

# The Acton Free Press.

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## Disston Saw Will Move to Porter Plant Employ 150; Begin Operations Mid-July

### H. K. Porter Company (Canada) Re-Locate Toronto Plant Here

Disston saws and blades will be manufactured by 150 employees in a 80,000 square foot building presently being built in Acton, when the plant opens in mid-July.

Announcing the relocation of the Disston Division of H. K. Porter Company, vice-president and general manager of H. K. Porter Company (Canada) Ltd. explained the building would serve as the local office and factory of Disston, presently located in Toronto as well as the newly formed Refractories Division with offices now in Guelph.

Of the total 80,000 square feet, 25,000 square feet will be used for manufacturing with the balance being used for office space.

The building is known as a Taylor type and was designed by Disher Steel Company Steel erection is expected to begin in the near future.

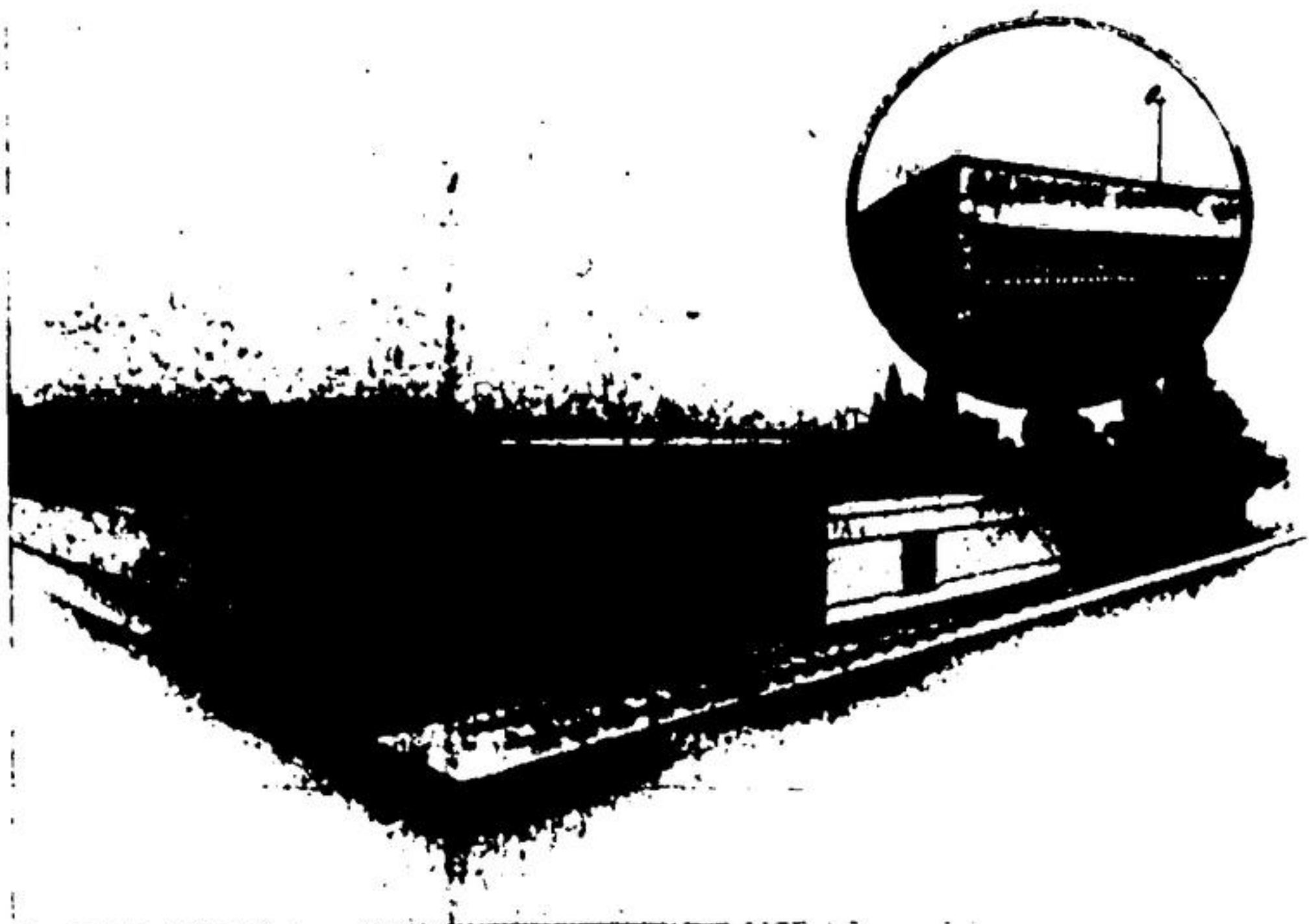
Mr. Nunn announced that the Disston Division formerly of Toronto, would bring their key personnel with them to Acton, but just what percentage of workers would follow the company to Acton was not known.

