

# The Acton Free Press.

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Eight Home Print Pages—Six Cents

## Barn, Contents Lost by Fire Tuesday Morning

20 Head of Cattle, Hogs, Hens, Implements, Feed, All Destroyed

Fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the farm barn and all the contents on the farm of Norman Douglas three miles from Speyside on Tuesday morning. The fire was discovered about five o'clock when Mr. James Douglas, former owner went to prepare for the morning chores. At that time the whole building was a mass of flames and the wooden structure had collapsed.

The barn was one of the finest in the district and was actually two barns, one 50x64 and the other 48x36. They were well equipped with litter carriers and good stabling. Also lost in the blaze were 10 cows, a bull, 2 heifers and 3 yearling steers and 4 calves and a sow. There were 250 bushels of oats and 150 bushels of buckwheat, hay and straw, 75 laying hens and implements including a new milking machine, 2 mowers, sulky rake, cutting box, chopper, etc. Fortunately the nearby tractor was not in the building and the team of horses were stabled in another barn. The loss of \$25,000 to \$30,000 is partly covered by insurance.

Nearby buildings took fire but were saved by bucket brigades from spreading but embers set fire to fences across the road and trees in the orchard. The direction of the wind saved the house from catching fire but later in the morning when the house was threatened, Acton Fire Brigade responded to a call and the pumper was placed in the nearby creek and a couple of inches of water put the smouldering ruins out of danger.

Norman Douglas had just started farming a year ago last January. After returning from service in the Canadian army he purchased the Douglas farm property from his uncle James Douglas who was remaining to assist him in learning farming.

## Corp. Mason Transferred to Brantford Area

A respected police officer and resident of Halton County a number of years, Corp. Ray Mason, member of the Ontario Provincial Police and officer in charge of the Milton detachment has been posted to the Brantford detachment. It was announced last week. Corporal Mason resumed his new duties on Monday.

As a Constable, Corporal Mason was attached to the traffic squad a number of years patrolling the lakeshore highway before being transferred to Acton eight years ago. He continued as a traffic officer and recently was appointed Corporal in charge with office at Milton.

Corporal Mason has taken a keen interest in sports in Acton, particularly those of the younger boys and has served as an official on baseball and hockey executives. He was keenly interested in all community activity and will be greatly missed as a citizen of the county and town. The Free Press joins other citizens in wishing him success in the new field and the hope that the transfer is only temporary from Halton County.

## ADDITIONAL SEATING ARRANGEMENT AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Carpenters have been busy the past two weeks enlarging the gallery in St. Joseph's Church to accommodate the increasing number of parishioners. Additional pews will also be installed downstairs and it is expected that when completed, seating accommodation for 75 to 100 more persons will be available. The new gallery will add to the architecture of the church which was redecorated two years ago and has just recently installed a number of fine new paintings.

## Inter-Church Social Held in Acton United Church

About fifty young people of the various denominations of Acton district attended an inter-church social held in the Acton United Church on Wednesday evening, April 26th. This social was arranged by the inter-denominational young people's committee.

Ken Allen, President of the United Y.P., was chairman for the evening. Shirley Ralston conducted a lively sing-song with E. Franklin at the piano. The worship period was conducted by the Baptist group under the direction of Ron Cripps. During the worship part Bernice Connor led in prayer. Whitney Cook read the scripture and Ken Allen favoured us with a solo "The Lord's Prayer".

Games and contests were arranged by the Presbyterian group and conducted by Doug Davidson. They included, balloon contests, pin eating contests and other stunts. For the winners there were prizes and for the rest there was plenty of fun.

Lunch was served by the Churchill United group. At the close all joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne" and then repeated the Mizpah Benediction.

The next inter-church fire drill will be Sunday, May 7th in the Churchill United Church.

## I.O.D.E. Thanked For Assistance Sent Overseas

The May meeting of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter was held on Tuesday evening, May 2nd at Mrs. B. Parker's. Mrs. Earl Cooper, 1st Vice President, presided, due to the illness of the regent, Mrs. J. W. Wolfe. After the opening prayer a silent prayer followed for the complete recovery of the regent. A letter was read from the Lakeside Chapter inviting this chapter to their meeting on Tuesday, May 9th. Letters were received from the Burgomasters and pastors in Germany thanking the chapter for the clothing donated to Mr. Schofield which was forwarded. Letters were also received from Wales thanking the chapter for food parcels. The money for these parcels was collected at the Fall Fair Tag Day. Arrangements for the annual Tag Day for the Blind were completed. The tag day is to be Saturday May 6th.

