

# The Acton Free Press.

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Twelve Pages—Seven Cents.



A PORTION OF A NEW WALL under construction for the new addition at Acton High School collapsed in the gale on Sunday. The Andreen Construction Company from Brampton are the contractors for the work and on Monday morning workmen were busy rearranging the scaffold and attempting to salvage some of the glazed blocks which cost in the neighborhood of \$1.50 each. Part of the steel structure being erected also fell after the supporting wall collapsed. By press time today the wall had been replaced and work was continuing on other sections of the structure.

## Board to Request By-Law to Establish Community Centre for Prospect Park

Acton Council will be requested to establish by-law a Community Centre to include Prospect Park and the swimming pool, in accordance with the provisions of the Community Centres Act, members of Acton's Board of Parks Management decided Tuesday at their regular monthly meeting.

After reviewing the many facets of dipping into grants provided for community centres by the province and appreciating that buildings already erected can be awarded grants up to 25 per cent, the board decided to request council to take necessary steps to implement legislation enabling the town to benefit by them.

**Board Could Petition**  
If council approves the motion, they will appoint a Community Centres Board as the next step and the Board can petition for grants from the Department of Agriculture.

Mayor Cook told the parks board that he and the town clerk spent a day in Toronto recently and were informed that it would be possible for the board to function as a Community Centres Board and remain as the Parks Board as well. The mayor informed members there was a \$2,500 grant for change stations. The board were told they could control and operate the park and athletic field at the same time.

Council's representative on the board, F. Watts, asked, "Do we lose control of spending by the board?"

G. Barbeau, "The Board of Parks Management can go to the town and demand up to one mill but the Community Centres Board can only request funds—the town decides."

A. Irwin: "A Community Centres Board is just a matter of convenience."

**Must Continue for 20 Years**  
The Board was informed that if the park was constituted as a community centre, it must continue so for 20 years. If the present board acted in a dual capacity as the Parks Board, they could spend the allotted mill but monies awarded by grant on capital expenditures to the Community Centres Board would be controlled by the town treasurer.

The board speculated that grants of \$10,000 could be collected if artificial ice was installed in the arena and combined with a ball

Chairman R. R. Parker, reminded members he had polled them regarding the purchase of picnic tables for the park and on the motion of G. Barbeau and F. Watts, it was decided to buy 15 tables at \$16 each at Acton Wood-crafts. Two tables will also be purchased from Department of Highways supplier for the sake of comparison. They will cost from \$30-\$35 each.

**Lifeguard Discussed**  
The chairman introduced the subject of a lifeguard for the beach at the park this summer after a letter was read from a local resident applying for the job. A lifeguard was included in the budget but members thought they should have definite requirements laid down before action was taken. The position would be advertised for when the requirements were known.

Questioned on whether the present liability insurance carried by the town covered activities at present controlled by the parks board, Mr. Parker replied in the affirmative. He explained that he had talked personally with the insurance representative and was assured they were covered now but they think the board should have a lifeguard. This was later confirmed by letter in which it was stated that the town of Acton's comprehensive insurance covers beach, dock or bath houses and recommending a lifeguard.

"We can't afford a lifeguard seven days a week, 24 hours a day," said the chairman. He was suggested that the park hours at the beach be found and a lifeguard be engaged for those times. Pending further information, the subject was left for the next meeting.

**Other Business**  
The board also:

• Elected R. R. Parker chairman and G. Barbeau vice-chairman for 1959.

• Appointed Mrs. G. Fryer as secretary.

• Requested council appoint A. Irwin to the board for a term of three years. His present term has elapsed.

• Agreed that sole rights to concessions in the park would be granted and no other selling permitted.

• Approved a motion by G. Barbeau and I. Kilby that town council find another location other

than Prospect Park for location of their snow. It was noted snow was dumped on the race track up to a depth of six feet and also on the turf. It was assumed that calcium in the snow removal program would kill grass in the park.

**Heard from G. Barbeau** that the park was included in the Roadside Parks brochure issued by the Department of Travel and Publicity and was described as "wooded and picturesque."

