Fifty Years of Progress in History of Fall Fair

(Continued from Page Three)

The year 1929, past president L. O. Johnston became a director and has now served 33 years.

The new arena was completed in 1930. The grandstand and booth were moved across to the north-west side of the park. The new stone park gates were erected. The first official opening Acton fair had since its inception was in 1930 by His Honour Lieutenant Governor Ross.

Receipts of the 1930 fair were $3,641.92. Expenses were $3,507.57.

New cattle ties were built and poultry shown in the drill hall. President Christie of the Ontario Agricultural College opened the fair for 1931.

The year 1932, past president R. L. Davidson became a director and has served 31 years. The Hon. J. B. Fairborin, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, opened the fair. Arena performance drew 1,400 people. R. J. Kerr became the first field superintendent.

A new feature of the 1933 fair was the amplifier system on the grounds with its four large horns. The wood chopping contest was won by Mr. William Ritchie. Boys' race under 16 was won by Norman Anderson, George Riddell; over 16, Robert Marshall, Stuart Lantz.

The Hon. Duncan Marshall, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, opened the 1934 fair. First year prize to a person attending the greatest distance was to Miss Mary Cumming, 61 Braemore Place, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Past president Arthur Swackhamer became a director in 1935 and has 28 years' service. The first fall fair dance was held Wednesday night in the Acton Town Hall.

The 1936 and 1937 fairs were down in attendance because of the prevalence of infantile paralysis.

In 1938, the society named associate directors for the first time. R. J. Kerr honored the society by becoming president of Ontario Fairs. The Hon. P. W. Dewon, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, opened the fair. Forty-two babies competed in the baby show. A large historical exhibit was on display. Fireworks were held the second night of the fair.

In 1939, large photos of the Royal visit on display were made available by the Toronto Daily Star. President Walter Linham became an associate director, with 24 years' service.

Fred Wright, after eight years as secretary-treasurer, resigned in 1940. Acton Y girls, led by Miss Helen Ostrander, and West End Y.M.C.A., gave a fine presentation.

E. Thetford was appointed secretary-treasurer, with the salary increased from $125 to $150. In 1941, the fair had the largest midway, Empire Shows, and for the first time, operated on Tuesday evening. Colonel A. O. T. Beardmore opened the fair.

For the first time in Acton's history, the fair was held on Friday and Saturday in 1942, the reason being that Orangeville was having a fair the same Tuesday and Wednesday each year. Acton branch of the Legion had entire charge of the midway. There was a parade of army and school children.

The 1943 fair showed a balance of $593.26 and the directors voted unanimously that $400.00 of this amount be invested in the Second Victory Loan and the secretary was instructed to make application for the first bonds to be issued in Acton. C. B. Swackhamer became the new secretary-treasurer after serving one half of 1942.

The year 1943, the arena was not available. The show went on in front of the grandstand. A war exhibition ferris wheel was at the 1943 fair. 500 to 600 people attended the Saturday dance.

The 1944 fall fair dance set a record: $232.25 was taken in at the door, while the gate receipts were $1,063.50. Past president Ab Robinson became an associate director and has now served 19 years.

The first peace-time fair in six years, the 1945 fair had 5,000 people. There were two dances held. Mr. J. E. Whitelock, agricultural representative, opened the fair. A major expenditure of $300.00 for levelling the park and erecting new cattle ties and laying of water pipes to cattle took place before the 1946 fair. The arena show featured box lacrosse.

There was an 85 pound pumpkin grown by R. J. Chandler. Mr. J. E. Whitelock, agricultural representative, opened the fair for the second year in a row. 8,000 people attended. The attendance was down 100 people in 1947, mainly because the fair was held in October. In 1948, past president Mac Sprowl became an associate director. He has served 15 years. A feature of the 1949 fair was the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band. C. D. Graham, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, opened this fair.

In 1950, a pie eating contest was won by Joe Jam over nine boys in one minute and 24 seconds.

The heaviest rain since 1913 practically made it impossible to carry out the 1951 Acton Fair. The attendance was only 2,500 people. A new feature, donkey baseball, was introduced when the town played against the country.

In 1952, J. A. Carroll, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, opened the fair. President Calvin Aitken became an associate director and has now served 11 years.

In 1953, the grandstand was rebuilt and painted white with green trim, the cattle ties were moved and put up at the west end of the park. A square dancing competition was held for the first time. Friday evening receipts were $650.00; dance receipts $171.00.

Mr. J. E. Whitelock, agricultural representative, opened the fair. Past president Smith Griffin, Lloyd McEnery and William Thompson became associate directors. These three past presidents have served 10 years.

