

# The Acton Free Press.

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## Citizen of the Year Honor Complete Surprise For Ajax Manager, Sportsman, Ex-Councillor

Bill Coon was taken completely by surprise when his name was revealed as Acton's Citizen of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce Civic Night dinner in St. Alban's parish hall Thursday of last week. A look of disbelief on his face was followed by a broad smile as the 150 present broke into spontaneous, enthusiastic and lengthy applause.

Former postmaster Frank Terry, a charter member of the Chamber of Commerce, made the announcement and outlined Mr. Coon's varied contributions to the town.

"I'm so stunned I can't say anything!" he exclaimed first. Then, recovering his breath, he said, "I appreciate this and will endeavour to continue my support of Acton's interests." He accepted an engraved plaque as the fourth Citizen of the Year. (Others were G. A. Dills, Amos Mason and Dr. W. G. C. Kenney).

Mr. Coon is general manager of Ajax Engineering and Marley of Canada, Acton plant.

We have singled out for recognition this evening our Fire Department, which, under the able leadership of Chief Jack Newton, has served our community well during the past year.

### Bill Coon's Record of Service

Announcing the choice of Acton's Citizen of the Year last Thursday at the Chamber of Commerce dinner, Frank Terry said:

"There are many factors in choosing a Citizen of the Year but a record of community service is the dominant feature. This year's honor goes to a man who, since his arrival in Acton, has accumulated an enviable record of community service. The kind of community service that adds strength and encourages community betterment... the kind of community service that extends to every facet of activity from youth work to adult recreation.

"This year's honor, the highest bestowed by the citizens of Acton, goes to Bill Coon.

### Learned Trade

"Bill was born in St. Catharines where he obtained his early education. At 17 he was learning his trade in Toronto with the Ontario Wind Engine and Pump Co., which was later taken over by Ajax Engineering.

"Bill arrived in Acton with the Ajax firm in 1935. In the municipal field of service he served on Acton Council and served for a time as deputy representing Acton at County Council.

"His activities have been varied and his contribution, through these varied activities, has benefited the town.

"Bill was an active participant in the construction of the scout hall serving not only on the committee but, as a driving force in recruiting and utilizing the volunteer labor that made the building possible.

### Active in Church

"When his church undertook a construction project he was a

major contributor to the actual construction that created the Laxton Memorial Hall.

"The field of recreation has also left the contribution of Bill Coon. He was a member of the executive that operated an Intermediate hockey team in town while Acton was entered in O.H.A. competition and he was a strong supporter of the Minor Sports program that has been developed. His interest in doubt stemmed from an early interest and participation in baseball.

### Busy Plant

"In his chosen trade and vocation, this year's citizen of the year has also amassed a commendable record. He is now general manager of Ajax Engineering and Marley of Canada, Acton plant. During the war years the factory under Bill's direction constructed Canada's largest water cooler at Port Robertson and other towers from the local plant are located in Canada and the United States. Television towers are included in the products that have been produced under Bill's supervision.

"One of the family of 14 Bill is the proud father of two boys who grew up and received their education here. Bob is in Burks Falls and Bill is located in Guelph. Both of them have children and that makes Bill a grandfather, too.

"Community service is one of those things that goes on forever once started. Bill is still active as a member of the Acton District High School Board. His association with that group goes back to the preceding North Halton High School District Board where he was a keen supporter of Acton's interests.

"We would like to specially mention fireman Hilliard Price (better known to us as 'Dad' Price) who, as a volunteer firefighter, at considerable risk to his own person, brought to safety one of our well-known local men, Coon Varey, trapped in a recent fire at the Station Hotel.

"To him, to Fire Chief Newton and to all the Acton Firefighters, a special thanks from the Chamber on behalf of all the citizens of Acton.

"We feel also, in connection with the recent fire at the Station Hotel, that we could not miss Vince Heveran, who sustained severe burns during his rescue efforts at the time of the fire."

### Letter From Premier

Secretary Norm Braida read a letter from Premier Leslie Frost, expressing best wishes in Chamber of Commerce week.

President Ted Tyler Sr. welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Terry from Owen Sound. Mr. Terry referred to his "admiration and deep respect for the Citizen of the Year."

Glenn White announced the next meeting—an agricultural meeting when Earl Whitlock will be the guest speaker.

New members introduced were Vince Heveran, who sustained

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ROBERT LITTLE SCHOOL triple duet takes turns out for a last minute practice session before their appearance at the Music Festival Wednesday morning in Acton. Pictured above left to right are Yvonne Yatsman, Inneke Snook, Linda Lawson, Doug Copeland, assisting music supervisor Glenn Banks, Ruth Everdell, Marilyn Gripps and Reta Duiker. More pictures and a complete coverage of the festivals Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will appear in next week's issue of the Free Press.

