The Acton Free Press

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Dine, Dance in Theatre J. McMullen Buys Roxy

The marquee at the former Roxy theatre in Acton, which has been dark for over two years, will soon be blazing with lights once again. By early summer, local businessman Jack McMullen expects to be operating a dine and dance establishment at this location on Mill Street.

The former theatre, erected in 1948, has been vacant for the past two years. This week Mr. McMullen finalized the purchase of the building including a cement block house at the rear, from the Gregory estate.

Start at Once

The new owner intends to begin interior alterations immediately. Although no opening date is known at present, Mr. McMullen hopes to have the building ready for business by early summer.

The sloping floor, customary in theatres, will be levelled, alterations will be made to the stage where the movie screen was located, kitchen added behind the foyer and a take-out bar installed where the refreshment stand was located.

"Rainbow Room"?

Mr. McMullen intends to paint the curved ceiling and wall area bright colors, utilize the present dim lighting arrangement and possibly name the building "The Rainbow Room."

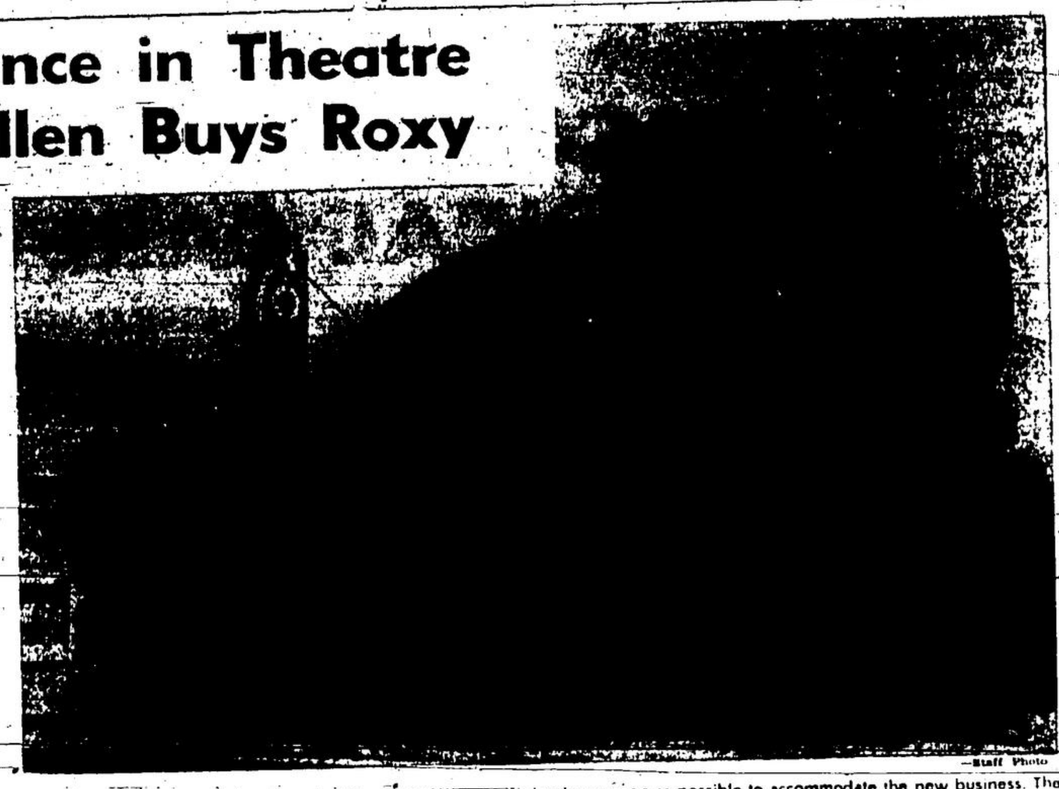
Plans are made to have tables arranged along each wall and near the back to leave the centre area for dancing on certain occasions. It is the owner's intention to cater for dinners and banquets for organizations and groups as well as operate a restaurant where patrons can daily enjoy their meal in quietness. Takeout smacks will be available from the front counter in the foyer. Washrooms presently established at each side of the entrance will be utilized. Plans for renovating the theatre office have not been completed but Mr. McMullen expects to use this area in his business too.

