



ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF PROPOSED ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS ACTON DISTRICT

Rural Area, Villages Split For Board's Area Canvass

The directors of the Acton Agricultural Society held a special meeting on Wednesday, April 19, to draw up plans for their canvass in support of the Acton and district Community Centre campaign. The well attended meeting was held in the office of the Free Press.

A delegation from the Women's Board was also on hand to offer their service and support to the project. President Nina Brada gave a detailed report of a recent meeting between the central committee and a delegation from the Board.

Publicity chairman Jim Ledger was present to answer many pertinent questions from directors and forwarded useful suggestions

on the most effective methods to conduct the rural canvass. He reported that the committee had received an encouraging response from rural citizens and expressed confidence that the canvass would be an unqualified success.

Well-Defined Area

After much deliberation regarding the territory to be covered, a well defined area was set up which is bounded by the No. 24 Highway to the North, the seventh line, east, the Spevick Side road south, and west to the Town Line between Nassagaweya and Puslinch Townships. The area will include the villages of Ballinacraig, Limehouse, Brookville, Moffat, Eden Mills and Rockwood. The district was then divided

Firemen Pledge \$74 Average

Firemen's personal pledges to the Community Centre, fund average about \$74. The men made the decision how much they would give personally at their meeting Monday. Some were absent, and the average will be slightly altered.

The model of the new arena, to go with a campaign induction in the Camera Shop window, will likely be made of styrofoam, firemen say.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Former Resident Sets Example With Arena Project Donation

3122B Hudson, Dallas 35, Texas, April 19, 1961

The Editor, Acton Free Press, Acton, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Sir,

In a recent edition of the Free Press, my wife and I read the public appeal for funds to build a Community Centre in conjunction with the present arena building.

To me as a boy in Rockwood, the Acton arena was the focal point of winter activity. As a young adult and Acton resident, I danced in the Alliston Community Centre arena while a first

at O.R.H.A. game was in progress below and wondered to myself, "Why don't we have a place like this in Acton?"

Now as a greying adult of a neighboring nation, my chance to do something about it has arrived and I would hope it would stir all former residents of the district to follow suit.

Enclosed you will find my cheque for \$25 to the Community Centre Fund.

Please, all former residents, follow suit and let the locals best our hand!

Sincerely,
Frank E. Fowler

W.I. Gives Arena \$100 Donation

Bannockburn Women's Institute held their annual meeting at Bannockburn school on Thursday evening, April 20 with the president, 14 members and one visitor present. Roll call was answered by paying membership fees.

Financial statement and conveners' reports were read. Mrs. A. Ellerby presided for election of officers. Nominating committee, Mrs. W. J. McDonald and Mrs. T. Danni presented names of the new executive which was adopted as follows:

President, Mrs. W. Storey; first vice, Mrs. S. Matthews; second vice, Mrs. W. J. McDonald; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. W. Linham.

District director Mrs. T. Gordon; auditors, Mrs. S. Matthews and Mrs. S. Morrison.

Standing committee conveners, agriculture and Canadian industries, Mrs. A. Brooks; citizenship and education, Mrs. W. Walde; historical research and current

Action School Team Loses At Volleyball

Acton High School volleyball team lost their chances of entering the C.W.O.S.S.A. finals when they dropped the third and final game to Milton last Thursday, April 20, by a close 16-14 score.

Milton trailed throughout the game but in the dying moments when the score rested at 14-8 for Acton, the county towners notched eight more points to take the district championship.

events, Mrs. J. Anthony; home economics and health, Mrs. J. Danni; resolutions, Mrs. J. Danni; press reporter, and public relations, Mrs. T. Gordon.

A sub-committee for the month was appointed, also a committee to arrange the July bus trip.

\$100

A donation of \$100 was voted to the Community Centre and the lavatories are to be completed and sent to Unitarian Services.

Global Coverage For Arena Drive

California, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Iran, England, New Zealand—letters are going out all over the globe about the Community Centre campaign. Names are being compiled by Lakeside Chapter I.O.O.F. and the letters are being written by high school typing

students. Stamps are donated, as is everything else.

Have you a suggestion? Who do you think would be interested? Names can be sent to the Free Press, or to Miss Alma Brada at Acton Home Furnishings store.

The influx of school buses in town Wednesday was due to pupils from out-of-town schools attending the Halton Music Festival.



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Student's Essay

Need for Community Centre Seen Children Look to Adults' Help

Following a request by the High School staff by the Community Centre Committee to have students write essays regarding the proposed Community Centre building, Joan Cook, grade 10 student, had the following essay chosen for publication in the Free Press.

The essay is published in its entirety and although some of the points stressed are not necessarily the thoughts of the committee, the young student's points are well taken.

ACTON'S NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

By Joan M. Cook

For some time now, most of the people in Acton have been aware of the urgent need for a Community Centre. Young people tend to have a great deal of excess energy that is spent in amusements which often have a demoralizing effect on their characters.

Parents must remember that the young people of today are the citizens of tomorrow. If the boys and girls are given a wholesome and recreational outlet for their excess energy, such as a Community Centre would provide, parents thus ensure that the adults of the future will be respectable citizens.

Fun Parents, Too

Parents, too, would be able to participate in activities which

they enjoy. The whole family would be brought into contact with people whom it has never met before, and thus make new friends. The whole community would be brought together in an effort to raise money for the Community Centre, and between the members of the community a spirit of esprit de corps would develop.

