

## ACTON GREETINGS GO COAST TO COAST



OH YES, IT WAS CROWDED on the dance floor of the old Town Hall last New Year's eve when the celebration was broadcast to all of Canada on the trans-Canada network of the CBC. Ardent dancers claimed it was impossible to manipulate the intricate steps but

enjoyed getting pushed around. The crowd scene shown here will give broadcast listeners some idea of the packed atmosphere of the dance floor. It is possible to identify many local faces if you look closely at the picture.

—Staff Photo

## 1952 is Given Boisterous Welcome As Acton Broadcasts to All Canada

### Pension Cheques Start This Month

Pension cheques will start flowing to some 2,300 in Halton County this month as Canada's new social security program for aged citizens comes into effect.

The program will provide pensions of \$40 a month to Canadians 70 and over regardless of means. It will provide similar pensions for needy Canadians between 65 and 69. To qualify, the pensioner must have lived in Canada for at least 20 years.

Some 300,000 in Ontario are eligible for the pension.

### Name S. McCleary Deputy Sheriff

Appointment of S. A. B. McCleary as Deputy Sheriff of Halton County was announced Wednesday. He replaces E. E. Yates, who resigned recently.

Never in all its history did Acton have such a gigantic audience as on New Year's Eve when C.B.L. carried on a Dominion network the Frolic of Acton Y's Men's Club from the Acton Town Hall. Never before did such a hilarious crowd give such a bounteous welcome to a New Year. If there was any sadness at the parting with old 1951 it was not evident in Acton Town Hall. The hall was packed to capacity. We in the building felt at times that if the windows were opened wide all Canada could have listened in on Acton without any broadcasting equipment.

Of course, you all know that Don Fairbairn of Neighbourly News fame was Master of Ceremonies, George Murray, the Irish tenor, and Bonnie Clarke were the soloists. Roland Todd was at the piano, Russ Gerow's orchestra provided the music for dancing and Acton's own Ernie Packer was calling off for the square dances.

Many of our readers heard the broadcast better than we who were in the hall. So we'll try to give you the story in word and picture in the Free Press of this great party arranged by Acton Y's Men's Club in co-operation with C.B.L. as old 1951 went out and boisterous 1952 came in.

Long before the program went on the air the dance floor was crowded and the crowd in holiday mood was swinging in round and square dances to the music of Russ Gerow's musicians. But it took the old squares and Ernie Packer's ringing calling off to bring the crowd into the real swing of the occasion. By the time Don Fairbairn and George Murray made their announcements concerning the conduct of the program the crowd had the broadcast in hand. When the noisemakers came out, the balloons, which were scheduled for midnight bursting, were popping and banging early in the show.

President Garnet McKenzie of Acton Y's Men's Club introduced Don Fairbairn before the broadcast and from then on it was Don's task to do the guidance and it was a per-spring worn-to-a-frazzle group of artists who breathed relief as the show ended.

Promptly at midnight, Mayor Ted Tyler came to the microphone, boistering above the other din and wished Canadians everywhere a Happy New Year on behalf of the citizens of Acton. Mrs. Tyler, at home suffering from a badly injured hand and recuperating from a painful operation was receiving congratulations by telephone from all parts of Ontario and hearing how Acton folk were enjoying hearing from the home town.

Of course, you heard the opening "There is a tavern in Our Town" and the crowd reminded Don there were two and Don promptly quipped back that it didn't matter to him it was their town. That was before the show was on the air and just given as typical of the informality and general freedom of the party. Another couple went past us on the dance floor and paused to tell us they had come down from Guelph and there was nothing up there at any of the well-known spots to compare with the fun that was being enjoyed in the Old Town Hall at Acton.

Oh yes, we ought to tell you that the Town Hall was all dolled up for the occasion. Looking from the inside, there were streamers across the whole auditorium, and the stage was decorated with streamers and signs telling it was Acton Y's Men and a Happy New Year. The old wood-burning heating stoves poured forth a warm welcome that had no thermostat controls and the piano had been freshly tuned and seemed to satisfy even Roland Todd. The interior gave no hint that the belly on the 60 year old building was minus many shingles and the flag pole atop was leaning. But some seemed concerned that the structure swayed with the crowd of dancers. But the alarm was unnecessary because the structure is sound and the floor well supported.

