The Acton Free Press

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The Big Day

[illegible] the big day! For Saturday, February 2, [illegible] groundhog (according to legend) is supposed to emerge from a long winter's sleep beneath the ground, poke his head out and scan the weather.

The legend says if he sees his shadow, it means we're in for another six weeks of bitter winter. However if Saturday is dull and brother groundhog finds no shadow, winter's over and he'll stay outside his burrow to greet the coming of spring. Let's hope!

Beware of Prepayment Advertising Schemes

Corporal Ray Mason of the Acton O.P.P. Detachment issued a warning this week to local business people to investigate thoroughly any advertising schemes that are presented to them on which prepayment is suggested.

The police department noted quite often proposals are presented with the suggestion immediate payment reduces the cost. This can be saying "goodbye" to the money, they point out.

Corporal Mason suggested any schemes be referred to the police office since checking on those involved is much easier while they are in town, than after they have gone.

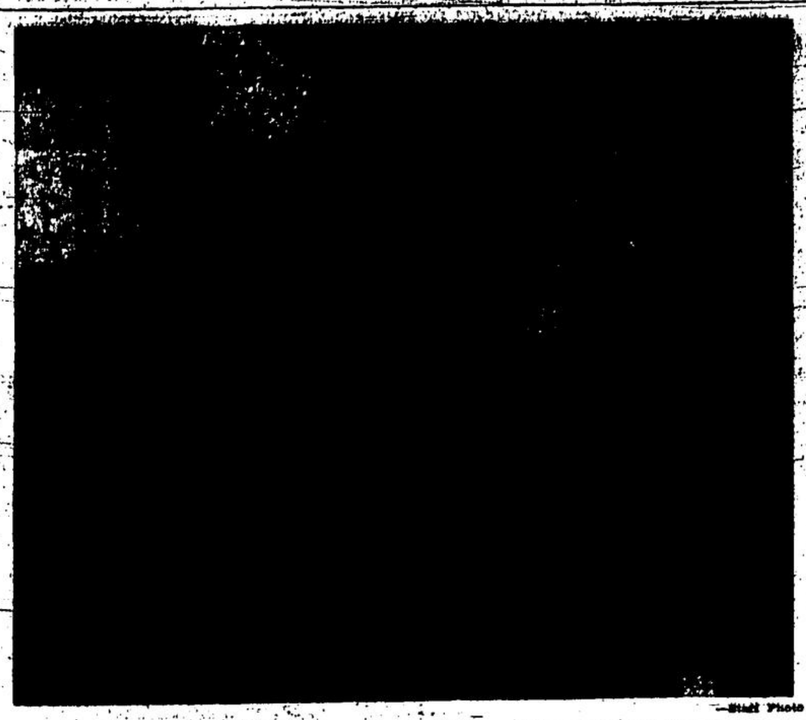
Health Plan Opens Soon

The P.S.I.-sponsored Halton County Community Health Plan opens here next week.

P.S.I. officials say some 38,000 people are presently covered by P.S.I. plans in Halton County. The opening of the Community Health Plan will allow anyone not already covered to enroll in the comprehensive P.S.I. Blue Plan. The coverage will be made available without restrictions as to age or condition of health.

Community enrolment has been successfully presented to many communities throughout the province and is sponsored by the largest prepaid medical plan in Canada, P.S.I. The plan for Halton County has been supported by the doctors here and many of the elected officials.

G. Lynch, spokesman, stated that each resident can expect to be contacted by a P.S.I. representative in the near future. Information centres will be established in Oakville, Burlington and Georgetown.



—Staff Photo

HALTON COUNTY CONSERVATIVES chose George A. Kerr, a 38-year-old Burlington lawyer, as their candidate to contest the next provincial election, when a crowd of 800 packed the Williams Ave. high school auditorium in Milton Friday night. Above, the Tories' choice is shown addressing his supporters, surrounded by sign-waving supporters. He will be seeking to retain the Halton seat at Queen's Park held for the last 19 years by the late Stan Hall.

Estimate $169,000 to Extend Plant As Council Considers Capital Budget

Tuesday evening, Acton council members learned a proposed duplication of the present size and capacity of the disposal plant would cost an estimated $169,000.

This information was received from consulting engineers R. V. Anderson and Associates following a request from council as they viewed a five-year capital budget program on instructions from the Department of Municipal Affairs.

