

The Acton Free Press.

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Twelve Pages—Seven Cents.

P.U.C. Gives Approval to Committee To Adopt Trial Administration Plan

A three month test run of a new administrative system suggested by the administrative committee of council received the nod of approval by the Public Utilities Commission during their regular meeting last Thursday evening.

Under the suggested plan, the entire working force of the town including the sewer and water departments (presently under the control of the commission) will come under the control of one administrator, appointed by council.

The new administrative plan was sparked by the administrative committee of council as the result of a plebiscite during the last municipal elections which favored the dissolving of the Public Utilities Commission in favor of a hydro commission.

When the dissolution of the public utilities commission becomes effective on December 31 of this year, the sewer and water departments will be under the control of council and the hydro

department will be under the supervision of the newly formed hydro commission.

Special Meeting

At the outset of the meeting last Thursday, when the secretary read the minutes, it was learned the commission had called a special meeting the week previous to discuss what action they should take in view of the dissolution of the public utilities commission.

During the special meeting, held Thursday, September 24, the commission discussed all phases of the dissolution, with special emphasis on the effect it would have on the office accommodation and the need for office accommodation.

The commission decided during this meeting that a clean break should be made from the town office and separate offices maintained by the commission. It was the opinion of members that enlargement of the hydro building on Alice Street might provide accommodation for administration offices.

Doubtful as to zoning restrictions, the commission authorized the secretary to check this item. In the meantime, the property committee of the public utilities commission were to seek temporary quarters for a hydro office.

The final outcome of the special meeting was a request for the administrative committee of council to meet with the commission to discuss further action.

The special commission meeting was attended by all members and councillor B. D. Rechin, sitting in the absence of mayor W. H. Cook.

A late arrival at the regular meeting last Thursday, the mayor was informed of the minutes of the special meeting the week previous. When his attention had been drawn to the decisive action of breaking away from the town office, he briefly outlined the plan in mind for future administration of the town.

The commission learned it was the intention of the administrative committee of council to appoint an administrator responsible only to council to govern the entire town working force, including the sewer and water departments.

Mr. Cook informed the commission the person selected for this job would be in a position to supervise the office personnel as well as control any projects undertaken by the working force.

Then the mayor suggested the

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School Addition

Alarmed with Building Progress Board to Seek Early Completion

Trustees expressed dissatisfaction with the "unsatisfactory progress" on construction of the new wing of the Robert Little public school at the regular monthly meeting of the public school board Thursday, October 1.

On their last contact with A. Battaglia Construction, Guelph, the board had been assured the contractor would have every man on the job until it was finished. However, members indicated little or no progress had been made since that time and they were becoming alarmed at the slow rate of construction.

'59 Population Over 100,000

Halton County's population will go "over 100,000" by the time all Halton municipal assessors have reported the tally on the 1959 census sometime this week, county assessor Ford Rogers reported Wednesday.

To date a few municipalities have turned in totals, and big increases are seen in Burlington and Georgetown.

Following are assessment and population figures gathered by the Free Press in local municipalities:

Acton

Acton's finance committee next year will base the tax rate on a 1959 taxable assessment amounting to \$5,471,920.00, clerk J. McGonigle reported this week. This taxable figure is made up of \$3,240,270.00 for residential and \$2,231,650.00 for commercial-industrial properties.

With last year's assessment registered at \$5,226,321.00, it shows an increase this year in assessment amounting to \$245,600.00. The overall increase is a raise of approximately 4.8 per cent over last year's figure.

Milton

Milton's 1959 tax rate will be based on a 1959 taxable assessment of \$6,780,618, assessor Frank McEwen reported this week. On top of this, there is an exempt figure of \$1,798,345.

The taxable figure is made up of \$663,290 industrial and commercial and \$750,180 residential. Population is officially 5,257, an increase of 247 from last year.

Esquesing

Esquesing township's population rose 146 in the past year for a 1959 census total of 5,802, assessor George Benton reported this week. Assessment of the township is \$6,141,913. There is also \$115,943 worth of exempt property in the township, he added.

