

# The Acton Free Press.

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## FREE PRESS COPS TOP SPOT IN CONTEST



Photo by M. Z. Taylor

**HIGHEST HONOR THE FEDERATION OF Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario can bestow was awarded on Wednesday evening to Miss M. Z. Bennett of Acton. A life membership in the federation was presented to the retired Acton teacher and seven others at a dinner in Toronto, and represents recognition of outstanding and meritorious service to education or the teaching profession. Miss Bennett taught in Acton public school for 32 years, 19 of them as principal. For 27 years she served as secretary of the Halton Teachers' Institute. Miss Bennett retired in June, 1939.**

### HIGHEST HONOR OF FEDERATION PRESENTED TO MISS M. Z. BENNETT

Miss M. Z. Bennett of Acton has been presented with the highest award the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, representing Ontario's 15,000 public school women teachers, can confer. The ceremony took place at the 35th annual dinner of the Federation held in Toronto last evening, Wednesday, August 26. An honorary life membership was presented to Miss Bennett and to seven other teachers. As well as a certificate, Miss Bennett received a corsage of roses and carnations. She spoke a few words to the nearly 500 who attended the banquet in the Royal York Hotel. Commenting on the award, Miss Margaret Bennie of Leamington, president of the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, said: "What was taught in our Ontario classrooms years ago has played its part in the development of Canada. Just as what is taught in the classroom to-day by responsible and qualified teacher-citizens shapes the sort of country we shall have years from now. If the women teacher pioneers of the province, represented by Miss Bennett, had neglected their responsibilities as teachers of the very young, Canada today would be a

poorer country in matters temporal and matters spiritual." Miss Bennett retired in June, 1939, from the teaching staff of the Acton Public School, where she had taught for 32 years as teacher, 19 of them as principal. For 27 years she served as secretary of the Halton Teachers' Institute and thus became well known to all the teachers of the county. Although she has retired from teaching, she still leads an active life, working in the I.O.D.E. and with the Friendly Circle of the United Church. Other teachers who received the Federation's highest award, given for outstanding and meritorious service to education or the profession of teaching, were Mabel Sabine, Hamilton; Katharine McKellar, Toronto; Miss J. Lyle Beatty, Pembroke; Eva Langley, Fort William; Mrs. Bessie Falconer, York township; Susan Hardie, Brantford and Elizabeth Hoppen, Kingston. Miss Bennett was first informed of the decision in May. Friends in Acton who have first-hand knowledge of her valuable contribution to education and church work in the town will feel that Miss Bennett is indeed worthy of the high honor.

### Ground Dedicated For Scout Chapel

Ground for a new chapel was dedicated at an afternoon service on Sunday at Blue Springs scout reserve near Acton, on the last day of the Gilwell classes reunion. The site for the new chapel, near the Blue Springs pond, has been cleared and trees planted. Uniformed scout and guide leaders sat on the sloping ground as Rev. A. S. Mitchell of Hamilton dedicated the ground. Scripture reading was by Cecil Smith, district scout master of York central and prayers by William DeHarte, scout master of the 15th scout troop, Hamilton. The address was given by R. D. F. Bourne, Hamilton, assistant regional commissioner. Among others present were F. C. Irwin, provincial executive committee of the Boy Scouts, W. J. H. Tisdale, provincial commissioner, B. H. Montlock, executive committee, Ottawa, a representative of Canadian headquarters, Mrs. Mitchell played the organ.

### SILVER-WOOD

### Scottish Delegate Visits in District

Eleven members of the Silver-Wood W. I. attended the Canada Day conference of the Associated Country Women of the World, held in Toronto last week. A family gathering of 27 spent Sunday, August 23, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Corbett. Mrs. John Inglis, delegate to the A.C.W.W. from Scotland, spent a few days with Mrs. R. Corbett and Mrs. Ern Batkin.

### MANOR FOLKS ENJOY SUNDAY CONCERT

Residents of the Halton Centennial Manor enjoyed a special treat last Sunday—an afternoon concert given for them on the Manor lawn by the Oakville Citizens' Band and Legion Pipe Band. Members of the Oakville Legion, and ladies of the Auxiliary motored to Milton in several buses and cars and both bands gave a program. The pipe band serenaded the folk in the special care wing and every resident was presented with a silver dollar. A number of visitors from Milton, and Oakville also enjoyed the concert and refreshments. Mayor James Black of Oakville and Rev. L. McArthur were among the guests.

### Provincial Grant For Pool Detailed

Details of making application for a provincial grant were explained at a meeting of the swimming pool committee on Wednesday, August 19. This was to be looked after when the pool was completed and all monies paid out. It was reported that Amos Mason is still supervising the youngsters in the new junior pool. The leak in the drain in the new pool is to be repaired by the contractor. Since the repairs necessitate a shut-down of the pool for about a week the work was to be delayed until after Labor Day at least. Accounts totalling \$263.23 for pipe, the laying of pipe and padlock were passed. Present at the meeting were A. Mason, R. Parker, J. Creighton, G. A. Dills and J. McGeachie.

