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## ACTON RENT CONTROL ENDS MARCH 1



### Pupils Help Boost Flood Relief Fund

Donations to the flood-relief fund are coming in slowly so far, but they are expected to increase considerably next week. Letters are being prepared for the public school children to take home, and in the high school, pupils are making posters in connection with the appeal. Actonians were deeply shocked to hear of the disastrous floods and storms in England and Holland and a committee was set up as soon as possible to handle local contributions to aid the survivors. Donations are taken at the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Nova Scotia and the municipal offices. Management of Acton's industries is in charge of separate canvasses in each plant. Many are dead as a result of the floods and property, crops and livestock are destroyed. Much farm land is ruined by the sea water. The need is indeed great.

**LONG TIME DREAM** of a Women's Institute Limehouse Library was realized this week when the first book was issued to Mrs. A. J. Smeithurst, a life member of the Institute, by Mrs. W. H. Mitchell, librarian, and also life member of the Limehouse group. The first book was issued on Wednesday from the more than 700 that stock the shelves in the newly-built Community Hall cupboards. An official opening was held on Friday evening and well attended by many from the community and district. —Staff Photo

### Repeat Operetta Tonight For Flood Relief Funds

The new auditorium in the public school addition was filled on Tuesday evening when the pupils of the school presented their annual operetta. This year's production, "Tom Sawyer", is being given again on Thursday evening, with all the proceeds to go to the flood relief fund. Expenses will be paid from the proceeds of the first performance. The brightly lit stage with its attractive drapes, side curtains and rear entrances proved its worth as the pupils sang and acted out the familiar story of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. Tom Sawyer was played by Jim Wahlman and Huck Finn was Michael Hurst.

Frank Elliott was in charge of the operetta, assisted by Miss Jean Kirby, who accompanied the songs and dances on the piano.

School board chairman Tom Watson acted as master of ceremonies for the evening's program, which began with three dances. These were a minuet by the morning kindergarten class; "Come, Merry Playmate," by the afternoon kindergarten class and "Hansel and Gretel," a cleverly costumed Dutch dance by grade one, under the direction of Mrs. Alger.

The well-known story of Tom Sawyer fooling his companions into wanting to paint his Aunt Polly's fence started the operetta off well, and tuneful songs, attractive and appropriate costumes, dances and fast-moving plot kept the large audience interested until the last curtain.

One of the highlights was an eerie scene in a graveyard with skeletons dancing, spotlighted on a dark stage. Mrs. Wilkinson was in charge of these costumes with pupils painting the bones on the dark material.

Able supported by the chorus, the following public school pupils had parts in the operetta: Aunt Polly, Dolores Lambert; Becky Thatcher, Pat Coles; Injun Joe, Robert Wahlman; Joe Harper, Peter Lawson; Widow Douglas, Helen Landsborough; Amy Lawrence, Teresa Arbie; Sydney, John Muscalle; Mary, Laurie Ritchie; Muff Potter, Robert Healey; Dr. Robinson, George Fountain; Judge Thatcher, Frank Mason; Rev. Walters, Warren Wagner; Pard, Martin Marks; Maid (Amy's house), Lynda Mann; Alfred Temple (Hugs Tom), Bob Parker; Billy Fischer, Laurie Doby; Johnny Miller, Don Lindsay.

Ella Jany recited an introduction before the first act. The entire staff and mothers of the pupils made the fine costumes. R. Parker was in charge of make-up; R. McKeown and G. McKenzie were in charge of lighting. Mrs. Gamble was in charge of stage settings; E. Smith handled advertising and ticket sales; Mrs. Shirley Dills and R. McKeown were in charge of dialogue.

The group has been working just over a month for the two performances. Profits from the Tuesday night show, from which expenses will be drawn, will go for school projects and the entire proceeds tonight (Thursday) will be for flood relief.

