

# The Acton Free Press.

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## Y.M.C.A. Physical Display Tops Again This Year

### Young People of the Community Put on Fine Show Under Direction of Mrs. Gray

From three year olds to young men and girls, with clowns, elephants, parades, tumbling, raves, dancing exercises turn in each year to make the annual Y.M.C.A. physical display, and the event shown this year, under the direction of Mrs. Mae Gray was outshone by none of its predecessors. Parents and friends of the young people get an equal thrill with participants as acts follow in lively succession with not a dull moment and a youthful cheering that is at times deafening, but delightful to those who enjoy seeing young folks in clean healthy fun and exercise and exhibiting a skill that is commendable. The show plays two nights each year at the Y with the first event last night and the repeat performance to-night.

On behalf of the Board of Directors E. S. Force welcomed the crowd and expressed appreciation for their interest. R. R. Parker was the general Master of Ceremonies, who kept up a rapid fire comment and of course Mrs. Mae Gray was the leading lady always on hand everywhere, to keep the show running smoothly.

The show opens with the grand march of the Junior and Senior Girls about fifty of them. Then there were the Humes with their little number by the Junior in the Kindergarten class. The Junior boys have a variety of relays which include such things as blowing a ping pong ball along the floor, and up and under tapes and other events.

The Senior boys give a fine display of work on the parallel bars and the intermediate girls have a rhythmic folk dance number.

Junior, Intermediate and Senior boys team up in some tricky numbers on the elephant and the Junior girls in their relay races are just as hilarious and strongly contested as the boys in their events. Relays and games are evenly matched with perhaps a leaning for the Irish color.

Junior and Intermediate girls put on a fine display of tumbling and the Junior boys in the horse and rider game add the rough and tumble thrill. The Senior girls in smart red and white costumes have a pretty exposure ballet number. Senior boys give an exhibition of a variety of well executed tumbling numbers that show the result of a lot of training. The "King of the Mat" is the concluding number and the six or seven contestants do the grunt and groan push and roll number until all are exhausted and finally get refuge off the mats.

No circus or "Y" display is complete without clowns and the 1946 event has three of them. They have their own acts and put a kick into the other numbers. Ken Hassard is the leading man in this section and a boisterous work through the whole show. There is the egg frying act that ends in a shower of confetti for ring-side spectators and the trio of Hassard, Arbie and Masters put color in the show. Music is supplied very suitably by H. Arbie with his record amplifier.

The concluding number is the grand march past and as they stand and sing "Land of Hope and Glory" and "O Canada" it is a fine climax and a gathering of Canadian youth that is inspiring.

Folks who see the annual display of Acton Y.M.C.A. cannot help but be impressed with the fine training and leadership that is given in this youth centre. The Board and Mrs. Gray well deserve the compliments that they receive on the work being done for the youth of the community.

## PROMISE OF YOUTH

The entire future of this or any community is tied up in its youth. How much the community progresses in this matter, by that amount do the citizens of tomorrow benefit, and by the same amount will they be inspired to carry on the progression. So, if by the construction of a Community Centre, we assist in their growth to better fellowship and citizenship, we have made a big step forward for the future. —Woodstock (N.B.) Sentinel-Press.

## WELCOME TO NEW HOMES

This week another Acton soldier will welcome to the new home in Canada his bride, Mrs. Dorothy M. Hurd, wife of Gen. J. A. Hurd, of Acton, is scheduled to come from England on the Aquitania, which docked this week.

## Farm in Same Family 100 Years Now Been Sold

The McDougall farm on Highway No. 25, about two miles south of Acton, has been sold to Mr. Evan Jones, Acton, who will soon take possession.

The old homestead of 100 acres is one of the early settled farms in the district, and has remained in possession of the McDougall family for 100 years. The patent from the Crown was issued in 1822 to James Crawford. In 1836 Hector Russell and John Mackenzie purchased the land and 6 years later, in 1842, sold it to Hon. Peter McGill. In 1846 John McDougall, father of the present owner, Duncan McDougall purchased the land, who transferred the property to the son. In these days of many farm changes, a century holding by one family is indeed unusual. Mr. McDougall is retiring owing to failing health.

It is also interesting to note that in 1862 one rood of land was given to Dublin School for a well. The property was never used and the land reverted back into the farm holding.

