

The Acton Free Press.

Seventy-Ninth Year—No. 36.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MARCH 11th, 1954

Eight Home Print Pages—Six Cents

Council Tables 1954 Budget, Sets New Tax Rate at 59 Mills

Final draft of Acton's 1954 budget was tabled at a special meeting of council Monday night when, after a short session of last-minute paring on expenditure estimates, members passed a by-law setting the current mill rate at 59. This is required to raise \$147,673.25 which is \$24,050.57 more than the \$123,622.68 raised by 51 mills in 1953.

Acton Hockey Titles Decided on Tuesday

Coming from behind a two goal deficit, Johnny Mullen's Rockets captured the coveted Pee Wee Oscar with a 3-0 win in the second game of the total goal series in the town league championships on Tuesday night. Also winners in a great comeback were "Twitter" Holmes' Spitfires in the junior division and Reg. Black's Buzzers in the senior division.

Jim Fleming's team captured the first game of the Pee Wee finals by a 4-2 score but John Mullen's Rockets whitewashed them 3-0 on goals by John Hoare with two and Terry Masales with one. This is the first year a trophy has been awarded to the Pee Wee winners. It was donated by Acton Creamery and the Rockets will be the first names inscribed on it.

In the junior division games, Reg. Black's Hornets edged Frank Holmes' Spitfires 4-3 in the first game of Edward Molody who counted seven goals and an assist in the series, the Spitfires captured the crown, although it took overtime to do it. Bill Johnston with two goals, Barry Stewart and Bob Cox with one each, led the Hornets in the first meeting while Ed Molody bagged two and Don Wilds one for the losers.

Make Last Period Bid
Tuesday's game saw the Spitfires make a last period bid that tied the score, and the round and finish up with a 7-5 win. Edward Molody scored five goals for the winners, plus nothing an assist while George Oakes and Don Wilds each notched one. For the losing team, Bill Johnston was the spark with two goals while Bob Cox, Stu McDonald and Smethurst each potted one.

Senior division games followed the pattern of the Pee Wees and the junior division. Ed Footitt's Flyers shaded Reg. Black's Buzzers 4-3 in the first game on a hat trick by Bob Wahlman and one by Bill Coon while Healey with a goal and an assist, Baxter with a goal and an assist and Tom Oakley with a goal and Bob Coon with an assist for the losers.

However, on goals by Don Deforest, Emmerson Baxter, Russell Arbie and Wayne Arbie the Buzzers won the round by one goal with a 4-2 decision on Tuesday. Bill Coon and Bob Wahlman scored for the losers, the latter on a pass from Martin Marks.

Acton Congregations Unite in Prayer With Women of Over 100 Countries

"That they may have light" was the theme of World Day of Prayer services which were held in over 100 countries throughout the world last Friday, March 5. In Acton, women from the four Protestant congregations gathered in the United church for the program led by Miss M. Z. Bennett.

In thousands of localities, women united in prayer on the first Friday in Lent, using a service prepared by Dr. Sarah Chakko of India. Dr. Chakko, who was the principal of Thorburn college, Lucknow, died in January this year.

The opening prayer was given by Miss Bennett and further prayers by representatives of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist and United churches, Mrs. W. Denny, Mrs. R. Price, Mrs. F. Cleave, Mrs. R. Costerus, Mrs. H. Helwig and Mrs. E. J. Hassard.

Rev. E. A. Curry addressed the group on the theme of the world day of prayer, "That they may have light."

Mrs. B. Veldhuis and Miss Dorothy Simmons sang a duet and Mrs. R. Robbing a solo.

Collection taken to be used for Christian literature throughout the world.

The service was arranged by a committee of ladies from each church, under Miss M. Z. Bennett. It was held last year in the Anglican church and will be in the Baptist church next year under the direction of Mrs. Helwig.

