

### "CLEAR AND DISTINCT" SCHOOL BELL HUNG IN 1893 IS LOWERED IN 1953

Back in 1892, Acton had the finest school in Halton county. It is part of that "beautiful and commodious school" that is being altered this month. While the brick school was beautiful indeed in the staid 1890's, it looks sadly old-fashioned beside the new addition which has now been in operation for a year.

This month, the front porch is being replaced by a modern one, the bell and belfry are removed and the roof, which has borne the snows of 60 winters, is being reshingled.

School Inspector Deacon whom we could imagine with a neatly trimmed beard and conservative dark suit, reported on the new school in Acton to county council in May of 1893.

"Acton furnished the most gratifying improvement during 1892. For a number of years the fourth department had been located in a small room in the town hall. The attendance became so large that increased accommodation was an imperative necessity. Instead of adopting half-way measures, the Board pulled down one of the old rooms and built a beautiful and commodious four-roomed building in front of the remaining two. Acton has now the most ample accommodation and the finest public school building in Halton.

The structure is of Terra Cotta brick, with deck roof, closed porch and basement. The rooms are properly lighted, well ventilated, and are heated by furnaces. The

ceilings of the first floor are of matched boards, the others are plastered. The cost was nearly \$6,000."

Acton's school board of the day had a long discussion in February of 1892, when, according to the Free Press, "the members of the school board are still on the ragged edge of indecision in the matter of building."

The discussion of the new addition to the old school, the progress over the next months and finally the pride and praise, parallel the newest addition to the school. Board members declared the old school was "all poor in the matter of heat, light and ventilation."

"It is certainly not a modern school building," said the chairman, "but I have been in worse schools."

"Mr. Cooke: Wouldn't it cost more than half as much to repair the old rooms and build two new ones as a complete new building?" "A volume of desultory conversation here ensued, in which various suggestions of a more or less practical nature were presented. "Several members: What would it cost?"

And so on it went, with discussion among George Hynds, R. Holmes, Rev. G. B. Cooke, T. H. Harding, James McLam and Robert Wallace.

A by-law to issue debentures was finally passed in May, and the new addition was underway.

It wasn't until November that an omission in the perfection of the new school was brought to light. What about a bell for the tower?

The building was completed before the bell was ordered for its crowning glory in April of the next year.

A Christmas present to the town, the school was completed about the middle of December, 1892.

The building presents a commanding appearance, its architectural outline producing a pleasing and handsome effect from all points of view. It is surmounted by a fine belfry. (The account failed to mention that the fine belfry was empty.)

Have you noticed the scaffolding where the old entrance used to be? The entrance that has just disappeared was one of the best points of the school in 1892. Many a chilly citizen walked over to admire the "commodious portico of artistic design" which opened into the vestibule by heavy panelled doors. There a fine wide staircase led to the upper rooms.

The town was proud indeed of the wonderful heating system — one of the reasons Acton needed a new school in 1951!