Bands, Movies

The stage where the large screen for movies was located will be renovated and will be used for a bandstand for orchestras. Long-range plans are also considered for a portable movie screen in the event any group wishes to have movies at their outing.

The quonset-type building with a modern brick front was erected after Mr. Gregory sold his former theatre across the road to make way for the block where A-B Supermarket now stands.

Mr. McMullen is no newcomer to Acton and has lived here all his life and has erected many homes and renovated others in his trade as contractor.



—Staff Photo

DINE AND DANCE restaurant will open in early summer in the former Roxy theatre. Jack McMullen (inset), local contractor, purchased the building this week and plans to renovate the interior as soon as possible to accommodate the new business. The theatre has been vacant for the past two years. It was purchased from the Gregory estate.

New Industry for Acton Comark Ltd. Starts Soon To Hire 18-20 Employees

Another new industry will locate in Acton, the 11th since the beginning of 1962. Plans were announced Wednesday by officials of Comark Ltd., a newly incorporated division of L. H. Frost Ltd., Oakville, to locate in 7,000 square feet of space in the former Wool Combing building now referred to as Acton Industrial Centre.

The new industry will do coil winding for component parts used in electrical appliances. General manager Gordon Morton will conduct interviews for employees tomorrow (Friday) with initial operations entailing between 18 and 20 employees. Finalization for the new industry was made by the Acton Industrial Commission on Wednesday of this week with L. H. Frost.

Industry Moves

Preparations are also underway in the centre to accommodate Corona—Shoe Company which is expected to locate there around March 1. Modern offices, new cement floor and washrooms have been installed in the 1,200 square foot area the shoe company will occupy.

With the establishment of Comark Ltd., a total of nine industries will be operating in this building. To accommodate employees and production a new three storey elevator went into operation Wednesday and a new central stairway for employees is being installed.

Under option with another industry is the only remaining area in the building consisting of 8,000 square foot of space.

Name Industries

Other industries located in the industrial centre are Keates Organs Ltd., Waleigh Furniture Ltd., Bridgeland Agencies Ltd., United Carr Fasteners Ltd., J. Lavoie Textiles, Swim Laboratories of Canada Ltd., Thermoid of Canada Ltd. and Michigan Bulb Co. With the exception of Michigan Bulb Co., all the others as well as Frank Heller Leather industry and Acton Limestone Quarries located here during 1962.

County Facilities

Urges $22,000 Rabies Centre

"Halton had the highest incidence of rabies suspects last year of any County in Ontario," Tom Hughes, General Manager of the Ontario Humane Society told members of Halton County Council in Tuesday. He urged the county to set up a $22,000-$24,000 rabies treatment centre in conjunction with the already established Humane Society shelter at Oakville, as a place where animals suspected of the dread disease could be quarantined and given proper treatment.

Last year animals from the Milton area suspected of rabies had filled the Oakville shelter and the Humane Society's animal control work had to be suspended while the shelter was overcrowded with suspects. "If the Oakville shelter had not existed, I don't know what we would have done," he continued, pointing out the shelter was a privately operated unit that was pressed into service during the rabies scare.

Dr. Hughes noted the need for a rabies treatment centre being available on a year-round basis. "If the rabies does come to Ontario in sufficient numbers it will definitely affect humans as well as animals," he explained. "And you don't get over rabies, you die. Treatment for persons suspected of rabies is a series of injections through the stomach, a terribly painful, lengthy process."

County Council should create adequate facilities now," he went on. "You would all feel very sad if some child in this county died of the disease."

Questioned by Warden C. A. Martin, Dr. Hughes suggested inoculation of all domestic animals was the only answer to preventing the spread of rabies. Pembroke Council last year passed an emergency by-law placing all animals under strict house control for a period of six months. He added that during an epidemic recently in Washington, squads of armed men roamed the streets shooting every animal in sight, the rabies scare was so bad.

He said he hoped the government would rule on compulsory innoculations before long. Councillors agreed to study the proposal.

South Threatens to Quit Halton In Stormy County Voting Battle

The stormy north-south County voting power hassle — termed Halton's little "Mason-Dixon Line" war — reared its head again Tuesday as north and south forces squared off against one another around the County Council table.