Press Breaks Down

You would not be reading this issue of the Acton Free Press if it were not for the helping hand of our neighbor, the Georgetown Herald. Part way through this week's first run, a gear difficulty stopped the large newspaper press.

Despite the efforts of staff members and two press experts from Toronto, working straight through until 4 a.m. Thursday morning, the press could not be fixed in time. Our many thanks to the Herald who allowed us to use their press to complete printing this issue. We trust our readers will understand our difficulties if their weekly paper arrives a little later than usual.

Store Hours Change Proposal is Voted Favorable Attitude

Although a numerical majority of Acton's retail merchants have indicated favor of Friday night store hours over Saturday night opening, the necessary 75 per cent. endorsement of the proposed new hours has not been signified by all classifications of merchants.

Last week a poll, conducted by the local retail merchants association, was taken to determine the attitude among businessmen about new hours proposal. Of 31 merchants asked to vote, 24 favored the Friday night opening and eight voted against it. One was non-committal.

It was pointed out by association chairman C. W. Bradley that 75 per cent. of all classifications of retail merchants in the town must be in favor of the proposal in order to be in a legal position to have the present by-law rescinded and a new by-law passed.

While approximately 80 per cent. of the merchants polled signified favor of the new hours, Mr. Bradley indicated those who are against Friday night opening are in a position by their classification to block the proposal. "We want as near to 100 per cent. approval as we can get," he added.

Confectionary stores, barber shops and garages, which come under different opening hours regulations, were not included in the poll.

After results of the poll were studied and discussed at last Monday night's meeting of the association, a committee was named to further groundwork for the hours change proposal. Members of the committee are S. Eisen and J. Ledger.

The opening prayer was given by Miss Bennett and further prayers by representatives of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist and United churches, Mrs. W. Denny, Mrs. R. Price, Mrs. F. Cleave, Mrs. R. Costerus, Mrs. H. Helwig and Mrs. E. J. Hassard.

Rev. E. A. Curry addressed the group on the theme of the world day of prayer, "That they may have light."

Mrs. B. Veldhuis and Miss Dorothy Simmons sang a duet and Mrs. R. Robbing a solo.

Collection taken to be used for Christian literature throughout the world.

The service was arranged by a committee of ladies from each church, under Miss M. Z. Bennett. It was held last year in the Anglican church and will be in the Baptist church next year under the direction of Mrs. Helwig.

Three More Last Outposts Of 50-Cent Haircut Fought
The 50-cent haircut, something of the less-expensive past for most barber shops in other towns and cities, has at last given way to the march of higher prices. Come April 1, Acton's three tonorial establishments will hike their price for adult patrons from 50 cents to 60 cents. On the same date new hours will take effect. A notice of the changes appears elsewhere.

Girls' Group Leads Evening Worship

A world-day of prayer service was conducted in Knox Presbyterian church last Sunday evening by the Daughters of Knox at their meeting for March. The women of the Protestant churches of the town held their service last Friday.

Elizabeth Jany, president of the girls' group, conducted the specially prepared service, reading aloud while Norma Wilds performed a candlelighting ceremony.

Guest soloist for the service was Miss Gwen Little of Brampton, who sang the Lord's Prayer, Beside Still Waters and, after the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Armstrong, a third selection called the Benediction.

Special music was also sung by the choir, E. Hansen was at the organ.

Rev. R. Armstrong gave a message to the girls which was also appreciated by the good congregation. He stressed the need to give of oneself before receiving spiritual benefit.

The Daughters of Knox sat together at the front of the church. Ushering were Barbara Anderson, Patsy Smethurst, Shirley Mason and Phyllis Barnes.

Following the service the Daughters of Knox gathered at the home of Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Buchanan for a social time and to meet Miss Little.

Night School Shows Plastics, Paintings

The auditorium of the Howard Wrigglesworth school in Georgetown was colorful with displays of art, metal, ceramics, leather craft and plastics Tuesday evening, when about 150 examined the work done in a night school classes at Acton and Georgetown.

