

The Acton Free Press.

Eighty-Fifth Year.—No. 28.

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Marked Decrease In '59 Permits

Building permits issued at the town office in Acton during 1959 showed a decided drop over the previous year. Building in Acton during 1959 amounted to \$887,742 as against a total of \$1,180,510 the previous year. This shows a decrease of \$292,768. From last year's total of \$1,180,510, a large portion of the permits issued in 1959 was for building an addition to the Acton high school and new homes in Glenlea and Lakeview subdivisions. Other permits issued were for additions and renovations to present homes and buildings.

"Dean" Begins His 36th Year

This month Richard Harris starts his 36th year as the Rockwood correspondent for the Free Press. His clearly typed, well informed news items arrive each week regularly and can always be counted on to fill a corner with interesting items. Mr. Harris is termed the "dean of correspondents". He often comes to town with his news articles and is greeted with affection by staff members.

\$282,800

Nassagaweya township issued no building permits during December, and the total construction value of the township during 1959 was \$282,800. Permits for the year included 22 homes and one gas station. No permits were issued during the months of January, February, November or December.

Firemen Douse Chimney Fire

Acton firemen doused a fire at the home of Earl Jordan, Bower Avenue, on Monday morning when kindling burning freely started a small blaze in the chimney. The wail of the siren summoned firemen at approximately 9:40 in the morning. Slithering over the icy streets they arrived at the scene of the fire within minutes and using the fog nozzle of one of the booster lines soon had the small blaze under control. No damage resulted from the fire, according to chief Jack Newton.

Lorne Overflow Commutes Here

When school re-opened following the Christmas holidays, Robert Little school principal G. W. McKenzie and the grade seven and eight teachers received an additional 12 pupils from Lorne School where crowded conditions exist. The new pupils were allocated to the grade seven and eight rooms and are being transported daily to the Acton school by parents, until the central school is completed near Speyside.

Nassagaweya Council Inaugural Names Appointments, Salaries

At the 1960 inaugural meeting Monday morning, members of Nassagaweya township council made several appointments, passed three by laws and set the salaries of all township employees. Members were inducted by pastor K. Griffiths of Ebenezer church following the oath.

Appointments John A. Milne to the Milton District Hospital board, Grant Campbell to township planning board for three years, Deputy Reeve Archie R. Service to the planning board for one year, Reeve Milne and Charles Thomson to the Acton fire area board, Deputy Reeve Service to the Milton fire area board, Harris Elliott as caretaker, Don McMillan as building inspector and relief officer, Stanley Fulton assistant assessor, poundkeepers John Small, Ross

Up One. Dog tags sold during 1959 exceeded the previous year only by one. This week it was reported at the town office that during the past year 158 tags were issued to residents for their pets. During the previous year 157 tags were issued from the office. It was also pointed-out that already this year one dog tag has been issued.

Mayor Forecasts Austerity Year in '60 Urges Council Investigate Water Loss

Forecasting another austerity year in 1960, mayor W. H. Cook informed council, that in order to bring the town back on an even keel, they should budget for needs and not wants and desires during his inaugural speech on Monday evening. He outlined the necessity for council to thoroughly investigate the loss of the south spring. The mayor urged the sewer and water committee to re-open negotiations with the Ontario Water Resources Commission and to "pressurize" them until a report has been made on the loss of that water supply.

The mayor outlined programs for several of the committee which should be carried on in 1960. He stressed the need for the completion of the investigation by the sewer and water committee which might result in a more equitable water rate for all consumers.

Walks, Paving Need Mr. Cook recommended that the road committee investigate certain areas in town where sidewalk and a paving program are needed and where other repairs are necessary for the convenience of all ratepayers in those areas.

Council was urged to investigate a plan, suggested by last year's road chairman, to purchase land for a building for the works department and the storage of vehicles and equipment.

The mayor told council that whatever projects are planned for the year would cost money. He urged councilors to investigate carefully before including in their budgets various projects to be undertaken.

In conclusion Mr. Cook stated he believed Acton could have a wonderful year and suggested if the members buckled down the taxpayers would feel proud of the 1960 council at the end of the year.

