

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-First Year—No. 25

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th, 1965

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Mail Quadrupled Rush is Underway

Even though the weather didn't appear very much like Christmas on Monday, postmaster Gordon McKeown and his staff were quite aware that Christmas was only a couple of weeks away. They were swamped with Christmas mail.

On Monday, over 10,000 Christmas cards went through the cancelling machine, compared to a normal day when around 2,500 letters are cancelled.

Tuesday, the momentum increased and close to 20,000 letters and cards were handled. Four temporary helpers have been added to cope with the Christmas rush, making a total of 13 postal clerks.

Mr. McKeown praised patrons for their consideration in handling Christmas cards at the wicket and noted this method speeds up delivery. Sale of three cent stamps has shown a vast increase during the rush.

Regular postal staff includes Mr. McKeown, assistant postmistress Mrs. Chris Britton, Mr. John Chapman, Vic Bristow, Alice Frank, Miss Alice Pilkington, Mrs. Hartley Coles, Mrs. Harvey Kirkwood and Mrs. Charles Peters. Temporary help includes Mrs. Al Canber, Mrs. John McHugh, Mrs. Les McSwain and Mrs. Jean Marcous.

Rockwood Man Killed Three Hurt in Crash

A Rockwood area man was killed and two other persons were hospitalized early Saturday morning following an almost head-on collision between two cars on Highway 25, just north of Milton.

Dead is Dennis Schmidt, age 24, of Lot 12, Con. 5, R.R. 2, Rockwood. He was the driver of a south-bound car that was in collision with a north-bound car driven by Thomas Johnson, 21, of 217 Queen St. Milton. Schmidt was pinned in the wreckage of his car, freed and rushed to Milton District Hospital, then later transferred to Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington, where he died about three hours after the accident.

Miss Norma MacLeod, 18, of 112 Robinwood Cres., Milton, a passenger in the Schmidt vehicle, was also hospitalized with a broken arm and facial lacerations. Damage to the cars totalled \$2,000.

Const. Will Griffiths of Milton O.P.P., who investigated the fatality, praised the work of nurse Mrs. Frances Weyman of Rockwood, who was saving the scene and stayed half an hour to assist with the injured.

The accident was Halton's 40th traffic fatality to date this year. In all of 1964, there were just 22 persons killed in accidents in the county.

Enforce Law

A town by-law prohibiting parking on streets overnight will be enforced throughout the winter months. Corporal Ray Mason of the Acton O.P.P. Department warns motorists this week.

Although the by-law is effective throughout the year, it is not enforced during the summer months. During winter, it is necessary to enforce the by-law in order to assist town workers with plowing the streets of snow.

The Corporal has alerted his men to begin issuing warning tickets and second offenders will be charged with contravening the by-law.

Exchange of Gifts

AI Chapter Meeting

There was a favor for each member of Lakeside Chapter of the I.O.E.F. when they sat down to their pot luck dinner Thursday evening in the Legion Hall. There were several contests and an exchange of gifts.

Annual donations to the provincial chapter and national chapter were made for the year. It was announced that more are still needed for Christmas hampers, these may be given to Mrs. E. Marks.

A very satisfactory sum was raised at the annual bazaar.

Coulter is Nassagaweya Reeve Hoey Ousts Deputy-Reeve Young First Woman Joins Twp. Council

Three incumbents and two newcomers were elected to Nassagaweya council positions on Saturday when 57.25 per cent of the eligible Township electorate turned out to vote. Incumbent William Coulter was re-elected for a third term and William Hoey, making his first bid for deputy reeve's post, ousted incumbent Dr. B. D. Young.

Mrs. Anne MacArthur, making her first try at township politics, led the polls for council with 523 votes and incumbent Ross Gordon and William Mahon were returned to office. Alan Parsons, a member of council for the past two years, finished fourth in the race for the three council seats with Maurice Newton fifth and Leonard Chandler sixth.

The closest race of the day was the battle for the deputy-reeve's post with Mr. Hoey gaining 448 votes, only 14 more than Dr. Young. Mr. Coulter was returned to office with a majority of 108 over challenger Allan Ackman.

Mrs. MacArthur's victory marked a milestone in Township history as she became the first woman ever to be elected to a township council seat. Last year Mrs. Maurice Newton tried for a position but lost out.

Township returning officer J. C. MacIntyre reports 934 possible 1,635 township ratepayers cast ballots. The polls opened at 9 a.m. and closed at 6 p.m. All results were posted by 8:30 p.m.

List Polling Stations

Polling subdivision one was located at the Masonic Hall in Campbellville with Charles King as deputy returning officer. Polling subdivision two was located at the Masonic Hall and Roy Wood was deputy returning officer. Kennedy was deputy returning officer at polling subdivision three in Brookville Hall. Art Diamond was deputy returning officer in the home of Duncan Moffat. Mrs. Helen MacPherson was deputy returning officer in polling subdivision five at the home of Hugh MacPherson.