Miss Mainprize gave a report of the Provincial I.O.D.E. Annual Convention held in Hamilton in April. Mrs. Mercer, convener of the Daffodil Tea explained the plans for the tea and asked for co-operation from all members. Mrs. Cooper thanked Mrs. Parker for her home. The hostesses of the meeting were Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Kirkness, Miss Coles and Mrs. McLeod.

## Y.M.C.A. Board Retain Service General Secretary

At a well attended Y.M.C.A. Board Meeting on Monday, the General Secretary's report revealed that attendance in "Y" activities for April totalled 1103.

All classes are earnestly preparing to show the public their ability in the "Y Circus" at the Arena on May 25th and 26th. At least 15 acts will be presented on the Variety veiled a favourable balance.

A report was made by Bill Benson, chairman of arrangements for the Annual Meeting on June 1st featuring Mr. B. Haskings as the guest speaker. An impressive program appears to be planned and a large attendance is anticipated. The annual meeting is to combine with the 15th Anniversary of the Acton Y.M.C.A.

A number of recommendations were submitted by standing committees for the guidance of the new committee personnel taking over following the annual meeting. The Nomination committee seeking recommendations for Directors whose terms are about to expire, reported considerable progress and his selections were heartily approved by the meeting. A vote was carried in favour of retaining Cliff Sutton, General Secretary and granting him an increase in salary. The Treasurer stated that outstanding debts had been paid and his report revealed a favourable balance. Decisions on several matters were tabled for the decision of the incoming Board.

In the latest Basketball scrimmage in the Y House League the leading Reds downed the Blues a clean 42-27. At no time were the Reds challenged seriously as they outscored their opponents in both halves by 20-11 and 22-16. In the other game featuring the Blacks and Golds the latter almost won their first victory of the tourney as they gave way to the second place Black team by only 3 points, losing 29-26. With the standing at 12, 10, 6 and 0 for the Reds, Blacks, Blues and Golds respectively, it appears to be between the Blacks and Blues who will meet the Reds in the play-off scuffle.

## Y.M.C.A. CARD CLUB HOLDS BRIDGE SOCIAL

The Y.M.C.A. Card Club marked the close of the indoor season in a pleasant manner with a successful social evening of bridge attended by 36 members and friends. Lunch was served and the prizes presented by Jack Greer, who also presided over the good fellowship demonstrated by the group during the past months.

Highest honors for the evening's play was won by Sam Judge and Wes Beatty with second prizes going to Bill Talbot and Gord Beatty. Winners of the Members Round Robin Tournament which operated from November to April were announced and also received prizes. Members of teams placing first, second and third in the latter tourney were as follows: Ivan Harris and Gord Beatty, Bill Talbot and Sam Judge, Harry Arbie and Jack Greer.

## PLAY-OFF TIME IN VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE AT Y.M.C.A.

Last week one of the hardest and closest fought sets of the season took place at the Y between the Business Men and the Independents in a scheduled match of the Acton Volleyball League. It was a fine display of brilliant passing and spiking by both teams.

The vastly improved Independents aided by the stellar performance of Bob Tyler and Bob Bruce gave a preview of what to expect from them in the play-offs. The B. M. showing a little more coolness in the crucial moments and the fine net play of Gord Beatty helped them in achieving victory but only after being taxed to the limit. They won three games by the scores of 15-12, 16-14 and 15-6.

With only one match to play for each team the Business Men and Tannery Blues are assured of a play-off berth while this Thursday (tonight), the third and only remaining play-off spot will be decided between the Independents and Micro Plastics in 3rd and 4th spots respectively with only one point separating them. If the Independents only take one game an extra game will have to be played. Micro Plastics must take all three to win and the Independents must take two to win.

The second and third teams play for the right to meet the league leader. All are sudden death three game matches.

Air transport is 30 years old.

## NEW GRADER -- BETTER ROADS



Motorists alone were not the only ones interested in the road grader put to work on Acton streets last week. The picture was taken in the Wartime Housing Subdivision and the big machine had an appreciative even if it was a bothersome audience, from the children in the fifty homes on Mason and McDonald Bvds. Reeve Tyler, Councilor Hargrave and Town Foreman A. Kirkness were quite satisfied with the first trial of the machine which they had in operation and streets worked in are showing improvement. Free Press Photo.

