

Acton councillors push equalized sewer rates

It didn't seem like much. Town council Monday night voted to attempt a new method of assessing sewer charges to Halton Hills residents. But at the core of the arguments for and against the change from the present chargeback system was an argument for and against regional government.

"It's a political decision," bluntly commented Councillor Pat McKenzie who originated the motion to have sewer charges throughout the town assessed on an equalized basis.

It quickly shaped up to be a political decision with Wards 3 and 4 (Georgetown) councillors voting in favour of the present chargeback basis and Ward 1 councillors (Acton) voting in favour of equalized assessment. Ward 2 councillors appeared to hold the balance in hand but split down the centre.

In the end it was the vote of the committee of the whole chairman, Ern Hyde of Georgetown that broke the 5-5 tie in favour of equalized assessment.

"We should be one municipality" commented Hyde as he placed his tie breaking vote.

One of the strong points in favour of the

equalized assessment proponent's arguments was a report presented last week to the town's personnel and finance committee that showed that system of sewage charges to be the fairest to all parts of the municipality over an extended period of time.

But Councillor Harry Levy countered that "This is a political decision, not a financial one." People in Ward 1, he said, will come out of it on top in the long run. "People who get the benefit from something should pay for it," he said in reference to Georgetown's \$5 million sewage treatment plant expansion.

"You didn't hear me arguing against the recreation complex," replied Councillor McKenzie.

As the arguments from both sides heated up he bitterly added, "Acton has lost over the past two and-a-half years a large amount of our own money... If we were still Acton we would have made damn sure that that money went into water and sewers and not into recreation."

The decision to move to equalized assessment within the town comes shortly after a similar move for the region was blocked by regional council.

Middle school to have extras

There's a lot more to a "middle" school than just a separate building for grades six to eight, explained Acton High School principal Dean Fink during his slide presentation at a public meeting held Monday night in Acton.

"By mobilizing resources and taking a group of kids—neither children or adolescents—and taking programs—neither elementary or high school—you can provide an effective transition," said Fink, who believes that middle or senior public schools prepare kids for high school.

Why? Fink outlined the many advantages presented to the grades six to eight students who will move into the old Acton High School in September 1977, using Centennial School in Georgetown as an example of a middle school.

They will have access to special facilities which some elementary schools don't provide such as science labs, art rooms, double or open classrooms for team teaching, home ec rooms, shops and a spacious gym with less competition for use.

Middle school kids have a better chance at inter-school sports. Having the combined enrollment of students from Robert Little and M.Z. Bennett Schools, there will be more athletes to choose from when forming teams.

All library reading books will be on topics of interest to them and to their academic level.

Having a reduced workload, guidance councillors will have the time to deal specifically with emotional and career

problems facing this age group.

By the time they reach grade nine, they will be acclimated to both the rotary and house team systems.

Like high schools, middle schools provide clubs for interested pupils to join.

Sounds good?

Fink is "enthusiastic about it," and thinks that the poor turnout of about two dozen parents and teachers at the open meeting indicates acceptance of the middle school rather than apathy.

The only problems raised by the public were regarding transportation and lunch hours.

More than one parent was concerned because their children would have to walk over a mile to get to middle school.

School board trustee Tom Watson explained the government policy: elementary school children who live within two miles of their school do not qualify for bus services.

"Today, we've spoiled our children to the extent that we don't expect them to walk any place," said parent Don Lindsay, even though he lives in the Lakeview subdivision at the opposite end of town to middle school and his daughter Shannon will be attending grade six there.

"Even if kids want to go play baseball or something," he continued, "they won't go unless they get a ride to the facilities. It's not that far for them to walk to school; they'll get used to it."

One mother thought it was important for her children to come home at lunch time and discuss any school problems, and was worried that they wouldn't have time to do so when they attended middle school. She suggested that classes should begin earlier in the morning so lunch time could be longer.

The general consensus was that kids, realistically, prefer to spend lunch time with their friends and that families could get together in the evening.

Another mother, who was worried that her children would "hang around downtown" at noon hour, Fink explained that Acton's middle school would probably adopt the workable policies of Centennial; students would be prohibited from leaving school property during lunch hour and sports activities would be organized to keep them occupied.