• Queried whether it was a legally constituted body after G. Barbeau read amendments to the Parks Board Act. Members are sending for further information.

Members attending the meeting were the chairman, R. R. Parker, Mrs. G. Fryer, A. Irwin, I. Kilby, Mayor W. Cook, F. Watts and G. Barbeau.

## Board Sets Budget at \$2,000 Reviews Committee's Decision

Acton Planning Board Tuesday evening set a yearly operating budget of \$2,000 for submission to council following a review and discussion on the past year's expenses.

P. Alan Deacon, planning consultant reminded the members that it would be wise to outline a five year plan for the town of Acton to include parking zoning and future growth.

Mr. Deacon reminded the board they should equip parking and traffic and deal with it as one problem in view of anticipated growth of the town. He also suggested there might be a possibility of having to provide one way streets to alleviate the traffic problem, although he warned the members "We would have to approach the very carefully."

Chairman Joe Whitham reviewed a recent judgement regarding a bid by the newly appointed Committee of Adjustment, when a developer set back a large lot six inches was allowed in Lakeshore Subdivision.

When H. Parks is acting secretary for the evening, read the letter from the committee the chairman remarked, "I feel very keenly about this. I think we can build good homes in this area and

ed there are a number of much better places to have this building than on that corner because it faces on nothing but an alley." It was suggested the committee obtain the sketch plans and see if the building will fit the spot. Buildings committee chairman, R. C. Cunningham, Reeve of Milton, agreed.

Next  
Size was the next obstacle. Deputy Reeve Cam Sinclair, Es-

## Fast Run

Acton Fire Department made a quick run to the home of Ron Douglas, Crewson's Corners, Tuesday evening, to cope with a chimney fire. Fire Chief J. Newton reported no damage. Firemen had everything under control within a few minutes.

## Parking By-Law O.K.'d By Dept.

Approval was received this week from the Department of Transport of a by-law to regulate parking, stop signs and parking areas in the town of Acton.

The by-law, Number 1161, provides for the regulation of all stop signs erected, designation of Arthur St. and Mill St. East as one-way streets and a "no parking" zone on Acton Blvd. from Peel St. to the new M. Z. Bennett public school.

Clerk J. McGeachie noted today that the by-law was now in force and that drivers would have to adhere to its provisions.

## Against Meddling

In continuing his viewpoints on the subject, Mr. Whitham told the planning board members, "I am strictly against meddling with a by-law in this area and am strictly for making the builder conform. If there is an application to alter the use of the lot then they should be considered on an individual basis."

After listening to comment on the subject, Mr. Deacon remarked Planning Board spent considerable time in studying to prepare the zoning by-law. The main concern of the builder was not for the people who might live in this area but the fact they might have to alter their plans.

"I don't understand the Committee of Adjustment's attitude in this, unless the builder has a stake in the town and I don't believe they have," said the planning consultant.

**Not for Town's Good**  
In explaining the explanation of the situation, M. Deacon told board members that the builder had a perfect right to contest the situation but he must not attempt to persuade the town if it was for the town's good.

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## Possible Solution to Sewage Problems Beardmore Official Informs Meeting

Public Utilities Commissioner, the Sewer and Water Committee of Council, and R. R. Parker of Beardmore and Co., met at a special meeting of the Public Utilities Commission on Thursday, March 12.

The meeting was called after a report was received from Ontario Water Resources Commission on B.O.D. content of waste being accepted at the disposal plant from Beardmore's. Before adjourning the discussions also touched on the possibilities of building an industrial sewage plant and the contamination of the south Main Street spring.

When discussing the higher B.O.D. content, Mr. Parker explained that Beardmore's this year had attempted to cut down the volume of water being used and that more water was being held in the storage beds.

**Lack Storage**  
Mr. Parker further explained that due to the lack of storage space, it was impossible to lower the B.O.D. content by adding more water.

"We are just about at the safe level as far as the dams are concerned in our storage beds. We have tried cutting down on the use of water in the plant but it is still filling the ponds. We may be in a position where we will have to close down the tannery, but I certainly hope not," remarked the Beardmore official.

