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**DURING THE OPENING** ceremonies and administration of the oath of office to the new Warden of Halton County Council last Tuesday, retiring Warden Joseph M. Wickson presented the warden for 1953, Reeve George Leslie, Esquosing Township, with the gavel, his symbol of office. Warden Leslie has been a member of County Council for the past three years, representing his township as deputy-reeve. Judge W. N. Robinson administered the oath of office to the new incumbent. —Photo by Pearen

## George Leslie Chosen Halton County Warden

### Induct Esquosing Reeve For Top County Position

George Leslie, reeve of Esquosing Township and member of Esquosing council for the past seven years, was chosen as Warden of Halton County for 1953 at the inaugural session of Halton County Council held at Milton Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Leslie was proposed by Reeve Emerson Ford, Trafalgar, and Deputy Reeve Wilfred Bird, Esquosing. J. J. Stewart, reeve of Acton, was proposed by Deputy Reeve Robert Marshall, Trafalgar, and Deputy Reeve Ray Thompson, Acton. Reeve Stewart appreciated his name being mentioned for Warden of the County but withdrew in favour of Reeve Leslie.

In his opening remarks, the new warden said he felt he was one of the oldest members of the County Council upon seeing so many new faces around the council table. While thanking members for selecting him to the highest office in the county, Warden Leslie promised co-operation throughout the year. He also felt the 1953 year would be a successful one as far as the county is concerned.

His Honor Judge W. N. Robinson officiated at the swearing in of Reeve Leslie. During his remarks, he said he felt that members held the new Warden in high esteem. "This is an extreme honor for you, and I am sure your tender as Warden will be a very successful one during 1953."

His Honor also warned council to watch their expenditures, as he felt a prime factor in municipal government was the raise in taxation. He attributed this to the expansion programs felt by the various municipalities. "This is something you will have to consider while discharging your duties," he cautioned.

The reeves of the various municipalities were chosen as a committee to strike the county council committees for the year. George Currie, chairman of the Halton Conservation committee along with J. E. Whitelock, Halton agricultural representative, were present to seek further assistance by a county grant to further the farm pond program begun last year. Mr. Currie explained the provincial government matched dollar for dollar any expenses toward the construction of these conservation ponds. He hoped council would be able to give a similar grant of \$1,000 as it did in 1952.

Mr. Whitelock in giving the committee's financial statement had been received by the committee for the construction of farm ponds. The county inaugurated the program only last March. Nineteen ponds had been completed while others would be soon. He said \$1,415 had been spent last year out of the \$2,000 provided by the county and Department of Agriculture. He further added the Department was willing to spend a greater amount during the year if county council saw fit to increase their grant to the committee.

Several appointments were made by the new council. They included N. L. Pickett, Milton, as member to the North Halton High School Area Board for 1953; Reeve S. J. Norrish, Nasagaweya, and Deputy Reeve John Atkinson, Nelson, as the county's representatives to the County Community Park Board for 1953; Warden Leslie, former Warden J. M. Wickson, Reeve K. R. MacDonald of Georgetown and Reeve C. R. Anderson, Milton, as members to the Halton Centennial Manor Board of Governors.

It was agreed the agricultural committee be delegated to attend the annual convention for reformation and were allowed expenses up to \$50. Council approved renewing their membership in the Go'd Roads Association and delegated the committee, along with Engineer R. F. Smith, to attend the annual convention. They were allowed \$100 for expenses.

New members appointed to the County Road Committee include: Reeve Russell Smale, Nelson; J. J. Stewart, Milton; and R. M. Wakeley, deputy-reeve of Oakville. Various committees were chosen for 1953 include, with the first named as chairman: Finance—Emerson Ford, R. H. Shannon, Wilfred Bird, Russell Smale, K. R. MacDonald, Prussing—C. R. Anderson, Ray Thompson, John Atkinson, H. C. Wade, County Buildings—K. R. MacDonald, C. R. Anderson, R. Thompson, C. R. McKerr, Robert Marshall, L. McArthur, R. M. Wakeley, Robert Marshall, H. C. Wade, A. Jennings, Agriculture and Reformation—J. J. Stewart, Wilfred Bird, Emerson Ford, S. J. Norrish, Robert Marshall.

Special Communications—A. Jennings, R. M. Wakeley, B. C. McKerr, Frank Petch, County Roads—S. J. Norrish, Emerson Ford, J. J. Stewart, Russell Smale, L. McArthur, Shannon—R. H. Shannon, John Atkinson, Robert Marshall, K. R. MacDonald, J. J. Stewart, Halton Centennial Manor—Russell Smale, K. R. MacDonald, R. H. Shannon and C. R. Anderson.

### Rotary Club Get Florida Oranges

Members of Acton Rotary Club enjoyed a treat from Florida when Amos Mason sent a liberal quantity of the Temple oranges for which Florida is famous, for distribution to club members. The tree ripened fruit arrived in splendid condition and was enjoyed by every member. Each member was also given a neat desk plaque with the "Four Way Test" of Rotary, neatly inscribed thereon.

A feature of the meeting was the film entitled "Credit—Man's Confidence in Man," which was loaned for showing by Dun and Bradstreet.

