

8 Horses Die in \$25,000 Blaze at Twin Lakes Club

A spectacular \$25,000 blaze levelled the barn on the Twin Lakes Resort at Speyside, early this morning (Thursday), claiming 10 horses and a show dog. The barn had been in use for dances until September.

Despite valiant efforts of the Milton Fire Fighters who managed to contain the fire for two hours, the stubborn blaze in the straw got out of control and levelled the barn in a brief 45 minutes.

The fire was first discovered by John Oliver, son of the owner Fred Oliver, as he was watering the riding horses. He noticed fire in the central part of the large barn. By the time he aroused help it was impossible to re-enter the barn to save the horses.

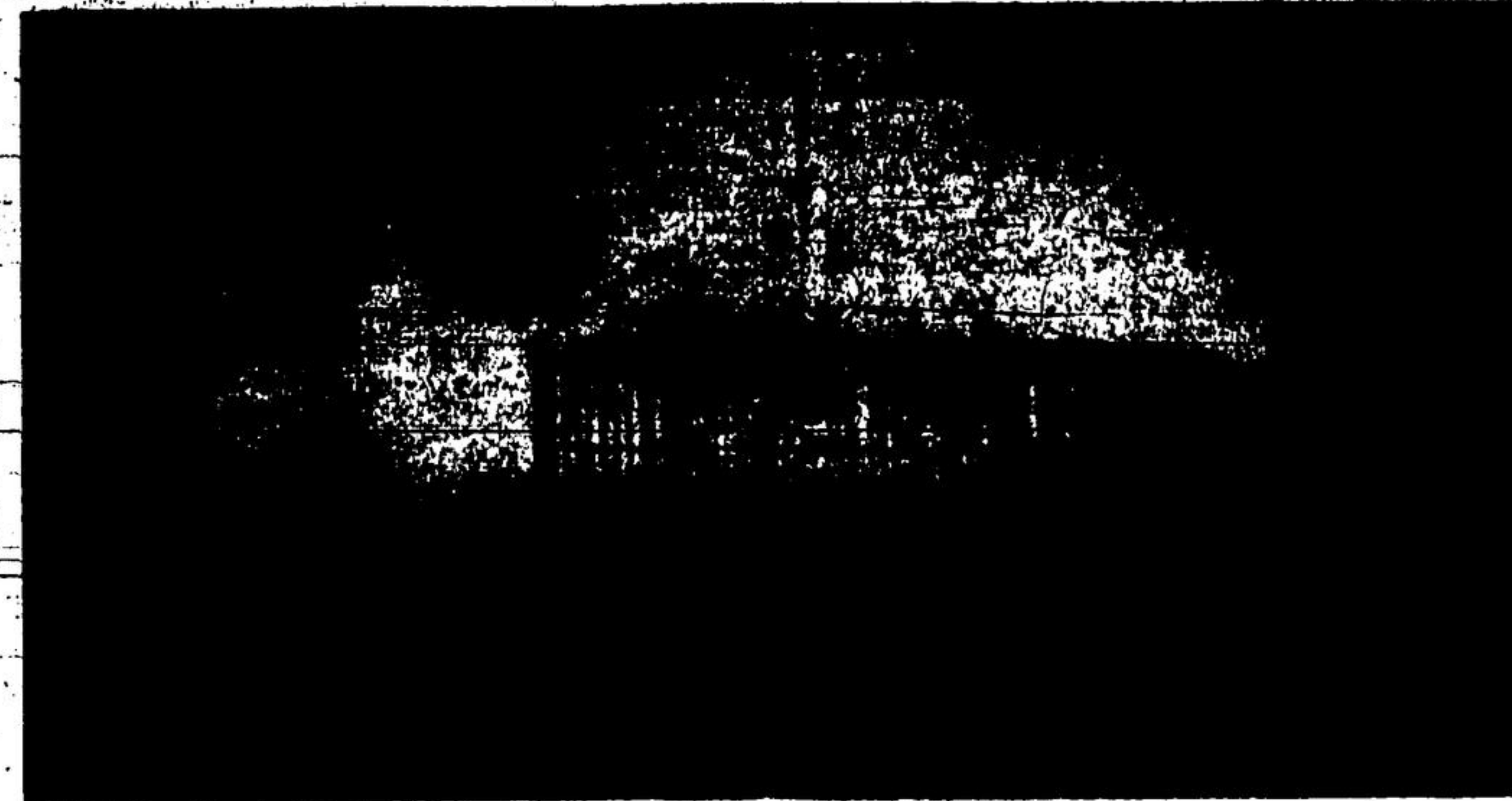
Stallions worth \$1,000

The horses included a stallion valued at \$1,000 and another horse recently purchased in Kentucky. The barn also contained over 100 picnic tables stored for the winter from the surrounding resort, as well as 15 tons of straw and seven tons of hay.

"We had it out four times," Chief A. E. Clement commented

The Acton Free Press

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FIRE RAVAGES TWIN LAKES STABLE, DANCE HALL

Judgment Reserved In Hydro Charge Suit

Halton County Judge George Elliott reserved judgment in a civil action Thursday, January 3, launched by Acton Electric Hydro Commission against two former consumers who have since moved from Acton to collect accounts amounting to \$63.75 from each.

The two families were discovered by Acton Hydro after linemen discovered in May and June of last year that hot water heaters in both homes had been hooked up ahead of the meters on flat rate.

In letters to the co-defendants the commission claimed the wires had been tampered with and asked payment for hydro used in hot water heating on a metered basis.

Denied Knowledge

The former residents denied any knowledge of the wiring change and notified the commission they were prepared to consult their solicitors regarding the bill submitted by the commission.

During the four-hour session last Thursday in Acton the former ratepayers claimed they knew nothing of the wiring change and had not tampered with the wires.

