

The Acton Free Press

Eighty-Eighth Year—No. 19.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1962

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

Ten Pages—Seven Cents

Firefighters Stem Threat On Mill Business Section

Fire of unknown origin endangered the downtown business section Monday afternoon and gutted the front interior of Frank Toth's shoe store on Mill Street. A semi-invalid, Mrs. Peter Maghrand, tenant in the upstairs apartment, escaped minutes before the plate glass window exploded, showering fragments of glass in the hallway and street. Flames and dense smoke filled the hallway and entire downstairs.

Firemen Arrive Immediately
Firemen arrived immediately after being alerted and within 15 minutes had the destructive blaze under control. Lines of hose were laid over the entire block from two hydrants on Main and Mill Streets. Both trucks were pumping water after the booster lines were used at first.

Mr. Toth, a councillor and chairman of the fire and police committee, had left the premises 10 minutes before the fire to purchase pies at nearby Hotchen's Bakery. When the siren sounded, he rushed from the bakery to his car parked on Mill Street to deliver the pies to the Presbyterian

Church for the fowl supper in the evening, before traffic became congested.

When he rounded the corner of Willow and Mill Streets, he noticed flames leaping from his store awning as firemen poured water on the building. Almost immediately, the plate glass window blew out and the interior of the building was engulfed in flames. The store owner had to be restrained from entering the building.

Crowd Gathers
With stores closed on Mondays, the usually quiet downtown business section soon became crowded as people gathered to watch in horror as flames belched from the building. Adjoining stores, Watson's Restaurant and A-B Supermarket, were protected by double fire walls but firemen poured water on top of the two buildings to prevent sparks from igniting the roofs.

The fire was first spotted by Harold Wiles, co-owner of Wiles' Bus Depot across the street. He saw a small patch of flames inside the store window and the awning in flames. He alerted an employee, Mrs. Orwell Johnson, who phoned in the alarm.

Bus Patron Waves
An unidentified woman waiting

at Wiles' Bus Depot for the bus, noticed the flames and saw Mrs. Maghrand sitting at the window over the store. The bus patron waved frantically to beckon the woman to the street. At first, Mrs. Maghrand failed to realize there was a fire. When she saw smoke billowing past the window, she hurried as fast as possible down the stairs and outside. She was taken into Wiles' store and given hot coffee. Mr. Maghrand, an H. K. Porter employee, was at work.

Close Shave
Mrs. Earl Beerman, 50 Main Street North, had walked uptown for the mail and was returning home past Toth's store. When she saw a glare in the window, she retraced her steps and saw the flames inside the front window. At first she thought it was an advertisement. She realized it was a fire and dashed into Watson's Restaurant to phone in the alarm. Her shouts alerted Mrs. Watson and waitresses at the same time the siren sounded. Patrons and waitresses ran into the street to be met with thick smoke.

Mrs. Beerman emerged from the restaurant and was standing in front when she noticed two men across the road waving to her. Identifying one, she casually waved back but he kept waving

