

District Stalemate Resolved, New High School Built in 1954



A decade ago a bone of contention among members of the North-Halton High School District was the building of a high school in the town of Georgetown, Milton and Acton as well as Nassagaweya and Esquesing townships.

Acton was prepared to go into a milk of Spesside, Georgetown liked the idea of a school situated in Georgetown, Milton preferred a site in the county town. The townships envisioned a large country site for the school.

Building Essential

Each municipality faced a building program of some description. The Georgetown school was ancient — and too small. Milton needed an extension to accommodate the growing population. Acton's problem was most acute.

The high school in Acton occupied a building leased from The Esquesing Milling Corporation. The lease was running out and would not likely be renewed. The public school board needed the building urgently.

Acton members on the district board served an ultimatum in August, 1950: if the central school was not built when the Acton building lease expired, Acton would make application to the county to build a school in the town.

On November 7, 1950, an agreement was reached between the townships of Acton, Milton, Nassagaweya, Esquesing, and Georgetown. The agreement provided for a central high school in Milton. A visit to the Department of Education revealed that there were no other schools in the district.

Reject Construction

By a vote of 83 on November 30, 1950, the board gave approval of a central high school in Milton and rejected a proposal for a high school in Acton. The board members were divided on the issue, however, four months later attempts to pass a building by-law were rejected by the same margin—83. This signalled a second period in which members jockeyed for advantage for their respective communities as a building site.

Unanimous approval was finally reached by the North-Halton Board on May 31, 1951, on a motion to provide new schools in both Acton and Georgetown and to build a school in Acton and Milton in July of the same year. Esquesing threw a road block when they requested the board to defer any building program until the county assessment—undergoing a period of adjustment—was stabilized.

Department Objects

Once again the board reached a stalemate which wasn't readily broken until March of the year 1952. After hearing comparative estimates the board resolved to build a school building and site in Acton. The board passed this motion. That we should build a school in Acton, Milton, Nassagaweya, Esquesing and Georgetown. A visit to the Department of Education revealed that there were no other schools in the district.

In April, 1952, Acton council approved in Acton school but the townships of Esquesing and Nassagaweya favoured an immediate start on a building program with a school in Acton. The Department of Education officials put out a proposal asking the high school board to build a school in Acton and Milton in July of the same year. It was accepted.

Acton Moves Ahead

The firm of Barnett and Reader was engaged as architects and the board issued debentures for \$210,000 for the proposed school. In September, 1954, 136 pupils represented in the new school but an old problem reared its head—it was too small! Plans for additional rooms were soon on the drawing boards. A three-room addition was granted by the Department of Education in November, 1954, a week before Doctor Dunlop, Minister of Education, officially opened the handsome new school.

Add Gymnasium

Four years later on May 8, 1958, a \$1,045,000 construction program proposed by the North-Halton Board included a four-room addition valued at \$200,000. This became a reality in 1959 and just recently, according to Principal E. A. Dills, a well-ventilated new spirit into the school.

Not only has Acton its own high school at the end of the 50s but 1959 saw the emergence of the Acton District High School. The North-Halton High School District Board as a separate entity.

Strife torn through its more than a decade of operation, the district was divided into three with boards at the three main points.

