

The Acton Free Press

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Nominations To - Night - Council, Boards Report

84 Years Old

Correspondent "Dean" Richard Harris To Retire After 39 Years Service

A prominent citizen of the village of Rockwood for the past 84 years, Richard Harris has made his mark in the hearts of residents with his cheery attitude, keen sense of humor and willingness to help others. He will be leaving the end of the month to take up residence in the Toronto area.

The octogenarian who lives alone in his home on Valley Road has devoted much of his life to helping others and boosting the village.

Born in Rockwood April 24, 1879, he attended Pickering College and later took a course at Guelph O.A.C. before farming near Brantford for nine years from 1903 until 1912. He still goes back to the O.A.C. for class reunions.

When he returned to the village, he worked as a teamster at his father's woolen mills on River Road and recalls many incidents with his team.

Since December 1924, Mr. Harris has been a devoted correspondent for the Acton Free Press, starting when the late H. P. Moore was owner and publisher. Many times during these years he pedaled his bicycle to town to deliver the news on time and in recent years often journeys by bus to visit the Free Press office and bring his news.

He still types his news and double-checks each line for clarity to help the linotype operators, to whom he's a familiar figure in the plant. His interest in this work has been a credit to both himself and the village.

He is also an ardent and talented amateur photographer. Two years ago many of his photographs appeared at Acton fall fair.

Church Work
In March, 1931, he became caretaker for both Rockwood

Presbyterian and Anglican churches and has been a faithful and unflagging worker. During this period of time he has met many ministers and rectors and has been held in highest esteem by all. He also looked after the bowling greens.

Most residents in the village could set their clocks by his punctuality in picking up his mail and doing his shopping chores. He rises shortly after 7 a.m. each morning and follows a regular routine throughout the day.

He is an ardent reader and

keeps up with current events with his daily reading. He still enjoys travelling and visiting relatives. He reads the Bible faithfully and is a firm believer in it.

Although he is leaving his home town after 84 years, he will always be remembered. Any time he visits Rockwood, he will have a place to go and friends to greet.

The Free Press staff joins with his numerous other friends in wishing Mr. Harris the best of health and happiness at his new home.



RICHARD HARRIS, ROCKWOOD

Squirt Boom on Commission Mind As Equipment Problem Renewed

Hydro commissioners almost made a decision on which type of aerial equipment to buy Thursday evening, November 14, when the demonstration of a "squirt boom" was reviewed. This demonstration was the latest in a series of equipment demonstrations.

Commissioner Gord McCutcheon and Mayor Les Duhv informed the commission the manufacturer stated the boom could be mounted on the present Fargo truck at an approximate cost of \$12,000. This equipment, according to the company representative, is estimated to do 90 per cent hydro jobs.

Previously the commission discussed aerial buckets ranging in price from \$14,000 to \$29,000 and aerial ladders in the neighborhood of \$8,000.

Commissioner Gord Beatty,

who has opposed purchase of an articulating (telescoping) device but pressed for purchase of an aerial ladder, agreed to give further study to the latest proposal before making a decision.

Commissioners Ray Arbie and G. McCutcheon were almost prepared to decide at the meeting in favor of the squirt boom.

Low Voltage
A casual question from commissioner Arbie to superintendent Doug Mason regarding a low voltage problem sparked a lengthy discussion. The commissioner posed his query following a series of low voltage complaints two weeks ago and wondered if there had been any reoccurrence of the problem.

He informed the commission the elevator at Acton Industrial Centre had acted up and it was believed the low voltage was

the problem. Mr. Mason stated two motors had burned out at Beardmore and Co. believed due to the low voltage.

The superintendent stated he had notified Ontario Hydro of the problem and then boosted the voltage locally in order to correct the situation. He said the trouble appeared to be at the Rockwood relay station and was of the opinion the capacitor was no longer adequate to handle the load.

Increase Voltage
Commissioner Arbie first became aware of the voltage problem when the elevator trouble occurred recently and he thought the superintendent had done what was right in increasing the voltage.

Commissioner Beatty was of the opinion the commission

"Financial Picture Good" Chairman Forecasts Surplus

"All phases are within the budget. I think on the whole we will be in a good financial position at the end of the year," reported Finance Chairman Bert Wood at Tuesday's Council meeting. In presenting figures from the auditor's report on operations to October 31, Mr. Wood forecast a surplus of \$262.27 at the end of 1963. Not counted in the surplus is an additional \$3,600 budgeted for bridge construction but not expended due to delays in engineering on the project.

Commenting on features of the report, Mr. Wood said, "We may save on the Planning Board; truck operation is over; the roller should have been listed under sidewalks; roads show a surplus of \$13,000 which will be cut down in the next two months."