## Knox Club Fashion Show Stars Sport, Sunday Wear

Last evening (Wednesday) Knox Sunday school room was filled for another in the series of popular fashion shows which have all drawn crowds this spring. This one was sponsored by the Heather Club of Knox and clothes were from the Cameo Shoppe.

Against a backdrop of bouquets studded with gay paper flowers, models—all members or their daughters—walked to melodies played by Mrs. Mel McCullough. Commentator was Mrs. Charles Kirkness.

### Bouquets Presented

At the end of the display president Mrs. Hugh O'Rourke thanked the store and guests. There were bouquets of roses from Ken Mann, owner of the Cameo Shoppe, for Mrs. Kirkness and Mrs. McCullough. Mrs. Alex Mann, store manager, was given a large bouquet of carnations and gladioli from the club.

Tea and fruit bread were served in the basement, convened by Mrs. Cam Leishman.

Assisting models was Mrs. J. A. Van Fleet, one of the clerks.

### Show Highlights

Each model appeared several times. Highlights of the show:

Judy Abgam, her Auburn hair almost waist-length, in a sea green bathing suit with jacket.

Mrs. Ian Johnson in a very new gold sports coat of foam rubber.

Mrs. Stan Norton in a full-swinging bengaline duster over a two-piece brown suit.

Miss Helen Hopkins in a terycloth play suit printed with oversize pink and red flowers.

Mrs. Harold Guest in a mauve suit with crisp black accessories.

## Divide Parish Acton Separate

On May 1 a new parish will be established including Erin and Rockwood Anglican churches. The parish of Acton will just include the Church of St. Alban the Martyr with its own full-time rector.

The change was necessitated by the growing church population of St. Alban's. The official announcement was made in a letter received from the Bishop, the Right Reverend W. E. Bagnall. The new rector of Rockwood and Erin churches will be the Rev. Alan Cook of St. Lambert, Quebec. The Rev. H. B. Stokroed remains rector at Acton only.

Acton and Rockwood churches have been in the same parish since their inception.

### Three Weekend Fires Keep Firemen on Run

Three fires over the weekend kept Acton firefighters on the hop with two grass fires Sunday afternoon and a fire caused by overheated stove pipes Monday morning.

Sunday afternoon firemen raced to the country home of Frank Rozee, Cressons Corners, where a grass fire was burning out of control, spreading toward the railway tracks and buildings.

Firemen used the booster lines and brooms to extinguish the blaze.

Shortly after returning to the hall another grass fire broke out in the bush back of Tidy Avenue. Once again firemen used brooms and booster lines to make short work of the fire.

Monday morning overheated stove pipes at the home of Stewart Sinclair, Willow Street, filled the house with smoke and alarmed the residents. When firemen arrived they turned on the smoke ejector to clear the house of smoke and used a small quantity of water to make certain the blaze was completely extinguished.

### Condition Improved

"During the past week, Elgie (Coon) Varey has had his right arm amputated and various burns treated following hospitalization in Guelph after he received critical burns in the Station Hotel fire recently.

A report from the Guelph General Hospital at Guelph today (Thursday) stated he is showing continued improvement this week.

## Fishing Contest

The annual fishing contest sponsored by the Acton Free Press will not be held this year. In past years Acton merchants participating in the contest have generously given expensive prizes and due to the forthcoming canvass for the Community Centre The Free Press is dropping the contest for this year. We will still welcome news of any big catches, however.

### Council Adopts Daylight Saving During Year's Shortest Meeting

Tuesday evening's one hour and forty-two minute Council meeting was one of the shortest this year. With a very brief agenda the councillors zipped through the business and made the early adjournment.

Alan McIntyre, Finance Officer, announced that the final passing of the daylight saving by-law which establishes the period from Sunday April 30 at 12:01 a.m. to Sunday October 29 at 2:00 a.m. Clocks advance one hour this Sunday.

The auditor's report for 1960 was accepted and it was decided to have 100 copies of the report prepared for distribution.

### Promote County

J. T. Hurst was appointed Acton's representative to the Halton County Industrial Commission. The commission is being established by County Council to promote the County as a desirable place to locate new industry.

The clerk was authorized to attend the Clerk and Finance Officers' Convention at Home Harbour. The assessor was granted permission to attend the annual Assessors' Convention in Hamilton. Considerable discussion ensued on the cost to the Municipality of attendance at conventions. Mayor Gow pointed out, and it was generally agreed, that attendance at conventions was good and was worth the cost. It was estimated that the total cost to the Town for all conferences (Continued on Page Five)

## "Chain of Warnings"

# Cheque, Change Artists, Beware Police Launch Alerting System

Launching a county-wide crack-down on short change artists, bad cheque passers and shoplifters, the police departments throughout Halton County will soon inaugurate a system to help business firms alert other stores and offices when these thieves hit a district.