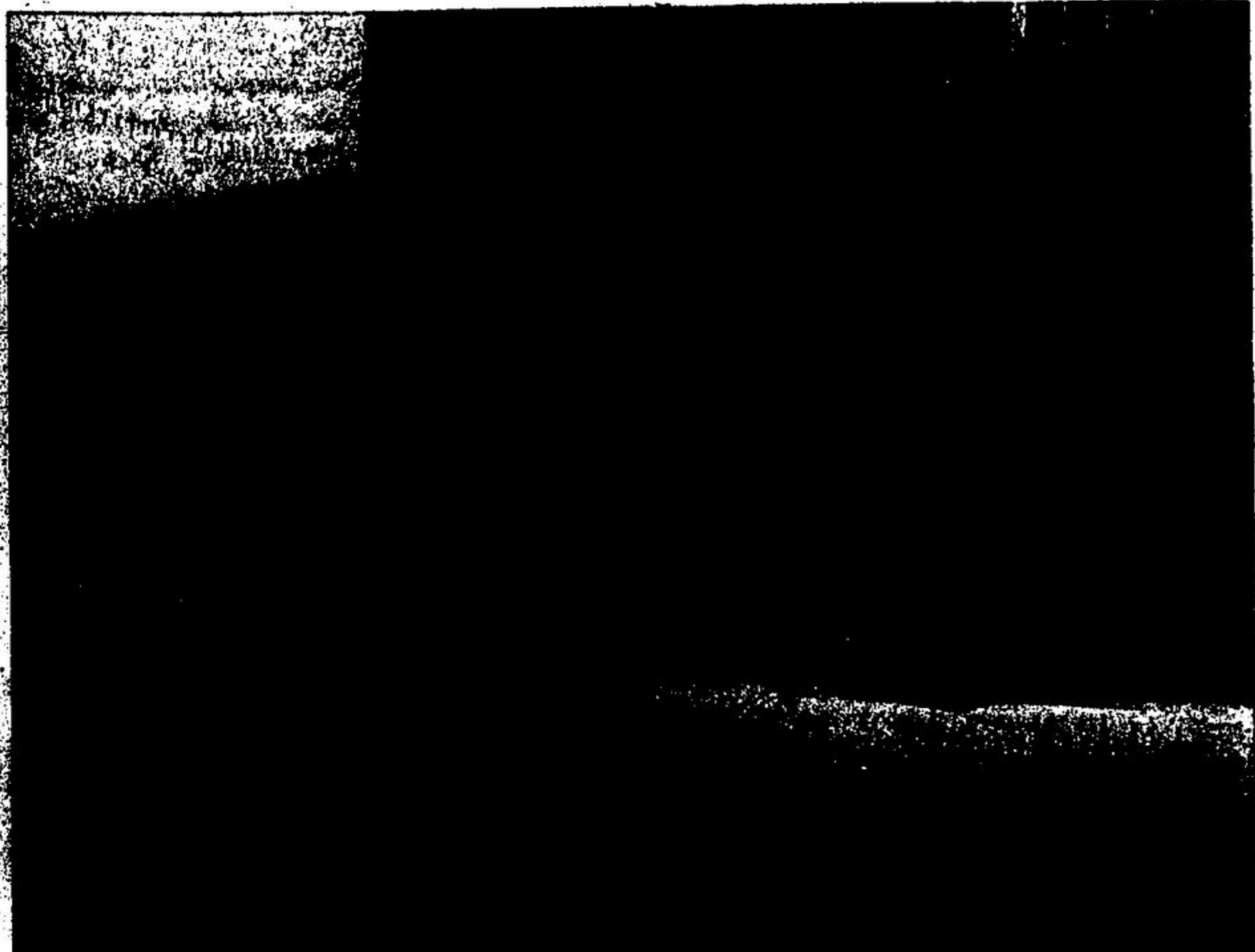
his arms. The Main Street resident passed in front of Toth's store on her way home when she heard glass crack and made a quick dash down the street seconds before the window blew out and flames belched onto the street.

Thorough Inspection
Tuesday morning, Len Williams, inspector from the fire marshal's office and fire chief Mick Holmes probed through the ruins from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. attempting to determine the cause of the fire. Mr. Williams is expected to give a report of his findings to the chief soon.

New and used footwear as well as valuable machinery were lost in the blaze. Mr. Toth recently paid over \$2,000 for renovations to the front of the store. The building was boarded up immediately.

The proprietor is busy taking stock of his loss, which is partially covered by insurance.

All day Wednesday Mr. Toth, his daughter-in-law Mrs. Frank Toth and an insurance adjuster were taking stock of the ruins in an attempt to determine the amount of damage. Shoe boxes throughout the store are charred. Mr. Toth said he believes the fire started in the wiring above the window lights.



FLASH FIRE Monday afternoon gutted the interior of Frank Toth's shoe store on Mill Street within minutes after the plate glass front window blew out. Firefighters arrived seconds after the siren sounded and had the blaze out within 15 minutes. Nearby stores were menaced by the fire as smoke and flames rose into the air around the business section. Cause of the blaze is undetermined at present. An inspector from the fire marshal's office investigated the fire Tuesday and will make a report later.

