

# The Acton Free Press.

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## Council Offers Counter-Proposal To Read Meters

Acton Hydro Commission learned during their regular meeting Thursday, February 11, that council was willing to have town employees read hydro meters under the same proposal made earlier by the commission to council, at the cost of 15 cents per meter.

Earlier in the year, the commission had suggested to the water and sewer committee of council that water meters could be read by the hydro meter reader at the same time he read hydro meters, at a proposed cost of 15 cents a meter until a more accurate rate could be established.

**"Found Money"**  
Mayor W. H. Cook, in making the report to the commission, told members, "It would be found money and extra cash in the pocket of council" if they read the meters.

Chairman E. G. Tyler expressed doubt at the town reading hydro meters and reviewed past experiences when several employees had read meters, with a noted increase in complaints from consumers.

Mr. Tyler explained the present system of one man reading the meters and in voicing objection said, "I would not want to be a part of disrupting our present good system."

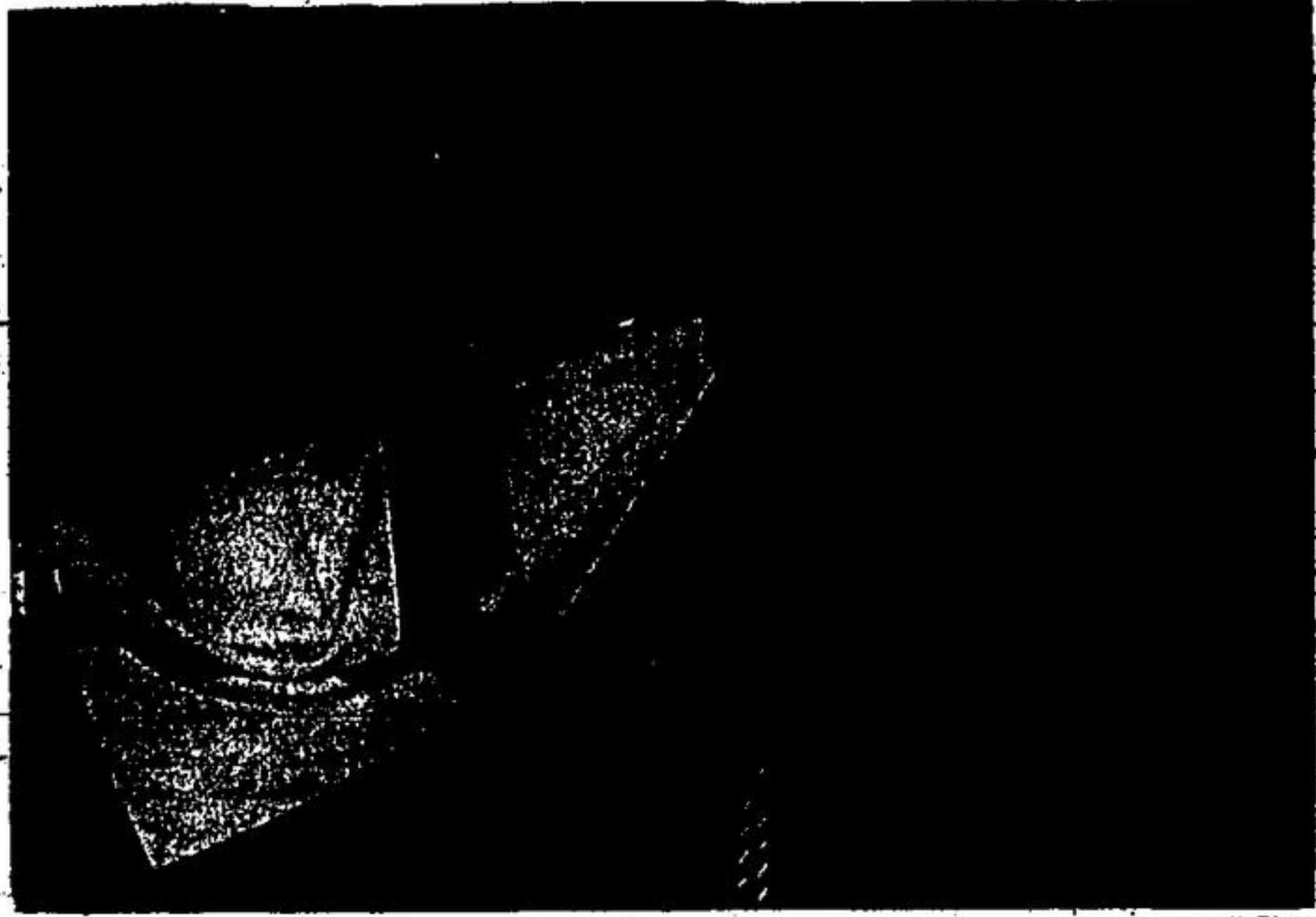
Commissioner G. Beatty informed the commission it was his opinion meter reading was only part of the entire story. He suggested it would only be possible to assess the meter reading cost when an overall breakdown of operation costs was available. This breakdown had been requested earlier by the commissioner following the split between the hydro and the sewer and water departments.