Mayor Jack Armstrong of Georgetown welcomed the group and chairman for the brief program was Dick Licata, the Georgetown night school representative. Mrs. W. Beatty is Acton's representative.

D. Minshall reported attendance had been good and expressed pleasure at the exhibits. He mentioned the rumours heard about night school next year and admitted he didn't know what would be arranged. Night school classes have been held in Milton for the past four winters; this year for the first time there were additional classes at Acton and Georgetown. Attendance was about 50 in each town.

In the trophy of the school a display in a display case introduced the exhibits in the auditorium. In the case were three oil paintings, two floral pieces by Mrs. E. Lasby and Miss M. Mainprize of Acton, and the third a landscape by Mrs. L. Masales of Acton. With these were shown ceramic candlesticks with an acorn motif in brown and gold, a rose floral centrepiece, ceramic box and earrings.

Ceramic Pieces Shaped
Crafts circled the auditorium, with Mr. Minshall also showing pamphlets from the government.

The metalcraft display highlighted jewellery, with a few hammered copper trays. There was a small display of hand carved leather.

Ceramic pieces had been both shaped on a wheel and hand moulded. Some were glazed, some featured a combination of glazes. Jewellery was again attracting special attention.

Two box looms were set up to show a further craft, although it was not on the curriculum.

About 50 canvasses were brought from the two art classes held in Acton throughout the winter. Mostly framed, they stretched across the stage of the auditorium. Among the noteworthy canvasses were two representative landscapes by George Bowman.

Amber rose and ruby shades of plastic made an attractive display from Acton. Some plastic lamps were complete with shades; other items made were candlesticks, trays, salt and pepper shakers and dishes.

Several carloads attended from Acton and spent a pleasant evening discussing the crafts with friendly teachers and fellow students.

Machine Speeds Up Town Tax Billings

The town's new Burroughs semi-automatic billing machine, designed to add greater efficiency and facility to billing and accounting operations in the municipal office, arrived in time this week to handle the 1954 tax bills.

The \$4,000 machine will be used not only in the computation of tax hydro and waterworks bills but will be utilized regularly for day-to-day accounting.

Town clerk J. McGachie estimates the tax bills, which usually take around three weeks to prepare, will be completed in about three days after the machine starts operating.

Another advantage the machine features is its ability to detect errors or misstatements in recording figures for billing.

