

WORST OF TUESDAY'S ACTON SCHOOL FIRE is recorded in this Acton firemen were later helped by the Georgetown brigade as Hall. Town Hall and the Y.M.C.A. staff photograph as firemen start high pressure hoses on the blaz- Fire Chief J. Newton invoked Mutual Aid assistance to prevent the ing rear wing of the public school. The nine hour fire damaged five whole school from being consumed. Flames leap out the rear, left, classrooms, two storage rooms and the home economics room, and at the roof. Smoke from the fire blew over the whole town.

# Co-Operation in Fire's Aftermath Quickly Sets Up Five Classrooms

Today, five classrooms of public school pupils have been completely transferred, right down to blackboards, desks and books. Teaching is back to near normal

At first, as the school blazed Tuesday at noon hour, the children were delighted as the word spread - The school's on fire" Later when they ran back to school and discovered that what they had heard was true, many of them burst

Teachers, too, immediately wondered what would be done. After the fire was under control, and the principal, school board members and inspector L. L. Skuce were conferring, they waited anxiously

Local Men Give Time Before 2.30 two hours after the fire was first detected Principal Injuries Serious McKenzie was able to amnounce to the five teachers left roomless where they were to go And, with trucks and men there, from tannery, Goy Cartage, A. P. Green and the town assisting, they

right away for new quarters Doug Davidson had all the desks of his grade seven class moved to Line the scout hall, and he is holding

classes as usual there One room and adjoining washroom in the Legion Hall was completely given over to Mrs. Diane McQuay and her grade five class A new door is being installed at

Miss Anderson is teaching her grade four youngsters in Knox church and Mrs Switzer has her grade five and six in the basement of the Y.M.C.A

Mrs. Anderson set up school in the town hall, but after one day the quarters were found not santable She has moved to St Alban's parish hall

### Rush New Desks

hastily contacted, promised new to the Foatilt car . desks Wednesday morning at 9 a m and the truck driver was up most the way to Acton. But those desks

burned school and Coon Varey's For the second time in two den by Mrs. Coulson when the two men worked extra hours making frames for them.

werethere by 11 am

are back in use already after crews by Mrs. Anna Coulson at Eden incident and searched the area afof volunteers and the busy care. Mills Where the first attempt ter they were called by a neightakers. Doug Price and Colin Mac. failed when the would-be robber, bor. Mrs. Coulson was treated for Coll set them back into order. Miss was scared off by Mrs. Coulson's shock, head bruises and cuts re-Richie Mr. Stration, Mrs. Smith and son-in-law, the latest attempt Sat- ceived in the scuffle. Mrs. Jacoby are teaching again in urday night netted the two young the rooms saved from the flames by thieves about \$25 before they fled. firemen. Home economics has "Mrs. Coulson, operator of the Overheated Stove been temporarily cancelled due to store for 18 years, was alone when water damage.

Wednesday to assist in cleaning up, them reportedly jumped over the Saturday night to the farm home but the work was done, with the counter and the other struck her of H. Bessem, on the town line windows and doors of the destroyed on the head with a bottle. rooms boarded up. Nothing may be Mrs. Coulson managed to touch when an oil stove begame overdone now until the fire marshall off an alarm which brought .- her heated and set fire to the wall and

back to 1900 were all in the fire- change from the cash register.

### Rough Time

Black hardtopping will blanket the dusty, broken streets of Acton within days, as pre-paying work here nears completion

For the past several days, Rayner Construction crews have been breaking up the town roads with toothed blades on graders to bring the streets to proper in town levels and slopes before the

hardtop is put on. A rash of work by town waterworks and sewage crews has also been hurried in recent days with service lines being renewed or extended on several streets prior to the paving work.

A car driven by Edward Footist 19, of Acton, was moving west toward Acton when 'another car, driven by Robert House, 28, Rockwood, collided with the rear of the Footitt car. The House, car, owned: Nursery School by Trevor Rice, Guelph, who was ward Acton

a hydro pole and rolled over received a fractured neck and dis- was to have been this Friday.

Guelph hospital.

