

The Acton Free Press

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Turn first sod Wednesday for start of new library

Mrs. R. P. Watson, chief librarian for the past 46 years in Acton, happily turned the first sod Tuesday morning at the site of Acton's new Centennial Library on the Robert Little school grounds. The steady summer rain was unable to dampen the enthusiasm of the small group.

While a handful of town officials, surveyors and workmen from contractor E. S. Kerr Company Ltd., watched, Mrs. Watson plunged an old shovel into the hard, drought-dried ground to come up with the first sod which marks the beginning of construction of a fine new library—the town's centennial project. Officiating at the brief, damp ceremony with Mrs. Watson were proud mayor and library board member Les Doby, library board chairman George Lee and works supervisor Dean Crowe from E. S. Kerr Company Ltd., contractor.

Standing by watching with obvious satisfaction were clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie and councillor Frank G. Oakes. Surveyors and other company workmen were there right ready to begin. The steady rain which began to fall just prior to the sod turning, was a welcome sight to everyone present in spite of the urgency of proceeding as rapidly as possible with construction.

Heavy equipment was at the site by Wednesday afternoon and excavation began. Surveyors were making last minute checks on levels.

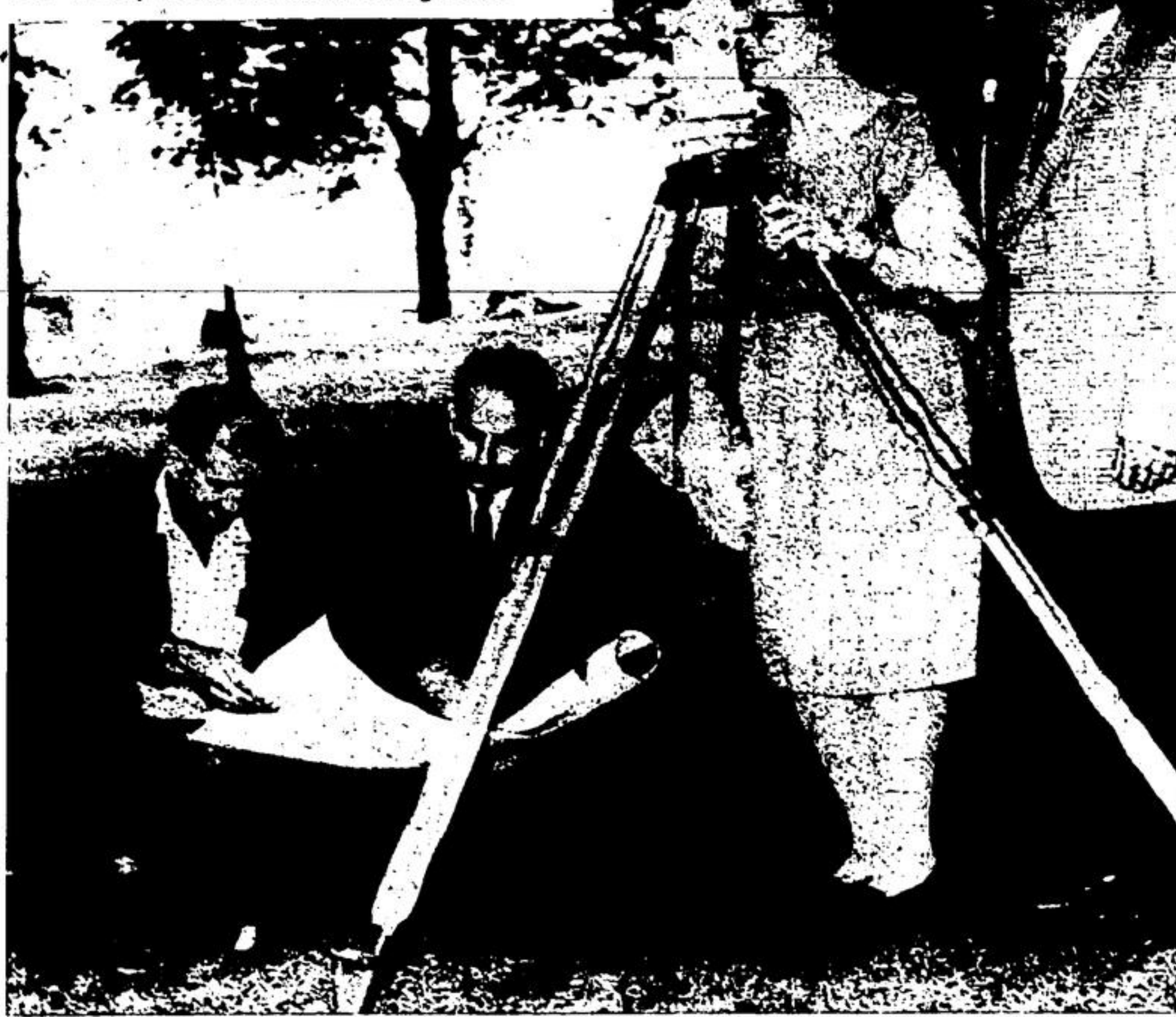
Rain-coated architect Donald Skinner arrived at the site shortly after the sod turning ceremony to give last minute instructions there. Then Mayor Doby and clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie went inside the town office and signed the official contract with the contractor. The contract was approved for signing at the brief meeting of council the night before.

