

The Acton Free Press.

Eighty-First Year.—No. 23.

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Ten Pages—Six Cents

Town, Area Take On Festive Spirit For Christmas

Mill Street, ablaze these days with Christmas activity, is a well decorated avenue for the festive season. This week a giant Christmas tree glitters at the Post Office corner to cap the Yuletide trappings.

The tree, a 35-footer, was hauled in Friday from the bush of Mansell Wallis, who donated the big evergreen to the Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members brought the tree in and civic employees anchored it and strung on the lights.

East and west of the Christmas tree, downtown Acton's store fronts are piled and hung with eye-catching decorations and banners, ready to greet the Christmas shoppers.

Residential streets have their color too, as many homes this week are aglow at night with lighted trees inside. Some have added decorations to front porches and lawns.

In this district, a three-inch snow fall has stayed around since the December-like temperatures to lend added Christmas card atmosphere.

And speaking of Christmas cards, the local post office is working at a quickening tempo as the biggest annual mailing rush moves in with the week before Christmas.

Elsewhere in town, younger children, and older children too, are excited and busy over annual Christmas parties and concerts, and the busiest man-about-town will be Santa Claus.

Less weighty skaters report a try-out on the pond, but ice there is not thick enough to be considered safe. Flooding at the arena is underway and if the weather turns colder over the week-end, it is expected good skating ice will be had before the holidays.

All in all, Acton has taken on the festive spirit of the season.

'Pages Of Past' Is A Best-Seller

"Halton's Pages of the Past", a colorful collection of factual stories about this county's youthful days, is becoming a best-seller, judging by orders received since the book was first announced two weeks ago.

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., "Halton's Pages of the Past" is written by Gwen Clarke and was first read as a series of features in the Acton Free Press, an Acton Champion.

Now handsomely bound in a new, fully illustrated collection is available at \$5.00 per copy at the Acton and Milton offices of these two newspapers. Since the book has been printed in a limited edition, orders are still being filled but the publishers cannot guarantee how long the supply will last.

As a Christmas gift "Halton's Pages of the Past" bids a place of esteem and pride in any home where it may be sent. As this county grows to become more metropolitan, such a record of Halton's rural pioneer days will hold an invaluable meaning to its owner.

Vote Natural Gas For Georgetown

Voters in Georgetown Monday gave affirmative majorities to two questions, one allowing a grant of \$1,500 to a Boys' Band, the other agreeing to the need for natural gas in the community. No company name was involved in this last question.

With Jack Armstrong acclaimed mayor, the electors installed S. Allen as Reeve. He was opposed by Deputy Reeve A. Norton. D. Sargent received more votes than H. Cleave to win the deputy-reeveship.

Two new men were elected to council, Leroy Dale and Alfred Sykes. Also re-elected were G. McGilvray, who led the polls, Irwin Noble, Harry Hale and Walter Gray.

Councillor T. Lyons was defeated. Fred Harrison, S. Reed and Ray Whitnee were also defeated. Mr. Whitnee had advertised prior to the election that his friends should refrain from voting for him, since he had decided not to run since qualifying. He received eight votes.

No Match Needed For Scouters' Fire

Scout and Cub leaders from Acton, Milton, Hillsburgh, Erin and Georgetown attended the regular Scouters' meeting Wednesday of last week, held in St. John's church, Georgetown. R. N. Robertson of Hamilton headquarters showed interesting colored slides of the World Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake last summer.

Those attending from Acton brought logs and other equipment to demonstrate fire by friction. Despite apprehension from those watching, a fire appeared without the aid of any of the offered lighters or matches.

Hillsburgh led the group in games and refreshments concluded the evening.

Turkeys, Cash Prizes Carted Away at Y's Men's Annual Bingo

It was Mrs. J. Creasey's lucky night on Friday when she not only took home bingo prizes but a turkey won in a draw as well. She was one of the capacity crowd attending the Y's Men's bingo in the town hall.

Under the leadership of Harry Arbic, all the members of the club assisted in the annual project. Charles Kirkness was master of ceremonies while others took turns calling out the numbers. There were special games for turkeys and share the wealth cards.

