

# The Acton Free Press.

Seventy-Seventh Year.—No. 40.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, APRIL 10th, 1952

Eight Home Print Pages—Six Cents

## COUNTY MILL RATE DOWN 2.5 FOR 1952



**FIREMEN FOUGHT TO EXTINGUISH** the blaze that followed the explosion Wednesday morning at the Darby home on John St. A crowd of people from the business section was attracted by the nearby explosion that resulted as Mrs. Darby cleaned curtains in naphtha gas while a nearby gas stove was operating. Firemen quickly controlled the blaze but were unable to prevent extensive damage to the kitchen. An overall view is shown here as seen from a nearby roof. The smoke poured out of the kitchen of the double house but the blaze did not affect the adjoining kitchen of the duplex.

### Turkey Discussion Ends In Complete Stalemate

Petitioners, citizens, County Health officials, and council ended in a deadlock when they met in special session Monday evening to consider the petition of Bower Ave. residents against the alleged nuisance of odor from the Wolfe Turkey farm. Innumerable street corner and hall gatherings followed adjournment of the almost two hour discussion. More than 20 attended the special meeting besides the councillors. Mayor Rachlin explained the purpose of the meeting and asked individual petitioners to state their case on the nuisance for the benefit of Health officials. The delegation was informed a representative of the Department of Municipal Affairs had been invited to the meeting but was unable to attend.

J. Bruce explained that his wife had been sick for many months and could not have fresh air because of the odor.

R. R. Arnold, as president of Storey Grove, said he had had workers leave in the middle of the afternoon because the odor forced closing of the windows, making hot afternoons unbearable. "I lost production," he claimed.

Mrs. Smith claimed it was a "very uncomfortable thing to be living beside and I don't think it is very healthy."

Mrs. Blow pointed out that "it's only the turkeys I'm referring to—no one else or nothing else. We can't use our yard. We can't use our veranda."

T. Gordon explained that "on damp nights it's almost unbearable" and G. Lantz said the odor was "a little inconvenient."

A. Mercer pointed out that he had just purchased his property and if the wind blows my way I get it. H. Harris said with his asthma he needed fresh air and was often compelled to put his window down in the summer weather because of the odor.

Dr. Mather of the Halton County Health Unit, explained, "Nuisances are a very definite thing under the Public Health Act. I have taken the trouble to go to the Provincial Department of Health and they have assured me our only responsibility was sanitation. In this case it has been the best possible. It is impossible to keep that many turkeys without odor. The Medical Officer of Health doesn't have the power to close up the farm unless it is injurious to health. In my opinion, it is not injurious to health."

Mayor Rachlin explained that council did not have the power to put Mr. Wolfe out of business.

R. H. Elliott said, "We're asking council to have this nuisance eliminated so we, the people of Bower Ave., can have full use of our property which we are entitled to."

Mayor Rachlin called for suggestions on how the nuisance could be eliminated and reminded the delegation that "council has the power to make restrictive legislation but it hasn't the power to make it retroactive."

W. Wolfe, in his presentation, explained the business was established in 1943 and reached its present capacity in 1947. He suggested the petition "had its origin in deliberations of the opposition concerning my request to purchase a portion of a lane adjacent to my residence

on Bower Ave. Therefore the lane and turkey issue may be wrapped up in one package."

Mr. Wolfe suggested withdrawal of opposition to closing of the lane; and withdrawal of the provision for a turning area. If this were done, he would agree to reduce the poundage of his turkeys produced between July 15 and Sept. 7 by 33 per cent, commencing this year and effect a further reduction of another 10 per cent. in the next five years. These were based on 1951 figures and excluded poult under 10 weeks old.

"This will be a costly suggestion for me and I will lack conveniences heretofore enjoyed. It must be considered as a very substantial concession on my part in an effort to alleviate the alleged nuisance and to restore love and harmony to Bower Ave.," he concluded.

Mr. Elliott said, "It looks to me as if he's looking for a deal. I had nothing to do with that lane. I only want full use of my property. If he can assure me that a cut of 30 per cent in production will eliminate the odor, I will be satisfied, but I want it settled."

Considerable discussion developed on whether the lane and the turkey petition were one item but nothing was resolved.

Clerk McGeachie read a nuisance by-law, the only one passed by the town, dated 1974 and signed by W. H. Storey as Reeve. The by-law dealt with honking horns and firing of guns generally and did not apply to the petition under consideration.

