

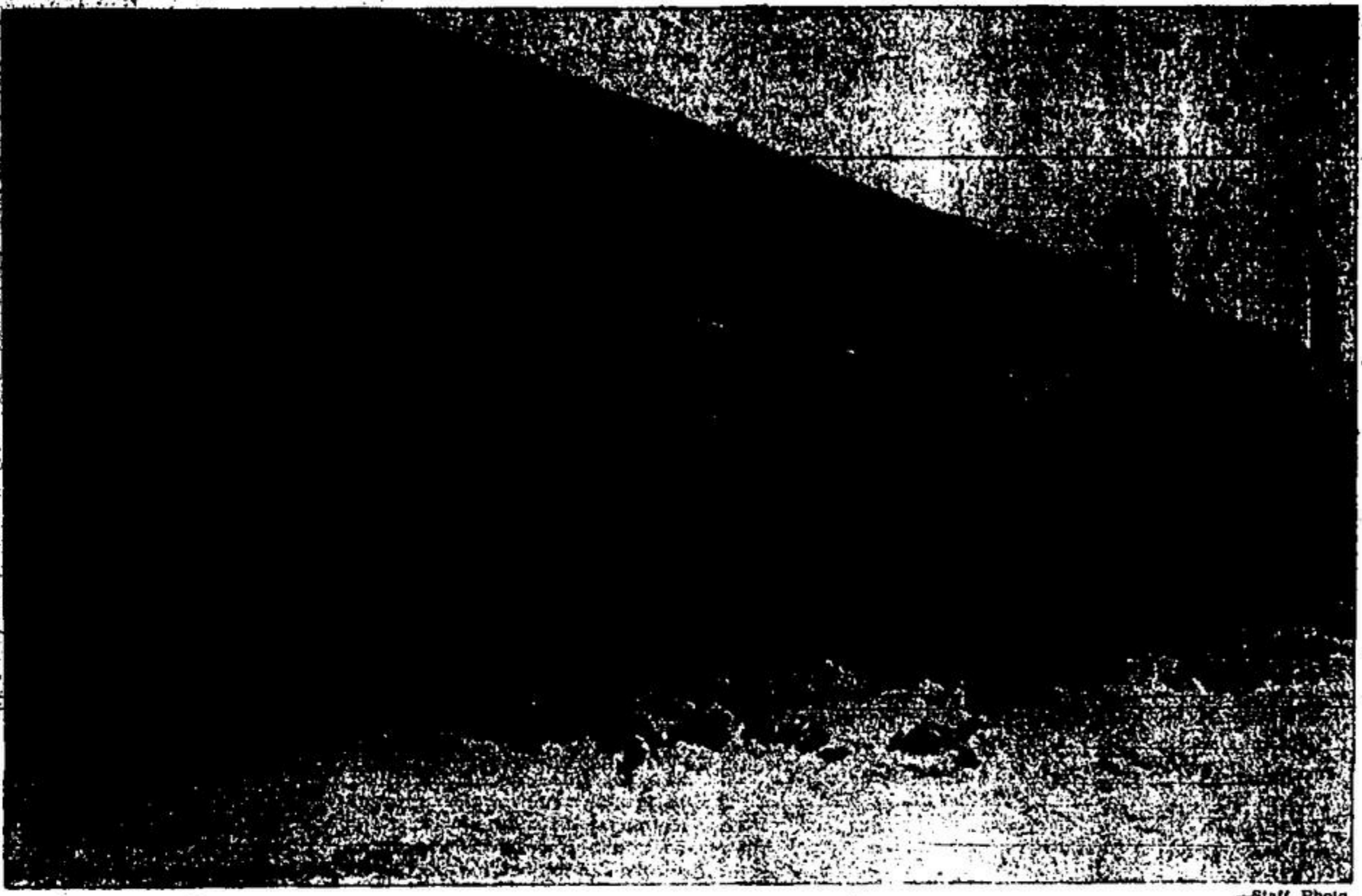
The Acton Free Press.

Eighty-Fifth Year.—No. 40.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MARCH 31st, 1960

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Eight Pages—Seven Cents.



AN ESTIMATED \$5,000 damage was caused when a portion of the roof of the former Wool Combing building collapsed Monday morning. The building owned by Canada Packers is vacant with the exception of a portion occupied by Refrigeration Services. Charles Shultis and Ed Thatcher, Beardmore workers escaped serious injuries when they fell with the roof. The two workers were clearing drains on the roof when it gave way under the weight of ice and snow.

