

# The Acton Free Press.

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## 'Sunshine Budget' Cuts '53 Tax Rate Over 20%

### 13 Mill Drop As Council Set Acton Mill Rate At 51

The Acton mill rate for municipal taxation during 1953 will be 51 mills. Council approved the 51 mill rate at the regular meeting on Monday evening finalizing the better than 20 per cent. cut in municipal expenditures in the approval of the taxation by-law. A reduction of 13 mills over last year's all time high of 64 mills was brought in by the finance committee despite increased educational costs and several other increases.

Payment on Acton's debenture debt is the biggest single item in the budget with payments on principal and interest totalling \$59,486.33. On Acton's assessment of \$2,424,884.80 it is necessary to raise \$122,547.56 by taxation. Total expenditures for the year are estimated at \$179,463.30 and receipts are estimated at \$56,915.74, the balance being raised by direct taxation.

**Highlight Expenditures**  
 Highlight expenditures in the current budget are debenture debt, \$59,486.33; education, \$39,612.47 (approximately an \$8,000 increase over last year); public works, \$17,333 (slightly under last year's); police protection, \$11,300 (an increase of about \$3,000); fire protection, \$3,288.50 (increased from \$1,758).  
 Highlight of the receipt side of the budget was a surplus of \$2,813.74 on the 1952 rate of 64 mills.

According to the approved by-law, the four installments of tax are due on April 15, June 15, August 17 and October 15.

**Present Fire Hall Plans**  
 Plans for a new fire hall were presented to council by a delegation of five firemen. Plans show accommodation for two trucks, drying hose, bunk room, toilet, shower and furnace room on the first floor, with a second floor having kitchen, lavatories, meeting room and recreation and training room.

Specifications were for a cement block building 36 feet by 55 feet with two overhead 11 foot doors on the front.

Firemen reported they had not met with much success in raising funds for the construction of the building and felt if the four walls of the building were erected, the men could finish a lot inside themselves.

**Location of the building** was discussed and the present town hall site and a town-owned lot on Alice Street were considered. It was also considered whether the building could be economically attached to the town hall.

**Consider One Storey?**  
 Fire brigade representatives said the building would probably be about \$18,000 on a contractor's price. Council explained the present debenture debt would not likely allow an expenditure of that size and a one storey building would have to be considered with provision to add a second storey later. Firemen agreed one storey would be satisfactory for the present.

It was pointed out that the townships would not purchase the town area truck until accommodation was assured. Changes in grants effective in 1954 would seriously affect the purchase of truck and equipment.

**Investigate Water Rate**  
 The Industrial Committee was instructed to investigate the possibility of offering industry water above their present average at a more reasonable figure, not to include the present sewer rental. It was explained that possibly more water could be sold resulting in more revenue. The committee was to find whether there would be sufficient demand above present use to make an industrial rate advantageous.

Council agreed to pay for the order of service or program for any service in connection with the Commemoration celebration locally.

**To Find Lateral**  
 Instructions to find the lateral from the sewer line to Mrs. B. Chew's house on Main St. were issued. Expenditures of this type that may exceed \$50 must receive council approval. Mayor Oakes and Councilor Taylor were to be notified when the lateral is found.

A by-law appointing E. Hufnagel to the Public Utilities Commission was passed.

A Kirkness was appointed vice-inspector.

Clerk McGeechie reported the Department of Highways engineer had viewed the Mill, Main St. traffic problem and would recommend a red and amber flashing light, his supervisors.

Scott-Jackson Construction company offered hot mix asphalt to the town at \$6 per ton since their plant will be located east of Guelph while they apply the surfacing on Highway No. 24 from Guelph to Ospringe.

The following accounts were approved for payment:  
 Mayfair Restaurant, lunch \$ 4.35  
 E. Jordan, hauling snow 5.00  
 G. Robinson, hauling snow 17.50  
 L. W. Agar, coal 113.65  
 W. Kentner, to use of saw 96.00

### OVER \$40 PROCEEDS GIVEN RELIEF FUND

A very successful euchre was held on Saturday evening under the sponsorship of Dublin Women's Institute in the Parish Hall Twenty-four tables played.

The winners were, ladies first, Mrs. Wm. Walker, second, Mrs. Jaque; men's first, James Van Fleet; second, Alex Near, consolation, men's, Stan Matthews; ladies, Mrs. Harold Harris; lucky ticket, J. Creasey.

The funds were in aid of the Flood Relief Fund and the fine sum of over \$50 was realized. A bountiful lunch was served by the Institute ladies.