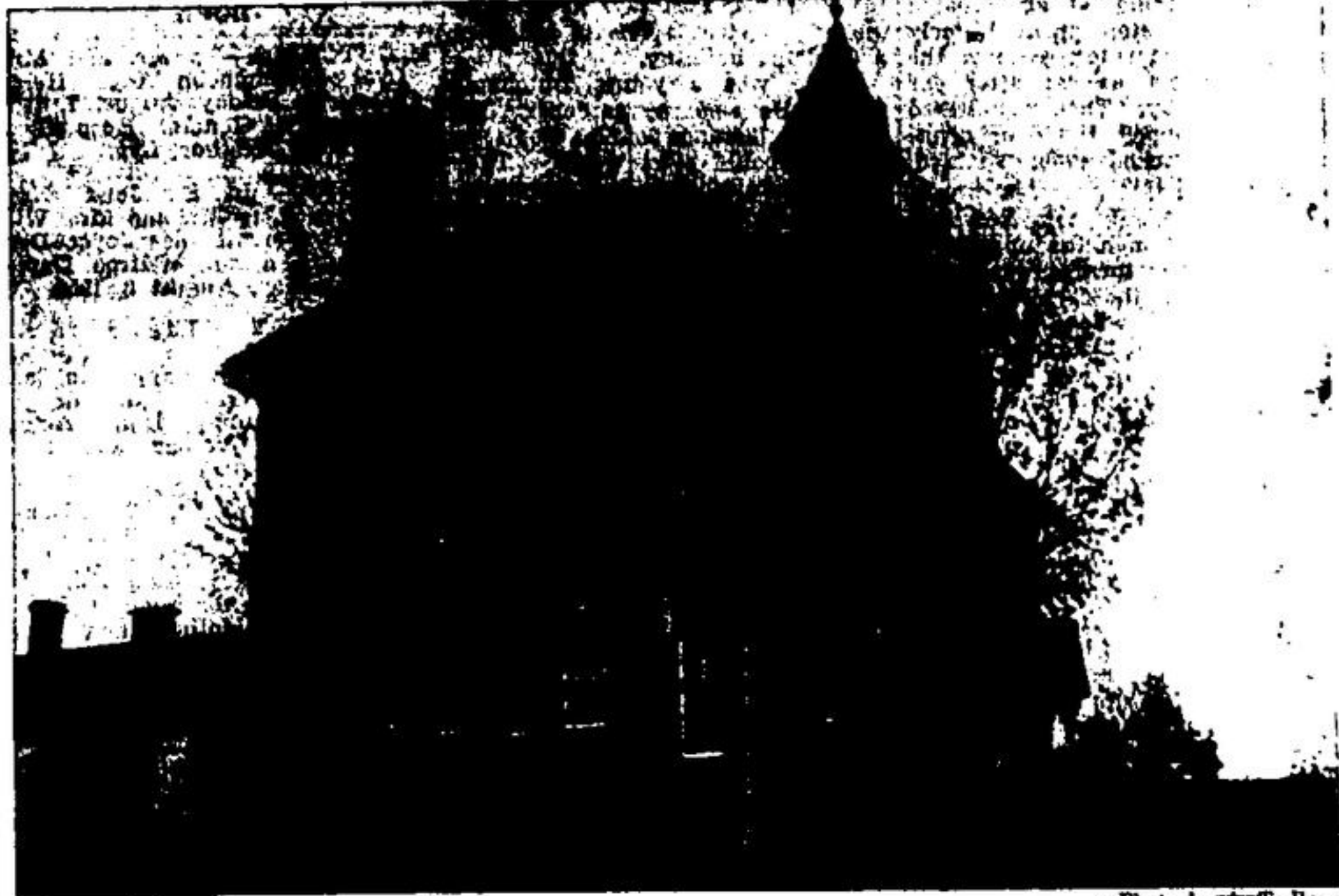
1892 was a busy year "fraught with perplexities" for the board. The result? A building and premises which gave "the greatest comfort and convenience as well as perfect sanitation, at lowest possible cost." Lowest possible cost? We can well believe that — the new school addition, complete with basement and much-admired belfry — was \$6,000.

There are still some in town who went to school in the new building after the Christmas holidays. It was in May that the new bell was finally hung in the almost-new belfry.

The Free Press said: "The new school bell has been hung and is now in daily use. It is clear and distinct and has a peculiarly sweet tone."

To some, perhaps, the idea that a school bell could sound sweet is indeed — peculiar.

## TALES ON TINTYPES



—Photo by A. T. Brown

This was the Acton Public School in October 1898, as recorded by A. T. Brown's busy camera. It will be noted that the brick addition built over the original stone schoolhouse had not yet been erected. At that time the windows of the old stone building were boarded up and the only part in use was the four room brick section which was erected in 1892.

Seems to us that we used to recall a bell on the old stone building, but it is not visible in this picture. When the four room brick building became inadequate, a room in the stone school was reopened. Then the High School found quarters in the stone building when it was opened in Acton fifty years ago. Again the children became too numerous for the five rooms in the public school and about forty years ago a second storey was put on top of the stone building

and the High School moved upstairs. It took only another few years more and in 1927 the Public School required all the building space and the High School was moved to another building, the remodelled residence of the late C. S. Smith.

Six or seven years ago a portable room was added for Public School accommodation and this year the new addition to the Public School was added bringing the total classrooms in use now to over twenty units. Now the Public School will expand again and next year require the rooms occupied by the High School which will have a new location in the east end of Acton.

