The Acton Free Press

Ninetieth Year.—No. 33. ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1965 Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa Twelve Pages.—Ten Cents.

Walter Linham Receives Diploma At Fall Fair Directors' Dinner

The eleventh annual Directors' Dinner sponsored by the Acton Agricultural Society was held in Limehouse Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 6 at 7 p.m. Catering to this enjoyable event were the ladies of the church W.A. They served a delicious hot beef dinner to the capacity crowd of 100 who attended. Rev. Norman Young, Pastor of the church, said grace. Capable chairman for the evening was Calvin Aitkin, completing his term as president for the past two years.

Head table guests introduced by first vice president Wilmer Fryer were Rev. and Mrs. Young, Mayor and Mrs. Duby, Acton; Nettie Tryssenaar, Miss Acton Fair 1964, Jack Marshall, newly elected president for 1965; Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Aitken; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Matthews, president of the ladies' division; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stanley, Halton county agricultural representative and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Swackhamer, secretary treasurer.

Other guests introduced by Calvin Aitken were Reeve and Mrs. Coulter, Nassagaweya; Reeve and Mrs. R. M. Barden, Erin, Township; Reeve H. H. Hinton, Acton; Mr. and Mrs. C. Muir, CJOY Radio, Guelph; Mr. and Mrs. Ken Ella from Georgetown Agricultural Society; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Chisholm and Mr. and Mrs. George Readhead from Halton Agricultural Society.

4-H Review

4-H Club Leader Nino Braido briefly reviewed the outstanding year completed by 4-H club members in the Acton Clubs, and the District 4-H Homemaking Clubs. In recognition of their achievement and participation in the Fall Fair Reeve H. H. Hinton presented the H. H. Hinton Trophies to Janet Aitken of the Acton Agricultural Club for the high aggregate score and Betty Ann Brown accepted her trophy on behalf of the Limehouse 4-H Girls' Club for the winning display at Acton Fair.

Receives Diploma

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of an Agricultural Services Diploma awarded to Walter Linham. This Diploma is made available by the Ontario Department of Agriculture Societies. Each Society has the privilege of awarding one diploma each year with the Department's approval to someone in the district served by the Society.

Mr. Linham received his diploma for his service to the Twp. of Esquesing, his church and community and the Acton Agricultural Society. Ralph Denny read the address and Mr. Stanley, Halton Agricultural Representative made the presentation of the diploma on behalf of the Society.

Brought Honor

Miss Janet Aitken who was recently honored by being chosen Queen of the Shorthorn Lassies for Ontario at the Royal Winter Fair, was presented with a memento of the honor she brought to her family and district. Mac Sprowl made the presentation on behalf of the Society.

President Jack Marshall moved a vote of thanks to the Limehouse W.A. for the excellent meal served and for their hospitality during the evening.

Music, Movies

Following the dinner everyone moved to the Limehouse Hall for a program of musical selections by Earl Burt, Georgetown.

A. Long, Acton, was introduced by Wilmer Fryer and presented movies of his second African Safari to a very appreciative audience. Mac Sprowl expressed the thanks of the gathering to Mr. Long for his excellent commentary and photography.

This enjoyable evening concluded with dancing to McEnery's orchestra, Ballinafad.

Man from Mars?

See Front Page Second Section

Explosion Rocks Reeve's Home Cause of Blast Still Unknown

Cause of an explosion which rocked the home of Reeve and Mrs. H. H. Hinton Wednesday morning of last week has not yet been determined and insurance adjusters are investigating every possible angle. Total damage could not be estimated yet.

The blast caused extensive damage to plastered walls, broke upstair storm windows, snapped off heads of figurines in bedrooms, blew off two cellar doors and sent two workmen flying through the air, injuring one on the elbow.

Workmen Tossed

Frank Holmes and Gerry Bovee, employees with A. L. Riemer Equipment Co., were changing plumbing in the basement at the time of the explosion. Mr. Holmes was sent soaring through the air over two sets of pipes not far below the ceiling and landed in a heap on the floor. Mr. Bovee was about to come down the cellar steps when he was shaken out of one boot and sent flying down the steps with the door knob still in his hand.

According to Mr. Riemer the men were using two blowtorches in the basement and both were going at the time the blast occurred. After the explosion, one was found with a hole blown in it and the other, just extinguished, lying on the floor.

Cause in Doubt

Mr. Riemer stated it was impossible for gasoline from a blow torch to set off such an explosion and queries the possibility of either natural or sewer gas seeping into the home.

Mrs. Hinton, who had returned from shopping downtown, had just turned the handle of the door. As the door opened she heard a "swoosh" and the house began to shake. Mr. Holmes also told his employer he heard a "swoosh" before he sailed through the air.