### Vic Rumley Heads Acton Rotary Club

Three letters from parents of Acton and district brought renewed efforts to Acton Rotary Club on behalf of the crippled children's work they are doing. The letters expressed appreciation of the help the Acton club has given children in treatment in hospital and supplying special braces and shoes for their children. Another case was taken charge of by the club in a nearby centre to Acton. The corrective work for the child will likely require many months of treatment.

The club voted a \$50 donation to the Acton Flood Relief Fund. Officers elected for the coming year who will assume their duties in July were: Vic Rumley, president; Art Padbury, vice-president; Ted Hansen, secretary and Walt Woodburn, treasurer. Directors for the year are Ed Bilton, Jack Blow and Harold Lieb.

### EXPECT 60 CYCLE CHANGE OVER EARLY IN SUMMER '54; E. HUFNAGEL SWORN

Notification was received of a meeting to be held in Brampton to discuss changeover to 60 cycle power, at the regular meeting of Acton Public Utilities Commission Thursday of last week. The municipalities of Georgetown, Milton, Brantford and Acton were to be represented. It is expected the switch will be made early in the summer of 1954.

Ed Hufnagel, the new member appointed to the Commission following the resignation of C. Wool, took his oath of office and was welcomed to the Commission.

Secretary McGeechie reported that the painters were planning to paint the office during Easter week-end. It would necessitate the closing of the office for the Saturday morning only.

Superintendent Lambert reported that the heat exchanger was working satisfactorily at the present time and had run for 14 days without a shut-down owing to carbon building up in the firebox.

Engineer Anderson was to be notified of a difficulty encountered in the digester tank filling too rapidly.

Superintendent Mason had prices on the necessary material needed for installing a buzzer to notify Superintendent Lambert at any time the power fails at the sewage plant. The necessary equipment is to be obtained for installation in the spring when the frost is out of the ground, as the wire will be buried in the ground from the plant to Frederick St.

Superintendent Lambert reported that the auxiliary gas engine for fire protection had been repaired and was in working condition again, ready for emergencies.

A lateral to serve the house of Mrs. B. Chew on Main St. had not been located. The workmen had dug in the cellar but had not been able to locate the end of this lateral which had been installed by boring across the street. The Commission felt digging should proceed in the boulevard to see if the pipe could be located there. This situation was reported to council in accordance with the agreement for operating the sewers.

The following accounts were passed for payment as follows:  
**Hydro Accounts**  
 H. G. Barlow & Co. \$ 94.65  
 Ellis & Howard 4.42  
 MacDonald Electric 44.72  
 Line & Cable A. 12.00  
 H.E.P. water heaters 192.00  
 H.E.P.C. Jan power 10830.55

### Friends in England Safe After Flood

We were indeed pleased when Mrs. James Reed received an airmail letter from Mrs. O. Mulder, whom we had heard had been drowned with her husband and daughter in the recent flood on the English east coast. Although informed by the floods, they were safe and well.

Bert Benton is a patient in Guelph General hospital following removal of a ruptured spleen which he had from an accident on Main St. at school.

Prize winners at the Hall Board marathon euchre on Wednesday evening included, first, Mrs. A. W. Norton and Ronald Latimer; second, Mrs. S. Robin and Meldrum Stark. Lunch was served at the club.

Gypsum, Lime & Alabaster crushed stone 10.50  
 Ont. Prov. Police salaries 917.24  
 C.N.R. flasher light & bell 122.01  
 F. G. Oakes, mileage 10.00  
 J. McGeechie, expenses 11.56

Bears' Ltd. 16.55  
 Lunnet E. L. Davey, repairs 8.75  
 J. R. Kearney Corp. 12.43  
 Powerlite Devices Ltd. 104.29  
 Petty Cash 21.97

Waterworks Accounts  
 Toth's Garage, oil \$ 13.20  
 Crane Ltd. 241.61  
 Can. Valve & Hydrant Co. 53.05  
 Imperial Oil Ltd. 164.43  
 Morrison Brass, repairs 6.10  
 Blow Press, repairs 9.35  
 Bilton & Perry Ltd. 3.57  
 Acton P.U.C. (hydro), Jan. operations 859.49  
 Commercial Gasoline Eng. 4.95

\$11,342.43

### DEER STRUCK BY CAR IS KILLED INSTANTLY

A small deer was instantly killed late Wednesday evening, February 25, when it was struck by a car driven by James Emble of R.R. 2, Acton. The incident occurred on Silver Creek Hill on Highway No. 24.

The Milton detachment of the Provincial Police investigated and reported about \$50 damage to the grill and radiator of the automobile.



