

## Acton Citizen Threatens Suit Against Town for Friday Flood Damages

An irate Acton resident, who with his wife and three children moved here less than two months ago, appeared before council Monday night to demand town assumption of legal responsibility involved in damages to his property and dwelling when flooding waters over Main Street last Friday night filled his basement and caused a claimed \$2,500 loss.

W. Roberts, who bought the Main Street house, formerly occupied by Geo. Kovacs early this September, contended town was responsible for the damages because the house surmounted a natural drain. Regardless of whether the town installed the drain or not, Mr. Roberts insisted a permit for construction of the house should never have been issued by the town in the first place when this drain was known to exist on the foundation site.

(The house is adjacent to the creek waters, on the west side of Main Street N., which Friday night rampaged through town into Fairy Lake after the hurricane's torrential rains swelled them to flood proportions.)

### Party, Playground Projects For Tots

Plans for the Halloween party were made at the second meeting of the Acton Y's Men's Club for the season last Thursday evening in the Y.M.C.A. Cliff Sutton is in charge.

Another annual project, the turkey ticket sale, was launched with C. Cook in charge. The draw will be made at a Christmas bingo. It was unofficially concluded that further developments of the playground area in the park will be undertaken by the club.

The resignation of Bob Rumley was accepted and the bulletin editor, C. Roggvadson, is to take his place as publicity convener.

### 112th Anniversary For Baptist Church

Acton Baptist church marked its 112th anniversary on Sunday, when the guest speaker was a former minister of the congregation, Rev. Charles R. Gower of Dresden. He spoke both morning and evening.

Yellow chrysanthemums and gladioli, specially preserved for the occasion, decorated the church. Pastor Ray Costerus presided at both services, which were well attended. At the evening service, members of other congregations and out-of-town guests from Georgetown and Hillsburgh were present.

The girls' trio, Mary Reid, Faye Garner and Helen Landsborough, sang both morning and evening. In the morning, a male quartette, Clarence Reid, Ray Costerus, Bob Landsborough and Charles Landsborough sang. At the evening service Don Graham of Hillsburgh sang two solos. Special music by the choir included a choral benediction.

Clerk J. McGeachie relayed the news that the well points, installed on a 50-50 payment basis with the contractor in order to clear the voluminous water from the digging

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## Hurricane's Halton Damage Described to County Council

The aftermath of Hurricane Hazel in Halton was described in damaged bridges, washouts, and flooded farm lands, during the regular monthly session of Halton County Council in Milton Tuesday afternoon.

Reeve Wilfred Bird, Esquimes, chairman of the county road committee, related in a report the damages caused to county roads. Two bridges were totally lost, one a temporary structure, a third received considerable damage. While no estimate of damage caused to township roads was immediately available, the following damages were reported by county engineer Roy F. Smith:

Bridge destroyed on the Base Line, east of the 8th line, replacement cost \$5,000. 36 foot steel truss bridge on the Town Line, Nelson-Trafalgar, abutment damaged, causing the road to be closed, repairs estimated at \$2,000; approach to the Drumquin bridge partially washed out, repairs completed here; 7th line bridge north of Drumquin, shoulders washed out and repairs mostly completed; quite a number of small wash-outs reported on other county roads, these repairs will be completed this week; work at the Lowville bridge is delayed until the water level recedes; a temporary bridge was lost, replacement cost \$300; other damages reported to the 8th line bridge with wash-outs on the shoulders of the 8th line north of the tracks. These repairs are being made as rapidly as possible.

Members of council stated the county was very fortunate that more damage did not occur in the county. Following discussion, council unanimously endorsed a resolution providing \$1,000 for the Hurricane Relief Fund.

The chairman of the road committee also stated the county has up to the end of September spent \$197,000 on county roads. The appropriation for the year amounts to \$236,000 he said.

**Seek Roads Report**

Reeve R. H. Shannon again reminded members he had asked for a breakdown of the amount of money spent on roads in the various municipalities, but this report had never been tabled.

"We thought it would be troublesome to do it that way. There would be great difficulty in bookkeeping to determine the expenditures in municipalities, such as along the town line or the base line," Reeve Bird said.

"The Province of Ontario can tell you how much is spent on every mile of their roads. I don't ask for a breakdown of figures to the nth degree, but only a close figure. On a report tabled it shouldn't be difficult to establish the amounts spent on connecting links, thus leaving only the amounts spent in the townships," Reeve Shannon argued.

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# Citizens Rally Aid After Tail Of Hurricane Passes Here

## Hurricane Relief Fund

Judging by the avalanche of donated goods which followed the appeal here early this week for food, clothing and furniture for destitute hurricane victims in the Toronto area, Acton and district residents should respond unflinchingly to the need of the Ontario Hurricane Relief Fund.

To organize a committee to receive district donations and direct the Fund locally is the purpose of Monday night's public meeting at 8 p.m. in the public school auditorium.

Goal for this fund is \$10,000,000. Acton residents, close enough to the centre of disaster to realize the hurricane's impact yet far enough away to escape the death and destruction wrought by the raging floods, have a moral duty in contributing their part toward the rehabilitation of those who suffered.

