

# The Acton Free Press.

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Eight Home-Print Pages—Five Cents

# Warm Christmases

## Provincial Officials Visit Halton County Council

Address by Mr. J. P. Coombe at Final Meeting of 1938 Body — Assured No Danger of Abolition — Council Thanks Warden Hewson on Conduct of the Meetings.

Halton County Council held its final meeting for 1938 in Milton last Friday, with the Warden and all members present.

The meeting was, without exception, the most interesting that has been held for some time. Mr. J. P. Coombe, from the Department of Municipal Affairs, addressed the Council with regard to the work of his office.

"This is my first official visit to Halton County," said Mr. Coombe, "and while I have visited almost every county in the Province, you must not think I have neglected Halton. It is rather the opposite in the best condition have been left to the last. And when you can see the debris at 37, it shows, beyond a doubt, that the County of Halton is in very good shape indeed. Our Department is fully cognizant of your financial standing; we know that you have debentures running out in a few years' time and when that time comes no doubt you will be able to pass the benefit along to the taxpayer in lower taxation."

"The County Council, you must realize, is based on the principles of the Magna Charta and the better you run your own local government, the more you encourage democracy as a whole."

"I would like to go over, some of your problems with you and will touch first on assessment. The original purpose of the Assessment Act was to tax the taxpayers for local services received. The Assessment Act is very specific—it demands that land shall be assessed at its actual value. You may ask, 'What is the actual value?' It is not necessarily the purchasing and selling price—other factors should be taken into account. In regard to farm land, locality should be considered; distance from school, church, railroad and town; type of road, fertility of soil or whether the farm has good pasture lands. Many assessment troubles are due to the incompetency of the assessors—who are often poorly paid, unqualified men. Better results might be obtained by paying less attention to hiring a man at a low salary and more thought regarding the ability of the assessor engaged."

## 200 Children at Christmas Party of Beardmore Co.

Two hundred Acton children were given a Christmas party on Saturday afternoon that delighted them and the useful gifts of clothing were appreciated by parents as well as children. The event was a Christmas 'treat' given by the Beardmore Co. and staff. Every child between the ages of 3 and 14 years of the households of Beardmore employees shared in this Christmas distribution.

A Christmas concert was a splendid part of the event. An orchestra under the direction of Mr. R. Spielvogel, provided music. Children of the employees, under the direction of Miss T. F. Hunt, gave a number of Christmas numbers, "Toyland," "Indian Carol," "Don't Wait Till the Night Before Christmas" and "The Holly and the Ivy."

"Holy Night," was the Christmas carol in which all joined in singing and five boys sang "Good King Wenceslas." The rhythm of "Jingle Bell" brought Santa Claus on the scene with his six helpers, all in comic costume, to distribute the gifts for everyone.

Col. A. O. T. Beardmore, on behalf of the company, extended hearty season's greetings to all and wished for them a very merry Christmas. Mr. J. M. McDonald was chairman for the event.

## The Intermediate Hockey Schedule Drawn Monday

Only Four Teams Now in the Group — First Game on December 28th This Year

At a group meeting of Intermediate B, held at Guelph on Monday night, the schedule for the season was drawn up for Group 5. Contrary to first announcement, there will be only four teams in the group. Apparently one team was all that was ever expected from Guelph. Preston, winners of last year's Intermediate A championship, have withdrawn, so a four-team group is left, with Acton, Elora, Fergus and Guelph in the circuit.

## FRIENDLY CIRCLE UNITED GROUP HOLD CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Young Ladies' Friendly Circle of the United Church held a very enjoyable Christmas party at the home of LaVerne Smith on Monday evening. Games and contests were conducted by Ruth Gibson and LaVerne Smith. Doris Wilson won the prize for the highest score for the evening, and Miss Bennett won low prize. Each girl received a present from the Christmas tree and for this had to contribute a number to the impromptu program.

## The Concluding Meeting of the Utilities Comm.

Appreciation of Co-operation of the Year Expressed by Chairman Kerr

The final meeting of the Acton Public Utilities Commission was held on Tuesday evening. Reeve F. J. McCutcheon, Commissioner C. M. Hansen were present, with Chairman R. J. Kerr presiding.

The Secretary was instructed to pay the following accounts:

Bell Telephone Co., services	\$ 5.47
Sutherland-Schultz Co., repairs	5.76
H.E.P.C. of Ontario, power	2,239.84
Symon Hardware, supplies	2.18
C.N.R., freight and express	4.03
R. J. Ramshaw, court costs	3.00
Northern Electric Co., supplies	20.42
Canadian Line Materials, supplies	48.50
McDonald Electric, supplies	16.57
W. R. Lashbrook, installing heaters	13.00
	\$2,359.37

The certificate was presented from the Public Indemnity Company, which showed that the workmen were covered by insurance.

The Commission were asked to sign a release of debt by the National Credit Men's Association, re the Stormin' Pet Co.

