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Halton County to Take Ownership Lowville Park

Federation of Agriculture Make Request to Council — G. D. Brown Appointed to District High School Board — Committee Named to Investigate Insurance for County Employees — Approve Change of Signal at Campbellville Crossing

Written exclusively for the *Acton Free Press* by **Clara Chapman** and **Acton**

Halton County Council at its regular monthly meeting here on Tuesday afternoon, approved of taking over the ownership of Federation Park at Lowville on request of the Halton Federation of Agriculture.

Appearing on behalf of the Federation, Paul Fisher told members this park was the only park in the county available to farm families for their week-end picnics. He said it could be arranged to be extended to the urban municipalities. Asking the county to take over ownership he declared the project would then come within the limits of the act making available provincial grants. He further declared the Federation had at present a \$10,000 investment in the project, and work was commencing on installing hydro for the purpose of lighting one of the playing fields. While the organization had spent considerable money preparing the land, they were running short of money and were seeking government aid to complete the plans.

Emphasizing the importance of the recreation centre, he added Halton was the only municipality in the Province which provided an annual sports day for rural children. He said this event had grown beyond all expectations.

Explaining the provisions of the act, Mr. Fisher said once the ownership was vested with the county a board of seven directors would necessarily have to be appointed by Council, which would include two Council members. "By taking this over the county should not be asked to spend any money other than possibly loaning their road machinery for grading fields in the spring of the year. Both the county, Trafalgar and Nelson townships have loaned us their machinery in the past for this work," he said.

In conclusion, Mr. Fisher suggested the new set-up might require proper policing. "Last year some foreign groups came to the park with large quantities of beer for their parties and picnics and that is something we do not wish to have in our county. As a county project I am sure it would be kept free from this sort of thing," he said.

Reeve Goodlet, chairman of the assessment committee, gave a comprehensive report on the progress of the county assessment program. He told members local assessors were co-operating in sending their reports to the County Office, hastening the program which he said could be put into operation in 1950. Council also approved of the assessment committee recommendation that Ford Rogers salary be increased \$200 a year while the secretary's be increased from \$17 a week to \$24. Council also agreed to permit the office to hire additional help to prepare and check assessment cards as they came into the office. It was recommended cards should not remain in the assessment office longer than thirty days before they were returned to the individual municipalities. Concluding his report he said 1400 cards had been received since the first of the year. The Warden congratulated the committee on their progress this year.

Council renewed their public liability policy with the General Accident Insurance Company, asking further information be provided regarding increased liability amounts.

The Warden and clerk were given the authority to purchase land for reforestation purposes from Robert Laing, Nassagaweya as agreed upon at a previous meeting. Members also approved of selling 14 acres of land to W. H. Black, Nassagaweya, for the sum of \$350, pending approval of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. Reeve William VanSickle explained this land had not been planted with trees under county reforestation program.

G. O. Brown was appointed member of the North Halton High School Area Board for 1948-50 to take place of E. Ratkin. H. D. Allen was chosen member of the County Roads Committee for 1948-50-1-3 filling the vacancy left by the resignation of former Reeve A. (Continued on Page Five)

Highway Accidents in Halton County Increase This Year

Paralleling all-time peaks in motor vehicle accidents, the Ontario Department of Highways in a recent bulletin states accidents reached a record total during 1948. Accidents totalled 27,408, an increase of 23 per cent over 1947, resulting in 740 deaths, 14,970 injured and a reported property damage amounting to \$7,140,281.00.

Improper use of the highways includes not only the wild, reckless drunken driving of the irresponsible few, but it also includes the negligent, indifferent, thoughtless and discourteous actions of the normally law-abiding majority. The latter group presents a problem more difficult to cope with than the out-and-out dangerous drivers. Inattention, poor judgment, discourtesy and faulty habits may be quite as dangerous under certain circumstances as the foolhardy behaviour of most irresponsible individuals," the report stated.

According to the report, Halton is no different than other counties in the province. The report stated Halton had 201 accidents in 1948 as compared to 343 in 1947. Grouped in district No. 3 along with Brant, Norfolk and Wentworth, the overall increase was 23 per cent, just one per cent more increase than the general Ontario increase of accidents.

The success of any safe-driving program is entirely dependent on the willingness of the individual driver and pedestrian, to drive carefully, walk sensibly, to be courteous and to recognize the right and privilege of other users of our highways.

Your reward for such actions will be the saving of a human life maybe your own."

Annual Visit of D.D.G.M. at Walker Lodge

Twenty Different Lodges Represented by Visitors and Over 200 Attend

Monday was a red letter day in the annals of Walker Lodge. It was the annual visit of the District Deputy Grand Master. This year the representative of Grand Lodge is Rt. Wor. Bro. Neil McEachern of Waterloo.

