New Canadians Share Limelight At Family Night Christmas Party

Luxton Memorial Hall was crowded on Saturday, December 19, for the Acton Scottish Dance Club's "Family Night" Christmas party.

It was indeed a "party with a difference" for it was a combination of family fun, specific warm friendliness for some New Canadian families and a chance for the children to get in a little educational travel, searching in the atlas for Poland, France, Germany, Holland and Czechoslovakia, which countries were all represented in the program.

Origin of Idea

President of the club, Dr. Robert Buckner was unable to be present at the commencement so his wife acted as deputy to welcome the guests. She said that they had first heard of the Family Night idea in Port Arthur when they had belonged to a Square Dance Club, which was part of a Community Centre. Once every month the families came out together, when the grown-ups danced with the children and gave them all the fun they could in many varied ways.

The Family Nights held by the Acton Scottish Dance Club had proved eminently successful and were now an established part of the season's program.

New Canadians

Canada is a comparatively new country, made up of many nationalities and the Acton Scottish Dance Club invited a few groups of New Canadians to come and share the Christmas party. fun. It was an attempt to understand the worth of friendship, to show kindness one to another and to foster goodwill in the community. People were urged to search out more families for the next Family Night in February.

Before starting the proceedings, Mrs. Oliver Moran was introduced — a lady who had been present at all rehearsals and without whom the preparation of the program would not have been possible.

Jim Donnelly, the capable M. C., soon had the ball rolling, while Mrs. Wm. Merkley, Toronto, led off with The Grand Old Duke of York.

Children's Carols

Mr. and Mrs. David Izatt of Clarkson once again lent their public address system, which was a tremendous help and the children's group of carols was easily heard. First, Sheila Donnelly's clear, sweet tones rang out in Infant Holy, a Polish carol. The French carol, The Friendly Beasts, gave scope for many to make their singing debut. Sally Dick, Heather McGeachie, Heatheranne, Dumarch, Beverley Brunelle, Cathy Cook, Debbie Reed, Ellen Wissenz, Nancy Gordon, Terry Dowding and Jean Sproston.

At first, little Marianne Huefner was scared at the thought of singing alone in German, but with her sister-in-law, Lucy, at her side, she sang out quite fearlessly Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht.

Dutch Christmas

Next came a delightful interlude with Mr. and Mrs. Henry De Vries, Irene, Diane and Lillian. With father at the piano, mother and three immaculately dressed wee girls (complete with white gloves) sitting close beside him on the stage, this Dutch family sang Nicholas I Beg You and O Come Have a Look at What I'm Finding in My Boot. Mr. De Vries told the audience that December 5 was the day when St. Nicholas came with gifts, but Christmas Day was kept as a Holy Day.

Mrs. Bob Masek was welcomed to the microphone with a neighbor Bill Chlachula, both from Czechoslovakia, who were thanked for bringing down to the party the very beautifully decorated Hansel and Gretel Christmas cake house.

Four Days of Work

This had taken Mrs. Masek four days of patient work, embedding the cookies, smarties and silver balls into pounds of icing sugar. The wooden house was lit inside and furnished, while the garden, fence and figures were all a masterpiece of authentic detail. Mrs. Masek greeted the audience in her native tongue with appropriate Season's Greetings.

The variety program was well named and participation was the keynote to the success of the community spirit of the evening.

Gay 90s Costume

Mrs. Merkley, with her sister Miss Marjorie Hall at the piano had everyone up for the Cokey Okey. Mrs Dumarch also assisted in this item. Boomps-a-Daisy, demonstrated by Ruthann Leatherland and Anne McMillan, accompanied by Mrs. Moran, in costume of the Gay Nineties complete with bustle, whiskers and moustachios, was soon matched by everyone.

There were songs from Jane Kennick, Linda Lothurnel, and Mrs. Effie Brown, Guelph. The Irish Jay Jaye Lilt, both accompanied by Mrs George Robertson Young. Johann Brown and her mother played Jingle Bells as a piano solo.

Scottish Dances

Local talent came to the fore with the Misses Christine Fayers, Jane and Anne Watson, who did the difficult Sword Dance with great perseverance. Lawrence Duby, first member of Acton Junior Pipe Band to perform a solo dance, gave the Highland Fling, bringing credit to the troup.

Very popular with the Acton teen-age group are Misses Margaret and Kathleen Thompson from Galt, who rendered a duet O Holy Night, accompanied by Mrs. G. Robertson.

With Mrs. O. Moran at the piano, the lilting Song of the Clyde provided participation for Ruthann Leatherland, Anne McMillan and a group of a dozen boys. Young Evelyn Ross and Henry Wissenz proved to the delighted audience that even the smallest ones can make their young voices carry to the rear of the hall as they lustily sang the chorus together.

Band Appreciated

Acton Junior Pipe Band contributed two selected items and each member was given individual recognition in appreciation of the faithful way they turn out for the A.S.D. club whenever requested.

