



Oldest Fireman Turns First Sod

William Chisholm, Acton's oldest fireman, now retired from the department, turns the first sod for the erection of the new fire hall, while interested firemen and a delegation from council look on. Work is expected to commence immediately.



Footings Poured Fire Hall Advances

The footings for the new fire hall were poured yesterday (Wednesday) not long after the first sod was turned on Saturday. The new fire hall will be of cement block construction with brick veneer front.

Big Development? But Nobody Knows

A huge industrial and residential development is being planned in the township of Acton, according to a report from the township engineer.

According to township engineer George Currie, the municipality has received no official word about it. Asked to comment on the proposed development, he said, "I wish somebody would tell me, because I don't know."

Mr. Currie said, "I see by the papers it's going to be a big thing," but said that was all he knew.

Runners flying last week had it that the project was part of the vast E. P. Taylor empire, and would stretch from Hornby on the north to the north end of the township, and perhaps larger yet. Farms in the area had reportedly been optioned some time ago.

Building Value Up Over 1956

Acton construction, as reflected by building permits, showed a marked upward in the first four months of this year as compared with a similar period in 1956.

Permits issued this year total \$30,000 as compared with \$24,800 in a similar period last year.

Major commercial and service construction account for the largest share with residential development apparently at a standstill. Permits issued in March covered pool office alterations and the addition to the Free Press.

In April permits were issued for church work and the fire hall.

Permits for 1956 totalled \$279,000 as compared with the record year 1955 that totalled \$1,755,100.

Fishermen Only

The yearly awards of free subscriptions and prizes of themselves are awaiting the winners of the regular Free Press fishing contest. This year a second class has been added for public school children only.

The district persons reporting the largest trout caught up to opening a week-end of the trout fishing season, from May 1 to May 5, will receive prizes.

Those having caught hefty trout over 10 inches long within a radius of 25 miles of Acton are asked to call the Free Press office no later than Monday at the latest to get the fish on ice. The Free Press wants a picture to prove the story.

Commence Work on \$26,000 Fire Hall As Local Life Member Turns First Sod

Announce Winners in Y Easter Activities

Overcast skies and the threat of rain did not dampen the spirits of more than 100 youngsters who assembled in the town park for the third annual Laura Secord Easter Egg Hunt operated by the Acton Y.M.C.A.

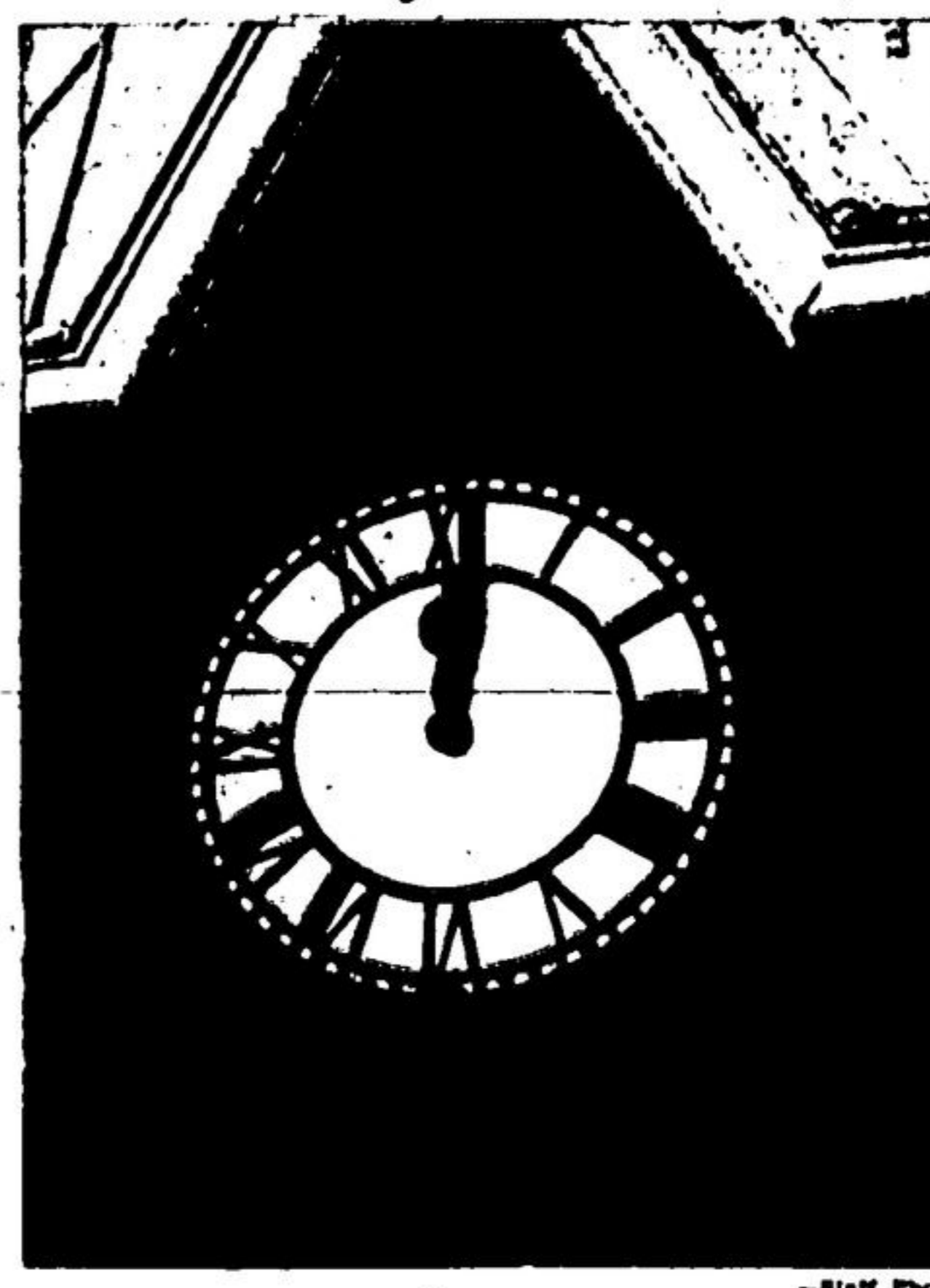
First prize for the boys went to Michael Pystoz and Gerald Havelley won the first prize for the girls. Other winners of Easter eggs were Janet Rogovaldson, Helen Benton, Cheryl Price, Carol Eisen, Ilma Kovacs, Lauranne Bennett, Ruth Costrina, Jill Morton, Elaine Daintith, Romilyn Huczy, David Hargrave, Peter Puchter, Uppie Pasma, Eddie Hubble, Warren Wilkey, Brian McCrall, Carmen Woodburn, Robert Thurker, Terry Cairns and Donald Rogers.