Reeve J. H. Goy, chairman of the town sewer and water committee, asked Mr. Parker how serious the problem would be for Beardmore if the O.W.R.C. refused to let the town take any more waste from the company.

**Rain Would Fill Beds**  
In replying, the plant official explained the danger level of the storage beds on their property, and remarked, "If we run into heavy rains, they will fill the beds as there is not much leeway. If this happens, there is not much alternative but to cease operations."

It was also stressed by the representative from Beardmore that the amount of sewage being treated at the town disposal plant was a tremendous help to the company.

Mr. Parker pointed out that last year nearly 75,000 gallons of January sewage were treated per day at the town plant and this year only 40,000 gallons were being taken.

Mayor W. H. Cook pointed out that when the digester at the disposal plant had been cleared, a considerable amount of hair had been found. He asked Mr. Parker, "Why was this not filtered properly?"

**Eight Screens Filler**  
Mr. Parker noted there were eight screens filtering the waste before it entered the sewage plant. "The O.W.R.C. says we have a more pronounced septic condition at the plant since taking Beardmore waste. If caused by you, what are you going to do about it?" asked the mayor.

**Water Problem**  
Mr. Goy stated the town had two

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## Gale Damage Extensive New School Wall Falls

After a dreary day of chilly weather and rain on Sunday, the March winds suddenly recalled their reputation and started to blow.

They blew for hours and caused hundreds of dollars worth of damage all through the province.

After supper Sunday the gale brought snow driving it swirling down the streets. The howling of the wind continued through the night and the storm subsided gradually on Monday.

Then, the town and district started to assess the damage.

At the high school Sunday afternoon a newly laid cement block partition, approximately 14 foot in length, failed to withstand the strong gales and gave way, followed by a steel scaffolding used by the workers.

A portion of a steel beam, part of the structural steel formation, was soon sagging in a vain attempt to withstand the terrific onslaught of the high winds but succumbed to the fierce blasts whipping across the open area.

Workers Monday morning spent a great deal of time in an attempt to salvage the usable blocks, but were soon back in the process of continuing the construction of the new addition in spite of the still stiff winds. Some of the specially glazed blocks, part of the washroom wall, were valued at \$1.50 each.

Shingles came loose and television aerials toppled. Bricks pelted down from one Mill St. store front, while another had its awning torn to shreds.

The fire hall aerial was bent, and the Ajax Engineering sign blew down.

**Lucky Centre**  
Phone lines were down in the district, and Acton was the lucky centre of a power-less area Sunday night. Hydro was off in Milton, Rockwood, Norval and Glen Williams.

Garbage was strewn over snow drifted lawns as the cans overturned with a clatter.

Many small branches fell from trees, while several large branches crashed to the ground. A tree at the home of Miss Jessie McGregor lost several heavy limbs.

Wierd accompaniment to the storm was the whine of the fire siren as the wind blew through it.

While plastic storm windows billowed from windows and were torn off, in some cases—even the glass panes were broken.

**Barn Collapses**  
A frame barn on the farm of Rudolph Mulder, 6th Line of Erie

County, was blown over Sunday night. The barn was a two-story structure and was used for storing hay and grain.

The barn was owned by the late Mrs. J. H. Mulder and was valued at \$10,000. The collapse was a great loss to the family.

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Mr. Parker reviewed the analysis reports received from the O.W.R.C. and stated it appeared the plant was overloaded slightly prior to the time the grab samples were taken.

Sewer superintendent A. Doby explained the method of taking grab samples and remarked, "I would say the plant is doing a wonderful job but the O.W.R.C. is not satisfied with the B.O.D. count."

Chairman J. J. Stewart of the public utilities commission informed the company representative that he felt Beardmore had attempted to lower the B.O.D. content and when they could begin spraying operations, the problem would be relieved at the disposal plant.

**Query Shutdown**  
Mr. Goy enquired if the Beardmore plant would shut down in the event the town disposal plant went septic and couldn't handle the waste. He was told by Mr. Parker it would all depend on conditions at the storage beds and the promptness in starting spraying.