During the lengthy debate, one in a series of monthly uproars the unbalanced voting power has caused:

(1)—Burlington Reeve F. J. Ryckman suggested the north's attitude would lead to Burlington and Oakville parting ways with the County.

(2)—Warden C. A. Martin charged the southern representatives has shown "an uncompromising attitude" when he tried to work out a solution with them at a Monday morning meeting.

(3)—Oakville Reeve F. A. Phillips voiced his resentment at the Warden's remarks and accused the Warden of trying to force the north's terms onto the south.

Report Appears

The battle flared up Tuesday when councillors read a typed report on two meetings attended by Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Esquesing and Nassagaweya delegates on January 30 and February 5, when they attempted to work out a solution or counter proposal to Oakville and Burlington's submission to the government's private bills committee. The private bill sets up a new scale for the division of votes, giving the two southern municipalities 17 votes to the north's 16. At present the five northern towns and townships hold 16 of the 24 votes in County Council.

Reeve Ryckman objected to the meetings, noting Oakville and Burlington had not been notified when the Warden called the meetings. He suggested councillors who attended shouldn't receive the $20 per meeting fee as it was not a duly constituted county meeting. He said it was activity along this line that could lead to Burlington and Oakville parting ways with the County.

Agrees No Fee

Acton Reeve H. H. Hinton agreed no fees should be paid. He added "We are not working against Oakville or Burlington. I don't think we have been aggressive against the south of the County."

Nassagaweya Reeve J. Robertson said it was time now for a showdown — "we should stand up and be counted."

"We are one of the richest counties in the Province, why can't we get together and settle this? You tell us what you want and we'll tell you what we want, and we'll work it out together," he concluded.

Then Esquesing Reeve George Leslie accused the south of "trying to gain control of the votes in the county."

"I hope the south realizes we just can'd give them the controlling vote."

"We have never asked for the controlling vote, but we did ask for the return of the votes we lost through annexations and amalgamations," said Oakville Deputy-Reeve Herb Merry. He noted 10 votes were lost when Trafalgar, Nelson and Bronte were merged with Oakville and Burlington.

"It's very hard to explain to 42,500 people in the south-east corner of the County that they have four votes on County council, while to the north of us Esquesing, Acton and Georgetown have 11 votes," he continued. "We pay 42 per cent of the whole upkeep of the County, but the three municipalities directly to the north pay 13, 14 or 15 per cent and have 11 votes."

He suggested there should be a little "give and take" — "We can't just sit and bicker back and forth."

The Warden reported he had met with Oakville and Burlington representatives to outline the northern area's counter-proposal, a resolution sponsored by Ontario County. "I tried to negotiate a solution, but I was told in no uncertain terms they were in no position to listen to it. I have never heard such an uncompromising attitude," he explained.

Mr. Phillips objected to his remarks. "You said we refused to negotiate . . . but you asked us to accept the Ontario Counties resoultion and we refused."

In the end, the report of the special meeting was adopted by the whole council, with the deletion of two paragraphs referring to the north's counter-proposal. The northern towns and townships still plan to appeal the private bill when it comes before the legislature.

Deadline March 13 Truckers Reprieved

With only 23 days left to purchase license plates and driver's licenses, vehicle license issuer J. Hargrave has only sold 25 per cent of expected licenses. Deadline is March 13.

He strongly urges all motorists to obtain their plates and licenses as soon as possible to avoid a lineup at the last minute or perhaps disappointment in having to walk until 1963 markers are purchased.

Mr. Hargrave also reminds everyone to be sure to obtain proof of liability insurance from their agents and avoid an extra $20 before licenses can be issued.

Truckers receive a slight reprieve and are being allowed to display their old markers until March 31 for trucks and trailers. These plates do not go on sale until February 28.

Mock Parliament Debate Saturday

This Saturday a model parliament of high school students will debate three issues of critical importance at Central Peel Composite school. Acton high school, divided into 10 ridings for elections, is sending Carol Swackhamer, Margaret Mackenzie, Guy White, Richard Ironside, David Roughley, David Lidka, Tom McKeown, Dan Long and Axel Nieuwenhuis. Richard Ironside is party whip for the opposition.

