

# The Acton Free Press

Eighty-Ninth Year—No. 33.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 1964

"Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa"

Eight Pages—Seven Cents

## 10-Cent Water Rate Increase Could Reduce Taxes Two Mills

A 10 cent per 1,000 gallon increase in present water rates could reduce taxation by at least two mills. Tuesday evening, council approved the 10 cent water rate increase over the present 35 cents per 1,000 gallons. The increase applies to all water consumers and means everyone will

pay on the basis of water consumed. The increase amounts to 28 per cent on water rates. The increase in water rates was recommended by the sewer and water committee whose members were of the opinion the increase would do away with the annual water department deficit

which has amounted to two mills and has been charged on the tax rate. Last year's deficit was \$10,155.51. Sewer and water chairman Albert Trahan cited as an example the ratepayer who uses 42,000 gallons of water per year, and who would, under the increased

rate, pay an additional \$3.78 a year providing he took advantage of the 10 per cent prompt payment deduction. He also said under the present system if a home was assessed for \$4,500, the annual deficit of the water department, which represents two mills, would be \$9 per year on taxes.

At present, under the three-block rate system, all water consumers pay 35 cents per 1,000 gallons for the first 50,000 gallons used, 28 cents per 1,000 for the next 150,000 gallons and an additional 20 cents per 1,000 for any amount over this figure. These rates apply to both water and sewer departments.

When rates are increased an additional 10 cents per 1,000 gallons will be added to the water rates only. Auditor Alarmed Deputy Reeve J. Bert Wood recommended councillors the auditor had questioned the two mill levy on the tax rate to meet operating expenses of the water department. He said every consumer should pay his just share and not have taxpayers shouldering costs. Council also upped the rate for fire hydrant rental from present \$34 per hydrant to \$50 each annually.

## Souvenir Crests From Town For Hockey Tournament Here

Youngsters participating in the four-town hockey tournament in Acton March 14 will each receive a souvenir crest from the town. Tuesday evening council decided to donate \$250 to the Minor Hockey Association which will be used to purchase crests and help defray the cost of feeding over 240 players.

Gordon McCutcheon, representing Acton Legion Minor Sports, and William Knight of the Acton Minor Hockey Association were present at the meeting to explain the financial situation involved in holding the tournament in Acton.

The Legion delegate told council it would cost Branch 197 close to \$1,170 this year to outfit and provide ice time for 197 players in its town leagues and said the A.M.H.A. would spend \$2,200 for 100 players taking part in tri-county leagues.

Mr. McCutcheon told council the A.M.H.A. had received donations from sponsors and outsiders, totalling \$800 and had taken in to date \$112 in gate receipts at home games. Other money had been made during draws, he stated. The Legion spokesman said the Legion would underwrite all expenses involved in its league but wondered how crests for the tournament and food would be supplied by the A.M.H.A.

The delegates showed a sample crest handed out by the town of Fergus during a four-town tournament last year and told council it was customary for each player taking part to receive one. The last time Acton had a tournament was in 1958.

Mayor Les Duby was of the opinion the town should follow the example of other towns and

supply crests and suggested the town's coat of arms might be included in the design. Final approval for the design was left to the judgment of councillor Hamilton Peal.

Council was told the crests would possibly amount to \$125 but any further assistance toward offsetting costs for the food would be appreciated. A resolution sponsored by Reeve H. H. Hinton to donate \$125 was defeated in favor of another sponsored by councillor Alex Johnson to donate \$250.

In support of his motion, councillor Johnson said "We are always hearing of child delinquency and this is a children's activity. With strangers coming in to town I feel we should do a little further than the amount of the crests."

During the No. 1 committee report, it was learned that Norman Brauda, chairman of the Acton Industrial Commission, had been contacted and asked to disband the commission so council could form a new one. The present commission was appointed on a

three-year term and the term has expired. Councillor Johnson said the committee suggested four residents interested in industrial expansion and members of No. 1 committee form the new Industrial Commission.

**Security Bonds** Town employees and various board members are covered with a \$5,000 security bond and the town clerk is covered by a \$10,000 bond at a cost to the town of \$441.88 for a period of three years, according to the clerk's report.

Council anticipates spending \$23,000 this year on the maintenance of roads and bridges and will ask the Department of Highways for its portion of grant up to this amount.

During the enquiries by members, councillor Eric Johnston asked why Acton Citizens' Band had received a statement amounting to \$75 for rental of the town hall. He was told last year council had approved the \$75 rental and the band executive was notified to this effect.

**Calamity Corner** Deputy Reeve Wood wondered when some action would be taken to repair damage at the corner of Queen and Young Streets where the sandbags designating a one-way street are located. He stated a sign had been removed and was found near the corner of Wilbur and Church Sts.