The letter from the engineers pointed out the present plant was designed for an average daily flow of 250,000 imperial gallons (300,000 U.S.) and provides for an equivalent population of 3,000 people. The engineers stated that enlargement of the plant to handle an additional 250,000 imperial gallons per day (which was provided for in the original design) would cost an estimated $169,000. The addition would serve an additional population of 3,000 people.

Applications for Committee

An application from Mr. and Mrs. K. Haefner to erect a single dwelling place on their property at the corner of Arthur and Wellington Streets was not opposed by council. A second application from Guiseppe Gitto, Glenlea Subdivision, to erect an apartment house in Glenlea was opposed when he asked for a three foot side variance and five foot backline variance. Both applications will be heard by the committee of adjustment.

Ancient and well-worn bathroom equipment used by the town office staff will soon be replaced by more modern equipment. Tuesday evening council approved an expenditure of $84.64 for replacement of equipment by A. L. Reimer Company. Councillor Les Duby informed his colleagues the present toilet was a disgrace and should be repaired immediately.

Fibreglass Cab

Town workmen operating the front end loader while removing snow during the winter will be protected from the severe weather as soon as a new fibreglass cab is purchased. Approval was given for the $487.25 expenditure.

Councillor J. Bert Wood, chairman of the finance committee, told members he was concerned with the fact council seemed to be "drifting along" with respect to striking the mill rate for the year. He asked that individual budgets be handed in as soon as possible in order to prevent a last-minute rush. As a result, councillors will be busy individuals for the next two weeks with possibilities of a meeting every night.

Council also:

● Approved mileage payment for Mayor George Barbeau and Reeve H. H. Hinton amounting to $6.40 apiece for the conference attended Saturday in Preston. Councillor Les Duby received car allowance amounting to $1.80 for attending a recent Urban Board meeting in Georgetown.

● Approved payment of engineering fees to R. V. Anderson and Associates amounting to $3,369.20 for the Beamish paving contract.

● Approved the mayor attending the mayors' and reeves' convention at Pembroke June 23 to 26 inclusive with expenses paid.

● Instructed the clerk to renew membership in the Ontario Municipal Association and the Mayors' and Reeves' Association.

● Authorized the clerk to have insurance on the community centre building and contents brought up to date.

● Learned following a committee meeting with the dog catcher, the service in Acton would improve with the hiring of additional help by Cecil Robertson.

Shelve Closing By-Law Temporarily Following Lengthy Council Hassle

A proposed store closing by-law which had received one reading in the latter part of 1962, was temporarily shelved Tuesday evening by Acton council following a heated discussion between mayor George Barbeau and reeve Bert Hinton.

The reeve took the mayor to task on two counts when he charged lack of parliamentary procedure and lack of interest in the by-law.

During a review of a conference held in Preston, Saturday, when seven members of council attended to hear a discussion on store closing by-laws, Reeve Hinton quickly moved a verbal resolution to have the Acton by-law tabled until next meeting, when a delegation wished to attend. Mayor Barbeau enquired when it had been decided the delegation would attend. The reeve replied "I have been told by the people on the street the merchants intend to appear before council on this occasion."

Goodwill Agreement

The mayor in continuing his report regarding the Preston conference, informed members the town of Cobourg with 102 merchants had operated for years without a closing by-law until a discount store opened up. It was at this time council was petitioned by merchants for a store closing by-law which was passed by Cobourg council and now it is being contested in the Supreme Court, council was informed. Mr. Barbeau also referred to Timmins where closing by-laws were governed by a good-will agreement among the merchants. The mayor quoted the northern delegate as saying "The only good closing by-law was a no-closing by-law".

Councillor J. Bert Wood wondered after hearing various opinions garnered from the conference if any municipality had closing by-laws that worked. Reeve Hinton pointed out the Guelph representative only presented the problems encountered with the Guelph by-law and said it took months and months for them to approve it. "Guelph council has adopted a by-law which it feels is right for the people. Council persisted and finally passed it," he stated.

Move Over

Mayor Barbeau replied "When Acton gets as big as Guelph, I will quickly jump over in the chair with you and agree". He stated council members had gone to the conference to listen to reports with an open mind and it was not a case of wanting or not wanting the by-law. "We learned something and now it is up to council to vote the by-law in or out," the mayor stressed.

Clerk Jack McGeachie informed council the Guelph by-law was anything but unanimous as it had only passed with a one or two vote majority. Deputy-Reeve William Denny related Elmira's experience when confronted regarding a closing by-law. "They wouldn't touch it and the merchants got together and everything is working out fine," he stated.

In Hot Water

Newcomer to the council this year Eric Johnston stated "I vote yes on the first reading but after the conference I am of the opinion we might find ourselves in a great deal of hot water."

