

SEEK APPROVAL OF NEW HIGH SCHOOLS



HEADING 250 Junior Farmers in Halton County is Mac Sprawl, recently elected president of the county-wide organization. Mac is a native of the Acton district and has been active in Junior Farmer work since 1947.
—Staff Photo

IODE Secretaries Report To Group

The March meeting of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter, I.O.D.E., was held at the home of Mrs. R. H. Elliott on Wednesday, March 5.

The regent, Mrs. Alfred Long, presided and, at the opening of the meeting, two minutes' of silence were observed in memory of our late King. This was followed by the re-affirmation of the pledge of loyalty of the members of this chapter to the crown.

The various secretaries of the Chapter gave their reports. It was decided to make a contribution to the Halton Music Festival and to send a delegate to meet with the Special Gifts Committee of the Home and School Association.

One new member, Mrs. William Ruddleck, was received into the Chapter.

E. A. Hansen showed two educational films, one dealing with safety in agriculture and the second a travelogue on Newfoundland.

Between films, Mrs. Ruddleck played "Clair de Lune" as a piano solo.

ACTON REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND INAUGURAL OF LIGHT, POWER COMMISSION

Reeve and Mrs. John Hargrave and Deputy Reeve and Mrs. J. J. Stewart attended the inaugural ceremonies of the Bronte Light and Power Commission held in Bronte Public School on Monday, March 10th.

Members of the County Council and their wives were guests on this occasion. At the close, the Home and School Association served a delicious buffet supper.

Suggest An Appeal In T. Seynuck Case

Following a visit to the Department of Planning and Development concerning the magistrate's dismissal in the T. Seynuck case, the Acton Planning Board decided to ask council to petition the Mayor and Reeves Association to have the registration act amended.

The Planning Board passed the motion at their regular meeting on March 7th. This was a result of dismissal of a charge laid under the town by-law governing sub-division control prohibiting sale of property without an approved sub-division plan.

Chairman Theron Jones reported that he and the secretary had met with T. A. C. Tyrrell of the Department of Planning and Development.

The Attorney General's office reported they would like Acton to appeal the decision since the magistrate's dismissal had set a precedent in Ontario. The Department official stated he did not see that a dismissal was in order, and advised Acton to appeal, saying that the department might be able to assist financially should the appeal be expensive.

The law has only been in effect two years and in other similar cases fines were levied against the vendor.

It was pointed out that the registrar was under no obligation to refuse a registration even though a town by-law prohibited the registration.

Discussions on the widening of Mill St. East from Main St. to John St. was left until the solicitor could attend a meeting.

The secretary, F. Crump, was instructed to inquire from the Department of Highways if the town could legally deed back a portion of land reserved for a highway to individual owners.

An account of H. M. Dewar amounting to \$15.75 and one of F. W. Crump for car expenses of \$7.00 were ordered paid.

Lively Discussion By Young People's

The P.Y.P.S. of Knox, Acton, held their regular meeting in the Sunday School on Tuesday night. Bill Bell conducted the opening devotions, assisted by Doug Davidson and Rev. Armstrong.

After the offering and the second hymn, Clarence Coles gave the topic "What the Young People Expect of their Minister". A very interesting and prolonged discussion ensued and was finally terminated, to be continued again next meeting.

The secretary's report was given and 14 members answered the roll call. It was announced that the P.Y.P.S. Council would be held in Acton March 19 and that the Moderator of the General Assembly would be in Acton May 12. Rev. R. H. Armstrong has been appointed convener of the Sunday School and P.Y.P.S. in Guelph Presbytery.

Another hymn closed the meeting followed by the Mizpah Benediction.

Meeting Followed By Kitchen Shower

The regular meeting of St. Alban's Guild was held in the Parish Hall with 36 members present. The meeting opened with the Guild Prayer.

Mrs. Wm Dubois gave a reading on Lent, followed by a poem by Mrs. C. E. Nelles.

The meeting closed with the Mizpah Benediction. A shower of articles for the kitchen of the new Parish Hall was then opened and a social half hour spent over the tea cups.

Mrs. R. MacArthur Hostess To W.M.S.

The March meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church was held at the home of Mrs. Robert MacArthur on Tuesday. The president, Miss M. Z. Bennett, presided at the meeting.

Mrs. Cleave gave a report on the community friendship department and also the supply. Mrs. Hanna reported for the Baby Band and Miss D. Simmons for the temperance department.

Plans were made for the annual Presbyterial meeting of Halton being held in the church later this month and also for the thank offering meeting in April.

Miss Bennett reported that Miss Jean Scott of the Globe and Mail will be the speaker.

The worship and study period was given by Mrs. R. Arnold's group. Those taking part were Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. H. Force, Mrs. B. Mowat and Mrs. A. Symon.

Mrs. Symon spoke on the work among the Chinese in Vancouver. Mrs. A. T. Brown and Miss Bennett led in prayer. Special prayers were for Miss Ada Sandwell, missionary in Korea.

The book shelf convener, Miss Mainprize, distributed books for the next month's reading and Mrs. Arnold's group served refreshments.