Mr. Nunn explained the purchase of this property, together with the construction of the new Porter building, will not only be a contribution to the economy of Acton and neighboring communities, but also to Canadian industry as a whole. Since the initial acquisition of Henry Disston and Sons Limited from the Disston Division, H. K. Porter Company (Canada) Limited has shown a pattern of rapid growth in Canada, as evidenced by its acquisition of the Federal Wire and Cable Division, Guelph Division, and the

Porter of Canada Division. The ten divisions of H. K. Porter Company are: Office Equipment Division, Delta Division, Disston Forge and Milling Division, Wire Rope, Quaker Rubber, Refractories, Revere-Alloy Metal and Vulcan Castable Steel.

J. A. O'Connor, advertising and public relations manager, informed the Free Press in an interview this week that the following office personnel would be coming to Acton: George F. Curbin, general sales manager, Disston Division; G. A. Harrop, purchasing agent; J. W. Lennie, general sales manager, Refractories Division; and D. Heatter, office manager.

It is expected, stated Mr. O'Connor, that Mr. Nunn would remain in Guelph.



PICTURED ABOVE are two artist's sketches of the new H. K. Porter plant being built in Acton. Upper photo shows the plant as indicated from a western view showing the railroad siding. Circled in the above picture is the office area. Lower photo shows an artist's sketch of the plant drawn on the property area and shows the road extension from Mason Boulevard, parking area and railroad siding. The 80,000 sq ft plant is located on the 50 acres purchased earlier from J. J. Stewart.

### Financial Wiz Heads Company Locating Here

Known as a financial wizard, Thomas Mellon Evans, chairman of the H. K. Porter Company, at the age of 48 owns about 77 per cent of the outstanding stock.

Mr. Evans was given his first job on leaving college, working as a \$100 a month clerk for the Gulf Oil Corporation, by W. L. Mellon, a great financial adviser. He picked up financial knowledge from Mr. Mellon who frequently urged him to go into business for himself.

To obtain capital, Evans in 1913 at the age of 25, rented Gulf common stock at three per cent, a unique financing arrangement. He put his profits back into Gulf and made money on his investment.

Looking for some place to invest his money, Mr. Evans devoted upon H. K. Porter. Founded originally by Henry Kiker Porter, the company was first known as Porter and Bell and manufactured steam locomotives used in factories, mills and mines.

Near the end of the nineteenth century, the name was changed to H. K. Porter Company. It has 100 employees and was one of the largest companies of its kind in the world.

After Porter's death in 1921 and the advent of the electric and diesel locomotive, the company's status deteriorated.

When Mr. Evans first entered the picture in 1929, it employed less than 40 persons and others on file were less than \$100,000. The company owed five years in back taxes on lands and buildings. Today H. K. Porter employs over 10,000 persons.

Mr. Evans' domination of H. K. Porter does not by any means embrace all his business activities. Three years ago he organized Evans and Company, a New York brokerage firm, which has a seat on the New York Stock exchange and recently acquired a seat on the American exchange. He is also president of several corporations and a director of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railroad and Hadman Chemical Company, Oklahoma.

Mr. Evans devotes virtually all his time to the financial side of the business and stays away from the operating end.

His only hobby is collecting stocks, many whose hair is thinning and growing has been described as a man of contrasting moods. In some respects he is shy, yet he sometimes appears "cocky".

According to a person who knows him well, he seems somewhat afraid of people although he deals with leading management people.

At times blunt and unyielding and undiplomatic, he is shrewd when talking about H. K. Porter. English is not his first language and he speaks it with a distinctive accent.

A great deal of his time is spent flying around the country in a company B-25 looking for new plants to acquire.

The editor began his career as a \$1.50 a week apprentice nearly 25 years ago and in 1917 he entered partnership with the late H. P. Moore on the Acton Free Press. At that time he operated the first type machine in Halton County.

In 1943 Mr. Dills acquired the Canadian Champion in Milton and published the two papers until 1954 when the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. was formed with Mr. Dills continuing as president and editor-in-chief of the two publications.

### Provincial Association Honors Editor-in-Chief

G. A. Dills, editor-in-chief of the paper was named Ontario Weekly Newspaperman of 1958 at the annual convention of the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association in Toronto on Friday evening.