Mayor Rachlin pointed out that the matter must either be settled by the petitioners and Mr. Wolfe or through the courts. "It's an awkward position for council. We're sympathetic to both parties. When Mr. Wolfe got his permit, he was not restricted. I can't see any reason why you can't get together. We most certainly haven't the power."

Following considerable discussion in which no progress was made on the turkey issue, combined at times with the lane issue, Mr. Elliott and Mr. Mercer left, declaring they were not interested in the lane. "As far as the petition goes, you'll hear further," Mr. Elliott concluded.

The meeting adjourned when Mayor Rachlin again assured those present that there was nothing that could be done by council

### Mrs. S. Cripps Circle President

The annual business meeting of the Baptist Mission Circle was held at the home of Mrs. Cohen. Mrs. Reid was in charge of the meeting and Mrs. Jean Garner read the scripture.

Mrs. Reid gave a talk on the Cross and Mrs. Marjorie Landsborough led in prayer.

The president, Mrs. Cripps, called on the committees to give their annual report. Mrs. Lil Wagner gave the report of the nominating committee and the officers for the coming year are as follows: vice-president, Mrs. Marg. Cripps; secretary, Mrs. M. Landsborough; treasurer, Mrs. Jean Garner; visitor, Mrs. Helen McCutcheon; sick box, Mrs. Lil Wagner, Mrs. Helen Bulmer, Mrs. Marg. Cohen; birthday box, Mrs. Bea Coulson; social convener, Mrs. Harriet Helwig; pianist, Miss Ethel Franklin; mission band leader, Mrs. Jean Garner; helpers, Mrs. Lil Wagner, Mrs. Bea Coulson.

Plans were made for the Easter thankoffering when the speaker is to be Miss Mary Harrow from Peterborough and the Spring Rally to be held in Acton Baptist Church.

Mrs. Jean Garner closed the meeting with prayer.

### Visitors Attend Meeting Of Guild

The regular meeting of St. Alban's Guild was held in the Parish Hall with members of other churches attending. Special speaker for the evening was Rev. Wright of Aldershot, whose subject was the lack of young boys and girls dedicating themselves to the work of the church.

A musical program followed with piano solos by Mrs. W. Ruddock, a duet by Peggy and Francis Oakes accompanied by their mother and a solo by Yvonne Brunelle, accompanied by Mrs. Oakes.

The meeting closed with the benediction. A delicious lunch was served by the committee.

### CEMENT SECTION TOPPLES FROM MILL STREET STORE FRONT

It happened rather early yesterday morning and fortunately the pedestrians on Mill Street were not numerous when a large block of the cement coping front of Maher's Shoe Store crashed onto the awning and was deflected to the roadway. The section about a foot square had apparently been loosened by the frost and with the warmer weather became loosened from its position.

Those who were near the store at the time were indeed startled as the cement section came rolling onto the road and felt fortunate they were not closer when it dropped.

Our broad land: It is 4,543 miles from St. John's Nfld. to British Columbia's Prince Rupert.

### Religious Editor Of Globe Speaker

"I have been terribly concerned about the condition of our church," Mrs. Jane Scott, religious editor of the Globe and Mail, told members of the missionary organizations of Acton Presbyterian, United, Baptist and Anglican churches and guests from Fergus, Ebenezer and Guelph Tuesday afternoon in the United Church Sunday School room. Mrs. Scott said she feels the power of God is not functioning properly in many of our lives.

Easter to her means self-examination, the atonement of Christ, tenderness, exaltation and reconciliation. Each one must face God personally she said, and Easter is the time to do it.

Mrs. Scott was introduced by M. Cole of Acton, who attended Bible college with her. He referred to her "unusual portion of wise and understanding heart" and the "genius of her skilled hand."

The United Church W.M.S. president, Miss M. Z. Bennett, presided and the theme "Easter gave us the Bible" was taken by Miss Bennett, Mrs. J. R. MacArthur and Mrs. Thompson. Prayer was taken by Miss M. Mainprize.

A duet by Miss Dorothy Simmons and Mrs. H. Veldhuis, and a quartet of four ladies from Ebenezer, Mrs. Early, Mrs. Ellesley, Mrs. G. Robertson and Mrs. M. R. Anderson were enjoyed. Mrs. R. Arnold was accompanied.

Mrs. C. L. Poole thanked Mrs. Scott and Mrs. R. Arnold introduced a piano solo by Mrs. M. Heller. Rev. E. A. Curry closed the meeting with prayer.

