



CASH CRUNCH: The coronet and trumpet section of the Acton Citizens' Band will be playing the blues if Town Council cuts its annual operating grant to the band. Shown at practice last Wednesday are, left to right, Colin Williams, Christian Schroeder, Sims McPhedran, Ray Waters and Matt Bailey. (Frances Niblock photo)

Citizens' Band will die without Town money

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

"If Council doesn't do the honourable thing and give us more money than last year, we will die," warned Acton Citizens' Bandmaster, Dr. George Elliott at a band practice last Wednesday night.

"In time, the band would fold. That is exactly what happened to the Georgetown Citizen Band years ago. They didn't give them enough, and they couldn't operate. Well, \$2,500 is not enough for us to operate," Elliott said.

The \$2,500 was last year's Town grant to the band, and although it was only half of what the band needed, it was the lion's share of the total \$4,200 Town grants.

As Town Council headed into this year's budget talks, one councillor suggested that cutting all grants would be a good place to save money in a tight year.

The Acton Band has been playing since 1872 and in the 1940s two plebiscites were held in Acton, under the Ontario statutes, to au-

thorize an annual grant to the band, in perpetuity.

Those plebiscites were cancelled with the advent of Regional Government, but Council continued to supply an annual grant to the band.

Elliott said the band can't survive with the same amount of grant money as last year.

"We need at least \$5,000 from the Town and then the Band raises about \$1,000 with special events. That money pays me, as Bandmaster, it buys music and pays for instrument repairs and parts.

"We've been putting money away every year for uniforms because most of the ones we are wearing are 40 years old. We bought new pants last year and that was several thousand dollars."

The band laid out its concerns in a letter to Council, forwarded to the budget committee.

In that letter Carin Pelka, president of the Band Committee, argued that Council does not understand the significance of the band in the Town's overall recreation programs.

"It seems that millions of dollars can be spent erecting, and thousands of dollars maintaining and operating hockey arenas, baseball diamonds and soccer pitches for those who enjoy recreational sports. We don't object to this. But, for the girls and boys and men and women whose recreation is not sports oriented, almost nothing is done.

"To those whose recreation is playing an instrument in a community band, dedicated to service in the community, council appears to be saying 'you don't matter, your needs are of no importance to us.'"

IT'S TIME...
for kindergarten registration!

The Halton Board of Education is committed to preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by December 31, 1993, then now is the time to take action on Kindergarten Registration!

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NEWS SHORTS

Tree toppled

A Danville Avenue man woke up Saturday morning to find that someone had knocked down a tree on his front lawn.

Police report an unknown driver, heading south on Danville, lost control of his car, skidded and hit the 3" diameter tree, worth \$250.

Police have no suspects or witnesses.

Church confessions

A 14-year-old Young Offender has admitted to Halton Police that he is responsible for three recent church break-ins in Acton.

The youth, accompanied by his father, told police he broke into Knox Presbyterian, Acton Baptist and Trinity United churches.

In all three incidents nothing was stolen, although a glass window was broken at one church and juice and food thrown around in another.

Under the "C"— crash

A Campbellville man, who ran into an Acton woman's car, was cautioned by police following the incident Saturday night.

The woman told police the suspect backed into her 1984 Ford, doing \$300 damage, while it was parked at Bingo Country on Highway 25 Saturday night.

The suspect left the scene but was located by police in Acton.

The driver told police he would straighten things out with the owner of the car that he hit and no charges were laid.

Icy incident

A Brampton man was not injured when he lost control and totalled his car last Wednesday on Highway 7, just west of Rockwood.

Guelph OPP report 20-year-old Iskander Carcar lost control of his automobile on icy roads, slid into the opposite ditch and hit a hydro pole. No charges were laid.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Personally I don't think that God has stepped into their corner because the KKK is sure no better than any man, woman or child in Acton."

— Sharron Barker, Acton resident, Page 2

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1879, a Proctor and Gamble employee operating a soap-mixing machine forgot to turn it off during lunchtime. The mixture was beaten to a froth so light that the cakes of soap bobbed around in the kettle. The plant foreman turned the mistake into a big moneymaker. He figured floating soap might just be the icing on the cake — such was the serendipitous discovery of Ivory Soap.

Klan gets chilly reception

Continued from Page 1

of garbage to disappear, then they come into Acton and pull something like this.

"Personally I don't think that God has stepped into their corner because the KKK is sure no better than any man, woman or child in Acton," Barker said.

Halton police had been alerted to the Klan's trip to Acton by Ontario Provincial Police intelligence officer Gerry Trembley, who had tailed them to town.

Trembley refused to comment on any on-going investigation involving the KKK in this area.

After about 15 minutes on the corner, the group piled into a car and headed for Georgetown where they got an equally chilly reception when they started handing out the leaflets in the downtown area.

One KKK member had his hood

ripped off and other angry people pounded on the hood of their car. Halton police spoke to each KKK member and took their names but would not release them to the press.

Halton Police Sergeant Dave Gwilliams said the group did nothing illegal in Acton or Georgetown.

"There were no laws broken, like impeding traffic or causing a disturbance, and nothing in the leaflet can be construed as hate propaganda," Gwilliams said.

The bilingual leaflet said "there are hundreds of organizations working for the interest of the blacks. How many stand up for the cultural values and ideals of the White majority?"

The Klan's recruitment drives in Acton and Georgetown came a week before the anniversary of the founding of the KKK in Pulaski, Tennessee.

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