

Glancing Back at 1961

A Brief Review of a Year of Progress

As 1961 drew to a close and the New Year began Monday, many residents will recall special events which took place during the past year. For the benefit of interested readers, the Acton Free Press has turned the pages of 1961 issues and listed, month by month, a few of these important events.

JANUARY

During the inaugural meeting of council, a \$150,000 waterworks system extension by-law received final approval after it had received the okay from the Department of Municipal Affairs. Mayor Guy informed council that the waterworks project would not affect the 1961 tax rate and the first payment would be due in 1962.

C.N.R. employees gave a royal soufflé to colleague Herb McWhig who officially retired from his position as freight agent at the railroad. It was a dual celebration for the local citizen who at so had his 65th birthday.

Plans for the proposed Federal post office came to light when officials received copies for comments and suggestions. The proposed site for the new building is on Bowyer Ave and two projects will be involved. The structure will be one story with basement and located where the present Storey Glove Shop building and home occupied by Mr and Mrs. Ken Knox stands.

Burn Trees Over 700 residents watched as approximately 1,100 Christmas trees went up in smoke Thursday evening when Acton Chamber of Commerce staged their first annual Christmas tree-burning party.

Mrs. Peter Savers, Church St. reached the venerable age of 98 last Saturday, celebrating her birthday in a quiet fashion with friends and relatives present to congratulate her.

A 35-year-old Acton bachelor has been named president of the Acton Fall Fair Board. During the annual meeting of the board, Nino Brandi was chosen to head the Acton Agricultural Society for the coming year.

Under discussion since 1955, a reshaped piece of property in Geneva subdivision, had its future decided by a Municipal Board hearing when the members of the O.M.B. ruled that Thomas and Thomas, Builders at the area could erect a house on the site.

A proposed \$100,000 five-room central school to be erected in the Silvercreek area, was approved by the Esqueping school board during a special four-hour meeting on Thursday, January 12. The approval was given with a vote of 5-2.

FEBRUARY

During the public school board meeting Tuesday evening, members agreed to allow pupils from the Nassagaweya school area to share the accommodations at the Robert Little public school for home economics and manual training classes.

A large crowd of 400 interested parents and friends packed the Robert Little school auditorium Wednesday and Thursday evenings, to see the 12th annual presentation of the school opera. The former policy of paying Christmas bonuses to hydro employees was abolished during a four-hour stormy session of the hydro commission.

Following a home-to-home canvass Monday evening, the Scout Group Committee are \$1,500 closer to burning the \$1,500 mortgage on the scout house. Additional calls are yet to be made and it is hoped that the final tally is made, the full amount will be realized.

MARCH

Public notices were distributed door-to-door warning all residents to boil their drinking water before using it. This was done when it was learned that seepage had entered the Church St. Road North water supply. A heavy chlorine flow was started into the water supply by officials of the Ontario Water Resources Commission in an attempt to kill any bacteria.

The \$1500 scout hall mortgage was burned last Friday during the Baden-Powell careers concert in the Robert Little public school. As well as many citizens, Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies were present to cheer as the burning ceremony took place.

Water Fit to Drink The all-clear signal was given to Acton citizens on the week

end when Clerk-administrator Jack McCauche made his rounds in a car with a public address system to notify residents the water was fit to drink again.

Mayor John H. Guy outlined proposed plans for an extensive program during a residential meeting when members of the Rotary, Y.M.C. and Lions Clubs were present. He stressed the need for a recreational center in Acton.

Following Mayor Guy's talk, a committee has been formed and plans are underway to raise \$40,000 for a new Community Centre building at the arena.

During the regular council meeting, the mill rate was set at 74 for residential and 78 for commercial-industrial. This is the same as the rate set for 1960.

APRIL

An Acton woman, Mrs. Marie Huggmiller, was Halton County's first fatality in the year, when she died instantly following a car accident last Thursday evening a few miles west of Acton.

Merchants in town have been asked to be on the alert following strangers cashing forged cheques. Police have issued a warning and told merchants to be extra careful.

Dr. A. J. Buchanan, District Deputy Grand Master for Wellington District, paid his official visit to Walker Lodge, A. F. and A. M. Monday evening and was greeted by 17th Masons from Acton and visiting lodges.

Receives Award The chief Jack Newton received a fire prevention award during the council meeting on Tuesday evening. The award was in recognition of the fire department's entry in a national contest for fire prevention.

Hunters in Halton County will have to travel to other areas this year to shoot deer. During a county council session, members voted against building an open deer season this year.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has started installation of machinery in a location in the former Wool Combing building. The new company is a division of H. K. Porter Company of Canada Limited.

Bill Coon, well known sports enthusiast and manager of Ajax Engineering Company, was named "Citizen of the Year" during the Acton Chamber of Commerce dinner.

MAY

Eugene Braida, well known Acton resident and retired shoe merchant, made the first \$1,000 cheque donation to the proposed Acton Community Centre Building Fund.

Tenders will be called this week for construction of the first section of the new \$9,000,000 Provincial School for the Deaf to be erected at Milton. The announcement was made by Halton M.P. Stanley Hall.

