

The Acton Free Press

Eight Home-Print Pages Five Cents

Seventy-first Year—No. 24

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1945



Arena Details Arranged at Council Meeting Last Night

Reeve McDonald Presented with Smokes and Appreciation of Services Expended by Those Around Council Table — New Reeve and Councilors Attend to Income Familiar With Work Tax Arrears Must be Met Immediately to Avoid Legal Action

Councillors W. J. O. Onkes, J. H. Boulton, J. H. Creighton and F. Davidson were present last night when Council met and Reeve J. M. McDonald presided. Mr. Chas. Kirkness, newly-elected Reeve and Messrs. Claude Cook and Wm. J. Benson, newly-elected Councilors were also present on invitation of the present Council to set in on this last meeting and become familiar with present Council work.

Mr. Herb Fyver, caretaker at the Arena was present and wanted to know what arrangements had been made regarding hours and repairs at the arena. Council assured him repairs would be made and dealt with at this meeting. Hours and hockey schedules would also be drawn. Other details were also discussed.

Representatives of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society asked permission to rent the Town Hall to put on a series of Bible lectures from 2 to 5 o'clock on Sunday afternoons. They desired to rent the hall for four Sundays commencing January 6th. The Clerk was to write Geo. R. Bradford of Georgetown, regarding the decision.

Accounts were passed for payment as follows:

Bell Telephone Co., services	\$ 6.89
Couper's Drug Store, supplies	1.90
Donald Inspection Ltd., services	5.97
Knowles Construction Co.	10.00
County of Halton, hospital accounts	88.22
Ontario Municipal Board, fees re debentures	36.00
Norton Motors, garage account	18.00
J. M. McDonald, expenses to Toronto, re Dept. of Health debentures and broadcast	18.50

\$126.48

An account from the Sick Children's Hospital for an indigent patient was refused as the parents were not indigent.

The financial statement of the Boys' Band for 1945 was presented to Council and appreciation of the band was expressed and to Chas. Mason, leader, and the Y's Men's Club.

A letter from the Board of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. requested that consideration of Council be given to arrange a grant to assist in carrying on their work among the young people. This was referred to the Council for 1946.

Mrs. J. B. Adamson reported that due to the condition of the sidewalk at Flower Avenue and Alice Street, caused when water mains were installed in this section, she had fallen on the sidewalk and received injuries. She requested Council give consideration to the claim for damages. The matter had been referred to the insurance company covering the town's liability.

The Clerk gave a report on the properties which were arrears for taxes. There was a total of \$888. The Clerk was instructed to write these ratepayers pointing out that if the arrears were not met, action would be necessary as the amount must be cleared immediately.

A letter from Armstrong, Anderson & Co. gave details of the text that would be required to be made on the watermain by the contractor before the contract was paid. The new mains will have to stand a 150 lb. pressure and all leaks would have to be repaired by the contractor.

Details on the water main extension were discussed. The line on Main Street could not be used this winter as there was danger of frost and breakage if the water was turned on. The line on Crescent Street had not been started and the Scene Street work had to be stopped until next spring. Other lines were completed and service was now on.

Messrs. V. Masters, F. Hill and Wm. (Continued on Page Five)

Wool Combing Executives Officers in Knitting Merger

Monarch Knitting Co. of Dunnville has taken over the business of Joseph Simpson Sons, Toronto, under a merger. Lord Harnby, figure in the British textile industry, becomes president of the new board of directors. J. A. Burns becomes chairman of the board and E. I. Markon, general manager. F. J. Coombs, E. I. Markon vice president, F. C. Deacon and W. E. Fraser continue as directors. Monarch has plants at Dunnville, St. Thomas and St. Catharines, Ont.

Y'S MEN SEND TEN TURKEYS TO CHRISTMAS BOARDS

Ten turkeys were placed for Christmas dinners last Friday when Acton Y's Men's Club held their annual Christmas party at the Y and drew for the fine birds. They went to Acton, Toronto, Guilford and Rockwood and here are the lucky winners: Fred Hilson, Acton; Mrs. J. Johnson, Acton; N. McMillan, Guilford; Harold Elliott, Acton; Joe Heverian, Acton; Dr. M. Fisher, Toronto; H. Lambert, Acton; K. McKinnon, Acton; T. Lindsay, Acton; R. P. Watson, Acton.

