

The Acton Free Press.

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United Services For Holy Week

During holy week beginning Palm Sunday, the Acton Protestant churches will conduct united services in the Knox Presbyterian Church. These services are sponsored by the Anglican congregation, the Christian Reformed Church, the United Church and Knox Presbyterian Church.

In a united effort the churches will bring the message of suffering of Christ.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Lawrence E. Mason, B.A. B.Th. Rev. Mason recently became the stewardship councillor of the Baptist Convention of Ontario. He is a well known speaker, and especially among the Baptist people a prominent figure. Mr. Mason held pastorates at Paisley and Williscroft, Strathroy, Aylmer First Church, Tillsonburg and First Church, Guelph, since 1955.

The public is heartily invited to attend and to listen to the inspiring messages of Mr. Mason concerning the death and suffering of Jesus Christ.

Show's Star

When Milton Figure Skating Club presents its carnival April 2, the lead in the big production number, Snow White, will be skated by an Acton girl, Linda Braida. An outstanding skater with the Guelph Figure Skating Club, she was asked to take on the role for added experience by the club pro.

Assigned the role of her Prince Charming is Andrew Drenters, who lives north of Rockwood. They are rehearsing every week with the Milton skaters.

First Draft of Budget Shows Mill Rate of 80

The first draft of Acton's 1960 budget shows a mill rate of 80 according to a budget committee report presented to Acton Council, meeting Monday as a committee of a whole. Of the 80 mill rate, based on estimates submitted by the town's boards and committees, council has control over 22.09 mills.

One of the largest increases in expenditures is a hike of 11.27 mills for education.

Not Reduced

In submitting the \$541,883.16 budget, Councillor Barbeau explained grants, subsidies and receipts would leave \$433,868 to be raised through taxation. He noted the budget as submitted was based on figures submitted by the various boards and committees. He pointed out the budget committee had discussed some of the major items but that no attempt was made by the committee to reduce any of the proposed expenditures.

A meeting of the budget committee will further review the budget before its formal presentation to a regular meeting of council.

Councillor Barbeau presented a breakdown of the budget under the two main divisions, (1) expenditures over which council has no control at the top of the table and (2) expenditures controlled by council. The breakdown includes the 1959 expenditures and the proposed 1960 budget.

The expenditures over which Council has no control include: The public school 24.26 mills and the high school 12.84 mills

representing all operational costs of the schools and the debenture charges on the buildings. These two items account for an 11.27 mill increase over 1959.

The County rate of 5.68 mills levied by County Council is used to maintain County connecting link roads, Halton Centennial Manor, Halton County Health Unit, the County Jail, the Children's Aid Society, the Registry Office, County hospitals, County Buildings, the Halton Civil Defence program.

The grants to other Boards are

to the Library Board, the Parks Board, the Planning Board, the Bands, the Urban Board and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

The debenture charges are for the payment of debentures issued for the sewage system, the waterworks system, street paving, Maria Street bridge, the fire hall and Warren Grove subdivision.

The police expenditures are for the police protection by the Ontario Provincial Police detachment.

The expenditures controlled by

council are for general government at 11.15 mills; town operations at 9.26 mills and fire protection at 1.68 mills.

Items covered by general government are an anticipated 1959 deficit of \$3,000, plus Council salaries, administrative salaries, unemployment insurance, accident insurance, cemetery maintenance, liability insurance, printing and postage, public building maintenance, office administration, legal fees, election expenses, Workmen's Compensation assessment, health and welfare, ambulance service, arena operation, dog control, interest on bank loans, sewage system deficit, taxes written off as uncollectable and miscellaneous items.

Town operations include road gravelling, sanding and sweeping, snow removal, signs and road markings, equipment purchases, sidewalk repairs and rebuilding, garbage collection and street lighting.

The fire department estimates they will require 1.68 mills to maintain their equipment and operate the department.

The council has control over 22.09 mills. It is in this amount that any reduction of the proposed 80 mill tax rate will have to be found. After considerable discussion with no reduction being effected, council decided to call a special meeting on Monday evening of next week to review all items on the proposed budget. If necessary, additional meetings will be held on succeeding nights objective of having the budget finalized by March 31.