The honor, the highest bestowed by the association, was given at a dinner sponsored by the publishers of the Province of Ontario. Following announcement of the award more than 200 publishers and wives from Ontario's weeklies paid tribute with a standing ovation while the publisher received personal congratulations from Lieutenant Governor Keiller Mackay and the Hon. Brian Croft.

A charter member of the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, the editor-in-chief is also chairman of the executive committee of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association.

### P.U.C. Discusses Services Hears O.W.R.C. Reports

Following the reading of the minutes of the Public Utilities Commission meeting last Thursday evening, the commission discussed the services of the H. K. Porter plant on the former J. J. Stewart property.

Commissioner C. Lindsay expressed what the council had recommended with regard to installing the water and sewer services to this property at the present time. Chairman J. J. Stewart reported there had been no recommendation from them but noted it had been suggested that the water and sewer work would spring for the installations.

What is being done is asked Mr. Lindsay and pointed out that there was a possibility of holding up construction on the building if during the time the road was passable.

Mayor W. Cook suggested that the engineers at the building be suggested and advised that they could supply material and prevent any hold-up.

Chairman Stewart advised the commission that the road would still be passable as only one of the streets affected when installing the sewer mission of the building is the sewer stockpile as would be the case in the progress of the work.

Superintendent A. Doherty advised the commission that the sewer pipe would be installed in the cheaper and better method of changing as would be the case in the progress of the work.

It is possible the job will be taken a couple of days for the sewer service, stated the superintendent.

Secretary Treasurer J. McGeechie informed the commission that H. K. Porter and Associates had a completed an up-to-date map of all the water services in town and were still working on the sewer plan.

Mayor Cook suggested having one map framed and kept in the P.U.C. office for reference, and having the water superintendent review the map and make any alterations necessary.

The secretary-treasurer read reports from the Ontario Water Resources Commission, 1957, 1958, 1959, being taken of sewage at the gas plant and Beardsley's gas plant.

A five-day BOD test taken by the O.W.R.C. at the disposal plant showed a BOD of 426 and it was noted the sample indicated BOD is excessive for discharge to the municipal sewage treatment plant.

An accompanying report stated the return sludge, aerators and final clarifier were found to be operable. This condition appears to compare with accepting wastes from the local tannery during off-peak hours. Flow rates during the night of approximately 400,000 gallons per day were observed on meter charts.

### Two Get Eight, Ten Years For Armed Bank Robbery

Two of the men implicated in the January 23 armed robbery of the Campbellville bank were sentenced to respective eight and 10 year sentences with hard labor in Kingston Penitentiary when they appeared before Magistrate K. M. Faragton this day morning. A third man, arrested last week, is expected to be sentenced in a few days.

The robbery was a material witness in the case, and he was ordered released.

The Magistrate sentenced Donald Portus, 26, driver of the bandit's car to eight years and Allan Corrie, 26, one of the men who gagged and tied the Bank of Nova Scotia manager and teller, was given a 10-year term and a third man, Walter Malloy, 31 was granted the remand Portus' lawyer, Jeannette Cropley, was released.

His record dating back to 1947 included general weapons theft, auto theft and armed robbery. He was not released from jail in October.

In handing down their sentences, Magistrate Faragton said he appreciated all the publicity given to bank robberies in the past few months and explained any sentence the court gives would be a deterrent to others contemplating such an act.

WHEAT VOTE

In the recent vote on the referendum on a wheat marketing scheme for Ontario a total of 11,632 of 16,416 eligible voters cast ballots. Halton was the only county to register a majority of opposition votes, 50 per cent, to discontinue the scheme.

In the overall vote 57 per cent voted in favor of the new scheme.

### Brownie Packs Face Extinction

Two Brownie packs face extinction if leaders are not secured by the end of the month, it was revealed this week.

Miss G. Haggart, president of the Scout and Guide Mothers' Association, voiced concern over the possibility of stopping the two Brownie packs if no leaders are secured in leadership by the end of the month.

The president stated that several leaders are needed. She applied to any interested citizens to help out in this worthwhile cause.

## Change Permit Fees Following Recent Court Action

Approval was given for permit fees of \$100 for any building or alteration under \$500 and \$200 per thousand for work estimated at \$500 or over.

A letter was read from Thomas and Thomas, contractors, who are building in the Glenora subdivision, requesting permission they purchase 40 building permits they enclosed a certified check for \$500 to cover the cost.

The letter stated it was understood the building-by-law had been quashed and it was the builders' impression that they revert to the original charge of \$200 per permit, recess while Mr. McLean and Clerk, Mr. J. McGeechie drafted an amendment to the building-by-law, setting a rate structure for building permits.