A special mention should go to Pat Churchill, who emphasized the sportsman-like conduct of the hunt when he relinquished his claim to the last egg because the other contender for the prize was a younger boy. Pat is to be congratulated for his gesture of kindness.

In the chess tournament, Pat Churchill amassed 32 points to become the undisputed junior chess champion for Acton.

In checkers on Wednesday morning, David Fleming captured the senior title while Paul Dan Dye won the junior contest after a play-off with Andrew Knox and Bernice Bentley.

Don Price was acclaimed the table tennis champion. Results of the Olympics were Canine Bradley, Senior Champion and Helen Benton, Junior Champion.



Clocks Advance D.S.T. Moves In

As the clock indicates, at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, April 28, the clocks will advance and once more we are to enjoy the long light evenings brought about by the entrance of Daylight Saving Time.

Churches Feature Easter Services Special Cantatas Sung by Choirs

A sunny and warm Easter Sunday found families in Acton filling the pews in the different churches as special services were held. The Easter season here, Good Friday worship services were held in some churches, with special sermons, Easter anthems and solos featured in the Sunday hours of worship.

Junior Chorus added much to the previous Easter music in two churches while in another a new organ used for the first time led the services of rejoicing. Special organ selections were enjoyed in all the services.

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At the evening service, a special duet was rendered by L. Duby and V. Bratow. St. John's Anglican church.

Rockwood celebrated the Easter season with Choral Communion on Sunday and also a special service on Good Friday afternoon.

The Junior Choir sang at the morning service, Easter Sunday in the Baptist church. Rev. Ray G. Jones spoke on "The Couple on the Road to Emmaus." In the evening, his subject was "The Reimbursement of Peter."

Large congregations attended these services as they did the other churches in town.

Special Holy Thursday services were held in the Roman Catholic church with Father R. MacDougall officiating, with Father V. J. Morgan assisting. Good Friday worship was observed Friday afternoon with special selections by the choir.

On Saturday, there was an Easter Vigil Mass in the evening presided by a priest of the hospital. Large congregations of the faithful vows of the congregation, lighting of the new fire and the Paschal Candle. The church was full to overflowing for the two Masses held on Easter Sunday morning.

Special reason for rejoicing at the Easter season in the Dutch Reformed church was the playing of joyous Easter music on the new organ recently installed and used for the first time Sunday.

At the Sunday morning service held in English, Rev. R. Giesse-

two spoke on "The Sign of Jonas." In the afternoon a service in Dutch was held with the station subject being "Mary Magdalene."

