

# Offer \$10,000 for Post Office Additional \$15,000 to Renovate

The 30-year-old post office on Acton's main thoroughfare may be transformed into a municipal building providing Crown Assets Corporation accept the town's bid of \$10,000 for the building.

Tuesday evening Acton council agreed to submit an offer of \$10,000 for the building with the understanding renovations would cost in the neighborhood of an additional \$15,000. Appraisers set a value of \$25,000 on the building.

During the meeting a letter was received from the Bank of Nova Scotia informing council the bank is interested in the purchase of the old post office with the intention of demolishing the present building and erecting a modern new bank. It was stated, however, if the town intended to submit an offer to Crown Assets, the bank would not consider it.

**Reeve Objects**  
Reeve H. H. Hinton voted against submitting an offer and objected to council investing the money. "I don't think we should consider investing the money in view of the tax increase this year and the potential tax increase for the high school addition in the near future," stressed the reeve. Mayor Les Duby told council it was a major decision in view of the need for larger space for the town administration offices and the possible tax revenue which could be gained by the town from a modern bank building. Deputy Reeve William Denny enquired where additional space

might be obtained for town offices, and stated the committee had investigated every possible channel but couldn't find a solution.

Councillor Eric Johnston enquired if the council committed that recommended the purchase of the old post office had con-

sidered including the police office at the proposed location along with other administration personnel. Councillor Hughie Lowe stated everything had been discussed thoroughly and it was the decision of the committee to obtain the building first and then decide on re-locating.

Reeve Hinton cautioned council about the expenditure and stated plans had already been discussed for demolishing the present town hall and erecting an administration building. He emphasized his objection to the investment of \$25,000 since the town could erect a building elsewhere and allow an attractive new bank building on the main thoroughfare which would bring in taxes and enhance the appearance of the street.

Mayor Duby asked the reeve if a \$25,000 expenditure for the building and renovating was exorbitant. The reeve suggested it would mean a three mill increase in the taxes. He also suggested the town had managed during the past few years in present accommodation.

Councillor J. Bert Wood asked the reeve to come up with an answer to overcoming the crowded conditions existing in the town office presently located in the Y.M.C.A. building. Councillor Wood said the committee had carefully considered every possible angle for a new location.

## High School Models In Spring Style Show

Mrs. Diane Johnston held a "Bouquet of Spring styles for the Modern Miss 1963" at the high school Tuesday afternoon. She brought 20 costumes which Acton High home economics girls modelled. These were essentially colorful, well-constructed and delightfully practical.

The program was under the direction of home economics teacher Mrs. A. J. Orr.

Barbara Symon and Linda Lingham were chairmen for the program. Joanne Lucarelli and Cathy Higgins presented thanks and flowers to Miss Johnston.

During intermission Helen Benton, accompanied by Mary Beth Elliott on the piano, entertained with a very sweet solo.

Mrs. W. F. Rogers introduced Mrs. Grischow who gave a characterization of St. Joan from the

play St. Joan by George Bernard Shaw.

"Our Own Creations" was divided into three groups, dresses commented on by Judy Duby, sports tops commented on by Elna de Bartolo, and suits and skirts commented on by Vicki Newton.

Those modelling dresses were: Barbara Gibbins, Wendy Almond, Margaret Morton, Gladys Rennie, Gail Breen, Sandra Fletcher, Lorraine Miller, Betty Cook, Cathy Higgins, Joanne Lucarelli, Pamela Gould, Jane Cooper, Betty Ramsay, Ronna Brooks, Janet Lowe, Marlene Britton, Donna West, Brenda Smith and Gail Stewart.

Those modelling sportswear were Jean Little, Kathy McKenzie, Carolynne Williamson, Lorna Macpherson, Brenda Smith, Vicki Newton and Lorraine Miller.

Deputy Reeve Denny reminded council the town might dispose of the Y.M.C.A. building to the Y. Board and have to vacate the town office.

