

# The Acton Free Press

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ACTON COUNCIL held its inaugural meeting Monday when the mayor, reeve, deputy-reeve and members of council took the oath of office from clerk Jack McGeachie. Seated front row left to right are reeve H. H. Hinton, mayor Les Duby and deputy-

## Acton Reeve Joins Race 3 Contest Warden's Seat

Haltom County Council holds its inaugural meeting next Tuesday afternoon in Milton, and a three-way race for the honored position of Warden should be the highlight of the afternoon's proceedings.

Reeve H. H. Hinton of Acton, this week joined the fray, as he announced his intention to contest the seat against Reeve Herbert C. Merry of Oakville and Gordon Gallagher of Burlington. All three are well experienced in municipal affairs and it could be a toss-up for the job when the 14 councillors meet.

**One Vote Aplies**  
The Warden occupies the top seat in the county for a year at a time and presides over the body of county councillors, two from each of the seven towns and townships in Haltom. For the election of a Warden each councillor has just one vote, and a tie vote would be broken by the municipality with the largest rateable assessment—in this case Oakville.

In former years the position of Warden has been an honor rotated around the county from municipality to municipality with the north end holding the post one year and the south end the next year. In recent years this policy has become more unofficial, and Wardens were elected on their merit rather than the location of the voters they represented.

If all three candidates can be considered equal contenders, observers feel the system of north-south "turns" may come into the picture, and in that case Reeve Gallagher might get the nod.

**Past Wardens**  
Burlington last held the Warden'ship in 1955 but the township of Nelson, which was amalgamated with Burlington, last held it in 1949. Acton had a Warden in 1944 and Oakville (including Oakville) has had four between 1942 and 1951.

Mr. Gallagher has been a member of County Council three and one-half years as Burlington's Deputy Reeve, and a Burlington councillor four years. He was also a member of the Burlington Suburban Area planning board over 10 years, and chairman four years. This is his first year as Reeve.

He feels it is definitely Burlington's turn and explains the town's population has grown from 6,000 when they last had a Warden, to a total of 52,000 today.

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of committees as well as the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Acton Fair Board, the Acton Chamber of Commerce and YMCA.

Mr. Merry feels he warrants the position this year as last year he was nominated and withdrew, because he felt it was Burlington's turn at the Warden'ship. However he was the only member of council who voted

for Burlington candidate, Reeve Irving Ryckman, at last year's election of the Warden, and Reeve C. A. Martin of Milton won it. Now he feels Burlington has lost its turn and it is time for Oakville to have a Warden. He was surprised to learn Reeve Gallagher was in the race.

**Active In Council**  
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## Figure Skaters Enter Championships New Club Represented for First Time



FIGURE SKATERS taking lessons in Acton will be competing in the Western Ontario Figure Skating Championships at Fort Erie, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week. Western Ontario is one of seven sections in the Canadian Figure Skating Association. About 47 clubs are expected to compete. Kneeling left is Wendy Dempsey, 12, of Guelph and right is Linda Bradley, Sally Wilson and Sharon Bradley, all 16, and all of Acton.

The newly formed Acton and District Figure Skating Club will have five of its members journeying to Fort Erie to compete in the Western Ontario Sectional Championships this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 9, 10 and 11.

These competitions are held annually to select the best male and female figure skaters in a specific area with the winners of the Senior Group being eligible to enter the Canadian Figure Skating Championships.

Skaters from the Acton Club who will be in competition are Linda Bradley, senior silver medalist, Sally Wilson, Sharon Bradley, and Linda Wickham, silver medalists and Wendy Dempsey, bronze medalist.

For this competition the figure skaters' home club is Guelph Figure Skating Club and their attending professional instructors will be McKerry Leitch, Acton, Mrs. Pat Hoy Guelph and Richard Rimmer, Toronto.

**Organized Last Month**  
Figure skating lessons are being held for the second year in the community centre since the installation of artificial ice, but the club was just organized this year.