A blast furnace as large as any in the world has been put into operation by a Hamilton, Ontario, steel mill.

### Fight Fire Sunday On Glare of Ice

The Acton fire truck was the only vehicle able to climb the treacherous, slippery hill on Frederick St. just north of the Wool Combining Corporation when, at 12:30 a.m. Sunday morning, the fire chief summoned the brigade to the blazing bunkhouse at the foot of the hill. The fire truck skidded down the hill to reach the fire in the unoccupied building owned by Beardmore and Co.

The building, which had been out of operation for 15 months, belched clouds of smoke as flames had gained considerable headway. No cars were able to reach the fire. The fire truck skidded down the hill to reach the fire in the unoccupied building owned by Beardmore and Co.

An amount of upper leather was stored in the partially destroyed bunkhouse, but no estimate of the damage has been made. The building was gutted by the flames. The first hydrants tapped by the firemen were frozen but several lines of hose soon were fighting the blaze.

Beardmore's have made no plans for immediate re-building. It may be necessary to tear down one section of the roof, which has sagged two to three feet from the burned out beams and supports.

The building had been closed for some time and had no occupants. The hydrants had been cut off for a year. The alarm was phoned in by C. Lindsay just after midnight.

### Domestic Rate Rise Of 19% For Acton

Domestic hydro rates in Acton will jump about 19 per cent with the next billing, according to a letter from the Hydro-Electricity Commission of Ontario to the local commission.

The average bill of 300 kilowatt hours, which was formerly \$4.50, will now be \$5.45. Flat rate water heaters will be increased from 41 cents per 100 watts to 45 cents. Cost to the local commission for power was recently increased by slightly over 15 per cent.

Cost of commercial service which affects stores and light industry is outlined as a service charge of five cents per 100 watts per month and consumption charge of 23 cents, formerly 2 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 100 hours per month.

Power serving the heavy industry will be paid for by a service charge of \$1.20 per kilowatt hour per month and consumption will be billed at 21 cents, formerly 11 cents per kilowatt hour for the first 50 hours use per month of connected load or maximum demand; plus 14 cents, formerly 9 cents, per kilowatt hour for the second 50 hours use per month plus 3 cents per kilowatt hour for all additional consumption. Discounts of 10 per cent for prompt payment remain unchanged on the three divisions.

The first copyright issued in Canada was for a spelling book in 1841.



**DISTINCTIVELY** Canadian arts and crafts were encouraged by Thor Hansen, who came from Denmark to Canada 23 years ago, when he spoke to the Acton Home and School Association at the public school on Monday evening. He illustrated his talk with colored slides of needlepoint and quilt designs and interior decoration he had supervised.

### 2 Power Failures Occur Week-end

Lights were blacked out, heat, clocks and other electrically operated equipment abruptly halted twice over the week-end due to power failures.

The first, occurring Saturday evening about 8 p.m. left only part of Acton in darkness. Superintendent Doug Mason reported that a limb falling across the primary at the corner of Mill and Park St. burned out two phases. Knox, Park, Cameron and Lake were among the streets affected. Power was restored at 11:45 p.m.

The second power failure was more general, blanking out the whole of Acton as well as Rockwood, Fergus and Egra and district. The power interruption, which began at 4 a.m. Sunday morning, was returned in 22 minutes. A high tension pole burned out on the Fergus feeder. Superintendent Mason said.

Just a week before as an aftermath of a localized sleet, rain and snow storm, power was off here and in the district for a longer period. Telephone service was completely restored for several days then.

### Car Skids on Ice Man, Wife Injured

Two passengers were injured and a 40-hp Dodge completely demolished in an accident on January 14 on the seventh line, one mile south of Stewartville. Injured were Mr. and Mrs. James Oikle of Brampton. The car, driven by Frank Boyd of Toronto, skidded on the ice. James Oikle suffered a fractured pelvis and a ruptured bladder; and his wife Georgina Oikle minor injuries. The accident occurred about 8 p.m. in the evening.

### Receive First Estimates Council Faces Mill Rate

Preliminary steps on the setting of the 1953 mill rate were initiated at Acton council's second meeting on Monday evening of this week as the public school board presented estimates totalling \$34,331, the Acton Free Library Board asked a grant equal to that of last year totalling \$2,300, and the Road Committee submitted a preliminary estimate for grant purposes of \$32,634. Committees are working on the preparation of estimates for submission to the Finance Committee when the rate will finally be struck. Petitions for grants are customary at this time and all are subject to revision and consideration except that submitted by the Public School Board.

M. Schroeder and G. W. McKenzie representing the Library Board submitted a prepared statement outlining the work of the library in the past year. Circulation of books during 1952 was increased to 18,255 over 15,965 in 1951. The Board recommended a grant of \$2,300 for this year.

A letter from Acton Public School Board pointed out that the estimate for the year had been established at a special meeting and estimates of \$34,331 were being submitted.

Road Committee estimates were submitted for grant purposes. It was pointed out that estimates had to be struck very early since a request for a grant of 50 per cent had to be filed with the Ontario Department of Highways before the end of this month. It was possible to revise the amount when striking the final mill rate. The estimate totalled \$32,634.