Acton singers topped all competitors during the Halton Musical Festival staged at the Robert Little public school on Wednesday. The Acton singers were under the direction of music supervisor Glenn Banks.

To date \$10,420 has been pledged for the community centre project and the committee in charge of the canvass are confident the total amount of \$40,000 will be raised.

Dial Building Work is being rushed on the construction of the new Bell Telephone dial building on Church St. and this week pre-cast concrete forms were placed into position.

Nomageanier Charles Kelly, Browne prominent Orangeman and businessman in Acton, was honored last week during the 85th annual convention of the provincial Grand Black Chapter of Ontario West, when he received his 40-year jewel.

Mrs. Joyce Carpenter raised \$70 for the Acton Cancer Society when she and her dance pupils staged a recital. The presentation of the cheque was made to Ray Arbie, president of the Society for this district.

With their sights set on the \$60,000 mark in the campaign for the proposed community centre building, the committee were encouraged when tabulation of the net returns to date showed \$49,472. Mayor Guy, chairman of the campaign committee, expressed his hope that the full amount would be realized soon.

Eager youngsters swarmed around Acton Legion Minor Sports officials Monday night as they wanted their turn to sign up for winter baseball this summer. To

date, over 200 have signed their intention of playing ball and another registration date has been set for this Saturday.

JUNE

While preparing a bill the mould on a vacant lot opposite the homes on Queen Street West, Ricky Henderson and John McNabb undertook a 10 1/2 pound bomb, used in the early part of World War II. The bomb was taken to the army depot in Oakville for detonation.

A large crowd attended the annual Doanville Day Service and hours pastor James M. Pudd of the Baptist church gave an address.

During a pre-graduation banquet at Acton high school, teachers and students honored Bruce Andrews, well known track runner, for the honors he has brought to the school and town of Acton. Although racing under the colors of the Carlisle Legion Track Club, he has often carried the school colors when he headed a field of competitors.

AUGUST

Demolition of a home owned by Dawson Cripps, estimated at over 100 years old, began the week on Queen Street East. The work was done by Jack Taylor, Township Engineer.

Legionnaires have transported tests for the proposed water reservoir on Church St. P.M. Council will review the findings of the engineers and decide on the erection of a structure in the near future.

A chartered member of A. F. and A. M. Men's Club, G. W. McKenna, has been elected to the office of area vice-president of the international convention. He was elected in Mississippi in July, the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and parts in the United States.

Harold and Laura Wiley, who operated 52 years in business at Acton, Council agreed to request a 60-day extension for the completion of the equalized assessment roll. This action was deemed necessary when assessor John Ladoucar reported it would be impossible to complete the assessment on time.

SEPTEMBER

A meeting of \$1,000 was made for the construction of the new community centre building. The building was estimated at \$100,000 and the first payment would be due in 1962.

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OCTOBER

After paying costs of the approval was given for the street of the new community centre at a price amounting to \$7,714. Construction of the building has already started and the foundation work has been dug and concrete being poured this week.

Council was assured Tuesday evening by the assessor that the extended deadline for assessment returns would be met. Council approved a motion to pay the assessor in order to allow him to complete the roll. Presentation of a plan marked

Word was received this week that the Acton Free Press had won four national awards in the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association annual contest. James Dills was present at the annual convention held this year in Halifax to receive the awards on behalf of the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

A once-a-week garbage collection was adopted by council in an attempt to slash labor costs. The new system will go into operation October 1.

Acton's newest industry, scheduled to go into operation on September 1, will be established in a section of the Dills Printing and Publishing plant on Willow Street and will be owned and operated by Frank Heller of Acton.

Liquor Vote Residents of Nassagaweya have received a hint that an unknown group is interested in establishing a race track near Campbellville. When the residents go to

the polls they will be asked to vote on the issue of establishing a liquor license for the township.

Plans for the construction of a community centre moved forward when it was announced that a 100m. rezoning system has been purchased from Carling Brown for an estimated \$1000. The plan will be to build a 100m. and establish an order to make alterations.

Demolition began on the 20-year-old Federal Club. The work will be completed in the next few days. The building was estimated at \$100,000 and the first payment would be due in 1962.

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Following demolition of a 130-year-old building, a large crowd gathered to watch the crane and main beam lift the huge section back onto the site.

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25 years of service for Cam Leishman as caretaker of the Acton Free Press office in Acton. The presentation was made to Dr. Lester of the Works Department.

Pupils' Brown Fund Acton's Community Centre Fund was boosted by an addition of \$200 this week when pupils from the Robert Little public school presented Mayor Guy with a cheque. The money was raised through a variety of projects and other fundraising efforts.

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Projects, Carols, Contest Highlight Busy Bees Meeting

Mr. Dave Henderson and his former members and friends. A good many ladies attended Sunday Day at Milton for Sale of Dollars and Make Smiles and gave their support.

The president opened the meeting by reading a message from the Mayor. The meeting was held in the Mary Stewart Club. The total bill was approximately \$100.00.

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Robt. R. Hamilton Fred. A. Hoffman PHONE GUELPH TA-42071 58 St. George's Square

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There's no need to let an after-holiday, empty-pocket feeling interfere with the way a shiny New Year could look to you as it gets underway. 1962 could be the year for getting things you want for you and yours.

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