Interspersed in the program were the Pat-a-Cake Polka, the Canadian Barn Dance, the Bunny Hop with deafening applause and requests for encores.

The two talented young dancers, Andrena Cumella of Milton and Penny Izatt of Clarkson charmed the audience with three numbers. Together they performed a Spanish Dance, while Andrena gave a spirited rendering of the Irish Jig, and Penny, Flora McDonald. These two lassies have endeared themselves to the club, not only by their willingness to perform but also by their modesty and good manners. They work extremely hard at their dancing, their music and also stand high in their work at school.

Bring and Buy Table

At the close of the program, it was mentioned that since 1955 Acton had given many gifts to the Sunshine School for Retarded Children in Milton, including a set of percussion instruments and an album of Rhythm and Dance records which were used constantly, if not every day.

Everyone had been asked to contribute to the Bring and Buy table. With the proceeds, books and music were to be given for the teachers to use at the Sunshine School. Four items from the music books were demonstrated.

In Tell Me, Tell Me, Bouncing Ball, the large balls used were given to the retarded children by some Acton Brownies at Easter 1958 and are used regularly for games and rhythmic counting. Dance of the Rag Dolls is for easing and relaxing of tension. Sung of the Show Shine Boys is for speech problems. Hippety Hop to the Barber's Shop was demonstrated by Terry Dowding, Heatheranne Dumarch, Crispin Norman, Angela Ross, Ellen Wissenz, Valerie Wright (Guelph) with solos by Beverley Brunelle and Anne Gordon. Show Shine boys were Gerald Dick, Tony Leighton, Jamie Hamm, David Hargrave, Keith Tarrant.

Share Box Lunches

Following the buying of gifts from the Bring and Buy table, convened by Mrs. Bill Wilson, assisted by Mrs. Doug Tarrant, the company were piped to the basement for a shared box lunch superintended by Mrs. Bob Foyers, Mrs Bert Rennick and many helpers.

Scottish dancing followed. Many were the remarks of how well the mothers looked dancing with square young sons, and proud fathers with their daughters. The evening closed with the singing of Auld Lang Syne, which led to a question from one young man, "Who is old man syne?"

Donations to Date

Proceeds to date for the Sunshine School for Retarded Children in Milton from the Bring and Buy table $18.40, from the sale of a handbag $8.40, donation from Ebenezer Knox Presbyterian church social $10, from the Twenties children, Lamplighter, $1.10, from the sale of figurines made by Mrs. J. Hetherington, $6, total $47.92.

Inaugural Meet

Inaugural meeting of council has been set for Monday, January 4, clerk J. McGeachie reports.

Mayor W. H. Cook will again head the Ford council accompanied by reeve J. H. Gov, deputy-reeve J. Hargrave and councillors W. J. McLeod, J. M. Greer, E. Pope, G. V. Barbeau, H. Lowe and L. Duby.

Mr. Gov retained his position as reeve from last year. Acclaimed to the position of deputy-reeve was a former councillor J. Hargrave.

J. M. Greer, former deputy-reeve, stepped down in favor of a position on council. G. V. Barbeau returns to council following a term on the Board of Parks Management.

Councillors W. J. McLeod, E. Pope and H. Lowe were on last year's council. Joining council for his first term will be Leslie Duby, who headed the polls.

Members of the Acton Ministerial Association will conduct a brief dedication and all members of council will be sworn in by the clerk.

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LIGHTMAN'S DEPT. STORE

A CHRISTMAS PARTY was held for the young dancers in Mrs. Jack Carpenter's class on Wednesday, December 23, at Luxton Memorial Hall. During the party the young dancers were given party hats and balloons and fed sandwiches, cookies and chocolate milk. All told 38 were present for the event and were entertained by Mr and Mrs Carpenter.

Home and School Membership Drop Debated by Executive

Serious drop in membership was a main topic of discussion at the last Home and School executive meeting Bill Wilson reported that last year's total of 134 members had dropped to 44. He had phoned a cross-section of former members seeking their reasons for not joining, and reported that some cited business reasons, some their inability to get out to meetings and others their dissatisfaction with the program.

He recalled that a questionnaire had been sent out to parents seeking program suggestions, and only 14 replies had been received out of about 1,000 forms sent out.

Members felt those criticizing the program had no very constructive suggestions to offer.

The matter will again be discussed thoroughly by the executive.

New Convener

Mrs. C. Brown was welcomed as the new social convener. Her predecessor Mrs. Tom Fleming, has moved to Guelph.

A letter was read from Mrs. Robert Bell of Stratford, a popular speaker who addressed the group. She pleased out that the cheque she received will be forwarded to the Stratford Festival Foundation committee, as is her custom.

Letters from the Robert Little school home economics and industrial arts teachers pointed out the need for more equipment, and details will be sought.

Association Publicity

A weekly column is appearing Mondays in the Guelph Daily Mercury, containing news of the Guelph Home and School council, of which Acton Home and School is a member. Publicity chairman of the council, Mrs Jackson, is now requesting the news of the Acton group for publication in the column. It was agreed this would be done.

