

The Acton Free Press.

Eighty-Seventh Year—No. 7.

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GOLDEN ARROW BADGE was presented to patrol leader Rodger Ladouceur of the Acton Scouts Monday night and was the first ever presented to a scout in Ontario. The badge is the award given to a patrol leader completing a six month extensive course, provincial headquarters waived the latter portion of the Acton scout's training in view of his high standing. Pictured above, left to right, during the presentation are Tommy McKeown, Sid Newton, member of the group committee; Rodger Ladouceur, Jim Ledger, member of the group committee; Scoutmaster Bruce Williamson and Harry Taylor.

Council Signs Three-Year Ambulance Plan 24-Hour Service, Calls, Rates Approved

First Golden Arrow Badge Presented to R. Ladouceur

A young teen-age patrol leader with the first Acton Scout Troop, Rodger Ladouceur was honored Monday evening during the Scout meeting when he was presented with a Golden Arrow Badge. This is the first time the badge has been presented by Provincial Headquarters to any scout.

The Golden Arrow course is a comparatively new one. A personal letter of commendation will be sent from headquarters to the Acton scout.

In view of his achievements the second phase of the training was waived by Provincial Headquarters and the badge awarded for his merit. Recent by the patrol leader obtained his first class scout badge. During the first phase of training he led two overnight camps and his training continued at the scout camp at Grand Bend.

The Golden Arrow course is divided into two phases and is considered by scouts to be one of the most important and hardest courses to study and pass.

Should Aim For It

When presenting the badge Monday evening, Scoutmaster Bruce Williamson informed the scouts that one of the most important features of being a patrol leader was to lead scouts and not drive them, work with them and not order, co-operate with other leaders and know how to run a troop camp.

The scoutmaster told the other members of the troop the award was one which every scout should set his aim for and informed them it was the highest award they could obtain with the exception of the Queen's Scout badge.

P.O. Upgraded To Class 10

A steady increase in the sale of postage stamps has earned the Acton post office an upgrading from nine to 10 classification.

According to Postmaster Gordon McKeown, before a post office can become eligible for an upgrading it must produce a revenue of \$60,000 per year in stamps for three years and the Acton branch last year netted \$118,000 in stamp sales.

Seven full-time employees are employed in Acton with part time help fluctuating from one to five employees.

The announcement of upgrading was made this week by the Canada Post Office.

There will be no change in the staff or system as a result of the change.

No Master Found For Fuzzy Puppy

A tiny ball of fuzz with bright eyes and pointed nose, discovered to be a collie pup, was befriended for a short time Tuesday by O.P.P. constable Ron Ruppert of the Acton Detachment when it was reported wandering in the Glenlea area.

The constable, with the pup in his arms and a cold, wet nose under his chin, attempted to locate the owner but to no avail. Cecil Robertson, local dogcatcher, was called and took the little puppy to his kennels at Glen Williams. He will attempt to find a home for it.

Hydro Off

Holidays caused cancellation of the Hydro Commission meeting tonight (Thursday).

Grade 13 students are anxiously awaiting results of their last year's work and are watching the mails closely for a sign of them. Principal E. A. Hansen is also anxious to receive a copy of the results.

Band Plays

A Little Travelling Music

A floating band concert may be something new in the musical world and if so, Acton Citizens' Band chalked up another first.

Last night (Wednesday) bandmen seated on the back of an open truck toured the town and played a split-up concert for citizens.

The reason for the movement is lack of experienced bandmen

Following a month-to-month ambulance arrangement for the past five months, Acton council Tuesday signed an agreement with Vernon S. Bugue, operator of the Royal City Ambulance, Guelph, to provide ambulance service to Acton residents for the next three years at an annual cost of \$1,800.

According to terms of the agreement, the town will pay only \$1,050 for the balance of 1961 as a credit amounting to \$750 will be allowed for rental paid to date this year.

24 Hour Service

The 24-hour service will transport patients to Guelph, Toronto, Hamilton, Georgetown and Milton at the following rates: to or from Guelph, \$15; to or from Toronto, \$35; to or from Hamilton, \$35; to or from Georgetown or Milton, \$18. An extra charge will apply if oxygen is used.

According to the agreement, ambulance calls may be made by only a certified practitioner, local police or the town clerk. Accounts will be settled by the operator issuing a statement to the town office and in turn the town office is responsible for collecting accounts.

In the event either party wishes to terminate the contract, written application must be made and sent by registered mail.