Run Over by Tractor Suffering from Shock

A young Acton district boy, Archie Bus, five, of R.R. 4, is in Georgetown District Hospital today suffering from shock.

The lad was riding with his father, Cornelius Bus, as the latter plowed a field on the farm early Tuesday afternoon. According to North Halton O.P.P. Constable Dave Richardson, the tractor hit a rock, the boy was thrown off, and the left rear wheel of the tractor ran over his stomach.

The parents rushed the boy to hospital, where no ruptures or broken bones were reported. He is suffering from shock, the hospital reported.

Broken Cable Pleases Pupils As School Temperature Drops

Monday morning bright-eyed public school children attending the Robert Little school made the long trek back down the school lane in record time. School was let out soon after 9 a.m. starting in the 50's. Tuesday night school board members failed to see the bright side of the picture as they pondered over losing grants.

Power off Early
Board members learned that some time around 2 a.m. Monday morning, power sparking the heating system failed and when caretaker Doug Price arrived at 7 a.m., room temperatures were reaching the 'chilly stage. After several attempts to start the furnace and discover the trouble, the caretaker was forced to give up.

When principal G. W. McKenzie arrived, he too noticed the chilly atmosphere and dismissed the children for the morning. Property committee chairman Doug Manning was notified and called the hydro department to check the underground cable was at fault.

The hydro diagnosed the trouble in the underground cable and immediately strung a temporary overhead line to service the school. By mid-morning temperatures were beginning to rise and by noon the school was warm again.

Mr. Manning explained the underground cable, broken when oil tanks were being installed some time ago and since replaced, had shorted out and one phase gone up the spare phase and power was restored. It is believed moisture seeped into a spot weakened at the time the cable was broken.

Principal McKenzie informed the board the inspector had requested a letter explaining why pupils had been excused for a day in order to approach the Department of Education regarding the grant. The secretary was instructed to provide a suitable letter.

Back on the Gridiron
Board members played the role of football referee during the meeting and dusted off their rule book in order to rule on gridiron tactics involving three pupils. Score of the play ended up with one broken football, one broken window and three parents assessed \$442 apiece for damages.

The unscheduled game took place early this fall at the M. Z. Bennett School when the first player involved removed the ball from the school. While enroute to the playing field, along happened player number two on a bicycle. An incomplete forward pass was tossed to the bicycle riding forward. As a result the ball was ripped and deflated by the bike.

Rumping onto the out-of-bounds playing field, player number three picked up the ball and attempted to keep play going. Lat called the ball through a window. Principal Elmer Smith reported the incident to trustees. Their decision at the time was to assess damage and uphold school board policy. As a result parents of the three young players were

requested to share equally the cost of damage. Payment was made promptly by two parents but those of player number one refused on the basis of the principle involved.

Tuesday evening the father of player number one was present at the board meeting in defence of his son and told board members "both a principle and a principal are involved." In presenting his objection, the father stated his refusal to pay on a technicality and two former school incidents involving two other sons.

Quotes Policy
In quoting the board policy, he stated the letter asking payment should have been sent by the principal and not by the board. Notification had been sent on board stationery signed by the secretary. Principal Smith explained he had been short-handed the day the secretary visited the school and was unable to write letters. He said the secretary had been kind enough to relieve him of the letter writing chore and as a result the parents had received the notification on board stationery.

\$100 Dental Bill
Parrying with a counter attack, parent of player number one recalled an incident with another son who was involved in tossing a stone at school and as a result a pupil's glasses were smashed. This cost the parents the price of a new pair. He also reviewed another incident involving a third son who had a tooth broken when a schoolmate playfully dunked his head down into the drinking fountain. As a result of this he footed a \$100 dental bill. He said at the time of this mishap the principal would not uphold the claim for the board to pay damages.

Before leaving the meeting, parent of number one player reminded members if they did not follow their own directive of having the principal inform parents of school infractions instead of the board, it was impossible to expect anyone else to follow it. He informed the members he was and had been informed by his insurance company not to pay.

