

# The Acton Free Press.

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## Condition of Ryder Boy Reported Good

General condition of nine-year-old Bryan Ryder, hospitalized with two fractures to the right leg and a possible third fracture following an accident here Friday afternoon, was this week reported to be "good."

The young Acton boy, struck by a car near the cemetery hill Friday while out playing, is the son of Mrs. Betty Ryder.

In addition to the leg fractures, the Ryder boy suffered minor abrasions to the face and hands.

Cpl. Ray Mason of the local provincial police detachment, investigating the accident, Cpl. Mason said no charges have been laid against the driver of the car, George Oliver of Kitchener.

Oliver was travelling north on Highway 25 when the accident occurred.

## Suffers Head Cuts In Two Car Crash

When two cars were in collision at the Campbellville sideroad and first line of Nassagaweya, Phyllis Coulter suffered head cuts and was taken to Milton Private hospital for treatment.

Miss Coulter, who was driving, was travelling west on the Campbellville sideroad about 9:30 a.m. Saturday when it was involved in the accident with the car travelling north on the first line of Nassagaweya driven by Archie Cairns. Mr. Cairns failed to see the other car due to a dip in the road, it was reported.

Miss Coulter suffered head cuts and concussion. Total damage was estimated at \$600.

## Over \$100 Cleared By Bowling Club

Over \$100 was cleared by the Lawn Bowling Club at their bridge and euchre held last Thursday evening, February 25, in St. Alban's parish hall. The money will be used for repairs and maintenance of the club house and green.

About 20 tables of cards were played, after which winners of bridge and euchre as well as winners of special draws had an opportunity to choose from prizes.

Ladies' high at bridge was Mrs. E. M. Schroeder, who chose an aluminum tray; high men, K. Knox, toaster; low lady, Mrs. K. Knox, kitchen set; low man, J. Creighton, cigarettes.

Euchre: high lady, Mrs. C. Pickett, set book ends and ash trays; high man, J. N. Cunningham, television hostess set, second, Betty Campbell, plastic garden; high, M. Hansen, box chocolates; third, Mrs. J. Mowat, pair men's gloves; W. J. Duval, dry cleaning voucher; low, Mrs. C. W. Taylor, half dozen pairs of children's underwear; June Drysdale, set battle bricks.

Harry Rogers, president of the club, announced the winners of the draw by Charlie Hansen. Joyce Schroeder chose a handmaiden's purse; Mrs. David Drysdale a turkey; Jim Robertson a ham and M. Elliott, a cigarette lighter.

Lunch of sandwiches, cake and coffee was served. Remaining cake was auctioned by R. Robbins. The club expects to sponsor other fund raising events.

## Standard Raised At Annual Meeting

The Canadian Red Poll Cattle Association held its annual meeting in Chiltwack, B.C. on Saturday, February 20. Officers and directors elected were as follows: president, Wilmet McCumb, Hayfield, Man.; vice-president, A. B. Coulter, Campbellville, Ont.; secretary, Campbellville, Ont.; treasurer, H. Sumner, St. Albert, Alta.; directors, Jack Livingstone, Little Fort, B.C.; Joe Marshall, Innisfail, Alta.; Thos. Heggie, Leno, Sask.; P. J. Hoffman, Humbolt, Sask.; George Wilkinson, Portage la Prairie, Man.; W. J. Halbert, Markdale, Ont.; J. L. McEachern, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

It was agreed at this meeting that ROP standard for the breed be raised to 100 lbs. Visitors from the USA were in attendance and joined the group on their visit to Hornby Island as guests of Leslie Bond and Sons, Red Poll breeders there.

## W.M.S., Quilting, Euchre New Events

The community was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Mr. Norman McEachern of Acton who was well known here.

The Evening Auxiliary held a quilt sale at Mrs. M. McLaughlin's last Thursday when two quilts were quilted.

The W.M. held a very successful euchre in the hall last week. High scorers were Mrs. Frank Smith, Mrs. Robbins, gent. Mr. Robbins and George Somerville.

The W.M.S. held their March meeting at the home of Mrs. Ebel Ferguson on Wednesday afternoon.

The deadline for obtaining vehicle permits and drivers' licenses has been extended to March 17.