The work of the Lodge was conducted by Wor. Master W. J. Beatty and his staff of officers. The 1st degree was conferred on Gordon Beatty, the son of the Worshipful Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. McEachern congratulated the officers on the splendid manner in which the degree was exemplified.

During the evening, Rt. Wor. Bro. Frank McIntosh was presented with a Life Membership and Wor. Bro. M. McCutcheon with a Past Master Jewel.

After the work of the evening the gathering adjourned to the gymnasium of the Y.M.C.A. where the ladies had spread a bounteous banquet, under the supervision of Junior Warden J. Watkins. W. J. Beatty was the Master of Ceremonies.

Bro. A. J. Buchanan proposed the toast to Grand Lodge which was responded to by Rt. Wor. Bro. Neil McEachern.

In his address Rt. Wor. Bro. McEachern pointed out that at the present time there are some 115,000 Masons in Ontario—a considerable increase over a year ago. In the Food Parity Campaign, Acton had subscribed \$203.00 nearly \$100 over the target. The district will have subscribed over \$2,500.00 to this worthy cause in the past year. In Ontario \$91,000 has been raised for this cause.

The main theme of his address was "What is Masonry." He stated that the world today was a challenge to carry forward the ideals of Masonry for the good of the world.

Rt. Wor. Bro. J. A. Leslie proposed the toast to the visitors which represented twenty lodges of the surrounding district. This toast was answered by Brethren from Preston, Elmira, Arr. Georgetown and Milton.

Bro. Gordon Beatty, the candidate, spoke briefly and the Junior Warden's toast brought the meeting to a close.

Twenty Years a Free Press Writer



MRS. GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE — Photo by News — Who This Week Marks Twenty Years Writing "Chronicles of Ginger Farm" for Free Press Readers

"Just plain folks" by Judy O'Grady was the title of a new column which first appeared in the Free Press on April 11, 1929, just twenty years ago. In the 1940 issues of the Free Press published since that time that writer has never missed an issue. True the column name later became "Chronicles of Ginger Farm" and the pen name of Judy O'Grady has been dropped for the real name of the writer, Gwendoline P. Clarke.

While the column was first published in the Free Press its interest has grown locally and abroad and since July 1943 it has been a feature of the Wilson list of publications, appeared for five or six years in the Leamington Post & News and runs in an English Weekly "East Anglian Free Press."

To write and publish occasional articles is not unusual for many but to maintain interest for over twenty years in over 1000 columns with an Ontario farm as the main subject is something of a record, we think especially when at the end of that period the Free Press is reminded constantly by readers of the interest in this feature and the field for that and other articles from Mrs. Clarke's pen has widened.

We know readers would be interested in knowing some things that we can tell them about the writer and Ginger Farm on this twentieth anniversary.

Mrs. Clarke began writing as a hobby, and was spurred on by winning an award in a literary competition sponsored by "Girls Own Paper and Woman's Magazine." This was in England when the writer was about 16 years old. Some years ago she had an article published "The British Bride in Canada."

Free lance work that has been of much interest to rural readers has been published in the Farmer's Advocate, the Canadian Countryman, the Farmer's Magazine, Family Herald and Weekly Star and the Oakville Record Star. Mrs. Clarke recalls that her first article written in Canada was published by the Farmer's Advocate.

For many years Mrs. Clarke reported Halton County Council proceedings for the County papers and the Hamilton Spectator. In those days the meetings quite often required a night session and getting home from the farm to the meetings by horse and buggy and a hurried supper to report the proceedings for that week meant a real task. Up until the time Mrs. Clarke be-

her recent trip to Bermuda. The speaker explained that Bermuda had only one industry a small perfume factory employing only about twelve people, the remainder of the population made their living by the tourist industry.

The subject for Empire Study was on South Africa and given by Mrs. E. Wallace. Group one had charge of the very "dainty" lunch served and the enjoyable social time that followed the meeting.

Average earnings of hourly-rated workers in leading Canadian manufacturing plants at January 1st, 1949 were \$39.46, an increase of \$429 over earnings at January 1st, 1948.

Additional Room at Public School Now Necessary

Board Discusses Problem at April Meeting — Refund to the Crescent Pupils Since Annexation

Chairman Jones presided at the regular meeting of Acton School Board held Thursday evening in the Council Chamber at 7:30 p.m. Trustee Chapman was the only absentee.

Mr. McKenzie submitted attendance report of pupil attendance at the Public School which showed a pupil load of 281 per teacher. Departmental standards show an overload as the desirable number for a class is considered 35.

Considerable discussion followed. It was considered very evident that additional accommodation would have to be secured for September opening. It was acknowledged that it would be false economy to make provision for other portable classrooms. The fact that next year a new boiler would be required brought to the fore the fact that Inspector Knorr had recommended that immediate serious thought be given to securing a new school, if only, in part, namely by securing architect's plans for a new school and building a nucleus of heating plant, washroom and toilet room accommodation and the required number of class rooms for immediate need.