Road chairman Hamilton Peal stated the Department of Highways had informed the clerk the widening of No. 7 highway through town had been postponed for at least another three years. He said the town superintendent had been contacted and repairs at the corner would be started early in the spring.

## Y's Menettes Donate \$10 for Scholarships

A donation of \$10 was voted by the Paul William Alexander scholarship fund when the Y's Menettes met Thursday of last week at the home of Mrs. G. W. McKenzie. The money will be given to the chairman of the fund committee. Plans were discussed for a rummage sale. It was decided to make lunch for the district Y's Men's conference to be held in Acton in April.

## Continued Safety Program Supported by School Board

Acton public school board members will ask council's co-operation in assuring continued assistance from the Acton O.P.P. Detachment in stressing the school safety program.

This action was sparked Thursday evening of last week following an accident involving seven-year-old Louise Harmsma who was injured by a car on her way home from school.

Principal G. W. McKenzie reported the incident and how next morning, Constable Ron Rupert of the Acton O.P.P., who is also responsible for the formation of the Acton Safety Council, removed the Elmer the Safety flag from the school's flagpole for a period of 30 days.

Elmer flags were raised on flagpoles at both Robert Little and M. Z. Bennett schools in the fall with the understanding if any pupil was involved in an accident the school's flag would be taken down for 30 days.

Board chairman Doug Manning described the accident as a grim set of circumstances and received members' support in seeking continued co-operation of police in the school safety program.

Trustee Louis Bonnette felt the safety program is just as important as physical education classes. It is hoped that Constable Rupert will be able to make frequent visits to both schools in

order to stress safety to the pupils.

Principal Elmer Smith of the M. Z. Bennett school told of a recent visit to his school by Donald Edwards of the accident prevention branch of the Department of Transport. He stated Mr. Edwards had made a tour of the town and on his return to the school commended education administrators for choosing adult crossing guards for children crossing streets.

Pupils in the higher grades at both schools will be handed literature explaining hazards of smoking. Board members approved

## Marching Mothers Collect \$560.75

Marching mothers blitzed the town last night (Wednesday) during the Rotary Club sponsored March of Dimes and collected \$560.75 toward helping crippled and disabled persons.

Jim Ledger, chairman of the project, expressed his thanks to over 60 ladies who knocked on doors and noted this year's collection was higher than last year. Following the door-to-door canvass, returns were counted at the Dominion Hotel, where the ladies were served coffee and sandwiches.

distribution of this literature after viewing the colorful illustrated pamphlets.

There'll be improved lighting conditions at this year's opera staged by the M. Z. Bennett school. Board members accepted a bid of \$7,400 from Earl Van Norman to install three additional sets of colored lights on the stage at the Robert Little school auditorium.

Vice principals Walter Dubois of the M. Z. Bennett school and Doug Copeland of the Robert Little school were both present and discussed additional equipment with the board.

**Equipment** Mr. Dubois' suggestion of a permanent fixture to fasten back ground scenery to was accepted by the board.

A recommendation by Mr. Copeland for wall bars and climbing ropes in the auditorium gymnasium was given the board's consideration and property chairman L. Bonnette was authorized to investigate the recommendation fully. Mr. Copeland told the board the additional equipment would be a benefit for physical education classes at it would enable boys to build arm muscles. Cost for rope and accessories were estimated at \$68.90 while single, double and triple wall bars were estimated at \$97, \$135 and \$170 respectively.

## Bluenose II on Treasure Hunt, Filming Trip, Wife Waits for Husband's Return

By Don Ryder  
Sailing, sailing over the bounding main, let's go on a treasure hunt and then come home again! Who wouldn't give up this cold winter weather and head on a 20th century treasure hunt to Cocos Island in the Pacific Ocean, travelling on nothing less than an air-conditioned sailing vessel — an exact replica of the famous schooner Bluenose. Sounds like something you see on TV — and you will soon!

**Making TV Show**  
One lucky passenger aboard ship is Desmond Dollery, husband of the former Norma Murr, who is now staying in Acton with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Murr, 85 Mill St. Audio-director with Taylor TV filming company in Toronto, Mr. Dollery will be directing the audio portion of the film and also taking still shots. The hour-long film will be shown by the CBC.

When Canada's famed Bluenose wasn't packing her holds with codfish in the 1920's, she hunted honors with racing any sailing ship that dared to challenge her. As proof of the vast honors she gained, take a peek at a ten cent piece and see the famous vessel on the back!

The original Bluenose was launched at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in 1921 and beat all competition in schooner races; in 1933 she attended the Jubilee of George V and raced around the Isle of Wight. She defended her title in 1938 in the last international series for schooners.

**Sank in '46**  
In her declining years, the ship was sold in 1942 to the West Indies Trading Company, who stripped off her sails and spars. Now motorized, the ship went aground off Haiti in 1946 and sank.