Mr. Wood explained the deficit in the water department would be down to \$8,000 or \$10,000. A deficit of \$15,000 had been provided for in the budget. "We have pumped more water this year than ever before, 115,000,000 gallons. Consumption was 85,000,000 gallons up 20,000,000 gallons over 1962. This accounts for some of the decrease in the deficit."

Present water rates would have allowed a break-even operation in the Water Department except that debenture costs for the new reservoir are \$15,000 per year, approximately the amount budgeted for as a deficit.

Suggests Rate Increase
Mr. Wood suggested that a 5c per thousand gallon increase in all water rates would wipe out the annual deficit in the water department. He pointed out this would increase the annual cost of water to the consumer by \$2 to \$3 per year and would reduce the annual deficit in the water department by 2-3 mills. He suggested "all water users would be helping to pay off our debentures not just property owners."

Copies of the complete auditor's report are to be available at the nomination meeting tonight.

Accepts Tender
Council accepted the \$10,992.52 tender of Cleanway Construction of Toronto, subject to two conditions, for the installation of water mains necessary to serve Beardmore and Company with water from the Main Street South spring. The first condition is the approval of the tender by the town's engineer consultant, Reeve Hinton objected to the terms and voted against it on the ground that engineer's approval and an agreement with the company should be signed before the construction tender is accepted.

Voting for the resolution were Deputy Reeve Denny, Councillors Wood, Peal, A. Johnson and Lewis. Councillor E. Johnston declared a possible conflict of interest and did not vote. Mayor Duhv asked for and received permission not to vote.

At the request of J. Gov council approved the recommendation of the committee and passed the following resolution:

"Whereas the council of the Town of Acton are endeavoring to improve the service facilities for the commercial and industrial establishments within this municipality;

And whereas the municipality does not have certain highway transport services presently available;

Now therefore be it resolved: that the council of the Town of Acton authorize the Mayor and Clerk-Administrator to support an application before the Ontario Highway Transport Board for a Class "A" Public Commercial Vehicle License, with a basis of operations located within the municipality of the Town of Acton."

Application will be made to the Department of Health to have the recently acquired property north of the present cemetery and south of Cobble Hill Rd. designated as cemetery land. The property is 97' x 256' and contains 5.26 acres. Grading and leveling of the site was completed last Saturday morning. Accounts totalling \$8,174.21 were approved for payment.

Wm. Denny agreed to act as one of Acton's representatives on the County Centennial Committee. A second representative will be named at a later date.

School Addition
No. 1 committee reported on their discussions with Solicitor C. F. Leatherland and M.P.P. George Kerr on the construction and financing of the High School addition. The committee recommended that application be made to the province for financing under the Municipal Loan Fund. Under this fund, the municipality would finance 1/3 of the cost on the open market, 2/3 of the cost would be financed by the Provincial and Federal governments. If the project is completed by March 31, 1966, 25% of the cost would be absorbed by

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Dedication Sunday At Three Churches

Effects of the Partnership in the Gospel program are expected to remain long in the three participating churches and the committing of time and talent will undoubtedly enrich the congregations.

At St. Alban's 43 men and women will continue to meet as a group for training instruction, beginning Sunday evening. The congregational meetings created a demand for more which will undoubtedly be held. The Rev. D. H. West termed the turnout at meetings "truly magnificent."

Knox Dinner
Last Thursday 135 adults, 13 children under eight and 25 between 8 and 12 attended the congregational dinner, catered by Churchill U.C.W., and the general meeting which preceded dedication Sunday. Chairman Lorne Doherty, Vic. Patrick and Charles Kirkness spoke and the Rev. A. H. McKenzie conducted a worship service. Teams of visitors went to homes Sunday afternoon to contact other members and adherents of the congregation.

Cottage Meetings
It was dedication Sunday at the United Church as well when the Rev. Dwight Engel spoke on the partnership program. He reported on the cottage meetings held by elders; some had been excellent and all had been good. Anyone who left the church's door as a result of the plan, was only financial must indeed be badly oriented, he said.

Pilgrimage Virgin Statue Visits St. Joseph's Parish

Monday and Tuesday marked the official visit of the Pilgrimage Virgin Statue to St. Joseph's Parish, Acton.

A large cavalcade of cars met the "Ave Maria" van, which carries the Pilgrimage, at Rockwood and proceeded to St. Joseph's Church, Acton, arriving at 7:30 p.m. Monday, escorted by the Acton Provincial Police cruiser.

The statue was carried in on the shoulders of Louis Wasowicz, Desmond O'Rourke, David Gordon and Harley Cole, preceded by the altar boys carrying the Processional Crucifix and acolyte candles. Little Pauline Wasowicz, dressed in her white First Communion attire, carried Our Lady's Crown, which rested on a beautiful cushion, followed by little Danny McGiloway, who carried the Rosary of Our Lady, also on a beautiful cushion. Father Morgan, the pastor, crowned the Statue of Our Lady.