At a meeting in the arena December 17 parents of children taking figure skating lessons named Walter H. Cook to head the new group as president, Phil McCoskell as the vice president, Sylvia K. Ford as the secretary, treasurer and the directors are P. G. Elliott, G. G. Brown and John Buckman.

Lessons are each Friday and Saturday.

**Seven Girls**  
The skaters who resumed their lessons Monday after the holidays, now have seven members. The newest one is Kathy McKenry, who joined this week.

## Reclaim Park Land, Mayor Urges

The inaugural address given Monday by Mayor Les Duby follows.

Monday, January 6, 1964. Certain changes have been made in committees, which you will note, compared to last year. Such as:

1. Assessment is now in No. 1 Committee under Administration, where it should be.

2. Welfare is now in No. 2 Committee, under the working committee of council, due to the road building, landscaping etc., involved in the new cemetery area for 1964.

3. Industrial will now be known as Development, which more truly describes the function of this committee. However, this committee will still be the liaison between council and the Acton Industrial Commission.

4. A new committee has been formed, to be known as Lights and Sanitation (Street Lights and Garbage). This will allow us to reduce the load and responsibility of the Road Chairman, who will be busy enough with roads, walks and general maintenance.

Our Reeve and Deputy Reeve will retain their same status as last year, due to their heavy commitment of meetings at County Council. This should result in a very efficient council for the town.

Finance will be heavy until the Budget is struck at the end of March from this time on, our Deputy Reeve will be a Budget "watch dog".

It is understood that our Reeve, Mr. Hinton, has undertaken to contest the Warden'ship of Haltom County. I would at this time like to convey to him the best wishes of myself and council.

In keeping with local tradition, I will attempt to give my impression of what the coming year's inaugural directive should be, as a guide to all members of council, in projecting their programs for 1964.

Due to careful planning and spending, we now enjoy a most desirable assessment ratio, which we should try to maintain by all means.

No one can guarantee a reduction in taxes but we can try to hold the line if demands are put too great.

Taxes levied by people, if additional services continue to be demanded, we may have to add mills to the present rate to produce the revenue required. While we most certainly will always try to hold or reduce our mill rate, the trend today is to increase taxation. This is everywhere — it is not unique in Acton.

Increased cost of services, general maintenance and abolition readily justify this trend.

While I dislike the use of the word "Austerity", we still must organize a conservation program for all committees and yet satisfy our ratepayers with a year of steady progress.

**Tax Arrears**  
To our Finance Committee, I would suggest it is high time we started to police our tax arrears situation. Some of these tardy ratepayers are simply making it difficult for our tax collectors and being rather unfair to the more conscientious ratepayers. In some special cases of course, personal hardship is a contributing factor.

Our assessment committee will have to concern itself with realization that 24 building per-

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held Road had been standing by during the busy Christmas season. The smoke from the extinguished giant bonfire hung over Glenlea like heavy fog for an hour or so afterwards.

Not many centres have this blazing send-off to the used Christmas trees. There is a similar arrangement in Brampton.

The bonfire is always on Twelfth Night.

When twelve and doughnuts were ready, courtesy of the C. of C., the spectators switched their attention from the fire. There were 425 doughnuts given away. Members of the United Church Women had been asked to make the coffee.

Chamber members assisting were Ted Tyler Sr., Orville Chapman, William Caroslaw and Paul Michien.

The firemen ploughed the flames, after everyone left, the fire truck and cars were parked along Churchhill Road and Long



HIGH SCHOOL BOARD members held their first meeting of the year Monday evening and re-appointed Jack Reid as chairman. Seated front, left to right, are Rev. Dwight Engel, vice-chairman, and Jack Reid, chairman; back row left to right are secretary William Middleton, Chester Anderson, principal E. A. Hansen, new member Kerwin McPhail and Duncan Moffat.