Set Tax Rate at 74-78 Up Six Mills Over 1959

| Assessed Value of Residential Property | ESTIMATED TAXES | | |
|--|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| | 1959 Tax | 1960 Tax | 1960 Increase |
| \$1,000. | \$ 68.00 | \$ 74.00 | \$ 6.00 |
| 2,000. | 136.00 | 148.00 | 12.00 |
| 3,000. | 204.00 | 222.00 | 18.00 |
| 4,000. | 272.00 | 296.00 | 24.00 |
| 5,000. | 340.00 | 370.00 | 30.00 |
| 6,000. | 408.00 | 444.00 | 36.00 |

Council at a special meeting on Wednesday night set the 1960 tax rate at 74 mills on Residential assessment and at 78 mills on Industrial-Commercial assessment. These figures represent a hike over last year's tax rate of 6 mills. On an average residential assessment of \$4,000, the taxes this year will be \$296.00, an increase of \$24.00 over last year.

The variation in the two mill rates between residential and industrial is caused by the Provincial per capita grant which is used to reduce the residential mill rate only. The mill this year is worth \$5,418.03. This will raise \$411,306.74 for town operation.

An unexpected windfall for council was word from the town auditor that the anticipated deficit on 1959 operations of \$2,900, had been wiped out. Instead of the deficit council was informed a \$3,000 surplus had occurred in 1959.

Council had met in a special budget meeting on Monday night at which various items in the budget had been reviewed and reductions made. Biggest budget cuts came in the Road, Industrial and Fire committee estimates.

\$10,000 earmarked for works department building and equipment was chopped off the Road Committee estimates representing a 20% reduction. The Fire Committee came in for a 10% cut of estimated expenditures when their figures were reduced by \$1,086. Industrial Committee funds were reduced to \$200.

Councillor Barbeau, chairman of the budget committee, reported he had discussed budget with the chairman of the two school boards. Both boards had been willing to explain their budgets but could not see any place for reductions.

Voting for the second and third reading of the by-law to establish the mill rate at 74 and 78 mills were councillors Duby, McLeod, Barbeau, Field, Deputy Reeve Hargrave, Reeve Greer and Mayor Goy. Against were councillors Lowe and Pope.

Plan C. of C. Community Dinner Will Name Citizen of the Year

Plans were discussed for the annual Chamber of Commerce Community Dinner during a meeting of the directors Wednesday evening, Wednesday, April 27, was the date set for the annual affair. The place has yet to be decided upon.

The civic committee, headed by Bill MacKay, was delegated to choose the Acton Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

New Committee
On the suggestion of John R. Holmes, a new committee called Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee was adopted and approved. Mr. Holmes was voted chairman of the new committee.

Orval Chapman, chairman of the membership committee, reported seven new members will be installed at the next general meeting. Norm Braida, chairman of the industrial committee, reported interest in the rental of space in the Wool Combing building was very encouraging.

All members are to be notified of a special meeting to take place in St. Alban's parish hall on April 7.

HOW THE MUNICIPAL TAX DOLLAR IS SPENT

| 1960 | 1959 |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Public School .31 | .25 Public School |
| High School .16 | .105 High School |
| County Rate .07 | .07 County Rate |
| Other Boards .03 | .025 Other Boards |
| Debentures .11 | .125 Debentures |
| Police .05 | .045 Police |
| General Govt. .13 | .275 General Govt. |
| Town Operations .12 | .09 Town Operations |
| Fire .02 | .015 Fire |
| \$1.00 | \$1.00 |

Hydro Invests \$35,000 Surplus Considers Substation Purchase

Commissioners at the Thursday meeting of the Acton Hydro Commission learned that a surplus of \$20,854.44 had been realized from the 1959 operations of the Public Utilities Commission.

The balance sheet and operating report gave a breakdown of all operating costs and the source of revenue for the commission. Action was initiated to invest money in the commission's current account in government securities.

(At a special meeting on Friday morning, the commission purchased short-term treasury notes for \$35,000.)

Investigation is to be made to determine the feasibility of purchasing the No. 2 substation. The H.E.P.C. has estimated the cost of the substation to the local commission at \$38,021, on a purchase date of July 1, 1960. It is estimated by the H.E.P.C. the local commission would realize a return of 8.5% on the purchase of this substation. (An estimate of a 10% return on the commission's purchase of the No. 1 substation has proven correct.)

Budget Suggestions
J. C. Farrell, consumer service superintendent, and H. W. King, consumer service supervisor of H.E.P.C., attending the meeting, presented their estimates to the local commission. In discussing the preparation of a capital expense budget, the representatives suggested the local commission should, in consultation with the superintendent, prepare the budget and then submit it to the H.E.P.C. for approval. They also suggested the commission might consider the preparation of a two years' capital budget.

Also up for discussion with the H.E.P.C. representatives were the four-block rate schedule adopted in January, 1959; a hot water heater supply, rental and promotional program; and electrical home calling.

