



Acton High School band director Dave Sale offered welcoming remarks before the Char-Lan High School band, choir and jazz band entertained at a concert Thursday night at AHS. The AHS band also played and the two bands combined for finale numbers. The audience at the show heard a variety of excellent music from pop to

classical. The Char-Lan musicians from Williamstown in eastern Ontario were here for a band exchange and were billeted with Acton band members. They were also treated to a tour of the local sights. Next month our band visits Williamstown.

Sea Rovers revived in Acton

After an absence of almost 45 years, Acton once again has a Sea Rovers Club.

The Second Acton Rovers was formed recently by a group in the Trinity United Church, initiated by Peter McKeown. It is an interdenominational organization, accepting males and females 17 to 23 years of age.

The First Acton Sea Rovers is associated with the Royal Canadian Legion, Acton, and was under the leadership of Billy Middleton, according to Peter. It fell by the wayside many years ago, until Peter decided to organize something to do for those "who never have anything to do."

"Service" is the new group's motto, which in the Scouting movement directly follows Venturers, except that it is co-educational. Alex Fishbein is the group's advisor, with five other members, one of whom is a

woman. Another young woman will be joining shortly, Peter pointed out with more by the summer.

The group meets Monday evenings at Peter's home at 170 Churchill Rd. N. They plan to have fund raising drives, and do activities such as repelling, white water canoeing and kayaking, hang gliding, etc. A scuba course will be offered in the fall.

No previous experience in the Scouting movement is necessary, Peter notes. In fact, a few of the members were actually members of the High School Outers Club. In a few weeks, the group will be heading to Brougham, Ontario for the Rover and Ranger Olympics at Greenwood Conservation area. They will be participating in car rallies, games, etc.

A few of the Acton members will be heading to Kentucky this summer where

Rovers from all over the world will be meeting.

As with all new organizations, the Second Acton Sea Rovers is in need of financial donations. Peter himself has shown he really believes in the group by donating tents and other camping equipment for their weekend outing. Any other donations would be greatly appreciated, he says.



Charter members of the Second Acton Sea Rovers are John Ancker, Peter McKeown, Gwyneth Gibb, Rick Henley, and Jeff Willmott.

Leave plan in jeopardy

Halton Board of Education recently received a memorandum from the Elgin County Board of Education noting that one of their teachers applied for unemployment insurance benefits while on this leave. His request was turned down, but he appealed, and in February a Board of Referees rescinded the decision, and as a result, "it would appear that all teachers who voluntarily take a Deferred Salary / Leave will receive unemployment insurance benefits."

The future of the deferred leave program for Halton teachers is in serious jeopardy, thanks to an Elgin County board teacher.

The plan allows a teacher to authorize the board to set aside a portion of his or her salary for a number of years in order to allow the teacher to take a year's leave of absence. During that time, the teacher will be paid out of that money, which has been set aside in a separate bank account.

Elgin chairman Robert McCaig stated his board "strongly objects to this decision"

and pointed out unemployment insurance was never designed to provide benefits while a teacher is on a leave of absence.

McCaig has urged other Ontario School Boards to make the Ministry of Education, and the Minister responsible for Employment and Immigration for Canada, aware of their objections to this teacher's payment.

Burlington trustee Elaine Riehm said this man's actions puts the entire program in serious jeopardy.

Trustees voted unanimously to support Elgin's stand.

In a trustee's notice of motion later in the meeting, Oakville's Len Crozier proposed that "approval of new entrants into the deferred leave plan be withheld until the question of teachers being able to collect UIC benefits while on leave is resolved, and that the plan be cancelled if it is ruled that the teacher can collect UIC benefits."

This will be dealt with at a later meeting.

Volunteer firefighters save, total fire budget is \$533,278

If Halton Hills didn't have a volunteer fire department the cost of having a paid department would be substantial and the new Town budget would be "unrecognizable".

In bringing down the 1983 budget Councillor Ross Knochel praised the value of the volunteer fire department in not only protecting the community well but also playing such a big role in keeping taxes down.

Running the Acton and Georgetown fire brigades as well as administering the department and fire prevention will cost \$533,278 this year.

Honorariums and benefits for the volunteer district chiefs, district deputy chiefs, captains, lieutenants, drivers, district fire prevention officers and volunteer firefighters will eat up \$127,784 of the budget. In addition uniforms and other clothing for the volunteers is expected to cost \$9,939 while mileage and meals, medicals, education, training, conventions and seminars, etc. will cost \$11,794.

Renting fire hydrants from the region will cost the fire department \$49,492 while various supplies are budgeted for \$35,360. Repairs and maintenance of equipment and insurance rings the till at \$27,722.

For the Acton fire hall the Town will spend \$7,881 on cleaning and maintenance supplies and water, heat and hydro. Repairs and maintenance of the building, insurance and contracted services will cost \$9,378.

The Town plans to have an "air economizer" installed at a cost of \$2,100 at the

Acton fire hall. In addition \$1,612 will be spent on emergency lighting for the apparatus room and an overhead projector and screen is expected to cost \$669. A chalkboard is budgeted to cost \$80.

Town fire department administration and fire prevention and building inspections is budgeted to cost \$132,368. Wages and benefits of fire department staff account for \$111,610 while uniforms and office supplies will cost \$3,687. Postage, telephone, advertising, printing, photocopying, consulting fees, education, training, conventions, seminars, car allowances and mileage, meals, medicals, seminars and conventions, memberships and subscriptions is pegged at \$14,743.

A camera and flash, cassette tape recorder, and display apparatus for the fire prevention branch is expected to cost \$1,822. Shelving for the fire department administration office will be purchased at an estimated cost of \$500.

The Town plans to spend \$10,457 on new fire department communications equipment and the entire communications operation has been pegged at a cost of \$46,804 for wages and benefits, office supplies, telephone and repairs and maintenance of equipment. In addition \$1,935 will be spent on operating the dispatch centre in Georgetown.

Operating and maintaining the fire trucks and other vehicles is budgeted to cost \$32,091.

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