

\$18,900 for entire reconstruction

Cameron St. deadline nears

What started out as a request for only two curbs by residents of Cameron St. in Acton who wanted the water to drain into Fairy Lake has now become a possible total reconstruction of the street—including storm sewers and a road surface—to cost approximately \$18,900.

At their Monday meeting,

the work's committee heard that a monolithic sidewalk and curb on the east side of the street would cost \$3,900. Curbs and gutters on both sides would cost \$4,500 and complete reconstruction \$18,900.

Town engineer Robert Austin told the works committee that reconstruction is so

costly because the road must be excavated approximately two feet to put it below the surface of the lawns and allow the water to drain. Half of that amount would be a subsidy from the region, he added.

As the works committee figured it, it would be better to spend an extra \$5,000 over and above the cheapest of the three

options open to them and see the job done properly, once and for all.

But there remained one snag in the plans. According to Austin, Cameron St. is slated to receive two inches of asphalt before the first of July and the region is paying for it and has already approved the contractor's tender. The cost of the asphalt is \$2,700.

Councillor Ern Hyde, who supported Councillor Joe Hirst's recommendation that total reconstruction be done, wondered if the town could get a \$2,700 credit from the region and hold off on the asphalt?

The committee members agreed that it would be unwise



ACTON HIGH SCHOOL CAR WASH. Heather Reed spent Saturday washing cars along with other member of her history class who are using the money they raise to visit Boston, Washington and Plymouth. The students depart this Friday.

It's a big world beyond Acton high

Life is a lot different after high school and if you're continuing your education you won't be nearly as prepared for university as you ought to be.

That's basically the message a number of former students of Acton High School told students there at a Grad's Day last Friday. According to Sue Bruns of the guidance department at Acton High School, it took three attempts and over 100 letters to graduates to finally come up with 17 who showed.

She welcomed them back at about noon in the auxiliary cafeteria, got everybody introduced, told them what to expect from the school's students and got the lot organized into groups so that students would have a chance to draw from a wide range of experiences.

After that, she led them over to the main cafeteria and got them and a large group of students mingling before explaining how the afternoon was to go. The grads were split into groups of four and went to classrooms upstairs.

One grad was heard to say he couldn't remember where room 24 was anymore, but after a few moments the groups were located and the grads began to spill the beans on what they had learned since leaving the old alma mater.

Part of what they said was directed to teachers sitting in the on swap session. When Miss Burns asked the grads to "tell us the good stuff, too," a great roar of laughter arose from grads, teachers and students alike.

Mark Rowe, who is a history major at the university of Guelph, told the students he was not well prepared in English and that his situation at the Guelph campus was not exceptional among freshmen. He said up until getting to the university he had only heard of the works of Keats and Wordsworth but not read them. In high school there had been no exposure at all to "Classical English," he said.

Brenda Kingmill from Sault College agreed with Mark. Tests given by the college in vocabulary, spelling and grammar resulted in failing grades for freshmen, she said. However, she added that the high school's math and science courses prepared the students well.

For Carol Somerville, who graduated in 1973 then took a two-year course in Agricultural Business Management at Centralia College of Agricultural Technology, "the hardest part from here to college was exams."

There were more exams in high school when she attended,

Carol said. She works for the ministry of agriculture in Hastings County, near Belleville.

Carol Patterson, who introduced herself as "the senior citizen of the group"—she graduated in 1972—said she was not yet finished her academic career. After getting a degree this year from the University of Guelph in Child Studies, she plans to go on to Teachers College at Western University.

Once you leave the high school and enter a university, she told the students, "you have to put yourself out more." Universities and colleges are very large, she said, in comparison with Acton high where it is "easy to know all the students and faculty."

"The biggest thing is to be involved not only in the curriculum but also in extra-curricular activities," she said. "A lot of jobs require experience and book learning doesn't give you that."

Emily Hodgson, who this year graduated from a one year course as a legal secretary at Sheridan College, graduated from Acton High School in 1975.

She said at college "you have to cope with different problems and with meeting different people. Coping with so many different things makes you capable of doing it," she said.

Suzanne Kamel and Barbara Reed both graduated from Acton High in 1975 and went to Queen's University in Kingston for a four-year programme in nursing studies.

Suzanne said: "You notice a difference in the work." At university there is "no spoonfeeding. You sit down and learn things."

Exams are tougher at university, she said and at this point Barbara backed her up. "We weren't prepared for the exams," Barbara said. University students were under more pressure when a year's work counted in a single exam, she added.

Suzanne said she felt she was well prepared in sciences but that many at the university had better backgrounds in physics and chemistry. Instructors at university "assumed the background was there," she said. Some classes contained as many as 400, she added, where students listened, not to a professor but to a tape recording.

Students need to know how to write fast to get the notes and to complete the exams in the time limit, she said.

But university is not all work, she added, especially when living in a co-ed dorm. She told students that on her floor, by the end of the year the

men were using the women's washroom and the women were using the men's. It got so that you used the bathroom nearest your room, she said.

Tineke Vryenhoek graduated from Acton High School in 1975 and is working towards her Bachelor of Arts in physical education at York University in Toronto.