Mrs. Irene Swackhamer became secretary-treasurer. Ray Everdell, at the age of 22, became the youngest president in the history of Acton fair. In 1954, two years terms for presidents was started. The same year, new hog pens were built. Mr. Stanley Hall, M.P.P., opened 1955 fair. Past president Nino Braida became an associate director in 1954 and has now served for nine years.

Ninety contestants entered the Central Canada Junior Pumpkin Championship in 1956. Some entered from the U.S.A. Beth McEnery, 16-year-old queen, was named. Mr. W. D. Black, agricultural representative from Wellington county, opened the fair. John Pickett from Hornby won the Junior Pumpkin Championship in 1957. Mr. Sandy Best, M.P., opened the fair.

1958 was the first year that a separate ladies' division was organized, giving the ladies a special identity. First president was Mrs. R. L. McEnery and the secretary-treasurer was Mrs. Ralph Denny.

At the 1958, 1959 and 1960 fairs, the society had the services of the Acton Firemen for parking cars and the Rotary Club of Acton as gatekeepers.

The year 1961, His Honour Judge George E. Elliott opened the fair. A new feature was introduced at the 1962 fair, a $100.00 cash draw.

The 1963 fair will have for the first time, a brother and sister combination as president and secretary-treasurer, Calvin Aitken and Mrs. Irene Swackhamer.

During the past 25 years, agricultural diplomas have been presented to directors of the society for meritorious service for agriculture. The following men have received them: C. Woodhall 1939, R. J. Kerr 1940, D. D. Waldie 1948, Charles McKeown 1950, Wesley Murray 1952, Arthur Swackhamer 1957, R. L. Davidson 1958, J. A. Robinson 1959, Dr. Frank Oakes 1960, G. A. Dills 1961, J. A. Marin 1962.

The year 1962, life membership pins were given to J. A. Swackhamer, D. D. Waldie, Charles McKeown, Robert Kerr, S. E. Griffin, G. A. Dills, A. B. McLean, W. J. L. Hampshire.

S. E. Griffin, Robert Kerr Sr. and the late J. E. Pearen, all of Erin Township, were exhibitors for almost 50 years.

As we look back over the past 50 years we realize that we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to officers and members of the early fairs. It was a pioneer venture and only through their unselfish devotion to the cause has the splendid organization of today been made possible.

In conclusion, it is realized this is far from being a complete record of the history of Acton fair. The Agricultural Society knows that you will appreciate the difficulties encountered when preparing a 50 year history.

Acton fair has carried on through wartime, depression and rainy fair days. It is the hope of the Agricultural Society that this history will be of interest to all who read it.

CONSISTENT WINNER in the domestic contests at Acton Fall Fair, Mrs. Norman Robertson is shown with her 1952 exhibit of baking.

CONGRATULATIONS
AND
BEST WISHES
TO THE
ACTON FALL FAIR BOARD
ON THEIR
50th Anniversary
— FROM —
JACK McCALLUM'S
TEXACO SERVICE STATION
Corner Mill St. E. and Young Acton, Ont. 853-1500

SINCEREST
CONGRATULATIONS
and BEST WISHES
To the Officers and Directors of the Acton Fall Fair Board on the Occasion of Their
50TH ANNIVERSARY
1913 — 1963
from
Acton Bowling Lanes
30 MAIN ST. N. ACTON 853-0170

Biographies of Fair Presidents, Secretaries

(Continued from Page Eight)

parents of two daughters. Mr. Symon was elected President of Acton Fair in 1941 and has served for many years on the Field Committee.

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1942
GEORGE R. SOMERVILLE
Born 1893 - Died 1956

George Somerville was born in 1893 on the Somerville Homestead at the Town Line of Nassagaweya and Esquesing Township. He spent his entire life on the farm. Following his marriage in 1924 to Miss Olla B. Armstrong, he farmed 21 years on what is known as the Beardmore farm adjoining Acton. In 1946 he purchased the Archie T. Mann farm east of Acton on No. 7 High. was Mr. Somerville was elected President of Acton Fair in 1942 and was a director for many years. He was President of the Acton Milk Producers Association. He served as a director of the Ontario Milk Producers Association. For some years he served as a member of the Esquesing Township Planning Board. He was a member of Walker Lodge A.F. & A.M. Mr. Somerville was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton and served on the Board of Managers. Mr. and Mrs. Somerville were the parents of two sons and three daughters.