1960 Mill Rate Breakdown

	1959	1960	Increase		
	Mills	Expend.	Mills	Expend.	
Public School	18.28	95,812.23	24.26	131,602.00	5.98
High School	7.55	39,572.34	12.84	69,685.94	5.29
County Rate	5.01	26,191.07	5.68	30,751.78	.67
Other Boards	1.74	9,146.16	2.84	15,288.89	1.10
Debentures	9.02	47,191.88	8.48	46,043.92	-.54
Police	3.10	16,725.00	3.81	20,625.50	.71
	44.70		57.91		13.21
General Govt.	19.64	100,093.52	11.15	60,515.81	8.49
1958 deficit		51,000.00			
		49,093.52			
1959 deficit		3,000.00			
		52,093.52			
Town Operations	6.46	33,805.00	9.26	50,190.00	2.80
Fire	1.20	6,438.43	1.68	9,164.40	.48
	27.30		22.09		9.03
	72	362,998.93	80	433,868.24	8.00

Don Bexton Again Night School Head Eight New Courses for Fall Scheduled

Only an even dozen attended the annual meeting of the night school Tuesday at the high school. Of the 166 who attended classes, just 10 executive members and two others met to review the year, elect a new slate and hear about interesting new courses proposed.

Most executive members were renamed to posts with a few shifts—and the two others present were speedily put on the executive, too.

New Slate

Don Bexton is again chairman with George Bowman vice-chairman, Miss Doris Cripps recording secretary, Mrs. J. Creighton applications secretary, Miss Florence Wilkin treasurer and Mrs. D. Dill publicity convenor.

Bill Mainprize is property committee chairman with Mrs. J. Inglis and another, yet to be named, on the chair.

With chairlady Miss Bella-May Russell on the general committee are Mrs. H. Helwig, Mrs. C. G.

Jones, Mrs. W. Dumarch, Mrs. H. Mainprize, Mrs. J. Whitham, Mrs. W. Coon and Mrs. W. Toth.

Praise and Problems

In his report, Mr. Bexton reported a good year "in spite of lower enrollment and bad weather." He urged an improved method of distributing application forms and suggested direct mailing.

He pointed out attendance before Christmas was 86 per cent, and after Christmas 68 per cent. "The lack of interest right after Christmas presents a real problem," he said.

The teachers receive \$12 a night, with 25 per cent paid by the Acton committee and the remainder by the Board of Education, he noted. Concluding he paid special tribute to Mrs. J. Creighton who had spent many hours working as applications secretary.

In the treasurer's report, Miss Wilkin announced a balance of

slightly over \$50 as the year concluded.

Repeat Popular Courses

Favorite classes such as sewing and oil painting will be offered again next fall, and some that were dropped recently such as millinery, woodworking and English grammar and composition will be offered again.

Of special interest was a review of eight brand new courses in the offering. (These will only be held with sufficient registration and no teachers or courses are final yet.)

Two Flower Courses

Floral arranging—a six night course in the fall—would be given by Mr. Robinson of Robinson's flower shop, Guelph. Another six-week course in home gardening would follow after Christmas, taught by Prof. Well of the OAC.

Draperies and slip covers would be taught by Miss Jessie Miriam, head of the workshop at Duncan McPhee, Guelph. (She assisted—Continued on Page Three)

Council Reviews Insurance; Opposes Speed Increase

Discussion of the insurance coverage of the arena consumed a major portion of the regular Council meeting on Tuesday evening. Bert Wood, the local agent, and L. Morris of the Western Assurance Company attended the meeting and discussed with Council various phases of the insurance coverage.

An independent appraisal is to be secured of the damaged section to determine the cause of the roof collapse. Discussions on whether the building is covered by insurance will be held on receipt of this report.

Arena Closed

Although the final hockey game of the year was played at the arena Saturday, further Saturday skating was being considered. Now, however, council members unanimously agreed to completely close all the arena for the balance of this year. Signs are to be posted outside the building and parents are urged to instruct their children to stay completely away from the building.

