

The Acton Free Press

Ninetieth Year—No. 25.

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Approval Given For New Library

A new library for the town of Acton is getting closer to realization. Tuesday evening, council received the green light from the Ontario Municipal Board for the construction and financing of a Centennial Library.

Cost of the new building is estimated at \$52,000 and of this amount, grants are available totaling \$4,288. The grant system is based on the rate of \$2 per capita according to the 1961 population figure.

Following a public meeting some time ago to discuss a centennial project, a committee was formed to investigate what project would be most suitable. It was agreed unanimously to erect a new town library and a site was approved on land at the Robert Little public school.

Council approved by-laws for construction and financing of the building and the by-laws were submitted to the O.M.B. for final approval. Tuesday evening, clerk Jack McGeachie informed council the approval had been granted.

Fell from Car Fractured Skull

High school student John McGeachie, son of clerk-administrator and Mrs. Jack McGeachie, Arthur St., is still in hospital with a fractured skull and suffering from concussion following a freak and unfortunate accident Wednesday night of last week.

The young man was hospitalized after he fell from the trunk of a car in front of the Rumley-Shoemaker Funeral home. He struck his head on the pavement, was knocked unconscious and was carried into the funeral home where he received medical attention by Dr. Craig Hutchison while awaiting the Guelph ambulance to take him to Guelph General Hospital.

Dr. Hutchison remained at the hospital with the youth until late at night. Meanwhile his father, who was cutting in a bus-pipe in Erin, was notified and drove straight to the hospital. His mother and brother Paul drove to Guelph from Acton.

At first it was not believed he had a skull fracture but later X-rays showed one. Sunday evening he showed remarkable improvement but is expected to remain in hospital for a while yet.

Christmas Rush At Post Office

Christmas rush struck the post office staff Friday and increased gradually until Monday when the first heavy mail was sorted. Staff members worked Sunday afternoon sorting Christmas mail and three night shift workers have been kept quite busy.

As in past years, extra help is hired. This year Mrs. Al Combe, Mrs. John McHugh, Mrs. Hugh O'Rourke and Cam Leishman are assisting regular postal clerks. Patrons are asked to please bundle cards in both out-of-town and local piles before handing them in at the wicket to assure prompt delivery. Deadline for mailing Christmas cards and parcels is today (Thursday).

Postmaster Gordon McKeown expressed his gratitude to patrons for early mailing and cooperation in helping his staff sort mail promptly.