Reeve Hinton referred to his original verbal motion to table the by-law for the benefit of the delegation. Councillor Les Duby reminded the reeve the merchants had already presented their views and the by-law was drawn up according to the petition. "It is now up to council to decide," he emphasized. Councillor W. H. Peal gave a flat refusal to second the reeve's resolution adding "Now you know where I stand."

On learning the proposed by-law encompassed seven previous by-laws not yet rescinded, Mr. Wood supported a suggestion with a resolution to table the by-law until council could review the other previous by-laws.

Two-Man Hassle

Before entertaining the resolution submitted by Councillor Wood, the mayor asked Mr. Hinton if he had a seconder for his own motion. The reeve replied "It's up to you to ask." The mayor quickly remarked "Oh! no, I didn't introduce your motion, everyone is aware of what you want." The reeve then charged the mayor was out of order according to parliamentary procedure. Councillor Duby, refusing to second the reeve's motion, said it didn't necessarily mean he was denying the delegation a hearing.

Committee to Study

When no seconder for the reeve's motion could be obtained the resolution submitted by Councillor Wood to table the by-law was approved so a committee could bring back a recommendation on the previous seven by-laws.

During committee reports it was learned the No. 2 committee would meet with the town workmen to discuss working conditions and pay rates.

Pot Luck Supper Precedes Baptists' Annual Meeting

A time of happy fellowship was enjoyed by the members and friends of the Acton Baptist Church when some 40 people sat down to a delicious pot luck supper, served so ably by the social committee in charge of Mrs. Herb. Helwig.

The business of the year was transacted around the table and fine reports from all departments were given. The nominating committee brought in the slate of officers for 1963.

Increase in Members

The pastor's report was very gratifying. He paid tribute to the Rudds who had been here for two years, and felt encouraged that we could show an increase in membership, and the financial report was the best in some time.

The grant from the Home Mission Board has been reduced each year and the church was happy to be able to do so again for this year.

Need for Prayer

The sound spiritual condition of the church is much to thank God for, said the Rev. Gammon, and well attended services on the Lord's day and at the mid-week prayer meeting is a source of joy to all. The need for sound evangelical preaching was emphasized by the pastor, and the great need for prayer in these days of materialism and indifference should be the concern of every born again Christian.

A devotional period to open the evening and prayer by the pastor closed a very satisfactory annual meeting.

Elections

Church officers are: Deacons—honorary life deacon, Fred. West; to retire in 1964 — Colin Baillie, Wilmer Fryer; to retire in 1965—Lyal McCutcheon; Lloyd Bulmer ex-officio.

Clerk, Charles W. Landsborough; treasurer, Mrs. John Chapman; financial secretary, Miss Alice Pilkington; mission fund treasurer, Miss Elda Fryer.

Sunday School Supt. — Lloyd Bulmer, assistant — Miss Jessie Coles, auditors — Herb. Helwig, Phil Bethel, George Harrap.

Finance Committee — Mrs. Helwig, Gordon Ralston, Mrs. Chas. W. Landsborough, Lloyd Illsley, Mrs. J. Chapman, Miss Alice Pilkington, Miss Elda Fryer, Phil Bethel.

House Committee — Wally Gordon, Lyal McCutcheon, Morrison.

Missionary Committee — Lloyd Bulmer, Miss Elda Fryer, Mrs. G. A. Harrap, Mrs. Helwig, Mrs. John Chapman, Mrs. Gammon.

Ushering Committee — Lyal McCutcheon, Lloyd Illsley, Gordon Ralston, Jack Fryer, Wally Gordon, Gordon Wagner, Colin Baillie.

Director of Music, Miss Helen Landsborough; Music Committee — Mrs. Joan Evans, Miss Helen Landsborough, Miss Alice Pilkington, Mr. Fred West, Mrs. C. Landsborough.

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Adopt Budget, Pick Officers At Congregational Meeting

A group of 61 at the annual meeting of Knox Presbyterian Church last night (Wednesday), heard reports, named officials, debated and accepted the budget and learned of a $2,341.12 deficit for the year.

Named to the Board of Managers were Keith Livermore for a two year term and the following for five year terms: Roy Kirkness, Bruce Cargill, Dr. Brian Moore, Robert Algie and Murray Scovne. R. R. Parker chaired the meeting with Melbourne Blow, secretary.

598 Members

The meeting began with devotions, followed by the singing of a hymn. During the presentation of the Kirk Session report by the Rev. A. H. McKenzie, it was learned there are 598 names on the membership roll.

