

# The Acton Free Press.

Eighty-First Year.—No. 25.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29th, 1955

Eight Pages—Six Cents.

## Machine Too Late For Christmas Rush

The new stamping machine was put into working order at the post office Thursday—just too late to help with the annual deluge of Christmas mail. By the almost all the cards for out-of-town had been sent away.

Although letters must be stacked and fed correctly into the machine by hand and taken away from the other side, the machine will save hours of time at the post office by eliminating much of the hand stamping.

## Santa Hands Out 27 Mystery Gifts

Santa Claus jingled down Mill St. Saturday—the day before Christmas—to take personal charge of Acton merchants' treasure chest which was the largest crowd yet flocked for a chance at the weekly pot and the special "mystery prizes."

Saturday's lucky winner was H. Kamlinga who held a 10 per cent coupon and was, in addition, able to identify the merchant of the week. Total of \$19.58 was thus won. Also called, but not answering, were Frank Fowke and N. Hurst. They will receive merchandise vouchers.

Twenty-seven people received the "mystery gifts" from genial Santa. They were: Miss J. Krill, Miss P. Macchie, Mrs. E. Williams, R. Archie, Mrs. P. Kenney, Mrs. N. Patrick, D. Davidson, Mrs. B. Anderson, Mrs. S. Drew, Mrs. M. Courtney, Mrs. R. Davidson, F. J. Richardson, Mrs. M. Plester, Mrs. D. Forster, Miss M. Mainprize, Mrs. E. Wensley, Mrs. E. Fryer, Mrs. S. Cripps, Mrs. A. Walker, Mrs. W. Dawkins, Mrs. E. Hefernan, Mrs. M. Storey, Mrs. J. Wilds, Mrs. F. Lingard, Mrs. L. Roach, Mrs. H. Yatenam, G. H. Ritchie.

Next week's pot is worth \$197. A fortunate coupon holder could win nearly \$100.

## Christmas Weekend Quiet Here—Police

Local police reported a quiet Christmas week-end, with no public disturbances or accidents reported. However, police again urge owners of cars not to park their vehicles on town streets overnight in order that sanding or snow removal may be carried on efficiently when the weather requires it.

## Many Carols By Candlelight Christmas Eve

The choir loft glowing in muted light, the choir of the United Church sang carols ranging from the 12th century to the present day at a special Carols by Candlelight service on Christmas eve. The organist and choir leader, George Elliott, arranged the program.

Rev. Gordon Adams read brief appropriate passages of Scripture. Soloists were Dorothy Simmons, Nancy Lambert, Frank Bean and Randy Lidkea.

The junior choir sang the carol Father Brebeuf wrote for the Canadian Indians, 'Twas in the Moon of About Time.

Music during the service included two selections from Handel's Messiah, Sheep May Safely Graze by Bach, old French and old English carols, a Czech carol, organ selections by Dr. Healey Willan and The Musical Clocks by Haydn.

There were guns, tractors, steam shovels, skates, dolls, jewellery, airplanes and even a pogo stick in church on Sunday morning. Members of the United Church Sunday school brought their new gifts to the family service at 10 a.m. Christmas morning. Mrs. E. Mowat, the superintendent, and Rev. C. Adams were in charge of the short program which included the Christmas story and carols.

At the regular morning service there was Christmas Communion. About 200 attended each of the three services on the week-end. The evening service was withdrawn.

## Completes Training As RCAF Jet Pilot

Pilot Officer Ron Rolston, home from the R.C.A.F. for Christmas, had the news that he has passed his course in jet flying at Gimli, Manitoba, and is being transferred to McDonald, Manitoba, for a six-week gunnery course. He was one of only four to pass the stiff course. Now qualified to fly jet planes as well as the regular type, he is to have an extra set of wings and a scroll.

He joined the Air Force just a year ago last June. He received most of his public school and high school education here.

He arrived home for Christmas on Friday and had to leave again Sunday for his new course.

# All-Time Record for New Building Set This Year--\$1,755,100 Total

## Disturbance Charge Draws Fine in Court

A brief magistrate's court was held here Wednesday afternoon. There were several dismissals. Two charges were dismissed, filed under the Highway Traffic Act, and one other Liquor Control Act charge was dismissed.

An Acton man was convicted on a charge of creating a disturbance. He was fined \$10 and costs and given six months probation. The incident which led to this charge occurred early last Thursday morning at a local taxi stand.