Request 60-Day Deadline Extension To Complete Assessment Computation

A request for a 60-day extension for filing assessment rolls will be sent to the Assessment Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs; the assessor was given one week's holiday (his first in two years) and \$300

was authorized for payment for computing assessment rolls on Saturdays. This action was taken during council's regular meeting Tuesday evening.

A former "emergency" directive from council to cut off holidays for the assessor and pay overtime wages to town office staff to complete the rolls by the provincial deadline, September 30, was waived.

Council learned Tuesday the assessing committee, had held a

special meeting with assessor John Ladouceur and ruled out the possibility of completing the rolls on time. Committee members also felt it was imperative to have a holiday at this time as he had been working seven days a week in order to attempt completion of the rolls.

If permission for the extension is granted, deadline for Acton filing will be November 30.

Mayor John H. Gov, reporting for the committee, told his colleagues the committee was forced to recommend in complete disagreement with council's earlier directive at the special meeting when they realized the better solution to the problem was to take different action.

In granting the assessor a week's holiday, Mayor Gov pointed out Mr. Ladouceur could return to work fully refreshed and do a much better job on the rolls.

He explained the reason for requesting permission to pay the assessor, clerk-administrator J. McGeechie and office manager J. T. Hurst \$100 apiece for computing the assessing during Saturdays was to save anticipated \$1,000 in overtime to office employees for this work.

The mayor told council the assessor had been busy during the first four months of the year doing the assessing, while the balance of the time was spent in the office doing work pertaining to assessing.

Councillor W. J. McLeod enquired if, with the 60-day extension, the chore would be completed on time and was simply told by the clerk, "It will have to be." Mr. Gov said council would have to rely on the word of the three men doing the computing that the work would be completed on time.

The mayor stressed the importance of keeping a close watch on the progress of the assessing and if it was council's opinion it was falling behind, different action would have to be taken.

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Open Arena Tenders Next Wednesday Will Award Contract as Soon as Possible

In order to speed up construction of the Community Centre, an addition to the arena, council Tuesday called a special meeting for Wednesday, August 16, to review tenders which are to be in the hands of clerk-administrator Jack McGeechie just four hours prior to the meeting.

Council agreed to invite non-council members of the special building committee as well as the architect and engineers for the project. Following the special meeting and a review of the tenders, architects and engineers will thoroughly investigate specifications and advise council. A special meeting will be called as soon as possible to award the contract.

No Fire Agreement

Council also learned that a special meeting of the fire committee with township council representatives regarding a rural fire agreement had been unsuccessful in reaching an agreement.

Mayor John H. Gov reported the township representatives agreed to terms for the proposed one-year agreement but would have to consult their respective councils before giving the green light to the three-year proposal.

Another meeting with township representatives is expected to be held in the near future and council is hopeful of finalizing a suitable agreement at that time.

During the meeting council also learned:

- The street marking program had been adopted and a contract awarded. White parking lines and cross walks will be painted on the main streets.
- The weed inspector would be notified to check a few properties where objectionable weeds are growing.
- The water trough on Main Street South could not be moved to a new location at the park until a directive had been given by Parks Board.

\$109,000 Resort Permit Boosts Esqueusing Building

Building permits for July in Esqueusing Township totalled \$257,870, with \$109,000 of that figure covering the development of Twin Lakes Resort Club at Speyside.

A letter from the Attorney General's Department directed that 25 per cent of those selected for jury duty should be women. The matter was referred to those responsible for this selection.

Purchase of one eighth of an

acre of land was approved at lots five and six and concessions seven and eight to straighten a jog in the road.

Council agreed to study a request from the Oakville District Humane Society for a grant. The Society noted they answer calls in the township and were providing a service.

Norval residents complained that highway work on highway 7 had made the sidewalks in that village too high and several could not have access to their driveways. The Reeve and Road Superintendent were to meet the Department of Highways engineer to have the situation corrected.

The Ukrainian Camp near Acton asked that the road leading to their property be oilled since they were expecting 2,000 cars to attend a festival scheduled for the week-end.

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In Chicago

G. W. McKenzie Elected To High Y's Men's Post

A charter member of the Acton Y's Men's club and a consistently active worker in the organization since he first joined, G. W. McKenzie, principal of the Kenzie, Main Street North, was elected by unanimous vote to the position of area vice-president during the international convention at Chicago from Thursday, July 27 to Thursday, August 3.

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the local club, district governor, international director, provincial chairman on the international scholarship fund and coordinator of international club services.

Such a record left little doubt in the minds of the nominating committee prior to the convention of the Acton man's ability to fulfill the duties.