Mr. McKenzie reported that the Home and School Club was a real success. It was felt that additional part time help was desirable in order to keep the High School clean and sanitary. It was decided that full day Saturday help was needed and the Secretary was directed to arrange same.

The Board directed that toilets in the public school be redecorated during the Easter holiday and that one additional light be installed in each toilet.

The Secretary was authorized to make refund of 1948 non resident fees to parents of children attending the Public School from the Crescent.

The Finance Statements approved the following accounts:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| G. M. Woodly supplies | \$51.88 |
| G. H. Woodly supplies | 8.64 |
| Howes Ltd. supplies | 30.48 |
| C. Anderson Co. supplies | 31.90 |
| Hargreaves S. 580, oil | 34.50 |
| West Disinfecting | 67.07 |
| E. VanNorman, services | 1.25 |
| Highway Garage, supplies | 47.25 |
| Masales Dairy, K.P. Milk | 26.91 |
| C. W. Truckey, tuning pianos | 27.00 |
| J. H. Goy, express | 4.94 |
| Watson Dairy, K.P. milk | 36.68 |
| Bell Tel. Co. Phone | 2.55 |
| Public Utilities Commission | 31.11 |
| Canadian Nature, renewal | 8.50 |
| | \$429.66 |

The Secretary was directed to assess N.H.S.D. Board \$174.35, March plant operation.

Chairman approved that Board meet regularly first Tuesday of month for future meetings.

THE WARRINER-ELLIOTT WEDDING IN TORONTO CHURCH

Standards of bride stocks and brides formed the background in Howard Park United Church for the wedding of Patricia May Elliott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Butler Elliott, "Talltrees," Thistleton, and Lloyd Hubert Warriner, son of Mrs. Warriner and the late George W. Warriner, Rev. E. S. Lautenslager officiated. Music was played by Albert Kennedy and Louise Stewart was soloist.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore an ankle-length gown of cinnamon beige chintilly lace over beige taffeta. She wore a cloche headdress of lace and taffeta, holding a waist-length veil, and she carried ivory roses, swan-sonia and Stephanotis. The bride's attendants, Mrs. N. F. Houghton and Barbara Gilray, wore ankle-length, spring green crepe gowns with matching cloche hats. They carried multi-colored sweet peas and yellow roses. W. A. Johnstone was groomsmen and J. A. McBride, C. O. Storey and W. Harrison ushered. At the Boulevard club, Mrs. Elliott received in rosewood crepe with green accessories and carriage of green orchid and rose petals. The mother of the groom assisted in champagne beige, with bronze accessories and carriage of red roses. The couple later left on a wedding trip to Boston, the bride travelling in charrreuse and brown silk dress, matching straw hat and a dusky yellow beige coat with platinum fox collar. They will reside at Thistleton.

Ink spots can be removed by soaking the material in milk.

PRIZE WINNER AT TEXTILE DINNER IN HAMILTON SATURDAY

Jack Boyes of Wool Counting Corporation of Canada was presented with a prize by the Hon. Dana Porter at the third annual complimentary dinner given to the evening school students of the Provincial Institute of Textiles at the Royal Comaught Hotel, Hamilton, on Saturday, April 9th.

During the past year the Provincial Institute of Textiles, Hamilton has been conducting a series of evening school courses in textile subjects. The students, employees of primary textile industries, have come from Acton, Brantford, Galt, Hamilton, Hooper, Dunnville, Welland, Simcoe, Toronto, Paris, Preston, St. Catharines. The enrollment for the past year was 259 from 45 companies.

Among those from Acton who accepted the invitation to the dinner were Mr. Hugh Graham, Mr. F. A. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Short, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Spire, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Barr, Mr. W. J. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Jones, Mr. H. Kamstra, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boyes, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Sargent, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Park, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hanney, Mr. and Mrs. A. Fogarty, Mr. and Mrs. Z. Lutz, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Smith.

Pump House and Pump and Repairs for Waterworks

Lighting Service to be Installed if Street Allowance to Property Arranged

The Public Utilities Commission met in regular session on Tuesday evening. All members were present and Chairman C. M. Hansen presided.

A resolution was passed authorizing the installation of a street light on Brock Avenue as requested by Council.

Superintendent Lambert reported that a break on Agnes Street had been repaired and that there had been four breaks recently and all repaired. Another service at the property at the rear of the Dominion Hotel would be attended by this week.

A consumer who had installed a flat rate water heater was not satisfied with the amount of hot water from the tank and if this cannot be remedied, the tank is to be bought back by the Commission.