Much Breakage

Two local carpenters claim the house was lifted right off its foundation and settled back again, during the explosion.

Workmen began repairs at once.

Metro Form of Government Praised To Council Tuesday by Warden Merry

"For any municipality to withdraw from the county administration system would be a very sad thing to happen. We want to knit the municipalities in the community together towards a metropolitan form of government. We would like all municipalities to remain in Halton — one big Halton!" emphasized warden Herb Merry when he made the first official visit of a warden to a regular meeting of Acton council.

"I come to you not as a reeve of Oakville but as the warden of the county of Halton interested in all municipalities and privileged to work and live in Halton. I enjoy going around to the many municipalities bringing goodwill and greetings from the county to the local councils. I want to return to Acton to join with you in your church services so that we may get to know each other as human beings."

Meet in Milton Again

The warden outlined his program of visiting the various municipalities and reviewed a proposal to gather all members of councils in Halton to a dinner meeting to be held in Milton when a speaker will address the group on the county and county work.

Mayor Les Duby expressed the welcome of council to warden Merry and thanked him for the interest shown.

Reeve Hinton commended the warden for his kindness in visiting Acton and initiating the program throughout Halton. "There is no better man for this venture."

Salaried Chairman?

A request from Ontario Municipal Board for council's approval or disapproval of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's approval to pay the chairman an annual salary of $5,000 plus $600 travel allowance to travel within the watershed was referred to the No. 1 committee with advice going to the O.M.B. the matter was under consideration.

Council was informed that the chairman of the Authority, Roy McMillan, had been appointed chairman by the provincial government under an order-in-council. Contact with the local representative, R. R. Parker, was to be made so the committee may be fully informed.

Apparently there are only two conservation authorities in Ontario where the chairman is appointed by order-in-council. The salary question is the only subject under consideration by the local council. Since inauguration there have been two chairmen, and they have been paid at the same rate as other members of the Authority.

Full Time Work

It was indicated that Mr. McMillan, reeve of Toronto township, would resign from that position and devote his full time to the conservation authority. Mayor Duby indicated the decision to pay the chairman this salary was based on the assumption he would be giving up council work and he had been doing "a tremendous job for the Authority."

Reeve Hinton said the proposal "does not appeal to me a bit. It means the chairman will become an administrator and the rest of the board will stagnate."

It was pointed out Acton had previously appealed to the O.M.B. policies of the Credit Valley Authority. "The appeals haven't had much effect but have had a stimulating effect on the Authority," said Mr. Hinton.

The clerk reported the minutes of the Authority had indicated one vote in opposition to the proposal and the local representative had reported only the executive members of the Authority had voted on the question.

Salary Increases

Annual salary negotiations are underway and the administrative committee brough in recommendations for increases to the office staff.

The works committee met Wednesday night in committee of the whole to discuss wages of the work staff. A report will be made with recommendations at the next regular council meeting.

Increases granted this week were to Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Turnbull from $47.50 to $52.50 per week, assessor Bill Erskine from $4,600 to $4,800 per year, deputy clerk Joe Hurst from $4,500 to $4,700 per year and clerk McGeachie from $6,180 to $6,500 per year.

Fire Agreements

It was reported negotiations with the townships on the fire agreement had been initiated and tentatively accepted. The proposal will be submitted to the township councils by their representatives and an agreement with the local firefighters was discussed at Wednesday night's committee meeting.

The agreement will be finalized later.

High School Financing

Financing the debentures to be issued for the addition to the high school have been reviewed in the light of additional funds available from the Municipal Loan Fund. Previously $85,139 had been okayed by the Fund. This amount has been increased to $155,133 will be reduced to $96,-

(Continued on Editorial Page)

—Staff Photo

ACTON FIREFIGHTERS played a dual role Monday evening at the Acton District high school. As well as showing films and demonstrating artificial resuscitation, Bill Spielvogel and Harry Otterbein took a stroll through the recently completed addition checking fire extinguishers.

Area One Vast Skating Rink Township Schools Shut Wed.

Tuesday night and Wednesday morning's sudden ice storm pleased a few children at least. Schools in both Esquesing and Nassagaweya townships were closed Wednesday and rural students attending Acton District High School were left without transportation when school buses were halted due to extremely slippery road conditions.

The whole district was a vast skating rink.

Some workers arrived late at their places of employment and a few couldn't even make it Wednesday morning. Trees and hydro lines were encased in ice causing minor disruptions in power Tuesday night. Branches cracked off and fell heavily.

Sanding crews working out of the Department of Highways yard west of town spent the night sanding highways in an attempt to keep traffic moving. A few minor accidents were reported by the dispatcher at the sanding pit as cars slipped into the ditch.

