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First Meeting 1943 Council Names Committees Officers

Brief Session Transacts First Meeting Business. Tax Arrears Are Lowered in Year—Skating Rink to be on Bower Avenue—Salary of Municipal Officer is Increased and Also that of Assistant.

At the inaugural meeting of the Acton Council on Monday evening, Councilors A. Mason, W. J. O. Oakes, J. F. Davidson and Chas. Kirkness, and Reeve J. M. McDonald took the oath of office and assembled as the 1943 Council.

A by-law was read and passed authorizing the Reeve and Clerk to sign the necessary documents with the Wartime Warehousing Corporation for the leasing of the Arena for the duration of the war, and a year thereafter at a rental of \$65 per month.

A resolution was passed naming the Board of Health for 1943 as Dr. W. G. Callen, Reeve J. M. McDonald and Mr. Chas. W. Mason.

Another resolution delegated the power to the Fire Brigade to appoint the chief and officers of the brigade for 1943.

The treasurer presented a statement of the taxes outstanding as at the end of the year. It showed \$627.15 of the 1942 taxes as unpaid at the end of the year. Arrears of other years brought the total up to \$942.45. The roll was accepted by resolution and returned to the treasurer to continue collection on it.

The Reeve and Treasurer were authorized by resolution to sign all cheques and promissory notes on behalf of the Corporation with the bank. Another resolution appointed E. E. Harrop Weed Inspector for 1943.

Authorization was given for payment of the services of H. Fryer, of the Cemetery Board. The time was to be computed by Chief Harrop.

The Reeve was authorized by resolution to hold a tax sale when necessary.

The Reeve and Treasurer were authorized to pay A. Clifford his salary each month at the rate of \$325 per day, plus cost of living bonus.

The Reeve and Treasurer were authorized to pay the requisitions of the School Board and to pay debentures as they come due from time to time.

It was arranged to hold the regular Council meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month with meetings to commence at 8 p.m.

Committees were appointed as follows for the year: Finance Committee—A. Mason, Chairman, J. F. Davidson and the Reeve.

Fire, Light and Property Committee—J. F. Davidson, Chairman, C. Kirkness and the Reeve.

Streets and Walks Committee—W. J. O. Oakes, Chairman, A. Mason and the Reeve.

Park and Arena—C. Kirkness, Chairman, W. J. O. Oakes and the Reeve.

Councillor Kirkness reported that the Storey Glove Co. had kindly allowed the use of their land adjoining their factory for the purpose of an outdoor skating rink. A space of 100 x 115 feet was available. Arrangements are made to make an enclosure and provide dressing rooms. Water and lighting were also being arranged.

It was decided by motion to increase the salary of Municipal Officer Harrop to \$125 per month. This increase was in consideration of extra duties now involved since no night constable was employed. The Reeve and Treasurer were authorized to pay the salary monthly.

A GOLDEN WEDDING MARKED BY COUPLE AT MOUNT FOREST

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Fosbury of Mount Forest, quietly celebrated their golden wedding on December 26, two of their daughters, Mrs. A. Grant, of Collingwood and Mrs. Harvey Woods of Stratford and families being present. Two sons, Denis, sergeant-major in 14th Canadian Hussars, and Bob in Army Pay Corps, are in England; Frank, their eldest son, is serving in the U. S. Marines. Their other son, Rev. Alfred Fosbury of Acton, volunteered for the chaplain's department early in the present conflict. Mr. and Mrs. Fosbury were extended the good wishes of their wide circle of friends.

GREEN STUFF FOR 1943

LONDON, (C. P.).—Enough vegetables to provide 10,000 men with potatoes and green vegetables for the past nine months were grown by the army in the south eastern command area this year.

Weekly War Commentary

Specialty Written for The Acton Free Press by
BY GUY RIBBOIDES
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Allies have ended 1942 with a general turn to the offensive after retreating before superior forces during the spring and summer and checking their enemies during the autumn.

