

The Acton Free Press

Seventieth Year—No. 27.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4th, 1945

Four Home-Print Pages—Five Cents

Native of Acton Brigadier C. A. Rae In Honor List

The annual New Year's list of award of honors to members of the Canadian Army was announced by national defence headquarters yesterday.

Thirteen officers were appointed Commanders of the Order of the British Empire, including a native of Acton, Brigadier C. A. Rae.

Brigadier Cecil Alexander Rae, C.B.E., D.S.O., was born at Acton on July 17, 1880, a son of the late Rev. J. W. Rae, minister of Knox Church at that time. Brigadier Rae went on active service in this war with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was appointed assistant medical director at Canadian Military Headquarters, London, in April, 1941, and served in this capacity until December 1942, when he was appointed deputy director of medical services at C.M.H.Q. In May, 1943, Brigadier Rae was appointed D.D.M.S. of 2nd Canadian Corps, and one year later, inspector of hospitals, holding this appointment until seconded. He was promoted to colonel in January 1940, and brigadier May 1943. Now seconded to the department of pensions and national health to assist with the problems of discharged veterans, he himself is a veteran of both the First Great War and the present conflict. He went overseas in command of the 15th Canadian General Hospital, Toronto, and was O.C. of this unit until April 1941.

A well-known surgeon in Toronto prior to the war, Brigadier Rae in the First Great War served with the C.O.T.C. in 1914-15, the 4th Brigade, C.F.A., 1915-16, and the Canadian Army Medical Corps, 1917-19. His wife, Mrs. Marion Wilson Rae, and their two children, John, 14, and Alan, 11, reside at 211 Richview Avenue, Toronto.

Many Acton friends will be glad to learn that Mr. R. W. Lowrie has received word regarding his son, Mr. Stewart Lowrie, who is a Japanese Prisoner of War. The message was an undated one, but stated he was well. This is the only word received regarding him in the past year.

HEARS AGAIN FROM SON WHO IS A JAPANESE PRISONER

Many Acton friends will be glad to learn that Mr. R. W. Lowrie has received word regarding his son, Mr. Stewart Lowrie, who is a Japanese Prisoner of War. The message was an undated one, but stated he was well. This is the only word received regarding him in the past year.

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED



L/Cpl. Wm. Thompson, who was seriously wounded on December 12th according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Thompson, R. R. No. 2 Acton. He was serving in the Italian Theatre when wounded.

Another Blizzard Fills in Roads Blocks Traffic

Scarcely recovered from the big snow storm of two weeks ago and with banks high on main roads and severely plowed out of side roads, the blizzard that started Monday evening and continued until today, settled up travel by all methods again this week.

Travelers who started after nightfall on Monday evening to reach their homes were stranded along the highways and did not reach home until the next morning. Again the worst of the storm seemed to centre in southwestern Ontario.

Bus travel has not yet resumed normal. The drifting snow has filled in the cuts between the banks and it will be some time before they are cleared for normal two-way traffic.

The highway between Acton and Milton was opened on Tuesday night. Wednesday afternoon we made the trip through for the first time this week. Cars and trucks were abandoned along the route. Loose snow was filling and at times it was impossible to see the road or the banks on either side. Snow fences have not been erected although the stakes are in the ground. The result of this, and many other roads is a condition that will be serious all winter.

PAID SUPREME SACRIFICE



Pte. Wilson Gordon, aged 20 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Gordon, Acton who was reported killed in action on December 14th, while serving with the Canadian Army in Italy.

Globe Hotel In Erin Destroyed By Fire Wednesday

Fire of undetermined origin swept through the historic Globe Hotel at Erin early Wednesday morning, leaving only smouldering ruins in its wake. Loss will amount to thousands of dollars. The six residents of the building escaped via a second-store window in their night clothes, escaping death by a matter of minutes as surging flames transformed the entire structure into a roaring inferno.

Assisted by a neighbor, W. A. Matthews, five of the six occupants managed to reach the ground uninjured, sliding down a rope. Mrs. Florence Horton, 68, proprietor of the hotel, suffered a broken ankle when she was unable to descend the full distance to the ground before losing her grip on the rope. She was removed to the Guelph General Hospital.

The others included Mr. and Mrs. George Horton, their two children, Douglas 5, and Shirley 10, and an employee, Richard Sherwin.

All personal belongings were lost, even to their clothing, money and bonds. Victims of the conflagration were hurried to a nearby tea room, where they took shelter from the freezing 8-below zero wind.

The fire was discovered about one o'clock yesterday morning. Mrs. Horton Sr. was awakened by an odor of smoke, and at about the same time, Mr. Matthews of the Ruxy Tea Room across the road noticed flames in a lower room of the hotel.