## LIMEHOUSE GARAGE DESTROYED BY FIRE YESTERDAY MORNING

Fire believed to be caused by defective wiring, completely destroyed a garage and contents owned by Jack Houghley at Limehouse early yesterday morning. The fire was noticed by Mr. Houghley at 3:30 a.m. and had caused such headway that it was impossible to remove anything from the building. Situated about 40 feet from the house, there was no danger to the house. Neighbors were unaware of the blaze. The building contained some valuable tools and equipment, and loss is estimated at \$1,200 which is partially covered by insurance.

## OVERSEAS TOGETHER FOR SIX YEARS BROTHERS IN BUSINESS

Two brothers who spent six years together in the Canadian Army are now getting established in business together following their discharge. They are Tom and "Bus" Nicol now getting established in the monument business and are operating at Mount Forest and Acton.

We join with other friends in wishing them every success in re-establishment in their own business. The returned boys are certainly getting into the business life of the community again with good initiatives.

## DOUGLAS M. GOWDY CHOSEN PRESIDENT LARGE TORONTO CLUB

At the annual meeting in Toronto on Monday, Mr. Douglas M. Gowdy, Managing Editor of the Financial Post and son of Mr. Wm. Gowdy, Acton, was elected president of the Canadian Club of Toronto. His father was a guest at the dinner on that occasion to see Douglas take this important post.

The guest speaker on this occasion was His Eminence James Charles Cardinal McGuigan and his address, which was broadcast was "Canada and the Four Freedoms." The Canadian Club is one of the leading business men's associations in Toronto and we join with other Acton friends in congratulations to Douglas M. Gowdy on the honor accorded by being president.

## Bus Burned on Highway Had No Passengers

Fortune rode with firefighters on a Kitchener-bound bus Friday noon. Two of the 12-ton vehicles left Guelph for that city. One was loaded with passengers; the other empty except for the driver.

When they reached a curve near Breslau, the left front tire on the empty bus blew out, throwing the vehicle out of control.

The driver, William Payne of Toronto, wrestled mightily with the wheel and succeeded in swinging the bus back to the right. Still out of control, it ripped away a row of guardrail posts, then swung in a half circle to the left, crashing on its side in the ditch.

Spattered gasoline and oil burst into flames, and the blaze whipped through the bus even as the driver climbed out. Within a few minutes, the \$20,000 vehicle was a mass of flames and was still burning two hours later.

The charred remains of the bus were removed to Toronto the next day. The body was a total loss, and the only possible salvage, officials said, might be a few engine parts for replacements.

## THEY'RE MOVING COBBLE HILL

Folks over forty who recall the significance of "Cobble Hill" or earlier days in Acton will be interested to learn that the hill which overlooks Acton on the west is moving. The attractive farm of Louise and Campbell have a shovel and trucks hauling the coarse clay and heavy gravel to fill in the filler bed, d.m. on the Boardman property. Work has been going on for two weeks here and the hill is now being cut through the peak.

To many who have come to Acton recently perhaps this only means a moving of filling material from one place to another, but to folks over forty or more "Cobble Hill" has real significance. It's from this high point before the days of aerial photography that the bird's eye view picture of Acton was always taken. We have in our possession such a picture taken from this point before 1856. It is reproduced in the book "Acton's Early Days."

When David Henderson of Acton used to represent Halton in the House of Commons, many will recall the loads of packing cases that were piled high on the hill, well soaked with coal oil and when his election was assured on election night the bonfire was lighted. It used to be claimed the fire could be seen all over the County. We doubt such a claim, but it was nice to think about it in those boyhood days of vivid imagination.

That was before the days of radio, numerous telephones and rapid spread of news and no doubt many folks in the county around know by that reason fire that David Henderson had carried Halton again for the Conservative party.

Forty years ago the light on and around the hill was all surveyed into building lots by the late Adam Cook, and is known as Cook's survey. Mr. Cook felt Acton would grow and there would be a demand for these lots. Perhaps the big hill was the reason the town did not grow in this direction. But now with the Wood Combining survey opening up in that district there is renewed interest and many can see the benefits of the situation where practically all the high land overlooks the main sections of Acton.

But now the hill is going down. If you want to stand on its peak you'll have to make a visit there very soon. As a matter of fact last Saturday afternoon the edge of the excavation was within three or four feet of the highest point of Cobble Hill.