The estimated total cost for the building is \$76,192.67. The building tender price is \$72,392.67 plus an estimated \$4,000 for architect's fees and incidentals, less the anticipated government grant of \$3,200, plus an estimated \$6,000 for shelving, sidewalks and a bridge over the school creek from River Street.

It was just Monday that a chunk of plaster fell suddenly from the ceiling in the present library building covering books on a shelf in one corner. Need of the new facilities has been recognized for a long time.

After the sod-turning, Mrs. Watson expressed her pleasure at being the person asked to symbolically begin the construction of the new library.

46 YEARS OF SERVICE at Acton Public Library were recognized when chief librarian Mrs. R. P. Watson symbolically turned the first sod for the centennial library at the new site Tuesday morning. After the brief ceremony she paused to check the terrain through the transit. With her are (left to right) superintendent of works for contractor E. S. Kerr Construction Ltd., Dean Crowe and Mayor Les Doby checking blueprints and library board chairman George Lee.



Bubblers to deft salmon swimmers get certificates

Young swimmers at the wading pool had the concluding tests of their series of lessons on Thursday and Friday of last week. Instructors Trudy Morris and Paul Cooper recognized, with hand-lettered "certificates", the various stages of accomplishment during the three weeks.

Following are the youngsters who received certificates:

Bubblers — Mary Jean Hall, Debbie Neely, John Gordon, Clifford Britton, Billy Manes, Ann Harding, Ronnie Haefner, Russell Allen, Robert Allen, Timmy Daigle, Stevie Daigle, Barbara Turkos, Stephen McGiloway.

Jellyfish — Mary Jean Hall, Debbie Neely, Russell Allen, Robert Allen, Stephen McGiloway, Ronnie Haefner, Billy Manes, Clifford Britton, Stevie Daigle, Ann Harding, John Gordon, Freddy Allen, Brian Larsen, Thom DeVries, Steven McKnight, Marie Grietender, Marie Davis, Glenn Joque, Kim McCristall, Eric Fryters.

Guppies — Mary Jean Hall, Stevie Daigle, Stephen McGiloway, Ronnie Haefner, Billy Manes, John Gordon, Sherry Ismond, Sharon Phillips, Donald Coats, Carol McKenzie, Cathy Ann Chapman, Larry McGiloway, Steven Corroy, Carol Grant, Freddy Allen, Brian Larsen, Thom DeVries, Steven McKnight, Marie Grietender, Marie Davis, Glenn Joque, Kim McCristall, Eric Fryters.

Minnows — Sherry Ismond, Sharon Phillips, Carol Grant, Donald Coats, Carol McKenzie, Cathy Ann Chapman, Larry McGiloway, Steven Corroy, Larry Holmes, Debbie McGiloway, Danny Manes, Elizabeth Thompson, Adrian VanOpstal, Karlyn Manes, Doug McGiloway, Ron Kuiken, Colleen De Bruyn, Jen

nifer Krapck, David Holmes, Gail Douglas.