Neighbors manning fire-fighting equipment managed to save the hotel garage and a car, and prevented the flames from spreading to the adjacent Leitch Garage. The hotel blaze was beyond control however, and workers were not able to even save any of the furniture. Outside help could not be brought in from Guelph or Orangeville because of the impassable roads.

Believed to have been the oldest building in Erin district, the two-story hotel was built by the McMillan pioneer settlers of that region. Travelers from coast to coast knew the old hotel with affection and many a business trip in that district was inspired as much by a desire to sample again the establishment's old-fashioned hospitality, as by the prospect of a financially successful visit to the village.

Residents of Erin are not certain just when it was erected, but declare that it was a great many years ago. Built with huge hand-hewn beams, the structure still smouldered though reduced to a heap of cracked stone debris.

BARN MEETING OF HOLSTEIN BREEDERS HELD AT GRAYMAR

A Barn meeting sponsored by the Halton Holstein Breeders' Club, was held December 27th, at the Graymar Farm of E. J. Meagher, Oakville. There was an attendance of over 50 breeders. A. E. Whitlock, representative of J. E. Whitlock, called the meeting to order following which Wm. Robinson, Georgetown, acted as chairman. Mr. Meagher welcomed the gathering to Graymar.

The principal feature of the program was a demonstration of the Selective Registration system of classifying animals according to their conformation. This was very ably conducted by J. Durno Innes, Woodstock, Chief Inspector of Selective Registration for the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada. Following an explanation of the system by Mr. Innes, those present tried their skill at classifying a group of cows. Mr. Innes officially graded them pointing out his reasons for placing them in the different classes. This very educational part of the program proved of great interest to the breeders.

Inaugural Meeting 1945 Council on Tuesday

Committee are Named for the Year—Attorney General Asked to Investigate Eligibility of the Councillors and Reeve—Usual Motions and By-laws Passed to Carry on Council Work for the Year

At the inaugural session of the 1945 Council for Acton on Tuesday evening Councillors W. J. Oakes, J. H. Boulton and J. H. Creighton were present and Reeve J. M. McDonald was in the chair.

The Clerk reported he had notified Mr. Davidson of the meeting and he had asked to read the declaration of office, but stated he would not be present at Council meeting.

The Reeve stated he had received several complaints and there had been much controversy regarding the eligibility of certain members of the Council. In view of this he proposed to ask the Attorney General to investigate the eligibility of the members and Reeve. He felt that with the consent of the business to come before Council this year the Council should be properly constituted.

The usual declarations of office were taken by Reeve McDonald and Councillors W. J. Oakes, J. H. Boulton and J. H. Creighton.

Council formed a Striking Committee of the whole Council and the following Committees were proposed for 1945:

Finance Committee: J. H. Creighton, chairman, J. H. Boulton and the Reeve.

Fire, Light and Property: J. H. Boulton, chairman, Fourth member and the Reeve.

Streets and Walks: W. J. Oakes, chairman, J. H. Creighton and the Reeve.

Park and Arena: Fourth member, chairman, W. J. Oakes and the Reeve.

A resolution was passed appointing E. E. Harrop West Inspector for 1945.

The Reeve and Treasurer were authorized by motion to make advances to the School Board and to authorize the payment of debentures as they become due.

The by-law providing for the borrowing of money from the Bank of Montreal to meet current expenditures was given the usual number of readings and passed by the Council. The amount authorized was \$30,000 and the interest rate was at the rate of four per cent per annum.

A motion was passed making the salary of E. E. Harrop \$137.50 per month and the Reeve and Treasurer were authorized to pay this amount each month. The duties were the same as formerly. Mr. Harrop stated that this amount and arrangements were satisfactory.

Other motions authorized the payment of salaries to Thomas Harris at \$50 per hour; A. Clifford at the rate of \$340 per day and Harry Oakley at \$60 per hour. They were payable on advice of the Municipal Officer on the 15th and 30th of each month.

The coverage for liability insurance in the event of the operation of a school rink was to be taken up with the School Board.

Accounts were passed for payment as follows:

Welfare Board, November and December \$11.92

The Municipal World, subscriptions 8.00

Dr. W. G. C. Kenney, syphilis treatments 12.00

Acton, Georgetown and Milton Public Health Nurse Committee 25.00

\$56.92

A letter from the Fire Underwriters Association requested that the town hydrants have the usual inspection. It was decided to make a minimum charge of \$5.00 per hour for ploughing out the snow on the property of the Wool Combing Corporation when the equipment is available. Chief Harrop was to make the arrangements.