Her successor "Bluenose II" is identical in every detail except for her luxurious cabin accommodations and air-conditioning systems. The new vessel was launched at Lunenburg, Sunday, January 12, and was scheduled

to leave at 3:30 that afternoon on its maiden voyage on the treasure hunt. A minor defect in the air-conditioning system held up sailing time for a couple of days.

**First Skipper**  
Mr. Dollery was present for the launching but didn't board ship for the voyage until January 26; he flew to Jamaica and met the crew and passengers there. Aboard the luxurious \$250,000 replica of the Nova Scotia schooner was the 82-year-old original skipper, Captain Angus Walters, who out-sailed the best American competition of the day. At the helm was Captain Ellsworth Coggins, who will handle the ship's operation on the film-making treasure hunt. "Captain Coggins will be remembered as the famous British pirate at a time when Peru was fighting for its independence and thousands were being exterminated in an extraordinary act of destruction.

**Pirates' Plunder**  
The much sought-after treasure is claimed to be loot from Peruvian cathedrals, obtained through plunder and raids by British pirates at a time when Peru was fighting for its independence and thousands were being exterminated in an extraordinary act of destruction.

**Advertising Sentiment**  
Bluenose II was built out of sentiment (and to advertise Schooner beer) by a Nova Scotia brewery. In the cargo are a few cans of Schooner beer.

**On Board**  
Along with Mr. Taylor, producer, is John Trent, assistant producer, Mr. Dollery, two cameramen and a doctor who is also an underwater cameraman and he will shoot pictures of shark fights. Also on board are writers and photographers from the Saturday Evening Post, which has exclusive story rights.

**Share Treasure?**  
Just imagine yourself standing on the deck of this fabulous ship, anxiously waiting to share part of the loot when treasure is found. Well, all is not so easy. At Cocos

Rica, 12 soldiers will be picked up and they will remain aboard. Their purpose is not to guard the voyagers but to protect government rights over any treasure found. The Costa Rican government will receive 50 per cent of treasure found.

Now, this makes you wonder if the trip is worthwhile, as you visualize paying the Costa Rican government a portion of your loot. What's the difference? If you stay here and suffer the cold, the Canadian government will take a portion of your earnings in income tax!

**Back in March**  
According to the schedule laid out for the Bluenose II, the ship was to arrive at Bermuda January 16 and then leave Jamaica January 31 for Isle de Vache, the grave of the original Bluenose where a solemn ceremony was held with a wreath placed in the water in memory of the ancient ship. Other stopping points include Colon, Panama, Puntarinas (Costa Rica) and Cocos Island. Passengers and crew are scheduled to leave the Cocos February 21 and arrive at Kingston, Jamaica, March 7. Cameron will fly back and arrive in Toronto March 3.

**Back in March**  
In case you suspect the Bluenose II is not a safe and comfortable ship, let's take a look at

some of her statistics. Unlike her namesake, she is fitted out to carry 50 passengers under sail or 100 under motor power. Otherwise, the ship is identical in every way to the original in hull design, masts and rigging. It is 143 feet long, beam of 27 feet, draught of 15 feet, 10 inches, displacing 285 tons with 10,000 square feet of sails. The mainmast towers 128 feet, six inches from deck to masthead and is made in two sections from B.C. Douglas fir like the original ship. The similarities continue right down to the 55 foot keel, formed, as before, from 32 foot lengths of jointed Nova Scotia oak.

**Fish Displaced**  
Below decks, the similarities exist. On Bluenose II, below decks is normally for people, whereas on the original, it was mostly for fish. On the new ship are five double staterooms in the stern area, along with the captain's cabin and a chartroom. Just forward is the engine room for two 170 horsepower diesels. Beyond that is a cargo hold, then a saloon — but no bar — then a serving pantry and galley.

The crew's quarters are in the bow, with staterooms for the mate and engineer. Besides all this, there is an air-conditioning system, ship-to-shore radio-telephone, electrical generating equipment, navigational gear and radar.

If, by now, you are not already feeling seasick, what say we get a group together and charter the boat for a trip? It's for hire, or will be on its return to Nova Scotia. Following a tour of Maritime ports, the Bluenose II will prepare for the tourist season, which will make her available for charter to conventions, local organizations and private sailing parties.

Members of our advertising club will fly back and arrive in Toronto March 3.

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## Bluenose II, launched January 12 at Lunenburg, N.S., is presently on a treasure hunt and filming cruise to Cocos Island. Maurice Taylor, president of Taylor TV Productions, chartered the ship for the month's cruise. Aboard ship is Desmond Dollery (inset) husband of the former Norma Murr, who is visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Murr, Mill St. Mr. Dollery is audio director with Taylor Productions, and will also be taking still films. The ship is an exact replica of the original Bluenose which was built at the same dockyard at Lunenburg. The vessel is expected to be caught on the jungle island in the Pacific. The expedition will produce an hour-long film for television.



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