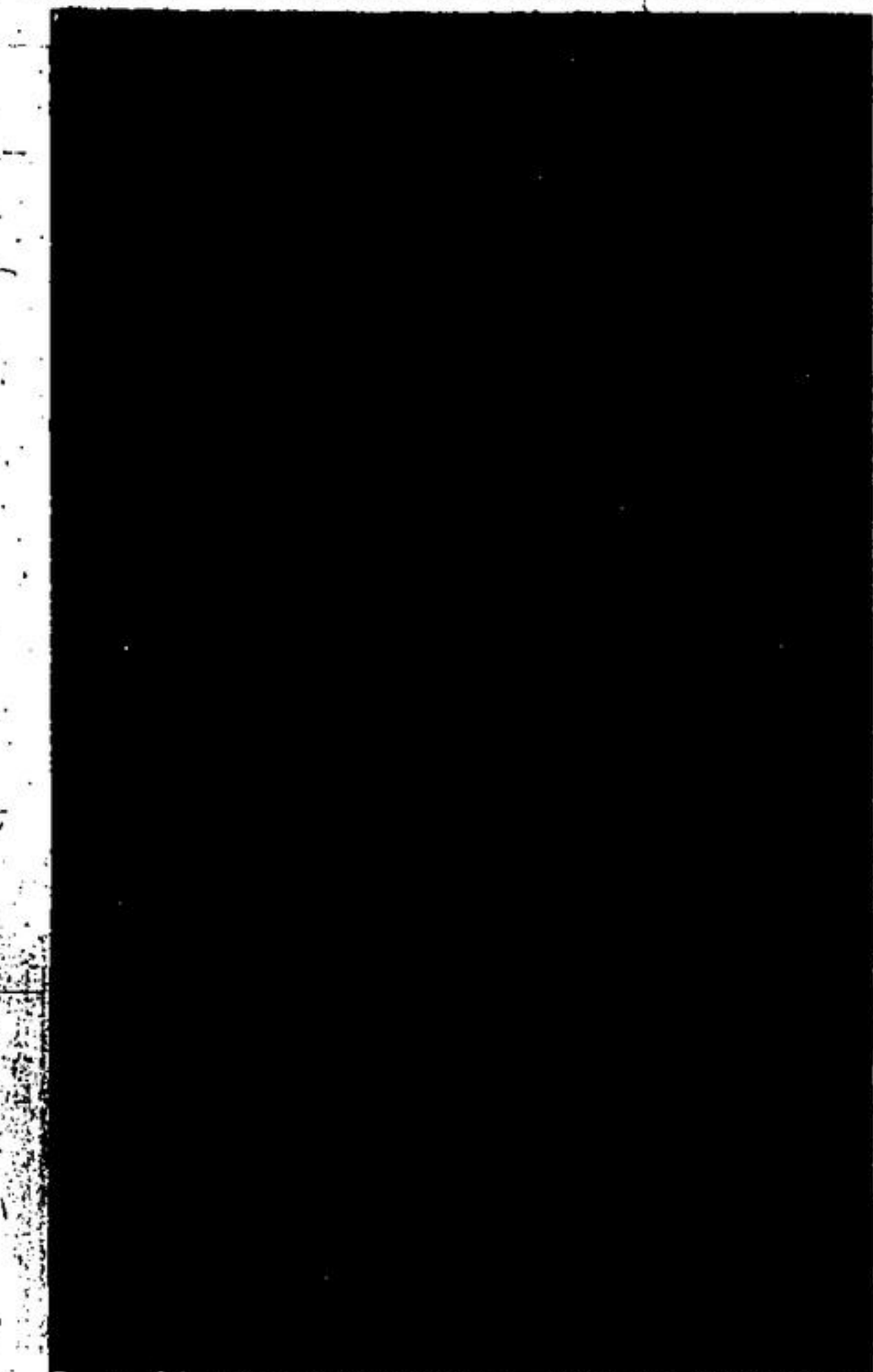
Nassagaweya

Assessment in Nassagaweya township increased \$103,000 this year to a grand total of \$2,226,405, clerk Don McMillan reports. The figure includes \$297,870 industrial and commercial assessment and \$1,930,415 residential assessment.

Not included in the taxable total is \$160 in farm woodlands plus schools and township exempt properties. Population figure will be available next week.



ACTON ORIGINALS who joined the 164th Halton-Dufferin battalion during World War I are pictured above during their annual reunion in Acton Saturday. Shown above front row left to right: A. Cook, now living in Guelph, J. Loutlet, Acton, Dr. A. J. Buchanan, Acton, M. Soper, Guelph, Back row, all Acton veterans, E. E. Barr, J. Locker and S. Snow. Gus Clifford was the other Acton man missing from picture.



PASSING MOTORISTS stared in amazement Wednesday afternoon as they saw the top portion of a hydro pole suspended in air with workmen seemingly making repairs. The truth of the story is, the pole in front of Jack McCallum's service station was one affected by the incident early Sunday when four poles crashed down after one gave away. Pictured above Don Anderson and Deron Frizzell, hydro workers, prepare the balance of the pole to be lowered to the ground.