Town workers have removed all dangerous sections of the roof and cleared up loose roofing and debris inside the building, clerk administrator Jack McGeachie reported. The south wall of the arena has been boarded up to protect the building from wind damage.

No Snow Load Coverage

Mr. Morris said arena coverage was fire, lightning and extended coverage including malicious damage. No insurance for snow and ice load was carried. He made the statement, "I would venture to say that no arena in

the province of Ontario is insured for snow and ice load."

Councillor Lowe expressed his opinion that the collapse was not due to snow load as the flat curling rink roof had been shovelled by the town workers and was clear of ice and snow. He felt impact damage was the cause of the collapse.

Mr. Morris informed councilors his company would not have issued snow load insurance on the building. The arena is insured for fire, lightning and extended coverage to the amount of \$26,000.

Hospital Dogs

Mayor Jack Armstrong of Georgetown and two members of the Georgetown District Hospital committee attended and spoke briefly of the plans and efforts to build a new hospital for the Georgetown area.

The assessor was authorized to tag dogs during the taking of the annual census. Details were to be worked out between the assessor and clerk administrator.

The assessor in making his annual census will have with him a supply of tags. A tag will be left for which the householder may pay the assessor. If the householder does not pay cash he will sign a receiving slip for the dog tag and will then be billed from the town office.

The clerk was authorized to prepare a new Daylight Saving Time by-law, incorporating any provincial regulations which may be issued, for presentation at the April council meetings.

The clerk was instructed to write to the Department of

Highways vigorously opposing any increase of the maximum highway speed limit within the municipal boundaries. Word was received from the Department that a recommendation would be forwarded to the minister suggesting increases to 40 M.P.H. Another recommendation to the minister is that NO "stop and go" traffic signal be installed at the Mill and Main street intersection.

Traffic Engineer Cowley of the Highways Department was to be invited to attend a council meeting to discuss the recommendation with Council.

Dog Service Ends

A letter from Oakville District Humane Society informed Council they would be unable to continue their dog control service to the town of Acton. The subject is to be discussed at the next meeting of the North Halton Urban Board.

The third financial statement was presented and accounts totalling \$9,735.31 were authorized for payment.

The Council also:
• Heard the Urban Board minutes of their last meeting.
• Received the Magistrate's summary.
• Received the Police report.

• Took no action on the City of Kitchener petition to the provincial government for increased grants on capital expenditures for library construction.
• Received a report on the Municipal Board Assessment appeals.

• Decided to consider further a request for municipal water service outside the town boundaries.

Just the Facts

Roof Collapse Tales Snowball

Reports of the collapse of the curling rink section of the arena roof on Sunday have been a source of much amusement to the citizens of Acton. Reports and rumors of the collapse were almost immediately magnified many times beyond the actual facts as they occurred. According to various reports, the whole arena collapsed in a pile of rubble, three people narrowly escaped being killed and finally three people were killed.

After viewing the section that did collapse on Sunday afternoon, we were almost convinced by radio and television reports that evening that we didn't see what we had seen. To many the rink is known as the building where fall fair exhibits and winning articles are shown.

Just the Facts

However, to get back to what did happen:

The snow on the flat roof of the curling rink had been removed by town workmen. The snow on the pitched section of the arena had been removed for a distance of 12 feet up the side. The snow on the balance of the pitched arena roof, through melting or as has been suggested, as a result of wind, slid off the arena roof onto the flat curling rink roof and collapsed this roof.

Elizabeth Force was practicing figure skating on the ice surface of the undamaged skating arena. Her father, E. S. Force, was in front of the building. No one was in the vicinity.

Arena Wall Asks

The damage included the collapse of the roof of the curling rink and the pushing out of plumb of a short section of the south wall of the skating arena.

