

The Acton Free Press.

Sixty-sixth Year—No. 9.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 29th, 1940

Four Home-Print Pages—Five Cents

Assessment Equalization is Main County Council Topic

Lower Expenditures by the County This Year—Municipal Councils Asked to Discuss Assessments and Report Back to County Body—1942 Suggested as Time for Application of Any Changes.

Following the usual routine business at the August meeting of the Halton County Council, last Tuesday, the chief subject under discussion was again the proposed change in the equalization of the assessment. This discussion took place in Committee of the Whole, with Mr. Byers, Oakville, as chairman.

The following communication from the Department of Municipal Affairs opened the debate. The letter ran, in part, as follows: "I am not clear as to just what the Council proposes to do. I would, however, point out that under Section 82 of the Assessment Act the Council may appoint valuers to make an equalization of the County. Power is given to a County Council to appoint an Assessor, whose duty it is to work with the local Assessors, in an endeavor to bring about an equalization."

Mr. Hume, Burlington—The idea of a revised assessment is, I think, basically sound. Revaluation would mean that people would be paying what they should pay. As it is, some properties are over-assessed and some under. For instance, Nassagaweya land values are certainly down.

Mr. Byers—I think we should have a new valuation of property. Our Council has been informed as to what is in the air, so that the subject is already under discussion.

Warden—Perhaps it would be better to have one man appointed as a valuator for rural districts and one for town property.

Mr. Gilbert, Trafalgar—I would say that revaluation is particularly necessary in Trafalgar. In fact I feel that farmers are being penalized for living there. All the highways that go through the Township have not raised the assessment but they have lessened the valuation of the farm property.

Mr. Hume—Wouldn't it be better to have one assessor go over the whole County?

Mr. Cleave—One man couldn't go it. It wouldn't be possible in the time.

Mr. Kerns—We would like to see some sort of revaluation in the County and I would say that residential places could be done during the winter.

Chairman—What do you think, Mr. Chalmers?

Mr. Chalmers—I have not really given the matter a great deal of thought, but I do know that people in Acton figure they are already assessed too high. In any case, revaluation could not be made until next year.

Mr. Byers—I would like to see each member of the Council express his opinion and then take back a report of proceedings to his own Council.

Mr. Hume—It would be a good thing if we could start everyone off on an equal footing in 1942. This may seem like looking a long way ahead, but it is a job that will take some time.

Mr. May—Yes, and after you get it done, I don't suppose people will be any better satisfied than they are now.

Mr. Cleave—I think you have to be mighty careful how you go about this job. One thing is certain, if you lower the assessment you are going to have a higher tax rate.

Mr. Kerns—I would suggest that we talk it over with our own municipalities and bring back a report.

Mr. Robertson—Some assessments are certainly too high.

Mr. Cleave—That is up to your local Assessor. If a man thinks he is assessed too high and does not appeal, that is his fault. We should remember the County assessment will have no bearing on local assessment.

Dr. Heslop—Do I understand that a valuator will go over every property with each local assessor?

Warden—Yes, that is the general idea as far as items are concerned, but another man would be appointed for farm property. We should also remember that whereas business establishments have a stock-taking every year, we haven't had one for 12 years.

Mr. Chalmers—I still think you won't be any better off, because your mill rate will go up.

With that the discussion ended, each member of the Council being expected to discuss the matter with his own Council.

A letter from the Department of Agriculture drew the attention of the Council to the fact that a deduction of 50¢ per head, by the packers, was still being made as a protection against T.B. cattle, even on cattle coming from restricted areas. The letter advised that delegate be appointed to attend a meeting of the Live Stock Branch of Agriculture and the Packers' Committee, where the matter will be thoroughly gone into.

Moved by Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Robertson, that the Chairman of the Agricultural Committee be a delegate at a meeting to be called by the Live Stock Branch.—Carried.

(Continued on Page Three)

Opportunity for High School Girls Win Big Awards

Three grand prizes are being offered to High School girls in Halton County who will devote their time after school hours to the sale of War Savings Certificates. Details of this contest are now available from High School Principals or from G. A. Dills, Chairman of the Acton District War Savings Committee.