Solicitor C. F. Leatherland told council it was necessary to read twice the debenture by-law on the \$210,000 for the proposed High School, and submit it to the Municipal Board for approval. The by-law was given a first reading and the solicitor instructed to arrange an agreement with the other municipalities for the collection of their share of the cost.

Clerk McGeachie reported that Acton's share of the building would be approximately \$1,600 a year for 30 years.

**Appoint New Fire Chief**  
Council, by-law ratified the appointment of S. Tennant as Acton Fire Chief following a brigade election which resulted in that recommendation.

Deputy Reeve Thompson, chairman of the Road Committee, reported on an investigation into the salaries of town employees by his committee as requested at the last meeting.

**Increase Salaries**  
The salary of the town foreman was increased from \$2,800 to \$2,900; the assistant foreman from \$2,500 to \$2,750; hourly employees were increased 10 cents an hour making a maximum of \$1; clerk-treasurer from \$1,475 to \$1,600 as the town share.

Increases in clerical office help approved by the Public Utilities Commission were ratified by council with a total of \$152 increase over the year.

**Lot H Again**  
Lot H a subject that has probably taken up more hours of council time over the past years than any other subject, came to the fore on Monday night when an agreement submitted to council by their solicitor failed to meet with their approval. Council passed a resolution that they would only accept the agreement if it included paragraphs three and 10 which had been deleted from the preliminary draft which T. Seynuck did not agree to.

Lot H is a piece of property at the northern extremity of George St. for which no owner can be found. It is necessary for an entrance to a house on Seynuck property. It was planned that the town take over the lot and provide the necessary street providing Mr. Seynuck would agree not to build on the projected line of the street. Mr. Seynuck would not agree to this and the 1953 council

### Middle East Topic Of Talk to W.M.S.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the United Church met at the home of Mrs. C. L. Poole on Tuesday with the president, Miss M. Z. Bennett, presiding. The meeting opened with a hymn, prayer and the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Worship service was taken by Mrs. E. A. Currie and the scripture reading by Mrs. F. Cleave and Mrs. Hannah, Mrs. C. W. Mason, Mrs. G. A. Dilla, Mrs. C. L. Poole and Miss D. Simmons.

Annual reports were presented at the meeting which showed an increase over last year. Cards and letters were sent to shut-ins in hospitals during the year. Forty-eight calls were made during the year by community friendly secretary Mrs. F. Cleave. One member was removed by death and one from town.

The president, Miss M. Z. Bennett presided over every meeting during the year.

Mrs. B. Mowat presented a splendid talk on conditions in the middle east. Fees were paid. The closing prayer was given by Rev. C. L. Poole.

Mrs. Poole, assisted by Mrs. M. Burns, Mrs. B. Mowat, Mrs. R. MacArthur and Mrs. A. Orr served a light lunch. A vote of thanks was given to Rev. C. L. and Mrs. Poole for their home and to the church committee.

### Allen Dixon Heads Halton Association

The annual meeting of the Halton Protective Association was held in the Court House, Milton, on January 15 with the president, Roy Currie, in the chair. A goodly number of members were present. The usual business was transacted and only one loss reported.

The new officers are: president, Allen Dixon; vice-president, Frank Cartwright; secretary, James Brownridge. Directors—Nelson R. Ellenton, S. Agnew, H. A. Cartwright, F. Dixon; Trafalgar, F. Cartwright, A. Dixon, J. Chapman, A. Ford; Nasagaweya, R. Anderson, L. Chisholm; Esquosing, R. Currie; J. Ruddell, N. Stark, C. Brown, town of Milton, C. H. Heslop.

### SAM TENNANT IS ELECTED CHIEF OF ACTON FIRE BRIGADE

The following appointments were made, following recent elections for the Acton fire brigade: Fire chief, Sam Tennant; deputy fire chief, J. Newton; captain, M. Holmes; lieutenant, M. Coke; secretary-treasurer, D. Van Fleet; maintenance, B. Van Fleet. The firemen are H. Price, W. McEachern, H. Bittorf, N. Price, W. D. Mason, H. Peal, S. Brunelle, B. Tyler, R. McPhail, and T. Synott.

### NEW BRANCH STORE OF SIMPSON-SEARS TO OPEN ON MAIN STREET BLOCK

Another new business opens in Acton next week when the Simpson-Sears store will open its doors in the McLeod Block next to the Bell Telephone Co. in charge of the new Acton office will be Miss Isabel Smith, who for several years has been the very successful manager of the Acton branch of Carroll's Limited.

The premises have recently been repainted and new fixtures have been installed to facilitate the handling of this type of business.



**ACTON HIGH SCHOOL** Annual At Home was staged in Acton public school auditorium on Friday evening of last week. Shown from the left are Principal O. Robbins, student council secretary Arlene Gordon, vice president Marjorie Warne, president Fred Gordon and treasurer Kathleen Stanley. The members of the executive and principal are shown in the foyer of the school during the serving of refreshments. About 180 students, parents, and citizens attended the annual event. Spot dances were won by Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Buchanan and Miss S. Paul and Don Wiek.