Town Hall Here Damaged in Early Morning Fire

Prompt Discovery and Action by James Robertson Saved Building from Destruction

A fire in the Town Hall early this morning gave the Acton Brigade a cold run but the blaze was confined to the corner of the hall which it originated and was soon under control.

The fire was discovered by James Robertson about 3:30 o'clock when he was awakened by the noise of burning timbers. His quarters are directly below that section of the hall. He promptly turned in an alarm and secured several pairs of water to throw on the blaze which started in the north corner of the auditorium heating stove. Located. It would appear the fire got started in the wood piled here for use in the stove. It spread to the floor and into the wall at the back and side of the building. Sections of the floor and the walls had to be broken to fight the blaze and stop the spread. The living quarters of Mr. Robertson were drenched with water.

The Fire Brigade made a fine response and in a few minutes had lines of hose from the pumper to the fire. It was only found necessary to use one small line of hose. The fire hall where all the fire fighting equipment is kept in a section adjoining the Town Hall. Damage is mostly from water and broken flooring and walls but the whole auditorium was filled with a dense smoke that seeped out around the windows and eaves and gave the appearance from outside that the whole building was on fire.

Credit for saving the Town Hall building goes to James Robertson and his prompt and effective action and a quick response of the Fire Brigade. The Council met in the Council Chamber last evening until midnight and preparations were made during the evening in the auditorium for the Continuation School At Home which was to be held there to night. Decorations were being placed and were partly arranged.

When discovered by Mr. Robertson the blaze had made some headway. It is fortunate that he was in the Hall and was awakened before the flames spread further.

Details on the water main extension were discussed. The line on Main Street could not be used this winter as there was danger of frost and breakage if the water was turned on. The line on Crescent Street had not been started and the Scene Street work had to be stopped until next spring. Other lines were completed and service was now on.

Messrs. V. Masters, F. Hill and Wm. (Continued on Page Five)

Mr. Stuart Lowrie Japanese Prisoner Visited in Acton

Mr. Stuart Lowrie who was a prisoner of the Japanese from the fall of Singapore in 1942 until the Jap surrender, visited last Saturday with his father, Mr. Robert Lowrie, in Acton, and the editor of The Free Press had the privilege of an hour or so with him.

Mr. Lowrie is representative of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. in Singapore and intends to return to his duties in a month or so if passage can be arranged. During the occupation he lost all his personal effects and was fortunate to be alive on the railroads and treatment accorded during imprisonment.

When released he weighed only 118 lbs. but is gradually regaining his strength and weight. We asked and secured permission to take a copy of items from his notes telling of the occupation. If possible we would like in the near future to present some of it to our readers. Just how human beings could be so inhuman to others is difficult to understand, but must be considered when final settlement is made with the Japanese.

Pot Shots

From Rail Snipers

Done up in wool for four seat the arena discarded the moth balls this year and lights glammed, pucks slammed, aspirants for places on the hockey teams sweat and puffed, and we along with umpire others who haven't seen the like in four years glued an eye and wondered what would come out of the first hockey round-up on Tuesday night.

"Herb" Fyver is to be congratulated on the fine shot of ice he has prepared.

There were a lot of old faces around to mention a few, "Sonny" Townsley, Bobby Anderson, "Fricker" Woods, Chuck Tyler, Ben Bayliss.

There were also a few newcomers to intermediate hockey such as Owen Masdale, George Riddell, Johnny Goy, Sam Snyder, "Drip" Beatty, Eddie Waller, to mention a few.

Frank Terry, who has just arrived back from overseas was there to book the boys over and promises to be out as soon as he unpacks his skates.

Although some of the "boys" are still a bit wobbly on their ice legs they will be in better shape after some practicing.

This promises to be a "hot" series with the other teams of Georgetown, Elora, Fergus, Orangeville and Milton, but we are sure Acton will come out with a good showing.

The intermediate group is meeting in Georgetown to-night to draw up a schedule. We hope to have it for you next week.

