

The Acton Free Press

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304 PIGS PERISHED during a barn fire at the farm home of Hrtel Leibovich R.R. 3, Acton, early Wednesday morning. One of the finest barns in the district, the building was completely gutted as well as an adjoining sow pen. Acton Firefighters were on the scene from shortly before 3 a.m. until 8 a.m. Mr. Leibovich purchased the farm formerly owned by Wesley J. Wolfe, this summer.

Fire Destroys Barn, Pigs During Wednesday Blaze

His life savings going up in smoke and flames, 39-year-old Hrtel Leibovich, Acton district farmer, stood dazed and heart broken as flames engulfed his fine barn and sow pen during an early morning fire Wednesday. He and four helpers managed to free 30 pigs in the two buildings before they were driven back by intense heat and dense smoke. The barn was one of the largest and most modern in the district and the owner had just completed minor repairs recently. The farm at R.R. 3 Acton was formerly known as Lorraine Farms, when owned by Wesley J. Wolfe. It was purchased this summer by the new owner.

Flames, fanned by high winds, spread throughout the two buildings rapidly and reflected a glow visible for miles around. Four district youths, driving west along number 7 highway from shift work at Beardmore and Co., spotted the blaze and hurried to the farm home to alert Mr. Leibovich, who was asleep. Until this time, he was unaware the buildings were on fire. Leaving one of the young men at the house to sound the alarm, the owner and other three dashed to the main barn to release the trapped animals. All the cattle which were housed in another building untouched by fire, were freed, but only 11 pigs were able to scamper outside to safety. The four farmers workers, John Klumpfenbower and Jan Doorn, R.R. 2 Rockwood, Fred Post, Crewson's Corners, and Ralph

Lunn of Eden Mills, who assisted Mr. Leibovich in the rescue of the animals, were driven back from the large barn by the intense heat before the rest of the pigs could be saved. When Acton firefighters arrived at the scene, fire was already raging out of control. The fire drove in the large way, the roof of the large barn collapsed. Firefighters strung 1200 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose and approximately 600 feet of 1 1/2 inch hose from a pond north of the farm between Phillips Township truck and the old

Studebaker model truck as water was poured on the blaze and all burning buildings. As streams of water battled the flames, Mr. Leibovich leaned against the back wall of his home and momentarily broke down when he visualized his life savings going up in flames. "I was looking for a farm to buy and when I saw this one, I knew it was for me. After I got everything fixed up, look what happens to me. All my life work going up in flames." He expressed his thanks to the Beardmore employees for assisting in saving what stock they could. Later in the morning, the cattle were herded into the pasture and the surviving pigs housed in a small shed. It is expected some of the badly burned pigs will have to be destroyed. While farmers were battling the blaze, the red glow in the sky attracted many Actonians as well as rural residents. Firefighters remained on the scene from shortly before 2:40 a.m. until 8 a.m. Total loss has not been estimated.

Crash Kills School Secretary Cars Collide Head-On on Hill

Henry Ernest Batkin, 73, of R.R. 1 Georgetown was killed instantly Tuesday afternoon when his car was driving on a steep hill on Highway 25. He was driving a 1957 Ford sedan, a mile east of Highway 25. Mr. Batkin had served as secretary-treasurer of the Esquesping Township school area board for the past six years. He was driving

A regular meeting of the Esquesping school board Tuesday evening was cancelled when members learned of their secretary's death. He also served as secretary of the Masonic Order in Georgetown for several years. Mr. Batkin is survived by a brother in Toronto. His wife predeceased him. The body is resting at the McDougall and Brown Chapel, Toronto, and funeral services will be held in Toronto on Friday afternoon.

Live in Toronto
Mr. Leibovich, who hails from Toronto, spends a large part of his time at sales when not at the farm. During weekends he visits with his wife and two daughters in Toronto.

Speaker Stresses Benefits of Education During Annual High School Commencement

"Things are being made too easy, you should be taught to think for yourself and consider others... you must realize when through school you are never through learning," stressed guest speaker E. V. B. Pigram, headmaster at Ridley College, St. Catharines, as he addressed students during the high school commencement exercises Friday night. An attentive audience filled the auditorium and part of the bleachers.

The speaker pointed out the aims and benefits derived from helping others instead of only considering themselves. He told the grade nine students they were only beginning a new life and several avenues were open for them if they pursued education. "By the time you reach grade 12 you realize you are at a difficult crossroad, but must learn to take the knocks and adjust to a more serious and difficult form of learning."

He praised the citizens of Acton for the four school here and handed a verbal benediction to the staff when he remarked "I have never seen a school of this size with such high standards being maintained in a small community."

He was introduced by vice principal Michael Bevan and was thanked by Bonnie McDougall, president of the student council. Principal E. A. Hansen, chair man for the commencement, and said this is a culmination of another year's effort by teachers and students. He said the new school is now in its third year and although the school itself has increased in size, it is not satisfied since the number of graduates has increased in proportion.

Win Top Awards
Grade 13 honor graduate and valedictorian Elizabeth Forve won three scholarship awards including Miss Forve, gold medal high school skater and top rated scholar, presented by the board as a university entrance award and \$50 from the Duke of Devonshire Chapter IODE.