In Africa they were chasing Rommel's army westward while their troops in Tunisia sought contact through unimproved roads to get at German and Italian defenders taken by air and sea to handle a situation made perilous when French occupation forces, helped by an Anglo-American invasion, swung to the Allied side.

In New Guinea and Burma they were pressing the Japanese with increasing strength while the enemy resistance was diminishing. In the Solomon Islands they were gaining against Japanese forces bereft of reinforcements by Allied naval superiority.

In Russia the enemy was being rolled back better-armed, losing thousands of men killed and captured every day and the four-pronged Red offensive swept forward, releasing occupied territory from Nazi and satellite hands and evading huge toll from the invaders.

In the air the Allies gained such superiority that the air ministry in London was able to say that the R. A. F. was stronger than the combined air forces of the Germans and Italians.

More Japs at Mikao

Only in the Aleutian Islands was there any doubt of Allied superiority. There American and Canadian airplanes found increasing evidence in their own hands that the Japs were increasing their strength in the Arctic archipelago. The extent to which this was being accomplished was not revealed and was probably unknown owing to the dirty weather conditions of the Arctic winter.

The pattern of the outcome of the year remained unclear as the year ended but it appeared likely that the Allies would strike to take place and drive Japanese conquest forces and drive them back while they prepared for a major offensive against the arch-enemy, Germany, through the country of its camp follower, Italy.

Politically as the year ended the allies through good spadework had secured the co-operation of a great force of Frenchmen in North Africa who would previously have been glad to fight the Axis had the means been at hand.

On the sea, in the air and on the ground the initiative was with the Allies and the Axis was talking the angle in pep-talks to its own people that this was their war, not for living space and world domination as it once said, but for existence.

Offensive Widens

Capture of two more points of great importance to the German High Command was announced by Russian military authorities on New Year's Day. The fall of Velikie Luki, 260 miles northwest of Moscow and only 90 miles from the Latvian border, climaxed a long struggle and laid open the hub of a vital German railway system. Nine hundred miles to the southeast the Germans evacuated Elita, capital of the Kalmyck region. The Russian successes, following the encirclement of German forces at Stalingrad and Millerovo and the seizing of Kotelnikovsk, indicate the strength of the Russian winter offensive. Fall of Velikie Luki was denied by the Germans at the weekend, but the great push being made in the area endangers the enemy's vital link with its apex, 100 miles to the east.

The Red Army command reports capture or destruction of thousands of Nazi troops in the Stalingrad area, together with great quantities of guns, tanks and supplies. The campaign to the south and west of the Volga city is being carried on relentlessly and the menace to Rostov increased daily. Capture of Rostov would be disastrous to the enemy's invasion of the Caucasus.

The capture of Elita provided rearguard support for other Russian columns that had thrust west of Moscow to the banks of Lake Manych. This put Soviet troops 90 miles south-east of Salak, whence a railway runs 100 miles farther northwest to Rostov.

On Other Fronts—Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's

Former Hockey Star Returns from Overseas For Course in Canada

Sergt. Rex Hillier, a former star on Acton Junior Hockey Team who has been overseas with the Canadian Forces arrived back in Canada just after Christmas and spent a couple of days in Acton this week. He has returned to Canada to take an officer's training course. He arrived at his home in Port Perry just after Christmas.

Sergt. Hillier says the Acton boys in England are all playing in hockey leagues this year and that the game is becoming quite popular in the Old Land. Sergt. Hillier himself looks in the pink of condition and ready for the game again.

Reeling Africa Corps retreated before British 8th Army advance patrols west of Wadi Bel El Chebir, 180 miles east of Tripoli, it was reported Jan. 2. The extent of the battle was not disclosed, a terse British communiqué stating:

Yesterday our patrols were active. Enemy vehicles and guns were engaged and withdrawn.

Little change in the situation in Tunisia was reported at the weekend. Axis and Allied forces continued to probe each other's strength, but fighting French forces moving up from the Lake Chad area to the south reported the route of an Axis motorized column in the Fezzan.

Allied planes pounded German strongholds in Tunisia and crippled at least three enemy ships in recent operations and Allied submarines sank two more Axis supply ships in the Mediterranean.