REEVE (one to be elected)

WILLIAM COULTER 104 191 114 121 259 492
ALAN ACKMAN 57 97 113 54 70 291

DEPUTY-REEVE (one to be elected)

WILLIAM HOEY 79 121 120 59 69 418
DR. B. D. YOUNG 75 63 135 116 25 434

COUNCIL (three to be elected)

MRS. A. MACARTHUR 97 148 156 62 65 523
ROSS GORDON 82 82 128 136 33 461
WILLIAM MAHON 73 106 117 104 26 426
ALAN PARSONS 68 86 124 102 15 395
MAURICE NEWTON 57 58 106 42 61 324
LEONARD CHANDLER 39 50 69 33 63 274



FEEDING THE PASTOR at the 50th Anniversary dinner at Ebenezer church Tuesday was a full time chore for four of the church ladies who served the dinner. Rev. W. A. Leeman and his daughter Janet pose with four ladies who try to tempt the pastor and daughter with many goodies. Left to right are conveners Mrs. Murray Hayward, Mrs. Wynne Dunbar, Joy Hayward and Peggy Blythe. A crowd of over 150 people sat down to enjoy the turkey dinner.

Rev. A. H. McKenzie Heads Chamber for Second Year

A review of another year's activities, election and installation of new officers and pointed comments on selling, highlighted the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at Knox Church Wednesday evening of last week.

Members brought their wares for the turkey dinner served by the ladies of the church.

Officers installed by Mayor Les Dubs for the coming year are headed by the Rev. A. H. McKenzie for the second year, with first vice-president Orval Chapman, second vice-president John Rol, secretary Gordon Balston, treasurer Ted Pratt, directors for a two year term, David Dits, Telford Reid, Frank Heiler and Gordon Cooper, director for one year, Clive Bell, auditors, Lorne Youngblood and Jack Creighton.

The slate of officers was presented by immediate past president Paul Nielsen. There were nominations from the floor and a resignation, so the slate was accepted unanimously after slight alterations, and no election. Chairman of standing committee reported on the year's projects.

Membership

For membership, Roy Goodwin announced there had been more money collected without an increase in membership fees than in some time. Response for membership had been good. He pointed out council's participation in the Christmas lighting program. The cost of installation and operation is charged back to the town by the Hydro Commission on the street lighting account. The other member of his committee is Henry Deveaux.

On the civic committee are chairman Orval Chapman with Ted Pratt, Bill Demms and Dave Dits. Mr. Chapman reported the civic night dinner April 8 with Wellington College dean McKinnon as speaker, the Legion Club ladies as entertainment and Bill Middleton as Citizen of the Year.

An added feature this year was the Home Beautification Contest in cooperation with the Fire fighters. This could be more successful on other years if continued, he said.

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OK Nassagaweya Centennial Parks

Provincial approval of Nassagaweya Township's Centennial projects has been received. The approval was announced this week in a letter from W. Spooner, Minister of Municipal Affairs to Halton's M.P.P. George A. Kerr.

The letter said the program was approved by the Province of Ontario on November 30 and will be forwarded for approval by the Centennial Commission in Ottawa.

The project consists of the development of a municipal park at Brookville at an estimated cost of \$1,800. Cost of the project will be split evenly among the Township, the Province and the Federal Government. The second part of the project, the improvement of municipal parks at Campbellville and Eden Mills will also cost \$1,800. The township will pay \$602 of the cost while the Province and Federal Governments will each pay \$599 of the cost.

Christmas Lighting Charges Spark Council's Criticism

Discussion initiated by Council Friday night at the regular Tuesday Council meeting resulted in the withdrawal of a council resolution supporting an Ontario Municipal Electrical Association request for council's support of a move to block any attempt to leave local hydro and public utility commissions dissolved and functions taken over by a committee of council. Suggestions to abolish local commissions is a result of the Jones Study of the Ottawa region. One of the recommendations of that study was abolition of the commission with council taking over administration.

Councillor Arbo asked if the local council resolution was a result of study by the committee or was it based on the obviously biased points of view of the O.M.E.A.

Pointed questions should be asked and answered before any decision is made on the O.M.E.A. resolution. There are many discrepancies between the way the commission operates and another. Councillor Arbo recommended raising council rates to cover the complete cost of fabrication, installation and operation of the Christmas decorative lighting without anything to say about the whole system for street lighting bill.

Councillor Arbo pointed out there appeared to be "big fault" with the local commission but there is fault with the overall agency. They (the local commission) are running under very strict rules. It is the hydro and utility that controls their actions.

Kevin Hinton suggested the commission be invited to council and Councillor Arbo suggested they can't tell us and we don't have sufficient facts and information to form an opinion.

Mayor Dubs enlightened council on the situation at Port Hope between the council and commission and suggested there's almost a civil war between them. That's exactly what we're doing here.