First prize is \$25; second is \$15.00; and third, \$10.00—all in War Savings Certificates. Here's an opportunity for High School girls to do a worthwhile war service and win a big prize. The contest starts September 1st and continues through the whole month. Get an early start by contacting your local Principal now. Only girls in Secondary Schools in the County are eligible. Be sure Acton district does not lag behind in Canada's war effort.

Dublin Institute Visits at Bannockburn

The August meeting of the Bannockburn Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. S. H. Lindsay, last week. The President, Mrs. S. Matthews, was in charge. Roll call was answered by giving the name of a famous woman and why famous.

After a short business discussion and correspondence, arrangements were made for a corn and wether roast, to be held next month. It was decided to send some delegates to the Convention at Guelph in September.

Mrs. N. Anderson, President of the Dublin Institute, took the chair for the following program: A piano solo was given by Mrs. vanGozen; Mrs. Brownlow gave a humorous reading, "Cost of High Living"; A soap contest was won by Miss Margaret Brown and Mrs. S. Morrison.

The National Anthem brought the meeting to a close. Lunch was served and a social half hour spent.

Acton Schools Will Re-Open on September 9th

Opening Delayed to Meet with Request and Assure Completion of Repair Work

At a special meeting of Acton School Board on Monday afternoon, it was the decision of the Board that both High and Public Schools would re-open for the Fall term on Monday, September 9th.

There are two reasons for the delayed opening this year. One is the request of the Premier for such a delay and the other is the installation of a new toilet system at the Public School, which it is feared could not be completed for the regular opening on September 3rd.

Details in connection with the new toilet system and its installation were discussed by the Board and final plans sanctioned for its completion at the meeting on Monday.

Trustees Boyd, Blow, Oakes and Dills were present and Chairman A. J. Buchanan presided.

TROUSSEAU TEA IN HONOR OF MISS LEONA WALLER

Mrs. William Waller held a trousseau tea Saturday afternoon and evening in honor of her daughter, Leona, whose marriage takes place Monday, September 2nd. Master Johnnie Ware was official attendant at the door.

Receiving with Mrs. Waller and the bride-elect was her daughter, Viola, of Galt. During the afternoon and evening Mrs. E. M. Schroeder, Mrs. W. H. Clayton and Mrs. J. C. Wilson, of Brampton, poured tea. The table was lovely with centerpiece of gladioli and the rooms were decorated with gladioli, phlox and ferns. Assisting with the tea were Mrs. J. Allison and Miss Dorothy Smith, both of Brampton. In charge of the trousseau were Mrs. F. T. Cook, of London, Mrs. R. H. Ingram, Miss Sadie Cation, Miss Mae Marsden and Mrs. M. McCutcheon, all of Brampton.

Acton Ladies' Military Training Class Organized

The first Acton Ladies' Military Training Class was organized formally at a fourth meeting held Tuesday night in the Acton Arena. The class has progressed favorably under the able and enthusiastic instruction of Mr. Harrop, who expressed satisfaction at the improvement shown after the few nights of training. As the girls are very much in earnest about their new and timely project, it was thought advisable to elect a number of capable officers and the following were unanimously chosen: Commander—Miss Lottie Mason. Section Leaders—Misses Dot Bayliss, Eleanor Joque and Dolly Lazenby.

UNUSUAL ACCIDENT AT BALL GAME IN GUELPH SATURDAY

An unusual accident occurred during Saturday's final Intercity Senior Baseball game between Galt and Guelph in Exhibition Park, Guelph. Norm Morton, of Acton, ace hurler of the Guelph squad, was at bat, and on the third ball pitched to him he clobbered a foul ball off the tip of the bat. The ball, travelling like a bullet, landed in the grandstand, hitting one of the spectators, Mrs. Norman Morton, the batter's wife. The stand was filled with people at the time. Mrs. Morton was knocked unconscious momentarily, but soon was brought around again.

