the loan at one per cent interest a year.