In future when a business firm is approached by these individuals, a call to the local police will touch off a "chain of telephone warnings" and within 15 minutes, every business firm in this town could be alerted to watch out for the culprits. Meanwhile, police will be on their way to round up the artists who prey on businessmen.

### Incorporate System

Corporal Charles Wilkinson of North Halton O.P.P., and Chief Ray Andross of Milton Police Department, the two men who

launched the idea and then incorporated the system with other Halton police forces, explain their idea this way:

The police will decide that the reported breach of law is sufficient, then they will call a designated "starter" who is the first businessman on the list to describe the type of offence and describe the suspects. This "starter" then telephones two other businessmen on his list, who in turn each call two more businessmen. This carries on until all the businesses have been notified, and the last place on the list reports back to the Police Department that the message has been received.

### Same Two Each Time

The businessman has a permanent list and will be expected to call the same two persons each time. Police are asking mer-

chants to post the lists beside the telephone.

The system not only serves the individual municipalities, but the whole of the county. The local police chief could place one call to Georgetown police for instance, and in 15 or 20 minutes, every business firm in that town would be alerted. Georgetown would then be obligated to pass the call on to police in other municipalities, and so on, until the whole county is notified.

Through cooperation of the various police forces linking the county lists of businesses and telephones are to be prepared and distributed so that all businessmen on one telephone exchange will be notified through the "chain" calls originating in their own exchange area.

Thus Acton calls would cover commercial firms in Acton, and

the district served by the Acton telephone exchange.

### Census, Assessing Keep Officials Busy

Census taking and assessing will keep the assessing department busy for a number of weeks. Assistant assessor Cy Perkins, in this week taking census and handing out dog tags.

Mr. Perkins leaves a dog tag at home where owners have a pet and they can either pay at the time or settle at the town office. The purpose of the census taking is to compile the voters' list and make a population count.

Assessor John Ladouceur continues to view properties and grade houses for the assessment roll. The present work will take the two men possibly a month.

## Nearly 120 Fathers and Sons Enjoy Fellowship, Hear Department of Lands and Forests Officer

Approximately 120 Dads and Lads attended the annual Father and Son banquet sponsored by the Acton Y's Men's Club last night (Wednesday), and enjoyed an evening of fellowship, saw films and heard guest speaker Alec McIntyre from the Department of Lands and Forests.

Past president Earl Masales acted as toastmaster and proposed a toast to the Queen prior to grace by the Rev. A. H. McKenzie. Following a turkey dinner with all the trimmings served by the Y Ladies' Auxiliary, everyone joined in a sing-song led by District Governor Oscar Thompson of the Galt club.

### Mayor's Greetings

Mayor John H. Gow brought greetings from council and praised the Y's Men for their interest in sponsoring the annual banquet. He outlined plans for the proposed Community Centre building and urged the fathers to play their part in making this possible for the benefit of their families. Thrills and spills were prominent as fathers and sons saw a film on the soap box derby staged at Galt last summer.

A toast to the sons was given by Don Ryder and replied to by his son David after which guest speaker was introduced by Y's Men's president Bill Wilson.

### Guest Speaker

Mr. McIntyre outlined the basic organization of the Department and gave an interesting review of accomplishments of the officers.

He told his interested audience that six officers would be in the area by Monday and remain for a number of weeks keeping a sharp eye on reforestation and other interests of the Department. He stressed the importance of keeping streams stocked with fish and maintaining reforestation to protect businessmen who depend on the summer trade.

Appreciation to the speaker and ladies was given by Y's Men.

Walter Dubois who presented him with a gift on behalf of the club.

Head table guests introduced by Y's Man W. D. Elmer Smith included: Rev. A. H. McKenzie and his son Allan; Mayor John H. Gow and his son John; past president and chairman for the evening Earl Masales and his son Peter; Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Thompson and his son for the night Bruce Sagaskie; Walter Morton and Clyde Porter from the Galt club. Also present to join the many fathers and sons were Don Isreal and Hal Hansen of the Dan Pallat Club in Kitchener.



POPULAR FASHIONS were modelled last evening (Wednesday) when Knox church Sunday school room was filled to capacity. Sponsored by the Heather Club of the church, the clothes for the show were from the Cameo Shoppe. While attractive models displayed the latest designs, Mrs. Charles Kirkness acted as commentator and Mrs. Mel McCullough played soft music on the piano. At the end of the display Ken Mann, owner of the store, presented bouquets of roses to Mrs. Kirkness and Mrs. McCullough. Pictured above are some of the fashions and the models with store owner Ken Mann.