Acton lineman Dorsen Prizell told the judge he had first discovered the first wiring change on May 28, 1962, during a trip to the home to disconnect power after the property had changed hands. Superintendent Doug Mason informed Judge Elliott he discovered the other discrepancy when he inspected the installation June 25. Meter reader New Hurst claimed both services were normal when he visited the two homes to read meters in February, 1962. Commission secretary-treasurer Mrs. Audrey Ugarhart explained the method for billing the two families.

The commission was represented by Charles F. Leatherland O.C. and the defendants by Harold Elliott, Toronto.

Building Up During 1962

Construction in Acton showed a marked increase in value during 1962 when building permits were issued at the town office to the amount of \$301,800. This is an increase of \$138,050 over 1961.

The increase during 1962 involves the erection of the new post office, an addition to Micro Plastics, the new shopping plaza, several new homes and alterations.

Yule Trees Blaze Crowd Watches

The Twelfth Night Yule tree burning ceremony staged by the Acton Chamber of Commerce Saturday was a fire enjoyed by the Acton firefighters. They simply stood as spectators while their truck idled casually in the event sparks might ignite nearby dwellings.

Although the pile of Christmas trees seemed smaller and the crowd fewer in numbers than other years, excitement ran high as Mayor George Barbeau and Chamber director Phil Unger lit the torch to set the pine and balsam on fire. No sooner had the torch been set to the mound of dry trees when flames were leaping skyward.

Consumes Treats

Before the fire had consumed the last of the pile of trees, spectators shivering in the raw breeze blowing across the open fields, near the town dump, began to line up for the annual treat of coffee and donuts. Chamber hosts Paul Nielsen, Ted Tyler Sr., Orville Chapman and Bert Wood were mobbed by the crowd for seconds and thirds. The crowd of about 300 ate 600 doughnuts.

Before the last of the interested spectators left the scene, fire men used booster lines from truck to douse the burning embers to prevent sparks from flying.

Below Surface

Workmen digging on Main Street North are not looking for underground cable for the Bell Telephone Company.

Overhead lines from a pole north of the actual creek bridge will be laid underground from this point, underneath the CNR tracks to Main Street North in the Scene Street area.