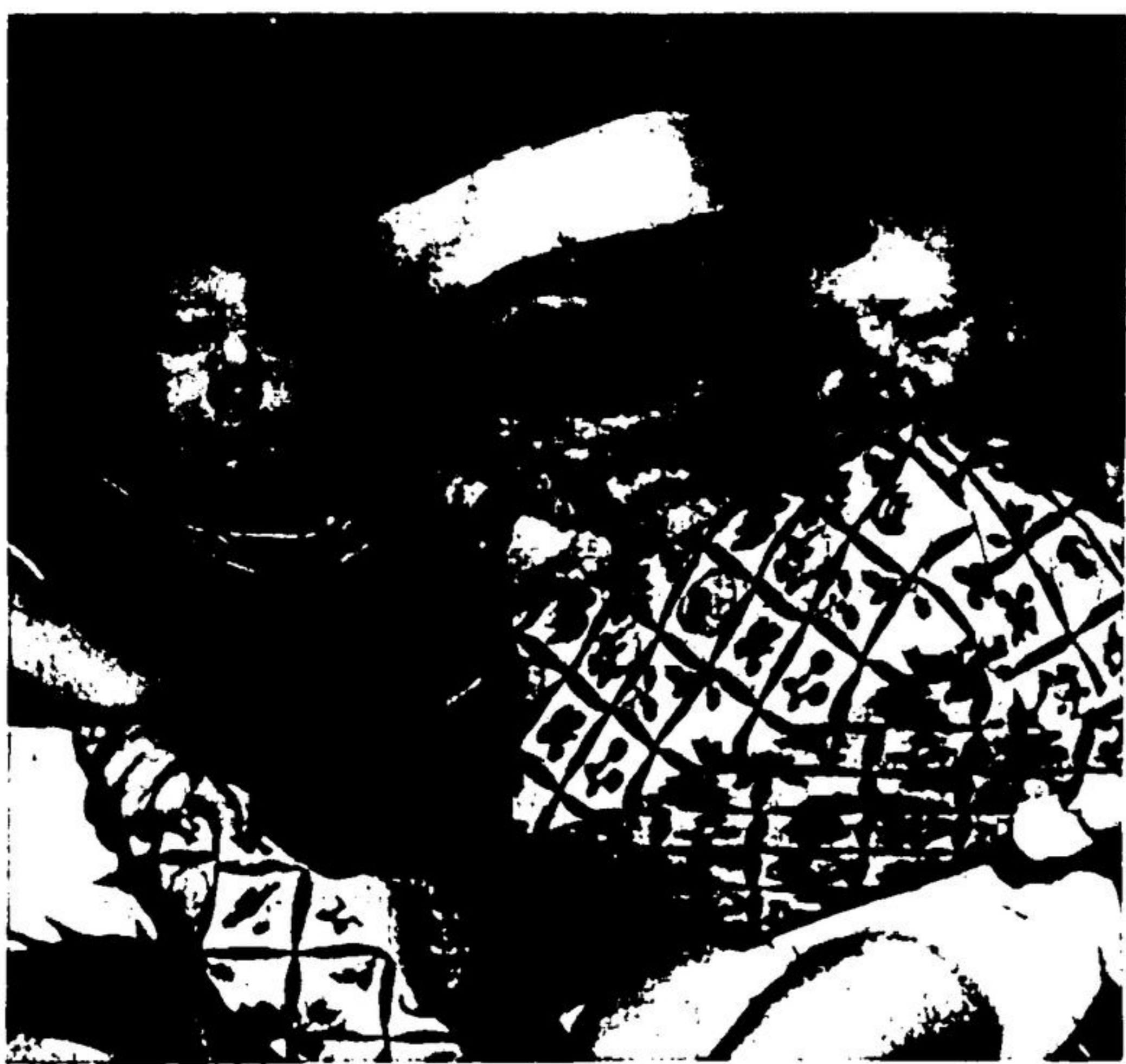
Y's Men Run Winter Store

Sales were good when the Y's Men opened their annual winter outdoor store on Saturday with their yearly crop of bushy Christmas trees for sale. A roster has been set up by the club and seasonal salesmen are Mansell, Nellis, Lorne Doherty, Doug Copeland, Harry Arbie, Bob Govanlock, Eric Johnston, Ed Letherland, Ed Foutitt, Louis Bonnette, Elmer Smith, Martin Norman, Bill Malinprize, Pat McKenzie, Bill Wilson, Doug Copeland, Gus Ross, Bill Nellis, Bob Currie, Walter Dubois, Earl Masales, Norm Turner, Stuart Cowan, John Weldon, Frank Ruzic and John Last. They're on duty late afternoons and evenings.

Day Early

With Christmas nearing, the Free Press will be published next Wednesday afternoon, December 23, rather than Thursday morning. Town and district news and the post office will all have their copies Wednesday.

Santa and his helpers are all ready for the Christmas rush. Are you?



McCRISYALL SISTERS Carrie and Connie did a double take on Santa's knee Sunday when the jolly old fellow visited the Fire Hall to distribute gifts to firefighters' children. Any tears were dispelled as soon as parcels appeared. Santa told the kiddies he had to make the trip by motor car due to a shortage of snow but promised there would soon be lots. (His prediction came true Monday with a heavy blizzard shortly after lunch.)

Will Discuss Possible Amalgamation Of Parks Board, Recreation Committee

Final decision whether or not to amalgamate Parks Board and Recreation Committee will be left for a special joint meeting with the administration committee of council early next year.

Thursday evening of last week, both parks board and recreation committee discussed the possibility of amalgamating the two boards and agreed to meet the administration committee of council to discuss the question further.

