

# The Acton Free Press.

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## The CHRIST... ...in CHRISTMAS



"Put the Christ back into Christmas"

Christmas, 1954, has picked up an energetic slogan. From youth and church groups, from the pulpit, from responsible service organizations and concerned publications, from worried men and women it's becoming a rally cry. "Put the Christ back into Christmas!" The cry comes keenly into the conscience: the Christ needs putting back into Christmas.

But who took Him out?

Some say Our Modern Age. Others say War and Greed. Some say Santa Claus took him out. Still others say Commercialism. And, vaguely, some say Society-at-Large. Who's to blame? Who took the Christ out of Christmas?

Times change. Habits and folkways switch like a chameleon's color over the generations and so traditions are viewed differently as those generations slip into centuries. Traditions spiritual, as well as secular, tend fall prey to progress and change their appearance.

So then maybe nobody's to blame. Maybe nobody took the Christ out of Christmas. Maybe it just seems that way through fault of fate or something like that. Maybe, but then why the cry?

Wait a minute, maybe it just SEEMS that way.

Christ isn't out of Christmas but just seems to be. Nobody took Him out but quite a few forgot He's still there. Could that be why they're crying to put Him back in? It's a good question and seeks a good answer.

If, this Christmas, everybody paused a moment to remember Christ is still in Christmas there'd be no need for the question and no call for an answer.

May Christ be remembered in your Christmas and may it be truly happy.



## North Halton School Board Has Turkey Dinner at Final Meeting

Chairman George Cleave was host to the members and principals and officials of North Halton High School Board for a fine turkey dinner at the McGibbon Hotel in Georgetown on Monday evening. It was the concluding meeting for 1954 and dealt with several items.

A Beaumont, a member for Esqueping township since the inception of the Board, is retiring from the position this year and members expressed regret and paid tribute to the sterling qualities he had contributed to Board matters.

Appreciation was also expressed to Chairman Geo. Cleave for dinner provided and for his work on the

Board. The chairman, in reply, thanked members, officials and teaching staff for the co-operation he had received.

**All Agree on Building**

Thanks was also expressed to Col. G. O. Brown for his efficiency in the conduct of his duties and in view of his increasing work in the view of his allowance for travel was increased by \$300 per annum.

The secretary noted that all municipalities had passed the necessary motions for the building program for this year. The application to the Municipal Board for debenture issue by Acton and Milton was being prepared.

The December accounts amounting to \$17,500.66 were approved for payment. The year end financial statement of the secretary was also approved by the Board.

F. Masterman was reappointed as a member for Georgetown public school board. The resignation of Mrs. Stevens from the Milton staff was accepted and the secretary was to advertise for applications. Mrs. Stevens had accepted a request to continue her duties for a month in the new term, prior to her removal to Woodbridge.

**Would Cancel Arrangement**

A letter from the Tiverton Transport re charges on cartage on desks to Acton was filed. Another letter from Milton Public School Board regarding arrangements for teaching of Home Economics and Shop at Milton was dealt with.

The secretary was instructed to inform the Milton Board that if present financial arrangements were not satisfactory to them they would cease the arrangement and allow other public school students from the area to use them as had been requested. January 1st was set for a reply on this question.

J. M. Heron was by motion made assistant principal of Acton high school and the salary of supply teachers was set at \$15 per day by another motion.

Members present at this meeting were Messrs. Hall, Pickett, Beaumont, Cook, Cook, Dills, Carbert, Brown, Forgrave and Masterman. Chairman Geo. Cleave presided. Principals Wood, Hansen and Lambert and Mr. H. H. Hill of Milton were also guests and expressed appreciation of the chairman's courtesy.

## Special Assembly For Junior Grades

The last day of school was marked by two special assemblies at the public school Wednesday morning. Nine junior classes contributed to the program, under the direction of Mrs. Turner and Miss Braida.

The report of the senior assembly in the afternoon will be in next week's paper.

After the opening carol at the junior assembly, Sandra Binette read a Bible story. Short plays were presented by the youngsters from Mrs. Ockler's, Mrs. Alger's, Mrs. Reid's and Mrs. Black's classes. Dances and songs were given by Miss Wadkin's class.

Miss Braida's whole class and then two groups of girls sang. Owen Bean read a Christmas story and Neil Franklin recited. Karel Keller played a piano solo.