Mayor Duby questioned Mr. Hinton regarding his proposed three mill increase if the building was purchased. The mayor

noted the high school board could impose an eight mill increase for their proposed addition and council would not have any jurisdiction over it.

"I say we should mark time right now. Everything seems to be operating all right. We would be robbing the taxpayer of taxes from a fine new bank building," stressed the Reeve. Councillor Wood replied "You are assuming the bank will not build on another location. I say we might not lose taxes as they may build elsewhere in town."

**"Stand Pat"**  
Mr. Hinton contended there were very few business people able to pay \$10,000 or \$15,000 for a building, wreck it and then erect a new building. "When the town increases in size then it is time to get a suitable building to meet our needs. I say we should stand pat for this year," emphasized Mr. Hinton.

Members discussed the crowded conditions at the town office and emphasized the need for additional space. During the discussion the reeve was of the opinion the present space was large, enough to accommodate present staff.

In conclusion, councillor Wood said the town didn't stand a ghost of a chance in enticing additional industry in view of the shortage of houses. He said a meeting has been arranged with Central Mortgage to attempt a means of financing a housing program with contract



ATTRACTIVE MODELS paraded on the stage at the high school Tuesday afternoon before an audience to show the latest designs offered by Simplicity Patterns. Left to right are Miss Dianne Johnston, fashion stylist for Simplicity Patterns, Linda Gervais modelling a two-piece suit with bolero, con dot blouse and patent leather belt with matching bracelet, Vicki Newton wearing an evening gown with a lined jacket of cotton lustré finish in a pretty print of blue and Jane Cooper who modelled a shift dress and all-weather raincoat with matching lining and carried a matching umbrella.

# The Acton Free Press

Eighty-Eighth Year.—No. 47. ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MAY 16th, 1963. "Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa." Ten Pages—Seven Cents

## Set Esquising Mill Rate Few Rates Up, Some Down

Esquising Township taxpayers get a slight reduction in their mill rates this year—some of the few communities in the district where the rate has gone down and not up. However some mill rates in the complicated schedule will go up.

Monday, councillors approved the mill rates for 1963 taxes. All township taxpayers will be responsible for the 3.24 mill residential farm rate, or 10.94 industrial-commercial rate (both down 88 mills) as well as the 5.28 county mill rate; the 16.20 residential and 18.02 industrial public school rate; and the 3.21 residential and 3.57 industrial high school debenture rate.

**General Rate**  
The general levy will raise \$80,634 this year, with the county rate adding another \$48,657, and high school debentures another \$30,194. No figure was available for the public school total.

On top of this, separate districts pay extra rates for fire protection, separate schools, high schools, and street lighting.

To the above, Acton high school adds an 11.68 residential and 12.98 industrial rate and Acton fire area requires a 2.28 mill tab. The rate will raise \$21,483 for high schools and \$3,080 for the

fire area. The high school rate is up 6.2 mills while the fire area levy is up 58 mills.

**Milton Area**  
Residents in the Milton high school area pay an extra 10.60 residential and 11.78 industrial rate (up 8.8 mills) that will raise \$34,800. They also have a 1.64 mill (up 62) fire area rate that will raise \$4,741.

Georgetown fire area residents pay an extra 1.8 mill (up 23) which will raise \$5,266, plus an 11.65 residential and 12.95 industrial rate (up 9.1 mills) for high schools that will raise \$47,842.

Milton's separate school rate is 16.20 and 18.02, the same as the public school rate. Georgetown's is 21.02 and 23.36.

Glen Williams residents add another .90 mill for street lighting, while in Norval the rate is 1.8 mills.

Council has a budget reserve fund of \$18,000, which is being used to pay accounts until the tax money comes in. The budget includes \$9,000 to be added to this fund this year.

## New Speed Limit Signs To Dot Town Approaches

Approaches to town will be dotted with new speed limit signs soon as a result of council's decision Tuesday night to follow the recommendation of the Department of Transport.