And at midnight just after Mayor Tyler's greetings you listeners, of course, heard "Auld Lang Syne" but you didn't see the happy group with joined hands participating in the singing. It was a sight we will long remember as all seemed to realize it was going out to "Auld acquaintances" who were spread

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### Halton Society Distributes Gifts

The Children's Aid Society of the County of Halton has recently acknowledged receipt of generous donations of gifts, clothing and money.

These donations were intended and used to make the Christmas season happier for needy families. Many folk received generous hampers of food to make their Christmas meal a pleasanter one and the toys and clothing were distributed among those who needed them most.

If you could see the joy in the children's faces and hear the gratitude expressed by their parents, you could understand how sincerely the Society, on their behalf, would like to thank you.

To anyone who has contributed in any way, individually or through their Women's Institute, Ladies' Aid, Sunday School, Women's Association, White Gift Service, Sorority, Police Association or any organization, the Society extends its heartfelt thanks. The tangible evidence of your loyal support was deeply appreciated.

## Leslie Acclaimed Reeve In Esquesing For 1952

George Leslie was acclaimed Reeve of Esquesing Township at the Monday nomination meeting attended by some 100 ratepayers in the Township Hall at Stewartstown. The only other nominee for the reeve-ship, George Currie, withdrew to contest a seat on council.

Contesting the deputy-reeve-ship at the election scheduled for Monday, January 7, will be Wilfred Bird and H. Craig Reid.

For the three council seats, four candidates are in the contest. Those running are R. N. Brown, George Currie, William Schenk, and Walter Linham. Six were nominated for council; the two not running are Spencer Wilson and Wilfred Bird.

Four were nominated for school trustees: J. H. Bingham, William Dobbie, Donald Ward and R. J. Cunningham. Mr. Cunningham was appointed by acclamation.

Reviewing the year's highlights at the citizens' meeting following the nominations, retiring Reeve George Currie pointed out that the council expected to end the year with a \$200 surplus. He emphasized that both he and the deputy-reeve had opposed the county's construction of the Home for the Aged, near Milton, which would mean a county debt of \$350,000. "Don't think for a minute Ford would have located in a county overrun with debt," he declared, referring to the expansive program recently announced by Ford of Canada for a plant near Oakville.

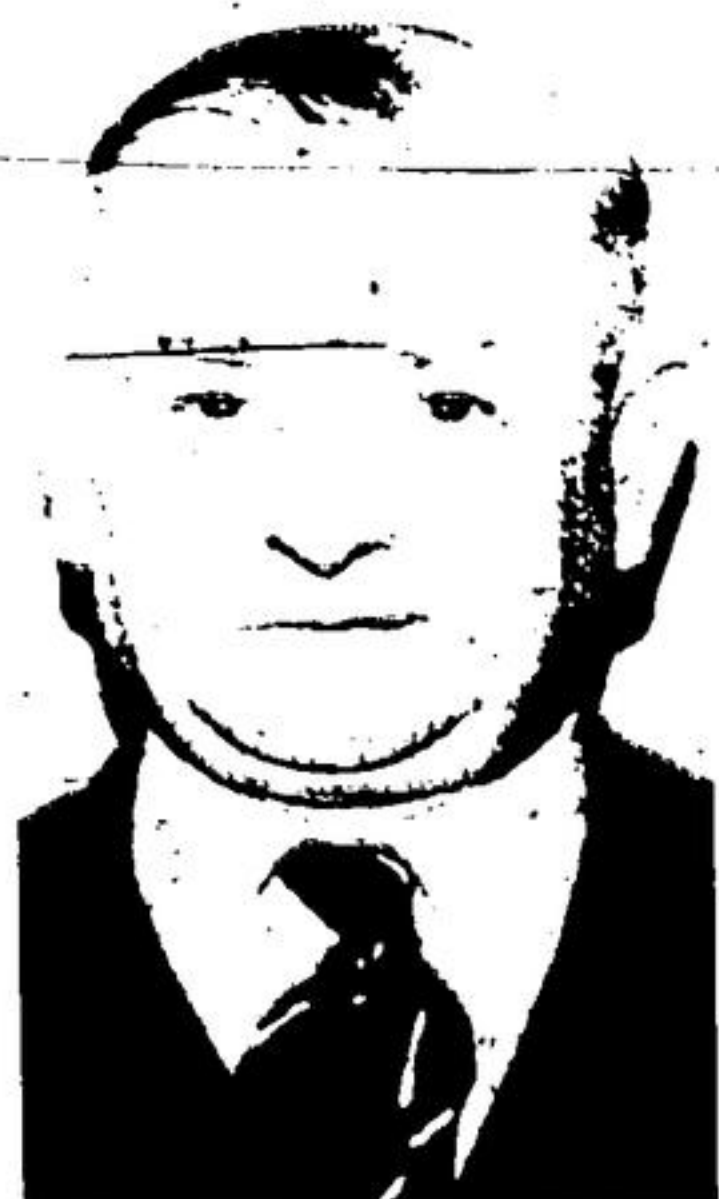
The biggest bug bear in the county was the equalization of assessment, the reeve declared in his review of the situation. He pointed out that "Oakville is straining every nerve to become a city and it would take the assessment from the Ford plant to equal that lost in Oakville. Don't think that day is far off," he warned.