## Inspector Appointed for Installation of Sewers

Garbage Collection By-Law Gets Approval When Drafted — No Delegations to be Received at Special Meetings — New Assessor and Assistant Introduced to Council—Provincial Police Change in Personnel and Service to the Town

At the regular session of Acton Council on Monday evening Reeve Tyler, Deputy Reeve, McLeod and Councilors Greer, Hargrave, Thompson, Nicol and Roswell were present and Mayor Mason presided. Assessor and Assistant Clerk Frank Crump was present and was introduced to members of Council. Mr. J. Leishman was present regarding the assessment on his lots which were unsold. The amount involved was \$44.21. Mr. Leishman had received a rebate on the lots on Mill Street assessed as farm land. No change was made and the former resolution was allowed to stand as only four lots remained unsold.

V. Bristow was present with the new pictures taken of the first Town Council. He was agreed to change the old pictures for the new ones at \$1.50 each. All the members agreed to individually purchase a picture and one was to be hung in the Council Chamber. Councilor Greer gave a report on the boiler at the Y.M.C.A. The boiler had been inspected and was found satisfactory and all the controls were adequate.

The Committee reported on street lights on Acton Boulevard and two lights were to be installed on this street for the present.

The drainage on Queen Street was discussed and the Clerk was instructed to secure further information regarding disposal of this surface water.

The application of A. Fryer for a permit to build a garage on his property on Bower Ave was reviewed. Mr. Fryer had a permit for a garage issued in 1948 which had expired after six months. By-laws now in force do not allow him to build a garage as he desired now. Council decided that no exceptions could be made from the by-laws.

The Mayor reported on the meeting with C.N.R. officials regarding a warning signal at the C.N.R. crossing. According to these officials, six lights are required. The final decision would be made by an official of the Transport Board. The Clerk was instructed to write the Board stating that the original order was satisfactory to Acton and asked that it be carried through.

Mr. L. Garner requested permission to remove a small tree near his garage as it was dangerous to traffic. Council agreed the tree should be removed but 2 new trees should be supplied and placed under the supervision of the Road Committee. Mr. Garner agreed to this arrangement.

Further information was to be secured regarding excavations that are made and left in a dangerous condition.

The Solicitor read a draft by-law for the collection of garbage to clarify.

## Liquor Board Asked to Reduce Banquet Permits

Halton Presbytery of the United Church met on Tuesday at Lowville with Rev. C. R. Albright, Freeleton, as chairman. Rev. A. S. Penman, Lowville, and Stanley Turner, Trafalgar, conducted worship periods. Rev. R. F. Mercer, Appleby, was elected chairman for the next conference year. Rev. Wm. Deise, of Bronte, and Jos. Torrey, Freeleton were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively. Rev. C. R. Albright and John Drummond, of Millgrove, were appointed delegates to General Council. Rev. Jas. Blair of Milton, is the new press reporter. Kind wishes were expressed to the Rev. N. J. Truax, Carlisle, and R. Hare, Millgrove, who are leaving the Presbytery.

Rev. John Smith, Georgetown, Convener of Christian Education, announced the World Religious Education Convention meeting in Toronto this August 10th to 16th.

Rev. Ross Hare presented the Evangelism and Social Service report, including the following: Signs of revival are evident in many places, with an increasing number of prayer circles. The progressive commercialization of the Lord's Day is to be feared, but is not inevitable. Paganism in North America, of which this is a symptom, is ultimately a greater threat than Communism. It would make profit out of everything, including Sunday. Christians must oppose this pressure. They are encouraged to make recreation a family matter, but not to patronize professional sports which draw huge crowds of spectators on Sunday. One who has made total surrender to Christ will not desecrate the day of our Lord's resurrection, whether the law permits it or not.

The Liquor License Board will be asked to drastically reduce the issuance of banquet permits especially in "dry" areas, where such permission is equivalent to bootlegging authorized by the state. The will of 60 per cent or more of the citizens in such communities should not be overruled in such a high-handed and undemocratic fashion. Church members are urged to aid in securing a better class of movie films and to withhold patronage from films depicting gangsterism, lust, drinking and other scenes contrary to standards of decency.

