

THE NEW BUILDING of the Bank of Montreal is located at the corner of Willow and Mill Streets and indicates the progress made during the past 60 years. The bank first started in the old Perryman building where H. Mainprize and E. Watson have their barber shop and music store. The new building, was erected on the site of Elliott Brothers' dry goods and grocery store. The new building assists in dressing up the Mill Street business section.

Population of 1,500

**Town's First Bank Marks 60th Anniversary
Merchants' Bank Later Became Part of B. of M.**

Acton's first chartered bank, the Bank of Montreal, will mark its 60th anniversary next Monday.

The branch was opened on January 25, 1900, when the local population was only 1,500. It was originally a branch of the Merchants Bank of Canada, which later became a part of the B. of M.

First location of the bank was in the Thomas Perryman building, a former store property, at the corner of Mill and John Sts. The other half of the property was occupied by Mr. Perryman's sister, who operated a ladies' ready-to-wear store.

New Building in 1957

These premises served the bank for its first year of business, until permanent quarters on the north-east corner of Mill and Willow Sts. were erected. The bank remained here until April, 1957, when the present attractive

office was built on the north-west corner of Mill and Willow Sts.

When the bank was established here in 1900, there were only a handful of local companies of notable size, all connected with the tanning industry. They included the Beardmore company, the Storey tannery company and the Storey glove company.

The 60 years since then have brought more diversified local industries, producing a more stable economy for the community. Population has increased to over 4,000 during the period, and the bank staff has increased from two in 1900 to 15 today.

With present manager William MacKay and accountant Robert H. Young, James T. MacGregor, Reginald E. Adams, Bert L. Haldav, George E. Oakes, Miss May Doris, Mrs. Jean Gebertlein, Miss Marjory Ware, Mrs. Sharen Owen, Miss Marie Lambert, Miss

Theresa Arbie, Miss Patricia Mowse, Miss Norma Sinclair and Miss Judith Morton.

Capable Managers

During its 60 years here, the bank has had a succession of capable managers. First manager of the branch was J. D. Wallace, who remained for two years. He was followed by A. D. Devitt 1902-1905; W. S. Chisholm 1905-1910; S. M. Scott 1910-October 1910; J. C. Lawrence 1910-1912; S. A. McLean 1912-1916; R. L. Whiteman 1916-1917; L. B. Shores 1917-1931; J. E. Davidson 1931-1932; H. I. G. Fraser 1932-1937; W. H. Clayton 1937-1951; Gordon A. Oler, 1951-1954; and William G. Davey, 1954-1957.

William MacKay, the present manager, came here in November, 1957, from the B. of M.'s assistant general manager's department in Toronto.

Interested in community activities, he is a director of the Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of the Y's Men's club, director of the Acton Fall Fair, a member of the Library Board, the Canadian Legion, and the Ciffen Social and Recreation Club at Guelph.

Founded in 1817

Although it completes its 60th year next Monday, the Acton B. of M. is only a "youngster" com-



