



MEET THE CHAMPS in the Acton High School field day. Front row, left, Don Lindsay, junior champ. Cornelius Van der Polder, bantam champ. Back row, left, Bob Cox, intermediate champ and Frank Cooper, senior champ.

Michigan Bulb Company To Begin Operations Here

Gordon C. Goodwin, president of the Canadian Branch Office of the Michigan Bulb Company, announced to the Free Press this week his firm has rented the Storey Glove building in Acton, from G. Smallwood Ltd. for the Michigan Bulb Company. Mr. Goodwin noted the move to the Acton plant was caused by a recent fire in the Rockwood plant owned and operated by Mr. Goodwin, from which they distributed Holland bulbs and shrubbery. The plant in Acton will employ 30 women, approximately the same staff that worked in the Rockwood plant, stated Mr. Goodwin. Although the entire factory has been rented, only the bottom two floors will be used, revealed the president of the Canadian branch of the company. Mr. Goodwin stated no plans had been finalized to rebuild the factory in Rockwood.

Fair Board Preparing Acton Fair Grounds for 1957 Fall Fair

Acton Fair Board are busy this week preparing for the Fall Fair this Friday and Saturday.

President Smith Griffin and his directors are busy in the park erecting fences, preparing pens and arranging the arena for ball exhibits and the Friday evening show.

The parks board, with the help of town workmen, have removed the centre pillar at the entrance to the park to provide a wider entrance and the race track has been levelled and graded.

President Smith Griffin expects the park to be in fine order come Friday and Saturday when he anticipates the largest Fair ever held in Acton.

Acton Y's Men Hosts To Annual Convention

J. McGeechie of the Acton Y's Men's club reports the Acton club will be hosts to the Regional Convention to be held at Geneva Park near Orillia on September 28-30.

Mr. McGeechie, who has been appointed general chairman for the convention, announced the Y's Menettes will be assisting in the program to entertain the 32 clubs present from all over Ontario.

Last week-end, several Y's Men and their families visited the site at Geneva Park to conclude details for the convention and to view the cottages and cabins where the representatives will be billeted.

Mr. McGeechie reports it will be a family type convention and last week reservations were in for 17 children and 20 wives as well as 24 Y's Men with many more expected.

The general chairman revealed a special program will be carried out for the children attending with their parents. The main program will include a golf tournament, winter coat, workshop study periods, fish derby and devotions, as well as many other events.

Delegation Protests Industry's Odour Temporary Fire Protection Given Twps.



CONQUERED AND DRAGGED to shore, this stubborn stump, one of many extracted from Fairy Lake in the Parks Board's project to improve Acton park, was hoisted by the winch from the P.U.C. truck. Here C. Shullis, G. Holmes and D. Mason prepare to unravel the cable that unearthed the stump. Many volunteers turned out to assist in the project.

A delegation of 30 ratepayers from the Glenlea Subdivision was present at Acton council meeting on Tuesday evening, objecting to the "air pollution and odor" caused by the Beardmore Tannery. Spokesman E. Brock stated 21 out of 60 days from July 18 to September 14, the air had been foul.

"We have been literally stunk out of our homes," said the delegation representative.

It has been stated that council referred to us as a bunch of stinkers," noted the spokesman.

"We are a group of taxpayers in this town and our homes are covered in a dirty brown stain and the smell is getting right into our houses. It is even into our furniture, bedding and clothes," commented Mr. Brock. "I have not got a weak stomach but I personally have been sick to my stomach from the smell. I realize big industries pay taxes, but so do we."

"The firm in question has been here a long time and has done and is still doing everything in their power, to have this odor combatted, and I think a little consideration should be given them," stated Mayor E. Tyler.

"A firm of chemists and their own laboratory are presently trying out measures to stop this odor," further commented the Mayor.

Referring to other tanneries, Mr. Brock suggested he had been in Huntville several times and never smelled the tannery there. The mayor replied that for Mr. Brock's information, the smell was there as he was in Huntville quite often.

Mr. Brock stated, "There was a man in the room, who lived in Huntville for a good many years and had never encountered the odor." The mayor replied "the man must have been one jump ahead of the wind."

Town foreman A. Kirkness was asked whether the tannery at three o'clock produced an odor or not, and replied all tanneries smell the same.

Mr. Brock repeated to council that even though the tannery was a big taxpayer, "We little fellows are taxpayers also and surely we can get some protection."

"If council won't do it, someone will," noted the speaker.

"We will pass this information on to proper authorities," suggested the Mayor.

Kevin J. Hargave explained the majority of the odors are caused from spraying and recently Beardmore's have been trying out a new system.

Mr. Brock stated, "A week ago last Friday, it was positively stunk and I was on the verge of calling the mayor at 11 p.m." Continuing, he said, "You are elected representatives and should put pressure on the proper officials to investigate and do something to rectify this offence as no problem is too difficult to find an answer to it."

D. Hudson, although living in the Lakeview subdivision, was present with the delegation from Glenlea, and stated, "Council seem to condone this as no one has decided to take this to a higher level."