## Kerwin McPhail Joins H.S. Board Committees for Year Appointed

Jack Reid was returned Monday night as chairman of the Acton district high school board during the inaugural meeting in the board room. This is the second term for Mr. Reid, a public school board appointee.

Dwight Engel was also appointed vice-chairman for his second term.

Kerwin McPhail was welcomed to his first meeting by the chairman, Mr. McPhail replaces Walter Swackhamer, who last year was Esqueping township representative on the board.

**Oath of Office**  
Trustees took their oath of office from secretary treasurer William Middleton before beginning their business session.

Other appointments included Finance Committee, Chester Anderson, Duncan Moffat, man agent Mr. Engel and Mr. Anderson, property Mr. McPhail and Mr. Engel, transportation Mr. Moffat and Mr. McPhail and the building committee which will be comprised of the entire board. The first named on each committee will act as chairman.

**Boundary Change**  
Members learned during the evening the Department of Education is giving every consideration to the boundary change which has been under fire for several months.

Other routine business included authorizing the chairman or vice chairman, with the secretary to borrow an amount not at one time to exceed \$40,000. This action is taken every year to assure sufficient funds for operating expenses in case of necessity.

Approval was also given to make the monthly \$400 payment to the public school board for rent of the school building.

Subsidies, handed out at commencement for the amount of \$800 were approved.

**Streaming**  
Trustees engaged in detail during a recent visit to the Department of Education in Toronto when he and chairman Reid, talked to assistant superintendent Cress.

Although board members were aware of three streaming systems within the recently adopted Roberts Plan it was learned each of these had two streams within themselves. The first stream is academic, arts and sciences, the second business and commerce. Both are applicable in the Acton high school. But the third, which is technology was not mentioned.

Mr. Cress who stated until the Acton school reaches a student population of at least 200 it should not be considered. At present there are 425 students enrolled.

Both academic and business and commerce have both a five and a four-year stream with each of the two-year streams leading to university. In the five-year courses a student may only fail one year, at he fails a second time he must either re-enroll in the four-year terminal course or pay his own tuition to continue in the five-year stream.

**Biography**  
The only new member on the board this year, Kerwin McPhail has lived all his life in this district and attended Laerne school and Acton high school.

He and his wife, the former Jean Harris, live a mile north of Acton on the second line with three children, one six and two three. His oldest attend Speyside school.

He worked with Acton Public Utilities Commission for 10 years and is now with Oakville Public Utilities.

He used to be very active in the Junior Farmers and was on the board of managers of Knox Church.

He represents Esqueping on the board.

**Smash Windows, Rifle Desks Thieves Hit Speyside School**

Thieves left a trail of broken glass and dented classrooms Sunday as vandals smashed the double-glazed windows and stole a record player, typewriter, two rifles and other property from Speyside school.

Police have received several calls from a student who was walking past the school on North Highway, early in his home near Speyside. The youngster heard the breaking of glass and saw a car drive away from the rear of the school at a high rate of speed.

A double-glazed window in the grade 1 entrance was smashed to gain entrance to the intruders. Rifle desks, desks apparently in search of money as they went from room to room.

Since the last break in the fall, principal Harry Dawkins has been leaving classroom doors un-locked. During the former break-in, windows in these doors had been smashed to gain entrance to each room. All lights in the school are left on each night.

When the culprit reached the teacher's room and found the door locked, the student outside again and using an old rusty spade smashed the double-glazed back window to gain entrance to the rifle cabinets and desk drawers, which carried a record player and typewriter. Rifle were taken before the thief made a hurried departure.

**Just Four Profiles**  
The principal's desk was also smashed and four pens were taken from the desk of another teacher.

North Halton O.P.P. Detectives were informed by a nearby neighbour, John Kesteven, after he had been told of the incident by the student.

Corporal Tom Herrod of the Identification Bureau, Burlington was called in and checked carefully for fingerprints.

Caretaker James Morrison was notified immediately and arrived at the school the same time as police. He was kept busy sweeping up glass and debris and replacing windows.

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