Strike Committees First chore of the council Monday night, followed a brief inaugural service conducted by the Reverend Stokreef, president of the Acton Ministerial Association, was to strike committees.

Before announcing the committees the mayor informed councilors that in the past there had been nine committees each under a chairman. He believed work could be done in less time if the nine were reduced to two main committees.

Committee No. 1 is composed of: G. V. Barbeau, finance; E. Pope, industrial; J. Greer, administration; and L. Duby, welfare. Committee No. 2 is composed of: H. Lowe, streets and walks; J. Gov, sewer and water; W. J. McLeod, buildings; and J. Hargrave, fire and police.

In each main committee—the chairman of the sub-committees are named; the other three men of the main committee are members of the sub-committee.

Same Time When a meeting is called by

the chairman of a sub-committee, all members of main committee attend. It is then possible to hold meetings of the three other sub-committees of the main committee at the same time and the same place.

By setting special nights for each of these two main committees it is hoped the number of meetings can be reduced.

The mayor also informed council that a budget committee consisting of four councilors would be formed, responsible strictly and entirely for the purpose of preparing the budget rate. When the mill rate was set this committee would cease to function.

Budget Committee Appointed to the budget committee were G. V. Barbeau, chairman, and the following members, J. H. Gov, J. M. Greer and J. Hargrave.

Other appointments made during the inaugural meeting were: E. Pope to the parks board; G. V. Barbeau to the parks board and L. Duby to the two hands in Acton.

The court of revision for Acton council this year will consist of mayor Cook, chairman, G. V. Barbeau, E. Pope, J. M. Greer and L. Duby.

Appointment Legal? When a motion to appoint J. McGeachie as town clerk administrator was tabled, councillor Barbeau requested clarification on the legality of the appointment without a vote of the people.

Mayor Cook explained he had investigated this thoroughly. He told the council it was quite in order to do this if the appointment was as clerk administrator.

Councillor H. Lowe reminded the mayor he had previously opposed this same appointment when it had risen in the latter part of 1959. The councillor noted it had been suggested at that time the clerk would be interviewed without a vote of the people.

He like putting the cart before the horse since nothing has been mentioned how much he will be paid," added Mr. Lowe.

Interfere With Duties? Councillor L. Duby enquired how much extra work would be involved and if it would interfere with the clerk's present duties. The mayor outlined to Mr. Duby that until December 31 the clerk had been secretary-treasurer of the P.U.C., a position he no longer holds.

Councillor McLeod asked what authority the new administrator would have and suggested the administrator would have no authority, without the sanction of council, to instruct the workmen to do a job.

Deputy Reeve J. Hargrave pointed-out during the trial period in 1959 the plan had worked out fine. Councillor Pope reminded his colleagues that Mr. McGeachie had agreed to take the position for the trial period but the question had not been discussed since.

\$12,000 for Engineer Reeve Gov told the council the town was presently paying approximately \$12,000 to the three superintendents and at present council did not know what the salary of the administrator would be. He emphasized, however, that the town had to keep running and at the time salary is discussed either council or the administrator is dissatisfied either party can call a halt to the plan.

Mr. Lowe reminded council Continued from Page Three

Served Town For Many Years Fred J. McCutcheon Passes

Acton mourns the loss of a former municipal servant Fred J. McCutcheon who passed away quietly at his home 147 Mill Street, on Wednesday morning in his 70th year.

Born in Erasmus Township to the former John McCutcheon and Annie Loree he married his wife the former Annie Deering and moved to Acton, where he has lived for the past 36 years. While here he established a cartage business until his retirement a number of years ago.

Mr. McCutcheon served the town of Acton well, having been on council for many years, three of them as reeve. He also represented the town at county council and gave much of his time serving on the Acton Public Utilities Commission.

During his service on council he was always conscientious and was instrumental in the installation of water services and many other local improvements. He was well liked by the ratepayers and fellow councillors.

Following his retirement he was a familiar figure on the street always ready to chat with young and old alike. He also worked for the Department of Highways for a few years.

In earlier years Mr. McCutcheon joined with the sports fans and cheered the intermediate hockey team to victory many times as well as taking his seat at the ball park in the summer time.

