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Eight Home Print Pages—Six Cents

Telephone Change Recalls Early Days of System Here

First Exchange in Acton in 1885 and Grown from 15 Subscribers to Present 682 Telephones

Perhaps a few of Acton's older residents will be reminded by the conversion of the local telephone system to common battery operation of an earlier era when the first telephones were coming into use in Acton. In those days there were no automobiles and not a single radio in the entire community.

The first telephone exchange in Acton was established in December 1885, just 12 years after it had been incorporated as a village. In 1884 a line had been built from Toronto to Guelph through Acton, giving the village its first telephone contact with the outside world. At that time the exchange was located on Mill Street with Dr. N. McGarvin, a dentist, acting as agent. Prior to this exchange, Mr. H. Gray, Grand Trunk Railway agent, had invented and patented a telephone. This instrument had been in successful operation over a three mile circuit for some time before 1883.

In those pioneer days of telephony, a subscriber could only get through calls between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on week days, 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays, and 10 to 12 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. on holidays.

The first list of telephone subscribers will recall names of firms and persons prominent in the business and social life of the community more than 60 years ago. They are: Acton Banking Co., Corner Mill and Frederick Sts.; Brown, James, Sawmill, Main St.; Campbell House, corner Main and Mill Streets; Grand Trunk Railway Station; Lowry, Dr. W. H., Frederick St.; Moore and McGarvin, Valise and Satchel Factory, Mill St.; Moore, James, Tannery, Queen St.; Moore, H. P., Free Press office, Mill St.; Moore, H. P., Residence, corner Frederick St. and Bower Ave.; McGarvin, Dr. J. E., Drugstore, Mill St.; Nelson, McFar and Co. General Store, corner Mill and Willow Sts.; Storey, W. H. and Son, Glove Manufacturers, Bower Ave., Toronto Lane Co., John Moore, Mgr., Lime works, Limehouse.

In 1890 J. V. Kinnawin became manager. Like his predecessor, Mr. Kinnawin was also a druggist and when Mr. Kinnawin sold out to A. T. Brown the telephone central was operated by Mr. Brown for 25 years and until the business had grown to where it required a building of its own and a full-time manager. Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Lantz were appointed.

Telephoning then was not the simple thing it is now. To be heard at all, even over a relatively short distance, the subscriber required at times the voice of a circus barker. Since the first telephone lines were built, improvements have been going on all the time. Galvanized iron wires, originally used, were replaced with copper ones, and a device called the vacuum tube repeater was invented which gives new life to tired voice currents, and placed at intervals along long distance lines, makes it possible to talk across the continent as easily as between two places in Acton.

When the first exchange was established here there were 15 telephones in use. Today the local exchange under the management of J. I. Sanderson at Guelph gives service to 682 Bell telephones, any one of which can be interconnected with telephones in 86 countries and territories scattered throughout the world.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF W.A. GIVEN ACTON GROUP

The monthly business meeting of the Woman's Association of the United Church was held at the home of Mrs. E. Lambert on Tuesday with a guest attendance. The president, Mrs. J. Moore, presided and the devotional was taken by Mrs. J. Moore and Mrs. L. Pickering.

Reports of the various committees were presented and roll call was answered by a verse of scripture. Mrs. Pickering gave a very fine report on the first annual meeting of the Woman's Association of Halton Presbytery when the Association became affiliated with the Hamilton conference.

Mrs. Lambert assisted by Mrs. Drysdale and Mrs. Theford served a very dainty lunch and a social time was enjoyed.

MISS ANDERSON ADDRESSED MEETING DEVONSHIRE CHAPTER

The Duke of Devonshire Chapter, I.O.D.E. met for the April meeting at the home of Mrs. George Mason, Lake Ave., with the Regent, Mrs. N. Baird presiding. After the usual opening ceremonies Mrs. Baird spoke briefly on the recent reception of Newfoundland into the Dominion of Canada as the tenth province.