When the parent had left only a brief discussion took place and

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Former Acton H.S. Student Appreciates Board Policy

A former Acton high school student, 16-year-old Rink Vlietstra, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Vlietstra, R.R. 1, Acton, expressed appreciation to Acton school board for making it possible for him to receive an award during commencement exercises Friday at the John F. Ross Collegiate in Guelph, which he is presently attending.

Attended Here
The student attended the Acton district high school and completed grade 10 here. He wanted to

take an auto mechanics course not available in Acton and the Acton board pays his tuition in Guelph. He received first class honors in grade 11 there and during the commencement exercises received the Guelph Automobile Association award for the student obtaining the highest standing in academics and shop subjects.

He received an encyclopedia on vacation and a history book of the Guelph School from staff members.

Board Appoints Department Head Tightens Clamps on Weak Students

High school trustees were pleased to learn Monday evening that district inspector F. W. Vickers had indicated following visits to the English classes "things are in better condition this year."

In reporting this, principal E. A. Hansen said that both Mr. Vickers and staff inspector J. Stevens recommended Ross Lambourn, English teacher, be appointed acting department head. Board members approved the recommendation and Mr. Lambourn will act in this capacity immediately. Both inspectors were of the opinion that since English is a basic subject it is very important to have someone coordinate the work throughout the school. It was also learned Mr. Lambourn had completed his type "A" examinations at O.C.E. this summer.

Mr. Hansen told board members that staff had met recently to discuss methods of controlling weaker students repeating a full year but had been unable to arrive at a decision. Mr. Hansen stated mounting evidence and teacher opinion seems to indicate that if a student is failing in part of grade 11 he should repeat the complete year before proceeding to grade 12.

"Unfavorable Attitudes"
The principal said "There will still be failures for obvious reasons in grades 9 and 10 but generally, by postponing the need to repeat to grade 11 we would hope to offset the unfavorable attitudes that result from failure in earlier years."

Provincial studies have shown that students who have repeated grade 10 at 11 almost invariably are successful in completing grade 12 whereas 92 per cent of those who have to repeat grade 9 fail to complete grade 12.

Mr. Hansen said "we feel that anything that will help us to increase the number of graduates

should form part of our promotion policy."

Defeatist Attitude
Chairman E. S. Force agreed that a reduction in failures at grade 9 and 10 levels would discourage a defeatist attitude by the students.

The chairman stated: "We were more concerned with students going into grade 13 with partial subjects. This other is a side affect."

Roof Falls In
Trustee Jack Reid was of the opinion a definite policy regarding the problem would act as a double-edged sword and stated "weak students could sit along in grades 9 and 10 thinking they have a breeze and when they get to grade 11 the roof falls in."

Trustee Wallace Swackhamer warned against "loosening up" while the chairman suggested a "play-by-ear" approach to the problem, and urged the principal to apply a definite brake at the end of grade 11. Mr. Hansen stated this policy had already been adopted.

Name Top Scholars
The principal announced names of 11 top scholars who will receive awards during commencement exercises November 16. The awards are given by the school board as an incentive for high level learning.

Following is a list of top scholars and the amounts they will receive at commencement:

Grade 9: Margaret Mackenzie, \$20; Fred second and splitting \$10; Linda Broada and Vicki Newton, grade 10: First Neil Franklin, \$40; second Mary Moffat, \$20; grade 11: First Joan Cook, \$50; second Gary Masales, \$25; grade 12: First Fred Dawkins, \$100; second Jean Hart, \$50; grade 13: First Elizabeth Force, \$200; second Brian Barbeau, \$100. Miss Force will receive an additional award of \$200 as a result of board policy established

this year for the student in Grade 13 with the highest average in nine papers. This award is classified as a university entrance scholarship.

In grade nine, 10 and 11, top students were chosen on a basis of highest average marks while grade 12 and 13 students were chosen on total marks. Principal Hansen informed the board the basic English class wanted to continue the course later than usual and said members of the board of citizenship recommended the extension be granted. Members agreed the course was a very commendable enterprise and approved the extension until Easter.