Claude Cook was in charge of the turkey draw, for which tickets had been sold in advance. Two children in the hall drew the lucky tickets. The winners were Mrs. Mary Nankoneczny, Mrs. J. Creasey, Mrs. J. Youngblut and Ken Knox of Acton, P. G. Krotz, Kitchin, J. Kuiken, R. P. 2, Rockwood, H. Boyle, R.R. 2, Rockwood; Lindo Zanatta, Milton; O. Riddsdale, Galt; and R. Tims, of Guelph.

Four Charged In Town Break-in

Four Hamilton men were scheduled to appear in magistrate's court in Milton Wednesday on charges of breaking, entering and theft in connection with last week's burglary of a local order office.

Acton police said that John Baird, Wm. Brown, Nick Cote and Samo Macaluso, all of Hamilton, have been charged from here following their arrest by Hamilton police after a warrant was sent out from the local OPP office.

One of the four is reported wanted by Hamilton police in connection with a safe-cracking in that city.

The arrests culminated in police work between Acton, Milton and Hamilton, after occupants of a car carrying a safe, lifted last Wednesday morning from the Simpsons-bears order office here, sped south with Acton and Milton police in pursuit. The car with the unopened safe was ditched south of Milton and the occupants fled into nearby bush area.

The arrests were made over the week-end, following investigation of strong leads.

Surprise Ceremony For Student Nurses

A surprise for both the girls concerned and their parents was the capping ceremony held at St. Joseph's hospital last week. Marilyn Marks and Rochelle Henderson of Acton were among the group of 31 student nurses who received their caps, although they had not expected them until the new year.

The ceremony was followed by a dinner and a reception for parents in the evening. Speaking at the ceremony in the chapel was Dr. J. O'Reilly, a chief of staff at the hospital. Strawberry shortcake was served to the nurses, and their parents and other relatives visited in the evening.

The girls had formed a glee club, and when they entered to sing, their parents realized for the first time they had their caps. Dancing and refreshments followed.

Parents of both Marilyn Marks and Rochelle Henderson were among those attending.

Parents Receive Gifts From Tots

Parents all received gifts made by their youngsters at the kindergarten demonstration on Wednesday afternoon. The mothers were guests at the hour-long event when the children displayed some of the things they have been learning in their first year at school.

The teachers are Mrs. K. Alger and Miss Laughlin.

Elect Wm. Wilson Deputy-Reeve

Halton Mutual Aid Fire System Reviewed at Meeting In Acton

Acton Fire Department were hosts at the regular monthly meeting of the Halton County Mutual Aid Fire Services Association, held in Acton Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, December 11. Representation was from fire departments at Acton, Bronte, Burlington, Georgetown, Milton, Nelson Township, Oakville and Trafalgar No. 2. Chief Wright from Trafalgar presided. Guests present were Mayor Tyler and Deputy-reeve Footitt of Acton and W. O'Sullivan, representative of the Fire Marshall's office of Ontario.

A welcome to Acton was stressed by Mayor Tyler. He also enquired about the operation of the mutual aid system in relation to the municipality and adjoining townships in the event of a large fire, etc. Deputy-reeve Footitt spoke briefly of welcome to Acton and of mutual aid.

Mr. O'Sullivan stressed appreciation for the fine attendance and interest of the students representing Halton County Fire Departments at the Firemen's Instructor's School being held weekly at Milton.

The system of mutual aid was reviewed and discussed. Mutual aid of the fire services was first formed in Halton county by the

chiefs of the departments within the county and later accepted as a step ahead in the fire service. It has since its formation been accepted by the Fire Marshall's office of Ontario and others in Canada and the United States. Over 30 Ontario counties have been organized to date under this procedure. Some have further advanced through the use of radio.

In the event of a large fire in Acton which could involve a manufacturing plant, a commercial business block or a number of residential properties, the first call for aid would dispatch fire equipment and six fire fighters from Georgetown. A second call would receive the same response from Milton and on a third call, a maximum of eight fire trucks would be at the scene of the fire. Yet no municipality would be left unprotected. It is hoped that this is not required. However, the organization of equipment, knowledge and manpower is available.

Another step in fire service efficiency was completed two years ago when fire hose and appliance threads became standardized. Now instructors training schools are operating to create standardization of fire fighting methods.