We understand that four juvenile teams are being sponsored by the Athletic Association and the school group of those not in this juvenile series will be in charge of Principal Garnet McKenzie. It's his job that makes four groups of hockey here for this year and we haven't heard from the bush league yet.

More Acton Men Get Home Again For Christmas

Monarch of Bermuda Brought Five Recent Arrivals and Others Have Reached Home

The past week has seen many more servicemen get back to Acton in time to spend the 1945 Christmas at home. They are welcomed by families and friends and the wish for them is in deed a happy Christmas.

EP. Lieut. Thos. Watson arrived in Acton on Monday after two years in overseas service with the R.C.A.F. In January, 1941 he joined the R.C.A.F. and served in France and Germany. He was attending High School when he joined the Air Force and is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Watson, Acton. Friends join them in extending a cordial welcome home.

Mr. John Wilson, son of Mr. Geo. Wilson, Nassagaweyan, arrived home from overseas on Wednesday of last week. He was aboard the Mauretania which docked at Halifax two days previously. Four years in the Canadian Army. Mr. Wilson has been overseas since July 1942 and served with the Armoured Corps. For nine months he was attached to the British Army. His father and other members of the family and friends welcome him home again.

The Chester McHain arrived in Acton on December 8th having landed in New York, making the crossing on the Queen Elizabeth. In the army four years and eight months, he spent all but four months of that time overseas and served in France, Holland and Germany. Before enlisting he was employed in Guilford.

Capt. Frank Terry of the Queen's Own Rifles came back to Canada on the Monarch of Bermuda and arrived home in Acton on Monday. He joined the Canadian Army in 1940 and has spent the past year overseas. His wife and little daughter "Pat" reside in Acton and before enlisting, Capt. Terry was employed with the Beadmore Co. Frank was star centre man in the championship hockey team of 1938-39 and came back to Acton just as the arena was put into use again. All welcome him back home again.

Gnr. W. J. Taylor, one of four sons of Mr. James Taylor who saw active service, was another Canadian back to Canada on the Monarch of Bermuda. In the Canadian Army for three years and eight months, he spent three years overseas and served in France, Holland and Germany with the 12th R.C.A. A brother, Herbert, was in the same regiment and another brother, Henry arrived home before him. A younger brother, George paid the supreme sacrifice and lies in a soldier's grave in Holland. Before enlisting he was employed with the Storey Glove Co.

Sgt. Norman B. Wright was also a home-comer on the Monarch of Bermuda. In the Canadian Army for five years and eight months, he served two years overseas in England and France and Germany. He is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Wright and his wife also resides in Acton.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Norton's Garage Scene of Bad Fire on Saturday

EARLY COPY PLEASE!

In view of the fact the Christmas falls on Tuesday this year we would ask correspondents, advertisers and news contributors to send in copy on Monday morning or earlier. Changes of advertisements should reach us by Monday noon.

Events that have happened between Thursday and Monday should reach us at the same time. Co-operation of all will assist Editor and the staff to so enjoy the Christmas holidays.

Duke of Devonshire Chapter Has Six New Members

The December meeting of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter, I.O.G.E., was held at the home of Mr. W. J. Beatty. The secretary and treasurer's reports were given. Six applications for new members were received and voted upon.

It was decided to send gifts to the Chapter's school at Trout Creek. The annual donations to various funds were decided upon. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Garnet McKenzie and his interesting talk was on "Life in the Air Force." Mrs. Sall moved a vote of thanks. A Christmas lunch was served by the hostess after which Christmas carols were sung.

Final Meeting For the Year of Utilities Commission

New Equipment and Replacement Discussed for Lines and Pumping Station

The final meeting of Acton Public Utilities Commission for 1945 was held on Monday evening. Reeve J. M. McDonald and Commissioner C. M. Hanson were present with Chairman J. B. MacArthur presiding.

A motion was passed authorizing the Treasurer to transfer any surplus in the Waterworks account to the general account of the Corporation on and on December 29th.

A commercial account in arrears was discussed and instructions issued for the collection of the account.