It was agreed during the joint session of the meeting to advertise for a secretary to serve both parks board and recreation committee. Present secretary Joe T. Huist tendered his resignation

some weeks ago and is continuing until the end of the year.

Present members of the committee agreed to remain in office for another year and J. Bert Wood was named to replace Dr. F. G. Oakes, who was elected to council. Names of present members and Mr. Wood will be submitted to council for approval.

Enquiries were received from the towns of Hespeler and Wallaceburg for purchase of the ice-shaver used last year at the arena. Hespeler will transport the machine to its arena for a trial operation and if satisfactory purchase the equipment.

A letter of appreciation for excellent ice was received from the

Acton Curling Club. Reports were received that art classes would extend into 1965 and that the hockey school operating under the supervision of the referees' association is quite successful with about 16 kiddies taking part.

The secretary reported the commission showed a deficit amounting to \$1,827 which includes the arena floor installation.

Parks Board members present for the joint session included the chairman Cliff Bradley, George Williams and Nina Branda. Recreation committee members present included chairman John Goy, Hugh Patterson, Claude Cook, Mrs. Bert Keates, Mrs. Harry O'Brien, Dr. F. G. Oakes and recreation director Harris Roe.

Accept Contract for New Manor \$1,600,000 Expected Total Cost

Construction of a \$1,600,000 home for the aged, adjacent to the present Halton Centennial Manor was approved by Halton Council on Tuesday when it gave three readings of an implementing by-law.

The tender of Lynch Richards Construction Co. of \$1,374,049 was accepted on the project and approvals of the Department of Welfare, Ontario Municipal Board, and the Municipal Provincial Loan Fund have been obtained.

Outlining the project, Milton Reeve C. Martin, chairman of the Manor Board, emphasized the new home would be constructed in 1965 and the 150 bed home would be ready for use late in 1965.

The new home has yet to be given a name. Plans call for a 150 bed home with the addition of 150 beds provided for at a later date. Dr. Martin pointed out the services were being installed for the eventual 300 bed total and this had increased the per-bed costs. A saving, however, would be evident when the further addition was constructed.

The present Manor capacity of 225 beds will be greatly increased by the new home.

The new three storey home provides for approximately 50 beds on each floor, with special care patients on the main floor and bed care patients on the second and third floor levels. Two elevators will be included in the building.

The building will face Highway 25 and its exterior will conform to surrounding buildings. A possible later addition to the building would make the building T shaped.

A low section in front of the main body of the building will house the office area, library, board room, tea-room, tuck shop and two sitting rooms. About 50 beds will be located

on the main floor with a central core service area.

The second floor will include a medical centre or examining room and laboratory as well as the infirmary. A sitting and dining room will be located on each floor.

Most of the accommodation provided is in two and four bed rooms with a majority of two. About four one bed rooms are provided on each floor.

A supply and exhaust air system will be connected to each room and this will be included in the penthouse atop the building that will rise 35 feet above ground level.

An underground passageway will connect the new home to the existing Halton Manor with the laundry, chapel and auditorium facilities serving both homes.

The new home will have its own heating and kitchen facilities.

When the first 132 bed addition to the original Manor was opened in 1961, December officials said the building had reached its limit and if more accommodation was needed for aged residents, a new site would be needed. How-

ever, the Board learned in preliminary discussion that the present site would still be suitable for a second home at a considerable saving of money.

New Appointments For Planning Board

Acton Planning Board members reviewed proposed changes in the zoning by-law and made recommendations for board appointments which will be submitted to council. This action took place at the meeting Thursday of last week.

Re-appointed to the board was Aldo Branda for a three-year term and new appointment to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of newly-elected councillor Bob Drinkwater will possibly be former councillor Eric Johnson.

Minor Roadblock Halts Land Purchase Council to Re-Apply for More Money

A minor roadblock has been set up by the Ontario Municipal Board to halt council's purchase of proposed industrial land at a cost of \$50,000.