British warships operating in northern waters damaged and chased an enemy cruiser and left a destroyer in a sinking condition. The Admiralty announced New Year's Day. It was the first flare up of real naval activity along the route for Allied naval convoys to Russia for some months.

Australian and United States forces have overcast practically all opposition in Papua, on southeastern New Guinea. They are re-grouping for an attack on Sannanda Point, the last centre of Japanese resistance in the area, which is approximately two-fifths of New Guinea territory. The Allies now face extension of the campaign to northeastern New Guinea and Netherlands New Guinea and the greater portion of these areas is controlled by the enemy.

Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell's force operating in Burma along the north-east coast of the Bay of Bengal continues to edge closer to the important Japanese base of Akyah. There appears to be a possibility that the enemy commander may withdraw without a fight, but the actual situation will not be known until the British force contacts the Japanese troops defending the seaport.

Early this week the British 8th Army was reported in contact with Rommel's Africa Corps west of Wadi Bel El Chebir, about 170 miles east of Tripoli. The Axis troops, supported by newly-arrived squadrons of dive-bombers, were expected to make a stand in the area.

Russian forces continued to score successes over the German invaders this week from Velikie Luki on the central front to points deep in the Caucasus. Capture of Chirchik and other points west of Stalingrad may result in the encirclement of a second German force in the Don bend.

Moscow broadcasts stated that the capture of Chirchik and an important air base 40 miles away netted Col. Gen. Nikolai V. Vatutin's army 2,000,000 shells, 500,000 aerial bombs, 17 planes and huge stores of supplies. In the south, Russian forces recaptured Mzodok, key to the Grozny oil fields only 50 miles away, on Sunday and since they have been reported surging forward and occupying more populated places.

Southwest of Velikie Luki Russian columns driving toward the Latvian border routed the Germans from a strongly fortified point, after picking a path through minefields and barbed wire defences.

Soviet dispatches Wednesday said the German army in the Caucasus was in full retreat, blowing up bridges and mining roads, in a desperate attempt to delay the pursuing Russian troops. Four towns were listed, as recaptured in the north Caucasus, while the continuing offensive in the Middle Don region had resulted in the occupation of two towns.

Canadians in Africa

Ross Munro, Canadian Press war correspondent, in a dispatch from Allied Headquarters in North Africa, January 5th, reported the arrival in that battle area of a detachment of officers and non-commissioned officers from the Canadian Army in England. The detachment, sent to gain battle experience, included representatives of practically every type of unit, together with some medical officers.

Election Results In Nearby Centres On Monday's Voting

W. J. Robertson and Colin Smith Elected in Nelson Township

Following are results of Monday's municipal elections in centres near here in which many Free Press readers will be interested. This year there were many acclamations. In Halton only one township had an election.

NELSON TOWNSHIP
REEVE—W. J. Robertson, Milton, 681. (Defeated—John McNeven, Campbellville, 418).
DEPUTY-REEVE—Colin Smith, Freeman, 624. (Defeated—G. Leslie Peor, Milton, 403).

COUNCILLORS—(three elected)—Mrs. Mary S. Pettit, Freeman, 759; Herbert Alton, Tansley, 630 and Elmer C. Foster, Campbellville, 642. (Defeated—Wilfred S. Imber, Port Nelson, 343).

TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA BOARD (five elected)—W. Laurie Smith, 631; William G. Brecken, 512; Charles Headhead, 512; Bradford Clements, 491, and H. Martin Lindley, 460. (Defeated—John F. Duff, 390).

KENT GARAFAKXA TOWNSHIP TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA BOARD (acclamation)—Russell Oliver, Amaranth Station; Glenville Taylor, Orton; Frank Goodhall, Bellwood; Norman Prentice, Orton, and George May, Orton.

(Council was previously elected by acclamation.)

BRAMPTON
MAYOR—William A. Bates, acclamation.

REEVE—Councillor B. Harper Bull, 693. (Defeated—Reeve C. Carman, Corr, 293).