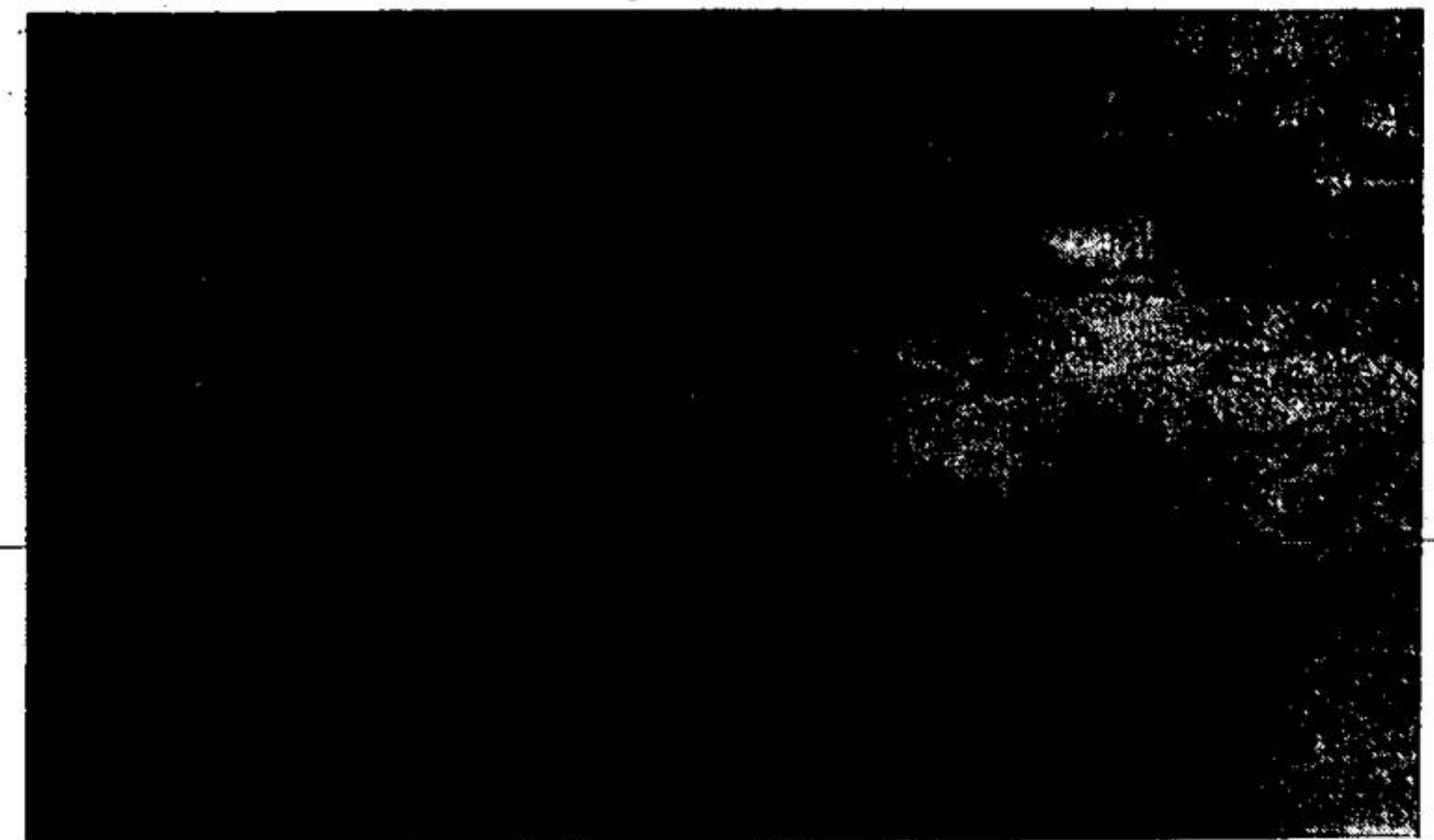
Chief A. E. Clements explained that with the Georgetown truck carrying water the Milton truck was able to use all the water it carried leaving the nearby barn protected in case a shift of the high wind would carry sparks and burning embers toward that building.

Mr. and Mrs. Michie, with three boys, John, Ken and George, are temporarily living at the G. C. Gowland farm nearby.

Partially covered by insurance, the fire chief roughly estimated the loss at between \$8,000 and \$9,000. Very few items were saved and practically all the clothing was lost.

The six room frame constructed

of brick and concrete blocks was



LEVELLED BY FLAMES THURSDAY, the home of Harold Michie is shown here in ruins. Mr. and Mrs. Michie and their three sons escaped the blaze which claimed all their clothing and most of the household articles. The fire is believed to have started from an overheated stove. Shortage of water hampered the efforts of the fire fighters. Two brigades were summoned to the blaze.



FIRE EARLY FRIDAY MORNING completely destroyed the home of Clarence Dodds, west of Speyside, 15 hours after a house owned by Harold Michie, south-east of the Dodds' home, went up in flames. A boarder in the Dodds' home, George Davis, is shown here pointing to the ruins after the blaze. Mr. Davis discovered the fire and roused Mr. and Mrs. Dodds and their six children.

14 Forced into Snow, Rain as Fire Levels Two Area Homes

Historical Items Revealed at W.I.