## SEWER CONSTRUCTION NOW MAKING BETTER PROGRESS ON PIPES

Sewer construction is making better progress with the warmer and more suitable weather. One shovel is going north on Main St. from the C.N.R. tracks.

A second crew are now doing Willow St. from Agnes to Mill St. and will go thence to John St. to connect the line from Agnes to Mill St.

A third shovel will work on Mill St. east from Young to Wellington St. and then along Wellington St. to Queen St.

## Baseball Schedules Halton League Have Been Drawn

Intermediate, Minor and Bantams in Halton Baseball Association

Following a lengthy session of county baseball moguls in Milton on Monday night, agreement of playing dates were agreed upon for the 1950 season of the Halton County Baseball Association.

Headed by the President, Peter McMullen, representatives from each of the various clubs in the association gathered at the Court House at Milton for this purpose. They also agreed upon play-off dates in the minor baseball series. No play-off dates and agreement was reached in the intermediate series but members agreed this should be decided at a later meeting.

All of the six teams Milton, Waterdown, Oakville, Acton, Fergus and Georgetown will get under way on Saturday, May 20. Milton's first home game will be on May 24th. All afternoon games will begin at 3 p.m. while the twilight games will begin at 6:45 p.m. Oakville representatives announced they expected to have the lights installed at Victoria Park about July 1st, and evening games would then be started at 8:30 p.m.

Almost all grouping of intermediate ball will be represented in O.B.A. play-offs when the season concludes. There are three teams playing intermediate A, Acton, Fergus and Oakville. Georgetown playing B ball will automatically advance in this grouping, while Milton and Waterdown will again vie for intermediate C honors.

Four teams will comprise the juvenile grouping with Milton, Campbellville, Oakville and Acton being represented. Their series will begin somewhat later, on June 3rd. The first and second teams of group standing at the end of the playing season will play a best three of five series for group honors.

At present there will be two clubs sponsoring midget ball namely Georgetown and Fergus. The schedule for this series will be announced later.

A five team league will comprise the Bantam series with Oakville, Clarkson, Milton, Georgetown and Waterdown. Their games will begin at 1:30 p.m. and be of seven innings. Some of these games will be played as a double-header with the juvenile series.

Oakville will have the only entry in the Pee-Wee series.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHEDULE**  
MAY 20—Milton at Waterdown, Oakville at Acton; Fergus at Georgetown.  
MAY 24—Acton at Milton; Waterdown at Georgetown; Fergus at Oakville.

(Continued on Page Four)

## Income Tax, Theft, Drunkenness In Court Cases

Four Campbellville farmers were assessed a \$25 fine and \$5 costs when they pleaded guilty to charges of failing to file income tax returns for the years 1946-7-8. In default of payment they were to serve fifteen days in jail. Some were granted a month in which to pay their fines by Magistrate Kenneth M. Langdon yesterday. A charge against another farmer was adjourned so Kenneth Y. Dick who appeared for the Department might obtain further instructions on the case. One charge against another farmer was withdrawn when it was found he had already filed his returns.

William Dron, 20, no address, was sentenced to nine months definite and three months indefinite when he pleaded guilty to a charge of taking a car owned by F. H. Thomson, Acton, without the owner's consent.

Corporal R. Mason told the court Mr. Thomson reported his car taken from in front of his Acton residence on April 26. The following day he found the accused in the car parked at a Glen William's gravel pit. The accused told the officer he took the car so he might seek employment.