As this was the final meeting of the year, Chairman Kerr thanked the Commission and officers, and all who had contributed to make this year such a success. It was a pleasure indeed to be associated with these people and he hoped next year's chairman would have the same hearty co-operation.

Reeve McCutcheon and Commissioner Hansen also expressed appreciation with the hearty cooperation accorded by all and to Chairman Kerr in the guidance of the work of the Commission.

## Christmas Concerts by the Acton Sunday Schools

Tuesday was Christmas concert night at Acton for the Baptist, United and Presbyterian Sunday Schools, and Santa Claus had a busy time making the rounds and putting in an appearance at every one of them.

At the United Church, the scholars presented a varied program, which included singing of Christmas hymns; recitation by Jack McDonald, "Christmas"; song by Barbara Vincent, "Don't Wait Till the Night Before Christmas to be Good"; a recitation, "Past Santa Claus," by Kenneth Adams; the Christmas story, by Mrs. Parker's class, and a little Christmas dialogue, "Santa's Assistant," with Sidney Ellis and George Elliott as the principal characters.

A feature that all enjoyed was the moving pictures brought to the entertainment by Messrs. Chas. Symon and C. H. Harris, of Toronto, who, although living in the city, always maintain a deep and helpful interest in Acton and the home church. "Night Cry," a six reel feature, was a picture story particularly interesting to the children.

Of course the visit of Santa Claus was a great mum and Mr. Charles Wilson, in this character, was a favorite of all. Presents and candy and oranges were distributed from the big decorated tree on the platform for all Mr. A. T. Brown, Superintendent, was in charge of the event.

At Knox Church, another splendid Christmas entertainment was held. The orchestra was in attendance and Norman W. Hall led in the singing of Christmas songs. There were recitations by Helen Conville, Donna Anderson, Frank Spitzberg, Barbara Mann, Helen Johnson and Mrs. DeForest.

There were displays by the Primary Class, and a group of three boys, Billy McKinnon, Bobby Bruce and Melburn Brown. Other little plays and Christmas songs were presented.

"The Star" by Miss Betty Rose's class, "O Christmas Tree" by the classes of Mrs. C. F. and Miss Jean Bennie and Miss Hazel. The playlet, "Little Nell," was a delightful one, with Tom Watson as Mother Perkins, E. Grisham as Father Perkins, Gordon McCutcheon as Little Nell, Bev Arnold as Mr. Grizzle, and Lorne Masters as Horace, the hero. Several reels of moving pictures were also an interesting part of this Christmas presentation.

Santa Claus had to be in many places and here the joy old folks was imparted by Mr. W. C. Jones. He distributed presents to everyone and his visit was a very happy climax for this Christmas as heering Mr. R. N. Brown was chairman.

## CUP AND SAUCER SHOWER FOR BRIDE ELECT

Mrs. O. L. Kirkness entertained on Tuesday evening for Miss Laura McMullen, a bride-to-be, with a cup and saucer shower. Many lovely gifts were received and a very enjoyable social time was spent. A dainty lunch was served by the hostess.

## Contest for the Reeveship in Eramosa Twp.

Reeve Storey and Councillor Gray Announce Candidature at Concluding Meeting

The Council for the Township of Eramosa met for the statutory December meeting on Monday, December 19th, at 7:30, in the Town Hall, Rockwood. Reeve D. H. Storey presided over a full attendance of members.

It was moved by Messrs. Albert Lush and D. D. Gray, and carried, that Mr. Jas. Sutherland, of Guelph, be advised that the Reeve and Council have inspected the road and ditch opposite his property, and the matter will be left over until January 30th meeting of Council.

Moved by Messrs. Wm. J. Pinkney and Thos. E. Kelly, and carried that accounts amounting to \$15,542.55, including the County Rate of \$14,220.73, be passed for payment, and Council adjourn on January 9th, 1939.

On motion of Messrs. Gray and Pinkney, the Clerk was appointed to be the chair for the usual voluntary speech.

Reeve Storey announced his candidature for a fourth term as Reeve, stating that his prospects for serving on the County Road Committee for three years were excellent, if re-elected as Reeve.

Councillor Albert Lush stated that he would like to complete his Township service with a term in the Reeve's chair. In view of Mr. Storey's chance for the County Road Committee he would not run for Reeve, and was undecided about standing for Councillor.

## Oldest Business Block Swept by Fire on Monday

### Lost Package of Furs Fell in Honest Hands

On Monday Clarence Dodds started for Toronto with a package of twelve mink skins, the fruit of his trapping operations to sell to city fur dealers. He was riding with Frank Holmes, driver, and the package was outside the cab. About five miles from Acton the package was noticed missing and Dodds started to walk back searching along the road. One motorist stopped, and he had noticed it just at the outskirts of Acton on the edge of the road.

Arriving at the spot the package was however gone. Dodds went to Toronto and notified the Department of Game and Fisheries and several city fur dealers. That night he received word from Traffic Officer Bert Howell that the package had been picked up by Fred V. Garlick, of Guelph, and left with the police there. The skins were returned to a very grateful owner.