DEPUTY-REEVE—Harold R. Lawrence, acclamation.

COUNCILLORS (six elected)—Isaac Kellam, 675; Councillor Chas. F. Rippe, 522; John White, 589; W. A. Lynde, 553; W. C. Thompson, 510, and Councillor W. A. Bassell, 551. (Defeated—Councillor Norman E. Scarlet, 484, and Edward Waller, 255).

Acton L.O.L. Lodge Elects Officers For the Year

The Loyal Orange Lodge met at the home of J. E. Gamble where they held their regular monthly meeting with a good attendance. The new officers for 1943 are as follows:

W.M.—Bro. W. Frankum.
D.M.—Bro. Hencell Gordon.
Chaplain—Bro. W. Gordon.
Recording Secretary—Bro. Wm. Evans.

Final Secretary—Bro. W. Allen.
Treasurer—Bro. J. E. Gamble.
Marshal—Bro. H. Gordon.
1st Lecturer—Bro. J. V. Kery.
2nd Lecturer—Bro. C. K. Browne.
The treasurer reported a very successful year.

After the business and closing lodge Mr. and Mrs. Gamble were presented with a lovely end table. Bro. Brown, in a few well chosen words spoke on behalf of the lodge, their appreciation for the use of his home and Bro. H. Gordon presented the gift. Mrs. Gamble thanked the men for their thoughtfulness and said it was a pleasure to give use of the home for the war's duration when they then hope to have their hall.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE PRESENTED AT MEETING OF WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

The regular monthly business meeting of the Woman's Association of the United Church was held at the home of Mrs. D. Richardson on Tuesday with Mrs. Ivan Harris presiding. Rev. A. W. Fosbury opened the meeting with prayer and also conducted installation of officers for the coming year and annual roll call. The devotional period was taken by Mrs. S. Reid.

Annual reports presented showed there were 171 sick and shut-in calls, 37 letters sent to sick where bereavement had been in a home; 9 new members were secured and the oldest member, Mrs. H. P. Moore, was removed by death. The treasurer's report showed a very satisfactory balance on hand. The ladies are busy with quilts, 542 articles were made by the church ladies for war work during the year.

The meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Mr. Fosbury. Lunch was served by Mrs. Richardson (assisted by Mrs. B. Veldhuis, Mrs. Agar, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Evans and little Arlin Richardson) and a social time was spent.

A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Richardson for the use of her home and also to the lunch assistants.

Open Air Rink Being Constructed On Bower Avenue

The snowstorm on Monday delayed starting of the open air rink for a day or so but now activity has got under way. Yesterday the surface was cleared of snow and with good cold weather continuing it will not require many days to have an ice surface.

It is planned to put just enough boards around the enclosure to keep the ice surface outlined. Temporary dressing rooms will be put in place and the lighting allowed for outdoor rinks will be put in place. This lighting will not likely allow any hockey and no provision is being made for hockey. The location on Bower Avenue is certainly a good central one.

PRESENTATION MADE TO DUBLIN SOLDIERS HOME ON LEAVE

A large crowd of neighbors and friends gathered at Dublin School on Saturday night to spend a social evening with Clifford Webster and Alex. Frank while they were home on leave.

Dancing was enjoyed for a few hours after which Dorothy Frank gave several violin selections of old time music. John Black Jr. was then called on to read the following address:

Dear Boys:
We your friends of Dublin come mainly have gathered here tonight to spend a social evening with you while you are home on your New Year's leave. You have spent your boyhood among us, and many times you will look back on Dublin school days and say, "Do you remember?"

We have glad feelings mingled with sadness that you have taken this loyal stand for loyalty to your home, your King, and your country. We feel that wherever you may be called you will be on the job to do whatever duty calls.

We ask you to accept this gift as a remembrance and may our prayers help to give you peace, good will and a safe return.

WM. RITCHIE,
M. STEELE,
A. ROSS,
MRS. J. BLACK,
MRS. G. SOMERVILLE.

