

WINNER
M. A. James
Trophy
FOR BEST FRONT
PAGE

The Acton Free Press.

WINNER
Award of Merit
THIRD PLACE FOR
BEST EDITORIAL
PAGE

Sixty-sixth Year—No. 26.

ACTON, ONTARIO, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 1940

Four Home-Print Pages—Five Cents

Happy Christmas

Year End Work of Esqueing Council Monday

Final Accounts Passed — Council Thanks Reeve Wilson for Conduct of Meetings

The December meeting of Esqueing Township Council was held on Monday of last week. Deputy-Reeve C. H. May, Councillors G. W. Murray, Edwin Harrop and George E. Cleave were present. Reeve Wm. A. Wilson presided at the meeting.

Moved by Messrs. May and Harrop, that the Treasurer pay relief accounts, as presented by the Relief Officer, \$246.46.—Carried.

Moved by Messrs. Cleave and May, that the Treasurer pay the road sheets, as presented by the Road Superintendent, \$2,126.37.—Carried.

Other accounts passed for payment were:

Town of Georgetown, Division	\$ 27.50
Hume Currie, coal	74.90
Bell Telephone account	3.28
Acton Public Utilities Commission Crescent street lights	15.00
Department of Game and Fisheries, 656 hunting licenses	4.85
W. J. Campbell, Weed Inspector Whittier & Co., supplies	1.02
J. Sanford, relief account to date and supplies	28.80
I. M. Bennett, stamps	1.32
James Corner, to splitting and "plumbing" notes	1.25
Sheep Claims:	
A. S. Wilson, 1 registered ewe killed by dogs	25.00
Paul S. Kenney, 2 sheep killed by dogs	20.00
Mrs. Annie L. Murray, 1 sheep killed, 3 sheep injured	11.00
K. C. Lindsay, valuator	20.00
Cecil Chisholm, selecting jurors	5.00
A. W. Benton, selecting jurors	5.00
Frank Petch, selecting jurors	5.00
W. A. Wilson, selecting jurors	5.00
Cecil Chisholm, attending at Judge's Court on Voters' Lists	6.36
A. W. Benton, attending at Judge's Court on Voters' Lists	5.60
Canadian General Insurance Co., renewing Tax Collector's bond	37.50
Harry Robertson, stamps	6.00
Dale and Bennett, account to date	106.02
Frank Petch, Acting Clerk, for services, stamps and sundries	136.55
Wm. A. Wilson, meetings, mileage commission	141.20
C. H. May, meetings, mileage commission	133.20
Edwin Harrop, meetings, mileage commission	126.00
G. W. Murray, meetings, mileage commission	126.60
G. E. Cleave, meetings, mileage commission	119.00
Board of Health Accounts—	
C. R. Turner, ambulance to Hamilton Hospital re incident	10.00
Department of Health of Ontario, insulin supplied	2.93
J. H. Bingham, meetings, mileage	22.25
Dr. R. T. Paul, meetings, mileage	21.00
Wm. A. Wilson, meetings, mileage	31.50
Frank Petch, meetings	4.00
H. M. Bennett, meetings	16.00
Dr. R. T. Paul, fare to Toronto advanced to indigent	2.00
Dr. R. T. Paul, attending Board of Health at Toronto	10.00

Moved by Messrs. Cleave and Harrop, that the report of the Medical Health Officer be filed.—Carried.

A by-law, to provide for holding municipal elections for the year 1941 was read as required, and passed.

Another by-law, to grant permission to the Reeve and Treasurer to borrow money to meet the current expenditure of the Township, was passed and the blanks filed in with the sum of six thousand five hundred dollars.

Moved by Messrs. Murray and Harrop, that the Reeve do now vacate the chair, and it be taken by the Deputy-Reeve.—Carried.

Moved by Messrs. Cleave and Murray, that the thanks of this Council are hereby tendered to Reeve Wm. A. Wilson, for the courteous and impartial manner in which he has presided over the meetings of the Council during the past year.—Carried.

Wellington County Provides for War Gifts to Funds

At a meeting during the week of the War Effort Committee of Wellington County, \$750 was voted to the Greek War Relief Fund and \$1,500 was voted to the London Distress Fund to be used in London or other bombed cities, at the discretion of the Canadian High Commissioner.

The Guelph official of the Greek appeal appeared before the Committee on Saturday and explained the urgency of the cause. It was also explained that Greek soldiers do not receive pay and depend on assistance to maintain their dependents at home while they are fighting against the Italians.