Reeve Currie pointed out that it cost about \$2,200 or \$2,300 to spray all the township weeds along the road last summer. "We're one of the few townships in this province that has undertaken anything of this kind. I'm confident that at the end of two years if the spraying is continued there won't be many weeds on our roads."

Mr. Currie emphasized the low cost of fire protection to those served by the recently established Milton Fire Area. "I would like to see the town of Georgetown undertake the same proposition and the same from the town of Acton." The Milton department stores and mans the truck for the privilege of using it if a major fire should break out in town.

Other candidates and officials also spoke at the meeting. Deputy-reeve in 1951 and reeve by acclamation in 1952, George Leslie thanked those who proposed his name and declared his intention of standing for reeve.

Township clerk I. M. Bennett presided over the meeting. Esquesing election on Monday will be the last one in the county and officials for 1952 will all have been appointed.



ACCLAIMED Reeve, George Leslie is the council head of Esquesing Township for 1952 following an acclamation on Monday at the nomination meeting. Mr. Leslie was deputy reeve last year and has been active in municipal affairs. He succeeds George Currie, who, this year is contesting a council seat.

—Staff Photo

### Former Resident Dies In Guelph

Mrs. Matilda Jane Anderson of Guelph died at her home on Saturday, December 29th. She was in her 71st year.

Born in Nassagaweya Township, Mrs. Anderson is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Bonus. She married her husband Joseph Emerson Anderson in 1897. Prior to moving to Guelph, nearly 20 years ago, the couple lived in Acton.

Mrs. Anderson is survived by her husband, five daughters, Mrs. G. Evans of Wingham; Mrs. D. Holmes of Acton; Mrs. J. Forster of Wellingham; Mrs. E. Seigman, Drayton; Mrs. H. Forester, Guelph; and seven sons, Bob and William of Acton; Roland, of Ormstown, P.Q.; John, Norman, Earl and Neil of Guelph.

The funeral service was on Wednesday, January 2nd. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

### Traffic Accidents Take Toll In 1951

An Acton man, another from Crewson's Corners and two Rockwood district residents, were death's toll in traffic accidents from this vicinity during 1951.

It was in April when Jack Kentner of Acton died in his flaming truck, which left No. 7 highway to strike a tree and burst into flames.

Mrs. Thomas McBride of R.R. 2, Rockwood, was almost instantly killed on July 16 when a car driven by her husband met in a crash with a truck at the intersection of the Moffat road at No. 3 schoolhouse.

Three young children lost their mother when Mrs. Harry Ware of Rockwood district died in an accident on No. 7 highway a mile east of Rockwood on Saturday, September 1. Mrs. Ware was the former Barbara Mae Taylor of Acton.

Fourth casualty of the year was David Mannin, who was killed on No. 7 highway on December 20th. Mr. Mannin was 71 and lived alone at Crewson's Corners.

While the holiday death toll in Ontario was lower than usual this Christmas, a look back over the year shows these four deaths in tragic traffic accidents. And any death on local highways — or any highways — is one too many.

### FORMER RESIDENT OF LIMEHOUSE DISTRICT MARKS HER 95TH BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to Mrs. James Sharpe, who on Friday, January 1 (tomorrow), will observe her ninety-fourth birthday at her home in Toronto at 80 Douglas Ave. Mrs. Sharpe was for many years a resident of Limehouse and her daughter writes that she still greatly enjoys reading the Free Press. She is enjoying good health and had a fine Christmas.

Wish of many friends in this and Limehouse district is that she will have many more happy birthdays and continued good health.

### Wed On Christmas Day, Pair Feted

Mr. and Mrs. Angus Lawson of R.R. 4 Acton, who were married on Christmas day in 1901, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home on Sunday, December 29th.