A member of Knox Presbyterian Church he also belonged to Walker Lodge in town.

Besides his wife he leaves to mourn his loss three sons, Harvey of London and Gordon and Jack of Acton. Two brothers also share in the loss of a loved one. They are Alvin of Guelph and Wilbert of Rockwood. A number of grandchildren will miss the kindness of their grandfather as well.

Funeral service will be conducted by Rev. A. H. McKenzie of Acton from the Rumley-Shoemaker Funeral Home, Saturday at 2 p.m.

Just One Birth Recorded Here

During 1959 only one birth was registered in Acton while 16 deaths were reported at the town office.

Since the closing of the Nursing Home in town very few births are registered in the town office. Most of the births are registered from Guelph or other hospitals.

Favor Open House Principal E. A. Hansen advised the board that the annual commencement would be held this year on January 22nd. Members decided not to have an official opening ceremony for the new addition and favored an Open House in conjunction with the commencement.

The meeting was mainly concerned with the establishment of procedures and board policy on the multitude of phases in the operation of the school.

These included the establishment of the board committees, members of which are: Finance, Management and Public Relations, Force and Cotes, Property and Building, Cown and Force, Transportation, Moffat and Cotes. The board also decided to restrict the use of the gymnasium to school uses and school sponsored functions only.

Among other subjects discussed were: Insurance, Night School Classes, the name of the school, board meeting nights, the borrowing of money from the bank for current operations, transportation, transfer of funds, payment of teachers, payment of caretakers, requisition of supplies, engagement of an attendance officer, bonding of the secretary-treasurer, and the appointment of sign-officers.

Saturday morning children only will be allowed to skate on the new ice surface and on Saturday night open skating will be held for the first time this year.

Skating

Acton arena will be initiated for the first time this year when everyone will be allowed to enjoy free skating to mark "Open House", tomorrow (Friday) evening.

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THE OATH OF OFFICE was taken by members of council during the inaugural meeting Monday evening in the council chambers. Pictured left to right are councillor Les Duby, mayor W. H. Cook, councillor G. V. Barbeau and clerk J. McGeachie, who officiated at the ceremony. The Rev. H. B. Stokreef, president of the Acton Ministerial Association, was present and said prayers for the new council in the 1960 ventures.

456 Subscribers Phoneless As Ice Storm Strikes Acton

The crippling ice storm which struck throughout Ontario took its toll in the Acton area and approximately 200 telephones in Acton were thrown out of service when two large cables were damaged and approximately 250 rural subscribers were left without outside communication, when lines were thrown out of commission, by fallen branches and broken poles.

This week 17 telephone linemen were called in from Kitchener and have blitzed the area under the supervision of Bob Gordon. They expect to have telephones in the rural area back in service by tonight (Thursday). Acton subscribers were able to use their phones again shortly after the break when repairs were made.

Miles of Cable Fully equipped with 12 service trucks and miles of cable and wire the 17 servicemen braving the winds, snow and sleet worked from dawn to dusk, daily, in an attempt to repair the fallen lines.

In the early stages of repair, the telephone crew were hampered by live hydro lines which had fallen in their pathway and had to wait until hydro workers cleared the lines.

The work accomplished by the telephone linemen the week previous was defeated when on Sunday high winds and fallen branches broke the repaired lines once again and work had to start from the beginning.

The Experts Before Bell employees could make any repairs, patriots had to be sent out in all areas and in many instances tree experts were brought in to cope with tree trimming and removing branches.

Mr. Gordon reported on Wednesday, he expected all services in the Acton area to be in use by this evening. The acting installation foreman reported that in places where the telephone lines have had extensive damage temporary storm cable was installed and at a later date will be picked up and new lines put in.

Mr. Gordon pointed out that out of 32 rural lines serviced from the Acton office, 29 were affected by the ice storm.

To Rockwood On Wednesday of this week, half the crew sent to Acton from Kitchener, were transferred to Rockwood under the supervision of W. R. McCracken and are attempting to restore phone services in that area. It was reported that damage in the Rockwood area was far more extensive than that in Acton and it will be considerable time before all services will be restored for use.