Wellington County, by making a one-mill levy on the County rate for patriotic purposes, has pioneered and set an example for other Counties. Of the \$35,420 thus raised, over \$30,000 is still on hand, to be used to the best advantage in furthering the war effort. Support has already been given to Red Cross branches in Wellington and further assistance will be given as required.

FRIENDS HONOR MISS DORIS MacDONALD AT MISCELLANEOUS SHOWER

Last Friday evening, Mrs. Amos Mason and Mrs. W. G. Mason were hostesses at a miscellaneous shower in honor of Miss Doris MacDonald, a bride of this week. Many friends attended and Miss MacDonald was the recipient of a variety of beautiful gifts.

The house and table decorations were pink and white. Mrs. A. B. McLean and Mrs. W. Cooper poured tea and served the ice. Friends greatly enjoyed this opportunity of spending a social evening with Miss MacDonald.

Big List Prizes Distributed at the Christmas Carnival

Event Sponsored by Acton Branch of Legion — Mrs. Maplesden Wins Washing Machine

A fair crowd attended the Christmas Carnival, sponsored by Acton Branch of the Canadian Legion held last night in the Town Hall here. Apparently the Christmas shopping had lowered the holiday mood and perhaps depleted the pocket books.

Those attending had a good evening with the raffles and amusements and carried away a variety of the prizes of their choosing. The Bingo table had a crowd all evening. A booth was operated in the Council Chamber and served hot food and coffee.

JOAN RUMLEY IS PRESIDENT OF MISSION BAND

The Victoria Mission Band of Knox Presbyterian Church has elected the following officers for 1941:

President—Joan Rumley.
Vice-Presidents—James Spielvogel, Betty Masters.
Secretary—Helen McLellan.
Treasurer—Joan Somerville.
Pianist—Florence Salt.
Assistant Pianist—Joyce Desjardins.
Envelope Secretary—Aileen McIsaac.
Group Leaders—Dora Hansen, Margaret Somerville, Mary Ritchie, Hazel McLellan.

The LETTER BOX

DEAR FREE PRESS: It seems impossible for me to find enough to be worth while writing about very often. But now that Christmas is drawing near again I have this opportunity of making contact with so many friends and acquaintances. Even though separated by dozens, or hundreds, or even thousands of miles, thoughts travel quickly and we are reminded in spirit of each other. Christmas is always the season of good cheer, regardless of financial or other circumstances. Some are able to give lavish and expensive presents, others none at all, but everyone can wish each other the season's greetings and be happy and joyful on this, another anniversary of Christ's birth.

Our two school children, like so many others all over the country, have been busy practicing for their entertainment, to be held the 19th, and, of course, to hear them tell it, it's to be a wonderful affair. The joy bells are ringing and children singing anyway, so we're all happy about it.

I can't hardly imagine what a child-less home must be like. In my father's and mother's family six of us grew up together, and now, in my family, eight have grown up together, so we have good times.

For the past two years we've also had grandchildren as well, so as some grow up and go away, others come to take their places. We're somewhat separated this year, and with such extreme winter weather and so much snow, and bad roads, it's going to be hard to get together. Harold is away about 20 miles in camp, getting out wood, with the team. Evelyn now has her own home and family to care for, and no means of transportation, so far, in the winter time. Dorothy is helping to establish a home of her own in Rouyn, Quebec, and her husband, a mine engineer in the shop, has only the day off. The train service is not convenient. Lillian is also employed near Rouyn, so we are wondering just how many will be home.

Our weather has been more extreme than for the past five years that we've been here. It froze up early in November; snow came to stay about the 15th; and we drove our car for the last time down our road the 27th. The mail man did manage, with a good deal of help and hardship, to get through till the 2nd of December, but since then nothing but horse-drawn vehicles could get through. Continuous storms have piled up about two feet of snow on the level and much more where it's drifted. The highway is kept open at tremendous expense and trouble, but country roads are just getting as you can and we're five miles from the highway. Sometimes I'm glad, because cars are a nuisance anyway in cold weather—always something going wrong. It's been bitter cold; too: down to 30 below zero a number of times. And to-day, as I write, it's 12 below, with a nasty wind. So we have to keep fires on to keep the frost out.

In spite of the cold, planes fly back and forth, both day and night. We're right on the line, just a mile from the airport (as I've mentioned before) and these days of extensive training and transporting of planes, we've seen them by the dozens. They zoom right over the buildings, circling to land. And of my! the terrible roar they make, five or six together. To make it possible to land, the runways are kept roller in used after each storm.