This model parliament will be as much like the real Canadian one as possible. There will be a prime minister and cabinet and an opposition party. These will be picked by the delegates after an election at a meeting. The largest party will pick their prime minister. There'll be a "gallery" for observers.

Up for debate will be the U.S. policy on Cuba, divided Germany, anti inspection and controls for disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear tests.

Area Artist

Designs Awarded Two Firsts In Ontario Souvenir Contest

Two first prizes of $100 each were presented by well-known area artist Mrs. Elizabeth Wilkes Hoey Monday. They were two of ten top awards in the Ontario Souvenir and Handicraft competition which drew hundreds of entries.

Presentations were made at the Gift Show in the Exhibition grounds, Toronto and among the officials there were premier John Robarts, the Hon. R. W. Macaulay, O.C., minister of economics and development and Bill Cranston of Midland, chairman of the Ontario Tourist development commission.

Mrs. Hoey lives on a farm in R.R. 1 Moffat, where she designs and silk screen prints her original and widely admired articles.

New Designs

She received first prize for textile design for two towel designs inspired by Early Canadian pioneer articles. One comprised drawings of a butter churn but her print and bowl. The other included an iron pot, bowl, spoons and cup with a blacksmithing plant in the background.

She was awarded another first in the graphic category for two cards, one with a trillium design called "Country Woods" and the other a stump fence design, called "Country Stumps."

She also entered three new designs for tea towels, two of trilliums and one of butter prints.

The grand prize of $500 went to Mrs. Burk for very striking needlery, her inspiration was Indian carvings.

Mrs. Eskimo Woman won a first for beautifully made boots. She came to the reception with an entourage.

Judges included Dion Hansen and Harold Buchanan of the textile department of the Royal Ontario Museum, and president of the Canadian Handicraft Guild. Executive, preliminary judging, final judging took four full days.

"Acton firefighters made an early morning run to the home of Herman Urquhart west on No. 7 highway Sunday morning to extinguish a small blaze in the garage wall. Monday evening during their regular meeting they were called to cope with a blazing automobile near the corner of Mill and Main Street.

"Terrific" Display

With Mrs. Hoey at the presentation were Mr. Hoey, their daughters Caroline and Martha and her parents Mr. and Mrs. Dean Wilkes of Oakville.

"It was a terrific display," Mrs. Hoey said. She felt the contest entries, which were so well executed in perfect taste, contrasted very obviously with the gaudy items in the gift show. Proper items in the gift show proper should be produced for sale as souvenirs if the manufacturers were willing to make more effort to acquire original Canadian articles.

Recreation Committee Considers Floor Cover

Acton's 10-man recreation committee reviewed community centre progress to date and made tentative plans for the future during their meeting Thursday February 14.

The building committee was authorized to investigate the purchase of floor matting for the lover and stairway as well as painting the cement floor in the auditorium.

Members learned S. J. Brunelle had been engaged to assist the recreation director at the arena for the balance of the year and discussed possibilities of engaging a qualified ice maker another year.

Chairman John Gay informed the committee the curling club had wondered about ways of improving curling and said a demonstration with an ice melter would be held under the supervision of the curling club. Since the demonstration Sunday evening and again Monday, the curling club agreed to purchase the ice melter at a cost of $710.

The secretary was instructed to send a letter of appreciation to the Acton Lions Club for their donation of two goal nets. Approved for payment were accounts totalling $1,998 including the purchase of an ice shaver from the Guelph Curling club.

More Welcome

Organizers of the St. John Ambulance campaign are still waiting — with open arms — for more donations. They may be left at the Bank of Nova Scotia with treasurer Chester Anderson or at Paul's Men's Wear store with chairman Paul Nielsen.

Same Tax

Your tax levy to Halton County probably won't be increased over the 4.6 mills charged county taxpayers last year, members of County Council's finance committee announced on Tuesday.

The budget will not be set until early in March, but the committee has reviewed some of the various departments' budgets and to date can't see any increase. Final figures on the road levy are not yet available, but it is hoped it will not exceed the 1962 rate of 1.4 mills.