Alex. Wadde then presented Clifford and Alex. with a pen and pencil set. Both boys made very fitting replies, thanking all for their kind remembrance. Lunch was served and a social half hour spent.

Library Board Officers Re-elected For the Year

At a meeting of Acton Library Board Tuesday evening Hew, E. A. Brooks was re-elected Chairman for the year and Mr. M. H. Leitch, Secretary-Treasurer. The financial report showed a balance of only a few cents in the treasury and owing to increased cost of books it was decided to have the Chairman and Secretary interview Council with a request that \$100 additional be made to the annual fund.

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE STARTS AGAIN AFTER THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The Volleyball League of the Y. M. C. A. got off to a "passing" start last night, after the holiday lull. It was decided to play just one game with each team, instead of the usual two games so as to be able to finish before midnight. A number of new players were on hand and make valuable additions to any team.

Here are the scores for last night: Heard 21, MacArthur 19. Creighton 21, Heard 14. MacArthur 21, Creighton 19. The league standing is now:

	P.	W.	L.
Creighton	14	10	4
Heard	14	7	7
MacArthur	14	4	10

ST. ALBAN'S GUILD ELECTS OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

The January meeting of St. Alban's Guild was held at the home of Irene Marshall. The meeting was opened with prayer by the president after which was the election of officers for the New Year's work.

President—Mrs. Brooks.
Secretary—Mrs. E. Anderson.
Treasurer—Mrs. Gordon Currie.
Social Convener—Mrs. F. Stucky.
Assistant Convener—Mrs. C. Gibbons.

Mrs. N. Morton invited the Guild to her home for the next meeting. The meeting was closed with the benediction, then lunch was served and a social evening was spent.

Inspectors Report is Good on Acton School and Staff



More Than The Old Gray Mare
Ain't What She Used To Be

Building the open air space for skating over on Bower Avenue this week brought back recollections of other open air skating structures and facilities that weren't structures either, in Acton. First piece of ice surface with boards around it and playing of hockey in a defined area that I can recall in Acton was down on the Mill Pond. That must have been well over forty years ago and I think it was erected by the fellows who wanted to play hockey.

At any rate when these players came down they ordered the youngsters off the surface while they played so they must have had some priority. Harry Golette was one of the stars of that time and I can also recall Bob Taylor and that's about as far as the line-up left my impression. I don't even remember any games being played here. Frank McIntosh could likely name a lot more.

The next rink enclosure I can recall in Acton was known as the King Edward Rink. It was located on the land where the Acton Garage now stands and had the Dominion Hotel on one side and the Acton Hotel on the other side. There were dressing rooms and a waiting gallery along the end of the rink and part way down the sides for spectators. A high board fence enclosed the entire place. I can well remember the first flooding for the ice surface was done by getting out the fire engine and turning a line of hose from the Town Hall down to the rink. After the ice surface was built-up flooding was done with a barrel mounted on a sleigh and a sprinkler arrangement on the barrel.

There were carnivals, hockey games, and all sorts of events at this rink. Season tickets for skating sold at a reasonable price. I'm not sure whether it was municipally operated or not.

The Acton rink went from this location to "down by the powerhouse." That is the section on Willow Street between the school property and Baxter's Laboratories—in fact some of the land on which this building now stands. It was another high board fence enclosure with spectators' space along one side and one end. I think it was erected by Beardmore & Co. and operated by some individual who paid \$10 or \$12 a year for the use of the place and did the work of flooding and shovelling, including free lighting was supplied from the town electric plant and water was quite accessible from a pipe from Corporation Pond.

Here hockey really came into its own. In 1912 Acton had a Senior Hockey Club with W. P. Brown as manager, Gordon Beardmore, Treasurer and J. C. Clark as Secretary. Ernie Macklin was manager of the rink that year.

Late in January forty years ago Acton Hockey Club met Guelph at this open air rink and beat them 11 to 3. On Saturday of the same week they played the Beavers of Toronto with a score of 11-0 for Acton. Another Guelph team lost to Acton 8-6 a week later and Acton Juniors beat Guelph Juniors 7-1.