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1943
ROBERT W. LOWRIE
Born 1866 - Died 1962

Robert Lowrie was born in 1866 at Cadaton, near Cardiff, South Wales. He attended school in Wales and England. In the early years, Mr. Lowrie farmed at Lot 32 Esquesing and Lot 1 Erin Townships for 15 years. He lived in Acton 24 years and the last seven years with his daughter in Streetsville. He was keenly interested in sports particularly hockey. Mr. Lowrie was noted as a judge of horses, especially heavy horses, Clydesdales, both in Canada and Wales. In 1943 he was elected President of Acton Fair. He was active in the work of St. Alban's Church, Acton and during the second World War was closely connected with the salvage drive. In 1894 he married the former Elizabeth Yorath and they came to Canada in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Lowrie were the parents of three children, a son and two daughters.

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1944
R. L. DAVIDSON

R. L. Davidson was born in 1896 at Lot 31, Con. 3, Second Line, north of Acton, Esquesing Township. He attended Lorne School S.S. No. 12 as a youth. Mr. Davidson farmed on the Second Line until 1939, moving to the present farm on the Third Line, where he lives. In early years, he was leader of the Acton Jr. Farmers. He was a member of the local United Farmers Organization at Acton. Mr. Davidson is a Past President, serving two year terms with both the Esquesing Township and Halton County Federation of Agriculture. Since 1956 he has been a member of the Esquesing Township Planning Board. In the early years he was Trustee and Secretary-Treasurer of Lorne School S.S. No. 12 and from 1948 to 1956 a trustee in School Area No. 1 Esquesing Township. Mr. Davidson is a member of the Acton Milk Shippers Association. In 1944 he was elected President of Acton Fair and the past 18 years has been Superintendent of the Hall. He is a member of Knox Presbyterian Church and served on the Board of Managers. He married the former Margaret McArthur in 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are the parents of one son.

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1945
DR. F. G. OAKES

Dr. Frank G. Oakes was born in 1912 in Johnville, Province of Quebec in the Eastern Townships. He attended public school in that province before moving to Lot 14, Second Line of Eramosa Township at the age of 11 years. Dr. Oakes completed Public School at S.S. No. 2 Eramosa. He attended the Guelph Collegiate and the Ontario Veterinary College graduating in 1934. He immediately went into general practice at Milverton, Ontario, later moving to Acton in 1936, taking up residence on Knox Avenue where he presently resides. From 1939 to 1952 he was a member of the Acton Public School Board serving four years as Chairman. In 1953 he served on the Acton Council in the capacity of Mayor. From 1954 to 1961 he was a member of the Acton Public Utilities Commission and Hydro Commission acting as Chairman three years. Dr. Oakes was the first President of the Acton Chamber of Commerce. He was a Charter Member and a director of the Rotary Club of Acton. For the past 20 years he has been a member of the Advisory Board of St. Albans Anglican Church, Acton. He was elected President of Acton Fair in 1945 coming on the Board in 1940. In 1960 the Acton Agricultural Society awarded him a Certificate for Meritorious Service for Agriculture. Dr. Oakes married the former Margaret E. (Betty) Bingham. Dr. and Mrs. Oakes are the parents of four children.

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1946
J. ARTHUR SWACKHAMER

Arthur Swackhamer was born in 1884 at Lot 32 Esquesing Township and lived on the Swackhamer farm until 1908. Mr. Swackhamer served on the Erin Township Council 15 years as Councillor, Deputy-Reeve and Reeve. In 1946 he was elected President of Acton Fair, coming on the Board in 1935. He acted as superintendent of the field for many years. A life long member of the Churchill United Church he was Sunday School superintendent 35 years and is at the moment an honorary elder. In 1907 he married the former Ina Denny. Mr. and Mrs. Swackhamer are the parents of five children. In 1957, the Acton Agricultural Society awarded him a Certificate for Meritorious Service to Agriculture.

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1947
HOWARD J. SWITZER

Howard Switzer was born at Norval in 1913. He attended Lorne and Acton Public School, also Acton Continuation School. For quite a number of years, he was a member of the Acton Junior Farmers and served as President in 1943. When Mr. Switzer farmed at Acton he was a member of the Acton Milk Producers Association. In 1948 he purchased the C. R. McKinnon 150 acre farm, Lot 23, Concession 4, Erin Township. Howard is a member of the Acton Rifle Club and the past four years the Hillsburgh Curling Club. A member of the Hillsburgh United Church he is a member of the Board of Stewards. He married the former Donalda McPhail in 1943. Mr. and Mrs. Stwitzer are the parents of two boys. In 1947 he was elected President of Acton Fair.

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1948
ELWOOD JOHNSTON

Elwood Johnston was born in 1918, at Lot 2, Concession 2, the Second Line, Erin Township. In his youth he attended Lorne Public School and Acton Continuation School. In his early life he attended the Acton Short Courses. For many years Mr. Johnston belonged to the Acton Junior Farmers and served two years as President. He is a Past President of the Acton Milk Producers Association. At the present time he is employed at the Ford plant at Oakville. He is a member of Trinity United Church, Acton. He is married to the former Molly Cutts. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston are the parents of four children. In 1948, he was elected President of Acton Fair.