Other members of the graduating class included Brian Barbeau, awarded a board proficiency scholarship, Carolyn Cook, winner of the Amos Mason Rotary scholarship, Lesley Anne Duby, Katherine Kirkness and Wayne Ridley.

Must Continue Education
During her valedictorian address Miss Forve, gold medal high school skater and top rated scholar, urged students to concentrate on studies, take education seriously and stressed the importance of continuing education after grade 13 had been reached successfully. "It's a big step off leaving grade 13 but once it is over with every one will want to continue," she stated. The valedictorian thanked the teachers and board for the opportunity of learning and praised her parents for their perseverance and support during her years in Acton.

On behalf of the student council vice president Randy Daly presented the valedictorian medal to Elizabeth Forve.



HONOR GRADUATES at Acton district high school are pictured above following commencement exercises Friday evening. Seated front left is Brian Barbeau, and right Wayne Ridley, back row left is Carolyn Cook, Elizabeth Forve, Lesley Anne Duby and Katherine Kirkness. The six grade 13 graduates received diplomas from principal E. A. Hansen.

Dig Foundation Of New Church

Construction of the new Christian Reformed Church auditorium has begun. Van der Burg Construction, Georgetown, began work at the site. Although the church will be built above the existing basement, the roof will rest on a cement foundation below the walls of the basement. Excavation for this foundation is the first job.

It's Tonight

Get on your hat: It's nomination night tonight. The meeting—the most important of the year—begins in the Robert Little school auditorium at 7:30. Nominations are accepted till 8:30. There'll be reports and the persons nominated may speak.



Smash Windows, Rifle Desks In Search for School Money

Thieves, walking a piano stool left a trail of broken glass throughout Speyside Central school last week when they went from room to room smashing windows in doors to enter classrooms and rifle desks and drawers in search for money. The break in was discovered Friday morning by caretaker Jim Morrison when he arrived around 7:45 a.m. to open the school.

When they reached the staff room at the end of the hall, the school door locked from inside, barred their entrance. The door was put to use again when the outside windows of the room were smashed to gain entry. A locked filing cabinet was jammed open and drawers rifled as the thieves continued the search for cash.

Smash Door Windows
A rock the size of a baseball was found in room 1 where it had landed after it was thrown through a double-paned window. Thieves climbed through the broken window and rifled the teacher's desk and scattered the contents over the floor.

Dismas Classes
Friday classes were dismissed and cold shivering, but delighted children boarded the buses as they eyed a long weekend holiday. Temperatures in the school dropped as cold air blew in broken windows.

Both the westbound Barkin car, a 1962 Plymouth and the eastbound Wagner vehicle, a 1957 Plymouth, were completely wrecked.

Constables Dave Hardy and Harold Colborn from the North Hutton O.P.P. Detachment and constable Jim Harbott, fingerprint expert from Burlington, investigated.

North Hutton O.P.P. said the vehicles met almost head-on at the crest of a hill. Const. W. G. Ellis is investigating. A post mortem was held on Wednesday morning and an inquest will probably be held later.

For all their trouble the thieves netted only a small amount of cash from the children's milk money and sale of Christmas toys. Principal Colin Leitch said that any profit money gathered at the school is deposited daily

Merchants Propose Closing By-Law Submit Signed Petitions to Council

Petitions signed by Acton businessmen were presented to council Tuesday evening in an attempt to establish by-law defining store closing hours. The present by-law pertaining to store hours calls for Wednesday afternoon closing. Merchants have adopted an a day closing Monday.

Monday. According to the petition, stores may also remain open until 9 p.m. the day before a holiday.

During the road committee report, council learned plans have been made to cope with winter road conditions. Chairman E. DeLuby reported 26 tons of sand and 12 tons of salt had been stockpiled in preparation for winter sanding. It was agreed to investigate the purchase of an additional truck for snowplowing.

Three-Time Winners
Another Acton winner, a 13-day night, Fred Dowkins, son of M. and Mrs. Eliza Dowks, received the board proficiency scholarship of \$100 as top student in grade 12 plus the Lakeside Chapter IODE scholarship for his ideal citizenship, grade 12 in one year and a football award for sportsmanship.

Lateral Problems
Water and sewer chairman J. Wood reported the sand table had been moved to the new location, and the new subdivision of the area, and pointed out the need for a sewer line to be installed in the area.

Not Overloaded
Water was tested in a number of places in the town and found to be satisfactory. It was reported that the sewer system was not overloaded during the recent heavy rains.

Garage Malicious
Mrs. Owen Masales also captured three awards when he was presented with a board proficiency scholarship amounting to \$25 for placing second in grade 11 a football trophy for sportsmanship.

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Ransack Office At Ajax Breakin

Various items were ransacked when thieves ransacked the office of Max J. Margrave, reeve of Acton, during a break-in at his home in Ajax last week. The break-in was reported by Margrave's secretary, Mrs. M. J. Margrave, who said she was awakened by a noise in the night. She found the door open and the office in a state of confusion. The break-in was reported to the police and a search was conducted. The police found various items, including a cash box, a safe, and a desk. The items were found to be empty.

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