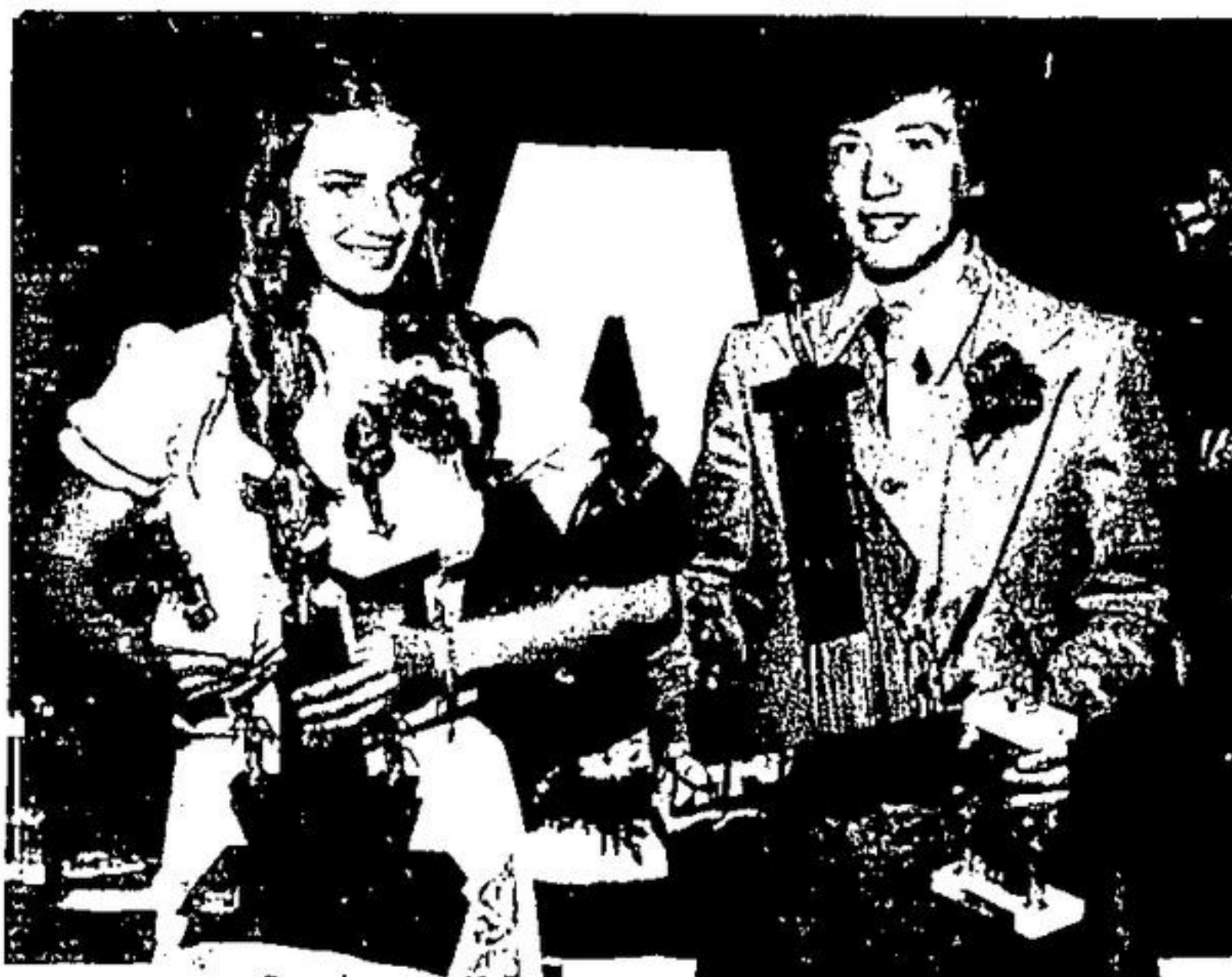
"Much of what is going on at Centennial School can be duplicated here," Fink suggested.

Mathematics and Science teacher at Robert Little, Kathy Sanford, was anxious to know when the appointments would be made for the positions of principal and vice principal. The date predicted by Don Gentleman, Area Supervisor from the School Board Office was January 1977.