There are many other things we could tell about Cobble Hill. Many of our readers will have recollections. That's why we called attention to the fact that "They're moving Cobble Hill."

Those who possess copies of "Acton's Early Days" will find the historical sketch of this section on page 123. We find on referring to this book that it was about 65 years ago that Mr. Cook came to Acton and secured possession of this land. We find, too, that the big hill was favored as a first for the selection of the water works reservoir. "The Old Man" says that seventy or eighty years ago wintergreen and flowers used to grow on the sides of the hills and hazel-nuts could be secured there in the field. It was a grand place for sleigh riding, too. Mr. Cook lived to see the section below the hill built up and now the grand-children are likely to see even the hill as part of Acton's built-up section.

We learn, too, that the hill was also called Mount Campbell in honor of Mr. William Campbell, a builder who started erection of the first dwelling in this section.

For you young folk who do not know the location of Cobble Hill, it is reached by Main Street and Queen Street, or out the Mill Pond road to the corner at Lakeview Greenhouses and turning east.

## SECOND FIRE IN ABERFOYLE POST OFFICE LAST WEEK

Fire destroyed part of the old McLean store and post office at Aberfoyle for the second time within a couple of months. It is believed that the blaze started at a verandah to the rear of the building.

The front half of the structure was destroyed by fire early this year. The store had been rebuilt, and papering of rooms in the living quarters had been completed just yesterday, neighbors said.

Miss G. McLean, resident of the building for 75 years, retired from business following the first fire. J. Tulley of Morrison had arranged to take over and was about to move in when the second blaze occurred.

First noticed by neighboring children, the flames swept swiftly towards the building's interior. Guelph firemen were called and they battled the blaze for two hours before it was brought under control.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary of Erin Twp. Couple

On Saturday, April 27th, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Freeman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the home of their son, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Freeman, R. R. 2, Acton. Gold streamers and a huge wedding bell decorated the dining room for the occasion. Floral decorations, with anemones, roses, tulips, daffodils and lily-of-the-valley.

Married in England, Mr. and Mrs. Freeman came to Halton in 1896 and later moved to Inglehart. For the past 31 years they have resided on lot 3, 5th line, Erin.

About 30 guests were received in the afternoon and in the evening. Mrs. Freeman wore a corsage of carnations, ferns and roses, the gift of her husband. Mrs. Skeoch, Toronto, a daughter and Mrs. F. Freeman, Acton, acted as hostesses and Mrs. C. W. Freeman and Miss Jenn McLean, guests. A lovely two-story wedding cake, decorated in gold and white, centred the table.

In the evening Mr. Robert Kerr called the gathering to order and after a short song and program Mrs. Kerr, on behalf of the neighbors, read an address to the bride and groom of 50 years ago. A beautiful radio morden amongst flowers was brought forward and turned on by Mr. Angus McEachern. Mr. Freeman suitably replied on behalf of Mrs. Freeman and himself and thanked the neighbors for their thoughtfulness. Speeches were given by Mr. S. Griffin, Mr. Bert Davidson, Roy Hector McLean and Mr. Sam Lindsay. Lunch was served by Mrs. Archie Kerr, Mrs. Tom Gordon, Mrs. H. McEachern, Misses Wilma Butler, Annie Leitch, Betty Ann Kerr and Alvina Gordon. Mr. and Mrs. Freeman also received a host of other lovely gifts, flowers and cards.

## Many Views Found In Project For Service Recognition

### Preliminary Meeting on Monday Night Has Frank Discussion and Many Suggestions

A unanimous decision that those who served in the war of 1914-18 and claimed Acton as their town should have suitable recognition from the citizens was the one item that received endorsement at the meeting Monday night called by Reeve and Council and attended by representatives of the various organizations of Acton.

The meeting was held in the Legion Room and was presided over by Reeve Charles Kirkness. In his introductory remarks, Reeve Kirkness made it clear that this was a preliminary meeting to receive suggestions on what form of recognition will be made to those who served. He invited open and frank opinions from the group and these were freely given.

Mr. A. Padbury of the Acton Branch of the Canadian Legion pointed out that the Branch had taken a step in calling for Monday evening a meeting of all ex-servicemen to be held in the Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to secure a consensus of opinion on what form those who served desired the recognition to be made. It was proposed to have the meeting select their own chairman and be representative of those who served. The result of that meeting could be brought back to a citizens' meeting and used for guidance.