Consultative Committee for All H.S. Areas in County Passed by Council

By a vote of 11 to 5, County Council in regular session Tuesday gave approval to the establishment of a consultative committee to review the educational affairs in the whole county. This committee may make recommendations that are necessary, and a report from it is expected early next year. The three members to be appointed by council will be those recommended by the three High School Area Boards in the county.

The resolution to establish the consultative committee was sponsored by Reeves C. A. Martin, Milton and Stanley Allen of Georgetown. It was the second time in as many months, members held long discussions over the matter. Earlier communications from Oakville-Trafalgar and Nelson-Burlington high school boards were read. Burlington board approved any program which might improve the high school system, while the Oakville-Trafalgar board did not feel it was necessary. They also wished to know the reason why such a committee should be established.

"To Assist H. S. Board" Deputy-reeve Savin, Oakville, felt the county should go along with the Oakville request, while Reeve Wilfred Bird, Esquimaux, asked why it should be shoved through at this time of year. He wished to leave the matter over for the new council to deal with.

Reeve Allen emphasized the establishment of this fact finding committee was not a reflection on any of the boards now operating. "These high school boards are doing a good job and at us to assist them we feel the program could be improved," he said.

Deputy-reeve Fred Walker, Nelson, complained of buses picking up pupils from the northern section of Nelson and transporting them to Burlington, when a school is so close in Milton. "In many cases they do not arrive back home until after six o'clock in the evening," he said, favoring the motion.

With Reeve Bird in the chair, council unanimously endorsed a resolution extending thanks and appreciation to Warden R. H. Shannon for the courteous manner in which he conducted the affairs of a county. Fire Officer Robert Marshall also expressed council's appreciation to those members who will not be back next year.

Grant Pay Raises After considerable discussion, council agreed with a request made by Sheriff W. J. Robertson that three jail employees be granted a \$100 increase in salary. He explained these men had reached the maximum set down by the Department of Reform Institutions but the department would gladly approve the increase with the county's approval.

Some members felt it was a matter that should be discussed at the beginning of the year instead of the end of it. However, the automatic increases are set by order-in-council on the first of January each year.

Rebates to various municipalities from the County Road Department were approved, each town receiving the following: Acton \$1,346.97; Bronte \$621.47; Burlington \$5,814.35; Georgetown \$2,285.15; Milton \$1,680.49; Oakville \$6,973.86.

Warden Shannon renewed his request that planning be done on a county basis. "There are rows upon rows of shoe box houses going up in the county and I think the time has come to plan in a more sensible manner," he said, adding that he felt some councils were not cooperating with their local Planning Boards.

"Official" is Official While Reeve Martin and Deputy-reeve D. Bath, felt a committee should be set up to consider an official plan, Reeve Adkin favored elimination of the word "official," which appears to be officious, and takes away authority from the individual municipality. He did not object to planning on a county basis similar to the manner which the assessing department is successfully operating.

However, council agreed that a committee be established early next year to review planning and hospitals on a county level. Members felt that if a portion of a mill were raised each year to assist with the capital expenditure for hospitals, it would be a more satisfactory way to have new hospitals constructed in the county.

The usual grant of \$500 will go to both the North Halton High School at Milton and Oakville-Trafalgar school, for their teaching agricultural courses. It is not contrary to the act.

Ross Segsworth, Freeman, was appointed to the Burlington-Nelson high school board for 1956. James E. Marshall to the Oakville-Trafalgar high school for 1956, and the North Halton high school board for 1956 were G. A. Dills, Acton and C. Anderson, Esquimaux.

Review Road Requests Accounts totalling \$40,154.20 were approved and ordered paid.

The road committee will review two requests, one from Nelson township which is seeking to have the intersection of New St. and the Guelph Line made a four-way stop street and also have a warning light installed. The committee will also consider the advisability of having warning lights installed at the C.P.R. crossing on the Seventh Line at Hornby. It is expected a report will be tabled early in the new year.

As there are now county council representatives on the Health Board, council decided the four members will be appointed each year. One county resident will be appointed for a two-year term, one for a one-year term and two county council members each year. It was felt this would not interfere with the continuity of members over the years.