The light freezing rain which began Tuesday evening gradually picked up momentum until by early morning a heavy rain was falling and driving and walking conditions were very hazardous. Minor flooding conditions were caused in several areas throughout town.

Wednesday morning, several motorists driving to work abandoned their vehicles at the side of the road and continued on foot. Some didn't even attempt to take their cars out of the garage. One of the more treacherous areas to walk was on Cameron Ave., up the slippery, steep grade on Mill St. near Lindsay's flour mill. Some gave up after several tumbles in ice-bottomed puddles and returned home.

Town Sanders

All side streets were ice-covered and in spite of efforts by town workmen to keep the roads sanded, the steady rain washed sand away almost as soon as it was spread.

Tie-ups in traffic were plentiful especially near the three schools. Pupils climbing the hill to the Robert Little public school grasped the iron railing for support to help footing as they inched up the hill. Many students were a little late for school.

The school creek is running full, as it does at the peak of the spring flooding. One boy, watching it from the ice-coated snow on the bank, slipped right in! The Main St. bridge is not far above the height of the water.

Main St. N. was all under water at C. K. Browne's store until drains were cleared Wednesday morning.

Some residents complained of water running into cellars and roofs leaking as ice-coated eaves troughs backed water into the house.

Taxis Rushed

Taxi drivers had a rush of business but didn't entirely care for driving conditions as call after call flooded offices to take people to work. Phone lines jangled continuously and some patrons had to wait several hours to get a cab as the rush continued. One driver said he had trouble driving the taxi over 30 trips within a few hours.

One local lady was seen walking briskly along the sidewalk while others shuffled slowly. Why? With ski poles digging into the ice, she propelled herself along at a good clip with no apparent trouble. A tannery employee wore cleats over his boots.

No Rural Mail

Rural mail deliveries from Acton were cancelled Wednesday morning as roads were a glare of ice and driving conditions too dangerous. Mail trucks continued deliveries here on schedule as highways had been well sanded and mail trains were on time.

Service stations were flooded with calls as motorists required a tow or push to move cars on slippery pavement.

Acton police reported no reportable accidents.

North Halton O.P.P. Wednesday reported only two accidents blamed on the ice. One on highway 401 at 6 p.m. Tuesday resulted in $675 total damage, with no one local involved. Then at Norval at 7 a.m. Wednesday morning, a four-car pile-up resulted in $340 damage. Drivers were not from this district.

Highways were in good driving condition by noon Wednesday.

By mid-morning, fog settled in to make driving conditions more hazardous. Next, by noon came sunshine, mirrored in the glaring ice.

—Staff Photo

G. ALEC JOHNSON avoids the last minute rush for 1965 license plates by shopping before the deadline the end of this month. Department of Transport issuer Jack Hargrave hands over the plates to the happy purchaser. The local issuer advises car owners to come early and avoid the usual last minute lineups.

No Strike

The town timepiece atop the former post office did not stop due to a mechanical failure says B. D. Rachlin, local jeweller and chief custodian of the clock. When both hands reached the 12 o'clock mark, water in between the hands froze during the ice storm, preventing the hands moving. Mr. Rachlin also noted his clock is in keeping with "Big Ben" at city hall in Toronto. It was also reported stopped yesterday morning.

—Acton Cancer Society will be having a financial drive in April again this year, with Mrs. Ray Arbic in charge of the canvassers.

George Lee Heads Board

Library board members huddled together in the cold outside the Y.M.C.A. entrance to the library as a stubborn outdoor lock prevented their entrance Thursday night of last week.

After entry was finally gained and the meeting began, faces brightened as they discussed the proposed new library and the latest $6,240 library grant.

George Lee was named chairman for the year, with standing committees as follows: property and finance, chairman Edward Pratt, Mrs. E. G. Franklin, mayor Les Duby (or council substitute Mrs. Doris Fryer) and the board chairman; book buying committee, chairman Rev. D. H. West, Doug Copeland and all other board members available for 'buying sessions' with librarians.

Members of this year's board are chairman George Lee, Rev. D. H. West, Doug Copeland, Mrs. E. G. Franklin, Roy Kirkness, Edward Pratt and Mayor Les Duby.

Volunteers to Repair Y Men's Cloakroom

The regular afternoon meeting of the Acton Golden Age Club was held Thursday, February 4, at 2 p.m. in the Y building with J. Rolston presiding. An invitation to visit the Guelph Golden Age Club was received and accepted.

The regular reports were given including the card reports from Miss Annie Akins. Answering a request for volunteers to do some repair work in the men's cloakroom at the Y, Robert O'Hara, Chas. Mason, Bert Davidson and Jack Hargrave expressed their willingness to help.