Yes, there have been many changes since October 1898 when the above picture was taken. The belfry has gone from the public school and the four room section is now only a small part of pub-

lic school buildings, which look after the children of Acton. None will deny however, that the original buildings were well constructed and have certainly stood well the passing of time and several generations of children. (Copyrighted)



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### FASHION HINT



Shrug sweaters are handy to have in the summer. The abbreviated sweaters, usually with one button at the top, are much easier to carry than a coat, and do the same job on a chilly evening. And there's no doubt about it, some August evenings are chilly.

White is the most popular color for the summer evening casual sweaters.

There's no crystal ball required to see sweaters in the future! The sweaters are really glorified for fall, from beautifully sequined ones to others with plain, tailor-looking braiding. Warmth is not one of the main attributes of sweaters any more — especially evening sweaters. They are scooped, tucked, beribboned — decorated in any number of ways. Prices vary very widely.

### Nurseries Unable To Meet Demands

From its tree nurseries at St. Williams and Midhurst, Orono, Kemptonville and Fort William, the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests has begun shipment of the more than 22,000,000 young trees which will be planted throughout the Province this year in the Department's reforestation program. More than 6,000 requests for trees have been received and officials say the supply available will be insufficient to meet the demand, even though this year's shipments are expected to be more than half a million ahead of 1952.

Young trees are supplied by the Department to private land owners and to municipalities and forest-minded organizations at a nominal charge. They must be planted as shelter belts or to replenish woodlots and under conditions suitable for their proper growth. It is estimated that about 12 million trees will go out to private planters, 80 to 85 per cent, of whom have shown preference for evergreens because of higher survival rate and general suitability.

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Manufacturers in many fields keep coming up with new uses for aluminum. And our research people are often called on for help in finding a remedy for their production aches and pains. Many times the result is another Canadian plant opening up to make a new and useful aluminum product. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcan).

### Tips on Touring

By Carol Lane

#### Women's Travel Authority

The birds and beasts are getting ready to peer down gun sights, and many people will be heading for some back-to-nature retreat where the nearest store is "ten miles down the road at least."

The man in the family may be the hunting authority, but the little woman can point to a few items on her kitchen shelves that would save him many an emergency trip back to civilization.

Baking soda, for instance, will disinfect minor wounds, help in digestion, squelch small fires, and even clear bugs off the windshield. With tin foil you can improvise baking pans, keep sandwiches fresh and free of moisture when dining in dank spots.

Plastic cement is another multiple purpose emergency aid since it can be used to mend everything from rubber boots to torn sheets or tackle and leaking car windows.

Those puffed vegetable storage bags come in mighty handy for keeping cigarettes and matches dry if he's slipped while trying to land that big one!

And if the lady of the house is going to face nature in the raw, I suggest a waterproof blanket to keep her dry indoors and out.

### Field Competition Successful—Judge

Acton Agricultural Society had a successful Field Crop Competition in Oats according to Elgin Laughlin, Caledon, Ont. judge for the 22 farmers entered in the competition.

The quality of the fields was a credit to the Society and a benefit to the community the judge said. The seed from Foundation and Registered Stock spread through any county is certainly a great boost in the growing of good, pure seed. Beaver variety was the most common, one good field of Lauraine and a good field of Simcoe, which seems to be coming quite popular and was near the top of the list. "So let's hope that other Societies will take these field crops a little more seriously and keep the good seed spreading," Mr. Laughlin concluded.

The following are the points by the entrants and the first eight are the money prize winners:

- George Wallace, 35, Calton, Acton
- kin, 34, S. E. Griffin & Son, 93 1/2
- Albert Gray, 91, Ernie Benham, 86,
- Gordon Leslie, 85, H. Bayne, 94,
- Robt. Kerr & Son, 83, F. Moore,
- 82 1/2, C. W. Swackhamer, 82, R.
- Denny, 81, A. Swackhamer, 80, H.
- McIntyre, 79 1/2, Miller Bros, 79, H.
- McCullough, 78, Thos. Finca, 77, J.
- Ferguson, 78, E. R. Passmore, 76,
- H. Reid, 76, J. Thompson, 75, Lloyd
- Thomas, 72, Don Mathews, 68.

"Unmarried" asked the census taker. "Oh, dear, no," replied the poor little lady, blushing. "I've never even been married."

# Huskiest HAULERS

## BY THE PACKAGE

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