Municipal Night at the Saturday Draw Last Week

Reeve Chalmers, Councillor Oakes and Clerk Leatherland Official in Prize Distribution

One five dollar War Saving Certificate, six lots of War Savings Stamps and six 10-lb lots of sugar were handed out Saturday night by Acton Business Men's Association in the regular weekly draw. Another big crowd participated in the fun and the sharing of the prizes. There were only two absentees.

Top prize of a \$500 War Savings Certificate went to Miss Marguerite Currie, Acton. Six winners of \$100 prizes in War Savings Stamps were Mrs. Clarence Dodds, Eleanor Davenport, R.R. 2, Rockwood; Mrs. Cross; Barbara Nelson; Darwin Cripps; and Mary Ritchie. Sixteen pound lots of sugar went to Earl Lambert; Mrs. A. Gervais; Betty Ferryman, R.R. 2, Acton; Mrs. D. Dawkins; Miss Pearl Smith and Jack McCutcheon.

This plan of making other contributions to war efforts when winning prizes continues to grow. The now famous \$100 set of stamps was ordered off the market Saturday night and bid in for \$1.50 by Mr. David Elliott. It had brought \$7.50 for the Red Cross Society. Miss Pearl Smith, who won 10 lb. of sugar gave the amount of her luck to the Duke of Devonshire Chapter, I.O.D.E.

The auction of the \$100 in stamps created a rather amusing incident. A came into the crowd while the stamps young man from Millgrove, E. T. Carey, were being offered. Not acquainted with the Saturday feature and seeing the churn on the platform, he thought that was the article offered. He readily bid \$1.50, and considered he had a big haul. Mr. David Elliott, who had brought \$7.50, stamps at \$1.50.

Seventeen prizes are announced for this Saturday night, details of which are to be found in another column.

There were two who lost by being absent, Mrs. P. A. Kerr and Mrs. H. Graham. The committee in charge of the draw were Rev. J. B. Chalmers, Councillor W. J. O. Oakes and Clerk C. P. Leatherland. The children drawing the names were Lena Lawson and Bill Toth.

COMFORTS COMMITTEE SEND PARCELS TO BOYS OVERSEAS

The Comforts Committee of Acton and vicinity send regularly parcels to the boys from Acton and district who are overseas. The group in charge of this work are the Duke of Devonshire and Lakeland Chapter, I.O.D.E. and the Canadian Legion.

The following is the present list of boys who receive these parcels. If there are any omissions, the names should be promptly handed to this committee, so that they will receive their parcels.

Pte. P. Purdy, 886185; Pte. J. McGeachie, B73037; Gnr. Wm. Caldwell, 6190; Capt. Gordon Sutherland; Pte. Geo. Lashby, 16206; Corp. Wm. Nicolai, 168185; Gnr. E. Jamieson, A286681; Gnr. J. A. Henderson, A21103; Gnr. T. Nicol, A28180; L. Bdr. J. Nicol, A28139; Bdr. W. C. Jones, A28027; Lieut. T. V. Kenner, Pte. E. Bullock, B46941; Sapper Hector Guthrie, B36115; Pte. W. L. Turner, 37596; Pte. E. Landsborough, 36781; Pte. C. A. Tyler, B74728.

Council Arranges Grading and Opening Frederick St.

There'll Always Be An England Here's Why!

The following letter was received by Mrs. A. H. Bishop from her sister in England. We have kindly been granted permission to publish it. Are they downhearted? Well, here's the answer.

July 15th, 1940

My Dear Clara:

Just a line in answer to your letter, which I received quite safely last Friday. I am sorry you did not get our letters, because we all wrote to you, the three of us, so they must have gone to the bottom. I hope you get this one. At first I did wish we were all out there with you, when France gave in. It was such a shock to us. We've seemed to get shock upon shock, and set back upon set back. First, that traitor, Leopold, gave in, and our men were caught in a trap. That was a planned job. The dirty rascal never even told our men, so that they could have had a chance to get out first.