Mr. T. Seynuck signed a contract for lighting service to his house which he had moved from the township. As there is no roadway to this property, the Commission decided to ask Council if a street allowance is to be made to this property. After a street has been laid out the service will be installed.

The frost casing on the water tank is in need of repairs and it was decided to get a price from the Ajax Engineers, who repaired it before, so that the job may be done this summer.

Plans are to be drawn up for an addition to the pump house to take in the new pump which is to be purchased. When the plans are ready tenders will be called.

The following accounts were passed for payment:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Hydro Department | |
| Bell Tel. Co. Services | \$14.50 |
| Mrs. H. McDonald Renewal | 55.00 |
| Postmaster Terry, Box Rent | 3.00 |
| Res. Gen. Meter Inspection | 19.35 |
| Sargamo Ltd. Supplies | 31.25 |
| H.E.P.C. of Ont. Supplies | 78.82 |
| Line and Cable, supplies | 20.50 |
| Highway Garage, Oil etc | 5.90 |
| MacDonald Electric Ltd | 4.86 |
| Myers Cotton Products | 30.20 |
| Corp of Acton, Bus Tax | 6.00 |
| Joe Kearney Corp. Supplies | 27.52 |
| Express & Transport | 10.88 |
| | \$519.35 |
| Waterworks Department | |
| Power & Heat at Spring | \$57.58 |
| E. S. Cooper | 1.20 |
| Canadian Brass Co | 46.74 |
| W. H. Cunningham & Hill | 12.80 |
| R. E. Lee Industrial Prod | 73.31 |
| Mueller Ltd. copper | 108.77 |
| | \$300.33 |

The thirteenth power bill was received and showed a credit of \$384.72 on the year's operations. Cost of power purchased was \$13,211.50 and Acton's share of operating costs and fixed charges brought the total up to \$56,520.87. Profits on sale of power to companies amounted to \$481.29 for a total of \$56,039.57. Amount of accounts rendered at interim rate was \$65,443.59 leaving a surplus of \$9,384.72 which is a little less than last year's surplus.

New Telephone System to Start Next Wednesday

Changeover at Approximately 2 P.M. — Will Operate on Common Battery

Acton's new telephone exchange will commence operation next Wednesday (April 20), according to J. J. Sanderson, Bell Telephone manager for this region. At approximately 2 p.m. the present magnetic exchange will go dead, as connections are cut, and immediately Bell workers will start removing "cutover plugs" from the new exchange equipment. As soon as the plugs are removed, the new switchboard will be in operation.

After the cutover, Acton telephone users will no longer turn a crank to call the operator, or to bring off after a call. In recent weeks, Bell installers have altered all telephones so that they will work without crank after the new switchboard is in operation. Telephones with the hand-crank will shortly be replaced by more modern, compact sets.

The manager warns subscribers not to move the crank during conversations after the cutover, as this might result in a disconnection.

The entire cutover operation is expected to take less than two minutes, causing virtually no interruption of service. Telephone users can help the manager easily by making no unnecessary calls immediately before two o'clock on Wednesday, when the exchange staff will be busy with last-minute details. The transition can also be made more smoothly if callers refrain from making "curiosity" calls right after the cutover.

Shortly before the conversion, operators will request all who happen to be calling to hang up and call again in a few minutes, when they will be able to do so without turning the crank.

The hand crank now in use operates a magnet which generates electrical current, causing a shutter to drop on a panel in front of the operator. This gives her the signal that someone wishes to place a call. At the end of the conversation another turn of the crank gives her the signal to disconnect.

After the cutover, these signals will be given automatically when the receiver is lifted or put back on the hook. Lifting the receiver will cause a light to glow on the switchboard telling the operator there is a caller on the line, when the receiver is replaced at the end of the conversation, a light signal tells her to disconnect the lines.

Months of preparation have gone into the project which reaches its climax next Wednesday afternoon. In addition to the installation of the new switchboard and the modification of telephones, wires and cables serving the exchange have been re-arranged for use under the common battery system.

GRASS FIRE NEAR SPRING PROPERTY TUESDAY AFTERNOON

A grass fire which got out of control and swept across a large field and threatened the spring pumping system was brought under control by Acton Fire Brigade on Tuesday afternoon.

The burned over section destroyed some rail fences and raced across a field. A tractor was brought in to plow a strip if necessary but the fire was beaten out efficiently in the old-fashioned method with heavy order loughs.

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings:
"The Minister's Aunt" will be presented in the Baldwin Hall on April 27 under the auspices of the Churchill Women's Association.

Euchre and dance at Bloomsbury School on Wednesday, April 27. Proceeds to Bloomsbury Bazaar. Admission 50c. Ladies provide.

St. Alban's Church Choir are presenting their humorous play "The Minister's Aunt" in Greenock Ladies' School on Wednesday, April 20th at 8.15. Admission 60c and 30c.