Delays Official Plan

Also raising council's rate was word that approval of the official plan was being held up by OWR C's report and recommendation that additions to sewage treatment facilities be made before the

Commission was approved. Clerk McGee said he was advised of the holiday and OWR C's report by the Planning Consultants and received confirmation only after telephoning the OWR C.

Mayor Dubs said Acton had been waiting for a meeting with OWR C for many months on additional treatment facilities. The meeting was to be called when the OWR C report was completed and as a result very little has been accomplished in the two years we've been waiting for OWR C.

Traffic Change

A by-law to permit two-way traffic on Eastern Ave. from Queen St. was given its third and final reading. It also provides for a no parking area on the traffic island at the Queen street entrance to Eastern Ave.

Council also:

Agreed to increase the municipal auditor's fee for 1965 to \$1,500 from \$1,250.

Wrote off \$4350 in ambulance bad debts.

Proclaimed Monday, Dec. 27, as Boxing Day and Monday, January 3, as a holiday for municipal employees.

(Continued on Page Two)

Acton Resident for 42 Years Mrs. J. Donaldson Reaches 90

A resident of Acton for the past 42 years, Mrs. John Donaldson celebrated her 90th birthday Friday at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner.

Born in the County of Monaghan, Ireland on December 10, 1875, the former Eleanore Galland married a Scotsman, John Donaldson, and they had two children, Elizabeth (Mrs. Robert Turner) and John, now living in Wingham.

Settled in Acton

The couple left the old country and settled in Acton, August, 1923 with their two children. Mr. Donaldson was employed at Beardmore and Co. until his death September 8, 1948.

Mrs. Donaldson was always fond of gardening and until recent years did a lot of sewing and reading. She is a life member of Knox W.M.S. and still attends church regularly.

Many Changes

Mrs. Donaldson notices quite a number of changes since she first arrived in Acton. She regrets that most of her former friends have died and there are many new faces in town the past few years.

She is residing at the home of Mrs. Nelson Lambert on Main St. S. and still enjoys walks uptown for shopping excursions and visits to the home of her daughter and son-in-law.

On Friday she enjoyed a birthday luncheon at the home of the Turners and in the evening was guest of honor at the home of long time family friends, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Wright.

Highlighting the evening gathering was the special serenade on the bagpipes, played by the Wright's grandson David, of Guelph, a member of the Guelph Pipe Band.

Mrs. Jean Leslie baked the cake for the birthday dinner party. The Rev. A. H. McKenzie called to bring congratulations.



MRS. JOHN DONALDSON

First Ice Storm Blankets Area

Acton pedestrians and motorists slipped and skittered along last weekend when a sudden storm blanketed roads, walks, trees and fences with a thick coating of shimmering ice.

Several minor accidents were reported in the district when cars slipped into ditches as a result of icy roads. Many small branches from trees tinkled to the ground and some telephone lines were knocked out. In one area of town, power was off for almost an hour Saturday night.

Several motorists abandoned vehicles in garages and walked, while others crawled at a snail's pace to their destination. Combined with the freezing rain, a dense fog made driving even more hazardous.

The storm which began early Saturday evening settled into a weekend affair. In some rural churches, evening services were cancelled Sunday. Morning services were only sparsely attended in town as well as in the country. Ebenezer church's 50th anniversary service in the morning was without the guest speaker due to the storm and the special evening service was cancelled.

Emergency Call

A local garage operator was called out at the height of the weekend storm to drive into the rural district on icy roads and bring a woman to a doctor's office to have a chicken bone removed from her throat.

Two trucks were busy hauling cars out of ditches and starting vehicles which had become wet.

Monday morning at least one rural dweller working in town left his car in the garage and hopped the distance to town in the dense fog and over icy roads, before dawn.

Town workmen were out sanding early Sunday morning and encountered a breakdown in the sanding mechanism before the job was finished. Dept. of Highways sanders and snow plows began work Saturday evening.

Fortunately, just one accident was reported in the immediate district as a result of the storm.

Cancelled Exams

School buses were cancelled. So many high school students couldn't make it to exams, they were cancelled for Monday.

Rural mail carriers despatched mail from the Acton post office to most of their routes as usual Monday. A few were hampered by slippery roads from covering the entire route.



BUSY BROWNIES are helping needy children in other countries for Christmas by gathering soap and face cloths as well as woolen garments to be sent to the Unitarian Service Committee for Canada for distribution. The project is the girls' "Good Deed" for Christmas. Kneeling in front left to right are Judy Holmes, Irene Laing and Darlene Holmes. Back row left to right are Patsy Jordan, Janice Thompson, Debbie Papillon and Cathy Quinn. The cardboard tree two of the girls are holding is being decked out by Mrs. Robert Buckner who calls it a Mitten Tree. Articles made of wool such as mittens, socks and scarves may be sent to Mrs. Buckner and will be included on the tree for the U.S.C.