TRAVELLING MEDICINE SHOWS, trademark of two generations ago, once amused and amazed citizens of Acton on the site occupied by this cement block shed on Mill Street. Now the shed, which over a period of 50 years has at various times been used as a hostelry, grist mill and storage barn, is being dismantled to make way for a modern building. The vanishing local landmark has a colorful history.

## Old Landmark Bows Out Exit

The cement block building on Mill Street, south of Main Street, that is being torn down, has quite a history.

It was erected for stables for the hotel that used to stand where the Bell Telephone office and Simpsons-Sears store and the block of apartments now owned by W. J. McLeod. It is one of the early cement block structures built in Acton.

Some of us with recollections that go back for 50 years or so can recall the wooden sheds and hotel stables that stood on the corner back of the hotel building. One summer night over 50 years ago, the sheds were burned down and the hotel gutted by fire. The hotel was rebuilt and a third storey added by A. Roach, the proprietor. He also built the hotel barn well back from the hotel building on the lot that used to be used for travelling medicine shows.

Perhaps some readers will recall the variety of cures-all that used to be dispensed from this lot. There were remedies for all the ills of which human flesh is prone.

It was the remedy for burns that used to be phenomenal. An iron poker was heated red hot so it seemed in the flickering light and one of the troupe held the searing iron in his hand and drew it through you. You could almost smell the searing flesh.

It was plain torture until the magic lotion was applied and instant relief came and a few minutes later, the sufferer would be playing the piano, with hands crossed or behind his back.

Just like the present day TV, only you stood out in the open on a summer night and watched the show.

But there are other recollections about this lot and the cement block building now being torn down. Mr. and Mrs. Roach had two daughters. For them they had a fine Shetland pony and a little 2-wheeled cart in which the young ladies drove about town. Never remember seeing Mr. Roach attempt to get in the cart. He was a large man.

The pony and equipment was kept in the hotel barn and one night a terrific windstorm blew in the west end of the cement block building. John McEachern was one of the men who went into the building to bring out the pony. More cement blocks came crashing down and Mr. McEachern was crushed beneath them and killed. The pony came out of the wreckage little the worse.

The building was rebuilt and later H. S. Wilson secured it and made it into a grist mill. He sold to David McLellan, who operated the mill for some time. However, the electric power on the farms came along and the need for the second grist mill in Acton diminished and for years the building has not been used, except for storage purposes. It was owned for a time by D. H. Lindsay but is presently owned by W. J. McLeod.

Now it is being torn down to make way for some other structure in the business section of Acton.

We've heard rumors but so far are not confirmed. But it won't be hotel stables or a grist mill that will go up on the site of the old cement block barn.

## Merchants Vote on New Store Hours

### Public School Board Raises Fees Of Non-Residents To \$7 Next September

Following a meeting of the Acton retail merchants' association, ballots are being circulated this week to determine whether or not store hours in town will be changed to meet the trend now current in other centres where Friday night is shopping night instead of Saturday night.

If the majority of local merchants vote in favor of Friday night opening hours here will remain open until 9 p.m. that night and close at 6 p.m. Saturday night.

While most of the merchants attending the Monday night meeting indicate favor of the change, it was pointed out that a 75 per cent majority must be acquired before Acton council could be legitimately asked to change the present by-law.

Earlier, the local association considered the possibility of all-day Monday closing. This, however, did not gain extensive popularity and was discarded at the latest meeting.

Association chairman C. W. Bradley said it is planned to have another meeting next Monday night when results of the ballot circulation will be available.

### Answers Questions On Wool Combing

Mrs. J. L. Allan was hostess to Greenwood, W.I. for their February meeting. The president, Miss Elva Pearen, opened the meeting with the singing of the Institute Ode followed by the Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer in unison. Scripture was read by Mrs. Elwood Johnston.

It being Agriculture and Canadian Industry meeting, the roll call was answered by "Naming a manufacturing firm and giving its location and product." The motto "Where Joy Resides" was well given by Mrs. R. Allan.

Mrs. Angus Thompson took the chair for the following part of the program a short talk was given by Mrs. Hugh Reid on "Some observations made in a recent western trip, on the agricultural, pulpwood and salmon fishing industries."

Robert Healey of the Acton Wool Combing Corporation gave a splendid talk on that industry. Many questions were answered and samples of their products shown. This proved to be very educational and interesting.

Mrs. William Ballentine thanked the speaker on behalf of the Institute.

A pleasant half-hour was spent over the tea cups when a dainty lunch was served by the hostess.