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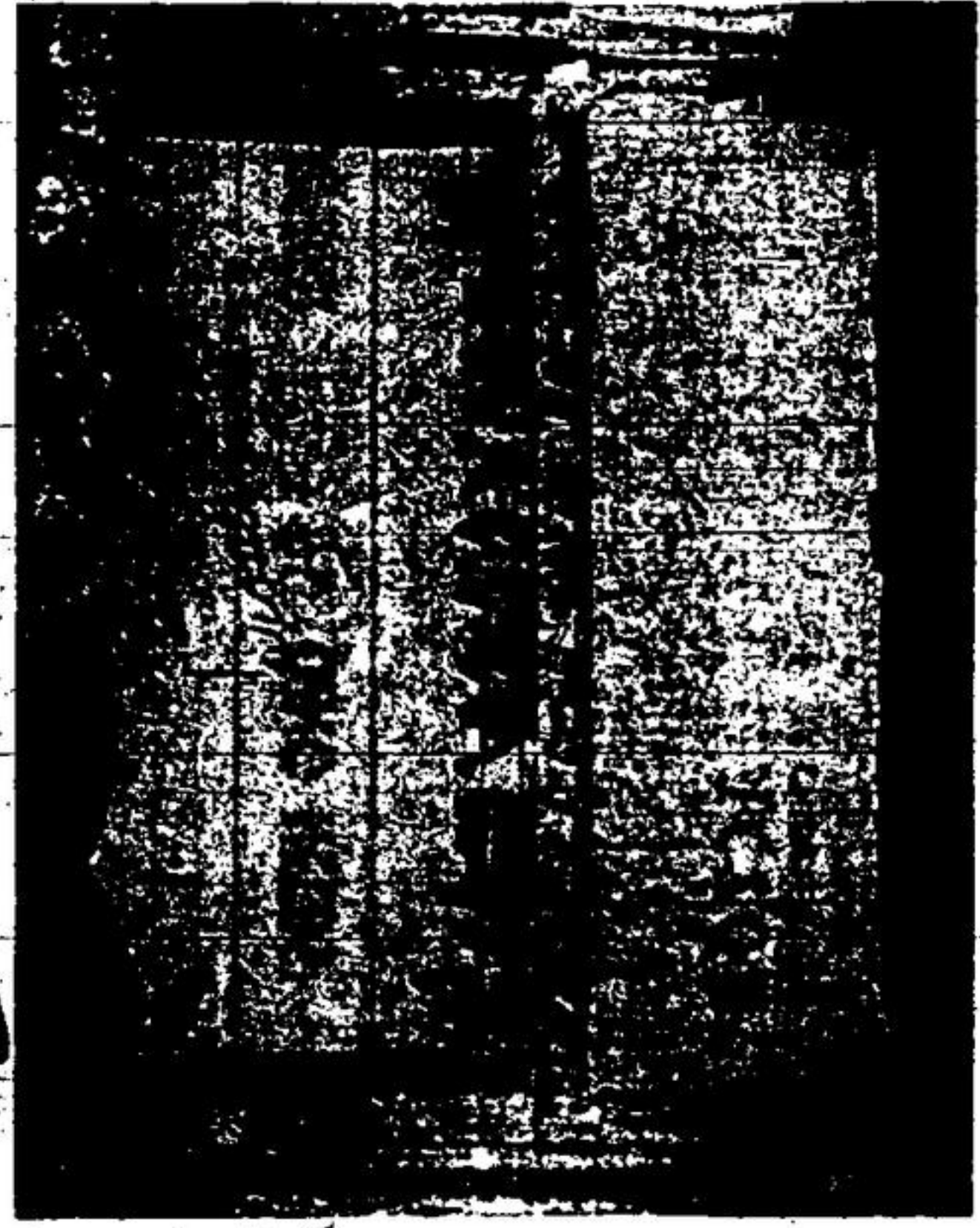


Exhibit of Corona Shoe Co. Products at Industrial Display Acton Fall Fair, September 1959.

Now Cranked

Last Friday's news will seem to bring of the past to the present. The fact that the Acton Telephone Company, Engineering Company, who recently patented a product known as Sav-A-Snag, is being marketed by the new company formed in the past decade, will restore news snatched on tree stumps and other obstacles, hidden behind the surface of the water.

First formed in 1956 by S. J. Brumple and F. Gentry, the company was a plastic industry. The company's expansion for manufacturing purposes is imminent, according to president Sam Brumple.