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1949
J. A. ROBINSON

Albert Robinson was born near Milton in Trafalgar Township in 1899. He lived in Drumquin and Hornby in his early life. Mr. Robinson attended Coyne and Hornby Public Schools. Before coming to Acton in 1929 he farmed. Since 1929 he has been employed with the Acton Creamery. In 1949 he was elected President of Acton Fair and has served a number of years as assistant superintendent. In 1959 Acton Agricultural Society awarded him a Agricultural Service Diploma for Meritorious Service to Agriculture. He is a member of Knox Presbyterian Church. A member of the choir and envelope secretary he has served on the Board of Managers. He was a former member of the Hornby Loyal Orange Lodge. He married the former Gladys Dengis in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have one son.

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1950
WALTER LINHAM

Walter Linham was born in the County of Gloucestershire, England in 1896. He was educated attended public school at Stewarttown, Lorne and Acton. Mr. Linham in his early life lived on farms near Norval and at Lot 32, Concession 2 on the Eastern Line of Esquesing Township. From 1927 to 1951 he farmed on the Third Line, Lot 25, Concession 3 and the past 12 years on the Fifth Line, Lot 23, Concession 5. In the early years he attended the Acton Short Courses. He took part in many livestock and seed judging competitions. An early member of the Acton Junior Farmers he was President in 1932 and 1933. He was County President of the Halton Junior Farmers in 1936. Mr. Linham served as a Public School Trustee at Dublin School and later as a School Area Trustee when the School Area was formed. In Municipal Affairs he has served on the Esquesing Township Council since 1949 as Councillor, Deputy Reeve and was Reeve in 1956. He was elected President of Acton Fair in 1950 and has served as a director 24 years. He married the former Ruth Longstreet in 1939. Mr. and Mrs. Linham are the parents of three children.

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1951
R. R. PARKER

Robert Parker was born in Stirling, Ontario in 1901. He attended public school in Stirling, High School in Bowmanville and the University of Toronto graduating in 1922. Mr. Parker in his early life worked as a chemical engineer. This took him to Toronto, Hamilton, Deloro, Windsor, St. Catharines and New York.

In 1945 Mr. Parker came to Acton and was employed with the Beardmore Company. For some years he was general superintendent of the plant and is now Vice President of the Company. In organizations he has served on the Parks Board and was Chairman several years. He was a member of the Y.M.C.A. executive. He served on the Hockey and School Association. Mr. Parker was a member of the Rotary Club of Acton. A representative from Acton on the Conservation Authority he is chairman of the Flood Control and Pollution Advisory Board. A member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton he serves as an Elder. In 1917 he married the former Mary Frances Shillington. Mr. and Mrs. Parker are the parents of a married daughter.

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1952
GEORGE C. WALLACE

George Wallace was born in Nassagaweya Township Lot 14 in 1909. He attended public school at Pingstone, S.S. No. 7 Nassagaweya. He farmed in that township until 1929. For a short period he was engaged in the construction business in Hamilton.

In 1940 Mr. Wallace moved to Erin Township purchasing [illegible] acres on Lot 5 Concession [illegible]. He was elected to the Erin Township Council in 1948 serving in 1954 as Councillor, Deputy-Reeve 1955 to 1958, Reeve 1959-1961. In 1961 he was elected Warden of Wellington County. He is a member of the Grand Valley Conservation Authority. At the present time, he is a Public School Trustee on the School Area Board in Erin Township. He was elected President of Acton Fair in 1952. Mr. Wallace is a member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton and is on the Board of Managers. He is married to the former Emily Young of Erin Township. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace have one son.

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1953
MAC SPROWL

Mac Sprowl was born at Lot 26 Concession 4, third line of Esquesing Township in 1927. He attended Bannockburn Public School and Acton Continuation School. Some years later he studied Agriculture at Cambridge

(Continued on Page Ten)

Banners, Arch

Welcoming banners at two entrances to town and the archway over the fair gates announce the anniversary fair. The banners were arranged by the ladies' board and the gate arch by a committee under Jack Marshall.

BEST WISHES
TO THE
ACTON FALL FAIR BOARD
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR
50th ANNIVERSARY
1913 — 1963
FROM
THE HOLLAND SHOP
71 Mill St. E. Acton 853-0950

On the occasion of the
50th ANNIVERSARY
of the
ACTON FALL FAIR
1913 - 1963
Mayor Leslie A. Duby and Members of Acton Town Council
join in offering sincerest congratulations and best wishes to the Officers and Directors of the Acton Fair Board, past and present, on this happy occasion.