Mr. McKenzie paid tribute to six members who died during the year and thanked everyone for their interest in church work. The report showed 26 new members joined the church during 1962, seven weddings, 13 funerals, 25 baptized and a loss of 18 members, six by death and 12 by certificate.

The Sunday School has an enrolment of 250, with an average attendance of 130. There are 16 teachers. Superintendent Clarence Coles urged parents to have their children attend Sunday School and stressed the importance of children receiving a solid foundation in order to be the stalwart pillars of the church in the future.

The report from the Afternoon Auxiliary of the Women's Missionary Society showed 32 active members and 15 home helpers, who had made 124 calls to shut-ins, as well as cards sent to the sick.

Mrs. Fred Anderson reported for the Alert Evening Auxiliary and commended the organization for the excellent work they were doing for the good of the church. There is a membership of 21 in this group.

In the report from the Daughters of Knox, it was noted that four of the 19 members had a perfect attendance record for the year with one member completing eight years with a perfect attendance record. The church choir has a total membership of 20.

Propose New Group

Stressing the importance of the Youth Fellowship group, Mr McKenzie discussed the possibility of establishing a young unmarried group with both Knox Presbyterian and Trinity United churches combined without surrendering denominations.

Reports were also received from the Canadian Girls in Training, Explorers, Children of the Church, Ladies' Aid, Heather Club, Board of Managers and auditors.

The $17,543 budget presented by chairman Lorne Doberthein was accepted after a brief discussion. Mr. McKenzie briefly reviewed the proposed new addition to the church, mentioning access from the choir room to the addition had been considered, as well as using two stain glass windows in the old section, which will be removed to allow for the addition. He pointed out the need for the addition in establishing a fully departmentalized church school.

M. M. Coles thanked everyone who presented reports, after which lunch was enjoyed.

Fire Wednesday

Thawing frozen pipes was the cause of a minor blaze Wednesday evening at the residence of Murray Bateman, 13 Church St. Firefighters made a fast run to extinguish the fire. Occupants of the frame dwelling include the families of Mr. Bateman, Darlow Johnstone and Joe Matheson. Damage was slight.

Mobile Hydro Substation To Be Used February 4

Temporary installation of a mobile substation at the Willow Street substation will handle a portion of the town's power load for four days while hydro workers increase the capacity of the station by 85 per cent. Present capacity of No. 1 substation is 1,650 KVA.

Hydro commissioners were informed Thursday evening, January 24, work on rebuilding the substation would begin Monday, February 4 and last approximately four days. During this time the area presently serviced by the station will be handled by the mobile unit without any power interruption.

Consider New Truck

Vince Scott, representative from Truck Engineering, Woodstock, was present to discuss the purchase of a new aerial ladder truck for the hydro. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed the present 1947 International truck had outlived its usefulness and the chairman and vice-chairman were instructed to bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.

Superintendent Doug Mason informed the commission Ken Hodgson was qualified for the position of class "A" lineman and asked if members wished to promote him to this position. Finance chairman Ray Arbic, chairman Ted Tyler Sr., and vice-chairman Gord McCutcheon were instructed to interview the employee and bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.

Accounts totalling $18,283.57 were approved for payment.

800 Jam Nominations

George Kerr is Tories' Candidate

George A. Kerr, a 38-yearold Burlington lawyer, was chosen as Progressive Conservative candidate for the next Provincial election Friday, when a crowd of over 800 overflowed the Tory nominating convention in Milton.

Kerr, contesting the nomination against four other candidates, won the majority decision of 619 voting delegates on the fourth ballot. Burlington farmer Roy Coulter was knocked out of the running on the first, while Esquesing farmer Mac Sprowl was ejected on the second.

Hourigan Out

William E. Hourigan, another lawyer from Burlington was the early favorite of many in Halton, but was put out of the race on the third ballot. Oakville builder Glen Cooper stayed in the race right to the end, and was defeated when the delegates marked their fourth and final ballot.

A carnival-like atmosphere prevailed throughout the convention, which ended at 12.30 Saturday morning. The Williams Avenue High School auditorium was alive with the shouts and cheering of the 800 enthusiastic Tories.

Two candidates, Mr. Kerr and Mr. Sprowl, were supported by bag pipes. At the outset of the evening a small group of pipers marched the aisles of the gym followed closely by Kerr's placard-waving supporters.