—Staff Photo

POPULAR STUDENTS Karen Heller and Fred Dawkins were chosen King and Queen of hearts to reign over the Valentine dance at the Acton district high school Saturday evening. A large crowd of students enjoyed the dancing and saw the couple crowned by student council president Bonnie McDougall.

Timmins Closing By-Law Rescinded, Mayor Tells

Discussion continued Tuesday on a proposed store closing by-law suggested by Acton merchants which was shelved temporarily by council pending discussions and recommendations from a joint meeting of representatives from the retail section of the Chamber of Commerce and a committee of council.

Tuesday evening at their meeting council learned a similar by-law adopted by the town of Timmins at the request of grocery merchants in 1961 did not affect grocers operating a business in a building under 4,000 square feet. Mayor George Barbeau told members the grocers in Timmins affected by the by-law requested the by-law be rescinded in 1962. This action Timmins council took.

$178,000 Reservoir

During the meeting it was learned the cost of constructing the new water reservoir on Churchill Road North amount ed to $178,043. Original estimate by the O.W.R.C. had been $177,000. Yearly payments amounting to $35,093 will be paid on a quarterly basis. Approval was given to pay the first quarterly amount of $2,162.32.

Councillor W. H. Peal informed council that No. 2 committee suggested Acton Citizens' Band be assessed $75 per year for use of the upstairs room at the town hall in order to offset the cost of hydro. No action was taken on the suggestion during the meeting.

Council also:

- Agreed to cancel the regular meeting next Tuesday in favor of a council committee of the whole to discuss salaries, schedules and policy of the town working force as well as office staff.
- Learned of complaints from a resident regarding water freezing in his home.
- Learned pictures of the Queen and Prince Philip donated by Branch 197 of the Canadian Legion would be hung in the council chambers shortly.
- Approved accounts totalling $8,095.19.

Approve $38,000 Budget Air Conversion Problems

Acton Hydro-Electric Commission at their Thursday meeting approved their 1963 capital expenditure budget of $38,450. Major item in the budget is a possible expenditure of $10,000, for the purchase of an aerial truck dependent upon further investigation.

Other items in the budget are distribution system (overhead) $9,500; transformers, $3,000; meters $2,000, street lights $2,500; substation equipment $9,100, tools $200, water heaters $2,000, water heater controls, $150.

A decision to install an additional air brake switch in the system at an estimated cost of $500 was approved. By installing this switch it will be possible to more evenly distribute the load on the two substations. Superintendent Doug Mason said it would provide "better performance as far as our whole system goes."

Bushings Deteriorated

Conversion of the No. 1 substation has brought out some unexpected problems. A delay for non-delivery of equipment held up the starting date a week. Turn up the starting date a week. Turn up of the low voltage bushings showed considerable deterioration. These old bushings will be replaced at a cost of $74 each. The high voltage bushings had not been inspected at the time of the meeting but if their condition is bad they too will be replaced or reconditioned. Gaskets on the transformers will be replaced.

Contracting company Inter-Source expected its phase of the changeover would be completed by February 15. Ontario Hydro would install the new metering equipment after that date. It is anticipated the substation will be put back into service next week.

Safety Device

Commissioners decided to send the work force to a Safety School in Niagara Falls for a two-day course. Employees will attend at different times so all men will not be away at the same time. Cost to the commission will be the men's room and board.

Accounts passed for payment totalled: Ontario Hospital Services Ltd. $21.20; Acton Fire Fighters Association $100; Ray Thompson Parts, $60.10; C. F. Leatherland, $30.00; H.E.P.C. of Ont., $10,995.32; Dominion Cutout Co., $8.78; Westinghouse Co. Ltd., $116.90; H.E.P.C. of Ont., $34.00; Town of Acton, $99.11; Frank Toth Motors, $12.24; Thompson Motors, $11.89; Dills Printing & Publishing, $20.69; William Knell & Co., $25.11; Marchant Calculators Ltd., $47.00; MacDonald Electric Ltd., $47.77; J. K. Johnstone Meters Ltd., $415.66; Knight Industries Limited, $137.20; Receiver General of Canada, $61.80; Henderson Business Service, $9.00; Bell Telephone Co., $49.79; James R. Kearney Corp., $44.32; Confederation Life, $385.66.