Tuesday evening council learned the O.M.B. had transferred \$50,000 previously earmarked for industrial expansion this year to finance the construction of the new library.

Of the total cost of the centennial library amounting to an estimated \$52,000, grants totaling \$4,288 will be paid by the centennial branch of the government. This leaves a balance of \$47,712 to be paid.

Five-Year Projection

Earlier in the year, council was requested to forecast a five-year projection on possible expenditures. At this time council under stood \$50,000 had been approved by the O.M.B. for industrial expansion this year.

Tuesday night, clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie told council the O.M.B. had earmarked \$47,712 of the original \$50,000 approved toward financing the library project.

Council must now re-apply in 1965.

Mayor Les Dubs outlined a meeting Monday afternoon with

representatives from the Planning Branch of the government which time the objection of E. G. Tyler to the Ajax Engineering expansion was reviewed.

Following application from Ajax Engineers to have land adjoining the plant returned industrial to allow expansion, Mr. Tyler objected on many reasons. Main objection was to the proximity of the industry to residential property.

Council learned the purpose of the Monday meeting was to attempt to reach a suitable agreement with Mr. Tyler and plant officials in an attempt to prevent the industry from moving out of town.

Results of Monday's meeting have been submitted to the board of directors of the company and a meeting of the board is to be held this week at which time a decision to remain in Acton or build in Toronto is expected to be made.

Buy Tax Business

Approval was granted to William H. Hanna, Toronto, to purchase the taxi business presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Beaman. Dr. Craig Hutchison was present to give a character reference for Mr. Hanna and said the

new man would be an asset to the town.

Reeve H. Hinton and deputy-reeve J. Bert Wood gave brief outlines of their work at County council level. It was agreed that council representatives at County Council should give a monthly report on activities.

It was agreed to continue with the present fire agreement with neighboring townships for the first part of January until a new agreement could be finalized.

During enquiries by members Mrs. Doris Dyer requested installation of a railing at the entrance

to the Y.M.C.A. She said several residents had asked if this could be done to make climbing steps easier. Council agreed the request was a sensible one and left any decision to a committee.

Mayor Dubs reviewed a meeting with the public school Board Monday night at which the school safety patrol was outlined. He commended the Safety Council and schools for adopting the program and said council would give any support possible.

Accounts totaling \$8,965.94 were approved for payment.

County Flag-Man Injured In Highway 401 Accident

A County of Halton flagman is in Milton District Hospital in only "fair" condition today, with serious injuries suffered Monday afternoon when he was struck by a car on Highway 401 just east of Campbellville.

Harry Robinson of RR 2, Acton, age 63, suffered a compound fracture of the right leg, a fractured arm, suspected head injuries and severe shock when a car struck him as he flagged down traffic at the scene of an earlier accident.

Milton O.P.P. identified the driver of the car as 17-year-old Bruce Donald Barricau of Scarborough.

Key roads in the district, believed partly the cause of the original accident and possibly connected with the Robinson accident, also delayed the arrival of Green's Ambulance from Burlington. By-standers reported the injured man lay on the road for 50 minutes awaiting the ambulance. The driver said he had to try twice to get the ambulance up some of the slippery hills on the Guelph Line.

The first accident happened half a mile east of the Guelph Line, where a County of Halton truck skidded on the slippery pavement and rolled over in the median. This happened about 11:30 Monday morning. Damage to the truck was \$500 and the driver Telford G. Reidt of 18 Young St.,

Acton, and a passenger were uninjured.

Police said a second county truck was dispatched to pick up the snow fence that afternoon, and as the men had to carry the rolls of fence across the highway, traffic was stopped in the eastbound lane of 401. This was when the car struck the flagman. The second accident happened about 2:20 p.m. Mr. Robinson was admitted to Milton hospital at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Seek Lower Hydro Rates Commission Asks Study

A study of the local electric power rates by the Ontario Hydro Commission was requested at the regular meeting last week. Commissioner Beatty told commissioners inquiries had indicated Ontario Hydro would make the study if formally requested. As reported Ontario Hydro had agreed to move ahead the date for the annual audit if the local commission requested the study and as a result of the study would be prepared to make recommendations early in the new year on their findings. Terming the verbal report encouraging, Mayor Dubs seconded the motion asking Ontario Hydro to study the Acton rate structure as soon as possible to see if a reduction in local rates can be made.