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### Change Permit Fees Following Recent Court Action

The mayor informed council that Acton had two representatives on the County Council who could bring back reports and Reeve Wilson said he didn't think the town could avoid payment to the hospital grant plan.

The mayor informed Mr. Wilson the motion on the books had to be amended.

Approval was given a by-law whereby council members are to receive an annual salary of \$400 with an \$5 deduction for regular meetings missed.

Approval was given to the Parks Board to levy a charge for picnics at the park on weekdays. For up to 25 persons there would be no charge and for 25 or more the charge would be 15¢ each.

The minutes of the Credit Valley Council decided to withhold issuing the permits pending legal information from the solicitors.

Council resumed a previous motion on objecting to participation in the County Hospital Plan where the clerk was instructed to contact the M.P.P. and have a special bill put before the legislature.

Members, in discussing the matter, wondered if a future Acton hospital might be endangered by not participating in the plan.

Clerk McGeechie explained the town's cost for contributions to county hospitals was based on the county levy of 3.5%. The county grant is \$6,000 per bed.

Councillor E. Fosditt asked the Reeve how many other things Acton was paying towards, such as roads in the lower end of the county.

### Three Councils Discuss Future North Urban Board, Dog Control

In a two and half hour session Wednesday evening in Georgetown members of Milton, Acton and Georgetown council reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of continuing the North Halton Urban Board.

Mayor Jack Armstrong and members of Georgetown council were back in the evening councils in the morning called following Acton's announced intention to withdraw from the three and a half year old tri-town board.

The decision for continuation was left with the individual councils following the review and each was to notify secretary Jack McGeechie of their intention as soon as possible.

It was generally agreed among members that following disagreements in setting fire area agreements it was evident nothing should be done by the Board that might be construed as binding on the municipalities since the Board had no legal status and was simply an exchange of discussion on mutual problems.

Mayor Armstrong in welcoming the 20 municipal representatives noted the value of discussion on mutual problems as the basis for the Board's existence. He reviewed the early plan of hiring a joint engineer, the exhibit at the trade fair, the dog control program and other board activities.

Councillor Johnson, Milton, reviewed the low cost of operating the group and suggested the social ability of the tri-town meetings was unparalleled in any other group.

Mayor Cook, Acton, indicated his personal agreement the board should continue but cited Acton's major objections as the effectiveness of dog control at what was a total high figure of \$1,200 and the break-down of combined negotiations on the fire area agreements.

Mayor Armstrong noted that Georgetown was the first to depart from the combined fire area negotiations but suggested if the Urban Board did continue members should realize it was simply an advisory group and decisions were not binding on councils.

Councillor Goy assured members he was not going with a belligerent attitude but going with 27 other councillors and was going to state his opinion. If the others can change my mind, then I'll agree with them, said the councillor.

A motion was approved by all members with the exception of councillor B. Raehlin, to record a previous motion thus making it compulsory for future services at the Lakeview subdivision to be negotiated at council.

In voting in the negative, Councillor Raehlin asked his reasons be recorded in the minutes. He objected on the strength it was improper to vote on a blank motion. The blanks referred to were in the resolution number and date of its passing. They were not available at the meeting.

Councillor Wilson, Milton, suggested relations with rural townships were much better now than they had been previously.

Councillor Raehlin noted he had not heard a great deal about the Board but felt dog control didn't warrant the expense. I feel that in Acton we should give great consideration to where the mills go, he concluded, noting he didn't see enough advantages to the Board.

Herb Morris and Inspector Alan McNabb of the Oakville District Humane Society reviewed the present dog control program with officials. Mr. Morris reviewed the total cost to the three towns was \$3,000 and one vehicle and one man were employed full time on the dog control that also involved Trafalgar, Bronte and Oakville.

Members noted objections of citizens to having to pick up dogs in Oakville. It was suggested that if dogs were tagged the owner could be notified from the municipal office and given 30 minutes to reclaim the dog before it was taken to Oakville. This was left with individual councils for discussion.

Mr. Morris pointed out the control officer made trips to the town at midnight, at 8 a.m. at varying times in the day and on varying days. He used no equipment to catch the dogs but his bare hands and he could not pick up a dog that was on the owner's property except to establish ownership.

Other complaints of cooing dogs off the owner's property, picking up puppies and threats to the control officer were reviewed.

The society representative noted a poll had been conducted on one Acton street and 41 of 42 residents indicated they felt dog control necessary.

Councillor Hurst summarized that where the Board had been acting in an advisory group it had been successful but where it entered into agreements it had been unsuccessful. Members agreed it should be limited to strictly an advisory group.

Mayor Armstrong thanked the members for coming and Mayors Cook and Childs thanked the Georgetown representatives for hosting the meeting.