At the present, donations may be left at either bank in town or at this newspaper office. After Monday night's meeting, more detailed machinery for handling donations and receipts in the town and rural area will be set in motion.

This newspaper urges as many Actonians as possible, representing as many institutions and groups as possible, to attend Monday night's meeting and offer their services for a humanitarian purpose—to help the needy. It will then be up to generous citizens as a whole to justify this service with personal donations.

## Additions to Be Built on Three High Schools in North Halton

Monday night North Halton High School District Board gave approval to the architect's sketches for additional rooms at the three schools.

The plan for Milton is two rooms with corridors built at south end of the school. At Acton the additional two rooms will be an extension at the east section. Heating and plumbing provision in the present building will need only to be extended. A corridor with storage room on one side will be part of the classroom extension. At Georgetown the proposal is for two classrooms at the east end adjoining the older section of the building. The action was covered in the following resolution: "That this Board approve of the plans submitted for additions to the three schools of the North Halton High School District at Acton, Milton and Georgetown and that a delegation confer with the Department of Education on this required building immediately and that the delegation to the Department be composed of the Building Committee, the secretary-treasurer and the architect."

**Need Immediate Start**

It was pointed out that action on the building program must be started at once to have the accommodation ready for next term. The statistics on public school enrolment indicate a steady rise in High School attendance requiring these additions.

Accounts for the month totalling \$17,414 were approved and building accounts to the amount of \$8,042.71. Eight applications were received for the position of caretaker at Georgetown School and A. Homan was engaged at a salary of \$2500 per year.

Messrs. Robertson and Moffat were a delegation to request the Board to give shop work training to 38 public school pupils of Nassagaweya township. The teacher doing this work had resigned and shop work had to be dropped unless some arrangement could be made. Transportation would be arranged by the Nassagaweya Board to the Acton and Milton schools.

**Order More Desks**

The Board agreed to confer with the principals of the two schools to see if these pupils could be accommodated in the teaching schedule. Three additional science desks were ordered for the Georgetown school. The necessary plumbing and wiring had been provided for these units in the new building.

The meeting of the Board was held in Georgetown on Monday evening with trustees Coon, Beaumont, Forgrave, Masterman, Milne, Dills, Cook, Brown, Hall, Carbert and Pickett present and vice-chairman W. Coon presided.



HELP FROM ACTON and district citizens piled high in bales and boxes of food, clothing and bedding Monday at the town hall. Later that evening 10 tons of goods, about half of what was donated through the day, left for a flood stricken center. Here Ted Tyler Jr. takes on one of the last of hundreds of boxes before being pulled out the laden transport. J. H. Price hands up the bundle.

## Car Crashes During Thursday's Storm

During last Thursday night's forerunning storm of Friday's hurricane, two young Chinese motorists narrowly escaped serious injury when the car they were driving cracked up on Main St. North at the curve on No. 7 highway leading into town.

Wayne Ing, Toronto, was driving with his cousin, Gay Ing, also of Toronto, into town when the car went into a skid at the curve. Rain was falling heavily at the time and the vehicle back-ended into a high tension telephone pole on the east side of the highway.

The impact bashed in the car on the driver's side. Neither the driver nor his cousin were hurt. The car, estimated to have damages of nearly \$500 by Constable D. Cook, had to be towed away.

Damage to the H.E.P.C. on the high tension line was about \$250. Acton hydro superintendent D. Mason estimated damages to town installations on the line at about \$50.

## Continue Enrolment For Night Courses

Almost all of the night school courses that will be held in Acton this winter are filled to capacity. If five more applications are received for the tray etching course to be held in Acton, two teachers will be needed.

Still more applications may be received by the local committee. The courses to be held in Acton are shop work, intermediate oil painting, advanced oil painting, aluminum tray etching, typewriting, clothing and advanced clothing.

Lloyd Minshall of the Department of Education is selecting the instructors and is expected to be in Acton again this week to discuss the night school here.

## A Dirty Trick

Acton's Council Chambers were played a dirty trick by Hurricane Hazel.

Powerful down-drafts Friday night kept gases and smoke from escaping through the chimney leading from the Chamber's heating unit, an oil stove, and caused a minor explosion which blew oily soot over walls, ceiling, council table and chairs.

Monday night the laborious cleaning job was not completed and members gathered for regular session in the P.U.C. office.

## Former Actonian Killed in Crash

Ivan Huffman, 24, of Georgetown, who grew up in Acton and attended school here, was killed instantly early Sunday morning when the car in which he was riding was in a head-on collision with another on No. 7 highway in front of Georgetown high school. Five other persons were injured in the crash and taken to hospital in Guelph.

Police said the two cars had apparently swerved to avoid each other and met head-on. Provincial constable J. McEwen investigated.

Ivan Huffman's family moved from Acton when he was in his teens. The family lived on Main St. before moving to Georgetown.

Injured in the accident were William John Mitchell of Weston, driver of the car in which Mr. Huffman was riding; Kenneth Nash, Georgetown, the driver of the other car; his wife Thelma Nash Leslie Clark and his wife Beatrice of Georgetown.