The caretakers, G. Mann and Doug Price co-operated in preparing for the event. As well as many parents and friends, there were special visitors in the audience. Inspector L. L. Skuce was introduced by Tom Watson and spoke briefly. Also at-

### Juniors' Elections Held at Meetings

The Acton Junior Farmers and Junior Homemakers held their annual meeting at the home of Fyfe and Bill Somerville on Wednesday, February 11. At the boys' meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting and roll call, a committee was appointed to look after the display at the seed fair and bacon show in Milton. The matter of a farm machinery club was left for further discussion.

Art Bennett presided at the election of officers as follows: president, Calvin Sprawl; 1st vice president, Fred Williamson; secretary-treasurer, Charlie Thompson; press reporter, Bert Watson; directors, Ray Everdell, Mac Sproul, Herb Spitzer, Don Currie.

For the girls, the topic was sleeping garments. The guest speaker was Miss Kidd who gave an interesting talk. Mrs. J. L. Ellerby presided over the election of officers as follows: president, Anne McLaughlin; vice president, Evelyn McDonald; secretary - treasurer, Marion Porter; assistant secretary-treasurer, Hazel Everdell; district director, Evelyn McDonald.

Art Bennett was guest speaker at the joint meeting. His topic was the responsibilities of officers and members. A dainty lunch concluded the evening.

### Hold Baking Sale At Euchre in Hall

The Scout and Guide Mothers held another big euchre at the Scout Hall on Friday, February 13, playing 17 tables. There was also a good assortment of baking for the baking sale.

The prize winners were: ladies' first, Mrs. M. McCauley; ladies' second, Mrs. Geo. Fountain; ladies' consolation, Mrs. L. Masales; men's first, O. Brown; men's second, L. Brown; men's consolation, Mrs. S. McEachern.

### Parish Guild Holds Valentine Euchre

St Alban's Parish Guild held a very successful Valentine euchre in the parish hall on Thursday, February 12. Nineteen tables were played.

The door prize was won by Mrs. F. Salt; men's first prize, Mrs. W. Footitt; men's second prize, Mrs. H. Harris; men's consolation, Miss Clara Grindley; ladies' first, Mrs. J. Creasey; ladies' second, Mrs. Lazenby; ladies' consolation, Miss M. Hodgins.

### Recover Stolen Car, Beagle Dog Missing

Two Georgetown teen-agers were charged with taking a car without the owner's consent following recovery of a 1952 Chevrolet sedan abandoned on No. 7 highway near the fifth line of Esqueping. The car was recovered by Constable G. Wylie and towed to an Acton garage.

Owned by Allan Peer, Port Credit, the car was taken from in front of the Hollywood Hotel in Norval Saturday evening about 8 p.m. The owner reported the car stolen on Sunday. A shot gun and beagle hound had been in the back of the car but the beagle hound was missing when the car was recovered.

### Donations, Euchre For Flood Victims

Thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents for overseas flood victims was proceeds of cash donations and euchre held in Bannockburn school by Bannockburn W. I. and farm forum. There was a good attendance including many from neighboring communities.

The prizes were won by the following: ladies' first, Mrs. W. Hall; second, Mrs. Lillie; lone hands, Mrs. R. L. Davidson and Marjorie McDonald; gents' first, C. Storey; second, D. Moffat; lone hands, H. Young; lucky chair, Mr. Rose. The school and tables were decorated with Valentine colors. A social time and refreshments concluded a very successful event.

### No Increase Planned In District Board Estimates

North Halton High School District Board will operate this year on the same levy from the five municipalities that was contributed last year. This was revealed when the secretary-treasurer, G. O. Brown, presented the estimates on Monday evening at a meeting in Georgetown. Total amount of the levy from the five municipalities will be \$49,800. The total budget for the year is \$138,900.

In addition, the present debenture on the schools which amount in total each year to over \$14,000 will be retired with the payment this year. In summarizing the estimates and requirements, the secretary remarked that it was doubtful if any other district in the province could make a levy as advantageous to the ratepayers as was shown this year in North Halton.

The new building program came in for consideration. The sketch plans have, with a few minor changes, met with general approval of the members. Some negotiations regarding land requirements have been carried out and a report was given to the Board.