However, in answer to prayer, the Lord sent a calm over the channel, which is usually so choppy, so that even smaller boats could get across to take the men off. But you have read it all in the papers, I daresay. As I said before, France giving in was a great shock to us, but we have stiffened our backs and pulled ourselves up, and we are ready for anything; and determined not to give in, but to fight to the last ditch.

We are ready for him when he comes, and let him come. He'll find he'll get the biggest shock of his life. His men will find themselves in a hot spot. We are standing with our backs to the wall, and we stand alone, except for you, colonies backing us up, but he'll find the man determined resistance that's ever been in the world's history. John Bull is stubborn, and never more stubborn than now, and that he'll find to his cost. We all know what we're to do and we are ready to do it, even us women.

Pray for us, that we may stand firm. We shall fight, if need be, on our own doorsteps. They shall never conquer us. God helping us, and I'm sure He will. We've all had our instructions, every home, and we shall carry it out to the last letter. We are not short of food. Of course things are dearer, and we can't do with more sugar. But we don't mind anything so long as we can overcome this evil thing that is stalking abroad in the world. So don't worry about us, Clara. We are not downhearted, and when you hear that, we have been invaded, just think of us each doing our job, the men fighting and the women doing their tasks, first aid, and cheering up the down-cast ones, and the multitude of other little jobs. And, if we pass over, just think of us as being proud to lay down our lives that others may live in peace and freedom.

Annie's Slay and I belong to the Women's Volunteer Service for Civil Defence. We have all sorts of jobs to do. Thank you for your offer of a home with you. It is good of you, but I don't think we could get over now if we tried, and George doesn't go on the water. Poor Liz is having a bad time with air raids day and night. It's the south coast, you see. She had a cable from Art last week, saying he was well. The air mail was suspended for a time, so he could not write, but it started again now. We got all some stamps. Shall be sending them to him to-morrow. Yes, we can get plenty of note paper and envelopes, thank you.

Did you hear Mr. Churchill last night? Wasn't he great? You see from what he said we are determined not to give in. He said we may show mercy, we shall ask none. He would sooner see London in ashes and ruins than submit to Hitler. Great Britain is just one great fortress. Our Home Guard are training and all armed. George Jackson is one. Annie's George, and Wally's George are others. They take turns to watch at night on the top of Campton Hill for parachute troops. We have about 30 or them (guards) in this village, besides our Air Raid Wardens and Special Police. So it is in every village, and every town in Great Britain, and lots of soldiers everywhere. So you see how we are fixed, Clara, well guarded, and full of confidence, and hopeful of the future, and ready for Hitler when he comes. We'll give him a good warming up.

Now, I must close, with much love from us all to you and Albert.

From your loving sister,

GEORGE and FLOSSIE

A letter from the Bell Telephone Co. suggested that the joint meeting be arranged for September 10th. This date was agreeable to Council. This meeting was regarding removal of poles from Mill Street.

Correspondence was read with the A. E. Wilson Co., regarding the settlement of an accident claim.

The Clerk read a copy of a letter sent to the Municipal Board regarding the raising of funds for the School Board to install a sanitation system. The reply gave the ruling that since no requisition for this amount had been asked when the rate was struck by the Council was not obligated to raise the funds this year. If it were a capital expenditure the amount could be raised by debenture issue.

A letter was read from the Wool Combining Corporation of Canada, thanking Council for their assistance in tabulating the labor available here.

A letter from the Duke of Devonshire Chapter I.O.D.E. asked permission to hold a tag day in the Fair grounds on Fair Day. Council asked the Clerk to point out that Council had no jurisdiction as the grounds were rented to the Acton Agricultural Society.

A letter from the Ontario Compensation Board was read regarding coverage on the Fire Brigade members. The letter was to be filed for reference in November.

The plan was presented and details were discussed regarding the opening and surveying of Frederick Street. The Clerk was instructed to arrange for purchase of a steel culvert and arrangements were to be made for Esquing Council to do the work. The Township had all the necessary machinery for this work. It was requested to have the work completed before November 1st. It was expected that Beardmore & Co. would provide for the filling material from nearby property.