Mrs. Turner's class presented a Christmas pageant with David Papillon as Joseph and Gloria Barber as Mary. John Goy read the story.

After Miss Warner's class sang together, Gail Rossell read a story and Betty Garner gave a recitation. Five children presented an exercise.

From Miss Anderson's class there were songs and piano solos by Bobby Crisp and Sheldon Blay. Teddy Branczewicz played an accordion solo; Helen Benton gave a recitation; Donald Maude and Wayne Rossell gave a reading.

A gift to Mr. Mann from the classes was presented by Helen Benton.

## First Appearance For Men's Chorus

The men's chorus, directed by George Musille, which has been practicing for some time, made its first public appearance at St. Alban's Sunday school concert on Friday evening in the Parish Hall. The concert also featured film presentations and special numbers. Each class contributed to the evening with the program including plays, recitations, songs and solos.

A color sound film called "Brightest Night" appealed to the children with puppets acting the story of the Nativity.

The men's chorus gave two numbers which were much enjoyed. Softly Fall; the Shades of Evening was followed by a four part rendition, with variations, of God Save the Queen.

Santa Claus distributed gifts and candy to the youngsters, who had previously drawn names for the exchange.

All the beginners in the Sunday school were given books and attendance prizes were given in every other grade. Winners of the attendance prizes are Danny Holmes, Stuart MacDonald, Laurie Duby, Barbara Ware, Robens Sagaski, Leslie Ann Duby, John Leathers, land, George Ware, James MacDonald, John Price, David Hargrave, Billy Holmes, Sandra Hargrave, Catherine Higgins, Sally Wilson, Gail Buttenham, Gail Patrick, Carol Chandler, Wayne Ridley, John Goy, Don Lindsay and Don Cook.

The Hurlbut Bible story books given to the best all-round Sunday school students by the superintendent, C. Ranney, as a memorial, were presented. Winners of these books this year are Pat Graham, Carol Chandler, Billy Holmes, Shirley Barrett, Ricky Currie, Danny Holmes, and Ted Moyle.

## 11 Fatal Accidents In Halton County

In 11 fatal accidents in Halton County from last January until September, 14 people lost their lives in this district. Figures just released for the nine month period compare this to 12 fatal accidents of the previous year, when 13 lost their lives. The death rate is up so far this year—and this is the worst season for accidents now.

In that period, there were 772 accidents on county roads and highways, compared to 706 a year ago. Altogether 181 persons were injured, compared to 224 in the same period in 1953.

The total number of accidents reported in Ontario during this time this year was the startlingly high amount of 44,961 accidents.

Don't think accidents are limited to highways. Of these 44,000 accidents, 17,716 were in cities, 3,580 in towns, 807 in villages, 12,583 on highways, 5,508 on county roads and 4,677 on township roads.

## Eden Mills Tops In Night's Play

Eden Mills took top place in the cabbage games of the current Legion schedule played Tuesday evening at the Legion Hall, making 21 points. Legion and Union tied with 18. Towns and Tiger Cats both took 14 and Ramblers 11. Standing: Legion 12, Eden Mills 10, Ramblers 10, Towns 8, Tiger Cats 4, Union 4.

## Christmas News

Our news this week is filled with Christmas... with the quiet, the good wishes, and, we are glad to say, the realization of the true meaning of Christmas. Many of our articles tell of the progressive service to the benefit of the community, the help of the town and district. The five long-established churches in Acton all had special services and Sunday school entertainments. (The town's newest congregation, the Christian Reform church, has its services, concert and party for the children on Christmas Day.) Children meet Santa Claus, their personification of Christmas and the spirit of giving, at plant and group parties on week. Gifts have been exchanged and money given to less fortunate families. We present this issue of news of Christmas activities with our best wishes for a very merry Christmas.

## Citizens' Band Ends Year With Balance; Returns Full Slate

The entire slate of 1954 officers and committee members in the Acton Citizens' Band was returned for next year Wednesday evening when the band gathered for its annual meeting. Bandmaster A. Perrott, who conducted the election, was unanimously returned to his position, as was assistant bandmaster R. Spielvogel.

One new committee member was added, Philip Caddick, who also was acting secretary for the year end meeting at which H. B. Ramsden presided.

Following the reading and adoption of 1953's annual meeting report, it was noted by treasurer C. Kingmill that total expenses this year were \$1,241. Above the annual grant of \$500, the band raised \$780.25, leaving a balance for 1955.