Four Hats in Ring

The list of contenders for the Progressive Conservative Provincial nomination lengthened this week. The choice will be made in a convention January 25, at the Williams Ave. High School, Milton, when the Hon. F. M. Cass, recently appointed Attorney General will be the guest speaker.

A. Roy Coulter, R.R. 3, Campbellville, and a Burlington resident announced this week he would seek the nomination. His announcement puts him in the running with Mac Sprout of Eschelon last week, Burlington lawyer George Kerr and former Burlington reeve Bill Hourigan. He also indicated they will seek the nomination.

Dr. C. A. Martin, Milton reeve, this week denied he was seeking the nomination and told The Champion he had no intention of standing for the position.

Mr. Coulter is presently chairman of the producer-operated Ontario Wheat Marketing Board. He served for six years on the

P.C. Candidate List Lengthens

Burlington-Nelson District High School Board before amalgamation and since then has served two years as vice-chairman and two years as chairman of the Burlington Board of Education.

Mr. Coulter is also past chairman of the Halton 4-H Club Leaders' Council, and the Canadian Red Poll Cattle Association. At present he is secretary of the Halton Federation of Agriculture. A member of the Lowville United Church, he with his son, operates nearly 300 acres of farm as well as specializing in red poll cattle.

"I feel I can honestly serve the people of Halton," Mr. Coulter declared in announcing his decision to seek the nomination.

George Kerr, whose candidacy was announced officially on Tuesday, owns his own law firm at Burlington. He is presently treas-

Maybe Saturday

New Water System Ready to Turn on No Increase in Pressure Most Homes

Comet Chemical Co., Inc. of Newark, New Jersey and Acton has reached an agreement with a firm in the Netherlands which will produce Comet's leather finishes and lacquers for metal, paper, plastic and wood.

Murray R. Gurtin, president in town yesterday said the materials will be manufactured by the firm in Waasland, Holland, which will be sold in the Common Market area as well as the rest of Europe.

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Name Paul Nielsen C. of C. President

Paul Nielsen, local clothing merchant was named 1963 president of the Acton Chamber of Commerce Wednesday evening during the inaugural meeting at the Dominion Hotel. He succeeds former president J. H. Hinson.

Other officers elected during the night include first vice president Rev. A. H. McKenzie, second vice president Phil Unger, secretary Murray Harrison and treasurer C. D. Anderson. Directors appointed for a two-year term include Orville Chapman, William McKay, William Carnohary and Henry Deveau.

In the absence of past president Hinson, Rev. A. H. McKenzie was chairman of the dinner meeting. Norman Branda, chairman of the nominating committee presented the slate of officers prior to the election and mayor George Barbeau conducted the installation of officers.

Newly elected president Nielsen informed the members the Chamber had an important job to do in the community and urged everyone to pull together and take their part in the program.

Approve Library Addition At H. S. Board Inaugural

High school trustees flashed the green light for the construction of a library addition at the school during their inaugural meeting and authorized property chairman Wallace Swa, khamer to engage architect Donnie Bowman-Brampton, to prepare plans and seek approval of the Department of Education.

Room eight will be increased in size with the inclusion of the present storeroom.

The outside entrance opposite the home economics room will be used as a doorway to the new Room 7 with a 700-square-foot area will be enlarged to 1,200 square feet with the new addition and used as a library.

Students in room 7 would attend classes in room one which has been used as a library class room.

Apptitude Tests

Members learned that 30 students from the school had written (Continued on Page Eight)

Mayor G. Barbeau Takes Office Mon.

"When 1963 comes to a close I would like each of us to be able to say that we have efficiently conducted the town's affairs; that we have contributed to the town's progress and improvement; and that we did not hurt the taxpayers' pocket in doing so."

This was the way Mayor Geo. Barbeau summed-up his remarks in his address to 1963's council Monday.