Secretary-treasurer Mrs. A. Urahart reported she had received a copy of the breakdown prepared by town clerk-administrator J. McGeachie but noted that the hydro auditors had not completed their report to date.

She did point out that the auditors were not in complete agreement with the report submitted by the town clerk on estimated costs of operation of the hydro department and the sewer and water department, based on former Public Utilities Commission operation costs.

Comparisons between the two reports will be made when the auditors' report is available. Glad tidings were received in

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ROVER FLAG was presented by George Heggitt, president of the Scout Group Committee, to the newly formed First Acton Billy Middleton Rover Crew, during the Baden-Powell Night on Friday. Pictured above receiving the flag on the left is crew leader Ron Smith with Mr. Heggitt, Billy Middleton and Sid Newton in the front row. Rover Scouts pictured in the back left to right are R. Currie, B. Hinton, K. Gardner, B. Otterbein, D. Peal, M. Homer and L. Duby.

## Parents Jam School Auditorium To View Scout Week Concert

Over 300 parents and friends stood rigidly at attention while an equal number of Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs, members of the group committee and Scout and Guide Mothers' Auxiliary packed the stage at the Robert Little public school auditorium last Friday evening to conclude a colorful pageant during Baden-Powell Week, as they sang "God Save the Queen".

Sponsored by the scout group committee, the program reminded many of the spectators of their childhood days as the young men and women in the scout and guide groups portrayed traditional meetings and ceremonies, interspersed with hilarious skits and rambunctious of the newly formed Rover crew.

**Opening Number**  
Nearly 50 Brownies, under the leadership of Brown Owl Mrs. J. Pope, Tawny Owl Mrs. G. Hargrave and packies Rhona McEachern and Diane Newton, presented a Golden Bar Ceremony, in which

Beverly McKnight received her bar. Following this ceremony, members of the 1st and 3rd Brownie packs joined in typical singing games, much to the delight of the audience.

The 2nd Brownie pack, under the guidance of Brown Owl Mrs. J. Pope, Tawny Owl Mrs. J. Lingham and packie Rhona McEachern, held an enrolment ceremony with Mary Heikamp as the

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## To Build New United Church Sanctuary Let Tenders to J. B. Mackenzie & Son

Plans for the construction of a amount of the tender would be included everything but the furnishings. The church, designed by Harold Hicks, well-known church designer, will be completely modern and when completed will house entirely new furnishings. None of the present furnishings or pews will be used from the old building.

**Grand Jury Report Charges Low Morale at Court House**

Halton County Court House employees in Milton have "low morale" because of an outdated layout, according to a Supreme Court Grand Jury which toured county buildings during the recent spring assizes in Milton. County Councillors, hearing the report at Tuesday's meeting, were upset when the statement was read.

Milton Reeve Art Desjardine said he had heard about the low morale charge in the report, and talked to several county employees who denied it. "Their morale is 100 per cent... I feel that report should be corrected," he declared.

**Jail Employees Want Raise**  
Clerk Garfield Brown said the Court House employees were quite happy and although working space is cramped, the building was not saturated. "It is the jail employees whose morale is low," he said. Members noted the jailers had recently asked for a raise in pay, and instead received a reduction of eight hours in the work week with the same pay. The employees have since asked for a raise as well, it was reported.

"They are not unhappy about the condition," said Deputy Reeve Mrs. Mary Pettit, "just the money."

**Urges Better Facilities**  
The report noted the Manor provided excellent services, and the housekeeping was excellent. Adequate services were ably

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BUSY BOYS are the members of the Acton High School as they manufacture backdrops for the High School dance. Pictured above left to right are shop class instructor Phil Caddick and two of the students Paul McGeachie and Pete Hurst, as they make a section for the funnel of the ship Seven Seas, is the theme for the At Home and the complete student council has been active preparing for the dance.