The monthly meeting of the Acton Women's Institute was held on Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. Holloway, Main St., Acton. Mrs. R. L. Davidson was in charge of the meeting. The roll call was responded to by each one displaying some historical treasure and telling its history.

The topic of the day, "Stories of the past," was given by Mrs. George Lantz, who prepared a fine paper on the history of the town. Mrs. E. Smith contributed an article on the comparison in age values—18 is old enough for most things, but not old enough to have a vote in this country. Mrs. George Fryer and Mrs. Earl Lambert added some helpful hints in the home economics section.

An invitation to attend the World Day of Prayer service was given by Mrs. William Denny and the folk school in Halton was commended by Mrs. R. L. Davidson.

In keeping with the old tradition, Mrs. Earl Lambert gave a reading on St. Patrick and the Irish. Mrs. James Wilds conducted a quiz with conundrums with Mrs. Earl Jordan and Mrs. George Lantz winning the awards.

Following the singing of "Faith of Our Fathers," all remained for a half hour of social fellowship over a cup of tea.

Third Grade Seed 'Trash' Group Told

J. Grave, zone forester, and J. E. Whitelock, agricultural representative, spoke to a crowd of about 125 in Stewarttown Hall on Tuesday evening when the Equine Federation of Agriculture sponsored a social evening.

Mr. Graves showed a film of reforestation and a second was shown on safety.

Mr. Whitelock addressed the group on seed crops referring to the Seed Fair to be held next week-end. He declared that some farmers in the county were sowing third grade seed or "trash." He quoted figures from tests.

R. L. Davidson, first vice-president, presented a wallet to Mac Sprowl on behalf of the directors. The wallet, hand tooled by Mrs. J. L. Herby, featured maple leaves and the initials M.S. Mr. Sprowl leaves shortly for the British Isles on a scholarship.

Two fires within 15 hours left 14 people homeless in driving snow storms and high winds last week as flames levelled two district farm homes, claiming nearly all the contents. A fire at the home of Harold Michie, one mile east of No. 25 highway on the sideroad south of Olespey Mushroom Co., at about 10:20 a.m. Thursday, completely levelled the storey and a half house.

Just 15 hours later, at 1:45 a.m. Friday morning, nine escaped with seconds to spare from a fire in the home of Clarence Dodds, three miles west of Speyside. Six children were saved, ranging from four years to 19 years when George Davis, an employee at the Beardmore Co. for nearly 50 years, roused the family.

Mr. Davis, a boarder at the Dodds' home, was awakened by choking fumes, he explained, and reached for the light. Power had failed and the house was in darkness. He roused Mr. and Mrs. Dodds sleeping downstairs, and started to awaken the children.

Donald 19, Mervin 17, Ivan 14, Faye 13, Eileen 10 and Landa 4 were taken from the beds as an alarm was phoned to the Milton brigade from the burning house.

"Lost Everything"
Mervin got out without shoes and while running around in the cold snowstorm his feet were frozen and he suffered a cut foot that required stitches.

"I lost everything and so did the family," George Davis said, recounting how he had only minutes to don a pair of trousers and old boots before escaping. "Five minutes more and we would have been in there," he said. A prized watch presented to Mr. Davis by the Beardmore Co. for 40 years' service at the time of the company's anniversary in 1943, was damaged almost beyond recognition.

The family is at present living with relatives and neighbors with the possibility of a former refreshment stand being moved to the site as a temporary accommodation.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Dodds both praised the prompt arrival of the Milton brigade despite the hampering icy roads and blinding snow. Neighbors with buckets helped delay the sweeping flames until all could escape.

Nothing but Ashes
Fire, Mr. Dodds explained, seemed converted in a woodshed recently converted to a back kitchen. A row deep freeze unit had been installed on Thursday night and was completely destroyed in the fire while a television set and refrigerator were saved along with several small items of furniture. All clothing was lost.

The six room frame constructed

of brick and concrete blocks was

of brick and concrete blocks was