Sunfish — Gerard Van Opstal, Marcel Fryters, John Ashley, Betty DeVries, John McCutcheon, Ian Coats, Erika Heptner, Elizabeth Thompson, Larry Holmes, Debbie McGiloway, Danny Manes, Adrian Van Opstal, Doug McGiloway, Gail Douglas, Karlyn Manes.

Salmon — Gerard Van Opstal, Marcel Fryters, John Ashley, Betty DeVries, John McCutcheon, Ian Coats, Erika Heptner, Larry Holmes, Gail Douglas, Elizabeth Thompson, Debbie McGiloway, Doug McGiloway, Danny Manes, Adrian Van Opstal.

Safety Week

Farm Safety Week is this week. Read with concern the special ad on page 4, sponsored by merchants concerned with the well-being of the community.

Feeder line complete soon

Hydro linemen are busy this week completing the main feeder line between No. 1 and No. 2 substations. Restringing of the new feeder line along Church St. is to be completed this week if weather permits.

Last year a new feeder line was restringing from No. 1 substation along Willow St. to Church St. The second phase of wiring along Church St. is being done now. This will be followed by restringing a new line along Eastern Avenue to No. 2 substation.

Give green light to by-law in spite of zone objection

After four years of preparation by Planning Board, Acton's new proposed zoning by-law almost received another setback Tuesday night before the first reading of the by-law was given for submission to the Ontario Municipal Board.

During a joint meeting Tuesday of Council and Planning Board to review the proposed zoning by-law Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brankiewicz appeared with their solicitor Harold Funk of Milton to object to their property being zoned R-M.

According to the present by-law which has been under surveillance the past four years, the Brankiewicz property is zoned R-1. Mr. Funk told the joint meeting his client objected to his property being zoned R-M as this would limit future development to apartments or duplex housing.

Mr. Funk stated he had viewed the zoning by-law there would not be adequate area for even apartments. The Brankiewicz property borders on the north and south side of Elizabeth Drive. The solicitor claimed if the property was zoned R-M it would be useless to his client.

Planning Board chairman Aldo Brankiewicz explained that during the four-year study of the zoning by-law, board members and consultants had agreed on R-M as proper zoning for the Brankiewicz property as well as properties bordering from Elizabeth Drive along the west side of Main St. N. in order to upgrade the entire area.

The chairman noted, however, that since the decision to re-zone R-M, Mr. Brankiewicz had erected another house on the north side of Elizabeth Drive.

The solicitor was also told, Mr. Brankiewicz had appeared at several Planning Board meetings with the same objection and at the last one was informed he could attend a public Ontario Municipal Board hearing to raise his objections.

Mr. Brankiewicz stated the by-law had already been delayed about 15 times and each time it cost the town considerable money.

He also noted there were other applications made for changes and the people had been advised to defer them at present.

Mr. Funk suggested the Brankiewicz application affected only the Brankiewicz family and it would be a simple change to make it R-1. Mr. Brankiewicz informed the Planning Board had a resolution on its books stating it would not consider any further applications until the zoning by-law was approved.

Mayor Les Doby said he sympathized with the board over time lost but said, "It might not be reasonable to proceed knowing something might be wrong." Councillor Robert Drinkwater, also a member of the Planning

Board said since the decision to re-zone the property to R-M had been made the second house had been erected on the north side of Elizabeth Drive and in his estimation this would make a difference. "We as a council would be failing our duty if we didn't re-zone the north side R-1, but we shouldn't change the land on the south side from R-M," the councillor stated.

The mayor said an application at this time would be cumbersome and awkward as the by-law had been costly to date and already held up several times in the past four years. He asked Mr. Funk if the Brankiewicz family would be seriously affected if they waited for the O.M.B. hearing. "Mr. Brankiewicz is going to be seriously injured by the change in zone. Since only he is concerned in the change application at this time," stressed Mr. Funk.

A resolution sponsored by councillors Drinkwater and William Williams to re-zone the portion of property north of Elizabeth Drive to R-1 and leave the southern section near Fairy Lake as R-M went down to defeat with only councillor Drinkwater voting in the affirmative.