The Good Friday service held in Knox Presbyterian church was well attended with Rev. Andrew McKenzie, subject being "The Cross." The choir rendered a special anthem.

Easter Sunday morning another large congregation heard Rev. McKenzie speak on "That Glorious Morning. Two anthems were presented by the choir. "Easter Chimes" by Honking and Akako, "The My Glory" A duet was sung by Norman Elliott and George Muselle.

In the evening the sermon subject was "What Easter Can Do for You." The Junior Choir sang two anthems, "Sunrise on a Hill" and "Up from the Grave He Arose."

Holy Communion was observed at the early morning service. Easter Sunday in the United church, with Rev. Gordon Adams officiating. The Junior Choir sang an anthem, "Sunrise on a Hill" and "Up from the Grave He Arose."

At the later morning worship service a special Easter anthem was rendered. "Ave Verum" by Mr. Adams delivered an address on "New Life in God." Special organ music was enjoyed by the congregation.

A brief service Saturday and Acton's new Fire Hall was officially under construction. On hand were firemen and civic officials.

Veteran fireman William Chisholm turned the first sod on the new \$26,000 public building in the planning stage for more than a year.

Actual work on the building began Monday and by Wednesday, the footings had been poured. The brick veneer front will face Flower Ave. and adjoin the town hall incorporating the present fire hall.

As well as accommodating three trucks, the building will also provide storage room, bunk room, toilet facilities and adequate space for cleaning and drying equipment.

The present hall has been in use since approximately 1961 when the entire town hall was built for \$5,000 on a 20 year debenture.

60 Years in Brigade

Connected with the Acton Fire Brigade for almost 40 years, Bill Chisholm recalled the earlier days when the old steam engine drawn by George Ritchie's team of horses, responded to fire calls. The steam engine was usually following the town men, being pulled by the town men following close behind.

In those days the veteran fireman recalled, water was pumped from various reservoirs (piped around town) with the municipality for water being Henderson's pond.

In his interview with the Free Press, Bill also remembered the time the steam engine was retired in favor of a shiny red model T Ford truck. By that time, hydrants had been installed and the pressure from the water line was used.

Recalls Fire

Acton's had big fires too. Bill recalled the time Tommy Muston's bootie shop and the adjoining restaurant was burned to the ground to be replaced years later by the present Boxy theatre.

The fire at the Smith home, now the town public school, was the first fire in the town. Bill recalled, after the fire the buttons on Bill's coat had to be thawed before the coat could be removed.

The most tragic Acton fire Bill recalled was the loss of four lives in a house bordering the C.N.R. tracks.

In the early days of the department there were 15 members with three of that group remaining — Frank McLintosh, George Ritchie and Bill. The dues of work under fire chiefs Murray McDonald and Ed Gombie were praised with the highest words of respect for their activity.

A past chief of the brigade himself, Bill is a life member of the Acton Volunteer Department and a life member of the Ontario Firemen's Association.

One Hospitalized In Morning Accident

Early this morning an accident involving a motor vehicle and a horse occurred in which two men were injured.

Det. Turner of Erin district was shown up and Bill Inglis of Acton received 21 stitches to his head and face and was sent to Guelph General hospital.

O.P.P. officers are investigating.

Acton Car Ditched Avoids Truck Crash

A car driven by Iselof Groenenbor, 16 Flower Avenue, Acton, was damaged to the extent of about \$400 when it plunged into a ditch on Highway 7 Monday. According to investigating O.P.P. officer Ray Anderson, the car was passing other west-bound vehicles when a small truck ahead began making a left turn onto the Sixth Line, eastbound.

Mr. Groenenbor reportedly drove the car into the ditch to avoid hitting the truck. Driver of the unscathed truck was William C. Cunningham, 78 of Georgetown, a rural mail carrier.

Firemen Respond to Two Calls in Week

The fire siren summoned firemen to the scene of two fires this week. On Monday night at approximately 11:10 a call to the home of J. P. Dunne, 80 Main Street, saw firemen control overheated pipes on a space heater.

Again on Wednesday firemen responded to a call at the farm of C. A. Foster, on the fourth line. A grass fire had made considerable headway and entered the bush. It burned over an area of approximately 8-10 acres, according to fire chief J. Newton.

It appears as though part of the fence around the race track is deteriorating.

Vandals Active In Acton Area

Thieves and vandals have been active in the Acton area during the past week, according to County O.P.P. officers. Constable Ray Anderson said a couple of radiators, an automobile transmission and a pump were reported stolen from the residence of Mervyn Barber, No. 25 side road, on Monday.