Your Presents Will Be Appreciated

Back in 1893, a fine new brick four-roomed Public School was opened in Acton. There have been additions and annexes in the years intervening but this year another finer new school will be opened in Acton—in late summer or early fall.

There are many of the little extras that cannot be provided for in the school board budget but which are essential furnishings for the school. On March 24th, it is planned to hold a meeting at the school when the new building can be inspected and all representatives of organizations, business institutions, friends or former pupils can make suggestions, assume obligations or help in any way to provide these little extras for the new building.

Everyone knows the danger of duplication of Christmas gifts and the same danger is present for a new school. A committee has been in consultation with teachers and school board. They will possibly have some suggestions for gifts that will be practical. But if you're interested in the School Gift Party for your boyhood or girlhood school or the school of your children or the home town, you'll be welcome to the meeting or to write in your suggestion. There'll be more information after the meeting.

CREDIT BALANCE OF \$5,717.98 FOR ACTON ON HYDRO BILLS LAST YEAR

The annual operating statement presented on Tuesday night to Acton Public Utilities Commission from the H.E.P.C. auditors for the Acton portion in the system, showed some interesting local items.

Assets, including land, buildings, equipment, and distribution systems amounted to \$120,317.93. Equity in the H.E.P.C., \$162,334. Inventories, accounts receivable, etc., brought total assets to \$282,651.92.

Reserves totalled \$177,842.09, allowing \$15,708.02 for depreciation. Debentures paid and operating surplus is \$111,273.16. Percentage of net debt to total assets is 27.

Receipts included domestic services \$33,317.47; commercial light \$14,202.52; commercial power, \$61,741.88; municipal power, \$963.93; street lights, \$3,318.14; miscellaneous, \$397.80. Total receipts, \$113,941.74.

Expenses were \$105,703.27, which included power purchased, \$92,771.84; operating expense, \$4,739.07; meters, \$195.94; promotion, \$53.34; street lights maintenance, \$321.20; billing and collecting, \$1,568.09; office, \$1,759.81; undistributed expense, \$1,001.07; truck operation, \$431.42; interest, \$5.25; depreciation, \$2,752.00. Net surplus, \$8,238.47.

This report also showed there were 771 domestic services, 118 commercial light services and 25 power services.

Another letter from the H.E.P.C. of Ontario contained the thirteenth power bill for the past year. A credit balance for the Acton Commission of \$5,717.98 was included in the statement. This balance, while not as large as last year, is the amount the local commission had overpaid the H.E.P.C. during the past year, on the interim rate for power purchased, over the actual cost.

Approval was received from F. V. Anderson, engineer, on the wiring contract at the sewage disposal plant. This contract had been let by the Commission. The hold-back on this contract will be paid as soon as the cable is cemented into the floor. Mr. D. Davkins was interviewed and promised to complete the installation soon. The approval certificate has been received from the hydro inspector.

A letter was received from the H.E.P.C. which drew attention to their policy in regards to converting appliances of consumers, who move from a 25 cycle area to a 60 cycle area in the Southern Ontario system. No allowance is made when a consumer moves from a 60 cycle area to a 25 cycle area.

A letter from Armstrong, Kingston and Hansen, consulting engineers, offered their services to the Commission in building a workshop or other projects undertaken by the Commission. The letter was ordered filed.

Board Seeks Approval of Two New Schools, Gym

After hearing a very comprehensive report on new high school buildings from J. D. Kyle, architect of Hamilton, and the Secretary, Col. G. O. Brown, the North Halton High School District Board passed the following resolutions:

"That the Board rescind all motions which are on the books regarding school building in the district." Carried by a 5-4 vote.

"That we build a school in each of the towns of Acton and Georgetown and a gymnasium in Milton." Passed unanimously.

"That the building committee prepare a brief to present to the five North Halton municipalities asking their approval for building new high schools at Acton and Georgetown and adding a gymnasium to the Milton school. The brief to state the debenture costs involved, a comparison of present costs with future and the reasons why the building program is necessary."

Thanks were extended to Mr. Kyle for his very thorough report and the information he had presented to the Board.

A visit to the Department of Education revealed that they were not in favor of building one school in the county to serve the Acton and Georgetown schools. It was pointed out that when both towns grew to need separate school buildings, the building in the country would be useless.

Here is a brief summary of the points on various building proposals:

Considerations in favor of two schools—children are closer home in case of illness or need of a doctor; school staff will live in town; children will have more pride in their own town school; the school will be more of a centre for activities; children will use the grounds more; town groups will use gymnasium more; less transportation costs; caretaking and maintenance will be easier; water and sewage disposal is available; use available for intermediate grades; better student-teacher relations in smaller school; more children will get home for lunch; pupils can stay after hours for school activities; local groups' interest; fire and police protection available.

Items against building two schools— heavier original cost and greater annual cost; greater administration cost; art and agricultural classrooms not included.

Items in favor of one school in the county—original and maintenance cost much lower; larger gymnasium and shoproom; fewer teachers.