The collection of delinquent accounts came in for considerable discussion. The result was a decision that the commission would continue to operate with in the policy already established. Commissioners complained of the frequent calls to their homes from consumers requesting deviations from the established of face procedure for payment of accounts.

Superintendent Doug Mason reported on the necessary capital expense repairs to lines in three locations; the installation of new meters on the Crescent; meter inspection; and the hot water heater control system.

Malton Recall

Many former Malton workers living in Acton and district have received registered letters recalling them to Orenda Engines at Malton. This word no doubt will be gratefully received by many citizens.

The mass layoff took place just over a year ago and some men are still without satisfactory jobs.

Rev. G. Holmes to Preach Farewell Sermon Sunday

At the conclusion of his Sunday evening service in the Baptist church, the Rev. Gordon Holmes will conclude his ministry here owing to the unsatisfactory condition of his health.

In the near future, Mr. Holmes and his wife will move to Hamilton, where they will reside with relatives.

Mr. Holmes stated this week that Sunday will conclude his ministry in charge of a church. If health permits, he will take up supply preaching later.

Local McCutcheon, chairman of the Deacon Board of the church, reported this week the board would conduct church services until members have an opportunity to hear lay preachers and extend a call to one of them in the near future.

One of the board members this week remarked the church will no doubt be able to obtain another minister but no one will be able to take Mr. Holmes' place.

The board member told of the retiring minister's untiring efforts in building the Baptist church congregation and his achievements in the ministerial work in Acton.

Mr. Holmes' departure will be felt by the Acton Ministerial Association as well as the Baptist congregation as he was a faithful servant with this group.

Many local residents will recall the inspiring address by Rev. Holmes during the last Decoration Day service at Fairview cemetery.

Board's Praise
During the annual meeting of the Baptist church, January 20, Mr. Holmes was praised by members of the board when it was noted under his leadership the church had become a close knit, loyal body of Christians, willing to carry on the activities usually associated with a large church from a very limited membership.

The Free Press joins with the congregation and other citizens in wishing the minister an early recovery to good health and to him and his wife happiness in their Hamilton home.

Storm Stayed Santa Should Scoot Soon
Santa Claus got storm stayed in Acton this year.

Well past the first of spring, Santa is still stuck firm on one roof top. With ice melting fast, he'll soon be able to work the sleigh and deer hooves loose and get back to the pole. Mrs. Santa must be getting anxious.

Christmas trees — decorations and all — are still frozen solid on lawns and the drooping, drooping unshod Christmas trees behind the Y are being exposed in all their gloomy uselessness.

Workers Miss Death in \$5,000 Cave-in To Re-Build Section Immediately

Amid tons of cement blocks, twisted steel pipes and shattered boards, Charles Shultis and Ed Thatcher were hurried to the ground Monday morning when the roof of the Wool Combing building collapsed with an earth-shattering crash under the weight of four feet of thick ice and heavily packed snow.

The two Beardmore employees, who had been clearing drains on the roof, crawled from the tangled debris to safety suffering only minor injuries and shock as water gushing from broken sprinkler pipes saturated the area.

The building, owned by Canada Packers Limited, is vacant with the exception of a small area occupied by Dennis O'Brien, who operates Refrigeration Services. Mr. O'Brien will be able to continue business as his area was not affected by the cave-in.

\$5,000. Damage
In an interview shortly after the roof and one wall had collapsed, W. J. Beatty, managing director of Beardmore and Company, estimated the damage at approximately \$5,000, and said the building would be replaced.

Meanwhile, the area has been placed out of bounds to everyone but repair crews.

The section of the building which collapsed was the most recent addition, constructed in 1949. It was used as a loading dock and although it had steel beam construction on the main deck, the roof was of wooden beam construction.

Opening Drains
The two workers had been assigned to open roof drains frozen when an electrical system to prevent freezing failed to operate.

After opening up one or two drains on other sections of the roof, the workers were attempt-

ing to locate the drain on the loading shed roof when the cave-in occurred.

Not five minutes before the collapse of the roof, Charles Shultis was standing underneath the roof pointing out the location of the drain to his partner.

After finding the location, both men began digging under the deep snow and ice when suddenly the roof gave way about two inches; then paused momentarily before plummeting to the ground.

Under Doctor's Care
Mr. Shultis, who suffered torn ligaments in his leg and is under the doctor's care, remarked "I and I had just reached the drain and when I reached down to unplug it we felt the roof give an inch or two and then the bottom fell out."

"We were not buried in the tangled mass of wreckage but a lot of debris was partially covering us and we crawled through a doorway into the main part of the plant," he stated.

Mr. Shultis recalled he had remarked to his partner, "There certainly is a lot of weight on this roof. It doesn't look too safe."

This remark was verified by Mr. Thatcher shortly before the collapse came.