A vote of thanks was moved to the citizens of Acton and organizations for support in band projects through the year. The band appeared 23 times, in town and out-of-town.

Bandmaster Perrott thanked the members, president and committee and had a special word of praise for Elmer Smith and his work with the junior band. There are 12 members in the junior group of musicians who are working hard progressing favorably, he said. However, he pointed out, there is still a great need for instruments for many more boys waiting to join the junior band. In view of this, he added, the band would appreciate the use of any instruments in town that could be made available for this purpose.

Officers for 1955 are: past president, Tom Nicol; president, H. B. Ramsden; vice-president, C. Mason; secretary, E. Smith; treasurer, C. Kingmill; committee, J. Zajac, P. Caddick; secretary, H. Lambert; librarian, E. Smith.

## Santa Claus Visits Beardmore Party

Youngsters of the employees of Beardmore and Co. met Santa Claus face-to-face at the annual plant party on Friday afternoon at the Roxy Theatre. They weren't disappointed; Santa continues his age-old habit, and gave each child a gift. There were Christmas stockings for the tots under eight; year's Digest for those nine and 10; fountain pens for those 11 and 12 and wallets for the oldest children.

R. R. Parker acted as master of ceremonies for an hour-long program with entertainers from Toronto. About 300 children and 70 adults watched an amusing Punch and Judy show. Led by accordionist and singer Nancy McQuaig, they all joined in singing. Ernie Covell displayed a variety of magic that puzzled the well-filled theatre.

The Christmas party for the children is an annual event.

## Sewer Extensions for Three Subdivisions in One By-Law

Discussion prior to first reading of a by-law to provide some \$15,000 for sewer extensions into the Glenlea, Cobble Hill and Wool Combing subdivisions centered heavily on means of apportioning assessment on all costs involved at the final regular session of 1954's town council Monday evening.

## Reactions Varied As Santa Arrives

The children of the employees of the Wool Combing Corporation of Canada had their annual Christmas party last Saturday. About 80 children, some accompanied by their parents, attended, and both parents and children agreed that it was a success.

The party, a joint management and union affair, was held in the Roxy theatre and about an hour of cartoons preceded the jangling of bells and the roar of welcome from the audience which announced the arrival of a red-coated, white-bearded T. McDowell.

Individual feelings varied considerably as the children came up to meet Santa and receive the gifts and candies prepared for them. They ranged from apprehension on the part of those too young to have become familiar with the figure—particularly true of Bonnie McDowell, Santa's year old daughter, who protested violently and loudly—through the pleased smiles of those of an age to know the old gentleman and look forward to his visits and to the knowing grins of the skeptics.

All enjoyed themselves and accepted their gift with a polite thank you.

## Power Metering Problems Still Plague P.U.C.; Complaints Aired

Power recording difficulties continue to plague local industry since the 60 cycle changeover. It was reported at last week's Public Utilities Commission meeting where unusually high consumption and metering of no demand was cited by Superintendent D. Mason as complaints from two more local factories.

At Micro Plastics Ltd. an inordinately high reading of consumption caused complaint and investigation of possible causes last week. At A. P. Green Fire Brick Co. Ltd. the power meter is recording no demand, the superintendent reported, and explained how this presents a billing problem.

**Domestic Complaints Too**

At previous meetings metering difficulties have been dealt with from Beardmore and Co. Ltd. and Mason Knitting Co. Ltd. At Thursday night's meeting continuations of the same difficulties with these two industries were further discussed.

Not only have power recordings been badly affected in local industry, Secretary J. McGeachie added, but consumer readings have shown strange jumps too. There have been complaints from domestic customers, the secretary said.

Considerable discussion followed these revelations. In view of the general, post-conversion difficulties here, it was agreed by members a letter should be sent to the H.E.P.C. outlining the problems and the inexplicable rises on domestic, and especially industrial, power readings.

**Final for Three Man P.U.C.**

Thursday night's meeting was the last of the year, and the final Public Utilities Commission meeting to be held in Acton at which a three man group comprises this municipal body. Beginning next month, the Commission will be a five man body, following voters' endorsement last December of the question favoring an enlarged Commission.

At the opening of the meeting Secretary McGeachie and Chairman F. Oakes were authorized to borrow if necessary, up to \$5,000 from the Bank of Nova Scotia to continue current business.