W. MACKAY

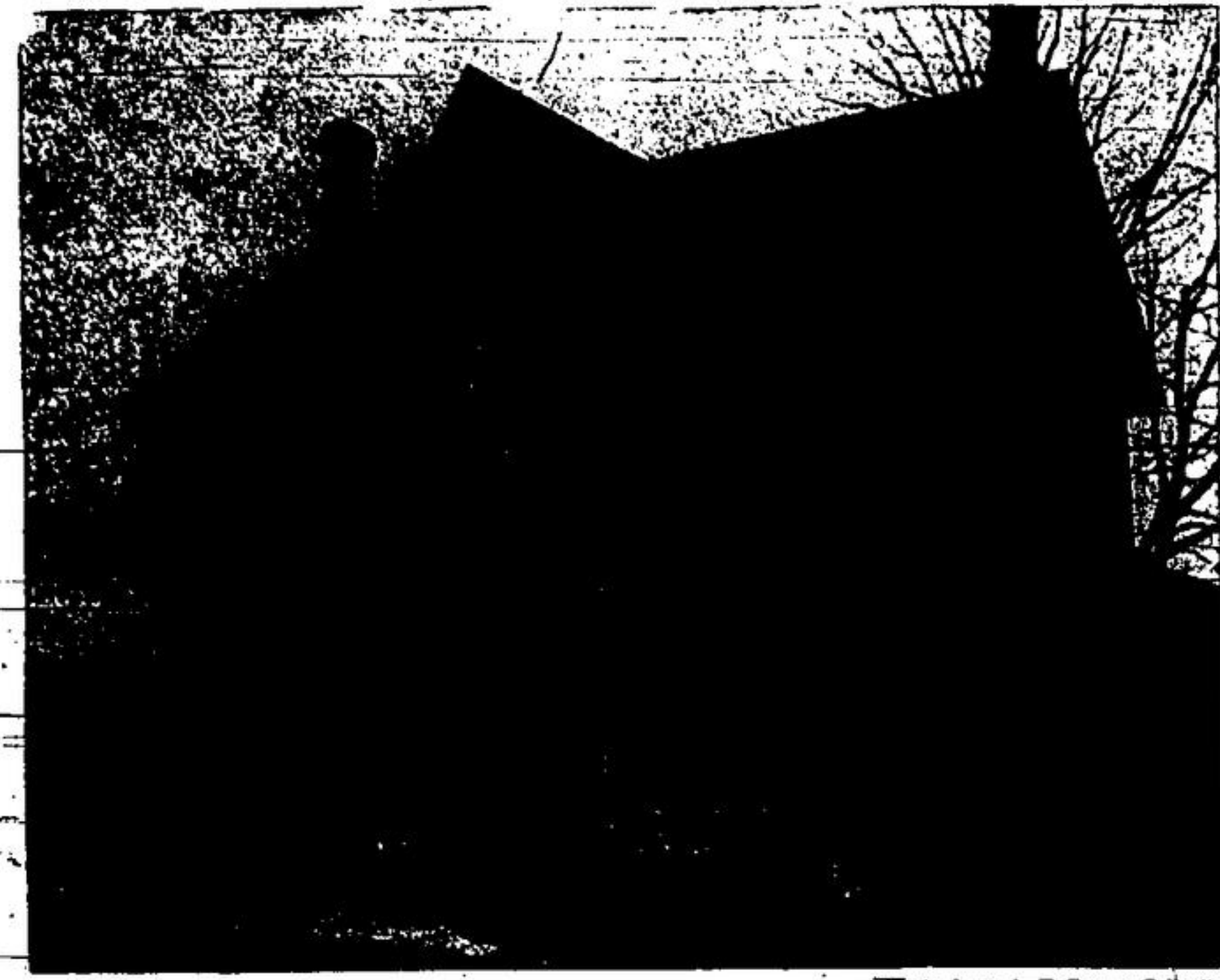
pared with the present institution which was founded in 1817 by nine Montreal merchants and which has had an important role in the development of Canada ever since.

The B. of M. issued Canada's first native currency. It also founded the branch banking system—considered to be one of the finest in the world—when it opened a second office at Quebec City, two weeks after its opening in Montreal. Branches soon followed at York (now Toronto) and at other outposts and trading centres across the country.

800 Branches

Today, with 800 branches throughout the ten provinces, the B. of M. also has offices in the United States, England and France, and at Canadian Army and RCAF bases in France and Germany.

In conjunction with the Bank of London and South America, the B. of M. last year founded the Bank of London and Montreal Limited, now operating in Latin America and the Caribbean.



60 YEARS AGO The Merchants Bank, which later became part of the Bank of Montreal, was located near the corner of Mill and John Sts. where Watson's Music Store is now. The bank operated here for a year, serving a busy town of 1,500, until permanent quarters were built on the north-east corner of Mill and Willow Sts. A treasured glass negative taken by the late A. T. Brown shows Mr. Gentles, manager J. D. Wallace, R. J. McNabb and his dog Trip at the bank door.

BALLINAFAD

Discuss New Church Organ During Local W.A. Meeting

Mrs. Cameron McEnery was hostess for the January meeting of the W.A. on Tuesday afternoon.

The new president, Mrs. Thomas Given, opened the meeting with the theme song, creed and the Lord's Prayer in unison. Hymn 640 was sung. After the minutes were read, a number of items were discussed.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the new organ which is being considered and what part the W.A. might take in helping to obtain it for the church.

Receive Letter

A letter of thanks was received from the Cedarvale School for

Y's Men

Plan Projects, Tour Plant

Plans were made for the Father and Son banquet and the marking of the 20th anniversary of the Club by the formation of committees during the regular meeting of the Acton Y's Men's Club on Thursday, January 14.

Bob Foxers opened up the dinner meeting with Grace and Bob Young acted as lines master during the dinner.

During the business session the budget for the year was presented and other business finalized.

Following the regular meeting the members adjourned to the Micro plant for a tour of the building conducted by Y's man Bob Foxers.