Pamphlets, Fire Drills, Inspections Mark Beginning of Fire Prevention Week

This week are the Acton fire fighters - busy attempting to educate the public to become conscious of the importance of preventing fires.

The 27 man brigade have prepared a stack of literature and pamphlets for distribution from door to door. Schools have been visited, industries and commercial businesses inspected and reports filed.

The Acton Fire Department, always safety conscious as are any fire department, would like nothing better than to service their equipment daily and never to answer an alarm.

Unfortunately this does not happen, alarms are turned in—because, according to statistics most fires are caused from carelessness.

This week the firemen are going all out to imbue "Fire Safety" into the minds of each and every citizen in the Acton area from kindergarten pupils to parents at home.

This Friday and Saturday will be open house at the fire hall and films of fire safety will be shown, a tour of the building made and citizens will have an opportunity of meeting with and asking questions of the men responsible for fighting fires in this area.

Fire Drill

On Wednesday the firemen, during their visit to the schools, pulled a surprise fire drill and in each of the three schools pupils fled out in an orderly manner in record time.

At the M. Z. Bennett School, 397 children attending classes in 12

rooms cleared the school from the first sound of the alarm in 60 seconds.

The next school visited was Acton High school and fire chief Jack Newton, assisted by Phil McCristall and Sam Tennant, department members, lined 200 students occupying 15 rooms during the drill, in a record of 40 seconds.

At the Robert Little School the three firemen were pleased to find 500 pupils, occupying 17 rooms complete their fire drill in 52 seconds.

The chief noted that the pupils all acted promptly and moved quickly at the first sound of the alarm, flung out of the buildings in an orderly manner. "There was no great rush on the part of the boys and girls," remarked the chief as he noted how they had taken to heart the training given by the principals of the schools.

Planning Board

Urges Definite Proposals Before Opinion Expressed

Two delegations appearing before planning board Tuesday evening were instructed to present more definite proposals for land use before any opinion would be expressed regarding a change of the zoning by-law.

J. J. Stewart and E. G. Tyler Sr. representing the Public Utilities Commission, requested the board's viewpoints on zoning of their property on Alice Street in order to plan for further development.

P. Alan Deane, planning consultant, reviewed the existing building on the Alice Street property and informed the commissioners they could build to the extent of their property line as the adjoining property owned by the town was classed as public lands. He advised the two men however it would be better to submit plans for future development before any final decision could be given.

Three Zones

Jim and Dave Dills representing the Dills Printing and Publishing Company requested the board's clarification of their property recently purchased from the Baxter Laboratories regarding zoning.

Jim Dills pointed out that the existing building on the property was in two separate zones and the entire property including the building was classed in three zones.

Following a discussion on future

Take Heed

A friendly warning was issued to motorists driving on the highways this coming holiday weekend, by local police who advise drivers to obey the traffic rules.

Corporal Ray Mason of the local O.P.P. Detachment pointed out that all leaves are cancelled on the police force across Ontario and every policeman and cruiser including plain cars will be pressed into service in order to prevent accidents and deaths.

Motorcycle police will be out in full force as well making constant patrols of all highways within their jurisdiction, the corporals added.

5 Room School Near Speyside Out for Tender

A new five room public school is in the offing to serve rural Esquesing around Speyside district.

Presently out for tender by architects Barnett and Bredler it is planned to construct the school on No. 25 Highway at the south east corner of 17 Sideroad. Design is such that two more rooms could be added at a later date, as well as an auditorium type room.

The school, which will be under jurisdiction of Esquesing School Area 1 will relieve overcrowding which has plagued several district schools of the old one-room variety. Presently, some 30 students are being taken by bus to Stewarttown from Dublin and Bannockburn; others are bused there from Stone School, Blue Mountain, Norval, Clay Hill, and Ashgrove and the Stewarttown school is already overcrowded.

The Speyside building will serve new students who might otherwise be attending Bannockburn, Lorne, Dufferin and Dublin Schools.

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Prevent Fire

In keeping with Fire Prevention Week, Acton firefighters prevented what might have resulted in a business section catastrophe around 1:30 p.m. Wednesday afternoon when gasoline running freely from a parked car was washed down the street.

Councillor Hans Peal, first to notice the gasoline running from the gas tank of a parked car on the street, immediately notified the police who in turn notified the firemen.