It was decided to hold the regular meetings of Council on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m.

The Clerk was requested to write the School Board asking that they have their estimates for the year ready for January 17th.

RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM SGT. JACK BOYES, PRISONER OF JAPANESE

The Christmas and New Year's Seasons brought renewed cheer to Mr. and Mrs. H. Q. Boyes in a message that their son, Sgt. Jack Boyes was well and still a prisoner of war in Thailand.

This is the first message they have had from him since last New Year's when a message was received on New Year's morning, 1944. It is to be hoped before another year, he will be released and able to return home.

Pte. Allan Gordon Another Acton Soldier Wounded

Word was received yesterday by his wife (nee Marion Hunt) Toronto, that Pte. Allan Gordon, had been wounded while serving with the Canadians in Holland. Just a few days before Christmas his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Gordon, Acton, received word that their other son, Pte. Wilson Gordon had been killed in Italy. This family have indeed suffered heavily in the course of a very brief period from the results of the war. In their trouble they have the sympathy of many friends here.

Pte. Allan Gordon joined the Lord's Scouts three years ago in April and later transferred to the Calgary Highlanders. In May, 1943 he went overseas and has been on the continent since the invasion. He trained at Brantford and in Western Canada before going overseas. His sister Mrs. Allan Gordon resides in Windsor and Miss Helen is at home in Acton.

The message received gave no details of the wounds, but stated details would be furnished later. All hope that good word might be received and the wounds will not be serious.

RETURNS TO HOME COMMUNITY AFTER ABSENCE OF 60 YEARS

Mr. J. F. Watson of Erinford, Sask., is visiting Acton relatives and friends this week. Mr. Watson left Ontario and this district in 1884 and has not visited this province since 1888. He resided for a number of years in Manitoba before going to Saskatchewan to settle.

While he has not visited his native province in these years he has kept contact with the home community and was for over fifty years a reader of the Free Press. As a matter of fact he brought from the west several copies which he had preserved. One was the issue of December 24th, 1896, one of March 15th, 1900 and the Christmas issue of December 1903, printed with a color section.

Mr. Watson went to the west when that country was being pioneered. He knows Manitoba and Saskatchewan as few residents and has seen it develop. Returning to Ontario he saw many changes here and was surprised at the present size of the Beardmore Co. plant from what he recalled, sixty years ago. The Free Press editor enjoyed a very pleasant hour with Mr. Watson who will visit here for a few weeks.

Returned Airman Urges More Letters To Boys Overseas

The following message from F.O. Fred G. Turner who recently returned to Canada after over 3 years with the R.C.A.F. overseas, piloting Spitfires and fighter planes gives a message to all our readers we are happy to pass on.

F/O F. G. Turner
J-18466
R.C.A.F.

To All My Friends:
It is a bit late now, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my friends around Acton for all the kind thoughts and wishes. And I would especially like to express my sincerest appreciation to all those kind people who are doing such good work by sending War Service League parcels overseas. I can assure you that they are indeed looked forward to by all.

But even more important than parcels are letters from home. One cheerful letter will do more than anything else to help a fellow to face the grim realities of war. So write to-night. Tell them all the latest gossip, tell them what is new around town, tell them anything as long as you remember them.

Perhaps you haven't a boy or girl of your own overseas. That doesn't let you out of the responsibility of writing. What about your neighbor's boy? What about the kids who used to greet your apples and run away with your doorbells and run away? Maybe they did you a bit of damage but today they are doing a great deal more damage over there. And when they return they will thank you again and again for your letters. So write to someone to-night. Even though you can't be in the front line, your letters can.

Wishing you all a happy and victorious New Year. I am

Sincerely
FRED TURNER

GAVE HIS LIFE



Gnr. G. A. Smethurst, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smethurst, Acton whose wife (nee Leta Withers) and three children also reside in Acton, was reported killed in action on December 16th.

Gnr. G. A. Smethurst Killed in Action While in Belgium

Word Received by Wife and Parents in Acton Last Thursday

Another Acton young man has given his life in the cause of freedom. Gunner George Albert Smethurst was reported killed in action while serving in Belgium on December 16th. This was the sad official message that came to his wife and little family and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smethurst and family just three days after Christmas.

Gnr. Smethurst had been in the army two and a half years and overseas two years. He was with the Canadians in Belgium when he fell.

He leaves a wife, formerly Leta Withers and three little children, Bobbie, Pat and George, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smethurst and two sisters, Mrs. J. N. Cunningham, Halifax, N. S., and Mrs. G. McFadden, Acton. Warm sympathy of many friends goes to all of these in the loss they have sustained.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Bert Smethurst came to Canada and to Acton as a little lad of two years. Here he went to school and grew to manhood. On leaving school he was employed with the Hewitson's Shoe Co. until they removed their factory from Acton. He was with the Beardmore & Co. prior to his enlisting in July, 1943.