It was reported the present members had been sitting on the board since its inception six or seven years ago.

Warn Shoppers Lock Their Cars

Acton police warned Christmas-time shoppers this week to lock their cars when parked in the downtown area, especially if the cars contain parcels left while the occupants shop from store to store.

Saturday night, two persons reported parcels and groceries lifted from their cars on Mill St.

On Friday night, one of the turkey Bingos left her prize fowl in an unlocked parked car off Main St. When the driver and passenger returned to the car, the turkey had already gone.

No Injuries in Two Head-On Collisions

Two collisions in this area recently caused upwards of \$800 damage. No injuries were suffered in either of the two head-on crashes.

Last Friday cars collided on a hill west of Acton on No. 7, causing over \$800 total damage. Drivers of the cars were Betty Dennis of Acton and Fred Kosody of Toronto.

A head-on collision at a curve on the Acton sideroad Sunday caused a total of \$200 damage. Drivers of the vehicles involved were Jack Varcoe and Mack Smith.

Santa Claus Visits Nursery School in Y

There was both awe and excitement in the faces of the tiny boys and girls who attend the nursery school in the Y when Santa Claus made an appearance at their Christmas party yesterday. Mothers were present for the event when the youngsters displayed some of the things they have been learning in the school. The Y Ladies' Auxiliary operates the nursery class three mornings a week with a good attendance.

Gifts and candies were given to all the children.

Only 26 Per Cent. of Voters Ballot In Second Election within a Week

William Wilson will serve his first term on Acton Council as deputy-reeve, local voters decided Monday in the town's second election within a week. Elected by a majority of 65 ballots, he defeated Ray Thompson, a former deputy-reeve, who was the only other name on Monday's small, single ballot.

Candidates Wilson and Thompson were the only two to qualify from five names put forth at the year's second nomination night, a short affair, December 2. The others were C. F. Leatherland, Esther Taylor and Lorne Wick. Candidates Wilson and Thompson were the only two to qualify from five names put forth at the year's second nomination night, a short affair, December 2. The others were C. F. Leatherland, Esther Taylor and Lorne Wick.

The deputy-reeve elect led the voting in every ward.

	Wards	Total			
	1	2	3	4	
Wilson	108	50	52	47	257
Thompson	85	39	40	28	192

Monday's voting completes the Council slate for 1956. The new council taking office next month will be as follows: Mayor, E. Tyler; Reeve, J. Hargrave; Deputy-reeve, Wm. Wilson; Council, C. Lindsay, E. Footitt, S. Brunelle, G. Barbeau, W. Cook, R. N. Brown.

To Sponsor Showing Of Film Boxing Day

The launching of the new ship, The Empress of Scotland, by the Queen, was shown in an entertaining film shown at Tuesday's Rotary club meeting.

During the business session, it was decided to sponsor a showing of the film Hansel and Gretel the day following Christmas, with all children under 14 to be admitted free of charge.

Near 200 People At Coupon Draw

Between 150 and 200 people crowded around the post office Saturday afternoon for the first treasure chest draw in connection with Acton merchants' Appreciation Day—a year-long promotion for local shoppers which could win lucky coupon holders hundreds of dollars.

The first winner who must be present in order to receive the coupon's cash value—was W. Braams, Main St., who with a 10 per cent. coupon won \$7. This lucky coupon holder also got an additional \$5 upon being able to identify the merchant of the week, the Holland Shop.

First name pulled from the coupon drum was that of Mrs. Marian Storey, R.R. 4, Acton, who was not present. Mrs. Storey will receive a \$1 shopping voucher.

Coupons, collected every week before the draw at 3 p.m. Saturday, are put back into the drum if the shopper called does not answer. This allows every holder a chance to win.

The treasure chest, increasing in value every week, is worth \$128 this Saturday. Thus a shopper's coupon of 50 per cent value could net over \$60 for some lucky winner.

Acton W.I. Holds Christmas Meet

Acton Women's Institute held their December meeting at the home of Mrs. Fred Anderson, Brock Ave. The president, Mrs. George Fryer, welcomed the visitors and members. A short business period included the motion to donate to the Christmas Seal fund; appointing Mrs. George Fryer as the representative to the parks commission, and the usual plans to remember the folk at Halton Manor and other Actonians in hospital for long periods, with gifts. The annual party at Halton Manor is to be arranged for by the secretary and president.