Visitations at Fatima
Father Moore was graciously welcomed by Father Morgan in his own name and that of the parishioners of St. Joseph's, and spoke briefly of the importance

of this visitation as an occasion of special grace and "blessings, to both the parish and the town of Acton.

Father Moore explained in his sermon, the reasons for the actual visitations at Fatima, Portugal, of the Mother of Jesus, and petitions for the family Rosary prayer, which she requested in her six apparitions in 1917.

The children's choir, under the direction of Miss Mulholland and of "Fatima" hymns during the procession and the crowning, and other hymns to Our Lady during the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Cavalcade to Georgetown
The Pilgrimage Virgin Statue departed for Georgetown on Tuesday evening at 7 p.m., accompanied by a cavalcade of cars, preceded by the Acton Provincial Police cruiser, which was met by another motorcade from Georgetown at Silvercreek and all were conducted to Holy Cross parish, Georgetown, where the Marian Hour of Prayer was held.

The men of St. Joseph's parish, Acton, who carried the Statue of Our Lady out of

church Tuesday evening were Ezio Marzo, Leo Sennott, Frank Marlot and John Weldon. The same children, Pauline and Danny, carried the crown and rosary.

Third Tour
Rev. Patrick Moore, S.F.M., began his third tour of the Hamilton diocese on Thursday, September 12, with the Pilgrimage Virgin Statue, giving an important message for peace in the world.

Father Moore has twice toured the world since his last visit to Acton seven years ago. He has been travelling with this statue on this unique mission and has covered over 400,000 miles by land, sea and air, since May, 1948, and has preached to thousands via loud speakers, radio and pulpit.

The Pilgrimage Virgin Statue, which has favored St. Joseph's parishioners with another visit, was carved in Portugal and received at Fatima, May 13, 1948, by Father Moore. Since that time, this Pilgrimage Statue has been carried uncovered by Father Moore completely around the world on two occasions as a symbol of peace and everywhere there have been evident graces.

Fire Destroys 100-Year-Old House \$30,000 Renovations Just Completed

A 100-year-old farm home was completely gutted by fire Friday afternoon as owner Harold Savage, R.R. 1, Moffat, sadly paced around the fine stone building while Acton firefighters poured water on the blaze for five hours. The interior and contents of the home were completely burned out and only the stone walls remain.

The fire of unknown origin was first noticed when Mr. Savage, who had been grading the driveway, decided to return to the house to make a sandwich for lunch. As he opened the door he was met by a wall of flames and dense smoke. Unable to use one of five phones in the home to alert firefighters, he raced to a nearby neighbor's only to find no one home and the house locked. By the time he reached a second neighbor's and phoned in the alarm, the fire had gained another half hour head start.

Recently the Savages spent \$30,000 on renovations of the building which had wall-to-wall broadband throughout.

Dense smoke, which poured from the broken windows drove firefighters back time and time again. The smoke was caused by foam rubber underlay under the carpets. As he worked under the packs to take hoses in the shattered doors.

Mr. Savage, who was shop

ping in Guelph at the time the fire broke out, broke down and wept on her return home and was taken to a nearby neighbor's. Their daughter, Susan, was attending business college in Guelph. Two pet hounds had been let out for a run two hours before the fire was noticed and on their return home sat and bayed at the front of the home until comforted by Mr. Savage.

Personal belongings, souvenirs from visits to Jamaica, valuable attending business college in Guelph. Two pet hounds had been let out for a run two hours before the fire was noticed and on their return home sat and bayed at the front of the home until comforted by Mr. Savage.

House burst out the front door to briefly engulf the stone over the hotel engraved with the year the house was built, 1863.

Among the many who came to see the house on the weekend was a gentleman who had been brought up there as a lad. The entire large house was in use then, too, with a stone wing and large family kitchen back of the two-storey front part.

Firemen's efforts saved the walls from cracking and prevented sparks flying to the fine barn and outbuilding. Mr. Savage said, "I'll fix it up again," standing in the cold in a hunting jacket and torn overalls — by then the only clothing he owned.

Fire
Before packing up hoses and equipment shortly after 6 p.m. firefighters pumped out the



\$30,000 IN RENOVATIONS, valuable furniture and keepsakes went up in flames Friday afternoon when fire engulfed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Savage, R.R. 1, Moffat. The 100-year-old home was completely gutted with only the walls left standing. Acton firefighters fought the blaze from shortly after 1 p.m. until near 7 p.m. and were re-called again shortly after 2 a.m. Saturday morning when the roof broke out in flames again.



PILGRIMAGE VIRGIN STATUE came to St. Joseph's parish on a visit with Rev. Patrick Moore S.F.M. (back left) and is pictured with Rev. V. J. Morgan (back right), Danny McGiloway (front left) carrying the Rosary on a cushion and Pauline Wasowicz carrying the crown on a cushion. The statue travels from parish to parish mounted on Father Moore's station wagon.