Mr. Gordon praised the patience of the subscribers in the areas affected and the cooperation afforded the Bell workers.

Despite continuing opposition from the weather, Bell Telephone Co. linemen are making every effort to restore services disrupted by the storm which slashed across much of Ontario last week and will continue their efforts until all services are back to normal.

Continuous Work W. P. Higgins, the company's plant wire chief for this territory, said that his crews and others brought in from Ontario points which escaped the storm, have been working almost continuously since the damage began occurring December 27.

General throughout the Guelph territory, which includes Acton, Arthur, Elora, Ferris, Rockwood, Shelburne and Orangeville. Furthermore, containing snowfall, wind and high winds have not only been hampering the restoration work, but have also caused more damage.

Cuts Were He said that of 2,330 telephones originally knocked out of service by the storm, 360 had been cleared by Monday. In some places, however, additional disruptions have been occurring faster than the original ones could be cleared. He pointed out that in Orangeville, 435 telephones were put out of service by the original storm and by Monday of this week there were 495 out of service.

Most of the original damage was caused by ice forming on telephone lines and poles. The tremendous weight of this ice brought down many lines and broke poles along with it. Much of the original ice has remained and more has formed since.

Besides causing additional damage, the continuing snow and wind hamper repair crews in their efforts to get to and work on the fallen lines.

No Shortage Besides knocking out hundreds of urban and rural telephones, the storm also disrupted long distance lines in many places. Orangeville was isolated from telephone connections with other communities.

To provide a temporary link, special mobile microwave equipment was brought here from Montreal in a special four-truck convoy and crews have been working—again against heavy weather odds—to get it into operation.

Bell's plant department crews in the Guelph territory have been reinforced on the repair job by special crews brought here from such centres as Sudbury, Owen Sound, Orillia, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto, Barrie, Kitchener and Galt. Other Bell personnel set up temporary mobile telephone connections at Orangeville, Caledon, Erin, Ferris, Arthur, and Shelburne. The unit at Orangeville was still in operation this week.

C. S. Keith, Bell manager for this territory, said that adjustments would be made on telephone bills for any of the company's customers who have been without service for more than 48 hours.

On Wednesday, December 30 branches of trees bending under the weight crashed down on the power lines on Churchill Road between the power supply to the pump supplying the town with water from this source.

The break came about 3:30 in the afternoon and the hydro department stayed on the job repairing back branches and in one or two places until 11 p.m. when the pump was able to start again.

Many residents were unaware of the power break and loss of water supply, however, as the Main Street water supply continued to flow through the main as a faster rate of speed keeping the users well supplied.

Right New Year Several other power intercity lines took place on December 27 and the hydro department worked until late New Year's Eve in order to brighten the new year for the many residents without power.

Power was again interrupted on the east part of town on Saturday when branches continued to break lines, Glenlea subdivision, Queen, Young, Peel, Arthur, Main, Wallace, Hanson, McDonald and Guelph Streets were affected before power was restored.

The hydro workers are still busy making repairs and replacing poles knocked out of service due to the ice storm.

Hydro superintendent D. Mac-



F. J. McCUTCHEON

with interment in Fairview Cemetery.

Choose J. H. Creighton Chairman For Acton High School Board

Newly appointed members of the newly formed Acton High School District Board held the inaugural meeting of the board in the High School on Tuesday evening of this week.

Col. G. O. Brown, secretary-treasurer of the now disbanded North Halton High School District Board was present to administer the oath of office and oath of allegiance to the new board.

The members chose as the first chairman of the Board, J. H. Creighton of Acton Vice chairman is M. M. Coles of Esquensing and the balance of the board members are Duncan Moffat of Nassagaweya, E. S. Force and Wm. Cown of Acton, Wm. Middleton of Acton was selected as secretary-treasurer.

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FIVE MEMBERS of the Acton District High School Board take the oath of office during the inaugural meeting on Tuesday night in Acton. Pictured left to right are chairman J. H. Creighton, D. Moffat representative from Nassagaweya, E. S. Force, W. Cown and M. M. Coles, representative of Esquensing township, and Col. G. O. Brown, past secretary of the North Halton High School District Board.