**MARRIED 60 YEARS**, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reed celebrated the event quietly on Sunday with members of the family. Shown here Mr. and Mrs. Reed received many cards and greetings from friends as well as lovely flowers. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have lived in the Acton district all their life. —Staff Photo

### MR. AND MRS. J. H. REED RECALL EARLY DAYS ON 60th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Reed quietly marked the 60th anniversary of their wedding at their Main Street home on Sunday. Immediately before the family were with Mr. and Mrs. Reed and many friends in Acton and district called to extend congratulations.

Not many couples have the privilege of marking their diamond wedding anniversary and Mr. and Mrs. Reed have the unique experience of having spent their 60th year in Acton and district. The couple were married in Erin township, March 1, 1893. They took up farming on the homestead at lot 22, first line of Erin where Mr. Reed was born in 1867 and after ten years on this 200 acre farm, he sold it to his brother-in-law and came to Acton to reside in 1903. They purchased their Main Street home and have resided there for the past half century. The farm is now owned by the fourth generation of the Reed family.

At the wedding in 1893 the bride was Mrs. Martin Rowan of Dunnville and the groomman was Richard Johnston of Acton, both of whom are still living and in very good health.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed recalled many changes in Acton during their long residence here. Beardmore and Co. and Storey Glove Co. were the only industries in Acton in 1903. The street lighting was by oil lamps and they recall when the municipally owned electric plant was put in operation for lighting purposes on streets and in homes only. Now we have waterworks, sewers, new

highways, paved streets and a multitude of services which were recalled by this couple.

In 1912 Mr. Reed recalled there were three automobiles in Acton. They were owned by Allan Smith, Ronald Sinclair and Mr. Ross, a touring car, a two passenger model T Ford. Gasoline was 10¢ a gallon and every car owner had a drum of 50 gallon capacity which was supplied by a Guelph distributor.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed who taught at the school and he was rather proud of the advancement. Acton had made its educational matters and the first modern high school was available for the children.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed have been busy in their church work. He is in charge of the Acton United church and prior to that was in charge of Knox church. Mrs. Reed was made a life member of the W. M. Society in Knox church on Sunday, were their daughters, Mrs. Harley Bregall, Toronto, and son Harold, of Hamilton and four grandsons were in attendance. As well as callers from Acton, there were friends from Hillsburgh, Guelph and Toronto and flowers and cards conveyed many messages of congratulation.

The Free Press joins with other friends in congratulations to this fine Acton couple on their diamond wedding anniversary and the hope they will enjoy many more happy years together. The Free Press has been going to that home through all the 60 years and they are among its oldest subscribers.



"SUNSHINE BUDGET" for 1953 was introduced in Acton council Monday evening when the 51 mill rate was approved. The 13 mill reduction over last year's all time high represented better than a 20 per cent. cut in planned expenditure. Big items in the budget were the debenture debt and education. Shown from the left around the table are Clerk J. McGeechie, Councilors L. Weick, J. Greer, C. Lindsay, Reeve Stewart, Mayor Oakes, Deputy Reeve Thompson, Councilors W. McEwen, E. Tyler and A. Brown. —Staff Photo

### Lived for 45 Years Here, Moves Away

On Thursday night last, a large group of friends and neighbors met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson to spend a pleasant evening with James Taylor, who has sold his home and is leaving town. Mr. Taylor has been a resident of Brook Ave. for 38 years and of Acton for 45 years.

Mr. Taylor has been a respected citizen and father, keeping his home together following the passing of his wife, the former Mabel Hall. His four sons all were in the army during the second world war. George, the youngest paying the supreme sacrifice. Herbert is in Guelph, Henry in London and Joe in Toronto. Mr. Taylor plans to make his home in London and Guelph with his sons and their families.

On behalf of the friends, Miss Folster and Mrs. Theiford presented Mr. Taylor with a travelling bag as a remembrance of his friendship for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Vic Patrick have purchased Mr. Taylor's home.

### Board Considers Extension of P.A.

The public school board, meeting on Tuesday, March 3, considered whether washrooms should be equipped with speakers so the children could be summoned to classrooms on time, and the secretary was to secure the cost. Chairman Tom Watson presided at the meeting which was held in the school and attended by all the trustees.

The board approved a donation of \$25 to the Hamilton Music Festival, a polo program for grades four to eight, grade eight visit to the museum and parliament buildings before Easter and the request of the Home and School Association for use of the general purpose room for March 24. Since the set policy of the board is that no dances may be held in the school other than those for school activities the board could not comply with the request of the Phoenix club.