### MISSING IN ACTION IN KOREA PTE. D. J. GUNN IS LIBERATED

Pte. Donald James (Jimmy) Gunn, who after volunteering for sniper duty, was reported missing and believed killed in action, was released from captivity in Korea Monday night and taken to Freedom Village. Pte. Gunn, whose parents live in Toronto, lived and worked in Acton before joining the army as a paratrooper. He received his paratrooper's wings in Manitoba and left for Korea in September, 1952, from Petawawa. Eight Canadians were released by the Communists this week. The first name on the list was that of Pte. Gunn, 3rd battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment. None of the eight was imprisoned for more than four months and they were reported bright and happy. Main complaint was about the food. When the truce was signed in Korea, the Free Press, believing Pte. Gunn killed in action, listed only two Acton soldiers in the country: Pte. B. J. Fetterly and Pte. M. McCristall. Evidently one of the first Canadians released brought word that Pte. Gunn was

safe in prison camp. He is a grandson of S. Lasby, owner of the Station Hotel. Pte. Gunn was apparently taken prisoner in an action on May 2 during a Chinese attack against the regiment. The release of eight Canadians brings the number of Canadians returned from prison camps to 24. Number of Americans freed is 123.

### Converge on Acton

Sirens will scream around the county and four fire trucks will converge on Acton, focal point of another Mutual Fire Aid practice and demonstration Friday evening about 7 p.m. Chief S. Tennant reported this week. The trucks from Georgetown, Milton and Trafalgar, plus the Acton truck will be on hand to lay lengths of hose pumping water for almost a mile. Acton's old fire truck will leave shortly before the strategic deadline to protect Georgetown in case of fire in that area during the demonstration in Acton. All other centres in the county will also be protected. Chief Tennant explained that the Acton truck would be stationed behind Baxter Laboratories plant and hose would be laid carrying water to a distant point. Demonstrations of this type have been held in Milton but this is the first demonstration of this kind slated for Acton early Friday evening.

### Mrs. Jany Hostess To Church Group

Mrs. J. Jany was hostess for the August meeting of the Knox Ladies' Aid on Tuesday afternoon. The president, Mrs. McCutcheon, presided. Mrs. E. Grindell read a psalm and Mrs. A. J. Buchanan presented a prayer based on the Lord's prayer with all uniting in repeating this in conclusion. Following the business period, when the fall work was discussed and planned, Mrs. W. Ballentine gave a reading entitled, "Prayer and Potatoes." Mrs. Robert Parker also gave a reading, "Wanted—A Minister's Wife." Mrs. E. Smith conducted a conundrum quiz with Mrs. Ballentine winning the award. The meeting closed with a prayer and a social time was enjoyed when the group of Mrs. E. Smith, Mrs. A. Young, Mrs. E. Grindell and Mrs. Peter Murray served lunch. Mrs. A. J. Buchanan expressed a vote of appreciation to the hostess and committee. The aim of forest management is yield on a perpetual basis.



**DR. G. A. SIRRS**, well-known in Acton and a leader in minor sports work, died suddenly on Friday of last week while holidaying in the east. Funeral services were held on Tuesday of this week in Toronto.

### Water at Low Ebb As Reservoirs Drop

Increases in consumption of from 500,000 to 600,000 gallons of water per week were reported by Waterworks Superintendent J. Lambert as supplies in the reservoirs dwindled in the middle of the week. Acton industry and domestic users are consuming about a million and a half gallons of water a week for the last three weeks, the superintendent pointed out. He explained that he hoped the reservoirs would be filled up over the weekend when industrial consumption is at a low point. The one spring at the original source has been dry for about four weeks, cutting off a supply of the water source from this area. A 50,000 gallon reservoir at the spring, a 60,000 gallon stand pipe and a 140,000 gallon reservoir at the pump house have been barely able to store sufficient supply to keep the even flow. The well on Main St. north is providing 80 gallons per minute and doubling that amount is produced from the spring.

### Oldest Business Changes Owners

The oldest established business in Acton changed ownership this week when Elliott Bros. sold their general store to H. H. Hinton, owner of another store just two doors west. The sale includes the building, stock and fixtures. This business property was established by Henderson & Christie who were followed by Henderson & Sons and later Melzack and Conway and was purchased 20 years ago by Elliott Bros. from the estate of the late Malcolm McLean. It has been a general store in Acton for 75 years or more. Mr. Hinton has not announced his plans for use of the property. Messrs. H. Hinton and Harold Elliott have no announcement of their plans either, but the many friends they have made here during the past twenty years will hope they continue to make their residence in Acton.

### Mrs. L. Ramsay Dies in California

Funeral services were held at the Victor B. Rumley funeral home on Sunday August 16 for Mrs. Louise Ramsay, who passed away in Santa Clara, California. She was born near Morrison, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Fahrner. In early life she taught music in the communities around Morrison and Fredon and also sang for some years in the Morrison church choir. After her marriage to A. E. Ramsay they resided in St. Thomas and Eden Mills and from there moved to California where she had resided for over 30 years. She was in her 82nd year. Interment was in Ebenezer Cemetery. Services were conducted by the Rev. N. H. Rebling of Evangelical Church, Morrison. Miss Martha Debo, also of Morrison, a life-long friend of the family, sang a solo.