Items against one school— no police or fire protection; higher insurance; no local pride in school; inability for pupils to stay after hours; field and auditorium not available for use after hours; sewers and water supply not available; and must be erected at additional cost.

Mr. Kyle was the architect in charge of building a new high school in Orangeville which many of the Board had visited. He is now in charge of building two new public schools in that town.

It was estimated one school for 400 pupils with gymnasium of 40 x 70, home economics, shop and seven classrooms would cost \$503,820. To this would not be added the cost of securing adequate water supplies and sewage disposal. Cost of site, architect's fees and equipment would run the cost up to \$502,040. On this amount, the department would pay a grant of \$420,000, leaving \$172,040 to be met by the municipalities.

Each school in Acton and Georgetown with accommodation for 200 pupils was estimated at \$360,000 each and with equipment, bring the total cost to \$418,200, on which the department would pay a grant of \$300,000, leaving \$118,200 to be met by the municipalities. Total annual cost of operation was estimated at \$56,140.

These are hurriedly jotted down figures and more complete facts and information will be available when the brief is presented to the five municipalities for their consideration.

It is estimated the costs of a new gymnasium at Milton School would be \$80,000, on which the department would pay a grant of \$30,000.

Those present at the meeting in Milton last Thursday night were Tom Coon, Dills, Wood, Carbert, Pickett, Martin, Biehn, Beaumont and Brown, and Chairman J. Bell presided.

The first turnpike—a toll road—was established in Canada in 1805.

Council Wrestles With Mill Rate for 1952 Taxes

Acton council spent four and a half hours steeped in statistics and estimates last night in an attempt to come up with a mill rate for 1952 taxation, but the end result was what was thought a fantastic mill rate and council adjourned just before midnight to meet again at a later date when the auditor, E. B. Hodgins, would be able to present further information on how to deal with a deficit that was estimated in the \$27,000 range. A four page typewritten comparison of the 1951 estimates and expenditures kept council busy as they considered nearly 150 separate items in an effort to arrive at a complete report.

E. B. Hodgins of the Lever and Hoskin auditing firm sat in with council and considered with them the estimates and expenses. He pointed out the town office was understaffed. Too much was being expected from the employees. This was in answer to a statement made by Mayor Rachlin at the last meeting that the auditors encountered too much work in Acton.

Two things not controlled by council, education and debenture debt, totalled about 39 mills. The total mill rate arrived at after the evening's work, was in the sixties.

County Seeks Settlement From Peel-Halton Home

With the opening of Halton County's new Home for the Aged planned for next month, Halton County Council at its regular session on Tuesday selected a negotiating committee to meet with Peel Council for the purpose of establishing the county equity in the jointly owned home at Brampton. Warden J. M. Wickson informed members Peel council had already appointed a committee for this purpose and were anxious to meet with Halton's committee to see if some satisfactory agreement could be reached. The committee is to consist of Warden Wickson, former Warden K. V. Dick, Reeve R. J. Hargrave, Deputy Reeve K. R. MacDonald and George Currie, former reeve of Esqueving Township.

Several names were suggested for the new home, but council felt more time should be spent to consider it further. Some of the names suggested included Centennial Home, Mountain View Home and Elizabeth House. However, it was left to the Home committee, headed by Reeve Hargrave, to consider it further.

Mr. Clark, recently appointed superintendent of the home, was present and was introduced to each member of council by the Warden. In a few words Mr. Clark expressed his appreciation of the appointment, adding he would co-operate with members to the fullest.

Tuesday's session proved to be one of the longest for several months as a number of delegations were present to discuss various county matters. M. J. Carton expressed hope that council would again consider celebrating its centennial year in co-operation with the Halton Agricultural Society, which is also planning a celebration for its 100th year this summer.

Mr. Carton hoped the county would approve of issuing a historical year book, which he would be willing to assist with. While some members were lukewarm to the idea, it was agreed the following committee would consider the matter of celebration and make a report to council. They are Reeves Norrish, Leslie, Hargrave, Lauder and Allen.

Reeve Stan Fay in his report in connection with the county building wished council to consider re-allocation of offices in the Court House. He said it was planned to have the Governor take the residence to be vacated by the caretaker, and the apartment now used by him could be planned for additional office space.

The Halton Law Society has asked for a room in which to establish a Law Library and it is felt the office now used by the Sheriff would be suitable for this purpose. A new office with proper vault space could be provided in the proposed planning of offices on the main floor.

However as time was getting late members felt it could be left over until the April meeting for consideration. Reeve Fay and County Engineer Roy F. Smith visited the County Buildings at Brantford to view the remodelled building there.

The application of the Village of Bronte to have a portion of Trafalgar Street closed, was held over on recommendation of the county engineer who explained the present situation.

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HALTON JUNIOR FARMERS at their annual banquet in Trafalgar hall last Friday welcomed Ontario president, Eleanor Saracuse as guest speaker. Here Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitlock, newly elected Halton president Mac Sprawl and Miss Saracuse discuss one of the trophies competed for annually by some 250 Junior Farmers representing five organizations in Halton County. Miss Saracuse is wearing an orchid, the gift of Halton Juniors.
—Staff Photo