Mr. A. B. Worth outlined the suggestion of the executive of the Legion would present to this meeting for a memorial. There are only two methods of recognition, one by way of a personal gift and the other a memorial building or structure. The executive had in mind a community memorial hall, in which there would be plaques with the names of those who served. The cost of such a building was estimated at \$25,000.

The discussion was freely offered into by representatives of Duke of Devonshire and Lakeside Chapters of the I.O.O.F., Women's Institute, Ladies' Auxiliary of the Legion, Beardmore Employees, Y's Men's Club and members of Council.

There were many suggestions, such as memorial hall, swimming pool, personal gifts to each serviceman. There was unanimity that whatever plan was adopted by majority it would be solidly backed by the various organizations. The meeting decided by motion to further discuss the matter on Tuesday, May 14th at a meeting in the Town Hall. It was agreed Legion representatives would make a report to that meeting from the servicemen.

Reeve-Kirkness expressed appreciation to all those attending and for the fine frank discussion which had been held and the willingness for all to join in the recognition plans.

## THE CROSS-DUNHAM WEDDING SATURDAY IN GUELPH CHURCH

St. James Anglican Church, Guelph was the scene of a pretty double ring wedding Saturday at 3 o'clock when Grace Mae, daughter of Mrs. Bertha Dunham and the late Mr. Dunham of Elmira, became the bride of Robert Elgie Cross, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Cross, Acton. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. Brillinger.

Given in marriage by her brother, Mr. Harry Dunham of Elmira, the bride wore a dress of white, sheer, tulle style, inserted with lace. Her finger tip veil was caught with a wreath of pearls and she carried a bouquet of white call lilies. Attending the bride was Miss Kay Mathews of Kitchener in a fitted violet dress with gold beaded and carrying tulipian roses. Mr. E. F. Fitch, Acton was best man and Mr. Fred Dunham, Niagara and Mr. Bill Bradshaw, Toronto, acted as ushers.

A reception was held at the home of the groom's parents, Church St., Acton, decorated in pink and white for the occasion. The bride's mother received in a turquoise blue dress with navy accessories, while the groom's mother assisting chose powder blue with blue accessories. Both wore corsages of Joanna Hill roses.

For the wedding trip to Toronto and Buffalo, the bride changed to a grey suit, black accessories and corsage of pink roses. On their return they will reside in Acton. Guests were present from Elmira, Toronto, Kitchener, Niagara, Buffalo and Crystal Beach.

## THE HANSEN-McCAIG WEDDING IN UNITED CHURCH IN TORONTO

Standards of fern and Sarracenian formed the setting in Eglington United Church, Toronto, on Thursday April 26th, when Helen Irene McCaig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex McCaig of Georgetown, was united in marriage with Roy Hendrick Hansen, son of Mrs. Charles Parker and the late Johan Hansen, Rev. J. C. Johnston officiated.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a white satin gown with sweetheart neckline, accented by pearls set in lace and skirt sweeping into a slight train. Her finger tip veil fell from a halo of roses and orange blossoms and she carried a cascade of pink roses. She wore a bracelet and earrings, the gift of the groom.

Her attendants were her sister, Miss Clarence Snow and Miss Louise Matheson, gowned alike in gowns of white silk peruse and net. They carried nose-gays of sweet peas, roses and pansies. Judith Ann Meek, niece of the bride was flower girl in similar frock and carrying a nose gay of flowers.

The groom's brother, Ralph Hansen, was best man and ushers were Donald Parker and George Long. The groom's cousin, Ted Hansen, played the wedding music. Miss Blanche McKinnon sang "The Lord's Prayer" before the ceremony and "O Promise Me" during the signing of the register.

At a reception at the Duell Kitchen, Mrs. McCaig received in teal blue crepe with corsage of yellow roses. Assisting was the groom's mother, wearing powder blue crepe with a corsage of pink roses.

For a wedding trip to Buffalo, the bride wore a dressmaker suit of pearl grey, with navy coat and accessories.