### Thursday, October 11 at seven Furniture store telephone TRi-Boys who would like to make nurses will be working from this

Those kills and caps come later t hygienist

Boys' Pipe Band

In Town Proposed

A boys' pape band may be formed

Two men were hospitalized with puisic with papes and drums are office Mass Joyce Nevitt will serve serious injuries. Friday night, fol- asked to come to the meeting or owing an early evening accident else phone Bob Ridsdale at 225. Phil on No 7 Highway, near the Fourth Caddick at 653J or Bob McVey at Georgetown TR 7-3768.

# Fire Postpones

a passenger, was also travelling to- The nursery school at the Y.M. CA. is cancelled until further not-The Footst car crashed into the ice. As soon as officers of the Y urday's Appreciation Day draw \$100 winner. south dutch while the other veh. Laches' Auxiliary learned regular meant \$17.25 for J. Locker. Mrs. | The film is being shown at the A wedding anniversary cake and possible fractured ribs. Elgin decided the best thing to do was chest is \$390; Crispin, 27, also of Rockwood and cancel their popular nursery classanother pasenger in the House car, es for the time being. Registration

located shoulder. He is still in. The ladies know that, even if there is room in the Y for one Desks for two of these classrooms. The second car was a total wreck school room and the nursery Miss Anderson's and Mrs. Swill- while damage was estimated by school, the little tots would make er's, are beyond salvage. Suppliers. Milton detachment police at \$75 considerable -noise that would

# of the night. Then, yesterday Eden Mills Store Owner morning, the truck broke down on Eden Mills Store Owner Blackboards were taken from the Struck in Night Robbery

years, intruders attempted to rob entered and appeared suspicious. Four classrooms in the old school the small general store operated O.PP. detachment investigated the two jacket-elad youths entered the Causes House Fire Men came to the school again store late Saturday night. One of Acton firemen were called late

-daughter, Mrs. Jack Chamberlain ceiling near the unit. No valuable school records were At the alarm the assailants fled. The fire was partly under con-

north-east of Crewson's Corners.

#### Disaster struck our school to-Heed Traffic Pleas dase Five classrooms, the Home Economics room and two supply

rooms are out of service. Only the prompt, efficient efforts of Acton Firefighters, assisted by Georgetown Fire Brigade, saved our old among them. school from total loss.

Our prayer of Thanksgiving is that all of the children are safe. The four front rooms are undamaged and will be used. Because of the splendid community co-operation, it will be "business" as usual" at our school tomorrow,

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

rooms will be held in the Legion -Staff Photo Hall, Scout Hall, St. Alban's Parish Classroom furniture is already in place at the Legion, Scout Hall and Town Hall and we have been assured by our supplier, Mr Fred Gilchrist, Thornbury, that classroom' furniture will be delivered for St. Alban's Parish Hall and the Y" in time for school to-

> All this has been achieved by concerted community effort. Inspector Skuce arrived in time to help salvage school furniture and assisted the gang in heaving it through the back windows.

morrow, Wednesday

for my fellow citizens

Acton Health Unit Office Opens Words fail me in trying to ex- of Main St., Milton. press my admiration and regard Two Nurses Share Area Duties

the Health Unit will be better The Acton office is located on unsolicited, sent trucks and crews rest in a field. Three members of the Guelph Mill St. just west of the bus stat-, to help, our devoted caretakers, drumming to get in touch with Rowe, whose district includes Nas-, desks, the fine executive work of tent of \$500, sagaweya township and the town Principal McKenzie and the solid Chanters and drum sticks will be of Acton, will be sharing the office support of my Board of Trustees.

purchased and the group will begin with Mis Donna Cranswick. the I am humbly proud that I practices just as soon as possible, 'county's newly appointed dental privileged to belong to Acton. On behalf of the Board, may 1 The town has given its consent for The Georgetown office is located express to all who helped and ofa meeting in the town hall on on Main St., above McClure's fered aid, most grateful thanks.

> angle 7-3961 Two public health the town of Georgetown, while

nurses will be planning their work

consultation between 1.15 and 2.00.

Draw Winners

p.m. and from 4.00 to 5.00 p.m.