The Chapter expects to sponsor the usual tag day for the blind. Mention was made of the annual Provincial Convention at Hamilton and those who could do so were urged to go. A letter is to be sent to the Council, asking about having the names of those who gave their lives in World War II placed on the cenotaph, and offering financial assistance toward the cost of the work.

Arrangements were made for a Daffodil Tea. A presentation to Mrs. J. Whitham on her retirement as Standard Bearer for several years was made by Miss M. Bennett and Mrs. E. Cooper.

Miss Anderson, Public Health nurse for Acton and vicinity, was the guest speaker for the evening and her talk was most interesting and informative. It dealt with her work as Public Health Nurse, the work being done by the Public Health Service and the extension of the work which they hope to do later. One could only marvel at the scope of the work. Miss M. Mainprize very capably expressed the appreciation of the meeting to Miss Anderson. Miss Jordan, a student nurse, accompanied Miss Anderson and was a guest for the meeting.

Hostesses serving refreshments were Mrs. Bayliss, Mrs. Boulton, Mrs. Baxter and Mrs. Ken How.

INSULATION FROM WASTE

New low cost insulating and building material produced by a Quebec firm from waste materials such as sawdust, shavings, waste pulp, bark, straw, with portland cement as binder, is reported by The Financial Post. Claimed to be light in weight, inexpensive, fire resistant, water repellent and vermin-proof. Process requires no costly special equipment and is expected to give commercial value to fibrous wastes hitherto regarded as total loss by mills and plants at which wastes originate.

S. S. Royce is Clerk - Treasurer Eramosa Township

Council Co-Operates with Rockwood Trustees Regarding Fire Equipment

Eramosa Council met at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall, Rockwood, on Monday. Present were: Reeve D. D. Gray in the chair, Deputy Reeve E. H. Benham, Councillors T. G. Hutchinson and Fred L. Cox. Illness prevented the attendance of Councillor J. E. Rutherford.

Mr. S. S. Royce presented a fidelity bond for \$5000.00 covering the responsibilities of Treasurer and Collector. Council examined the bond and pronounced it satisfactory. By-law No. 6 was then passed appointing Mr. Royce as Clerk, Treasurer, Collector and Relief Officer at a salary of \$1000.00 per month, effective May 1st.

A resolution was passed confirming the action of the Clerk in approving the application of Mr. Robert Logan for a permit to operate a repair garage.

The Auditor, Mr. S. R. Reid, presented his report for 1948; the report was discussed, and on motion Messrs. Cox and Hutchinson, it was accepted and ordered to be filed. Mr. Reid was requested to arrange for an audit of township affairs early in May.

Messrs. L. J. Ayles and Walter Hunt, two of the Rockwood Trustees, were present to request the co-operation of council regarding the application of the proposed new grants toward the purchase of fire equipment. Council assured the trustees of their co-operation.

By resolution, council re-affirmed By-Law No. 10 of 1947; making Daylight Saving effective in the Township of Eramosa at 12:01 a.m. on the last Sunday in April.

Arrangements were made for the council to make a survey of the township roads on April 7th; the Road Supt. was instructed to advertise for tenders for crushed gravel.

May 2 at 7:00 p.m. was fixed as the date for the next meeting and for the hearing of any appeals resulting from late or revised assessments.

Accounts passed amounted to \$2,195.94.

Annexation Effective on Jan. 1st in Crescent

Auditors' Report is Presented for the Year at Council Meeting on Monday — Garbage Collection and Division of Commissioners Come in for Discussion — Wartime Housing Official Agreement is Signed

Councillors T. Nicol, L. Holthorn, W. J. McLeod and Deputy Reeve Taylor were present Monday evening when Acton Council met and Reeve T. Jones presided.

Mr. Hodgins, municipal auditor, presented the auditor's report for 1948 and gave full explanation of the contents and answered all questions. The report will be printed later and made available for the ratepayers.

Wartime Housing asked permission to dump the contents of chemical toilets at the town dump. Council did not grant this permission and closed the dump to all this work.

Council discussed the division of Commissioners in insurance business which it was felt should be divided between the three agents who were paying business tax and decided to enforce the arrangement that had been in vogue. The Clerk was to write a letter explaining Council's wishes when making payment.