"In the event you do have to cease operations, I don't think the municipal body should be held responsible. I realize this could be serious. If Beardmore are cut off, we don't want people to think we are responsible," stated Mr. Goy.

Mr. Goy asked if Beardmore were taking any steps to eliminate this yearly problem and was informed that there had been discussions with the O.W.R.C. regarding the establishing of a disposal plant.

Councillor B. D. Rachlin asked Mr. Parker, "Do you think you will have a plant built by this time next year?" and received the answer, "We are working on the problem and hope we can solve it."

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## C.N.R. Work Crews' Task At Derailment Outlined

Last Friday evening, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Division 332, had as their guest E. P. Burns, of Stratford, Superintendent of the Canadian National Railway for this district.

Representatives from the Acton Council, Acton Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Acton Y's Men were invited. C. E. Jenkins, Area Superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Association and Sergeant James Dodd of the Westinghouse Division were present from Hamilton and a good representation from the Oakville Brigade were present with their superintendent, Norman Carlson.

**Outlines Derailment**  
Mr. Burns was introduced to the gathering by the local Superintendent, Robert Hart, and in his interesting address outlined just what took place on the night of December 27, when train no. 40 became derailed at Acton. An intensive investigation was conducted to find the cause of the mishap and by what means a recurrence could be prevented. He also described the system used to speed work crews and medical aid, if necessary, to the scene of an accident, in an amazingly short time. At Acton, the

work crews had finished their task and the disrupted train schedule was back to normal by morning.

Should a major disaster occur, Mr. Burns stressed the importance of one organization having full responsibility of organizing all relief measures.

He gave a brief picture of the part the Canadian National Railway plays in a major disaster such as forest fire, flood, landslide, or derailment, etc.

**Thankless Work**  
In closing, Mr. Burns told Brigade members that although their job was usually a thankless one, to take courage from the fact that it is a worthwhile work, and deserved to be well done.

Following a questionnaire, Mr. Jenkins was called upon for a few words. He pointed out that like railroad men, Brigade members are also on 24 hour call.

George Hargrave moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Burns for taking time out from his busy life to come to present such an interesting picture of the work of the Canadian National Railway, and also for the generous donation the Brigade had received.

A very bountiful lunch was served and a social hour followed.



CHECKING THE BOOKS during a meeting of the Acton St. John Ambulance Brigade in the United Church on Friday, March 13, is area superintendent C. E. Jenkins from Hamilton, while Brigade members and E. P. Burns, C.N.R. Divisional superintendent, look on. Pictured left to right are: front row, Bella-Maye Roszell, secretary, Mr. Jenkins and N. Colson, Brigade Superintendent of the Oakville Division; back row: Sgt. J. Dodds, Canadian Westinghouse Division, Hamilton; R. S. Hart, superintendent, Acton Brigade and Mr. Burns.

## Council Reviews Size, Location New County Administration Building

Haltoun's proposed new administration building hit its first snag Tuesday when the buildings committee asked council for permission to prepare sketch plans and estimates on a one-storey building comprising 3,500 square feet, to be located on the north-east corner of the county buildings block. Council held a lively discussion on its size and location.

Reeve William Card of Oakville cast the first-stone when he charged there are a number of much better places to have this building than on that corner because it faces on nothing but an alley." It was suggested the committee obtain the sketch plans and see if the building will fit the spot. Buildings committee chairman, R. C. Cunningham, Reeve of Milton, agreed.

When Reeve William Tyrell of Burlington asked if the building was big enough to allow for expansion of county departments, Reeve Cunningham said it had been planned large. The county of-

ties had been asked to submit their requirements, he said, which totalled 4,500 square feet. Another 1,000 feet had been added on by the committee, he said, for corridors etc.

We build everything too small, declared Deputy Reeve Mary S. Pettit of Milton. "Everything was built in the past 10 years has been too small school and all."

Permission was granted the committee to obtain plans and prices.

## Pay \$93,000

Haltoun County made its first contribution to the new Milton District Hospital on Tuesday. Council authorized the payment of \$93,000 — 25 per cent of the total grant — to be made by the treasurer.