Road construction has been slowed up, but lumbering has taken its place as a means of employment, and every available man, who is physically fit, can find work.—Both pulp and lumber are in great demand.

A terrible wind storm in November did tremendous damage to thousands of miles of standing timber, which has made logging much harder and more expensive. But operators are going ahead just the same. Two big camps I know of, employing from 40 to 50 men each, have had to raise their rates to meet the harder conditions of work getting logs cut and skidded, \$45.00 per month, and board, is the prevailing monthly wage, with various prices for piece work. Most work nowadays is a patriotic proposition. The material or produce is so urgently needed for war service or effort, that the work involved is a necessity.

All the young men in this country, the same as everywhere else, are being called for training, and large numbers of them let us enter it with our hand in the hand of God.

(Concluded on Page Four)

TUESDAY ISSUE AGAIN NEXT WEEK

The co-operation received from advertisers, correspondents, contributors, and all in getting out this issue of THE FREE PRESS two days ahead of schedule is appreciated by the editor and staff. Mid-week holidays do disrupt publication schedules.

May we have similar assistance again next week? Owing to the New Year holiday, THE FREE PRESS will again be issued on Tuesday. Please send in copy early. After next week we hope to get back to regular Thursday publication dates.

Halton Plowmen Elect Officers for 1941

Ross Segsworth, of Freeman, was elected President of the Halton Plowmen's Association for 1941 at the annual meeting, held recently in Milton. The Association has again not only had an active but a most successful year. In addition to the annual match, which is recognized as one of the best county matches in the Province, a successful junior match was held in the spring, and eleven Halton plow boys competed at the International, where they established an outstanding record.

The program at the annual meeting included some excellent educational films, which were screened through the courtesy of Canadian Industries Limited.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

- Honorary President—John McCormack, Freeman.
- President—Ross Segsworth.
- Vice-Presidents—J. A. Elliott and Victor Hall.
- Treasurer—Claude Pickett.
- Secretary—J. E. Whitlock.
- Directors—Esqueing: James Cunningham, Wm. H. Robinson and Clebert McDowell; Nassagaweya: George Finney, A. S. Mahon, L. W. Chisholm; Nelson: W. J. Robertson, William Dale, E. M. Readhead; Trafalgar: John Lisler, W. S. Hall and J. A. Dixon.
- County Directors—Fred Robinson, Gordon Chisholm, Stanley Hall, J. H. Wilson.
- Honorary Directors—F. H. Gilroy, John Coulson, P. D. Salter, W. A. Robinson, Peter Peddie.

QUIET WEDDING SATURDAY IN ACTON HOME

A quiet wedding was solemnized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. MacDonald, Acton, Ontario, on Saturday last, when their daughter, Doris Mary, was united in marriage to Mr. James Norman Small, of Niagara Falls, Ontario, with Rev. H. L. Bennie officiating.

The bride wore a gown of blue fallé taffeta, fashioned on princess lines, with a Juliet cap, and carried a shower bouquet of pink roses. The bridesmaid was Miss Eld. Brien, of Toronto, who wore a gown of taffeta in a deeper shade of blue, and carried a bouquet of pink carnations. Mr. Donald Sterling, of Bracebridge, acted as best man.

WEEK OF PRAYER SERVICES IN THE ACTON CHURCHES

The churches of Acton will follow their usual custom of observing the first full week of January with a season of prayer.

Sunday, January 5th — Each church has its services.

Monday, January 6th — St. Alban's Church, at 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 7th—Knox Church, at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 8th — Baptist Church, at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 9th — At United Church, at 8:00 p.m.

Let us open the New Year in the spirit of worship. This year will decide our nationhood and our place in the world. Let us enter it with our hand in the hand of God.

Obituary

MRS. W. P. BROWN, Toronto
A native of Acton, but resident of Toronto for over forty years, Mrs. W. P. Brown passed away on Saturday at her home, 160 Spadina Road, Toronto, on December 19th she had observed her ninety-first birthday and has been in failing health for some time.

Mrs. Brown was, before marriage, Annie Grant, a daughter of the late Squire Grant, of Acton. Her husband pre-deceased her forty-one years ago. She taught school and will be remembered by older residents of Nassagaweya and Esqueing Townships. Surviving her are two sons, Alexander G., and William, and one daughter, Mabel, all of Toronto. One sister, Mrs. Nellie Turner, of Little Current, also remains. Mrs. Margaret Wallace, another sister, passed away last month.