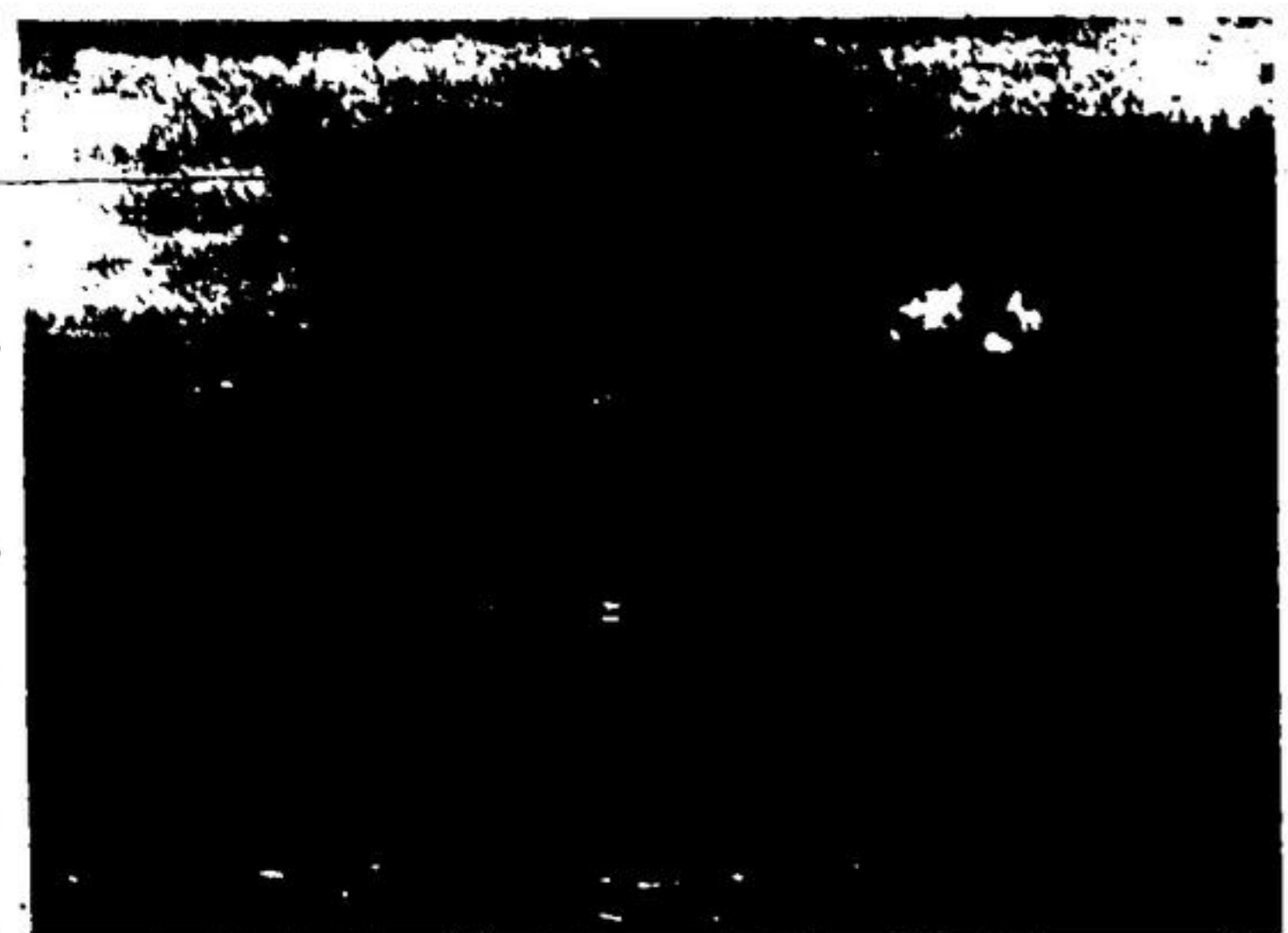
Captain Shaver, Salvation Army at Brampton asked the court to send the accused back to the Trade school at Brampton where he could continue his studies as a carpenter. The court stated it would have to sentence the youth to a reformatory but difficulty might arise in sending the boy to Brampton when he had previous convictions registered against him. However, the Court recommended the accused be sent to the Trade school.

St. Alban's Church will hold a special vestry meeting Tuesday, May 9, 8:30 p.m. when the proposed new parish hall will be discussed. All parishioners are urged to attend.

The Woman's Association of the United Church is celebrating the Silver Anniversary of Church union in the Sunday School room, June 7th at 3 p.m. Program and lunch. Silver collection.

The May meeting of Lakeside Chapter I.O.D.E. will be held in the Legion Rooms on Tuesday, May 9 at 8:15 p.m. Guest speaker will be Mrs. M. S. Somers, Provincial Organizing Secretary of Hillsburg. Mrs. L. L. Skuce, Milton and Duke of Devonshire Chapter will be guests.

## BARN AND CONTENTS LOST



Just smoking ruins remained on Tuesday morning of the fine barn on the Douglas farm near Speyside and in the ruins were 20 head of cattle, 75 hens, pigs and farm implements. The entire building was in flames when first noticed at five o'clock on Tuesday morning. —Free Press Photo