It was agreed to notify the Brankiewicz solicitor of the decision.

The first reading of the proposed zoning by-law was given by council in order to have it presented to the O.M.B. for approval. Before final approval can be given an O.M.B. hearing will be held at which time objections can be aired.

A proposal submitted by Planning Board members recom-

mending council approve a change of 50 per cent of the cost involved for anyone making application for a change to the zoning by-law or official plan was deferred for further study by No. 1 committee of council. It was also suggested the 50 per cent charge might be exorbitant in many cases and a maximum fee should be levied.

Before adjournment, councillor Drinkwater stated "We are preparing for the country's 100th birthday next year and on the country's 99th birthday on Dominion Day, July 1, no flags were flying in town." He noted it was disappointing to have strangers drive through town and not see flags flying from light standards.

He was told it was possibly an oversight on someone's part. Councillor Mrs. Doris Fryer asked if there had been any word from the Department of Transport regarding stop lights at the Main-Mill intersection. She was told there hadn't been to date.

Mayor Doby stated he was concerned about traffic conditions at the Wallace Avenue-McDonald Boulevard intersection and suggested a committee of council consider a yield sign at this area.

Iain Williams, recently hired as joint secretary of Planning Board and Committee of Adjustment, attended the joint meeting.

Council members attending included Mayor Doby and councillors Mrs. Doris Fryer, Dr. F. G. Oakes, Earl Masales, Robert Drinkwater and William Williams. Chairman Aldo Brankiewicz was the only member from Planning Board to attend excluding council representatives.

OBITUARY

Former "Citizen of the Year" Bill Coon buried Wednesday

Business and community activities which have benefitted the town of Acton over many years concluded Monday with the death of Bill Coon in Guelph General Hospital. In progressively poorer health for the past months, Mr. Coon was 60 years of age.

His contributions to the town were recognized in April, 1961, when to his profound surprise he was named the fourth Citizen of the Year. These contributions have been recorded and will long be remembered by the many friends here who learned of his death this week with a deep sorrow and sense of loss.

The sympathy of the community is extended to his wife, whose mother passed away last week, to his two sons and their families and brothers and sisters.

Mr. Coon was born in St. Catharines, son of the late William and Helen Coon and one of a family of 13. He was married to Marguerite (Peg) Stinson at Proton Station in 1934. Surviving as well as his wife are two sons, Bill of Guelph and Bob of Brampton and three grandchildren. He is also mourned by sisters Muriel, Helen, Jean, and Marion and brothers Harold, Jack, Clayton, Clifford and Ronald. He was predeceased by one brother and two sisters.

He learned his trade with the Ontario Wind Engine and Pump Co. which was later taken over by Ajax Engineering. He came to Acton with the Ajax firm in 1935. At the time of his retirement he was general manager of Ajax Engineering and Marley of Canada, Acton plant.

(Continued on Page 3)

Commendation mounting after two rescued at tannery

Racing against time, trained tannery workers and Acton Firefighters averted by just seconds what might have been a double fatality at Beardmore and Co. Limited tannery Monday morning. Teamwork played a vital role in the rescue of Eldon Rawding, who fell into chrome tanning drum, and Bill Nelles, one of several men who courageously went to his rescue but was overcome by fumes.

Mr. Rawding is recovering well and is still in Guelph General Hospital. Mr. Nelles is recovering there more slowly, and a specialist was called in to attend to his eyes. He has one eye bandaged.

Commendation for the attempts of fellow workers to rescue the men and especially for the prompt application of resuscitation by trained volunteers mounts as the two men are recovering from their brush with fate.

The chain of fast-moving events all began about 8:30 a.m. Monday when 20-year-old Eldon Rawding was taking a routine test of the solution in one of the large drums loaded with soaking, slippers, hides and tanning solution. The drum is loaded and tested through a trap door on the mezzanine floor of the building.

Mr. Rawding fell in and it's thought perhaps he struck his head. The weekend build-up of carbon monoxide fumes caused him to lose consciousness.

Fellow workers in a series began the vain attempt of rescuing him but were prevented by the fumes caused by bi-chromates in the tanning process.