#### Mrs Lambert Jamieson will work Tip Wins \$100 Since these offices will be operating without secretarial help, the so they can be in the offices for

ented to J. H. Buckland next week their visit. The playing of the Bill Leslie. Mr. Buckland sent in they entered the house. During the an idea for the latest short adver- afternoon. Mrs. MacPherson was tising film, Tips, and learned last presented with a loyely corsage A five per cent, coupon in Sat- | week that he was selected as the and both were recipients of other

icle went into the north ditch, hit school classes are to be held in the Orwell-Johnson took the \$5 award; Roxy next week and, as well as and home decorations recalled the Y following the fire at the school. Just two names were called, and seeing Mr. Buckland's tip on film, happy day of 40 years ago. Guests - Rice suffered cuts to the head they put their heads together and both were right there. Next week's patrons will see him receive his were present from Toronto, Acton

### Thanksgiving Last Holiday Week-end

P.S. School Wing Is Unlikely

Monday is Thanksgiving Day. Most places of business closed for this annual celebration of gratitude and the office and plant of this newspaper is

Correspondents and advertisers are asked to send in copy as usual, however, or earlier if possible, due to the shorter week next week.

During this last "holiday" week-end of the summer and fall season, the paper, also endorses Ontario Highways and Alphabetically designated, class-Provincial Police urgings to drive carefully and with sideration for the other driver.

Mrs. Margaret Wallis of Acton was hospitalized Monday evening out following a two-car accident about two miles north of Milton on Highway 25, suffering a suspected chest injury, fractured ribs and head and hand lacerations. Her car had been in collision with another car driven by Robert Kerr

According to investigating officer George Moore, the incident ocion to duty. Council support, our ears pulled into the passing lane at across town town foreman and his crew for about the same time. After the been operfed this fall. By opening their tireless efforts, electrician collision, the Wallis car entered offices in Acton and Georgetown, for immediately assuring power the west ditch and rolled onto the cut-off, our teaching staff for join- left side, while the Kerr vehicle able to serve the northern com- mg the Black Gang to rescue entered the east ditch, went

### am Play Wedding March To Surprise Couple At Anniversary Party

A surprise family gathering in J. W. WOLFE, Chairman, . honor of Mr and Mrs. A. M. Mac-Acton Public School Board Pherson of Acton on the occasion of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. ren in the building Ross Gordon of Rockwood.

On Film at Roxy For the get-together, 42 relatives A cheque for \$100 will be pres-; completely surprised the couple on

and Rockwood.

ENVISE PROPERTY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

# Blaze Chars, Blackens Seven Rooms at Noon

School Board Tribute to Firemen Rebuilding of the century-old rear wing of Acton public school And All Who Helped After Fire charred and blackened Tuesday noon when fire ate its way through seven rooms in two storeys, seems unlikely this week as Board officials wait a report from the Ontario Fire Marshall's office which is scheduled

> A Board member said yesterday, following a meeting Tuesday afternoon that Inspector L. L. Skuce doubted very strongly if the Department of Education would permit repair and re-occupation of the old

> This has left speculation that the Board will seek to add new rooms i to the present public school or inlarge the proposed new six-room school to 12 rooms. The latter alternative is held more probable there has been no definite decision by the Board up to press time. Trustces are awaiting the Fire Marshall's report which could order the burned wing demolished as unsafe. Too, there has as yet been no full determination of damage in dollars and cents. A district builder appraised damage Tuesday afternoon and this appraisal will be submitted and considered when the insurance company completes its investigation

The old wing, first built in the 1830's as a one-stoney stone school. was known to be as ned as heavily as possible

Tuesday afternoon's fire started in the rear of this old wing and was confined to the part of the building separated from the central section of the school by a stone wall partition

Actual cause of the fire is unknown. It started in a small storage room where operetta costumes and scenery are kept. Smoke was first noticed by teacher Doug Davidson, who was supervising senior pupils at lunch hour two rooms away. At the time there were only about six pupils still in the room

Mr. Davidson immediately sent the students out, then rang the school alarm system and put in a fire call to the telephone office. Joined by caretaker Doug Price, Mr. Davidson returned to the smoking storage room and the two men using extinguishers, attempted to find the source of the fire. Smoke bellowed thicker and they were soon driven

By the time Actor tiremen arrived the year stair well, only exit from the old wing except for two escape chutes on the south side, was in flames and smoke was rolling from upper windows, around the caves and dormers. It was evident the fire was unickly eating toward the front