On the western boundary of Mill St. W. a sign at the town and Esquising township boundary was advised stipulating a 30-mile zone. Prior to the curve near Fairy Lake on Mill St., a 25-mile per hour sign will be posted.

On Churchill Road North, a sign will be posted above the town boundary informing motorists of the 30-mile zone, ahead and another pointing out the speed at the boundary. On Churchill Road South an advance warning sign will be posted and another indicating the 30-mile speed limit at the boundary. On Main Street North, speed zones will remain as posted at 30-mile per hour.

**Two New Employees**  
Council hired Don Swackhammer and Matt Johnson for the town work force. Approved for payment was an account for town superintendent Alf Duby amounting to \$51.25 for expense incurred while attending the O.W.R.C. course in Toronto.

Clerk Jack McGeachie was authorized to attend the clerks' and

finance officers' convention at Honey Harbour, June 17, 18 and 19. Following a recommendation from council committee, parking meters were ruled out for Acton at the present time.

Council agreed not to oppose the application from Masales Dairy for an extension to their buildings and another from Henry Bittorf for an extension to his verandah. Both applications will be heard Monday evening during a committee of adjustment meeting.

Ed Fournier representing the Y.S. Men's Club requested council's cooperation in posting "no parking" signs on June 15 during the club's regatta.

Approval was given the L.O.I. to hold a parade Saturday, July 13, in Acton.

Accounts totalling \$16,882.93 were approved for payments.

**Five Baptized**  
Baptized at Acton United Church on Mother's Day were Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Marshall, Karen and Linda, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. S. Gunn, Tracy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Robinson; and Calvin, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. Hemley.

## Water Pressure Increase Alarms Many Residents

Concern of many residents regarding gradually increasing water pressure throughout town was discussed by council Tuesday evening and many members agreed the cause for alarm has been over-emphasized.

Councillor Eric Johnston enquired who had authorized the wording of the letter sent out by the town to residents warning everyone of the increased pressure. He was told by Mayor Les Duby the sewer and water committee had agreed it was their responsibility to notify the public of the increased pressure and decided to send out letters. He stated it was a measure of cautioning residents in the event plumbing complications resulted.

**Little Cause for Alarm**  
Reeve H. H. Hinton said he believed a lot of people were frightened of the proposed 25 pound pressure and were ordering pressure control valves from the plumbers. He stated it was his opinion there was little cause for alarm. Councillor Alex Johnston was of the same opinion.

The mayor told members a number of residents thought the higher water pressure would reduce their insurance rates and he was told by deputy reeve William Denny and councillor J.

Bert Wood, both insurance agents, residential rates would not be affected, only industrial. They did state, however, fire insurance rates would possibly be affected.

Mr. Duby explained the re-servoir had been turned in during the winter and at this time council agreed to install two pressure control valves for Churchill Road and Main St. N. in the event breaks occurred. Recently the pressure had been increased gradually because frost was out of the ground and if repairs were necessary they could be accomplished much easier. He was of the opinion the control valves now in use should be maintained rather than have the service side open as recommended by the Canadian Underwriters this week.

The mayor informed council of the various increased pressures throughout town, an approximate 12 pound increase from last week. He said the pressure in Milton is around 100 pounds and at the time it had been increased to this there had only been one minor break on services.

two or three minor breaks on services.

Clerk McGeachie explained the Canadian Underwriters had visited Acton and taken tests of the pressure during the winter months and spent last week here re-testing after the pressure increased.

It was the opinion of the Underwriters that the pressure in the main business section was still low and they recommended the valves be opened wide in order to raise this pressure. It was explained the Underwriters' rating for insurance was based on actual pressure at the fire hydrants.

**Tests Made**  
The following are the pressures when tests were made in various sections of town after valves were opened wider last week: Lakeview 56 to 58 pounds with the exception of Tidy Ave. which is 63. Lakeview at No. 7 highway 61. Park and Cameron Ave. 60. Cook St. 43. Church St. 60. Lower Wilbow St. 40. Upper Agnes St. 53. Crescent St. 51. Hotel St. 57. Porter and Micro 40.42. Arthur St. 46. Previous pressure in these areas was increased by 12 pounds.