The secretary reported receipt of \$45 non-resident fees from school area No. 1 also \$105 January non-resident fees and \$105 February non-resident fees. A requisition for supplies was approved.

The frame for the fire door had arrived the secretary reported, and would be duly installed for the fire door when it arrived.

Mr. Gordon promised delivery of trucks for chairs for the general purpose storage within two weeks, it was reported.

The financial statement of \$447.61 was approved and payment authorized. The secretary was instructed to assess to the N.H.S.D. Board \$177.80 February plant operation cost.

### Halton County Estimated Unconditional Grants to Municipalities

	1951	1952	Police	Unconditional		
	Census	Fire & 1 mill	Rate	Per Capita	Grant	% of
	Population	guaranteed		Rate	Amt	Increase
Acton	2,881	2,544	1.60	4.608	81%	
Milton	2,451	795	1.60	3,922	39%	
Georgetown	3,452	3,119	1.60	5,523	77%	
Burlington	6,017	6,634	1.75	10,530	59%	
Oakville	6,910	10,196	1.75	12,093	18%	
Bronte	1,106	674	1.50	1,662	146%	
Esquesing	4,012	1,414	1.60	6,419	354%	
Nassagaweya	1,970	1,970	1.50	2,955	150%	
Nelson	8,193	2,960	1.75	14,338	385%	
Trafalgar	7,010	3,668	1.75	12,287	234%	
Totals			33,102	74,317		
				Increase for Halton \$41,315		

### New Legislation Boosts Acton's Grant For 1954

Changes in grants announced recently by Premier Leslie Frost will add \$41,215 to municipal funds in Halton, Stanley Hall, M.P.P., said. The extra amount will be paid by the Provincial Government to the county's ten municipalities on the new basis of so much per capita. Milton, Acton and Georgetown and Esquesing will be paid \$1.60 per capita on the basis of the 1951 census. Burlington, Oakville, Nelson and Trafalgar get a \$1.75 rate and Bronte and Nassagaweya get the \$1.50 rate.

Formerly police and fire grants paid by the Province were conditional on the basis of the amount spent by the municipality. Under the new arrangement the amount received is to be an unconditional grant that can be used for any purpose.

Milton gets the greatest increase according to figures prepared by Mr. Hall. A grant in 1952 of \$795 on fire and police protection will be increased in 1954, under the new legislation, to \$3,922 or an increase of 393 per cent.

Nelson township will get the next highest increase of 385 per cent. In 1952 their grants on fire and police totalled \$2,960 and in 1954 they will receive a total of \$14,338, an increase of \$11,378.

Esquesing will receive an increase of 354 per cent from the \$1,414 grant to \$6,419 in 1954, an increase of \$5,005.

Trafalgar township will receive an increase of 234 per cent from \$3,668 in 1952 to \$12,287 in 1954. Nassagaweya will receive an increase of 169 per cent, or \$1,857 more than in 1952 under the arrangement for fire and police grants.

Bronte will receive an increase of \$988 or 146 per cent above the 1952 grant of \$674. Acton will receive an increase of 81 per cent, according to the figures, an increase of \$2,064 above the \$2,544, 1952 figure.

Georgetown will receive an increase of \$2,404 or 77 per cent over the \$3,119 figure.

Burlington and Oakville receive the smallest increases in the county with Burlington receiving an increase of 59 per cent and Oakville 18 per cent.

These grants will be effective in January, 1954, according to the bill. Provision has been made to review the population when there has been a change either up or down of seven per cent.

Two churches benefitted from the Minstrel Show, which was enjoyed by a crowd of about 350 in the public school auditorium last Friday evening. The Merry Mountain Minstrels of Hamilton who put on the show are earning money to purchase an organ for Olivet United church in Hamilton. The group's appearance here was sponsored by the Acton United church choir.

About 40 in blackface, dressed in blue and red shirts, comprised the chorus while the program also featured the traditional end men, Mister Interlocutor, soloists, instrumentalists and a lady who led solos. Rev. Carson, minister of the church, was in the chorus and Mrs. Carson directed the group.

Their jokes and stunts were well received. Choir president Rae West welcomed the audience. The Hamilton cast and their friends were served coffee and refreshments after the conclusion of the program.

### Acton Flood Relief Total \$947.83



**PUBLIC SPEAKING** trophy was presented to Raymond Brada on Thursday, February 26 at the public school senior assembly by its donor, B. D. Rachlin Raymond Brada, with the other winners in Acton public school, goes on to compete against winners in other schools, and eventually a county public speaking champion will be selected. His name will be engraved on the trophy which will remain at the school, and Raymond will have a smaller trophy to keep. —Staff Photo