Snow Collapses Rink Roof

With a thunderous crash, the roof of the 30-year-old curling rink collapsed under the weight of snow Sunday afternoon. Practicing in the adjoining arena, Elizabeth Force hastily put on a sweater and skate guards, went outside to where her father, Ted Force, was waiting for her in his car, and exclaimed the place was falling in!

Mr. Force recalled just half an hour before he had shooed four youngsters out of the curling rink where they had been playing. While the collapse might have been a tragedy, the arena's sole occupant was at no time in actual danger.

Mr. Force sought caretaker Herb Fryer. Town officials and foreman Al Kirkness were contacted.

The final hockey games had been played in the arena and last public event was the broomball game and exhibition girls' hockey match Friday. However, council was planning to consider the question of more public skating nights while the ice held.

The curling rink has not been used for that purpose for about 20 years. It is best known as the building where fall fair exhibits and prize winning produce were displayed. It is partially open to the arena and joined by stairs.

The adjoining room with refreshment booth and stove is intact. The south wall of the arena leans crazily where it was strained by falling beams. It is now impossible to walk behind the seats at the south of the arena.

Town workmen began cleaning up the wreckage Monday. Loss was estimated by clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie at somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

The building committee has charge of the arena and council immediately declared the entire building closed.

which supports a short span of roof over the walk-way behind the seats on the south side. No other damage was apparent to the skating section of the arena.

The wall on the south side of the curling rink section was supported by the snow shovelled from the curling rink roof and was undamaged.

Arena's History

Even the history of the arena appears to have been in question. A search of the Free Press files has revealed information found interesting to us and we are sure it will be to readers.

The arena was erected in 1929. In February of that year a private bill was passed by the Ontario Legislature giving Acton permits to erect a skating arena and issued \$15,000 in debentures to cover the cost of its construction. J. M. McDonald and C. Hansen of Beardmore & Co. designed and drew the plans for the building which were approved in June, 1929.

Opening Carnival

The first skating in the new building was on Tuesday, December 17. The official opening was on Christmas night, December 25, and Christmas night, December 25, 1929 and was a carnival officiated over by Reeve A. Mason and Councillors Nelson, Hansen and Harrison. Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Moore, R. J. Kerr and P. A. Smith.

The first scheduled hockey game was on Monday, December 30, 1929. The game was won by Brampton 3-1. Acton eliminated

Continued on Page Three

OBITUARY

Beloved Resident Many Years Mrs. A. T. Brown Passes Away

A woman who played a prominent part in the affairs of Acton passed away in Hamilton General Hospital on Wednesday evening after several years of declining health. Mrs. A. T. Brown will be remembered by many for her devoted work in the church and community events calculated for the welfare of Acton.

She was 88 years of age. Her husband predeceased her in February, 1955.

Mrs. Brown, the former Carmina Walker, was born on February 25, 1872, daughter of the late William Walker and Mary Worden.

No close relatives remain, but her loss is mourned by her husband's relatives, Miss Alberta Brown and R. N. Brown, Acton, J. Kerr Brown of Winnipeg and the Rev. J. R. Brown of Turner Valley, Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were married in 1901 and many friends brought congratulations at their golden wedding anniversary in 1951.