After six months training in Canada, he immediately proceeded overseas. In this community where "Bert" Smethurst was so well-known and had formed so many friendships he will be missed by a wide circle who mourn with the wife and little family, the father and mother and sisters, the burden they have been called upon to bear.

WEEK OF PRAYER SERVICES IN ACTON CHURCHES-NEXT WEEK

The Acton Ministerial Association has arranged to observe the Special Week of Prayer from January 7th to 12th. The theme of these services will be "The Lord's Prayer". Each congregation is asked to attend the opening service in its own Church on the Sunday evening and the united week-day services at 8 p.m. will be as follows:

Monday, St. Alban's Church; Tuesday, United Church; Wednesday, Baptist Church; Thursday, Presbyterian Church; Friday, United Church. The respective clergy will preach in their own churches except on the Friday when Rev. Eric Quirk, Baptist Missionary to India will use as his theme, "Deliverance".

WILLIAM LOREE BURNED BY GASOLINE WHEN STARTING CAR

William Loree, 40, of R. R. 4, Rockwood, was taken to the Guelph General Hospital suffering a burned right hand. The injury was inflicted by exploding gasoline. It is expected that he will be able to return to his home in a few days.

So far as can be learned, the mishap occurred when Mr. Loree and his brother were working on the car. Water in the fuel had caused engine trouble, and they drained out the gas tank. Fresh gasoline was poured into the vehicle, but when one of the men started the motor, a backfire flashed the old gasoline.

Fortunately, the car did not catch fire, and Mr. Loree was the only one injured.

Another Acton Soldier Home for The Christmastide

Gunner James Alexander Higgins, Church Street, was another of Canada's wounded soldiers to arrive on the "Lady Nelson" and reached home in Acton on December 22nd, in time for Christmas. Wounded in Belgium as the left forearm on October 24th, his wounds are now progressing satisfactorily.

In the army since June, 1944, Gunner Higgins has been overseas for over a year with an artillery unit. He joined the forces in Hamilton, and prior to enlisting was a member of the Lorne Scots Reserve. He was met in Toronto by his wife and family and is now at home for a month's leave before reporting to Toronto.

Friends here, along with the family are indeed glad to see him home and hope his injuries will soon be completely recovered.

Election Results Monday's Voting In Two Townships

Trafalgar Township
In Trafalgar Township elections held for Councillors and School Area Trustees W. N. Gilbert was elected Reeve by acclamation and W. H. Biggar, Deputy Reeve also by acclamation.

Council vote with the first three elected was: W. G. Sargeant, 459; W. S. Hall, 425; Emerson S. Ford, 401 and W. H. Devlin, 355.

The vote for School Area trustees with the first five elected was: Percy Merry, 368; Milton McTearry, 308; James Marshall, 301; J. D. Orr, 347; Kenneth Giles, 310; D. H. Pope, 217; T. S. H. Gibbs, 201.

Esqueping Township
Voting in Esqueping Township on Monday was very light. The condition of the roads would largely account for failure of electors to exercise their franchise.

Howard May, the former Reeve headed the poll with 353 votes; Geo. Currie received 350; R. N. Brown, 249 and W. O. Brownridge, 115. The first three are elected; G. W. Murray was elected Reeve and Geo. Cleaves Deputy Reeve by acclamation.

REEVE OF ESQUEPING



G. Wesley Murray who is Reeve of Esqueping Township for 1945. After serving as councillor and Deputy Reeve he was accorded an acclamation to the highest office by the electors at the Municipal elections last week.

SNOW PLOW AND TRACTOR COLLIDE ON MAIN STREET

A tractor driven by Gordon Leslie, who resides just north of Acton was in collision with the Corporation snow plow last Thursday afternoon on Main Street north. The plow was driven by Harry Oakley, town operator, and was clearing the street of snow when the collision occurred.

Damage to the tractor was a punctured tire and other minor damage. The blade of the plow was bent and the working end delayed a day with their work. There has been extra heavy, while the truck was in repairs. Traffic Officer Ray Mason investigated the accident.

Coming Events

Announcements of Special Week of Prayer, under this heading, are charged to each parish with a minimum charge for any amount of 25c.
Dance sponsored by the Busy Bee Club dated January 8th, postponed until further notice.
Plan to observe the Special Week of Prayer, January 7-12, United week-day services at 8 p.m.; Sunday evening in your own Church.