A letter from Beardmore & Co. gave permission to drain the surface water from the Crescent along the railway right-of-way.

As requested, the Clerk gave an explanation of the Council's paying taxes on the Y.M.C.A. property. The present arrangement was apparently the most satisfactory one and the explanation cleared the matter to the satisfaction of Council.

The advisability of converting the old fire truck into a town truck for municipal work was discussed. If the new fire pumper was purchased.

The matter of improving the surface on the sidewalk on Mill Street was also discussed and preparations made to have this work done.

Council arranged to meet the following meeting to go to Woodstock to see the fire pumper demonstrated. The next meeting was to be on September 3rd.

Coming Events

Dancing, Modern and Old-Time, with Doris Hall's Orchestra, at Bigwood, Tuesday, September 3rd, 7:30-12:30 A.T.

EVERY BUSINESS MUST JUSTIFY ITSELF

From the Bowmanville, Statesman

The small business, the independent merchant, the Main Street business man, can give a human, friendly type of service that the big organization, no matter how efficient, cannot equal, but the small business-to-day must push and promote and justify its existence. The locally-owned business is a greater asset to any community than the outside-owned organization, although the latter, with its greater resources, makes a contribution to the community, too. Too often the small independent business takes a defeatist attitude and merely aims at "getting by," whereas the big organization thrives on the theory that not to go ahead is to go back.

In urging our merchants, as we do each week, to take a page out of the merchandising books of "big business" and to keep everything at it with new ideas about their stores, we believe that we are making a contribution to the community's welfare and are not merely securing the advertising that makes a newspaper possible.

The merchant who must write an interesting announcement about his business to be read at his store will spend a good deal of time securing the kind of stock that will provide something to write about.

Horticultural Show Had Good Exhibit at Rockwood

Garden Contest in Two Classes This Year — The List of Prize Winners

This year's show was well attended on Saturday evening, and while this year's entries were not up to last year, the quality was good, and competition keen in all classes. Mr. W. W. Simpson, of Guelph, was the judge for the third successive year. Mr. Wm. Harris had a fine display of gladiolus in one corner of the hall, which he turned over to the Red Cross organization, and which were quickly bought at the conclusion of the show. Also a few of the exhibits were turned over by the members to be disposed of.

Mrs. A. Beard, President of the local Society, addressed the gathering briefly in the evening.

This year's garden contest was in two classes, Vegetables and Flowers. Mr. Woodruff, of Acton, was the judge, and the gardens were inspected twice. Seventeen gardens were in the contest, as follows:

Vegetables—Mrs. T. Weatherston, Miss Elva Pearen, Mr. Jas. Love, Miss Myrtle Moore, Mrs. C. H. Harris, Mr. Jas. Locker, Flowers—Mrs. Watt, Mrs. H. Milroy, Mrs. E. Nickell, Miss M. Moore, Mrs. Clemens, Mrs. T. Weatherston.

Class I
Open to children, aged 10 to 14, inclusive:

Bird House (Wren)—Stanley Harris; Gordon Harris; Reba McNabb.

Display of Vegetables—Stanley Harris; Gordon Harris; Helen Powers.

Display of Cut Flowers—Gordon Harris; Bella Nightingale; Myrtle Edwards.

Class III
Open to residents of Erano Township (non-members):

Vegetables — Mrs. Earl Brown, Miss Elsie Gordon, Mrs. McNeill.

Arrangement of Cut Flowers—Mrs. McNeill.

Class IV
Members only:

VEGETABLES
Beans—Mrs. C. H. Harris; George H. Pearen; Mrs. Geo. Bolton; Jas. Locker; Geo. H. Pearen.

Cabbage, round—Jas. Locker; Mrs. W. J. Edwards.

Cabbage, A.O.V.—Mrs. W. J. Edwards; Geo. H. Pearen.

Carrots, short—G. H. Pearen; Mrs. E. Nickell.