## Plan Two Masses For St. Joseph's

Two Masses will be celebrated in St. Joseph's church each Sunday beginning New Year's Day. Rev. Father V. J. Morgan announced on the week-end. Constant overcrowding has necessitated the new arrangement. The Masses will be held at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Two Masses will also be held each Sunday in Georgetown. Father MacDougall of Guelph celebrated Christmas midnight Mass when St. Joseph's was crowded. Two more Masses were held Christmas morning. Father Morgan's nephew, Father Francis Morgan of Hamilton, preached the sermon at the Midnight Mass in Georgetown and celebrated Mass in Acton on Christmas day. Lighted Christmas trees backed a manager scene and the altars were specially decorated for the Christmas season. Special music was provided by the choir, who also sang Christmas carols before the Midnight Mass. The pastor extended his best wishes to his parishioners and the citizens of Acton for a holy and happy holiday season.

—Although an alarm was turned in, the fire on Church St. last Friday afternoon was out before firemen could assist.

The Free Press  
Wishes All Its Readers  
Good Fortune  
And  
Sincere Happiness  
Throughout 1956

## Pre-Christmas Fire Victims Aided After Newspapers Tell Of Plight

The family of Tom Munt, forced from their small home near Silvercreek last week when fire raged through the structure, destroying all their furniture and personal belongings, found many others in the spirit of Christmas and sympathetic to their plight.

Shortly after the blaze forced the unemployed carpenter, his wife and two daughters into the snow, offers of assistance, refuge and comfort, poured in.

In Georgetown, businessmen started a drive to collect money for the unfortunate family. Under the leadership of Rev. Fred Fletcher, some \$365 has been donated.

The Salvation Army, shortly after the blaze, provided clothing for the father, mother and two girls.

A man from R.R. 1, Campbellville, offered his home for the family to take temporary shelter after reading of the fire in this newspaper. However, Mr. Munt had already accepted an offer from Alex Mitchell, near Ballinacree, to live in some rooms at his home until a new house is built.

In addition to the honey, clothing, furniture and food has been collected from friends, many unknown to neighbors and others who heard of the pre-Christmas tragedy.

Mr. Munt was offered a job in Georgetown by an employer who heard of the fire over a district radio station.

Mr. Fletcher, minister at the Zion Tabernacle in Georgetown, told this newspaper that any readers wishing to help the family may do so by sending donations to him or to Mr. Munt.

## Surprise Gathering On 40th Anniversary

A surprise gathering was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson on Friday evening to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidson were holding a committee meeting for the Acton Fair Board when nearly 30 friends arrived about 9:30. A social evening was spent and at lunch time a lovely cameo locket and chain and cuff links and the clip set were presented to the happy couple.

## Oakville Man Plans Local Radio Station

Local C. Caine, former Oakville councillor, confirmed a report that he is going ahead with plans for a radio station to serve this area.

Mr. Caine, who is station manager at CKFH, stated financing arrangements for the venture are well under way. He said he will make application for a license to the department of transport early in 1956, and hopes to appear before the CBC board of governors in support of his application in February.

## Two-Car Collision Causes \$350 Damage

Two cars collided near the intersection of Highway No. 25 and the Campbellville side road on Thursday of last week, causing a total of \$350 damage.

A car driven by Jared Taylor of R.R. 2, Milton, turned onto the highway from the Campbellville side road. A second car proceeding south on No. 25, and driven by Dieter Claer of Main Street, Milton, skidded on the ice and collided with the rear of the Taylor car.

## Juniors Perform On TV Christmas

The appearance of a dozen Halton Junior Farmers and members of the Junior Institute on television on Christmas Day excited friends and relatives throughout the county, as the group laughed and sang through a supposedly "impromptu" party. They had made the film the previous Thursday evening in Toronto.

Before the party, three of the group were interviewed separately. The film was shown on the regular Sunday program, Country Calendar.

A recording of part of the program was played Saturday noon on the Junior Farmer radio broadcast. Congratulations were in order for the group, who gave an excellent performance in this new medium.

## Three Residential Developments Responsible for Building Upswing

New building in Acton during 1955 set an all-time record. An estimated \$1,755,100 was put in or slated to go into construction here, by far the most of it in residential subdivision developments.

This figure, representing more money spent in Acton on the erection of new homes, extensions to industry and other construction than has ever been spent before in any 12-month period, is \$1,504,200 greater than the building value for 1954 when by comparison a paltry \$250,873 was spent on new or extended structures.

In 1953 building permits issued totalled only \$183,745.