SANTA SAILS THE SKY

It's just in the last few years that Santa Claus came to Acton. Before that nobody spotted him enroute to the chimney. There has been one Santa Claus parade and for three years he has arrived by helicopter a few weeks before Christmas. Started by the I.G.A. store, more recently by the Chamber of Commerce.

40th ANNIVERSARY

There are two chapters of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire in Acton, the Duke of Devonshire chapter and the Lady Dufferin chapter. The latter celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1958.

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5 YEARS IN ACTON

NEWEST MAJOR INDUSTRIAL firm in Acton is the H. K. Porter Company (Canada) Ltd. Their 88,000 square foot building was completed in July, 1958, and serves as head office for Porter's Disston division, refractories division and Thermoid division.

Part-Time, Hand Cranked Phones of 1884 Far Cry From Bell Switchboards of Today

Acton first became acquainted with telephone exchange service 76 years ago when gay blades in high stiff collars strolled along Mill Street humming one of the popular ballads of the day. At the end of a long line of red silk stockings was the fervent desire of many a maiden.

In November, 1884, a small Gilead Island switchboard and a crank type Blake telephone were installed in the drug store of J. E. McGavin on Mill Street and Mr. McGavin became Acton's first Bell Telephone Co. manager.

In a pocket-size directory for January, 1885, which is carefully preserved in the company's headquarters, is a list of this town's first telephone subscribers.

Representing residents and business establishments prominent here over half a century ago, they were:

Acton Banking Co., cor. Mill and Widgeon Sts.
Free Press, H. P. Moore Esq., Ed., Mill St.
McGavin, J. E., Druggist, Mill St.
Nelson, McRae and Co., General Store, cor. Mill and Willow Sts.
Storey, W. H. and Son, Glove Manufacturers, Bower Ave.
Grainschild of Alexander's Mill, Acton Bell, the telephone since its inception in 1874 was viewed with speculation and skepticism in these early years.

To the general public, the idea of transmitting human speech over a distance by electricity was astounding and contemporary newspaper headlines proclaimed "back to the future" since he held the position of "inventor" of the telephone, eventually diminished.

Created Bedlam.
In many communities throughout Ontario and Quebec when the telephone was introduced, usually in a business establishment such as a drug or general store, bedlam was created.

When the local telephone manager turned the crank for the first time, customers fled outside to soothe and pacify the anticipation of the conversation.

However, telephones at Acton were of the crank type. The McGavin succeeded J. E. McGavin in 1885 and 10 additional businessmen subscribed for service included in the December, 1885, listing were: Beattie and Co., Beardmore, W. D., Brown, James, Campbell House, Grand Hotel, Railway Station, Moore, James, Moore, H. P. and the Toronto Lime Co.

Larger Switchboard
Shortly after the turn of the century a larger switchboard was installed to handle the increased number of subscribers and A. T. became the first Canadian bank

Exchange Converted
In 1949 the Acton exchange was converted to common battery operation, and newer and more compact telephones were introduced, eliminating the necessity of "turning the crank" to signal the operator.

ACTON PRODUCED
The greatest invention in the amusement field since the yo-yo, hula hoops meant business for Acton when Micro Plastics shipped thousands of pounds of piped during the craze.

Bank of Nova Scotia Here Past 50 Years Just Four Managers Since Amalgamation

The year 1960 marks the 50th anniversary of the Bank of Nova Scotia Plan gold may now be purchased for delivery and storage in Toronto, Ontario, and Montreal, Quebec. The bank has made two major acquisitions in the past two years also. In 1958, the bank merged with the Bank of Nova Scotia, where entry and possession is permissible.

MUSIC AND SKATING
Many young skaters are enrolled with the Guelph Figure Skating club and have placed high in competition. There are several music teaching banks introduced to facilitate the purchase of, and trade in, gold, schools.

Girls, the best way I know to keep your family on the road to success, is through a good healthy savings account. When you've got money in the bank you can pay cash for the things you want, and take advantage of the opportunity. Know where my husband and I saved the money to buy this new car!

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA, naturally