As it was Mrs. Scott's birthday, a cake was presented to her by Mrs. C. W. Mason and she blew out the candles. Pouring tea were Mrs. Peter Smith and Mrs. A. T. Brown. Mrs. Arnold's group was in charge of the especially delicious refreshments.

Bouquets of lilies, daffodils and carnations decorated the Sunday School room for this thankoffering meeting.

### Knox Girls Meet 'Easter' Is Theme

The April meeting of the Daughters of Knox was held at the home of Mrs. Ritchie. An interlude of quiet music preceded the reading of the beautiful Easter service by Ruth Smith. The worship service, conducted by Jacqueline Watkins, assisted by Doris Halliday, Betty Wilds, Marilyn Sigsworth and Elizabeth Jany, was appropriate at this Easter season, the theme being, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel."

The lesson, "There are skeletons in our closet," a continuation of the interesting study of British Guiana, was given by Mrs. Buchanan.

The business for the evening was centered upon the Easter tea and baking sale. Further plans were made for a Mother and Daughter banquet in May.

A delightful lunch brought the evening to a close.

### PLACING FOURTH FOR ALL OF CANADA IS DR. P. BEER HOLSTEIN

Standing fourth in all Canada for milk production last year was a Holstein in the herd of Dr. Paul Beer, R.R. 3, Georgetown.

As a senior three-year-old on 2x milking, Huntshaven Supreme Pabst produced 20,225 lbs. of milk and 718 lbs. of butterfat, which placed her fourth in the 1951 honour list.

### ACTON BROWNIES SERVE TEA TO 100; BACKGROUND MUSIC SUPPLIED

About 100 ladies enjoyed tea, sandwiches and cookies in the Scout hall Saturday afternoon, served by two dozen members of the Acton brownies.

Nine young ladies, all members of the group, played the piano during the tea. These were Ella Jany, Jill Haydon, Mary Jane Force, Ruth Landsborough, Ruth Jones, Margaret Armstrong, Pat Coles, Rhona McEachern and Faye McEachern.

In charge of the tea were Brown Owl Jean Harris and Tawny Owl Audrey Wilkinson, assisted by May Dyrik and Loraine Mullin.

### TEACHER ENGAGED FOR ACTON HIGH SCHOOL TO FILL STAFF VACANCY

Mr. James S. Cuthbertson of Cardinal, Ont., has been engaged to fill the vacancy on the staff of Acton High School caused by the resignation of Mr. Heron. Mr. Cuthbertson will teach boys' P.T. throughout the school and assume some of the other subjects. He is a graduate of Queen's University. Arrangements for his engagement were made at a meeting of the Management Committee of the North Halton High School District Board last week.

### Display Convenors For Crafts Named

Group leaders for a display and sale of crafts, to be held in the Y in May, were chosen at a meeting of the Acton Arts and Crafts group in the Y on Thursday, April 3.

In charge of the meeting was the president, Mrs. George Mason. Mrs. H. Holmes reported on leather tooling, saying that 14 took the course. There were 12 enrolled in leather and seven in smoking. An average of 15 attend the art classes.

The secretary's report was given by Mrs. G. Musselle and the treasurer's by Mrs. C. Cooke.

Supplies for a leather class in the Y, led by Mrs. H. Holmes, will be purchased by the club.

Convenors for the display, sale and tea are, leather carving, Mrs. H. Holmes; leather tooling, Mrs. H. Holmes; art, Miss Rita McNabb; rug hooking, Mrs. C. Cooke; smoking, Mrs. Charles Heller; decorations, Miss Alice McCallum; Mrs. W. Beatty; tea, Mrs. Charles Wood; advertising, Mrs. D. Dills.

### Books, Flag Given; More Gifts Needed

Acton Garagemen's Association has purchased two sets of World Books as their gift to the new addition to Acton Public School and members of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter, at their last meeting, agreed to present a flag and standard.

Gifts from other sources are also expected by the Gifts Committee, which is supervising donations to avoid duplication. The Legion has already informed the committee that two portraits of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, will be their contribution.

Any Acton public school old boys or old girls who would be interested in helping have been asked by the committee to send any contributions of money to the Acton Public School Special Gifts Fund, c/o the Bank of Montreal Acton. It is believed these may be used to purchase a piano for the auditorium.

The piano, a much needed item, has not been covered in any other commitments so far.