Latest building figures, for December and November, show a total of \$18,600 for the latter month. This month building permits issued total \$37,500, including an approximate \$20,000 permit for an addition to the Canadian Legion here and a \$5,500 permit for Micro Plastics Ltd. where an extension is being built on the south side of the factory.

The housing developments responsible for most of this year's record-breaking building total, the 200-lot Glenlea subdivision and the 240-lot Lakeview subdivision, continue to spread over their planned sites. At Glenlea, where some 90 houses are completed and most occupied, work continues despite winter weather. The builders, Bradley and Houghton, are working at the rear section of the development.

At Lakeview, the builders there are also working through the winter on a block of 32 homes started this fall. Many of these houses are completed and new residents are expected as soon as service installations are completed.

The 14-lot Cobble Hill subdivision was completed earlier this year and this development is now occupied. The Department of Planning and Development has approved the plan of subdivision for a 12-lot residential area submitted by E. Braida. Work is started there and is expected to continue next year.

Breakdown, month by month, for new building in 1955 is as follows, with the comparative figure for the same month in 1954 shown in brackets:

January, Nil. (nil.); February, \$7,500 (\$200); March, \$165,000 (\$800); April, \$26,000 (\$7,800); May, \$32,500 (\$60,445); June, \$42,000 (\$24,935); July, \$260,000 (\$2,250); August, \$480,000 (\$3,450); September, \$16,000 (\$5,675); October, \$29,000 (\$98); November, \$18,600 (\$190,000); December, \$37,500 (\$18,220).

Following the program a presentation was made to Rev. and Mrs. Reid and presents and bags of candy were distributed to each member of the Sunday school.

The same extension applies to operator and chauffeur licenses and trailer permits.

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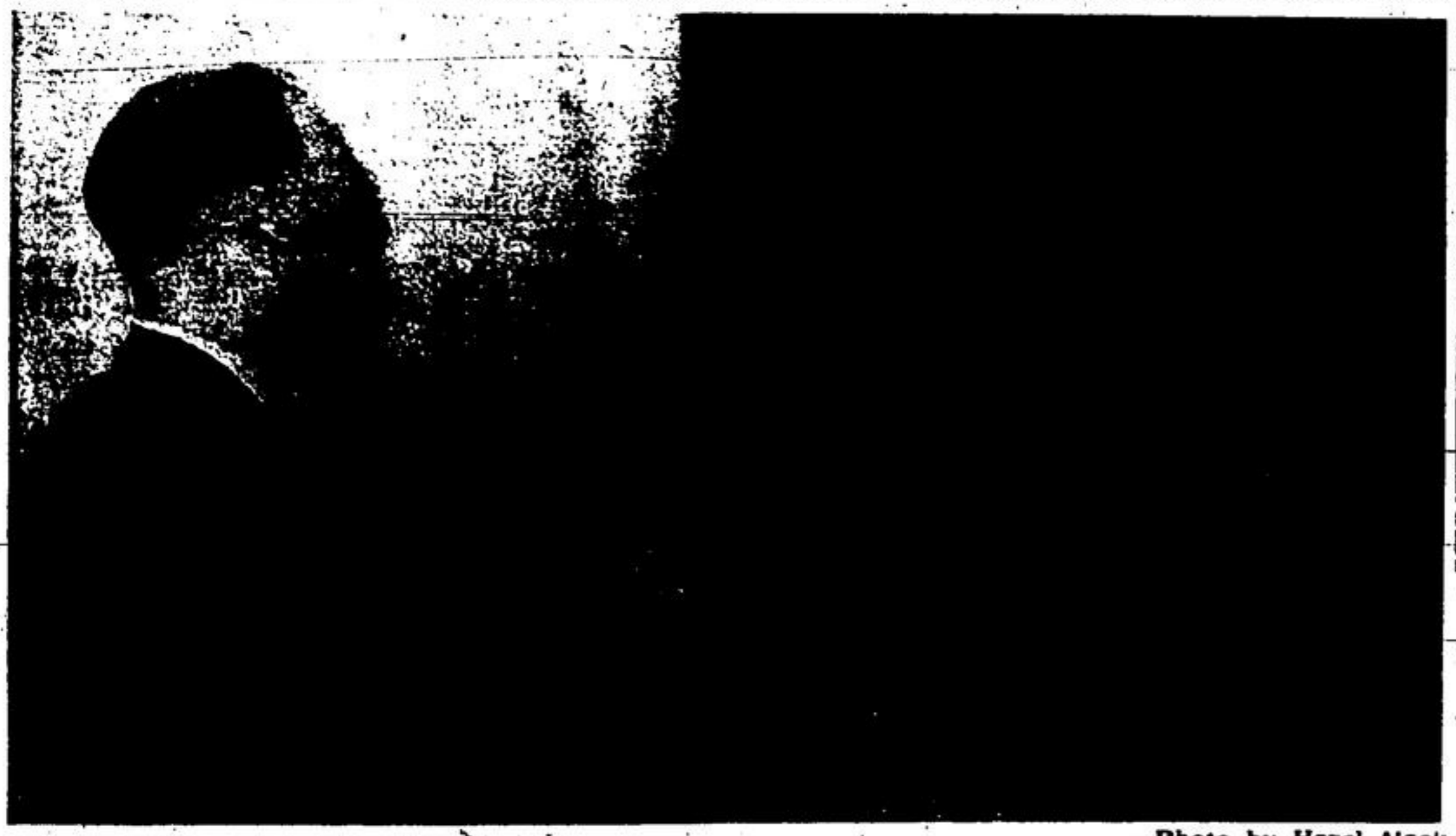