Superintendent Wilson was instructed to obtain information on a cabinet relay to be installed at the spring on the pumps in case of an accident to the transformers or line such as happened last week.

Prices were to be obtained on laying an underground cable on part of Frederick and Agnes Streets in order that the power lines could not be interfered with by the trees.

Mr. Turner inquired if the office was to be closed on Boxing Day. Permission was granted if the Council declared boxing day a public holiday.

The Treasurer was instructed to pay the following accounts:

Hydro Department	
H.E.P.C. of Ontario, supplies	\$ 10.56
Highway Garage, oil & gas	21.85
Muller Ltd., supplies	4.11
Can. Chromalox Co., supplies	13.04
Jas. Gilmour, supplies	65
Bell Telephone Co. of Can. services	2.14
Acton Free Press, supplies & advertising	18.64
Express & office cleaning	11.91
	\$91.88

Waterworks Department	
Power & Heating at spring	\$110.67
Cubada Valve & Hydrant Co. supplies	65.55
Purdy Mansell, Ltd., supplies	34.66
Northern Electric, supplies	8.36
Can. Brass Co., Ltd., supplies	22.93
	\$202.61

Interior of Building and Contents Badly Damaged when Furnace Explosion started Blaze — Two Cars Lost in Fire but Tractor and Delivery Truck Taken Out

Damage estimated at over \$5,000 was caused when fire swept the garage of Wm. Norton on Mill Street on Saturday morning. Two cars were lost in the blaze and the interior of the building was gutted.

The fire started about 10:20 when an explosion of some sort occurred in the furnace in the basement. Mr. Norton had a few minutes before put out on the fire and was in the front section of the building when he heard the noise. Flames immediately filled the stairway and rapidly spread to the partitions and in a few minutes the whole interior was in flames. The fire brigade responded promptly and soon had lines of hose to the building. When they arrived, flames were coming from both doors and the building seemed doomed.

The new log boiler recently purchased was very effective in stopping spread of the fire. A tractor and the delivery truck of Bart's Grocery were taken out before the flames reached them but a Lincoln Zephyr car belonging to Albert Loulth and a Graham Paige car belonging to Mr. Stewart of Arthur were lost in the fire. Some insurance was carried on the last mentioned car.

Eight new fires were taken from the building and two of them were apparently stolen. The cash register and office records were fortunately taken out. The wooden partitions and office section are the worst damaged. The section behind the furnace was strangely not much burned. The damage is difficult to estimate until a more complete check can be made but estimates run from \$5,000 to \$10,000 which is partially covered by insurance.

On Monday work was started clearing away the debris and getting the premises back into condition and Mr. Norton has the garage again in operation and carrying on the service possible under the conditions. It is thought the roof will not need to be replaced but only repaired where holes were cut to fight the fire.

The garage is the newest one in Acton. It is a solid brick building on central site on Mill Street and placed well back from the street line. At night the Corporation truck and a number of privately-owned vehicles are stored here. Fortunately they were all out at the time of the fire.

WOLVES NEAR OTTAWA

OTTAWA (C.P.) — Coyotes and wolves have made an appearance in Gatineau Park a few miles north of Ottawa, and are being tracked and trapped. The wolves have been attracted by deer which have come to the park.

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Conventions or other Events under this heading are charged 50 cents per line with a minimum charge for any announcement of 20.

Special Christmas Eve Dance at Acton Community Hall: Stewart Elliot's Orchestra.

Dancing Christmas Night, December 25th, Rose Room, Georgetown: Arena Modernaires Orchestra. Admission 50c.

The Friday night dances of Acton Athletic Association have been cancelled until the Town Hall is available for use again.

Euclere and Crankinole, under the auspices of the Acton Junior Farmers at Loine School on December 27th, 8:30 sharp. Ladies provide lunch.

Next L.O.B.A. Euclere will be held Thursday, January 3rd in L.O.L. Hall, Crewson's Corners. No euclere to-night. L.O.B.A. wishes all their patrons a Merry Christmas.

Fire at Norton's Garage Saturday



The fire which gutted the interior of Norton's Garage on Saturday morning was a difficult one for firemen to fight, with the building filled with clouds of smoke which poured from all doors and windows.