### NAPHTHA GASOLINE EXPLOSION IN KITCHEN CAUSES SEVERE DAMAGE

A naphtha-gasoline explosion Wednesday severely burned the face and shoulders of Mrs. Robt. Darby, covered people in a half-block area with soot and started a fire in the Darby kitchen that resulted in damage estimated up to \$2,000.

Mrs. Darby was cleaning curtains in the kitchen of her John St. home and using naphtha gasoline. A gas stove combined with naphtha gas fumes in the same room caused the thunderous explosion that attracted people from the business section and several blocks around.

Firemen answered the call promptly—but were unable to save from almost complete damage, the washing machine, refrigerator and gas stove as well as other kitchen appliances.

Fire damage was confined to the kitchen but the explosion blew out a kitchen window and one on the front of the house. The loss was covered by insurance. The damage did not affect the adjoining kitchen of the double house.

Mrs. Darby explained that she usually cleaned outside with the gasoline but because it was cool she had just pulled it inside the kitchen door.

### County Mill Rate Lower On Assessment Increase

Without comment, members of Halton County Council set a rate of five mills on the equalized assessment to raise sufficient funds to operate the county and to care for county roads this year. This is a 2.5 mill decrease on an increased county assessment over last year's levy which was 7.5 mills.

Council approved of the report made by the Finance committee, headed by Reeve E. R. Lauder, Oakville. Estimated expenditures are \$215,581.00 while revenue is expected to be \$36,411.24 leaving \$179,169.76 to be raised for general purposes or 3.23 mills. The expenditure on county roads is estimated at \$98,182.82 or a 1.77 mill rate. Included in the estimate is an expenditure of \$51,921.00 to operate the County Health Unit. This figure is based on a per capita basis of \$1.20 of a population of 43,260. However, half of the total expenditure is paid for by government grant.

The finance committee's report also approved of increasing salaries of the clerk to \$2,500 per year; the treasurer to \$2,550 a year and that of the Warden to \$600 a year. A number of grants were made including: Canadian National Institute for the Blind, \$350.00; Salvation Army, \$700.00; Halton Music Festival, \$100.00; Hospital for Sick Children, \$250.00; membership to the Ontario Municipal Association \$25.00; and membership in the Ontario Association of Homes for the Aged and Infirm, \$10.00.

A request for a grant by the Acton Planning Board was turned down. Reeve Lauder explained there were several such organizations in the county and to set a precedent would probably lead to these grants "getting out-of-hand."

Warden J. M. Wickson and Reeve S. A. Fay, Milton, were appointed county council's representatives to the Board of the Children's Aid Society.

It seemed to be a case of, "do you want to celebrate or do you not," when Deputy-reeve Fred Walker, Nelson, asked council's committee to consider a centennial program to meet with the Halton Agricultural board of directors to make plans for a centennial celebration in the county. Halton Agricultural Society, commonly known as Milton Fair, will celebrate their centennial this year.

Council spent some time discussing the matter when Reeve J. Norrish announced he would have to

retire as chairman of the county committee. He felt he lived too far away from the centre of the county to satisfactorily do the job.

Warden Wickson announced Reeve George Leslie would then act as chairman. However, no decision was reached as some members felt that with the official opening of the new Home for the Aged along with current business, it might be too much for officials to handle in one year. Reeve H. D. Allen, Burlington, felt the county should be "penny-wise" to conserve money, especially when ratepayers were burdened with additional taxes this year.

Following announcement that the first meeting of Halton County Council was held on July 12, 1853, council approved Deputy-reeve Bob Shannon's resolution to hold the Halton County Council Centennial in 1953.

Sponsored by Reeve E. R. Lauder and Reeve R. J. Hargrave, Acton, council approved the establishment of a five man Board of Directors for the Home for the Aged. The five named include Warden Wickson, former Warden K. Y. Dick and Reeves R. J. Hargrave, E. R. Lauder and S. A. Fay. Sheriff W. J. Robertson was present to advise council of the necessity of providing accommodation for women jurors. He said women would be included in the next panel to be chosen and hoped council could make provision for

(Continued on Page Five)



**A BLACKENED AND BURNED KITCHEN** resulted when naphtha gas exploded at the home of J. Darby Wednesday morning severely burning Mrs. Darby as she cleaned curtains in naphtha gas while the gas stove nearby was operating. The sudden blast smashed the kitchen window and one at the front of the house, as well as throwing soot on people within a half block. Damage was confined to the kitchen but a washing machine, refrigerator, and gas stove were almost completely destroyed in the fire that followed the explosion.