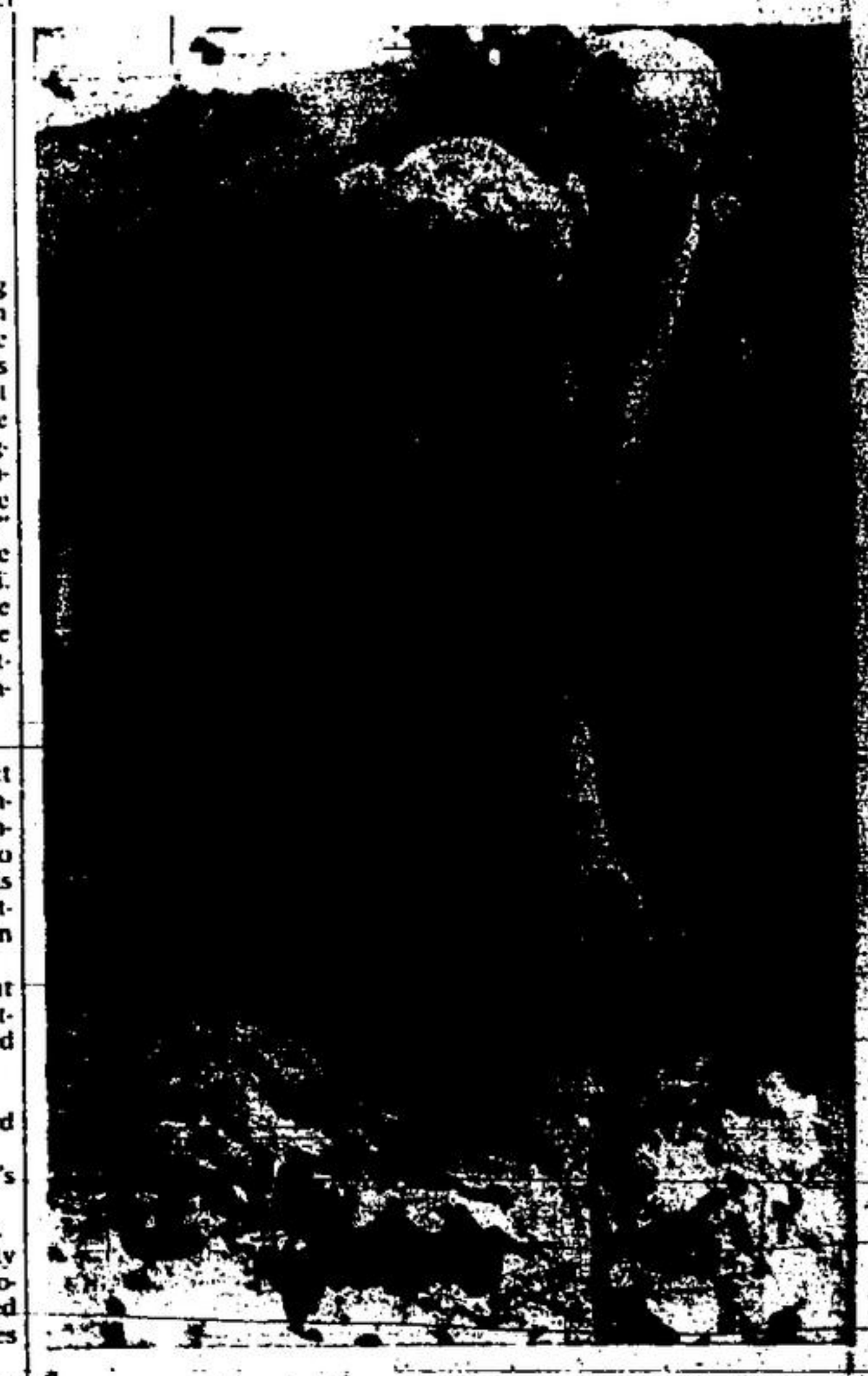
They lived over their drug store on Mill St. for over 50 years when the business was sold to Earl Cooper. Mr. Brown was a graduate of the College of Pharmacy in Toronto. They then moved to a house where Manning Electric store is now. Both subsequently made their home at Halton Centennial Manor, Milton.

Both were very active in the town. Mrs. Brown was the president of the W.M.S. of the United Church for many years and was a life member. She sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. Mr. Brown was superintendent of the Sunday school for about 30 years.

Noted Elocutionist She was a willing worker for the W.A. Epworth League, W.C.T.U. and young people's societies. Her ability as an elocutionist was well-known.

Mr. Brown was an avid stamp collector and amateur photographer. He was on council and was past master and member of

Continued on Page Four



BELOVED COUPLE whose friends were myriad, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brown have both now passed away. Mrs. Brown died in Hamilton General Hospital Wednesday. Mr. Brown predeceased her in February, 1955. Funeral service is Friday afternoon. Mr. Brown was druggist here for over 50 years.

CASCADING snow which caused collapse of curling rink roof was heard by Elizabeth Force, skating in the arena.