Accounts were passed for payment as follows:

F. L. Wright, Insurance	\$38.95
Personal Stationery Sales	4.25
Safety Supply Co. Firemen's Coats	127.50
Acton Free Press, printing	23.85
Municipal World, dog tags	8.66
Postmaster, stamps for bills	32.40
Y.M.C.A. Taxes	235.50
S. Eisen, Maiber Shoe Store	
Itos-Ann Stores, taxes off Transient's Traders fees	107.63
Stewart Elliott, store	160.14
Lever and Hoskin, audit fees	401.00
North Halton High School District Board	3474.57
Acton Public Utilities re Treasurer and Tax Collection duties	1205.96
W. Chisholm, labor	6.75
	\$5816.96

Council reviewed the Garbage Collection by-law which provided for the collection of all refuse and rubbish. The present collection of garbage and ashes on two separate days runs until the end of the month but it was hoped the summer collection could be arranged earlier if agreeable to the collector.

A letter from the Municipal Board advised that duplicate originals of the Board's Order approving of the annexation of parts of Eramosa Council (Crescent Section) had been forwarded to Mr. J. D. Lucas, K.C., the solicitor and fixed the effective date as of January 1st, 1949.

The official agreement with Wartime Housing on the section built in Acton was read by the Clerk and approved by Council and signed by the officials.

Mr. R. N. Baird of Wool Combining Corporation asked clarification of the arrangements for fire protection that would be given the property of the Company. The Company had some protection of their own that fitted in with the municipal and Beardmore and Co. equipment.

Council assured Mr. Baird that this matter was in the hands of the Fire Chief to use his own discretion and the ruling was more applicable to distances away from the town.

Council decided to grant a rebate of \$5 to the Acton Women's Institute on the rent of the Town Hall on an event recently held.

CHEMIST ADDRESSED MARCH MEETING DUBLIN INSTITUTE

Dublin Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. G. R. Somerville for their regular March meeting. Mrs. George Robertson opened the meeting. Roll call was answered with an Irish joke. A beautiful quilt was displayed. Mrs. D. Barber as convener of Canadian Industries had arranged to have a visit from the chemist of Baxter Laboratories. Miss Margaret Brown completed the arrangements and Mr. Nelson with Ken Ingles as assistant, gave a very fine display of their work at the Laboratories. How the trans-fusions were made and plasma and saline treatments manufactured was most interesting. Mrs. Somerville gave a report of the District Directors meeting at Milton. The District meeting is to be held in Palermo in June. Lunch was served and a social hour enjoyed.

Three Fire Calls in Past Week Above Average

The local volunteer fire department answered a call on Sunday last at approximately nine thirty a.m. A chimney fire at the residence of Mr. Charles Hoach on Church Street was quickly brought under control by the effective efforts of the local department.

The whistle of the Beardmore & Co. carried the alarm of another fire this week Monday at about 4:30 a small fire broke out in the Weiting Department. While some leather was being processed a match ignited the solution and it burst into flames. There was no damage and the fire was quickly extinguished.

A third alarm was spread this week on Monday night when a glass fire at the farm of Mr. Webster got out of control. Neighbors were summoned from the surrounding district by telephone and large group of fire fighters arrived to fight the blaze which was quite easily brought under control with no damage.

With the season of fires at hand it is the time to be careful with stray matches and cigarette butts when we are in the locality of inflammable material.

R. Perry Watson Popular Citizen Died on Friday

Had Spent Lifetime in Community and Developed a Fine Business Here

Robert Perry Watson, one of the best known business men of Acton and a life long resident here passed away early Friday morning at his home in Acton. He was in his sixtieth year. Mr. Watson has been in failing health for several months.

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Watson, Perry was the youngest of the family and was born on the home farm a few miles east of Acton. He attended Bannockburn and Acton Schools and served several years overseas in the First World War. Returning to the home community after the war he entered the dairy business and through the years has built up the Watson Dairy in Acton and a few years ago added to the business the Bar Watson Restaurant and Dairy Bar and with the loyal helpfulness and untiring attention of Mrs. Watson and their son, Tom, who joined them when he returned from service in the second World War a popular and sound business has been developed.