Mrs. S. Holmes as program convener arranged a delightful Christmas program with Mrs. George Hargrave reading a Christmas Story. Mrs. Holmes conducted a game, the night before Christmas. Mrs. W. Ballentine gave a reading, What Makes Christmas and Mrs. S. Holmes gave the origin of the carol Silent Night, with Mrs. E. McKnight adding the musical accompaniment.

A special feature was the interesting talk by Mrs. Ken Knox on Christmas customs and festivities dating back many years. Mrs. E. McKnight led in carol singing.

Mrs. E. Smith, a valued member who was removing to Long Branch, gave a reading. Following this she was presented with a membership pin by Mrs. F. Anderson and a personal gift by Mrs. McAulay from the members of the W.I. in appreciation of her interest and service rendered during her few years in Acton. In replying, Mrs. Smith regretted severing the many friendships here, but hopes to return to see them often. An exchange of Christmas gifts gave the meeting a real Christmas touch.

The committee served lunch and a social time was enjoyed by all.

Gifts Exchanged By I.O.D.E. Members

Annual business, a special program and a delicious lunch made a full evening for members of the Lakeside chapter I.O.D.E. when they met in the Legion Hall on Tuesday evening.

With Mrs. S. Norton, the regent, presiding, the business included the passing of annual grants.

A former member, Miss Clara Grindley, showed slides of her recent trip to Mexico. Gifts were exchanged and refreshments concluded the meeting.

Town Officials, Wives Attend Social Evening

Over 60 attended the annual municipal social night at Hilltop Lodge in Erin last Friday evening. This year council members, Public Utilities Commission, Planning Board, and employees, the press, and their wives, were represented at this enjoyable social evening. Mayor Tyler aptly remarked that really it ought to be termed "ladies' night" to bear out his intention. He presented each lady present with a lovely bouquet of chrysanthemums.

A delightful turkey dinner was enjoyed and there were brief informal remarks by several of the group. The appreciation of the ladies was expressed by Mrs. W. J. Oakes.

Following the dinner, dancing was enjoyed with music supplied by Mrs. O'Rourke, George Fountain and John Black. A delightful social evening was enjoyed by the group.

Burlington Juvies Juniors' Opposition

Acton's Junior D hockey team is to play its first game on Sunday afternoon in Milton. Opposition is to be a Juvenile team from Burlington.

The team has not yet received its schedule from the O.H.A.

Urban Board Hears Cost Rate Talk on Natural Gas

Members of the North Halton Urban Board, the tritown group, met for the year's concluding session and heard detailed explanations on the possibilities and future of natural gas in the area. The meeting was held in Milton and attended by delegates from Milton, Acton and Georgetown.

A schedule of proposed rates similar to those in force in Oakville, Bronte and Trafalgar was submitted by Mr. Dutton representing the United Suburban Gas Co. who noted they were lower than those being used in Toronto or Brampton.

Mr. Dutton reviewed the history of the Fuel Co. and the different companies under the United Fuel Investment Co. which is a holding

company with United Suburban Co. as a wholly owned subsidiary. His firm had estimated the requirements of the three municipalities over the next five years, and according to present agreements they would have to serve the three towns by July 1, 1956. They would propose an eight-inch line from the present transmission line to Milton and then a six-inch line to Georgetown and Acton at an estimated cost of \$500,000. Installation of service lines it was estimated would cost about \$700,000 in each municipality.

Salary of the Town Engineer Frank Pallen was increased to \$5,400 and the Board adjourned to meet January 17, 1956.



NIGHTMARE BARN BLAZE was seen for miles around last week as a large farm structure in Glen Williams burned to the ground. Scores of cars and hundreds of spectators were attracted by the rosy glow in the night sky. The above staff picture was taken minutes after the upper superstructure crumbled into the centre of the fire. Firemen saved nearby buildings and a herd of cattle.

Records, carol singing and games were included in the program which concluded with an exchange of gifts and presentations to Mrs. F. E. Bow and Mrs. E. Bilton.