## "No Blame" Jurors Report In Hillsburgh Fatalities

A coroner's jury, Wednesday, recommended last changes in regulations governing the operation and maintenance of school buses. The report, attached in blame in the enquiry into the death of Karen Acker, 14-year-old school girl, one of four killed when a school bus collided with a C.P.R. train at Hillsburgh, January 28.

Following a three day session during which the jury heard 71 witnesses give evidence, and after deliberating five hours, the jurors stated the collision was due to limited sight at the crossing and unusual winter road conditions.

During the inquest children who were swept from the flaming bus, it had collided with the freight train, testified the driver of the bus, Clayton Fench, who died as a result of burns, school stopped at crossings but did not on occasion slow down.

Several witnesses were of the opinion the train was travelling faster than it had the day of the accident. Frank Banker, engineer of the C.P.R. diesel, was a spirit man reporting the regular engine, estimated the speed of the engine at 20 miles per hour. He had not checked the speed with the speedometer.

Following are the recommendations made by the jury:

That drivers of all school buses be required to wear at all times a seat belt, which is not provided by the C.P.R. and that they be required to open the front door, select a proper gear and proceed in that gear across the railway.

That the driver, engineer, conductor and employees of all school bus operators should be more thoroughly supervised and that

more supervision of the contract between the local school board and the bus owner is necessary.

That because a thorough inspection of school buses is important, the inspector should be a man highly qualified with mechanical experience.

That some consideration should be given to the use of the monitor system whereby senior students would help maintain discipline in the bus, allowing drivers to devote their full attention to driving.

That the proper department of the government should issue a booklet or circular with rules and regulations for the use of school bus drivers.

That modern signals be installed at all railway crossings where sight lines are limited.

That a better agreement be arranged between road and railway patrol to eliminate the accumulation of snow and ice on the road adjacent to the railway crossing.

That sanding done at the proper time and thoroughly done, is a very necessary procedure on winter roads and that this operation should not be curtailed in the low assessment areas within the snow belt more provincial grants should be made available for such conditions.

## Girls Slosh Paint While Boys Hammer As Acton High Prepares for "At Home"

Thanks to the teaching staff and the teacher who allowed them to Acton High School, the "Seven Seas at Home" on Friday night is bound to be a huge success.

Last minute details for launching the ship are rapidly taking form and the students under the supervision of teacher Mrs. D. A. Smith, staff adviser, are gradually moulding arrangements for the gala event.

**Combined Effort**  
Boys and girls have been working hard, hammering nails, sawing wood, cutting cardboard and writing invitations for their annual "At Home" in the school auditorium tomorrow evening.

Friday afternoon will see the completion of exercise "At Home", as props are moved into position and buckled down for the annual dance.

Plans materialized some weeks ago for the event, and daily students have been active preparing for the affair.

**Teachers Help**  
Teachers have been very cooperative with the student council when students were snatched from classes to help with the painting, make the punch, write invitations, lick stamps or even hold the end of a piece of plywood while the boys hammered nails.

Missed classes have not set the students behind in their work, as they have cooperated fully with the teacher who allowed them to slip and caught up with their lessons in spare time at home.

Shop class instructor Phil Caddick, after taking his brain, came up with the idea of a theme for the show and named it "Seven Seas". Thus the hustle and bustle, the buzz of saws as sheets of plywood were reduced to parts of a ship, framework was constructed and cardboard attached.

After the boys, under the guidance of their teacher, had completed objects to this point, along came the girls, equipped with paint brushes and sloshed on the paint to make the scenery more attractive.

Meanwhile Mrs. Smith added her ideas to the busy program and soon piece by piece the plan fell into a pattern and things began to hum at Acton High.

Caretakers, fellow students and even teachers had to duck occasionally as bus workers popped in and out of the shop room carrying sections of backdrops.

**Change of Appearance**  
Comes tomorrow evening, the girls who have been fitted in paint as they sloshed brushes with their hair hanging down, will never be recognized, as they don their party dresses with a corsage attached and step onto the dance floor to dance to the strains of music.

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SLOSHING PAINT is an important feature in preparing backdrops for the High School "At Home". Pictured above are three girls busy brushing paint on the mast. Shown left to right are Lesley Anne Duby, Moira McKelvey and Jo-Ann Force. The annual dance will be held tomorrow (Friday) evening.