Besides his wife, who was before marriage, Miss Isabel Elliott, he leaves one son, Tommy, and a grandson Bobby. One sister, Mrs. G. H. Blosby of Niagara Falls, and two brothers, Ray of Grimsby, and Shirley of Alma also survive him. A host of friends sorrow with them in the loss they have sustained.

Perry Watson was popular with young and old in the community. The children from all ages in the community liked him and many of us who have known him so long found particular delight in his company and friendship. In these friendships he was one of Acton's most wealthy men, for what is of truer wealth than friends.

Perry was a member of Acton Branch of the Canadian Legion and Past Master of Walker Lodge, A.F. & A.M. and took a keen interest in all community affairs.

Some evidence of the esteem in which he was held could be gathered from the host of friends who gathered on Monday afternoon at the funeral service at the Victor B. Rumley Funeral Home and in the host of floral tributes which bore testimony of esteem and sympathy for those who are left. The service was conducted by Rev. R. H. Armstrong, of Knox Presbyterian Church, which he attended. Brethren of his Mother Lodge were pallbearers: Wor. Bros. M. McCutcheon, F. Salt, W. Middleton, and Bro. D. A. J. Buchanan, Geo. Muselle and G. A. Dills.

The funeral saw one of the largest attendances of Masonic brethren who have assembled here for many years. At the graveside the impressive Masonic service was conducted with solemnity and feeling. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Acton.

HALTON JUNIOR FARMERS START HOCKEY SERIES

On Wednesday, March 30, Halton Juniors started their rubber about hockey series which will decide the winner of the Martin Trophy. In the first game, Norval handed Acton a 4 to 3 beating giving Acton their first defeat since the opening season two years ago. Scorers for the Norval group were Bud Carter, 3, Bill Laidlaw, 1, Doug Carlton, 1, and Jim Sargent, 1. The markers for the Acton club were Ray Everdell, 1, Jack Stewart and Bob Marshall.

On Saturday April 2nd, Palermo Junior Farmers handed Milton a six to four defeat in a game which saw the Milton Club score three of their goals in the last five minutes. The goal getters for the Palermo Club were Dave Pelletier 2, and one each to George Smith, George Pelletier, Vern Bridgman and Harold Gowland, while Neil Shuter, Bruce Marshall, Jim Bailey and Lennie Gowland accounted for the Milton goals.

Officers Elected For Acton Home And School Group

The Acton Home and School Association met Monday evening, April 4th at the Public School, under the leadership of Mr. B. H. Parker, president.

Plans are well under way for the Graduating Class dinner, under the management of Mrs. F. Oakes and her committee. The date set for the occasion is June 16th.

The slate of officers for 1948-49 brought before the meeting for approval was unanimously accepted.

President, Mr. R. B. Parker, 1st Vice President, Mrs. D. A. Garrett, 2nd Vice President, Mr. H. Chandra, Recording Secretary, Mrs. W. D. E. Smith, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. H. Creighton, Treasurer, Mr. H. H. Hinton, Executive Committee, Mrs. Helen Cullen, Mr. H. Ritchie, Mrs. L. Lovell, Mrs. G. Cunningham, Mr. G. Cook.

Mrs. Jarvis, a most charming and entertaining speaker from Guelph, gave the members many excellent ideas which would be feasible in the local Association. Being President of the City Council, she was able to tell of many problems encountered and how they were solved. A social half hour followed.

MR. R. MONKMAN ADDRESSED MEETING OF LOCAL UNION

On Monday, April 4, Local 20 National Shoe and Leather Union held their monthly meeting. The president, Mr. A. Clement, introduced the guest speaker, Mr. R. Monkman, Headquarters Representative from Toronto, who gave a short address on headquarters and offered suggestions on different matters during the meeting. The agreement was accepted as read with few corrections and the executive was given full authority to negotiate on all matters.