### Games, Service For District Groups

About 50 members of Post-Young Peoples groups from Georgetown, Campbellville and Georgetown were members of the executive committee of the Guelph Presbytery.

At a meeting of the Acton Post-Young Peoples at a social evening at Acton, Wednesday of last week, the speaking party, which had been planned, was replaced by games as there was no skating in town that night. Ping pong, croquet, checkers and other games caused friendly competition in the basement of Knox church.

A short worship service was conducted by J. M. Greer, president of the Acton group. Bill Manprey read the scripture and Bert Halliday the prayer. Rev. Calder of Georgetown pronounced the benediction.

### Overseas ?

How many soldiers from Acton and the district are serving overseas in Korea, Japan or Europe?

The Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, which sends parcels to service men overseas, is anxious to have the names and addresses of all local soldiers, sailors or airmen. Anyone with information that may help complete the auxiliary list is asked to contact Mrs. Wilfred Colton. Her telephone number is 2531, Acton.

## Council Advances HS Board \$10,000 Drawing Account

Measures to assure the North Halton District High School Board that debenture funds for building costs will be available when needed were explained Monday night by the board secretary to local council members who later agreed to advance \$10,000 to the board as a drawing account on Acton High School.

## Bibles Presented To Public School

A most impressive ceremony took place Wednesday morning of last week in the public school when three local representatives presented 40 Bibles for the use of grades five, six and seven.

Principal G. W. McKenzie introduced and welcomed the visitors, who gave a brief outline of the Gideon ministry, emphasizing the supreme importance of reading the Bible and understanding its message, using as a typical passage Proverbs 4: 1-9. After a prayer of dedication by Rev. E. A. Curry, representing the local Ministerial Association, a token copy of the scriptures was presented to Mr. McKenzie, who accepted it on behalf of the school and staff.

The ceremony closed with prayer for divine blessing on the use of these Bibles, which came as gifts through the Memorial Bible Plan sponsored by the Gideons, whereby friends donate the equivalent value of cut flowers on the occasion of the passing away of their loved ones.

## Citizens Warned Of Latest Fraud Racket

The old "chimney repair gang" is suspected to be involved in a new swindle, local police have been advised, and citizens are warned to be wary lest they're taken in by this latest fraud set-up.

According to information received by police here, the gang which is operating in Western Ontario, uses two forms of modus operandi:—

Three men drive up to the residence of the selected victim, usually an older person. Two of the men tell the victim they are representatives of the local bank and are checking account signatures. They ask for the victim's bank book and inform him that a fresh signature is needed since as people grow older, signatures change. They then have the victim put his signature on a folded paper or blank cheque, take the book with them and claim they'll return it later.

The second method is similar as above, but the victim is informed the men are income tax inspectors and it is necessary to check accounts, bank balances, etcetera. After obtaining the account number from the victim's bank book, they have him put his signature on a folded paper, calling this paper an inspection report. The folded paper covers a blank cheque.

After either procedure, the swindlers then go to the victim's bank and cash the cheques for as much as the account will bear.

## J. McGeachie Tells Of Iowa Conference

The regular meeting of the Acton Y.M.C. club was held on February 25 with a good number of members in attendance. Doug Rogers was finesmaster for the evening.

Jack McGeachie, who was the club's representative to the Y.M.C. International Conference held at Davenport, Iowa, last July was the guest speaker. He gave an interesting account of his trip to the conference and brought many items of interest back to the club from the conference. His talk was well received by the club members and he was suitably thanked by Tom Jones.

During the evening Orland Robbins showed a film entitled "Haliburton." It depicted the fine holiday resort and scenery available to tourists who would be spending their holidays in that vicinity.

## Head For Top Spot With Second Win

Following a win by Norval Monday next week may see the last game of the Halton junior farm school hockey league. Norval has defeated Palermo two games in succession in the three-out-of-five series that concludes the season of the members.

The next week will see the start of the season with Norval one goal ahead of Palermo at the time of the closing score. Norval 5, Palermo 4.

Family games on the evening of last week were Curvington and Vivian R. Cunningham scored one for Norval and J. Cunningham two for Vivian and K. W. each whammed home two for Palermo. Other Norval scorers were J. Currie and E. Wilson.

Assists for the winners were credited to E. Wilson, J. Cunningham and D. Smith. Palermo assists were by G. Richardson, M. Tasker and D. Vivian.