Ed Thatcher of Rockwood returned to work Monday afternoon following X-rays at Guelph hospital.

Saw Roof Collapse
Mrs. Bert Ware and her sister, Mrs. T. Ware, who live on the Crescent overlooking the building, had seen the two men on the roof minutes before they heard the thunderous crash and saw the wall and roof crumble to the ground.

Failing to see the two workers emerge from the ruins, the wom-

en became alarmed for their safety. Mrs. B. Ware ran into her home and summoned the telephone operator to get help.

Chief operator Mrs. M. Ford, unable to contact the fire chief, instructed one of her operators to call a doctor, and immediately called deputy chief Mick Holmes, who told her to set off the fire alarm.

Two Fire Trucks
Two trucks loaded with firemen arrived on the scene but were sent back to the fire hall when it was learned the workers were safe.

Not realizing the firemen and workers starting to leave the scene, one of the men's safety, the two women, watching from the Crescent, shouted a warning and were relieved to learn the two men had escaped with no serious injury.

The collapse of the roof broke the sprinkler pipes and set off the alarm system. Engineer Bill O'Connell, one of the firemen at the time, as well as a member of the local brigade, rushed to shut the water off as it began flooding the main portion of the building.

Will Rebuild
Mr. Beatty recalled touring the vacant plant the previous day with his son Gordon.

In reviewing his tour he recalled telling his son "That roof is going to collapse under the weight of the snow and ice" as he realized the danger.

Tuesday morning, Mr. Beatty reported the damage was not covered by insurance but the building would be rebuilt immediately. H. E. Wilson, mechanical superintendent of Canada Packers Limited, and Mr. Beatty made this decision on Monday following an inspection of the ruins.



REV. GORDON HOLMES

Choose Rev. A. H. McKenzie President Local Rotary Club

The Rev. A. H. McKenzie was chosen to head the Acton Rotary Club for the coming term during the election of new officers Tuesday night when a 100% attendance was present.

Nominating committee chairman Ken Hulford presented the following slate of officers: president, Rev. A. H. McKenzie; vice-president, D. Manes; treasurer, F. Gordon and secretary, R. Lewis.

Directors named were K. Hardman, M. Sprawl, A. Gordon, F. Prouse and T. Shields and secretary, R. Davies.

When M. Sprawl declined the position of director, P. Neilson was named to take this position.

Following the dinner and fines session the club and guests joined in a hearty sing song after which the following guests from the Guelph Club were introduced — Art Wood, Joe Dugan, Earl Shultz and E. Christopher.

Mr. Dugan outlined the district conference being staged in Guelph next month and urged the local Rotarians to make a concerted effort to attend some of the sessions.

Rotarian Ken Hulford thanked the past officers for the excellent job they had performed last term and praised the incoming officers' integrity.

Following the regular meeting, committee meetings were held to discuss future projects and finalize the results of theatre night last week.

Easter Seal Project To Begin Next Week

Mac Sprawl, chairman of the Easter Seal program for the Acton Rotary Club, urged the members Tuesday evening to all lend a helping hand stuffing and addressing envelopes for the annual campaign next week.

The chairman, beginning his fifth term in this capacity, pointed out that 2,500 envelopes with seals and data would be stuffed and mailed.

Of this number 1,400 are slated for the residents of Acton and the balance divided between the rural routes around Acton, Campbellville and Rockwood.

The returns from this campaign are used to assist Crippled Children throughout Ontario.

It's Over
The Free Press "open house" is now completely over. One group whose plans got "fouled up" that week finally made it. The boys and girls of Knox Explorers toured the plant yesterday after school.

Close Acton Arena Following Cave-in
Following the cave-in of the curling rink roof on Sunday, March 20, town workmen have removed all sections creating a hazard and boarded up the south wall behind the seating section.

To date nothing more has been done to remove debris. Clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie reported Tuesday that until ice and snow have disappeared, it is impossible to work in the area.

Then town workmen will be busy cleaning up the site and making permanent repairs to the south wall.

To date council has not given any indication of replacing the curling rink section and the fate of the Agricultural Society's displays for the fall fair is not known.

The arena has been locked up following the cave-in and activities for the season have ceased.

Famed Athlete, Mason Frank McIntosh, 83, Dies

One of Acton's senior citizens and this community's outstanding athlete and sportsman, Frank E. McIntosh passed away on Saturday at St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph. He was in his 83rd year.

He had spent almost all his entire life in Acton and district.

Although he had been in failing health, his mind remained keen and alert. A host of friends mourn the passing of an outstanding citizen.

Many paid their last respects to Mr. McIntosh at the funeral service at the Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home Tuesday afternoon.

The Rev. A. H. McKenzie paid a loving and reflective tribute to a departed friend. "The influence of Frank McIntosh will continue through the lives of this company"

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