Supervised Homework
Members also learned that several senior students are interested in supervised homework in the evening and that teachers in charge are pleased to supervise, at no extra cost to the board. Classes would be held two nights a week at the same time as the basic English classes.

It was learned that students attending the Stone school were accommodated at the main school Monday morning when the heating system at the stone school failed. They returned to regular classes during the afternoon.

Little Change
Following a recommendation from insps for Vickers the board accepted the re-organized program in secondary schools. This was formerly known as the "Rab-arts plan." Trustee Duncan Molloy engaged how this new program would affect the Acton school and was told by the principal that with the present total enrollment figure there would be little change.

Board members learned that three new textbooks had been approved for use at the school. When asked why textbooks had been changed Mr. Hansen stated they were considered better books

than ones presently in use and would be uniform in grades 10, 11 and 12. They were taking geography, science and history.

Property chairman Wallace Swackhamer informed members

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\$70,000 Hall Issue Brings Premium Bid

Esqueusing Township Council this week accepted the bid of J. L. Graham and Co. for the purchase of \$70,000 of debentures at \$100.55.

The debenture issue is to cover construction of the new township hall being built north of Stewartton. Interest rate on the debentures was 5 1/2 per cent.

Representatives of the Bell Telephone Co. were given permission to experimentally install buried cable on the shoulder of the road in two areas of the township. Cable will be laid on the north side and two sections on the south side to a depth of three feet. The company will be responsible for repairing any damage to the road.

An agreement already signed by Esqueusing Township under which each would contribute \$2,500 to the new Ballinatal Community Centre and share equally in any maintenance deficit.

The items covered under maintenance will be heat, light, care-taking and minor repairs.

Grants authorized by Council were \$15 to the Georgetown Poppy Fund, \$200 to the Esqueusing

Draw for Doll

Mrs. Sid Saitz was in charge of the laneywork table at the Legion Ladies' bazaar. There was a draw for a doll which was won by a little girl in Scarborough. This was omitted from last week's account of the bazaar.

Township Winter Work Project May Include Roadside Cutting

Nassagaweya Township council made application to the provincial government Monday for the township's first winter works program.

The council proposed to employ men cutting brush along townships roads this winter. The township roads this winter. The job estimated to cost \$3,300, will cost the township just \$840 if the

Public Skating on Saturday Brings 550 Paid Admissions

The first full season of skating on artificial ice at the arena began last Thursday and all the activities at the community centre in the past busy week pored to the busiest season and the most varied ever at the arena.

The new figure skating classes began Thursday Friday, the men on the ice had no skates, just paint brushes. The volunteers put on the hockey and curling lines.

350 Skaters
The first session of children's public skating was Saturday morning and 245 eager skaters swarmed all over the ice. That afternoon the Legion's minor

sports league teams were formed, and there was a practicing schedule starts this Saturday.

Even more skaters came down Saturday evening with 385 paying admission. Of course there were more teenagers and adults as well as children. There was music morning and evening.

Sunday there were practice sessions. The intermediates had about 50 hopefuls out and the county teams "had a whirl."

Monday afternoon there were 48 women curlers, in the evening 120 curlers. Tuesday afternoon just a few but Tuesday night 120 again to fill all rinks at three times.

Last night saw the start of the inter-county hockey with Acton vs Preston in the first scheduled game. Novices, Pee Wees, Bantams, and Midgets all play. The new time clock was used for the first time.

Back full circle there's figure skating again tonight.

Adults may register Sunday night for adult skating sessions being organized by recreation director Jim Casburn. He says there's enough interest a club will be formed similar to last year's when adults had their own skating time for two hours Sunday evenings.



FIGURE SKATING got under way last Thursday at the Community Centre when 95 took to the ice. Andrew Dreenters, Guelph district, classified the skaters in their various groups and will instruct Mr. Dreenters is pictured above as he helps two sisters, Susan and Trev Patrick, lace their skates.