"Until the administration is decided upon, many of our questions can't be answered," she said.

Sanford hopes to be one of the 15 or 20 staff members at middle school. Most teachers, said Fink, will probably migrate from M.Z. Bennett and Robert Little.

It was estimated that 530 students would make history by being enrolled in the first year of Acton's first middle school.



MOST OUTSTANDING ATHLETES at the annual awards dinner of the Acton High School Athletic Society are Karen Chapman, (left) and Dan Webster. The awards took place last Thursday at the Legion hall in Acton.

AHS athletes honoured

Acton High School's Athletic Society held its annual awards banquet last Thursday at the Legion Hall and about 30 students, a third of the total enrollment, were present to receive awards.

After the banquet and a slide presentation of candid photographs of the athletes' year, the presentation of the awards got underway.

Athletic letters were awarded to Steve Buchanan, Robin Incoe, Heather Near and Rick Van Fleet.

Twenty-seven smaller athletic letters were awarded to those students who earned 100 points by coming out to practices and games. The winners of these are: Brad Buchanan, Steve Buchanan, Karen Chapman, Sheila Cook, Cathy Frizzell, Dave Gollbraith, Karen Glenn, Dave Hannah, Robin Incoe, Carol Jordan, Larry Kurtz, Jay MacFarlane, Lynn Margretts, Bruce McPhail, Sue Mellor, Ted Nadhari, Heather Near, Lisa Near, Nancy Shortill, John Thompson, Sue Thomson, Karen VanDerEyken, Kim VandlerEyken, Rick Van Fleet, Fran Van Opstal, Dan Webster and Rick Widmont.

The Bill Spehar Memorial Trophy was for the athlete which helped is team the most was awarded to Rick Van Fleet.

The Most Outstanding Male and Female Athletes were Dan Webster and Karen Chapman respectively.

Sheila Cook and Larry Kurtz took the honours of being the most improved female and male athletes respectively.

In track and field Les Jones picked up the award for the males and Lynn Margretts picked it up for females.

The swimming trophies were won by Karen Chapman and Dave Stanley.

Kathy Barber was awarded a trophy as female gymnast. Cross country honours went to Dave Johnson and Heather Near.

In varsity girls sports, Sue Thomson took the award for the volleyball team and Nancy Shortill for the basketball team.

Lisa Near accepted the award for the Junior girls basketball while the junior boys basketball award was accepted by Don Coates.

The trophy for the midget boys basketball was accepted by Martin Osso.

The outstanding intramural participant, Ted Nadhari, accepted the trophy in that category.

Of the four intramural teams at the high school, black, blue, green and yellow, the green team won a trophy for attendance and the yellow team won for performance.

In ten categories of sport—volleyball, track and field, tennis, swimming, rhythmic, gymnastics, curling, cross country, basketball and intramurals—172 sport tabs were awarded to the athletes.

Following thanks to the coaches of the physical education department—Bruce Andrews, Anne Lepik, Rick McArthur, Jack Holmes, Roy McMillan, Johan Wilkinson, Mike Simmons, Wanda Hall and Harriet Knor—and a thanks delivered to parents, the athletes returned to the high school for a dance.



ATHLETIC LETTER WINNERS at the awards banquet of the athletic society of the Acton High School are (l to r) Steve Buchanan, Heather Near, Robin Incoe and Rick Van Fleet.

Reeds says NDP two-faced

Julian Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington, has accused the New Democratic Party of taking one attitude in public and another in the shelter of the Select Committee on Hydro Rates.

"I was very disappointed by the actions of the NDP members of the select committee on the matter of an independent study of the Brantley-Georgetown Hydro corridor," said Mr. Reed.

"This is particularly surprising when one considers that Mr. MacDonald is that party's agriculture critic and should be vitally concerned about anything which affects our valuable agricultural land.

"Stephen Lewis has made a number of speeches dramatizing his party's intention to fight the government on this question of hydro corridors yet when it comes to taking an independent study of the majority of NDP members do not support an independent study. There can be no doubt that there is the credibility gap here.

