

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. 27.

ACTON, ONTARIO, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1940

Four Home-Print Pages—Five Cents

## Acton Sailor Tells of Trips Across Atlantic

### Submarine Sighted But No Torpedo Discharged—Over on Polish Boat and Back on Norwegian

Mr. A. Dills,  
Editor and Publisher,  
Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir:  
Well, we arrived in Scotland and dropped anchor at ... after a very rough voyage. We had four days fighting through heavy gales, and one day a hurricane, also foggy weather, not very cold, but we had at least 14 days of showery weather. But we got here O.K. Where we go from here I do not know as yet, or how long I shall be here before hopping a fast passenger for Canada and home. I hope, though, to make it for Christmas. We had a few thrilling events on our trip, but no attack from air or sea, and behind us a few convoys, both ahead and behind us, few submarine and air attacks.

The scenery along the Irish and Scottish coasts is really wonderful, also along the Clyde, the prettiest I have ever seen, I believe. I have a story of the ship and the trip from Halifax to Sydney, and part way across the Atlantic, if you wish I will forward it later on. But first of all I wish to have it censored by either the Scottish or Canadian naval authorities. If it passes O.K. then you shall receive it. It is very long, but I really do believe it will prove interesting to you and your readers, and it will be something new in the way of news for The Acton Free Press.

I am sending three pieces of Polish money to you as souvenirs, one for Mr. A. T. Brown, one for Earl Vincent, and one for yourself. Well, Mr. Dills, I guess this is all for this time, but I know what the Atlantic and its mountainous seas (I guess the waves were all of thirty to forty feet high). But although I cannot say that the waters on the Great Lakes were just as huge, they can roll the ship as heavily and as far as the Atlantic, and we were rolling 30 degrees to port and about 20 to starboard. Anyway, I certainly enjoyed the trip and am now just waiting to hear what the orders are, then I shall know when I shall be back, and home on leave.

My remembrances to all the boys of the Services, and friends at home, and wishing you and your paper every continued success, I beg to remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
H. V. DRON, A.B., A.A.L.G.

At Sea  
Mr. A. Dills,  
Editor and Publisher,  
Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir:  
Just a few lines to let you all know I have had a safe voyage across the Atlantic and return. I can safely refer to my return voyage, as we are well out of the danger zone now. The trip was uneventful, but the gales, hurricanes, and heavy seas were terrific. The ship is a Norwegian ship around 480 feet long, and about 8,000 tons, with all-Norwegian crew, except for four Canadian Lewis Gunners returning from duty on ships that touched Scotland. I enjoyed our short stay in Scotland (5 days) except that it rained every day, and at first the blackout was very inconvenient but we soon got used to that.

When we left Scotland, Saturday, December 7th, we figured it would be home for Christmas, but now, well, we might get home for New Year's. Our ship is not carrying any cargo and we have been drifting about 3 nautical miles an hour abeam (sideways), as the wind and high seas toss us around like a cork, and our propeller is out of the water more than it is in, so we are making very slow time, and the boys are all feeling pretty disappointed. To make matters worse yesterday afternoon the seas got so high we were in a hurricane that we could make no headway and we had to stop our engines and "ride her out." We were just "hove to" for about 13 hours, and in that time we drifted back for about 40 miles, which really put us 80 miles back on our course—worse luck.

Last night we had a little fun, although I did not think it was fun at the time. I got my "head down" about 9:15 p.m. I was in the midst of pleasant dreams when I seemed to hear water running into our cabin and swishing over the cabin deck. I was lying half awake, trying to find out what and why, not even aware enough to turn on the light, and have a look, when my cabin mate hollered, "Turn on the light, Gunner, the cabin's full of water!" Add, sure enough, water was pouring in the ventilator in the ceiling, and about 2 inches of water on the deck. My bunk was fairly wet, too. What had happened was a huge wave had washed over the ship, running in every opening, but in a moment it was all over. Well, I sat in my bunk, didn't know just what I was in, (Concluded on Page Three)

# HAPPY 1941 NEW YEAR

## Another Year Dawns

—A Front Page Editorial—

This is the last day of old 1940. To-morrow a new year is ushered in, with all the hopefulness that new things promise. Looking back those 366 days had, like every other similar period, the times of heart sickness and its periods of joy. To some, more than to others, in greater or less measure, no doubt.

Looking on the year of war, the heart sickening moments seemed to predominate. There were those times when Norway went under and when Holland, Belgium and then France failed to stop the flood-tide of German invasion. There was the period when Italy thought the time opportune and rode on the top of the wave. And there has been that period of horror since when the Mother land has been bombed and the Hun has loosened all the terrifying powers at his command to beat the British people into submission. Most of the twelve months are not pleasant to recall.