Membership is still increasing and the financial statement as presented was very satisfactory. The president, A. Clement, Secretary, B. Roberts and F. Cook, were appointed delegates to attend the Labour Convention in May. After brief remarks and best wishes from Mr. Monkman, the meeting closed. The negotiating committee had a very successful meeting with the company and many requests were granted.

Top of \$1200 At Oakville Holstein Sale

The Tenth Oakville Consignment Sale held March 30th at Oakville, realized \$21,450 on 64 head for a general average of \$335. Top price was \$1200 paid by James T. Brown, Newcastle, Ontario, to H. Gregory Merritt, Bowmanville, Ont. for a three-year-old heifer Glenafon Rag Apple Theodora.

Les Peres du St. Esprit, Limbour Que., bought four head, these including a bred heifer from Stagholm Farm, Oakville at \$510; a bred heifer from Rosafe Farms, Brampton, at \$410; and a pair of open heifers from R. A. Allen, Oakville at \$300 and \$375. A. S. Mahon and Son, Campbellville, sold a five-year old heifer to Richard B. Ross, Gawanda, N.Y. at \$555; Horace M. Murphy, Lachute, Que., a six-year-old heifer to W. D. Platt, Terra Cotta, Ont. at \$375; Dr. Paul Beer, Georgetown, Ont., a three-year-old to I. S. Eby and Son, Stevensville, at \$475; Archibald Muir and Sons, Courtville, Ont., a four year old heifer to Vincent Epp, Tavistock, Ont., \$475.

Just Sight of Highway No. 25 Grader Collapses

There does seem no end of trouble with Highway No. 25 between Acton and Milton. On Monday a road grader was brought in to work on the terrible surface. It got just as far as Bell's Service Station, north of Milton, when within the sight of its task it collapsed with a broken axle. It presented a rather forlorn appearance and was quite in keeping with the road before it.

Some loads of crushed stone have been placed in the worst spots on the highway and are indeed a help in getting over. A new type of road machine has been at work on the ungraded section just below Speyside. This truck has a pole on the back something of the nature of a portable well drill. It moves up the centre of the road making holes and after samples are taken the mound is rounded up to match the frost upheavals of the surface.

The man-made mounds are larger and equally as jolting for highway travellers. Whether its gold or oil or just a confirmation of the rumor that work of grading and making the last six miles of the highway ready for a permanent surface we do not know at present but time alone will tell. In the meantime, "Drive Carefully" This is your latest road report.

MINOR ACCIDENT WHEN CAR AND TRUCK TANGLE

On Monday, during the noon hour rush, at the corner of Mill and Willow Streets a minor accident occurred.

The car driven by Ross Britton was parked on Mill St and protruded a little on Willow Street. The truck of the Weston Bread Co was parked on Willow facing north-west. Having completed delivery the driver of the truck attempted to back out Mill Street coming in contact with the Britton car and damaging the fender and bumper of the latter car. Chief Harrop investigated.

FOLDING BLEACHERS

Folding bleachers which give maximum seating capacity for public assemblies are now being manufactured in Canada, according to The Financial Post. Open, bleachers are said to provide adequate, comfortable seating which in many large room areas can be made revenue-producing. Folded, they become safe playing walls for basketball and indoor games, less likely to injure athletes than walls of standard construction.

G.O. Brown Named for Esqueuing to High School Board

\$50 Paid for Foxes Destroyed by Esqueuing Council at Meeting Monday

The regular meeting of Esqueuing Township Council was held Monday, April 4th. Deputy Reeve Geo. Leslie, Councillors H. Craig Reid, Wilfred Bird and Walter Linham were present and Reeve George Currie presided.

Mr. H. A. Lever, auditor for the township was present and discussed the audit as of December 31st, 1948, which showed the financial standing of the Township to be good.

The treasurer was authorized to pay the following accounts: Board of Hydro Commissioners, Georgetown, \$76.92; H.E.P.C., Brampton, \$4.07; Bell Telephone \$4.48; Workmen's Compensation Board, \$1.50; I. M. Bennett, supplies, \$1.10; A. W. Benton, stamps, \$7.00; H. A. Lever, auditing fees, \$34.77.