The secretary was asked to contact the architects, Messrs. Barnett and Reid, and requested they visit the three sites to make suggestions and have a meeting of the Board following the visit in which approval of the sketch plans can be given. This meeting was to be arranged just as soon as possible.

A letter from the clerk of Georgetown pointed out that formal resolutions should be passed by the Board requesting the councils of Milton, Acton and Georgetown to issue the debentures required for building. These resolutions were passed by the Board and will be forwarded to the municipalities. It was reported Georgetown council has given first and second readings and presented the by-law to the Municipal Board for their approval.

The inspector's report on Milton school was read to the board. It gave high praise to the school and paid glowing tribute to the retiring principal, Mr. J. E. Marcellus, on his forty-seven and a half years of teaching in the province. He has the greatest teaching record in the province and his work has been outstanding through his years of teaching.

The budgets presented by the principals were approved. All principals were present at the meeting and C. E. Wood, who will succeed Mr. Marcellus in September. Accounts for February, amounting to \$10,892.80 were passed for payment.

Claude Cook was appointed to the Transportation Committee in place of C. E. Wood, who has resigned. One application was received for a teaching position in Georgetown school but consideration was withheld until time had elapsed for all applications to be considered.

### Right Hand Caught In Carding Machine

Bob Holmes required 30 stitches in his right hand this morning when he got caught in a carding machine at the Wool Combing Corporation about 8.15 a.m. Thursday morning. X-rays of the injury have been taken but no results were available.

### DOMINION HOTEL FIRE CAUSES LITTLE DAMAGE

Minor damage resulted from a fire in the Dominion Hotel at 1 a.m. Sunday morning. Heavy smoke belched from the men's barroom as the fire brigade arrived, but the flames were confined to a small area and were put out with fire extinguishers.

### District President Visits Institute

At the regular meeting of the Acton Women's Institute held at the home of Mrs. John Lovell, Frederick St., Mrs. L. M. Ellerby, president of Halton district, was a guest as well as other members of the Limehouse branch.

Mrs. R. L. Davidson presided. The roll call was responded to with "Do's and Don'ts for a Hostess." The motto was prepared by Mrs. Wm. Hamilton and read by her daughter, Mrs. Earl Lambert. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

During the business period donations were voted to the local flood relief fund and also to the Halton Folk School.

Mrs. Ellerby was invited to speak to the members. She chose as her subject, "Home Economics and Health," giving a vivid outline as to what is being done to make for happier and healthier homes.

Mrs. Davidson thanked Mrs. Ellerby for coming and the meeting closed with singing, "Pack up your troubles." A Valentine lunch was served by the committee and a social time enjoyed by all.

### Town Stuck For Decision, Cancel Acton Rent Control

No action was taken to continue rent controls in Acton according to a resolution passed by one vote at the regular meeting of Acton council Monday evening. The decision followed a lengthy discussion and consideration of the matter. A letter received by the 1952 council pointed out that controls would be relaxed in Acton on March 1, 1953, if no action was taken. Council expressed its feelings at that time that the control might soon be administered by the local council if they requested retaining it. No action was taken on the matter and the clerk again presented it for consideration of the 1953 council before the March deadline.

Council was loud in its criticism of the governments that suddenly put the final decision on the local council. Councillor Tyley declared, "The government put them (controls) on, they should decide whether they come off. They didn't ask us when they put them on."

Mayor Oakes explained that rent controls did not provide any incentive for the maintenance of good homes. Deputy-reeve Thompson said he felt if controls were taken off, builders would be more interested in building homes for rent and the town's assessment would be increased.

Councillor Lindsay strongly urged re-aiming rent controls. "I don't want to see anyone out on the street because they can't meet increased rent," he declared. "Unless the wage scale in Acton goes up, I think rent controls should be continued."

Reeve Stewart said he felt if rent controls were abolished there would be more places to rent. Councillor McLeod commented that he didn't think rents would go up. A resolution to take no further action on the matter, which automatically relaxes the control, was carried by one vote.

Coronation Committee Councillor Wick, Reeve Stewart and Mayor Oakes were appointed to organize a meeting of local organizations to discuss plans for the local Coronation celebration, following a request from Dr. A. J. Buchanan, representing the Legion, for some attempt to "get things going."

