

# Halton radial line leads into yesteryear

Sponsored by the Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association, area museum preserves our commuting past



Ivan Emond (left) and John Johnson are two electric railway buffs putting in some of their free time to build a westerly loop of track at the Halton County Radial Railway museum west of Acton. A second loop is being constructed at the other end of the one and one-quarter mile track on which the Ontario Electric Railway Association runs its collection of streetcars and "inter-urban" train cars. Association members open the museum to the public on weekends and holidays.



Streetcar No. 321 looks very much like a horse-drawn version which would have appeared on Toronto's roads in the late 1800s. However, there's a telltale electric boom rising from its roof. Commuters rode in open-air comfort on hotter days.

For romantics and railway buffs, there is something especially attractive about streetcars and the tradition behind them in Ontario. The Halton County Radial Railway near Acton has several of them, some working and some being restored, along with electric train cars which were once part of the Toronto-area's radial railway system. The

museum and its collection are maintained by the Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association, which numbers about 200 members. The museum is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays from the Victoria Day weekend to the end of October and well worth a leisurely visit into the past.



Photos by Chris Aagaard



Visitors to the Halton County Radial Railway west of Acton on the Guelph Line can ride some of the museum's restored trains down a one and a quarter mile track. One of the favorite streetcars from Ontario's transportation past is a 1915 model, the interior of which is done in beautifully finished oak. Some of the old

advertisements still line poster brackets above the windows. From Acton, follow the Radial Railway museum signs along Highway 7, turning left at the Milton Town Line. Follow the Town Line to Guelph Line, turn left again and the museum is on the left-hand side of the road about a mile from the intersection.



Inside the Hockwood railway station which has been lovingly preserved by members of the Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association, William ("Streetcar Willy") Melhuish, 61, takes a break after a long Sunday answering inquiries from fascinated tourists visiting the Association's museum. The Association runs the museum and keeps its assorted collection of streetcars and other electric rail vehicles from Ontario's past operating. Willy is a veteran electric railway buff, and used to be employed by the British Columbia Railway when it ran its electric "inter-urban" cars through the province's hinterland.

## Vandals hit school, library

Three youths were seen running from the Robert Little School area and the public library in Acton Thursday night after windows at both buildings were reported smashed.

Police were called shortly after 10 p.m. and discovered that \$250 damage had been caused to windows at the library and \$800 damage to windows along neighboring School Lane.

Halton regional police are also investigating the theft of a large number of

tools and a car from Superior Motors Company in Acton. The incident occurred overnight last Wednesday.

The tools and a car stereo removed from another vehicle were still missing as of pre-dawn yesterday (Tuesday). Police recovered the stolen Dodge Dart at 12:15 p.m. Thursday near the Third Line and Sideroad 20 intersection.

Police suspect they at least partially thwarted a robbery at the Acton Lions

Club pool adjacent to McKenzie-Smith Middle School Monday morning.

An alarm was tripped at 12:30 a.m. after a window was forced open on the property. A tape deck, a gym bag and a calculator were taken from the school but later found on the property. However, \$25 stolen from a filing cabinet is still missing.

Thieves ransacked offices at Canada Battery in Acton last Tuesday night and made off with a small

set of scales and some change from a cash box. During the overnight

robbery, vending machines were also damaged and robbed and thieves tried to

break into a small safe. Police estimate property damage at \$1,000.



## MORE MARSHMALLOWS PLEASE

Playing games and swapping stories around the campfire is part of what summer's all about, right? So the kids and supervisors from Camp Prospect, operated by the town recreation department with Acton's Prospect Park as its base, got together overnight Thursday at the Blue Springs Scout Reserve on Halton Hills' outskirts for their final camp-out of the season. Counsellors Kim Newcombe and Anne Ramsay, supervisor Heather Gage and Leaders-in-training (advanced) Michelle Foster and Lorraine Andrews rewarded the younger campers for "surviving" a cool night in the woods with a pancake breakfast Friday morning.

(Herald photo by Harald Bransch)

## Aggregate concern

Continued from page A1 demand reflected in the new maps.

"There is no conceivable way the province could use that much gravel in the next 18 years," Mr. Alexander said, pointing out that the reports provide conclusive evidence that Ontario "already has more than enough gravel in existing licensed pits to last well into the next century".

The Ministry claims that aggregate supplies are scarce, and that it is uneconomical to supply the

market from a distance of over 50 miles. Yet the \$250,000 study on which these conclusions were based was later criticized as being "based on unrealistic and extreme assumptions", the Foundation says.

The MNR has directed its local planning districts to implement a strategy of appropriation and tonnage targets, in spite of the fact that local MNR planners have not had the opportunity to analyze the demand forecasts and tonnage targets assigned to their districts.

This policy of "government by administrative directive" has been going on in the ministry for the last three years. According to Mr. Alexander, "the land use rights of municipalities, such as Uxbridge and Caledon, which have little technical base for argument, have been pre-empted by this disastrous policy". Township politicians are literally being forced, in isolation, to include excessive gravel acreages without knowledge of the entire provincial gravel targets, or operational methods.

The Herald has published other pictures of Georgetown High School classes. Can you find friends in this one from 1934-35?



Georgetown High School, 1934-5

J.R. Rowse, R.O.S. Principal