### OBITUARY Sports Enthusiast Dr. G. Sirrs Dies

A man who meant a lot to Acton minor sports and assisted in giving many youngsters their chance in sports, Dr. George A. Sirrs died suddenly while holidaying at Amberley, Nova Scotia, on Friday of last week. Dr. Sirrs was active in the organization of the Acton Minor Sports Club. He coached and managed many hockey and baseball teams during his stay here. Doctor Sirrs recently moved to Newtonbrook after selling his dental practice here. A great believer in sport as a character builder, Dr. Sirrs devoted most of his free time to its furtherance. During his tenure as president and secretary of the Minor Sports club he made many friends among the youth of the town and district and was instrumental in several of them moving to bigger things. In April of this year more than 100 boys attended a Minor Sports Association banquet at which they honored Dr. Sirrs and presented him with a brochure in recognition of his services to minor sport in Acton. Funeral services were held from the Trull Funeral Home, Yonge St., Toronto, on Tuesday, with interment at Prospect Cemetery. Surviving Dr. Sirrs are his wife, the former Doris Hewett, a daughter Mary and a son, Hewett.

### Free Press Claims Honors In Canada-Wide Contest

The Acton Free Press was declared "one of Canada's leading weekly newspapers" today as results of the Canada-wide better newspaper competition were announced in Saskatoon where Publisher G. A. Dills is attending the annual convention and will receive the trophy from the President of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association at the trophy dinner on Saturday evening at the Hessborough Hotel. The Hugh Savage Shield for the Best All-Round paper is awarded to newspapers in class four of the competition based on circulation. Second place in the class went to the *Morden Times*, Manitoba, and third place to the *Canadian Champion*, Milton, also published by G. A. Dills.



Photo by M. Z. Taylor

The Hugh Savage Shield was taken won by the *Free Press* in the 1941-42 competition in a lower class for the best all-round paper. Steadily increasing circulation based on the Audit Bureau of Circulations standards lifted the paper to a higher class. The A.B.C. standard of circulation is the highest on which a newspaper's distribution can be based with circulation records added. The Acton Free Press is one of two newspapers in Halton qualifying for this high standard of circulation. The class won by the *Free Press* was far papers having between 751 and 1,500 circulation. The competition was judged on the basis of the front page taking into consideration the lead news, headlines, layout and general impression, the editorial page considering the local editorials, general editorials, originality and appearance and special features, community news, local and general news pictures, typography, make-up, presswork.

### Right Step

Yes, sir, it's going to be done! You've probably wondered why it hasn't been before, but it will be this year. The grandstand in Acton Park is going to receive a brightening coat of paint plus the necessary structural repairs to keep it in operation. President of the Fall Fair this year, Mac Sprowl, assured the Fair officials that the work by the Fair officials would add immeasurably to the features planned for this annual two-day event. Through the long history of the grandstand that has held some really capacity crowds, no one has ever painted it. That is to be remedied this year by the officials who intervened and saved the structure from demolition after conflict decided not to repair it. Ad in the *Chatanovga Times*, 4 room house, hot water heater, hardwood floors.

### W. J. Reid Passes In Guelph Hospital

Many relatives and friends in the Acton district were saddened by the death of a long-time resident of the town, William Jeremiah Reid, in his 88th year. Mr. Reid who lived at 24 Mill St. passed away on August 18 in Guelph General Hospital after an illness of two weeks. He had been retired for the past several years, having been last employed by Beardmore and Co. Born in 1866 in Saginaw, Michigan, Mr. Reid came to Acton as a child. He attended high school in Georgetown and business college in Guelph. Apart from 12 years in Toronto and visits there, he lived almost all his life in Acton. He is predeceased by his wife whom he married in 1906 at Berlin, Ontario. He was a past member of W. K. Lodge and a member of Knox Presbyterian Church. Masonic funeral was held on August 21 at the Victor B. Rumley funeral home, conducted by Rev. Anderson. Pallbearers were James Dobbie of Clifford and Frank McIntosh, John Frank J. M. Steele, L. L. Mullin and E. S. Cooper of Acton. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Acton. Surviving Mr. Reid are four sons: N. Harold, Ray, Reid, Footes, Bay, Muskoka; W. H. Pete, Reid, Toronto; Gordon T. Reid, Port Colborne; and Mervin J. Reid, Acton, and one brother Robert L. Davidson, Acton.

TOP HONORS were won by the Acton Free Press, judged the best all-round weekly newspaper in class IV and awarded the Hugh Savage Shield shown here, as results were announced in the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association contest open to more than 500 weekly newspapers across Canada. The trophy will be awarded in Saskatoon at the annual convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association. Publisher G. A. Dills will receive the Free Press award.