But the latter months of this old 1940 have seen ascending brighter things. True, the bombing raids continue with devastating effects. But Italy is no longer on the forward march. Norway, Holland and Belgium are smarting under the Hun heel, and the day will come when oppression will result in revolt. France, while overrun by the German horde, is still unbeaten.

And then, if there was any doubt as to the stand of the United States along with Great Britain, it was dispelled by President Roosevelt in his address on Sunday evening. Yes, most of the days of 1940 were dark, but a ray of light—several rays, in fact do give evidence of the dawn as the year closes.

And then we might look back here in Acton over the year. There has been much industrial progress. Established industries have had expansion. New industries have occupied all vacant premises. More than four score of our local young men are serving in the Active Forces, many of them overseas. There have been municipal improvements and a busy year by most every individual citizen doing a share along with the daily task to the war effort—Red Cross, Salvation Army, Legion, Y.M.C.A., Spiffing and Christmas Carnivals, Home guards, War Savings and a number of other ways many of them obscure, but all helpful.

And so 1940 passes on!

What of the New Year? Of course the war effort will be paramount in this 1941 we enter now. Neighborhoods these days do take in a wide territory. Peace will come again to the world, when it is not predictable. We on this North American Continent, have tasted none of the horrors of wars. Fighting planes roar over our towns and cities, but we have no fear of bombs. We are far from the front line trenches—extended as they are in this modern warfare. Thanks to the men of the Air Force, the Navy and the Army, who keep that front line far removed.

To parents, relatives and friends who have loved ones in these front line trenches holding grimly on, it seems futile to extend a wish for happiness in the New Year. Happiness can only come with re-union and assurance of world peace. Happiness for 1941 lies in hope.

Under the storm and the cloud to-day, and to-day the hard peril and pain—to-morrow the stone shall be rolled away, for the sunshine shall follow the rain.

May your fondest hopes for 1941 be realized.

## The Week at OTTAWA

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by  
JOHN DAUPHINEE  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Ottawa, December 31st (CP)—Aside from the war effort, the Capital's major interest as it enters the New Year is the Dominion-Provincial Conference, scheduled for January 14th.

The Conference, called by Prime Minister Mackenzie King before Parliament recess, is to consider implementation of the Rowell-Sirois Commission's recommendations in regard to Dominion-Provincial relations.

There is considerable discussion on Parliament Hill now as to whether the January 14th conference will be open to the public. Similar conferences in the past have been behind closed doors. Decision on whether the forthcoming meeting is to be open or closed probably will not be reached until after the delegates have assembled here and have discussed the situation.

**Legislation Ahea**  
It has been indicated deliberations of the Conference may result in the major share of domestic legislation to be introduced by the Government at the session.

During the last year, enactment of an unemployment insurance measure was Parliament's outstanding piece of legislation. Work now is going forward to complete organization of the machinery necessary to administer the compulsory, contributory scheme.

Parliament's other legislation consisted of routine budget and supply measures, provision for aid to agricultural producers—and, of course, war program measures. Action intended to result in development of electric power resources of the international rapids section of the St. Lawrence River was instituted by Canada and the United States, but no legislation has resulted yet.

Recent reports from Washington said the negotiations were approaching the "agreement-signing stage," and there were hints that Canadian delegates might go to the United States capital some time in January—for discussions with American authorities.

**As to Butter Prices**  
When Parliament resumes in February, a debate is expected on the War-time Prices and Trade Board's action in pegging butter prices throughout the Dominion. The Board's order means a reduction of about three cents a pound in the prevailing price.

Maximum wholesale price has been set at the highest wholesale price prevailing at December 12th in each locality. The range at that time was from 32 to 35 cents. The Board expects the normal spread between wholesale and retail prices to be maintained.

At the same time, the Board urged that Canadians should avoid waste and unnecessary use of butter "as a patriotic duty" during the winter months.

Within a few hours of the Board's announcement it had pegged butter prices, the Nova Scotia Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. A. McDonald, said it was "amazing" to think such action had been taken "when butterfat prices are really not high in comparison with the increased purchasing power of the consumer and the generally improved business conditions."

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## ACTON BOYS ENLISTED

This Week's Register  
Jack vanGoozen, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. vanGoozen, has enlisted in the R.C.A.F., and is at present stationed at Toronto.

## The Canadian War Effort

A Weekly Review of Developments Along the Home Front

December 19th-26th

1 Canadian corps constituted to comprise the two Canadian divisions overseas and Canadian non-divisional units in the United Kingdom. In addition Canadian corps includes certain British armored divisions and other formations under command of Canadian corps.