Interment was made in Fairview Cemetery, Acton, yesterday afternoon. Rev. Mr. Greenslade, minister of Centennial United Church, of which Mrs. Brown was a member, conducted the service.

WILLIAM LAIRD, Walkerville

Residents of this community, where he was so well known, were shocked to learn of the sudden death, on Wednesday, of last week of William Laird, at his home in Walkerville, Ontario. He had been about business the day previous and that evening suffered a heart attack, from which he failed to recover.

Born in Acton, William Laird was a son of Mrs. Lillian Laird. He spent his boyhood and early manhood here and learned the glove-cutting trade. We recall that he was a member of Acton Citizens' Band and took an active part in the events of the community and with the Oddfellows Lodge. He married Miss Ella Gamble, also an Actonian. About twenty years ago the couple left Acton to make their home in Walkerville.

Here in the new home they both found a place in community affairs. Mr. Laird was manager of the United Garage, Detroit, and was highly esteemed by business associates and a wide circle of friends.

To his wife his mother and his brother and sisters sympathy of many friends in this home-town community goes out at this time when a life still in full stride was so suddenly terminated.

Mrs. S. Laird, the mother, resides with a daughter at Wabasso, Minn. Mrs. Huggins, in New Liskeard; Mrs. Dennis-Town, in Wabasso, Minn.; Mrs. R. M. MacDonald, in Acton; Mrs. Ross, in Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. W. J. Anderson, in Regina, Sask.

The funeral was held in Walkerville on Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Laird were members of the United Church there. Interment was in Windsor Cemetery.

KNOX W.M.S. ELECTS OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

The Women's Missionary Society of Knox Church has elected the following officers for 1941:

Honorary President—Mrs. H. L. Bennie.
Past President—Mrs. E. J. Hassard.
President—Mrs. Geo. Murray.
Vice-Presidents—Mrs. E. E. Barr, Mrs. Lettich.
Secretary—Mrs. W. J. Gould.
Treasurer—Mrs. R. M. MacDonald.
Mission Band Leaders—Mrs. H. Mainprize, Mrs. A. J. Buchanan, Mrs. George Somerville.
Pianist—Mrs. J. Bruce.
Assistant Pianist—Mrs. F. S. Blow.
Secretaries—
Literature—Mrs. A. Smith.
Librarians—Mrs. R. P. Watson, Mrs. A. Robinson.
Cried Tidings—Mrs. G. Lantz, Miss H. Wallace.
Press—Mrs. H. Mainprize.
Supply—Mrs. G. W. Masales.
Home Helpers—Mrs. G. Hansen, Mrs. F. McEutcheon.
Welcome and Welfare—Mrs. F. Anderson.
Life Membership—Mrs. Wm. Johnston.
Program Committee—Mrs. W. Lauby, Mrs. F. S. Blow.

Christmas Service at United Church Last Sunday

Various ceremonies, both old and new, were utilized in both morning and evening services of the United Church on Sunday, to make the Christmas spirit significant. The morning service, for instance, was introduced by a procession of Choir and Sunday School, into a beautifully-decorated auditorium, with an iridescent white curtain and cross at the chancel, suggestions drama. And most effectively presented by a group of the young women of the church was a pageant based on the "White Gifts" theme, picturing a Pilgrim, seeking worth-while life, lured by Pleasure, Wealth and Fame, advised by Wisdom, and finally finding a worthy place, with Love, at the Cross.

The parts were taken, with a spirit of real devotion prevailing, by Marjorie Nelson, Annetta Evans, Anna MacDonaid, Mabel Harris, Jean Lambert, Mrs. John Pell, Lillian Fields, Irma Wilderspin, and Betty Gibson, and Mrs. W. J. Brantley did an incidental solo behind the curtain. The pageant illustrated strikingly the useful place drama, we'd done, may have in real worship.

At the evening service the beautiful old English ceremony of candle-lighting was utilized, the Choir entering a darkened auditorium and singing the first carol by the light of candles alone. Rev. C. C. Gifford's address was based on Hoffman's picture, "The Annunciation," which was thrown on a screen in the chancel, following the musical section of the service and was aimed to create a more reverent outlook for Christmas.

In addition to the Choir numbers, Christian's Rosetti's carol, "In the Bleak Mid-Winter," was sung by Miss Dorothy Pulcher of Toronto, as guest soloist. Miss Pulcher also sang "Breathe on Me, Breath of God," most feelingly just as the picture was revealed on the screen. Rev. Mr. Gifford is featuring these picture-sermons during the festive season, and will present another next Sunday evening.