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## Pictorial Review

Next week this newspaper will publish its popular annual review of the year's news highlights in pictures. All are staff photos of town and district events which through 1954 were photographed in the normal course of news and feature coverage.

In recent years the pictorial review has become a popular page in the week between Christmas and New Year's. Watch next week's paper for this interesting feature.

## Choir Party After Regular Practice

After practice last Thursday, the United church choir held a Christmas party with an exchange of gifts. A bouquet of flowers was presented to the organist and choir leader, Miss Olive Lampard. Moving pictures were shown by Rev. E. Curry and the evening concluded with refreshments.

A fine sheet of ice in the arena made possible the first skating of the year last night.

## Just for Kicks

Seems the town has a flinkity street lamp. Near the corner of Brock and Main Streets there's a light that goes on and off by kicks—literally and figuratively.

Due to a sticky relay, a kick on the pole is ofttimes needed to finish the circuit and thus shed light on the situation. At last week's P.U.C. get-together two members told about their kicking experiences with the pole.

Prided the chairman, "I doubt if there's any other town with a pole like that."

## Choirs, Soloists At Band Concert

A more encouraging crowd of over 100 attended the band concert by Acton Citizens' Band in the public school auditorium on Sunday evening, when Christmas music was featured.

Two choirs from the public school under their director, Miss Lorraine Potter, sang. Other guest artists were E. Watson, who played his 12 stringed guitar and Miss Donna McMillan, soprano. Accompanied by George Elliott, Miss McMillan sang The Holy City and Winter Wonderland.

The band was conducted by bandmaster Perrott and Christmas was started in the selection of numbers.

W. Middleton was master of ceremonies for the concert, one in a Sunday evening series put on by the band.

## C. Kirkness Heads Men of Knox Group

At their annual meeting, the Men of Knox elected Charles Kirkness as their president for 1955. Other officers are vice-president Stanley Norton, secretary Clarence Coles, treasurer Russell Patterson, pianist, Ted Hansen.

Several films were shown at the meeting last week.

## Presents For 270 At Legion Party

Over 270 children gathered in the town hall Saturday afternoon to watch for a pre-Christmas visit from Santa Claus. He arrived at the close of the program to distribute gifts to all the youngsters, who were sons and daughters of members of the Acton branch of the Legion. Some of the members of the Acton band played Christmas music before the party began.

Joe Hurst was master of ceremonies for the program which preceded Santa's visit. Les Daby and Garner Ross played the guitar and accordion and sang John McHutch and Hamilton Peal led the singing.

The party is an annual event for Legion families.

## Y.P.S. Entertains At Christmas Party

Presbyterian Young People's group members from Campbellville and St. Andrew's church, Galt, were entertained by Knox church, Acton, P.Y.P. at a Christmas party on Saturday, December 18. After carol singing Joe Jany led in games.

Everyone brought gifts which were given out and opened.

Clarence Coles conducted a worship service and the lunch convener, Miss Bella Maye Rossell, served a delicious Christmas lunch.

## Acton Reeve J.J. Stewart Honored At Warden's Banquet in Guelph

Citizens prominent in municipal affairs in Halton County and other centres were guests last Thursday evening of Warden J. J. Stewart at the Annual Warden's Dinner in the Windsor Room of the Royal Hotel in Guelph.

Warden's dinners in Halton have become quite the event of the municipal year and Warden and Mrs. Stewart were a delightful host and hostess. Judging by the many complimentary remarks of the speakers, Warden Stewart, Reeve of Acton, has had a most successful year in administering the affairs of a rapidly growing Halton. All were loud in their praise of his efficiency and courtesy in fulfilling the high office.

**O.A.C. Padre Speaker**

The dinner was one with turkey as the main course and all the embellishments that go to round out a fine dinner. About 150 participated.

Dr. F. G. Oakes was chairman and grace was by Garnet McKenzie, both of Acton. A welcome was cordially extended on behalf of Acton by Theron Jones who was punch hitting for Mayor E. G. Tyle who was ill.

Guest speaker was Padre W. A. Young of the O.A.C. Guelph, and his address on this occasion was as usual full of a wit that radiates congenial fellowship and a message that was timely and effectively presented.