Ivan Huffman was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Huffman of Georgetown. He is survived by three brothers, William of Toronto, Keith of Georgetown and Robert of St. Catharines, and a sister, Mary Lou, Mrs. Clarke Gibson, of St. Catharines.

## Give Over 15 Tons Of Food, Clothing

Acton, irritated but not injured by the violent thrust of elements forged in Hurricane Hazel Friday night when lives and homes were swept away in raging rivers around Toronto, joined scores of other Southern Ontario municipalities this week to lend a helping hand to victims of the province's worst flood disaster.

Monday, in a spontaneous answer to appeals for food, clothing, bedding and furniture, the local town hall became a busy depot for the response that welled in the homes and hearts of Acton and district people. With little framework of organization to direct the collection, word passed by telephone and person to person that goods were needed.

And Monday night, 10 tons of supplies left Acton, bound for Bradford where flood destruction was heavily centered.

**Goods Pour In**

Still boxes and bales came pouring in after the first load left. A second load has yet to be consigned from Acton for some point in the terrible triangle of flooded ruins.

The same night council set the wheels in motion for a public meeting here next Monday evening when it is planned to organize a local committee to channel donations to the Ontario Hurricane Relief Fund.

Acton, allied with the efforts of communities across the province, was answering with unselfish response, the silent cries for shelter and sustenance uttered by hundreds who lost these, and more in a few hours of nightmarish destruction.

That destruction missed the town but tail-lashed Acton and vicinity with one of the wildest rain and windstorms in its history.

Pelting rain most of Friday made a sodden mush of fields and lawns and muddy rivulets of roads. As darkness drew in early, wind and rain increased.

**Creek Runs Wild**

The increase was measured. Five inches of rain fell in the wash and wake of the hurricane; winds raged at intervals to between 50 and 60 miles per hour.

Acton's downtown creek, slipping through the public school grounds and under the highway into Fairy Lake, is normally at this time of year, a lazy trickle.

By 11 p.m. Friday it was a rushing torrent, flooding the highway with six inches of water, inundating school grounds and private property, filling cellars and finally gushing into Fairy Lake which rose to near overflowing.

Rain did not let up until near midnight. High winds blew themselves out in the dead-of-the-night hours.

Strange as it may seem, only half an hour of hydro blackout was caused during the night—and that in only the western section of town. Blowout of a high tension fuse at the Mill St. rail crossing was the cause of this cutout, hydro superintendent D. Mason reported.

Police Cpl. R. Mason said there were no incidents or accidents Friday night as a result of the hurricane.

**Scattered Damage Here**

In the morning citizens woke to find fires blown out, cellars in many cases tracking water and any sort of recess on their property flooded with water. Although scattered damage resulted from the howling storm few could compare their losses to the destruction soon learned of in the stricken areas of Woodbridge, Weston and Holland Marsh.

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SIX FEET OF WATER, flooding the cellar of W. Robert's Main Street N. home near the creek, caused damage estimated between \$2,000 and \$2,500 in loss of clothes, ruin of furniture and damage to structure and furnace. When firemen started to pump the wet mess pictured above faced them.

## In Industrial Promotion

### Trade Fair Display by Urban Board

Definite steps to promote the North Halton area for industrial development were taken by the North Halton Urban Board at a meeting in Georgetown on Tuesday of this week.

The group, made up of municipal representatives of Acton, Milton and Georgetown, agreed to apply immediately for space at the International Trade Fair in 1955. It was planned by the group to use the space to point out the advantages of establishing industry in the three towns. A committee of D. Sargent, Georgetown; E. Tyler, Acton; and S. Childs, Milton, was named to investigate and make the necessary arrangements.

In conjunction with the promotion program final details were reviewed on the preparation of a brochure giving details on the area. After consideration by the group 10,000 brochures were ordered from the Dills Printing and Publishing Co.

with 2,000 to be delivered on or about January 15, 1955, and the balance within a six month period. This plan was followed so changes might be made in the brochure if necessary before the Trade Fair at which general distribution was planned. Cost of the brochure was \$793.

The advantages of an industrial commissioner for the area were also considered and discussed by the representatives and it was suggested an investigation into the possibilities of such an arrangement should be made next year.

It was also emphasized that representatives in either of the towns unable to satisfy an industry's requirements, should suggest they inspect the other towns.

For the November meeting of the group, secretary-treasurer J. McGeachie reported the three area managers of the Bell Telephone Co. would be present to lay final plans for the acceptance or rejection of

an enlarged telephone area. The three towns of Acton, Milton and Georgetown are each in different districts. The plan to include all three as one telephone area and eliminate toll charges between the municipalities has been under investigation all year. All councils have indicated the taking of a vote of subscribers.

The secretary-treasurer submitted a financial statement of the operation of the board indicating an anticipated deficit of about \$100 for each municipality.

Engineer R. Simmons explained that during the winter months he planned to prepare maps of the municipalities indicating locations of services. Members endorsed this plan of work for all three centers.

Authorization was also given to prepare tender forms, when calling tenders on the duplicator in Acton with the work to be billed to the board.