Mr. Garlick was not aware of the value of the parcel until he showed the skins to a Toronto furrier and asked if they were worth anything. He was told they were worth \$12 each and Mr. Garlick promptly replied, "If they're worth that much the owner should have them back," and returned them to the police.

## Juniors Open Schedule in the First Home Game

Season's Play Arranged at Meeting Here Last Night — Finals in February

At the meeting of Group 6 of the Junior C hockey last night in Acton, the schedule for the year was drawn up by Mr. W. Middleton, Acton, convener of this group and Acton Juniors make their first appearance at the local arena next Tuesday.

Following is the schedule as drawn up:

December 27th—Orangeville at Acton.
December 28th—Oakville at Milton.
December 30th—Milton at Orangeville.
January 3rd—Milton at Acton; Orangeville at Oakville.
January 5th—Acton at Orangeville; Milton at Oakville.
January 9th—Oakville at Acton; Orangeville at Milton.
January 11th—Oakville at Orangeville.
January 13th—Acton at Milton; Orangeville at Oakville.
January 16th—Milton at Orangeville.
January 17th—Acton at Oakville.
January 19th—Milton at Acton.
January 20th—Oakville at Orangeville.
January 24th—Orangeville at Acton; Milton at Oakville.
January 26th—Acton at Oakville.
January 27th—Orangeville at Milton.
January 30th—Acton at Milton.
February 1st—Acton at Orangeville; Milton at Oakville.
February 2nd—Oakville at Acton.

## NUMBERS FAIL TO CONFUSE THE PUZZLE FANS

Mr. W. Coles chose a new form of puzzle for last week using figures to designate the words. Quite a few were able to get the correct solution, but the winner of the weekly award is Mrs. A. C. Patterson, R. R. No. 1, Georgetown. The word to be found was "Decorations." On page five this week you will find two puzzles, one for the children and one for the older heads. It's Christmas week and two awards will be made.

## Three Sidras and Two Apartments Were Guttled—Occupants Forced Out in Night Attire — Blaze Started in Dad's Hamburger Stand.

A block of frame buildings, originally owned by the Secord Estate, and erected about seventy years ago, were the scene of a blaze early Monday morning, that threatened a good section of the business part of Acton and kept the Fire Brigade fighting it for four hours before it was completely subdued. Loss will be around \$3,000, partly covered by insurance.

The blaze started in the smaller one-story building, occupied by Austin Corbett, and known as Dad's Hamburger. Mr. and Mrs. James Massey and family occupy the apartment over their meatshop, immediately adjoining, and Mrs. Massey was awakened about 1:25 by the smell of fire and smoke. The family was wrapped in blankets and left the building while Mr. Massey ran a couple of blocks to the fire hall and turned in the alarm. James Kennedy, a brother of Mrs. Massey, also roused in night attire, and donned his clothes outside the burning building. The other apartment was occupied by Mr. Thos. Morton, who also had to make a hurried escape from the burning structure.

The blaze spread rapidly from the building it originated in, through the old frame structure, and the interior of the buildings of Massey's meat shop and Morton's barber shop were ruined. 40,000 gallons of water were poured into the fire before it was subdued. Three lines of hose were used by the Fire Brigade.

A brick block of two stories, owned by Mr. L. Starkman, immediately adjoining were saved undamaged. Only the prompt and efficient work of the Fire Brigade, under Chief McDonald, saved a very serious conflagration. A number of small wooden garages and outbuildings are in the rear of the burned block, but were not harmed. It was also fortunate that there was practically no wind to fan the flames.

Contents of the apartments and the store buildings were badly spoiled. Part of the equipment was removed from the buildings.

## Thieves Stole Car Load of Christmas Fowl

Some time during Monday night thieves entered the garage of Mr. M. E. Nixon and stole his automobile, which was loaded with 34 turkeys and 13 chickens, purchased during Monday. The car was found that night abandoned on the side of the road, at Drummond, but the poultry had all been removed.

The Christmas poultry had been secured from farms in the district on Monday. They were left in the car and the garage locked, with the intention of bringing them to the Acton Greenery Plant here, owned by Mr. Nixon, the following morning. The lock was broken and the car and poultry all stolen when Mr. Nixon went to his garage. It is reported that two other garages were entered in Milton that night, but nothing removed. Provincial police are investigating.

## The Acton Block Destroyed by Fire Early Monday



This photograph by The Free Press shows the fire which wrecked the business block on Mill Street. The small building, to the left, was the one in which the fire originated, spreading to the stores and apartments occupied by Massey's Barber Shop and Morton's Barber Shop.

## Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings for the month of December, under this heading, are charged at 25 cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 50 cents.

Don't miss Acton Citizens' Band Concert in Town Hall, Friday (tomorrow) evening. Come to the Ladies' Tea.

(Continued on Page Five)

**ITS AGE**  
Judge: How long have you had that rifle?  
Prisoner: Ever since it was a pistol, Your Honor.