Enthusiasm has met the proposal of a local Home and School magazine keeping members in closer touch with events. It is hoped to include articles by teachers and principals and planning is continuing.

The next meeting was announced for Thursday evening, January 21 in the Robert Little school auditorium. There will be a preview of the area public speaking finals which are being held the next week, when Acton winners will give their speeches for the group. A film is also on the agenda.

Knox Explorers' News

Before the Knox Boys' Explorers' Christmas meeting was called to order, we sang a few carols. Bernard Freuler called the meeting to order. We said the Explorer motto, purpose, prayer and sang the Explorer hymn.

Bob Watson gave a Christmas prayer and Bernard Freuler read the Christmas story from Matthew. Mrs Coles told a Christmas story and Mrs. Blow served a lunch consisting of sandwiches.

Each boy received a candy cane, exchanged presents and followed Newton Hurst in a game. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Christmas Eve Collision Nets $450 Damage

Damage totalled $450 when two cars were involved in a rear-end collision on the Seventh Line of Esquesing at Highway 7, Christmas eve.

An unidentified car was stopped on the Seventh Line at Silver-creek corner facing northbound traffic and its high lights caused a second car driven by Henry Gerds of Point Claire, Quebec, to miss the highway and drive onto the sideroad. A third car driven by Harry Jansen of Lithehouse followed suit, and collided with the rear of the Gerds car.

Const. Ray Andress of North Halton O.P.P. investigated, and reported no injuries.

Adults Take Over Scout Hall Tuesday

A very pleasant evening was spent together by scout, guide, cub and brownie leaders and members of the scout group committee and Scout and Guide Mothers Association Tuesday evening at the scout hall.

Sid Newton was master of ceremonies for the program, which included dancing with squares and Scottish dances, singing and games were also enjoyed.

Mrs. Sid Newton and Mrs. Clint Taylor were in charge of the program. Mrs. J. Bradshaw played the piano.

Box lunches were exchanged and tea and coffee provided as the merry group sat down at tables. Afterwards, there was more dancing.

This social evening also proved successful last Christmas.

Avoids Serious Fire As Car Strikes Pump

Prompt action by "Beaver" Hall, garage attendant at Ballentine Motors on Queen Street averted a serious fire and near explosion, when one of the gas pumps was dislodged as a car skidded striking the pump, on Saturday at 7:55 pm.

An out-of-town driver proceeding through Acton on the icy shrouded, sleet covered pavement turned into the garage for a tank of gasoline. His car failed to respond to his touch on the icy roadway and struck the gas pump, dislodging it and causing a slight fire.

Quick thinking on the attendant's part quelled what might have been a serious fire when he grabbed a fire extinguisher and rushed to the scene dousing the flames with chemicals.

Acton firemen dispatched three units to the scene but the fire was under control by the time they reached the scene on the icy roads.

Local O.P.P. officers investigated and blamed the mishap on icy roads.

The driver of the car drove off after the incident without purchasing any gasoline and continued on his way with a smashed bumper.

1960 License

Driver's license and motor vehicle license plates go on sale in Acton this Saturday, January 2 in the Acton office according to Jack Hargrave, local agent.

Although expiry date for present plates and drivers' licenses is not until March 10th, Mr. Hargrave expects a rush the first part of next year.

In a recent government release to all agents, it was pointed out that anyone applying for a license must produce a liability insurance certificate as the statement of insurance coverage on the back of the 1959 license is not sufficient.

Anyone failing to produce this certificate will have to pay an additional $5.00 for the license.

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Three Injured As Cars Crash

Three persons were slightly injured and damage totalled $1,100 in a two-car accident on Highway 7 half a mile east of Acton Saturday evening.

A westbound car driven by William J. Higgins of Toronto was passing another car and collided head-on with an eastbound car driven by Gerry Homewood, R. R. 2, Campbellville. Mr. Higgins received 12 stitches in a forehead cut while his wife, a passenger, received five stitches in her forehead. Homewood received lacerations to the face and legs.

Const. Roy Hazlett of the North Halton O.P.P. said damage to the Higgins vehicle was $800 and the Homewood car received $300 damage.

As of September 1, 1958, Canada's population was estimated at 17 million, an increase of 266,000 from the start of the year, compared to an eight month increase of 401,000 in 1957.

High Masonic Post For Georgetown Man

Ex. Comp Jack Armstrong of Georgetown was elected first principal of Halton Chapter Royal Arch Masons two weeks ago, and last week was named to a higher Masonic post in Guelph.

He becomes presiding preceptor of Victoria Preceptory No 10 of Knights Templar of Canada. The preceptory takes in members from a wide area of Halton Dufferin and Wellington counties.

Thanks and Happy New Year

Our hearty thanks to you, friends and patrons, for your loyalty and good will. Here's hoping you have a grand New Year.

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- That it be a healthy one
- That you have happiness
- That it last forever

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