Dr. Buchanan explained that the event was just a little over three months away and fairly action would be necessary. The possibility of a religious service and also of a sports day was discussed but the council sought recommendations from the committee that might be formed.

To Sell Fireworks Seeking co-operation regarding the local sale of fireworks, Bert Hinton appeared before the council and pointed out that the by-law prohibiting the sale of fireworks in Acton was illegal. He asked the council to delete the phrase prohibiting the Acton sale, and possibly limit the period they could be sold to cut down on any nuisance.

Council decided to seek further information on the matter before taking any action. Mr. Hinton assured council he would be selling the fireworks this year for the benefit of the country trade. The by-law prohibits setting off the fireworks in Acton.

Plan Tree Removal Deputy-reeve Ray Thompson, chairman of the road committee, explained it was advisable to have 29 trees on Cameron Ave removed by town workmen since they were tall and dangerous. He estimated approximate cost of the work if done by tree experts would be several thousand dollars and felt town men could do the job satisfactorily.

Residents are to be asked for permission to remove the trees and Solicitor Leatherland said the trees being on the town property, were the municipality's responsibility. Public liability insurance was reviewed in the light of this work being done by town men and it was thought wise to increase the amount.

Several councillors felt this was confusing and the matter may be considered further at a later date. Appoint Commissioned Edward Hufnagel was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission to replace C. Wood for the balance of the year. Mr. Wood had resigned to move to Toronto. Mr. Hufnagel was appointed on recommendation of the P.U.C.

The pastor of the Stone Church Guelph, asked rental of the council chamber for Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. at \$10. A letter was authorized explaining that the council chambers were not for rent and the standard rate for the auditorium was \$35 for outside organizations.

Councillor Irwin brought to council's attention the obstructed view caused by the school crossing sign at Wilbur St. on approaching Mill St. The road committee was to ask the advice of a highway engineer when he appeared to survey the possible need for a traffic light at Mill and Main Sts.

Approve Accounts The following accounts were passed for payment: Watson Dairy Bar, 2 lunches \$ 9.00 Anderson Welding garage truck repairs 2.00 Assoc. of Mayors & Reeves fees 18.00 C. E. Hickey & Sons, cart-ridge recharged 2.25 Municipal World, taxi badges 12.12 Ohio Chemical Can Ltd. oxygen 5.60 Bell Telephone, serv 32.51 Acton P.U.C. hydro 395.48 O. Brown, removing snow 3.00 J. Calder, town hall repairs 1.50 Acton Woodcrafts 3.27 Thompson's Farm Serv. 30.60 Highway Garage 21.40 Thompson Motors 190.48 MacSwain Motors 4.75 Acton P.U.C. Jan oper. 458.22 Dept. of Health, insulin 6.70

Court of Revision Convences The Court of Revision was set up and wrote off business tax of K. Hassard totalling \$14.83. Changes were also made, taking off Arthur Corke's business assessment of \$350. George Benton's assessment of \$1,300 on the Young St. property and Mrs. L. Manning's assessment was reduced by \$800 because a house had been removed from the property.

Representatives of the fire committee were instructed to ask the brigade to notify the town clerk in writing of any fires attended outside the municipality that the town might collect the \$50 fee.

A summary of the town's insurance coverage was presented by the clerk and council instructed the finance committee to review it and present any recommendations after the mill rate has been established.

A summary of fines collected was received from Magistrate Langdon for January.



A CAST OF OVER 100 presented the public school operetta to a capacity crowd in the school auditorium on Tuesday this week. The operetta "Tom Sawyer" has all the well remembered incidents and pranks of the well-known lad and his bosom friend Huck Finn. The fence painting is taken over by Tom's friends only after they con-

tribute a conglomeration of trading items such as a dead rat with a string on its tail so you can swing it, and a half eaten apple. Tom and Huck make a trip to the graveyard to get rid of warts and find more interest there. The operetta is to be repeated tonight for the benefit of Acton's Flood Relief drive. —Staff Photos