Within seconds the firefighters had moved one of the two trucks from the fire hall on Bower Avenue to the corner of Milk and Willow Streets and were busy washing the gas down the street.

Prompt action by the council and quick response of the firemen possibly prevented a disastrous fire which might have resulted if someone had tossed a lighted match near the fumes.

Board Reviews Mutual Problems Studies H.S. Board Composition

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Composition of the three new district high school boards to replace the existing North Halton High School District Board, was reviewed at the meeting of the North Halton Urban Board in Georgetown on Wednesday.

It was noted, after studying the act, the Acton and Milton boards would be composed of two representatives of the town, one from Nassagaweya, one from Esquesing, one appointed by the Public School Board and in the case of Milton one appointed by the Separate School Board.

Georgetown board would be one man larger with three representatives from the town because the population was in two municipalities rather than three.

Assessment Down, Rate Up

Georgetown Assessor Joe Gibbons addressed the Georgetown-Milton-Acton representatives warning that the adoption of the new D.M.A. manual for assessing by the county would mean a reduction in assessment with the resultant increase in mill rates. "If we all use the D.M.A. manual it will be a long time before we have an equalized assessment comparable to what we have at present."

Members discussed assessing in general, the result of the D.M.A. system on existing assessments, the result of spot checks in various municipalities, the possible inauguration date for the new system and the cost involved in adopting it.

Polled on whether their municipalities would have the D.M.A. system ready for assessment in 1961, Mr. Gibbons noted Georgetown couldn't possibly hope to have it done properly before 1962, Acton indicated they would not likely be ready in 1961 and Milton representatives thought they would be finished.

Successful Deal

Councillor Hugh Lowe, Acton, reported that town's arrangement with a private Guelph Ambulance operator was working successfully. He noted the contract basis the previous year had been increased.

Milton representatives sought advice on recreation commissions and Mayor Armstrong reviewed Georgetown's experience. He stressed it was only as valuable as the interest of the general public in it. The group also reviewed arena operations.

Milton representatives also inquired about the various ambulance services operating in Georgetown and Acton following the end of private service.

Mayor Armstrong, Georgetown reported their volunteer ambulance brigade numbering 90 volunteers and limited to 100, was operating quite successfully and would likely show a \$1,000 profit this year, although purchase of a \$4,000 ambulance the previous year had resulted in a deficit.

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In the Wee Sma' Hours

Broken Poles Cause Headache To Hydro Department Sunday

The Acton hydro department had not just one headache early Sunday morning, but four—in the form of broken, twisted wires and toppled hydro poles on the stretch between Mill and Queen Streets on the west side of Young.

Cause of the mishap which resulted in cables, wires and transformers being tossed to the ground, leaving the area in murky blackness, is thought to be perhaps a pole rotten below the ground level.

At first it was believed that a vehicle of some nature struck one of the poles with the weight of the broken pole and wires causing the others to fall. However, no signs of tire marks or gouges were found near or on any of the poles.

Hydro superintendent Doug Mason believes the one pole fell (possibly from old age), causing the others to give up the ghost as well.

On Highway, Property

The pole at the corner of Mill and Young Street in front of Jack McCallum's garage was broken off about one-quarter of the way down from the top and supported

only by a maze of wires and cables, came to rest overhanging the highway.

Another pole in front of Mrs. Rudderick's grocery store changed its appearance and took on a leaning tower of Pisa form. The third pole in front of Geo. Simpson's residence came crashing to the ground, missing the front of the house by a mere foot and combined with the weight of a transformer, brought down another pole in front of Mrs. W. Nesbitt's home.

It was an eerie sight to witness as the hydro crew, equipped with their search lights, toiled up and down the street at 2:30 a.m. in an attempt to determine the extent of the damage.

Rain the past few days has prevented the hydro crew from repairing all the damage but power has been restored to the homes in the district and as soon as the weather clears up, the remainder of the work will be completed.

On Wednesday the broken pole at McCallum's Service Station was removed.

Safety pamphlets were handed out at the M. Z. Bennett school by three members of the Acton Fire Department on Wednesday during their inspection and fire drill. Pictured above front row left to right are: Cathy Papillon, Rosalind Hall, Vicki Lynn Holmes, David Braide and Brenda Irwin. Back row: Phillip

McCristall, Chief Jack Newton and Sam Tennant. The visit to the schools marked part of the program undertaken by the local firemen during Fire Prevention Week. When the chief sounded the alarm for fire drill the children vacated the building in 60 seconds.