Carrots, intermediate — Mrs. C. H. Harris; Mrs. T. Weatherston; Mrs. G. Bolton.

Celery—Frank Moore.

Corn, A.O.V.—Mrs. T. Weatherston; G. H. Pearen.

Cucumber, slicing — Mrs. G. Oakes; Mrs. C. M. Harris; G. H. Pearen.

(Continued on Page Four)

Fire Pumper Purchased for Acton



Acton Purchases Fire Pumper and Bigger Truck

Tests Prove Satisfactory Both in Woodstock and Acton and the Machine Was Delivered on Monday — Council in Special Meeting Passes Payment and Arranges for Insurance Coverage.

On Friday Reeve Chalmers and Councillors Oakes and Davison, Fire Chief McDonald, Utilities Superintendent Wilson and N. McEachern, fire truck maintenance man, went to Woodstock to see a demonstration of the fire pumper under option. The results of the tests were highly satisfactory.

On Monday the machine was delivered in Acton. Further tests were made under all conditions. The chief mechanic of the Bickle-Seagrave Fire Engine Co. and Mr. Bickle spent the day here giving instruction in the operation of the machine. It measured up fully to every test required and was purchased by the Council.

The machine has a triple combination pumper, booster, hose, truck ladders, booster tank, etc. It is ample in size to carry all the equipment and hose necessary. It will also accommodate a good number of the members of the Brigade used to fires. It is a Studebaker bus chassis of 158 inch wheelbase, with 6 cylinder engine.

Tests were conducted here on Monday, both with the machine drawing water from Fairy Lake and also from a hydrant. Taking water from a suction lift of 10 feet the pumper will deliver 350 imperial gallons per minute at 120 lbs. pump pressure. From hydrants it will deliver 400 gallons per minute. Both methods were tried out and found very satisfactory. The stream from the nozzle was forced a distance of 175 feet.

The hose body has a capacity of 1,500 feet of hose. A booster tank of 33 gallons capacity has 150 feet of 1/2 inch hose. This is used instead of the chemical tanks used on the old truck.

Equipment included is two soda-acid fire extinguishers, one axe, one crowbar,

two electric lanterns, four nozzle holders, one 35 foot extension ladder and one 12 foot roof ladder; electric searchlight and electric siren.

After a thorough inspection the machine was found to meet all the specifications and even beyond. It is considered ample for Acton's needs for some time.

Perhaps we might explain just what advantages this equipment will have not only to the Fire Brigade but to the citizens. Pressure at the time of a fire will be boosted on the mains any more. This will be the means of saving water pipes or plumbing in domestic water services. The pressure necessary to fight a fire is exerted and regulated at the hydrant nearest the fire.

At a special meeting of Council held following the demonstration on Monday evening, the Clerk read the contract covering the purchase of the machine. The total cost is \$1,840. Authorization of payment of \$1,000 was made at this meeting. The balance is to be paid in one year. The motion was unanimously endorsed by all the Council. This was the first meeting Councillor Sinclair had been able to attend since his recent illness and all were pleased to see him able to be present again.

The Clerk pointed out that if the full purchase price was paid at once a reduction of 200 was procurable but Council decided against taking this option.

The insurance policies were reviewed and the Clerk was instructed to have \$1,800 coverage placed on the new machine immediately. He was also authorized to secure license plates.

The old fire truck is to be converted into a truck for doing general municipal work. Councillor Oakes and Chief Harrop were appointed to arrange for having this work done as soon as possible.

Arrangements were also to be made to have the office of the Municipal Officer at the Town-Hall, redecorated while the other parts of the hall are being done. Councillor Davison was to arrange for this work.

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AUGUST SHIPMENT ACTON DISTRICT RED CROSS SOCIETY

The following articles were sent to the Red Cross Headquarters from Acton and District Branch Red Cross during August: 123 pair socks; 16 pair wristlets; 7 helmets; 13 scarves; 24 sweaters; 2 pair knee caps; 15 quilts.