Boxing Day is Proclaimed in Erin Township

Government Subsidy on Roads is Received at Concluding Meeting of Year

Erin Township Municipal Council met at Hillsburg, when the following business was transacted: December 24th (Boxing Day) was proclaimed a Civic Holiday.

Harvey Dearing was re-appointed as School Attendance Officer for 1941.

The Treasurer reported receiving \$2,098.12, Government subsidy, being one mill on the Township assessment.

The following amounts were ordered paid:

Roads	\$1,505.72
Officials' salaries	822.10
Printing	165.00
Hydro Electric	40.25
Sheep Destroyed	153.88
Relief	8.36
Miscellaneous	43.23

BEARDMORE & CO. SPREAD CHRISTMAS AMONG EMPLOYEES

Employees of Beardmore & Co. here have been participating in several events during the Christmastide season. On Thursday evening the plant foremen and superintendents were guests of Col. Beardmore and Mr. S. G. Bennett at a turkey dinner, served at the Station Hotel. Entertainment was provided by Chas. Musgrave & Co. of Toronto.

On Saturday 350 children of employees of the Company shared in a distribution of Christmas gifts from a big Christmas Tree party, held in the Town Hall. There were presents, useful and beautiful, for everyone. The event was arranged jointly by the Company and the Employees' Association.

On Monday Christmas hampers were distributed to all the employees. The events have indeed spread a big measure of Christmas cheer through the families of many homes whose heads are employed in this largest of Acton's industries.

Bonus for the Employees of Public Utilities

Irregular Consumption of Water is Causing Some Difficulties in Keeping Supply Constant

Accounts passed by Acton Public Utilities Commission on Monday evening were as follows:

Hydro Department	
Bell Telephone Co. services	\$ 5.58
W. R. Lashbrook, installing heater	6.50
Highway Garage, repairs and supplies	23.00
H.E.P.C. of Ontario, power, etc.	2,770.77
C.N.R. and Transports, express	2.81
Federal Wire & Cable Co., supplies	31.68
Canadian Line Materials, supplies	36.31
Northern Electric Co., supplies	11.71
MacDonald Electric Co., supplies	44.93
Canadian General Electric Co., supplies	.72
Cansfield Electric Works, supplies	14.40
Department of National Revenue, sales tax	104.23
Symon Hardware, supplies	4.11
	\$3,082.75

Waterworks Department

Canadian Brass Company, supplies \$19.89

The Superintendent reported that the present irregular consumption of water was making the pumping at the spring a difficult problem. The amount pumped varied from 16,000 to 92,000 gallons per day.

The Commission asked the Superintendent to take up the matter at a meeting of the Council early in the new year.

A motion was passed, paying a bonus of 3% per cent. on the salaries of the Secretary-Treasurer, Superintendent and his assistant. The officials expressed their appreciation of this recognition.

Chairman Hansen, Reeve Chalmers and Commissioner M. Symon were present at the meeting.

RECORD MAIL HANDLED THIS YEAR AT ACTON POST OFFICE

While complete figures are not yet available, it would appear that the mail handled this year at Acton Post Office would establish a new record. For three days during the week an average of 6,000 letters and cards were posted at Acton.

Monday, of course, was the biggest day of the Christmas rush. That day one mail train unloaded 27 bags of mail for Acton. Saturday morning's mail was 23 sacks. Postmaster Matthews had a staff of six on Monday sorting letters and cards all day to keep ahead of the accumulation.

Unless one actually saw the mass of mail in the Post Office on Monday morning, no conception could be gained of the work entailed in getting the letters, cards and parcels all distributed to those who waited on the other side of the wickets for the distribution to be completed. It was after noon before the wickets were able to be opened for the general delivery. This is usually completed before 10:30 a.m.

Citizens generally appreciate the splendid service that has been given at the Post Office and the prompt delivery, which has been accomplished in spite of the deluge of Christmas mail.

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts, or Other Events, under this heading, are charged, 10 cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 25c.

The Junior Farmers' New Year's Party in Lorne School, on January 2nd. Progressive Crickinole, Games and Novelty Dance.

The Everet Choral Society will present a Concert in the Everet Church on Monday, December 30th, at 8:15 p.m. (Standard Time). Admission 25c, 15c.

Dance in Bannockburn School on New Year's Eve, under the auspices of the Bannockburn Women's Institute. Proceeds for war purposes. Admission 25c. Good music and lunch provided.