Mr. Cook replied to Mr. Hudson, "That council did not 100 per cent agree or condone things and that council as a body do not condone things."

Councillor G. Barbeau asked if Mr. Hudson had any suggestions.

Councillor W. Cook revealed to the delegation he had contacted Dr. Berry of the Ontario Water Resource Commission about the condition at 8:30 that morning and was told by Dr. Berry that he was in great sympathy with the people and the town, but there was nothing that he himself could do. He noted Beardmore's were doing everything possible and had gone as far as to employ an engineer from the United States and had spent considerable money trying to remedy the situation.

T. Lynch spoke up and asked to have action in black and white, not in phone calls.

Mr. Brock stated, "No doubt certain members on council turn their heads because they are not affected."

"I came 40 miles to get as much value for my money as I could and bought in good faith. If I had known about the condition, I would not have bought," said the speaker, and continuing, "The answer is to cure the odor and I will go personally as far as I can if I have to go to Ottawa. I will turn my own lawyer on it if I have to."

"We are entitled to breathe God's own pure air and Beardmore's should be compelled to eliminate the smell," stated Mr. Brock.

Mr. Lynch remarked, "If they saw this problem before, why is it 10 times worse than last year?" Mr. Hudson noted, "The tanneries in England do not stink."

At this moment, Mayor Tyler questioned the number of individual speakers when Mr. Brock was supposed to be the spokesman, to which Mr. Brock replied, "I am not the spokesman but the legislator, asking my own few words."

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DISPLAYING THEIR RIBBONS are the champions in the girls' class at the Acton High School field day. Left to right, Lenora Watson, senior girls champion; Carol Goodwin; bantam girls, and Ruth Landsborough, intermediate girls. Absent when picture was taken, Gloria McArthur, junior girls champion.



UP AND OVER GOES Carol Goodwin as she makes her final jump to win the bantam girls championship at the Acton High School field day on Wednesday. Carol won many ribbons and when the final count was taken she topped the other competitors in the bantam class.

Laying Gas Line Pays off Owner

Last week while servicing the home of Jack Lecker, Esq., on Avenue with gas, the United Suburban Gas Company located an old coin under the earth.

Mr. Lecker brought the coin to the Free Press office and after being cleaned off, it was found to be a half penny, Upper Canada token, dated 1836.

Mr. Lecker would be interested in knowing the present-day value of the coin.

Miss Fern E. Brown Passes Suddenly

This community was deeply grieved this week in the sudden passing of Miss Fern E. Brown at her home, 20 John St. She had been about as usual during the day and was suddenly stricken and passed away within an hour early Tuesday morning.

Fern E. Brown was a daughter of the late John Brown and Mary Anna Heise and was born at Colingwood. She came to Acton with the family while attending school. Acton has been her home ever since and it has had no more loyal or respected citizen during those years.

For many years she was a postal clerk here, rising to the position of postmistress for several years. For the past two years, she had been retired. During her years in meeting all Actonians, she earned an esteem that endeared her to all of us. She retained her interest in our young people and a helpfulness for the good of all.

She was keenly interested in the work and welfare of the United church and was for many years the efficient Treasurer of the Church Board. She belonged to many of the church organizations and was the faithful organist of the church. She has always been faithful and regular in her attendance at the services. She was not only faithful but had a trait that was outstanding in that she always had the courage of her convictions and was ready to express them kindly and work for the good of all. Late in her love of music has led her to sharing her association in the Music Appreciation Club here.

Fern Brown will be missed by all of us. Her friendly greeting, her cheery smile and her counsel and her influence will live long in the hearts of all of us.

Left to mourn her passing are three brothers and one sister, Percy of Brandon, Md.; Ernest A. Roy J. and Miss Bertha Brown of Toronto. A wide circle of friends here and elsewhere share with them the loss sustained.

The funeral was held this afternoon with service at the Rumley funeral home. It was conducted by her pastor, Rev. G. Adams of the United church, assisted by Rev. A. W. Fosbury of Toronto, a former minister. Interment was in Fairview cemetery. Many attended the service and a wealth of floral tributes also conveyed messages of esteem and sympathy.

Nine Halton Councils Oppose Oakville As Tax Appeal Now Enters Third Day

The \$2,000,000 assessment appeal by the town of Oakville against the Halton County equalized assessment by-law for 1957 today (Thursday) enters its third day of hearing in the Milton court house before a three-man board appointed by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Following today's hearings, the board will adjourn until Tuesday morning, when hearings will again open. The case may last all of next week, some officials believe.

Oakville hopes to lower its share of costs toward the County upkeep by approximately \$200,000. Town officials are basing their appeal on the claim that their levy towards the county by-law is not comparative to Halton's nine other municipalities.

Oakville attempts to have its assessment lowered by about \$2,000,000. All Oakville land values are lower than other municipalities. The town's total assessment this much. No other county municipality raised land values last year.

The town claims that county assessor J. Ford Rogers, in compiling the 1957 equalization by-law from the 1956 assessment rolls, did not allow for this sudden increase in Oakville assessment and they charge Oakville is being asked to pay an amount not equitable to other municipalities. The Oakville assessment department claims the assessments on land in other Halton municipalities is too low and that theirs is right.