## BOYS' BAND TO OPEN SEASON WITH CONCERT ON SUNDAY

Acton Boys' Band are rounding in to shape for the coming summer season and their first concert will be presented in the Town Hall on Sunday evening at eight o'clock. Since the fire in the Hall the boys have not been able to present concerts but they have maintained regular practice and those who attend the concert on Sunday will note a marked advancement in the class of music they are playing.

Talking to Bandmaster Chas. Maxwell, we learn that the band is planning to complete this year in the Waterloo Musical Festival in June on Sunday evening the program will, we understand, include three test pieces used in former competitions by older bands at the Waterloo event.

Bandmaster and boys have received many encouraging remarks about their progress and work, but speaking from the standpoint of an older bandman, we know that the finest encouragement that can be given a band is a large, attentive audience. Acton is fortunate indeed in having a band. If you think so, too, go to their first concert of the season on Sunday night. Pack the hall to the doors and we guarantee such encouragement will make the boys do their best and be the best evidence of your support. Incidentally the Town Hall looks pretty nice, too, in its new decorations.

## Mrs. M.E. Nixon Elected President Children's Aid

### Annual Meeting on Monday Addressed by Mr. B. Beaumont Reports of Year Given

The annual meeting of the Halton County Children's Aid Society was held on Monday evening in St. Paul's Church, Milton.

President A. Mason of Acton, was chairman for the evening. He called upon Rev. A. W. Fishery to open the meeting with prayer. President Mason welcomed the members of the Society to the meeting and stated that he was pleased to see such a large turnout of members and those interested in child welfare.

By motion, the Board of Directors were given power to sign the necessary documents as required by the laws.

Another motion was passed, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, authorizing the Board to give a member of the Board authority to sign cheques, along with the Treasurer, instead of having the annual meeting make the appointment.

A nominating board was appointed, consisting of Rev. G. W. Porter, Mrs. M. Nixon and Mr. Wm. Deans. Mrs. Edna Anderson gave the Treasurer's report which was adopted. Miss Anderson was complimented upon the very efficient and courteous manner in which she gives attention to her duties.

Mr. G. F. Thompson, superintendent, gave a very complete resume of the work carried on by the Society during the past year. He pointed out a number of difficulties encountered in looking after the Society's work. Mr. Thompson introduced Mr. and Mrs. Holt of Acton who, for the past year, have been operating a reception home for the children.

Children when they are taken over by the Society are taken to this home and cared for until such time as the case is disposed of and the children restored to their parents or placed in other homes.

Miss Marjorie Dawson favored the meeting with two lovely songs which were much appreciated.

Rev. G. W. Porter, pastor of St. Paul's Church introduced the guest speaker of the evening, Mr. B. Beaumont. He also extended a welcome to the delegates from St. Paul's Church.

Mr. B. Beaumont is presently Director of the Children's Division, Provincial Department of Public Welfare. He stated that he felt there never was as much interest in child welfare as now. He recommended the Superintendent's report for the members' consideration. He also stated that if we expect to have a better world, we must start with the children. Too many people do not take the responsibility of the home seriously, due to various causes. If we are going to do the job, we must give heavily of our time, but it was worth it.

Mr. Beaumont stated that the Superintendent must have time to develop interest in the Society and new members must be brought along so that they can take their place as members of the Board of Directors. Children's Aid is not charity but is an investment in the men and women of the future and any time or money given is a good investment for the good of the country. It is an insurance that the children will have an opportunity of growing up as good citizens of the community and help them lead useful lives. You never get down the work given to a child. It goes on and on and keeps building up over a period of years.

Mrs. Weaver moved a vote of thanks to the speaker for the splendid address, also the President for the very able manner in which he conducted the meeting, also Miss Dawson and her accompanist for the solos.

Rev. Mr. Porter brought in a slate of directors for the ensuing year. The meeting voted on the directors for the year, which resulted as follows: Acton: A. Mason, Chas. L. Kirk.

(Continued on Page Five)

## Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Conventions, or Other Events, under this heading, are charged, 10 cents per line, with a minimum charge for one announcement of 50c.

Eachere: Legion Hall, Acton, Friday, May 3rd, 8:30. Lunch. Everybody welcome. Admission 25 cents.

Come ye, come ye all, to the Acton Town Hall, May 16th, 17th, 18th, when the Acton Y's Men's Club present that highly rated royalty play "Nothing But the Truth", a three-act comedy, full of laughs. Hold these dates open. For more details watch next issue.