A new building will be added to the old arena in Prospect Park; in this building will be a heating and refrigeration plant the heating will be utilized throughout the general building; the refrigeration pipes will be lying under the arena, for use when ice is needed. The boys can enjoy hockey, and the girls, as well as the rest of the family, can figure skate.

In the new building will be an auditorium-banquet hall, where organizational meetings and receptions can be held. Teen-age dances could also be held. Clean modern washrooms and dressing rooms will be installed, as will be a snack bar, and a kitchen. There will be an office for the administration personnel in the summer, when the arena is not being used for ice purposes, the various local companies can stage trade exhibitions. The local 4-H Clubs and Junior Farmers Association can hold competitions and can display their vari-

ous projects. Wrestling matches and boxing matches could be staged, as could lacrosse games. Parties to celebrate holidays, such as Christmas, could be held in the arena.

Project Financing

How is this to be financed? It is estimated that the new Community Centre will cost sixty thousand dollars plus grants from all levels of government: Federal, Provincial and Municipal. All avenues must be fully explored to ensure that potential sources of funds will not be overlooked. Canvassers will come around to the one thousand, two hundred homes in the Acton area in late May to collect pledges. The people may pay by post dated cheques, or by agreement with their own bank, if they are employed in an Acton industry, they may pay by payroll deductions up to a 12 month period.

Each home pays an average of fifty dollars; the success of the project will be ensured. Of course some of the more wealthy members of the community will be able to exceed this figure. In less enough funds and pledges are collected to start the building program, the money that has been collected will be returned to the individual contributors.

Ready This Year

With its location in the north west corner of Prospect Park, the

Skits in Production

Skits on how NOT to canvass will be an extra attraction at the canvassers' school. About 100 canvassers will take a short course May 3 or 4 and May 9 and 10 in the Robert Little School before starting to phone for appointments starting May 11.

The Legion lead the town canvass and the fair board the country canvass.

The riotous skits — which include some HOW to canvass, too — are already scripted.

Publicity chairman Jim Ledger said optimistically, "The door's practically open before they get there."

Church Interested

Tuesday morning the Community Centre canvass was explained to members of the clergy. The Rev. A. H. McKenzie, the Rev. H. B. Stokroff, the Rev. Dwight Engel and the Rev. James Rudd, Mayor Gay and Jim Ledger outlined plans to them. Mr. Stokroff expressed their feelings when he said, "The church is naturally interested in anything that will improve the community."

Community Centre will be easily accessible to the people of the Acton district. There are ample parking facilities. An attractive Community Centre building would further enhance the beauty of the park.

The date of the commencement is contingent upon the support that this project receives from the people of Acton. When the funds are collected, the contractors estimate that the new Community Centre will be ready for use by the winter season of 1961-62.

The need for a Community Centre is upon us today; the desire to build this edifice is apparent. The children of this community look to the parents, in distrustful, and business people to assist in the success of this venture, as the young people are the citizens of tomorrow, on whom will rest the responsibility of the future.

Question & Answer

Q: I know of some former Actonians who would like to help with the canvass. Could they be contacted?

A: The Lakeside Chapter I.O.O.F. is in charge of assembling names of out of town people who might give. High school students are typing the letters and the stamps are being donated. Any names suggested would be very welcome. They could be sent to the Free Press and will be forwarded to the I.O.O.F. or given to Miss Alma Brada at Acton Home Furnishings.

Q: Will neighbouring villages and country homes be canvassed?

A: Yes, Acton Agricultural Society will be canvassing the area while the Legion is in charge of the town canvass.

Q: From the artist's sketch of the arena addition I see it was suggested the building would be of cement block. How much more would it cost to have a more attractive building of brick?

A: Brick would just cost \$1,500 more. This would likely be one of the first considerations if the goal of \$60,000 is subscribed.

Personal Notes . . .

Of Actonians Visiting Out-of-Town Points and of Visitors in Acton Homes

Mr. Melvin E. Burns is a patient in Guelph General Hospital.

Mrs. William Cunningham is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.

Mr. J. A. Mowat, Frederick St., is a patient in Toronto General Hospital.

Mr. Everett Denny, Arthur St., is a patient in Guelph General Hospital.

Mrs. Sid Newton is visiting in England and is expected back on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carpenter holidayed in Boston and New York last week.

Mrs. R. M. MacDonald has been a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, the past week.

Mrs. C. G. Jones, who has been living on Bowser Ave. for several years, has moved to Paris.

Mrs. Anna Smith of Lake Ave. has returned home from a three week holiday in Toronto.

Mr. John E. Duncan of Bridgen has been a visitor at the home of Mr. John C. Denny this week.

Mr. and Mrs. James McGladrey visited with the former's mother in Thornton over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frank and Misses Helen and Edith Hopkins visited with Wingham friends on Sunday.

Dr. Harold F. Mowat of Coppermine and Mr. Howard Dignan, of Toronto were visitors of Mrs. John Mowat on Saturday.

Mrs. McMillan, Frederick St. is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph. Her daughter, Mrs. Raven of Hamilton was home for the weekend.

Miss Ruby Clark has arrived home from Florida. Mr. Boyd Clark went south for two weeks and they drove home together, weekend.

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It's NOW or Never