He titled it the basic foundation of our nation and likened it to a triangle with soil at the base and soul and self on the two sides. He was introduced by J. E. Whitlock and thanked by Rev. Archie Service of Nassagaweya.

**Presented with Chair**

The toast to Warden Stewart was proposed by Reeve Wilfred Bird of Esqueping. In replying, Mr. Stewart thanked council and officials for

their courtesy and helpfulness. He introduced Mrs. Stewart and members of his family who had made his year of public service possible.

On behalf of county councillors, an address of appreciation was read by Deputy-reeve Ray Thompson of Acton and the Warden was presented with a La-Z-Boy chair.

The toast to the visitors was proposed by Reeve E. Ford of Trafalgar and responded to by Warden A. L. Fairbairn of Wellington county and Miss Sybil Bennett and Stan Hall, members for Halton.

County council toast was proposed by Lloyd Dingle, Q.C., of Burlington, and responded to by Reeve Wm. Anderson of Oakville.

The past warden's toast was proposed by Reeve Carl Martin of Milton and responded to by ex-warden J. M. McDonald, formerly of Acton. A silent tribute was paid to ex-warden T. L. Leslie, who passed away during the year.

And although agreement was ultimately reached that the extensions be paid for in the same system decided upon for Warren Grove, some thought was given to a local improvement basis of assessment on the future ratepayers involved.

Councillor R. Hargrave suggested the services, if installed under local improvement, might provide a more equitable basis of assessment on cost over the payment term. Considerable discussion favored this idea but no conclusion followed.

Following the first reading of the by-law, council settled on an interest rate of four and a half per cent after some speculation as to what price the debentures might bring.

**Read Two Agreements**

Prior to this business, a motion was passed whereby the town will enter into an agreement with the Colbert Construction Co. to install services into the Wool Combing subdivision upon payment of \$3,000 by the firm to the town. The agreement was read before council.

An agreement with the H.E.P.C. to provide an easement near the power line passing over property near the high school was also read and held for later action when it was noted a descriptive paragraph on the easement notice was erroneous.

G. Barbeau was the first visitor to council Monday evening. Mr. Barbeau, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce industrial committee, was anxious to see a meeting date with council's industrial committee early in the year to review plans and policy for industrial promotion and welcoming of potential industry January 10 was set.

R. F. Bean presented a letter from the town's liability insurance company which stated the company held the municipality to be in no way liable for damages following claim made last year by Miss Jessie McGregor who fell on the sidewalk. The letter had been requested following last meeting's verbal statement to the same effect.

**Delegation of Firemen**

Later visitors came as a delegation from the Acton Firefighters' Association, led by chief Sam Tennant, who demanded to know why the Association had not been credited with a standby cheque for \$300 from Esqueping and Nassagaweya townships.

In reply to the chief's queries, it was pointed out by clerk J. McGeachie that no provision had been made for the disposal of the \$300 standby fee under the existing fire area agreement.

A motion followed that the \$300 fee from Esqueping and Nassagaweya be paid the Acton Firefighters' Association for 1954 and that an agreement be drawn up between the town and the Association regarding future payments.

Mayor E. Tyler briefly told council members of the annexation hearing summation in Toronto last week. Although a decision is yet to come, the mayor said there are indications it will be favorable to the town.

**Charge Council Mistaken**

Town foreman A. Kirkness said it is likely there will be ice in the arena this week-end if the weather remains cold through the week. In a discussion of skating admission charges, it was decided to charge adult prices for children over 15.

The clerk was authorized to pay for overtime work done at the arena.

A letter from the Public School Board said council's recent letter and information regarding investigation of safety measures in other towns was of no use to the board. The letter went on to charge council was misinformed regarding grant payments on salaries for those employed on safety duty.

Council objected the writer of the Board letter was misinformed and determined to investigate still further.

Council made two appointments. Wm. Cook and Claude Cook to the North Halton District High School Board and Theron Jones and Fred Sait to the local planning board.

**Warren Gave Again**

Regarding a certain disagreement brought up at the last meeting that the town is entitled to a public school grant overpayment, a letter from the Department of

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## Rotarians' Guests At Turkey Dinner

Turkey dinner preceded the regular meeting of Acton Rotary club on Tuesday when former members were guests. Small parcels were exchanged and a sing song highlighted carols.

Special entertainment was provided by Mrs. E. Gamley of Acton who played the piano and sang. She also accompanied the sing song.