Eight windows and frames, valued at approximately \$100 were broken in at the deserted farm house on the First Line, Equipping township, which is owned by Y. A. Donovan of Toronto. Police said a banner inside the house was ripped down also. It is thought that youths in the Acton district are responsible for such acts.

The site for Acton's new fire hall is being cleared at the Flower Avenue entrance. The old building is now facing on Willow St.



Closing Banquet for Team Junior "D" Group Champions

Pictured are members of the Acton Junior "D" Hockey team, executive and guests who attended a dinner on behalf of the team. Acton won the Junior "D" group championship but were later eliminated by Chesley Colts in the Ontario semifinals. Chesley went on to win the championship.

County Sets 5.5 Tax Rate No Decision on Hospitals

Nelson County Council at its Tuesday meeting levied a 1957 tax rate of 5.5 mills, the same as last year's rate. Of the 5.5 mills, three were set aside for general levy and 2.5 for county roads.

The rate is based on a county total assessment of \$108,432,837 and will raise \$590,155.61. The by-law was given three readings and passed.

A lengthy report was submitted by the Burlington-Nelson hospital committee, suggesting the county contribute to each of the four hospitals. It is noted that the Provincial Government capital construction grant. The report was turned over to the hospital committee for further study.

Not County Matter

The report stated that local hospital deficits are not a county matter but should be levied by each hospital directly on each municipality. Noting that since the Acton report was prepared, an annexation has taken place at Burlington, it suggested some minor changes in the districts, including one that East Flamboro be included in the Burlington district and one that the Burlington and Oakville hospital association extend their northern limits to include all of the townships of Nelson and Trafalgar respectively, and that the two southern hospital associations fully reimburse the Milton hospital for any revenue deficit incurred through patients from the townships attending the Milton unit.

The report also advised setting up of a medical and welfare advisory committee with retained hospital plan for the most economical capital outlays and most efficient operation of facilities. It asked that the county study a related program for the use of extremely expensive medical equipment which an individual district may not be able to provide.

Ask Committee Report

After the reading of the report, Warden Millward asked that the committee study the report as something concrete from which the

committee could bring in something satisfactory to the majority of county councillors.

Council agreed to turn over the former registry office, located on the south side of the Court House to the Children's Aid Society of the County. The building, which has been vacant for some months, will also be used as a juvenile and family court.

Purchase Land

Approval was given to purchase a strip of land 17 feet wide and of 850 feet frontage on the Guelpch Line south of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital from the International Harvested Co. of Canada Ltd., to be used for future widening of the Guelpch Line necessitated by increased traffic. The strip of land costs \$1,850.

A letter from the Elizabeth Gardens Home Association, proposing the siting of land to permit two oil refineries to be located near the subdivision was given away to the planning committee. Dennis Reeve, Eric Giddison of Nelson explained the Oakville - Trafalgar

Expect Many Parents At Boy Scout Dinner

Over 230 mothers, fathers, Scouts and Cubs are expected to attend a special night sponsored by the Acton group of Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs in the Legion Auditorium next Monday evening.

There will be a turkey dinner and a display of scouting activities by some of the boys. An exceptional speaker has been obtained for the event in the person of Bert Mortlock, of Ottawa Executive Commissioner. Boy Scouts Association of Canada. Other special guests will be in attendance.

Parents will welcome the opportunity to gain further insight into different scouting activities carried on by the Scouts and Cubs in Acton and will enjoy the evening spent with their sons.

Bronte planning board would justify the value of these Nelson homes by permitting the refineries to locate near the township border. He said it was a case for the county committee to solve.

Study System Further

Discussing the Land Titles system proposed recently by W. M. Magwood, master of titles for the Province. Reeve Stan Allen of Georgetown said the committee had decided to enquire of other counties now using the system to estimate costs and to ask who, at present counties were continuing the older system.

Council approved a resolution forwarded by Wellington County that in view of increasing traffic and accidents on the highways, streets examinations be given those applying for driving licenses. Two other resolutions were filed.

Three readings were given a by-law to provide for the sale of about one-quarter of an acre to the Nelson Township, between Concessions Two and Three, south of the Dundas highway. County engineer Roy Smith explained the railway, after putting a spur line into the St. Lawrence Cement plant, found they didn't have title to a piece of property which was formerly a county road allowance.

Approve Jail Addition

An agreement was to be signed authorizing the construction of an addition to the jail in Milton. The salary of assessor J. Rogers is to be increased to \$5,000. Weed inspector Jack Robertson is to attend a short course of weed control at the O.A.C. in Guelph later this month. Purchase of a duplicating machine, was authorized and minutes are in future to be sent to members instead of being read at the meetings.

It is rumored that the ball team expect to be out in force to practice next week. It would be nice to see a good number of players out so Acton can boast of a number one team again this year.