Noisy Entrance

Later in the evening, prior to Mr. Sprowl's speech to the delegates, members of the now defunct Acton Pipe band made a conspicuous entrance when their pipes failed to toot, due to the humidity in the gym. Following several minutes of frustration the pipers managed to coax the instruments to toot for Mr. Sprowl and his supporters.

Candidates with the notable exception of Mr. Coulter and Mr. Hourigan, had followers who spent the evening waving placards. Mr. Hourigan however, had one particularly enthusiastic supporter who sang throughout the evening, "We're for Hourigan, That's Who."

Mr. Kerr, in his speech to the delegates, stressed that they choose a candidate that would win for Halton. "Pick a winner and he will have the united support and co-operation of all the candidates. He must appeal, to convince and convert all voters," he stated. "I don't want a marginal victory," he said "give me your support on the first ballot, I want a mandate."

Afraid of Neither

"I'm not afraid of any Grit in Halton County, whether he wants a chain of office in Burlington or writes a newspaper column in Oakville," he told the cheering throng. (His obvious references were to Mayor Owen Mullin of Burlington and retired businessman Lester Whiting of Oakville, both rumored as possible choices for the Halton Liberal candidacy)

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Kerr asserted, "I don't want Halton to be the first riding to lose a Conservative seat in 19 years. This will have to be a team effort, I'm going to need your help."

Guest speaker the Hon. Fred M. Cass expressed his pleasure at the large number of younger delegates at the convention, and told them "the future of the Progressive Conservative party lies with the youth I see here tonight."

Come With Projects

When an election is called the present government will not seek re-election on its record, nor with great promises, said the speaker. "We will come with actual plans now in operation," he said. "We are DOING things, not promising them, and we will continue to do them."

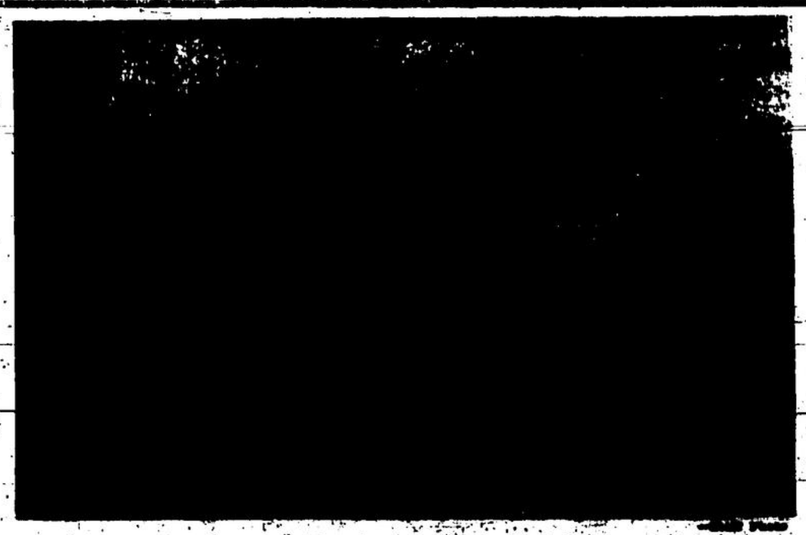
He referred to the Robert's government's hospital plan, the proposed medicare, rehabilitation of mental patients, old age pensions, the growth in economic development, the lower unemployment rate, and the manufacturing growth, as examples of projects now underway.

"We have a government which is young in thought, energetic in action, and with the vision for the future—we have produced the programs," said the Attorney General.

"The Conservatives in Ontario are on the march . . . we'll be back in Queen's Park. You people make sure you have your candidate with us," he concluded.

The official nomination of each candidate was allowed to give a five minute speech on behalf of his nominee. Dave Elliott nominated Glen Cooper, and Ross Green seconded the nomination. Roy Coulter was nominated by John Brown and Len Conklin, Doug D. Black nominated Sprowl, [illegible] and F. W. Cleary seconded the nomination. Mac Sprowl was nominated by A. Harvey and [illegible] Kerr was nominated by [illegible] and E. Cline seconded the nomination.

(Continued on Page Three)



—Staff Photo

TRADITIONAL HAGGIS received a hearty welcome from the Scottish Dance Club members Saturday evening as it was piped into the banquet room at the Y.M.C.A. during the annual Burns' Night supper. Pictured left to right are Bill Connel, Guelph, Bob Corrie, Guelph, who carried the dish, Bill Wilson, Acton and pipe major Bob Whittle of the Guelph Pipe Band. About 70 club members and friends attended the dinner and paid tribute to Robbie Burns.