Between 1939 and 1958 the average cost of railway freight shipments in Canada increased from 0.91 cents to 1.50 cents per mile.

How to Better Club Discussed at Hi-Y

Twenty-five members of the Acton Hi-Y Club gathered at the regular Tuesday night meeting and reviewed procedure of other clubs in order to obtain ideas for conducting their own meetings.

Barry Kirkness, local member, outlined the procedure at the Guelph Club following a visit to that city as a guest and various ideas were discussed to improve the local club.

Merle Russell was appointed chairman of a devotion committee to obtain speakers for the devotion period held each meeting.

Chris Norfolk led the group in a devotion period at the beginning of the meeting and following the scripture reading, led the group in prayer.

Following the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting the treasurer's report was accepted and each member learned the Hi-Y purpose.

High School News

The Acton High School Commencement will be held in the high school auditorium on Friday, January 22, beginning promptly at 8:15 p.m. and concluding at 12:30 a.m. We hope that all students and parents will attend.

The program for the commencement will include speeches from the principal, the guest speaker, Mrs. Henick, and the valedictorian, Shirley Mason. Diplomas, scholarships and other awards will also be presented.

At the conclusion of this program, the graduates and their

parents will have refreshments in the staff room as guests of the staff. Refreshments for the remainder of the students and parents will be provided by one of the church groups and the Board of Education of Acton. There will be a display of work and projects done by the students during the year.

The evening will conclude with a dance from 10 to 12:30 with a limited amount of rock and roll.

Early preparations for the "At Home", which is to be held on March 4 in the auditorium, have already been started. The theme for the decorations this year is a ship. Several grade nine students, as usual, will be pressed into service to do most of the work.

Under the leadership of Mr. Caddick and Pete Hurst, the auditorium will be converted into a ship complete with lifeboats, funnel, mast and rigging. Some of the jobs already begun are the arrangements for the refreshments, by Lynda Lovell; the advertising, by Susan Wilson; and the printing and sale of tickets, by Lesley Ann Doby.

Better Values

ASSORTMENT of SKIRTS

SIZES 10 - 20 in the lot

EACH **\$3.98**

PALLANT'S

Opposite Post Office

Wheatena's STRAWBERRY JELLY ROLLS

SAVE 4c

PAY ONLY 31c

ALWAYS FRESH

Available at

LEDGER'S

WE ARE PLANNING...

A "Decade of Development" Issue of the Acton Free Press.

It will deal primarily with those progress-setting events of the past decade: 1950 to 1960.

We Are Looking for...

Your assistance towards compiling as complete as possible a word picture of any progress, development and expansion in industry, business and commerce that has taken place in the past ten years.

We Would Appreciate...

receiving your articles, which we suggest should be short as possible, to be delivered to the Acton Free Press not later than January 28. Industrial and commercial advertising is acceptable—and may be discussed. Our Development issue goes to Press on Thursday, February 4th.

Your Interest...

in helping us prepare this issue will result in a nation wide publicity campaign for your town—Acton!

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

ANNUAL MEETING

ACTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

DIRECTORS' MEETING 1.45 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING 2.00 p.m.

ACTON TOWN HALL

Ladies' Board will meet at the same time.

EVERYONE WELCOME

R. L. McENERY President

MRS. IRENÉ SWACKHAMER Secretary

IT'S GOT TO BE TOP QUALITY FOR IGA

BONELESS ROUND PORTERHOUSE, WING SIRLOIN and RUMP ROAST

79¢ lb

IGA ROYAL GOLD MILD CHEESE

12 oz. Pkg. **45c**

Bright's APPLE JUICE 2 48 oz. Tin **49c** Save 9c

SEEDLESS RAISINS AUSTRALIAN 2 lb. Pkg. **51c** SAVE 6c

IGA WAXED PAPER SAVE 4c 100 ft. Roll **25c**

KENT FRUIT BAR Fancy Boysenberries Bartlett Pears and Apricots 3 15 oz. Tins **49c**

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

THE VEGETABLE POWERHOUSE CANADA No. 1

N.B. POTATOES 10 LB. BAG **49c**

EASY TO PEEL NAVELS

SUNKIST ORANGES Size 11 3/4's - Doz. **45c**

GARDEN FRESH TENDER GREEN U.S. No. 1

NEW CABBAGE Good Size Heads 2 29c

TABLETTESTED TURKEY, CHICKEN or BEEF FROZEN PIES

2 8 oz. Pkgs. **49c**