"There's a drastic change in the amount of homework," she said. "All you do is eat, sleep and do homework. It's kind monotonous."

Tineke also had some criticism of the semester system, saying that for grade 13 it is "unappropriate."

"You forget by the time you go to work what you learned in the first semester," Tineke said. She recommended that subjects be studied all year.

Debbie Bousefield drew from her own experiences to advise students. She suggested that if students were not really sure what they wanted to do after graduating from high school, they should go out and work for a year before deciding.

Debbie said she worked at Halton Centennial Manor for a year after graduating from high school in 1974. She has recently completed the first of a three-year course leading to a Bachelor of Religion Education at the Ontario Bible College in Toronto.

Rick Rochel, a math major at the University of Guelph, said that one of the things he was not prepared for at the university was the multiple choice questions.

"They're harder than one might expect," said Rick, who graduated from high school in 1975.

"You feel so small when you walk onto the university," Rick said. At university you are just one of 10,000 students but after the first week or so, people start talking to you and you feel more relaxed, he said.

Vernon Hitchcock studies accounting at Humber College in Toronto.

"It's really a great change," he said, after graduating from high school in 1975. "You're on your own. Instead of the teacher coming to you, like in high school, you have to go to the teacher."

But not all of the grads who returned had gone to to universities or colleges.

Charlene Hubbell, who graduated in 1975, works as a financial statement typist in Acton. She felt she could tell students "a bit about applying for a job and how to write a resume."

In those all important job interviews, she said the best thing was to "be your-

self...have all your facts straight...and don't forget the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your references."

Wynne Kroes graduated from high school in 1975 and took a job. She told students she did not have any problems doing the work in an office.

"There's more social life in working," she said, "and there's no homework on the job. The work stays in the office."

Mary Watson graduated from high school in 1975 and went to Sheridan College to attend a course in animal care but quit, she said. "I didn't enjoy it," she said. "It wasn't what I thought it was," but

even though she got a job as a shoe salesman, it was not the end of studying, or exams, she said. She is studying by correspondence the techniques of being a shoe salesman.

After being away from school for a year, Mary said: "It's beautiful. I just like the working world. I like to be working."

Library in Acton. The programme is sponsored by the Halton Hills Library Board.

Norm said the demonstration was particularly useful to those who were interested in buying a canoe because they had an opportunity to try out different kinds.

The two men also demonstrated the safest way of picking up a canoe, which can weigh from 80 to 150 pounds, launching the craft and getting it on and off the roof of the car.

Can you canoe?

"A canoe is one of the safest crafts you can find, if you know what you are doing," said John Malcolmson, who with Norm Cromwell demonstrated on the windswept shores of Fairy Lake Saturday afternoon.

John began the informal session with a discussion on paddles. Ash wood makes the best paddles, he said. The paddles should be "supple" for extra propulsion, "when putting ash to it." For those who were new to canoeing and the special terms used in the

sport, he said "putting the ash to it" meant when the canoeist was trying to make speed.

John, who makes his own paddles during the winter and thereby saves some money, did not recommend varnishing the handles because blisters are raised on the canoeist's hands. Although the varnish helped preserve the paddles longer, linseed oil was just as good, he said.

The purpose of the practical demonstration was to back up a talk session held two weeks earlier at the Halton Hills

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OXFAM Trade Fair this weekend

Acton is where it's at this weekend. The Acton Arena will be the site this Saturday of the OXFAM Acton Trade Fair. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. local artisans and craftspeople will demonstrate their skills and sell their own goods alongside

a selection of crafts imported from Asia, Africa and Latin America by OXFAM Trading Ltd.

A small commission on each sale goes to support OXFAM's work overseas and among Canada's native people.

Cooking experts show Acton ladies how

About 110 women deserted their kitchens and families, if only for a few hours last Tuesday, to attend a Family Cookery Workshop at the parish hall at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton. I'Arche Auxiliary was sponsoring by the workshop presented by Ida Burns Associates Inc. of Mississauga who were represented by Margaret Parker, Mavis Qualle and Clare Jones.

All monies collected at the event are to be used in aid of the mentally handicapped. The session started off with demonstrations on quick, easy ways of preparing breakfasts with "eye appeal", then went on to luncheon and supper meals. Included in the

presentation were tips on preserving food values like tearing lettuce by hand to preserve crispness and colour instead of cutting it with a knife.

Besides two cookbooks and a booklet on nutrition, all the women had a chance to sample the food prepared by Mavis Qualle and Clare Jones after the 45-minute demonstration was over. Even though there had been a part of the demonstration devoted to dieters, many of the women overheard to say that the diets so many people seem to be on these days, would have to start tomorrow.

All the food not used in the preparation of meals was donated as door prizes.

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If you need us, we're here. Front row, left to right: Susan Murray, Gail, Sandra, Terry, Back row: Mary, Lillian, Lynn, Jane, Marion, Carol, Betty. (Absent were Nicole Campbell and Judy Vetricek). They have the welcome mat out for you to help you with any of your banking needs. We're at Main and James St., and we're open from 10 until 3, Monday through Wednesday, Thursday 10 am to 8 pm, Friday 10 am to 6 pm. So drop by and say hello, won't you.



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