2 Canada's mineral production for 1940 reaches a time record of 500,000,000. Of this total, gold contributes more than \$200,000,000.

3 Wartime Prices and Trade Board authorized to formulate new regulations to prevent any person from taking advantage of new excise taxes and import restrictions to increase prices by more than actual increase in costs justifies.

4 Contracts awarded by Department of Munitions and Supply during week ended December 13th numbered 1,839, and totalled \$7,536,183.

5 Second course of ski training for regimental instructors opens Lansdowne Park, Ottawa, January 4th, and continues till January 31st, 1941.

6 Course is instructional in military training and tactics, while on skis or snowshoes, for those who are already accomplished skiers. Lect: T. P. O'Day, Canadian Grenadier Guards, chief instructor.

7 Second class called up under Mobilization Act complete thirty days' military training.

8 Aluminum Company of Canada grants \$10,000 for production of new film showing Canada's war effort on industrial front.

9 Blood bank established to provide transfusions for a maximum of 20,000 wounded in war.

## Motor Accidents of the District During the Week

The Christmas holiday witnessed a few motor mishaps in this district. Fortunately none of them resulted in serious injury to the motorists, although machines were more or less damaged.

Three miles west of Acton, on Christmas eve, Pte. Rigby Cross, who was home on leave from the Highland Light Infantry, stationed at Stratford, lost control of his car when rounding the curve at Crewson's Corners, and landed in the ditch, with the wheels of the car in the air. He was taken from the car by Cadet George Hodgins, and taken to hospital. In police court, yesterday, he was convicted on a charge of drunk driving, and sentenced to 15 days in county jail and his car ordered impounded for three months.

Friday afternoon, George Nurse, of Ashgrove, failed to round the corner at Young and Queen Streets, and went over the curb and stopped his car a few feet from Mr. C. Hansen's front door step. Shrubbery about the ground was damaged but Mr. Nurse was not injured.

Chief Harrop investigated the accident. It is presumed the driver became excited founding the corner and used the accelerator instead of his brake.

## "ALERTS" STOP TRAMS

Blackburn, England (CP)—Tram-car stop if "alert" sounds in the blackout period, the Emergency Committee has decided.

## WAS FLYING ADMIRAL

London (CP)—Admiral Sir Richard Phillimore, one of the first naval officers to qualify as a flier, is dead, at the age of 75.

## The Christmas Services at St. Alban's Church

Christmas was celebrated at St. Alban's Church with a mid-night Choral Communion on Christmas Eve, and at 11:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens and red poinsettias and the flowers on the altar were white and pale pink chrysanthemums. The altar hangings were white, according to custom, on the principle festivals.

The music of the service was well rendered by a full choir. The Christmas message, read by the vicar, from the text "School things of great joy" to a people. He said that Christmas had such a hold over the minds of Christendom because its joy shone with contrasting light and hope in a dark world. He called upon all to build into the world of the future, and into their own souls, all the joy they had in Christmas and all the love that it released among us.

The services on Sunday continued the celebration of Christmas. At 11:00 a.m. the sermon was on the doctrine of the Incarnation.

At 7:00 p.m. the annual Carol Service was held. This service was an adaptation of the service held annually at Westminster Abbey, and consisted of seven scripture lessons interspersed with carols and Christmas hymns, some sung as solos, others by the choir alone, and the majority by choir and congregation. Mrs. V. Churchill sang "How Far is It to Bethlehem," and Mrs. W. J. Bentley sang "Away in a Manger." The choir sang Christmas Rossetti's hymn, "In the Bleak Mid-Winter," and "Good King Wenceslas," with solo parts by Mrs. S. Stone and Mr. S. H. Webster. The Nunc Dimittis was sung kneeling as a vesper. At the conclusion of the service also incorporated into the service were Herrick's poem, "Lord of All Ours Begetting," and Longfellow's "Christmas Bells." It was an impressive and memorable experience.

## CHANGE IN THE MANAGERSHIP OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

Local Manager of the exchange of the Bell Telephone Co. here for the past twenty years, Mrs. G. H. Lantz has resigned from that position. She is succeeded in office by her daughter, Miss Grace Lantz.

During that period the local exchange has had growth and all patrons have appreciated the courteous attention that Mrs. Lantz has given to the position. Her successor is well versed in the work, and knows the needs of the community, and all will wish her a continuance of successful administration.

## Last Days Find Rush to Secure 1941 Licenses

This week has seen a rush by motorists to secure new license plates and driving licenses at the Acton depot. Today is the last day that the 1940 licenses are good. To-morrow you must have 1941 plates and driver's license.