"Either the NDP are opposed to the government and hydro on this question or it is not. Mr. Lewis and his colleagues cannot have it both ways.

"I presented a resolution to the select committee calling for an independent study of the Brantley-Georgetown corridor. Had the NDP supported this resolution we might have been able to bring some influence to bear on the government," commented Reed.

'It's terrible' 'You get used to it' Taxes! You say...

It is a fact that no one likes to pay taxes and Acton homeowners learned May 5th when the region brought down its budget that they would find an extra \$100 tacked onto their tax bill.

He hurried across the street. "Everything is more," she added. "You get used to it."

"As a homeowner," said Gord James, "I don't think it should be that high. It's quite a jump."

"There's no way we're going to stop stuff going up," Mr. James said.

He suggested that tax increases should be given in phases or shorter increments, "not one big clout at a time."

One group of ladies who all refused to give their names, were delighted to inform the Herald that they no longer pay taxes but took the opportunity to decry the dearth of apartments and houses for young families in the area.

Yet another group, who again refused to give their names, said they did not like the tax increase.

"It's the first I've heard of it," said Ann Daley who rents accommodation. "I don't like it much," she added. "The rent probably will go up."

Mrs. Daley said, "I think we're getting our money's worth from taxes paid to the region."

"The police are doing a good job," she said, "and the school system here is good."

But Murray Smith said, "I can't see any benefits up to now other than added expense."

"That's what regional government does for you, that's for sure," he said. "There's too damn much duplication, as far as I'm concerned. It may work out but it is going to take time."

After acknowledging that no one likes to see a \$100 increase

had moved in to town only three weeks earlier and did not want to give her name. "It's not too bad," she said.

As she hurried across the street. "Everything is more," she added. "You get used to it."

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Acton News



MUSIC for the Decoration Day Services held at Fairview Cemetery in Acton last Sunday afternoon was provided by the Acton Citizens Band. About 200 people gathered for the ceremony after the parade, an annual June event.

200 at Decoration Day

About 200 people gathered in Acton's Fairview Cemetery on Sunday to wait for the arrival of the Decoration Day Parade Party.

Participating were the Acton Citizens Band, the Legion Pipe Band and representatives from the police force and Regional police force, who marched to the cemetery from Fellow Street, at 2:30 p.m.

At intervals throughout the service, appropriate selections were performed by the Acton Citizen's Band. "Abide With Me" was the chosen hymn.

The Call to Worship invocation, and the Benediction were led by Reverend Andrew H. McKenzie while Reverend James McFadden delivered the scripture reading.

A touching address was crated by Reverend Charles Beaton.

Throughout the designated day, organizations and individuals placed floral memorials on the graves of loved ones in St. Joseph's Pioneer and Fairview Cemeteries.



OFF TO THE RACES... Evelyn Allen (left) and Pauline Richards, both of Georgetown, took their horses out for some exercise at the Horsemanship Clinic held Sunday, June 6 at Ron Lister's riding school, Mountain View Farm.

Plain horse sense

Councillor George Malby was one of the many enrollees who attended the Horsemanship Clinic held last Sunday at Mountain View Farm, RR4, Acton.

After over a decade of training, breeding, and showing horses as well as teaching hundreds of students, owners of the riding school, Ron and Joan Lister really know their business.

Along with them, Jenny Hooyenga, Steve Lister and Jennifer Lister offered instruction in all facets of horsemanship.

Advice given was to consider breed, temperament and conformation when purchasing a horse and basic schooling including ground-work and leading were demonstrated on the 150-acre spread.

Heavy emphasis was placed on buying, fitting and caring for proper tack.

The intention is to give some younger people, and parents better understanding of the different pieces of tack," Ron Lister explained. "Each piece of equipment has a practical purpose, although some people just put pieces on their horses because they look nice," he added, using the martingale as an example. It's a leather strap used to hold down a horse's head and one of the many aids Lister believes can be eliminated through advanced training.

"Leather, if cared for, will increase in value," Lister continued. "Saddles bought five years ago are worth twice as much now."

The three-hour course achieved its purpose by giving novice riders an overall picture of the ageless sport, horsemanship.

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