Relief accounts as presented by the relief officer, amounting to \$30.30, were ordered paid.

Claims for foxes destroyed in Esqueuing were paid to the following: Wallace Swackhamer, \$15.00; David Leslie, \$10; J. A. Chisholm, \$10.00; Duncan Robinson, \$10.00; Henry C. Wedge, \$5.00.

Road accounts of \$2,937.62 as presented by the Road Superintendent were ordered paid.

The treasurer was empowered to return the deposit of Harry Beer re snow plowing tender.

Mr. G. O. Brown was appointed a member of the North Halton High School District Board for 1949 and 1950.

Halton Producers Hold Discussion on Bootleg Milk

Less Than 75 Producers Attend — Endorse Policy of Directors

J. F. Jolly, leader of the dissenting faction within the Toronto Milk Producers' Association, received a setback, last Friday afternoon when Halton Milk Producers' Association approved a resolution endorsing the policy and pledged their support of the directors of the Toronto Milk Producers Association at a meeting held in the Princess Theatre, at Milton.

Less than 75 Halton milk producers attended the meeting to hear Mr. Jolly continue his charges that W. H. Willmott, now manager of the Association, had sold the producer to the distributors by allowing them to obtain untested milk from cheese factories under their control and marketing it in competition against the farmers.

The originator of the bootleg milk phrase said, "I charged the Toronto Milk distributors with distributing bootleg milk on February 4. They denied this, but later admitted some had come in but not since March."

In his opening remarks, Mr. Jolly said he was surprised there were not more Halton producers at the meeting. He said there were few producers in Halton who should be interested in the marketing of their product.

Continuing, he charged he attended a cheese factory in eastern Ontario to which unsanitary milk was shipped. He also said he saw this milk being "pumped into Acme Farmers Dairy containers. This milk was placed on the market in competition to the farmers."

Mr. Jolly thought the producer should obtain top prices for his milk regardless whether it was bottled, made into ice-cream or chocolate. He suggested the association erect a processing plant which could use up all surplus milk, so the producer could obtain top prices. He further argued there was too much spread between the price paid to the producer and cost to the consumer, adding the farmer was given \$4.07 per hundredweight less shipping charges, while the distributor received \$3.52 for handling it.

The speaker vigorously denied he was seeking the job of secretary-manager of the Association, but urged farmers to select a competent man from their own ranks.

Continuing, his criticism of Mr. Willmott, he said, "you farmers have a right to know what is going on, but you do not. Therefore it is your misfortune. You should know what the secretary is doing, and the directors are lax in permitting him to continue."

In concluding, "The Distributors are running your business, when you should be running your own. I am only endeavouring to bring you farmers together, to choose men to operate the association you can trust."

Defending the actions of the (Continued on Page Five)

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts, or Other Events, unless otherwise stated, are charged, at cost per line, with a minimum charge for any announcements of 30c.

"The Minister's Aunt will be presented again April 30th in the Town Hall, Acton.

The Friendly Circle are having a baking sale and tea at the home of Mrs. Marguerite Taylor, April 8th.

Duke of Devonshire Chapter, I.O.D.E. will hold a Daffodil Tea April 30th, from 3 to 5 o'clock, in the Y.M.C.A.

The Lakeside Chapter I.O.D.E. meeting in the Legion Hall, Tuesday evening, April 19th, 8:15 sharp. Mrs. Gowdy as guest speaker.

Bannockburn Women's Institute euchre and dance, Bannockburn School, Wednesday, April 13th, 8:30 p.m. Admission 35c. Refreshments.

Euchre, Y.M.C.A., Acton, Thursday, April 21. Proceeds to the Inglis family who recently lost home by fire. Admission 35c. Ladies provide. Come one, come all.

Kidd Baker Show and Dance. Last appearance of the season. Rockwood Town Hall, April 12, 8:30 p.m. Special attraction "Little Davie Shantz." Admission 50c and 25c.