Mayor Barbeau and his fellow councillors took the dedication of office administered by Clerk J. McGeachie. Rev. Andrew McKenzie of Knox Presbyterian Church, representing the Ministerial Association offered prayer and read the Scripture. His text was from Paul's Epistle to the Romans, dealing with civic authority.

Chain of Authority

Outlining suggestions for Council's consideration in 1963 the Mayor summarized municipal projects and studies started in 1962 which should be completed. He read the 1962 resolution dealing with the chain of authority for all town personnel as follows: The clerk administrator will be responsible to Council.

The superintendent of the office manager and the assessor responsible to the clerk administrator.

The foreman be responsible to the superintendent.

The workmen be responsible to the foreman.

The clerk stenographer and the typist be responsible to the office manager.

The temporary assistant assessor be responsible to the assessor.

Investigate Overtime

"I suggest that Council is responsible to all town personnel and recommend that No. 2 Committee evaluate the hourly paid staff both from the standpoint of remuneration and working conditions and turn the recommendations to the Administration Committee."

"I suggest the Administration Committee do the same with the office staff and make their recommendations to council along

50 Pigs Perish Sunday As Fire Destroys Barn

Acton and district fire lost increased Sunday in the first fire of the New Year in which 50 pigs were burned to death after nearly 100 were saved from the blazing inferno. The barn on the former Dalton Barber farm, R. R. 1, Acton, now owned by W. V. Richthofen, R. R. 1, Campbellville, was reduced to smouldering ruins within a matter of minutes after the fire was detected by Casey VerPaalen doing chores in the building.

Occupants of the farm, Mr. and Mrs. Martin VerPaalen and their other two sons John and Adrian were attending church service in Acton when they heard the siren blow. Their first indication of the location of the blaze was while driving along No. 25 (Side road) toward home. They saw the flames licking toward the sky and the roof of the building collapse.

Spotted Pigs

While doing chores in the barn Casey VerPaalen smelted smoke and ran downstairs in time to see flames near the stable ceiling. His first concern was to free the trapped pigs and to open pen gates to allow the animals to escape. Before he could finish the job, smoke and heat drove him from the barn and he ran to the house to raise the alarm.

Out of Control

Before Acton firefighters reach the scene, the roof was in flames and the fire had raced out of control. Water was used from a nearby farm pond as several lines of hose were strung around the building to battle the blaze.

One line of hose was strung through a window and water was played on pigs to drive them to the nearest exit up the stairway. Volunteers and neighbors helped the VerPaalens herd the frightened pigs into a shed near the house where they were kept until accommodation at a neighbor's barn could be found. Water was strung around the building to battle the blaze.

Three barn cats and two kittens managed to make their way to safety from the burning inferno with singed whiskers and fur. Some of the spectators nursed the felines as they shook their paws, burned in the fire.

Casey VerPaalen suspects the fire might have been caused by wiring. Fire Chief Mick Holmes is unable to determine the cause or give any estimated damage lost in the fire as well as the farm animals were five tons of feed, hay and straw and a number of small farm tools.

The VerPaalens moved to Acton from Cooksville two months ago.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE members named Paul Nielsen as their 1963 president Wednesday evening during a dinner meeting at the Dominion Hotel. Pictured left to right are first vice-president Rev. A. H. McKenzie, president Nielsen, secretary Murray Harrison and second vice-president Phil Unger. Absent when picture was taken was treasurer C. D. Anderson.

District Party Held in School

Approximately 150 parents and children attended community party held in Bansec Abram School on December 22. After a good program, Santa found bags of candy under the Christmas tree for all of the children.

The ladies served lunch to bring a very pleasant evening to a close.



ACTON COUNCIL met for the first time for 1963 Tuesday evening when members took their oath of office. Rev. A. H. McKenzie gave the inaugural prayer on behalf of the Acton Ministerial Association. Front row left to right are councillor Les Duby, reeve H. H. Hinson, mayor George Barbeau, deputy reeve William Denny and councillor W. H. Peel; back row left to right councillors Albert Irwin, J. Bert Wood, Alec Johnson, Eric Johnson and clerk Jack McGeachie.