## Men's Associations Hold Joint Meeting

The United Church Men's Association was held here Monday night to discuss the Guelph Presbytery's plan for a new Knox Presbyterian church and St. John's Anglican church.

Over 60 men gathered to enjoy a program highlighted by a talk on crossing denominational barriers by Bill Ramsden, University of Buffalo student who spoke in the same church Sunday morning.

In addition to the guest speaker, a Disney film urging safe driving practices called Motor Mania, was shown.

## March Lion Brings Floods, Storm Here

March made a blustery debut this week, and in roaring style brought flooding rains, clogging snow and biting winds. It was a lion-like entrance if ever there was one.

An all-day rain Monday preceded floods and threats of flooding in scattered Western Ontario areas, Acton among them. By late Monday afternoon, the creek near the public school rose to cover the sidewalk and at one time started to trickle across Main Street.

At Crewson's Corners, the flood warning went up Monday afternoon and by evening water was flowing across the highway and swirling around the service station there. A trench had to be dug to drain the water away.

More serious flooding in these and other parts of the district was prevented when colder weather set in by evening and the rain turned to heavy, wet snow. Through Monday night, Tuesday and Wednesday, intermittent snow continued to fall.

Although the snowfall was relatively light here, other points in Western Ontario suffered acutely from blocked highways and fallen power and communications lines as snow drifts and ice hampered travel and ordinary movement. In the Wingham-London-Windsor triangle drifts up to eight feet were reported.

## Mrs. H. Hinton Chapter Regent

New officers of Lakeside Chapter Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, elected at the chapter's February meeting will be inducted next week.

The new regent is Mary Hinton. Other officers are as follows:

Honorary regent, Mary McEntee; first vice-regent, Orle Norton; second vice-regent, Helen Jacquie; recording secretary, Helen Otteben; assistant secretary, Doris Wilson; standard bearer, Marguerite Ryder; Olla Somerville; treasurer, Debra Ryder; assistant treasurer, Margaret Wallis.

Educational secretary, Harriet Hewing; educational committee, Alice Langford, Tanis Ironsides; Echeus secretary, Charlotte Ledger; corresponding secretary, May Durnach; pianists, Helen Pickett, Jean Lushman; world affairs and current events, Vivian Smith, Margaret Armstrong; publicity, Kay Dills; flower and visiting, Charlotte Holmes, Gladys Price.

Card convener, Irene Watson; services at home and abroad, Vera Bean, Mary Marks, Vera Inglis; film convener, Kae Hansen; membership, Alma Oder, Helen Waterhouse; councillors, Elma Bruda, Lois Mackenzie, Lois Manning, Mary Matthews, Margaret McCullough, June McHugh, Helen Middleton, Dorothy Van Wyck, Edith Watkins, Velma West; bazaar, Mary Mann; bazaar assistant, Bessie Musselle.

## Killed Instantly Near Bronte Home

Alex Stewart only son of the late James E. Stewart and Annie Maclean was instantly killed on Monday, February 22 when his car was in collision with a bus at Bronte. He had resided there for the past 14 years. He was 59 years of age. Mr. Stewart was born in the Dublin district and attended Dublin school.

He was survived by his wife the former Ethel Joyce and five sisters, Jean, Mrs. J. M. Steele and Eleanor; Mrs. J. B. Watkins of Acton; Alberta; Mrs. R. C. Cunningham of Milton; (Clarice) Mrs. Harold Dolson and Mrs. Anne Williamson of Georgetown; and Hazel, the late Mrs. Dean Leslie.

Rev. Robert H. Armstrong conducted the funeral service Thursday, February 25 at the Victor Burns and Son funeral home, Acton. Pallbearers were J. J. Stewart, George Smith, J. M. Steele, R. C. Cunningham, Harold Dolson and J. H. Watkins.

## Town, Area Guests Stewarttown LOL

At the Monday meeting of L.O.L. 66 Stewarttown a large turnout of members and visitors from Milton, Huron, Georgetown and Acton took the occasion of John Brown's 100th Anniversary.

County Master John Fox from Acton District Master Ernie Wilson and Past County Master J. Wilson were present and addressed the brethren. W. H. Cliff, Beatty, Hornby L.O.L. 165, gave the secret work in a most inspiring manner.

—A '51 Ford owned by Robert Early was stolen from Campbellville this week.

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