Friday was the biggest day that had ever been had by this office. Saturday J. K. Gardiner, the local issuer, had a line-up in the office nearly all day, and during the evening, and it was a bigger day than Friday. The same rush has been true for nearly every day since. Motorists of the district are finding the local license depot a great convenience and indications are that this year will see a big increase in the number of motorists served from here. Many find it a great convenience having the office open during the evenings, when they are doing their shopping here.

According to a news despatch this morning, the time for securing the new markers has been extended until January 16th.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT LORNE SCHOOL ENJOYABLE EVENT

The concert held at Lorne School on Saturday, December 21st, was well attended. Mr. R. L. Davidson acted as chairman and introduced the members of the program, which consisted of recitations, dialogues, songs, readings, tableaux, carols, and a "Dill."

The twenty-minute play by Grade VIII created much fun and laughter. After the delightful program, ended, Santa Claus came in and distributed the presents and candy. Santa felt very delighted with all the children and once created roars of laughter when he almost lost part of his suit.

Among the gifts was a lovely electric lamp from the children to Mr. Pell. The children were then given sashes of candy and Santa Claus hurried on his journey. The evening was successful, due to the co-operation of the Board and those interested in the children and school.

## Nominations in Nearby Centres Held Yesterday

### Acclamations Given in Equestrian and Eramosa Townships — Four Nominated for Reeve in Nassawagony

Yesterday was nomination day in several nearby centres, and the following are the results:

**NASSAWAGOY**  
Reeve: George Finney, George Stokes, John Simpson, William Vannickie. Council (three to be elected): John Caron, William Dredge, Alex. New, Frank Rhinbart, John Simpson, George Service, William Vannickie.

**ERAMOSIA**  
Reeve: David D. Gray (acclamation), Councilors: J. William J. Pinkney, Ernest Benham, Roy T. Leslie, Joseph Rutherford (acclamation).

**EQUESTRIAN**  
Reeve: W. A. Wilson. Deputy Reeve: C. H. May. Council: G. W. Murray, Ed. Harrop, and G. D. Cleave. All by acclamation.

**CHINGUACOUSY**  
Reeve: Almir Sherman, W. W. Little, Norman Cameron. Deputy Reeve: W. Boydard (acclamation).

Council (three to be elected): J. M. Fraser, Graham Crawford, Fred H. Travers, Robert Segsworth.

## FIRST NEWSPAPER ISSUED AT YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

Wherever men go and settle, they soon feel the need of a local newspaper, and so we find on November 21st, the first issue of "The Yellowknife Blade" was put into circulation. Based on a high quality machine, it is the forerunner of what will, no doubt, appear in regular newspaper form.

Through the courtesy of Dr. J. A. McNiven, we were privileged to judge this first issue. It's a regular community booster and the front page article starts off, "Citizens of Yellowknife, look around you. The settlement is located on the best harbor which exists on the north shore of Great Slave Lake," and then the location is described. J. Murray, McMeekin is the editor and the community is back of him. There were twenty-two advertisements by various institutions in the eight pages, produced on sheets 8 1/2 x 14 inches in size.

Municipal politics, mining, and editorial on the United States elections, village news items and a ladies page were among the headings we note. On 9th, and away back there in the North West Territories, a skating rink is to be erected, and a hockey team organized. A curling rink is already an established place.

## PAST PRESIDENT HONORED BY KNOX Y.P. SOCIETY

On Thursday evening, December 26th, the members of Knox Young People's Guild gathered in the classroom for a Christmas social, which, opened with the singing of Christmas carols. Several games of Chinese checkers were enjoyed and after the final Martin Hasard was declared champion. Other games were played, Clarence Coles winning the Treasure Trail Quiz.

Past-President Gair, Burt Patrick and his bride were then called forward and, following an address, read by Mr. Clarence Coles, a sandwich supper was presented to them by Berwin McPinnil. Mr. and Mrs. Patrick both very fittingly replied. After lunch had been served, the singing of the National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.

## SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AT ACTON HOME

Last Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Fred Crewson, Wellington Street, observed their silver wedding anniversary. Many friends took advantage of this occasion to shower congratulations and best wishes on this couple, who have resided in Acton during this quarter century.

On Saturday afternoon, relatives and near neighbors were entertained at a bounteous supper. The dining room, in silver, with pink and white carnations and kinspragns made a very pretty arrangement. A toast to the honored couple was proposed by Mr. J. H. Denny and responded to by Mr. Crewson.

In the evening another group of friends called. An address, expressing their congratulations, was read by Mrs. R. McEnery and, on behalf of the group, Mrs. John Lambert presented a silver and pyrex pie server. A splendid social evening followed by the group in this hospitable home. On Sunday a number of other friends called to offer congratulations.