In March 1912 Georgetown played a game in Acton and lost by 7-2. Here is the first mention in the old files of that time of the line-up and I'll give it to you: Goal, B. Clark; point, Brown; cover, G. Leitch; rover, Malone; centre, Garden; right wing, Williams; left wing, C. Clark; Referee—George Adams, Georgetown.

Take a look at it again boys—not a spare on the team. But that was forty years ago.

Well the rink was there for several years and then Beardmore and Co. came along over twenty years ago and built a fine enclosure, on their property where the Legion Hall now stands. It had good stands for spectators and band stand, and excellent.

(Continued on Page Five)

G. A. Dills Elected Chairman at Inaugural Meeting on Tuesday—Appreciation Expressed to Retiring Chairman and Staff of School—Mrs. Heard Requested to Continue Teaching of Music in Acton School

The first session for 1943 of Acton School Board had trustees V. B. Rumley, F. S. Blow, Dr. F. G. Oakes, W. H. Clayton and G. A. Dills present on Tuesday evening.

Secretary W. C. Middleton called on the members of the Board to choose a chairman for 1943 and G. A. Dills was elected chairman. Assuming the post, Mr. Dills thanked the members for the honor accorded and asked for the same co-operation as had characterized the conduct of the Board in the past.

Mr. Rumley gave a report on the visit the representatives had made to council regarding securing the services of a Public Health Nurse.

Committees were named as follows: Finance—V. B. Rumley and G. A. Dills.

Property—F. S. Blow and Dr. F. G. Oakes.

Supplies—W. C. Mason and W. H. Clayton.

Accounts were passed for payment as follows:

W. F. Mooney, repairs	\$ 100
Simon Hardware, supplies	1201
Elliott Bros, supplies	372

\$1673

Mr. J. H. Held, Truant Officer, Mr. Geo. T. Mann, Caretaker, and Mr. W. C. Middleton, Secretary-Treasurer, were all re-appointed for the year at the same salaries.

The report of Inspector Stuce on the Public School was received and studied by the Board. The report gave a splendid review of the work of the staff and of the caretaker. The Inspector was also pleased with the improvements that had been carried on at the school. There were no recommendations for further changes.

The Secretary was instructed to furnish each teacher and Mr. Geo. Mann, the Caretaker, with extracts from the report concerning their work for the year, and to convey to the teachers and caretaker the confidence and appreciation the Board has in the duties they are performing so well.

A motion was passed authorizing the chairman, V. B. Rumley, and the Secretary-Treasurer to sign cheques and documents on behalf of the Board.

The matter of teaching music in the Public School was discussed since a change was now necessary since Mrs. Heard had resigned as teacher of Grade I. A motion was passed authorizing the Secretary to offer Mrs. Heard \$300 per year for teaching music in the Public School. Details of hours and schedule were to be arranged with Principal McKenzie.

In concluding the meeting Principals Leitch and McKenzie thanked the Board for the co-operation that had been given them the past year. Retiring Chairman Rumley was thanked by the Board for his work as chairman the past year and the splendid leadership he had given and his conduct of Board meetings. Mr. Rumley thanked the Board and the officers and teachers for the fine co-operation given to him in every phase of School Board work. It had been his aim to make meetings brief and businesslike and he had full co-operation in all Board duties and had enjoyed the work.

1943 Licenses for Cars Went on Sale Here on Monday

The 1943 motor vehicles license plates and car permits went on sale Monday at the local station of Mr. J. K. Gardiner. The numbers for Acton and district start at 23 K 1 just a little ahead of the L series issued here last year. The plates are black with orange figures.

This year only one plate is issued to be attached to the rear of the vehicle. The license number of last year is written on the permit issued so that gasoline can be secured with the ration book which does not expire until the end of March.

Mr. Gardiner says that even the first few days saw quite a few licenses secured. Apparently folks do not want to be "caught at the last of the season when quite often there is a shortage in plates and often a delay. The 1942 plates are good until the end of February. Two months is surely ample time for everyone to secure the new marker.