Serving in the new capacity Mr. McKenzie will supervise district governors in the 13 regions east of the Mississippi including the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, places in the United States, Caribbean and South America.

Although the new area vice-president doesn't expect to be visiting all these places he anticipates doing a heap of correspondence. One of his main worries at the present time is deciphering letters from countries in the Caribbean and South America.

Beginning September 1, he will be one of four vice-presidents in the world.

One of his first chores will be to attend the Regional Convention in Ohio in October. He pointed out the conventions are staged on weekends and his new position will not interfere with teaching school.

Next October Mr. McKenzie is looking forward to a visit from his superior, the international president from California, at the district convention in Kitchener. The man who has taken Mr. McKenzie's place as coordinator of club services of the international Y's Men's club is expected to visit him here this weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Naylor and family of Santa Monica, California, met the McKenzies two years ago at the convention in California and again this year at Chicago.



G. W. MCKENZIE, charter member of the Acton Y's Men's Club, was elected a vice-president of the International Y's Men's Club during the annual convention held in Chicago. Donning a typical convention hat he points to the area on a world map which will come under his jurisdiction.



AUGUST 19 DEADLINE is drawing closer for the demolition crew tearing down the old United church but by the appearance of the building workmen will meet the deadline. Fascinated spectators' glances are becoming lower, and lower as the building comes, steadily down. Reg Armishaw of Armishaw Bros. of Guelph heads the hot and dusty crew.

Harold, Laura Wiles, Merchants Celebrate 52 Years in Business

Starting in 1909, Acton's oldest business man and merchant Harold Wiles and his sister Laura will celebrate 52 years in the tobacco and confectionery business this Friday at 18 Mill Street. The store also serves as the Gray Coach Bus Depot.

Former Tanner

Mr. Wiles worked two years for Beardmore and Company before he left the tanning industry in favor of a grocery store and ice cream parlor. The business was then owned and operated by the former Miss Laura Ryder, now Mrs. Robert Elgie.

The couple operated the business as a grocery store and ice cream parlor for two years and then moved from their family home on Church Street to the business location and began serving meals the following year. Only within the past few years have they discontinued the lunch counter service.

Through the 52 years they have been in business both Harold and Laura have seen many changes in the business section and can recall former business people who were prominent on the Main Street are now deceased.

First Bus Service

One of the many memories foremost in Mr. Wiles' mind was the inauguration of the bus service through Acton. In 1927, the first bus rolled through town to stop at his store, then the official bus stop just as it is today. The vehicle was given an official town welcome by George Hynds, town at the time and H. P. Moore, publisher of the Free Press, as well as many other citizens and businessmen.

Known As TKL

The bus service extended beyond Toronto, Kitchener and London and was known as the "TKL" Bus Service, named after the route which was followed.

Harold well remembers the first trip the bus made in the new service. The vehicle was equipped with mechanical emergency brakes. The first time the driver applied the emergency, it tore the rear end out of the bus. After this, the buses went without emergency brakes for a number of years.

Following the "TKL" was the "Arrow" Bus Lines. They continued in operation from 1929 until 1936, when the present Gray Coach Lines bought the business. On weekends and special excursions, the bus depot is packed with people and every day sees quite a number of passengers boarding the bus for points out of Acton.

Built in 1839

The building occupied by Harold and Laura Wiles was built originally by a Dr. McGavin around 1839, which he used as a drug store with a consulting room at the back.

Later Dr. McGavin followed in the same profession and then Dr. Forster of Stratford, John Secord used the building after this for a hardware store and then later, it was converted for use as a barber shop.

Thomas Agnew and George Stovell conducted a boot and shoe business in the establishment before moving to Guelph.

The building has had many occupants but none with a record of service such as Harold and Laura Wiles.

A cheery wave greets all familiar friends of the couple as they pass by on the street and this week, they are receiving congratulatory messages from their neighbors.

Citizens generally join with the Free Press in wishing Harold and Laura Wiles many more years of continued success.

Wet, Dry

Apparently, while some areas are drenched with rain, others within a few miles of here are parched. A man in the Free Press office said this week one section near Moffat is badly in need of rain and he had heard there were other farms, too, where the farmers wished they could have shared the heavy and frequent rainfall of their neighbors.

ACTON FIREFIGHTERS sparked a lot of interest in the parade Monday during the Firemen's annual convention at Oakville. Dressed in native costume and smeared with makeup they led their homemade elephant and "Smokey" the bear along the street. Plans are being made to add to their floats for future parades.

Staff Photo

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