The total amount of the county by-law is \$24,750,256, and Oakville has been asked to pay on \$19,885,816.

A. D. McLaren, QC, of Barrie, is chairman of the board. Fred H. Cade, Oxford county assessor, and A. A. Badley, Wellington county assessor, are the other members. Solicitor J. H. Dewey represents Oakville and H. Willis, QC, represents the County. With Mr. Willis are the various solicitors employed by Halton's other municipalities.

Today morning's proceedings included presentation of exhibits, introduction of representatives, and filing of evidence. Actual investigation got underway in the afternoon when Trafalgar and Nelson solicitor D. A. McConachie began his questioning of Oakville assessment commissioner Percy Spurgeon about industrial, commercial and residential purposes in Oakville and Trafalgar comparable in value.

Mr. Spurgeon, under cross-examination, admitted that since 1952 commercial properties had been increased only \$20 a foot, until the 1956 reassessment when they jumped \$100 to \$200 a foot. Terming the Oakville commercial section "the best shopping facilities in the County," the solicitor pointed out the land values hadn't actually increased in value from 1952 to 1956, and asked why, if the commercial property was worth that much more all the time, the town hadn't been paying county taxes on the actual value since 1953?

Mr. Spurgeon said he had planned to increase commercial land assessments but "I was just waiting

for the rest of the County to come up where I wanted."

Mr. McConachie claims the properties are unequally assessed at a rate a foot compared to the rest of the County, where commercial land ranges from assessment of \$25 a foot in Acton, the lowest, to \$130 in Burlington, second highest.

The assessor replied his assessments might be too high in comparison but suggested the rest of the County should increase. In reference to Oakville's 130 acres of land presently used by industry, solicitor McConachie asked why the land assessment jumped from \$1,500 from 1952 to 1955, up to \$3,500 an acre in the 1956 assessment. Mr. Spurgeon replied that he had been working to increase the assessments for three years before it actually happened, and during that time no increases were made.

On Wednesday morning, the Trafalgar and Nelson solicitor continued his questions about residential properties in Oakville comparable to some residential land in Trafalgar.

Photographs of rows of houses in Oakville and Trafalgar were shown and the assessment rolls produced, land and building assessments were given with lot sizes by the assessment commission.

When Mr. McConachie finished his investigation, George E. E. Nutt, QC, acting for Nassagaweya township, asked Mr. Spurgeon if the board took some assessment of Oakville, would it be alright to put it onto Nassagaweya? He replied he hadn't considered that possibility and said Oakville was only appealing the county by-law. Chairman McLaren reminded the solicitor that if Oakville won the appeal, the amount deducted from Oakville would have to be shared by the remaining municipalities.

Later questioned in the same respect, Mr. Spurgeon pointed out Oakville was not attacking any individual municipality, but the county as a whole. He admitted under question he hadn't made any surveys of assessments in the other municipalities, but suggested this wasn't his task.

Acton, Georgetown and Milton solicitors next questioned the witness to build up information for later developments in the case. Solicitor John Ord of Georgetown made it a clear point that assessments in his town were computed differently than in Oakville.

Solicitor C. F. Leatherland, Acton, pointed out use and location were main factors in assessing properties, and noted Acton was helping to pay for the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial hospital, although no Acton patients use it.

K. Y. Dick, Milton representative, took objection to an earlier statement by Mr. Spurgeon that Milton's \$50 to \$60 commercial rate per foot is under-assessed. Mr. Spurgeon said assessments in Milton's main business section should compare with Oakville's Ker: St. shopping district which is assessed at \$100 a foot.

Further substantiation of Oakville's appeal was given by Mr. Spurgeon when under cross-examination by Mr. Dewey, he explained

Oakville hadn't enlarged its boundaries, opened any subdivisions, or had any excess of building in the past three years while others had. He said this was especially true in Trafalgar and Nelson townships, where many new subdivisions have opened in the past few years.

Willis H. Sturupp, Oakville real estate agent, was the last witness called on Wednesday afternoon. He gave his estimated land and home values on the homes shown earlier that day in the photographs.

A full report of today's and next week's proceedings will be given next week.

Additional Swimmers Win Third Star Award

Jim Buckland, swimming instructor, announced this week three post-trial completions for their third and first star.

Last week Sue Walters and Jack Pope successfully completed tests for their third star, and Andrew Knox for his first star.

Mr. Buckland announced the third star graduation class will be having a little get-together this evening to enjoy pop and cookies.

—Don't forget the Fair tomorrow night and Saturday.

—Rain, rain, stay away, is the hope of the Fair Board.

—The park is looking its best for the week-end.



MRS. KENNETH KNOX left today, Thursday, from Milton Airport for South St. Marie on the first stage of her publicity campaign on behalf of the Canadian Save the Children Fund in the Western provinces. She is addressing meetings at about 40 cities and towns, including the lakehead, Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary and Winnipeg, where she is speaking at the Annual Meeting of the C.S.C.F. Manitoba Committee. Mrs. Knox is the National Executive Secretary of the Fund; she expects to be away about two months.