## Returns From Work Greeted by Flames

Returning home from work at noon last Friday Gordon Cunningham, 20 Ransom Street, was greeted by thick smoke and a piercing siver of flame when he opened his house door.

Flames caused by an overheated furnace had made their way from the basement through a hot air register and into a partition between the bathroom and living room.

When firemen reached the scene of the fire they immediately poured water from the booster lines on the flames and in order to prevent the fire from spreading were forced to remove a portion of the partition.

When a second fire truck arrived at the scene, firemen laid a section of two and a half inch hose from a nearby hydrant in the event the fire should spread but it was not found necessary to press the second unit into service.

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## 1960 Health Unit Budget is \$211,636

A 1960 Halton Health Unit budget totalling \$211,636—up \$16,746 over last year—will cost Halton County an additional 7 of a mill levy, it was announced at Tuesday afternoon's February meeting of Halton County Council by Dr. A. F. Bull, M.O.H. The county's cost will be \$95,818 or 52 mills compared to 454 mills in 1959.

Decreasing revenue from plumbing inspection fees was blamed for the increase in County Council's share of the budget, the M.O.H. explained. Inspection income has dropped from \$39,700 in 1958 to an estimated \$20,000 in 1960. Other sources of revenue are municipal and provincial grants, each at \$95,818.

**Budget Items**  
Items in the budget are as follows: Personal Service including medical, nursing, sanitary inspection, dental, other staff, secretaries, board members and pension \$104,450; travel \$32,050; equipment \$28,000; materials and supplies \$7,500; rent and utility services \$5,400; other \$2,036.

In his report on the past year's activities, Dr. Bull praised council for establishing a nursing homes by-law which provides care for a group in the county's population that is not otherwise cared for. He also thanked council for naming a committee to look into the problem of social and medical care.

**Rabies Spread**  
Rabies he said acquired a greater importance in Halton County last year because both the number of cases reported and the number of humans having significant contact with rabid animals

had increased. During 1959, 18 humans received treatment against rabies and fortunately no human in Halton developed the disease.

No rabid cases were reported during the year, he recalled. Up to the present time, the Health Unit has immunized 30,000 individuals against the disease, although not all adults in the county have received protection.

**Use Unused Levy**  
Council agreed to deposit \$25,000 in unused levy for Halton Central Manor maintenance from 1959 against the cost of construction of the million dollar Manor addition. The clerk explained that some wings were expected to be ready for occupancy by December 1 and an amount had been budgeted to take care of extra services and staff during

the last year, which was unused as the addition was not completed.

The salaries of Clerk Garfield Brown and treasurer Miss Margaret Mavety were set by law at \$6,800 per annum, effective January 1, 1960. Of Mr. Brown's salary \$2,000 will be paid by the Halton Manor Board of which he is secretary-treasurer, and \$2,000 will be paid by the Health Unit, where she is secretary-treasurer. Other salaries set at the recommendation of the finance committee were caretaker H. G. Sinclair, \$500; assistant county clerk Mrs. Anne Watkins, \$2,000; assistant road superintendent Mrs. E. Hanford, \$2,300; assistants to county treasurer Mrs. A. Horton and Mrs. G. McKersie, \$1.45 per hour.

On the county system of government to present to the Provincial Cabinet, was queried by Rufing ton reeve F. I. Rickman who stated "I don't think there are any particular problems in Halton County."

It was explained the move had been begun by Wentworth County, in forming an inter-county association committee of which Clerk Brown was Halton's representative. Mr. Brown said the primary objective of the committee is to ask the Provincial government to establish a commission to report on county government and whether it is a good or a bad thing. "In 11 years over \$5,000,000 has been spent by the group's member municipalities in fighting annexations," he added. The motion carried, in

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## Induct New Member Into Rotary Club

Bill Pendleton of the H. K. Porter Company in Acton was inducted into Acton Rotary Club during the regular dinner meeting on Tuesday evening.

Introduced by Rotarian T. Shields the new member was inducted by Rotarian A. Shoemaker.

Plans were made for a number of members to attend the annual "Italian Night" staged by the Guelph Rotary Club.

A panel discussion on Rotary was conducted by president F. Prouse and secretary R. Lewis with all the members joining in the debate.

It was decided to stage a "Theatre Night" to raise funds to further the work of the club in March and plans were completed for "Ladies' Night" next month. Guests attending the meeting were Dennis O'Brien and Dockin McBride.

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