Photo by Hazel Mack

**CHILD HEALTH CLINIC**, sponsored by the Eden Mills and Eden Crest Women's Institutes, is of high value to such district families as the Brunson boy, shown here with Halton M.O.H. Dr. A. Bull while Mrs. Brunson holds the youngster. It is feared that lowered attendance at the clinic may force it closed. Those in charge have urged mothers to utilize the service to insure its continuance.

# Acton's Rapid Growth in 1955 Stood Out as Year's Highlight

Acton's expansion in 1955 was extensive and the year saw some record-setting advances in the number of municipal progress here. The town's population, assessment and boundaries grew at an unequalled rate, and residential building—mainly developed in three new subdivisions—reached an all-time high in value of construction.

Month by month through 1955 this progress revealed itself to Actonians. Elected bodies dealt regularly with the problems and provisions for a growing community. And as these problems, decisions and actions affected local ratepayers, the Free Press reported them in its news columns and commented on them in its editorial columns.

Here, as 1955 comes to a close, is a review in summary of those news highlights as reported in the Free Press:

**January:** Council's inaugural session proves indicative as knotty subdivision problems cry for attention. The first land transaction troubles crop up, later to entangle into the worrisome "Brankiewicz case"; no word yet about decision on finally completed annexation hearings; houses start to get roofs

on in the Cobble Hill and Glenlea subdivisions.

**First five-man P.U.C. for Acton** holds inaugural meeting; W. Wolfe named chairman of Acton public school board; minor hockey league swings into action with six teams skating on for openers in the arena.

**Long-awaited annexation decision** gives Acton 465 additional acres, adding some \$400,000 more assessment; Chamber of Commerce plans for search of artificial ice costs and data; services problems in new subdivisions absorb new council's attention; W. Coon named NHSDB chairman; Urban Board announces plans for Trade Fair display to interest industry in area.

**February:** New industry revealed to move into closed Storey Glove building, later announced as S. G. Smallwood Co. Ltd., manufacturer of radio and TV components; untraced fire in local hydro shop causes \$7,000 damage.

**Council pessimistic over rising uncontrollable levies as higher rate is forecast for '55;** C. of C. set up plan for endorsement of charity canvassers here; School Board notes annexation cost down on number of non-resident pupils; P.U.C. announces another de-

velopments in the Cobble Hill and Glenlea subdivisions.

**April:** Chamber of Commerce organizes poll of groups here for potential support of artificial ice program; road rehabilitation and sewer work gets attention at Council; 1954 audit report is published, showing heavy use of red ink on the summary statement for the year's operations.

**P.U.C. estimates some \$40,000** needed to put proposed hydro rehabilitation and extension program into reality; C. of C. holds "civic night" with local councillors, answering questions about municipal business; sewer extension to 10-lot Cobble Hill subdivision begins.

**Acton's Planning Board retains P. A. Deacon as town planner to insure controlled, ordered growth;** Council projects impending withdrawal of OPP officers from town with over 2000 population as a "backward step"; coming of spring renews subdivision problems as building continues; P.U.C. gets dis-

counting 13th power bill in \$1,155; 1955 tax rate is announced at 70 mills, up from 1954's 50 mills; Acton to get \$3,860 in unconditional provincial grant; plans approved

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