Architect Don Skinner was present and discussed three alternative preliminary plans for the proposed new Hydro building. In each of the plans discussed permission will be made for administrative offices, board room, display area, meter and workshop areas, loading docks, garages and storage areas. One plan would have the existing workshop on Alice Street incorporated in the new building. Two other plans were completely new buildings with the present building removed.

Building Size

Under the plan to use the existing building, 1,740 sq. ft. would come from the present building with an addition of 4,400 sq. ft. The two new buildings sketched had 4,700 sq. ft. and 5,800 sq. ft. While Mr. Skinner had not worked out detailed cost estimates, he thought the type of building required and incorporating electric heating, could be built for about \$12 a sq. ft. in the office and administration areas and \$6 a sq. ft. in the garage and workshop areas.

Mayor Dubs asked for the opinion of commission on a suggestion that the administrative areas be enlarged to accommodate municipal offices and a council chamber. He pointed out that an advantage to the town would be that the annual rental to be charged the town by the commission would not require a capital cost to the town. The suggestion would eliminate the necessity for the town to build a separate municipal building for some years and would provide room for commission expansion until the time the town would need a building of its own. While commissioners indicated some reservations were advanced that the commission could provide facilities for the town under restrictions of the Ontario Hydro Act.

In view of the fact combined but separated facilities might be possible it was decided to contact Ontario Hydro for clarification of the requirements of the Act. The architect was instructed not to prepare final plans until Ontario Hydro clarification is received.

If a favorable reply is received from Ontario Hydro the Mayor could then present the proposal to council for a decision on whether such accommodation would

be acceptable and satisfactory.

Another \$20,000 was invested in Investment Certificates from the current account. At the present time the commission is carrying a surplus of \$67,000 in investment certificates.

The superintendent was instructed to arrange a display of electric heating equipment in the office. He reported that the new mercury vapor lights have been installed on Church Street except two which were found defective and had been returned to the manufacturer.

The loss on the cost of operating the present 57 25-cycle transformers in the distribution system was discussed and the superintendent was instructed to investigate the operating efficiency of these transformers to determine if the loss caused by the continued use was great enough to warrant their replacement with new 60-cycle transformers.

An exchange between commissioner Beatty and the balance of the commission occurred over the absence of minutes of a special meeting called between regular meetings. The chairman explained the secretary was not present at the meeting and no minutes had been prepared. Commissioner Beatty's point was that a meeting had been held at which a moral if not legal commitment had been made to the architect and no record appeared in the minutes. To surmount the objection the chairman agreed to have minutes prepared of the special meeting to be approved at the next regular meeting.

Time of the next regular meeting was changed to 2 p.m. from 7:30 p.m. on December 24. All commissioners were present at the meeting.

New Candle Holders For Special Services

New wrought iron and wood candle holders are being made for the Christmas services at the United Church. Several men of the congregation are making them under the direction of Jim Matthews. They'll be used for the C.G.I.E. candle-lighting service and the choir's traditional Christmas Eve carol service.

If you're looking for an extra gift, give a subscription to the Free Press.



LEGION LADIES' AUXILIARY members took it easy Friday night when they enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner served by male members of Branch 197. Left to right are charter president Mrs. Fred Coles, Legionnaire Bob Loufitt and Mrs. Andrew Buchanan. The ladies are considered the "work horses" of the branch, catering to every banquet held in the auditorium.



\$1,500 RICHER, Acton Legion Branch 197 received the donation recently from the Legion ladies' Auxiliary. This is the second cheque handed over this year, the first for \$500. The ladies also installed new drapes in the auditorium and carpeting on the stairway. Left to right are ladies' president Mrs. Charles Shultz, vice-president Mrs. Pete Turkoz and Branch 197 president James Gunn.