A printing committee for preparing new membership cards comprising Mr. Rolston, Mr. Matthews, and Mrs. Kennedy were appointed. The next meeting, February 8, is election of officers and it is hoped a full membership will be present to elect the officers of their choice.

Euchre and crokinole were played and prizes for euchre were Mrs. James Wilds, ladies, and playing as a man was Mrs. Mae Lambert; crockinole, ladies', prize Mrs. Chas. Mason, for men, Mrs. Dougald Kennedy.

Lunch was served, and Bradley's store had donated a package of tea bags.

Chimney Fire

Monday afternoon Acton Firefighters made a quick run to the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Denny, R.R. 2 Acton, to extinguish a stubborn chimney fire. Chains suspended on a long rope were used to clean out the burning chimney and water from the booster lines used to douse the blaze.

Just 14 Attend Safety Display

Acton Firefighters serve more than a capacity for lighting fires. A special Fire Prevention committee has been formed in order to acquaint the public with the importance of fire prevention as well as safety measures.

Monday evening in the high school committee members showed a film entitled "That they might live", showing methods of mouth to mouth resuscitation. This was followed by a demonstration using a rubber dummy to display mouth to mouth resuscitation and heart massage after which a question and answer period was held. To end the evening a film on the Chicago school fire was shown.

Firefighters In Charge

Fire chief Mick Holmes welcomed the audience and introduced the uniformed committee members, Bill Spielvogel as projectionist, Doug Mason and deputy chief Bern Van Fleet who demonstrated resuscitation. Harry Otterbein, committee chairman and member Will McEachern.

The films and demonstration had been originally set up for viewing by principals and staff members at all three local schools as well as parents. Fire Chief Holmes was disappointed that only 14 attended including three teachers.

Those attending learned that a victim requiring resuscitation can be helped by either one or two persons at a time. With heart massage, some mouth to mouth resuscitation is also used and this can be a one-man operation but can be performed more suitably by two.

Mixed Reactions Greet East-West Split in Riding

Voters in Halton County greeted with mixed reactions, a report last week on the suggested splitting of the county into two Provincial electoral districts.

Provincial committee on redistribution of seats in the heavily-populated ridings recommended Halton be virtually split down the middle, making two ridings of between 60,000 and 70,000 population each. The suggestion for names was Oakville and Burlington.

The western section of the split riding would include all of Burlington and Acton, plus the entire township of Nassagaweya and the upper most portion of the Township of Esquesing, including all that land north of a line drawn through each concession between Lots 22 and 23. The estimated population would be about 62,522.

The eastern section would include all of Oakville, Georgetown and Milton, and the remainder of Esquesing from Lots 1 to 22 in each concession. Estimated population would be 65,732.

Halton M.P.P. George A. Kerr, a Burlington lawyer, now represents the entire county of Halton and he suggested the riding split would be "like losing my right arm". However Mr. Kerr welcomed the change, pointing out the county would receive better representation at Queen's Park with two men handling the duties.

Mr. Kerr has received several objections, mainly from voters in the northern section of the county, over the proposed "Burlington" and "Oakville" names for the new ridings. He said he will request "West Halton" and "East Halton" names for the two ridings, so the identity of the county would not be lost in the shuffle.

Others in the Oakville and Burlington areas welcomed the split, and indicated it would give the south of the county even more power than before. Municipal officials in these two towns have been complaining in recent years that the north of the county — especially at county council level — controls as much voting power as the south while contributing a smaller portion of the assessment, population and county funds.

In the north, there was no immediate reaction from municipal leaders, who preferred to take the "wait and see" attitude. Some felt splitting the rural areas of Nassagaweya and Esquesing into separate ridings was unwise, and residents in the northern portion of Esquesing had "some misgivings about being thrown into a lop-sided rectangle with the town of Burlington — some 20 miles distant — as its core.

The Ontario redistribution, as recommended, would create 13 new ridings and four others would be dissolved in the shuffle. Representation would be increased to 117 seats, from the present 108. Even the seat of Premier John Robarts (London North) has been revised, and several changes were made in Toronto seats.

Under the redistribution proposal for Halton, the change in ridings would not affect the county council set-up, or federal elections.

For Provincial elections, the West Halton riding would elect one member and East Halton would elect another. Mr. Kerr, presently serving the entire county, is expected to remain as Conservative candidate in West Halton and the field would open up for another candidate in the eastern section.

—Staff Photo

KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN at the M. Z. Bennett public school had a busy time Tuesday making valentines for parents and school chums. Shown above are one group with teacher Miss Gail Hanna as they cut and paste their valentines.