"I thought it was done for when I fast saw it," Fare Chief Jack Newton said later. He added "If we'd been five minutes later I doubt if the whole building could have been saved

Firemen swung ladders to the second storey windows and started For the firemen for their devot- curred when both south-bound a play of water on the roof. Smoke was now blowing eastward right

A few minutes after starting the fight to check the flames, spreading up into the roof timbers. Chief Newton summoned help from George town fremen. He later told the Free Press this was done to work in additional high pressure hose lines, needed to keep the roof wet and force school records, etc., our industry, through two fences and came to enough water on the roof timbers. This prevented the blaze travelling right to the front of the school

About three-quarters of an hour later the combined efforts of the Pipe Band want any boys who are ion telephone 193 or ZEnith 6- the Home and School for scrub- to the Kerr vehicle at \$400; the two brigades showed results. Smoke subsided to trails of thin steam as interested in learning piping or 990h Public health nurse Miss Jean bing and cleaning the salvaged other car was damaged to the ex- the hot charred joists and wall slats hissed and crumpled.

When the interior was entered five classrooms were found in soggy, black messes. Paint was peeled, desks in the upper floor -- blistered books and papers burned and in some cases teachers' valuable records: damaged. The rear stair well, beside the storage room where the fire started, was gutted. Also burned was the home economics room and

Upstairs equipment was a total loss and considerable supplies were

The fire attracted a large crowd of both adults and children Again of their 40th wedding anniversary and again the comment was heard that if a fire had to happen the time was held last Sunday at the home couldn't have been better- noon hour, when there were few or no child-

Other comments' held that the burning of the 120-year-old wing For the get-together, 42 relatives was a good thing, since it's been considered a fire trap for years.

## at the Roxy theatre by manager wedding march greeted them, as Acton Host Yesterday to Over 100 Grand Valley Metermen Assoc.

Over 100 representatives from 30 ro superintendent D. Mason introcentres met in Acton vesterday for duced the popular comedian the annual Convention of the Following morning registration, Grand Valley Meterman's Assoc- films on atomic energy were lation. The delegates, most of them shown by Canadian General Elmembers of municipal hydro sys- ectric Co A discussion on "Intem, registered at 10 am in the duction Type Watt Hour Meters" -Legion Auditorium and through was later led by J G Steiss of the the day heard speakers, saw films Kitchener Public Utilities.

Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Mayor E Tyler welcomed the the Packard Electric Co. 1

Mountford of Brampton, local hyd- the secretary, D N Smith

and conducted regular business. In the afternoon L. V. Hunt, of Acton PUC, represented by all the frequency standardization div-Commissioners at the noon lunch- sion of Ontario Hydro, gave an con, provided the entertainment address on the servicing of confor the occasion following the moon verted meters. He was followed by dinner, which was served by the a talk. "Application of Instrument Transformers by R. J. Martin of

visiting metermen to Acton Prior. A brief session of reports, and to the entertainment, led by Vince new business was conducted by

### Weekly Newspapers Week

This is National Weekly Newspapers Week, a week set aside once a year to reflect on the role of the weekly press in countless communities across Canada. Here, your local paper assesses some pride in the growing influence of Canadian weeklies, as one of them: but at the same time we accept humbly the faster growing responsibilities and tasks that companion community influence.

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent, in a statement from Ottawa to Canada's news journals, says in part:

"A free, vigorous press is essential to the working of our Canadian democracy. It is not mere coincidence that the development of responsible government in Canada has closely paralleled the growth of a daily and weekly press in which the issues of the day have been debated and recorded,

"I am convinced that true freedom of the press, together with the practice of responsible journalism, are among the best forms of insurance against international hatreds and all their evil consequenc-

"I send my best wishes to the press of Canada' and particularly to the weeklies who work so faithfully to keep the residents of the smaller centres and of the countryside informed of matters of public interest.



lost. Important documents dating after one had lifted about \$25 in trol by the time firemen arrived FIRE DAMAGED CLASSROOMS greeted local volunteers who started clean-up of salvageable equipbut damage was esitmated at about ment as soon as the fire was out. Here is one of the five classrooms messed and damaged by the heat and water. Paint peeled and papers, flags and books charred or burned on the walls from the heat.