## Contaminated South Spring Water To be Sold to Beardmore Company

Acton's south spring water supply, classified three years ago by the Department of Health as "unfit for human consumption," will be used by Beardmore and Company in processing leather.

Tuesday evening, council instructed the clerk to prepare an agreement with the company for use of the water. Terms of the agreement were recommended by the Ontario Water Resources Commission and discussed previously by the sewer and water committee of council as well as the O.W.R.C. and Beardmore officials. After the agreement is prepared it will be presented to council for approval.

**Conditions**  
Under conditions of the proposed agreement, Beardmore and Company will guarantee the town an annual payment of \$34,000 for water over a period of five years. The company will also lend money to install necessary equipment and lines to pump the water to their plant. No interest will be charged on this loan. Until this money has been repaid, the company will not be billed for water used. If the company uses over 60,000,000 gallons of water a year, they will pay an additional charge of nine cents

per 1,000 gallons used.

It was estimated by council members use of water in return for installation of equipment would wipe out the cost in a little over a year. At the end of the five year period, Beardmore and Company will be given an option to renew their agreement.

During the discussion, councillor Hugh Lowe suggested it was admirable to sell water which cannot be used but if the town sells water to one industry all should be considered. He was informed the cost involved to service other industries would be prohibitive but Beardmore Co. is located close to the south spring.

**Another Water Source**  
Mr. Lowe said "This was a very valuable source of drinking water to the town before it became contaminated and council should pursue the O.W.R.C. to have it cleared up. In the event the well ran out, the town would be without a source of water supply." Mr. Lowe also claimed the O.W.R.C. had stated previously if the Beardmore spraying system near the water supply was moved away, the contamination might clear up. "We have no way of knowing as the spraying is continuing," he stressed.

Councillor Eric Johnston said any reports from the O.W.R.C. he read did not state contamination but stressed the excess salt content. "Contamination is a nasty word," he added. He also stated Beardmore and Company was a major taxpayer who demanded very little from the town and they required the water in order to produce leather at a competitive price on the market.

**More Than Half Way**  
Mayor Les Duby explained that council last year had taken the necessary steps to sell the water and this year had met with the company under the direction of the O.W.R.C. "After several meetings with the committee and the company, Beardmore's have met us more than half way and everyone feels satisfied," he said.

Councillor Lowe wondered if the committee in favor of the sale of water would request Beardmore and Company to remove the spraying system from near town to take the stench away.

in Glenka where a number of complaints are from and in the past three years I have only noticed the odor twice."

"The residents in the lower area of Glenka get the odor pretty bad," Mr. Lowe said. He explained his request was to move the spraying away from the town and give the spring a chance to recover.

Reeve H. Hinton said he was not in favor of giving Beardmore an opportunity to renew the agreement in five years with both parties should negotiate after five years.

Mr. Duby told members he is in favor of selling water, not giving it away.

**Related to Spraying**  
As the conversations swung back to contamination of the water, Eric Johnston said he could not find any record of salt content in the water prior to council's request to the O.W.R.C. Councillor Lowe charged the problem began as soon as Beardmore and Company began spraying near the spring.

Clerk Jack McGeachie informed Mr. Johnston the O.W.R.C. records indicated a drop of half the B.D.U. content when the complaints (Continued on Page Six)



MAIN ATTRACTION for the children Saturday afternoon at the A. Z. Bennett Home and Trip Association fun fair were three frolicking clowns. The trio arrived in a small sports car and were greeted at the entrance to the school by a horde of children. Seated behind the wheel is Bob Louwer while his comical partners in the back are Bill Taylor and Sam Brunelle. Some booths were sold out shortly after noon as a large crowd of parents and kiddies made purchases both morning and afternoon.