About 100 friends and neighbours dropped in to bring congratulations to the couple, who have one son and a granddaughter, Carol.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson were married by Rev. L. Pearson in the Georgetown Presbyterian manse, and after the ceremony left by train for Toronto.

A cousin of Mrs. Lawson's came from Brandon, Manitoba for the celebration.

### NOMINATION PROBABLY JAN. 14th FOR TOWN MAYORALTY VACANCY

At the inaugural meeting of council on January 7, Clerk McGeachie will seek to have the necessary forms filled out to arrange a nomination meeting for January 14 to fill the vacant Mayor's position caused by the resignation of Mayor-elect Thomas Salmon.

If an election is necessary, it would probably be scheduled for January 21, the clerk explained.

If any of the present council anticipated contesting the mayorality, they would have to submit their resignation as councillor, 10 days before the nomination.

One of the first duties of the new council will be to elect an acting Mayor at their inaugural meeting, who will have the full power of Mayor until a new one is elected.

At the council table next Monday for the inaugural meeting will be Reeve Hargrave, Deputy-reeve J. Stewart, and councillors E. Taylor, A. Fryer, R. Thompson, A. Irwin, L. Wiecek, C. Rogvaldson.

### SUNDAY FIRE LEVELS BALLINAFAD HOME OF MR. AND MRS. A. McENERY

While the family was enjoying a trip to the hockey game in Toronto a fire destroyed the home of Arnold McEnery in Ballinafad, Sunday. Damage was estimated at \$25,000.

Men and women turned out on the first flames and threw snowballs on the burning farm home to prevent the fire from razing the village.

While 110 volunteers showered the house with lumps of snow, others formed a bucket brigade and released the trapped stock from the barn.

Arnold McEnery, his wife and son David returned to find their home burned down. A new refrigerator and stove purchased just before Christmas were destroyed. They were sheltered with relatives for the night.

The origin of the fire is unknown. Tom Oldswell, the hired man on the farm, who was working on his car in the vicinity, chanced to look up and see the flames.

Firefighters from Georgetown

### Officers Installed At Masonic Lodge

Dr. A. J. Buchanan was installed as Master of Walker Lodge for the year at the installation of officers of Walker Lodge A.F. & A.M. on Thursday evening. Other officers who will carry on the work of the order for the year are: W. Bro. J. B. Watkins, 1 P.M.; Bro. I. W. Lovell, S.W.; Bro. E. S. Cooper, J.W.; V. W. Bro. W. M. Cooper, Chaplain; W. Bro. R. H. Elliott, Treasurer; Bro. G. H. Musselle, Secretary; Bro. G. F. Wingate, S.D.; Bro. S. F. Snow, J.D.; Bro. A. C. Patterson, I.G.; W. Bro. I. M. Harris, D. of C.; Bro. N. L. Bowles, S.S.; Bro. L. R. McKersie, J.S.; Bro. J. H. Reid, organist; Bro. Ray Mason, Tyler.

W. Bro. H. L. Ritchie as installing Master was assisted by W. Bro. T. McCutcheon at this meeting.

### Elect Officers Of Bible Society

Officers for 1952 were elected at the annual meeting of the Bible Society, which took the form of a fireside in Knox Presbyterian Church classroom last Sunday evening, December 30.

Speaker for the meeting was Miss Nellie Anderson, who has returned from her mission field in South America. Mrs. Davidson, accompanied by Ted Hansen, sang two solos.

Murray M. Coles, president, was in charge of the meeting, with Rev. R. H. Armstrong in the chair during the election of officers. Rev. W. G. Luxton gave the nominating report. Rev. E. A. Currey announced the offering and Douglas Stalter, interim pastor of the Baptist church, closed with prayer.

About 100 attended the fireside. It was announced that the quarterly firesides at different Protestant churches in Acton would continue in 1952.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. A. J. Buchanan's Sunday school class.

Officers elected were as follows: president, Murray M. Coles; secretary, treasurer, Charles Landborough, representative of Knox Presbyterian church, Gordon Oeder, of the United church, Lorne Witek, and of the Baptist church, Stanley Cripps. The Anglican church representative is yet to be named.

The ministers of the four Protestant churches are automatically members of the executive.



"HAPPY NEW YEAR to the people of Canada from the people of Acton," Mayor Tyler says on the trans-Canada network of the CBC during the New Year's Eve celebration at Acton Town Hall. Just at the stroke of midnight the Mayor approached ringing in the New Year and extended Acton's greetings across Canada.

—Staff Photo