One of those who was helped out in very gross condition was 18-year-old Phillip Drysdale. Another was Del Walters, who called for help. Henry Harmsma, Fred Dawkins, Hugh O'Rourke and others, too, began the attempt but realized the fumes were causing them to lose consciousness, and clambered out. While the men worked anxiously at the tank, the doctor and the tannery crews and Acton Firefighters were summoned. The town siren alerted Firefighters to bring resuscitators.

With unusual determination and courage, Bill Nelles descended the ladder to tie a rope to young Mr. Rawding lying in the solution. Fellow workers spoke to Mr. Nelles continually to assure his safety — but he, too, collapsed. Before he did, however, he had the rope secured about Mr. Rawding and the men over the tank were able to pull him out to safety.

(Mr. Nelles didn't realize his efforts had been successful until Mr. Rawding told him, later, in the hospital.) His rescuer

still lay in the solution and the desperate efforts intensified.

A company Scott air pack, brought on the run, was donned by Bern Van Fleet, tannery fire brigade chief who is also deputy chief of the town fire department. With the oxygen of the air pack he was able to reach Mr. Nelles, assisted by Norm Price, who went up and down gasping for air.

Mr. Van Fleet caught hold of Mr. Nelles' shirt, he said, but it ripped right off his back. Mr. Nelles' foot was caught in the ladder. He was face-down in the solution. Norm Price tied a rope around Mr. Nelles' wrist and part of Mr. Van Fleet's hand and then the crew above hoisted up the ladder. Mr. Nelles, and the two firefighters, with the help of a large overhead power crane.

Prompt mouth-to-mouth resuscitation had begun at once on Mr. Rawding, administered by plant first aid supervisor Theo Pappillon. The other men who had assisted were given oxygen to clear their lungs.

The firefighters' resuscitation was administered with all speed to the two victims.

Dr. David van der Bent at first could detect no pulse from Mr. Nelles but with inhalation and massage, he began at once to recover slightly.

Royal City Ambulance responded quickly to the call and oxygen was administered all the way to Guelph General Hospital by firefighter Hilliard Price.

Eldon Rawding, 20, lives at Silvercreek.

Bill Nelles, 35, lives at R.R. 1 with his wife and young son. He's been the jovial president of the Y's Men's Club since May.

Now storeskeeper for the chemical stores at the tannery, he has been employed there for the past 16 years.

Word of the accident spread, leaving a chill of deep concern with friends. The town siren, followed soon by the ambulance siren began the concern which continues with frequent inquiries about the men's condition.

Commendation for the speed and ability of the tannery firemen, first aid official, firefighters and doctor continues to amass.

Firefighters who responded to the emergency summons were All Doby, Wilf Duval, Hilliard Price and Dorson Frizzell. Other firefighters work at the tannery and were already there; others came later with more oxygen. Other firefighters at the scene included Ed McGiloway, Bert Fleet, Norm Price, Bern Van Fleet, Wilf McEachern and Herb Dodds.

Praise for the firefighters' efficiency and speed was given them at the tannery by Dr. van der Bent.

Mr. Nelles was instrumental in Mr. Rawding's removal from the solution and then Mr. Van Fleet finally pulled up Mr. Nelles. However, Mr. Van Fleet says everyone who helped must be commended.

Acceptance

Deputy Minister of Highways and a former Actonian, Cameron McNab will definitely open Acton Fair at 2 o'clock on Saturday, September 17. A letter received this week by secretary-treasurer Mrs. C. W. Swackhamer officially accepted the formal invitation.

Experienced lion tamer faces new challenge — growling bear

As a former president of the Acton Lions Club and past zone chairman, Allan Lauder, 130 Tuley Avenue, is quite capable of taming the "Lions". When it comes to training a bear—that's another story.

During a recent holiday at Bass Lake in the Muskoka area, Mr. and Mrs. Lauder came face to face with a large brown bear while out for a stroll. The couple had been enjoying their holiday, doing what most people on holidays do, like relaxing, swimming, fishing and mainly resting. Little did they realize their holiday would bring them face to face with a bear.

While walking along the cottage road, Mrs. Lauder exclaimed, "What's that?" Her husband looked twice before he could

lieve his eyes. Suspended from a white birch tree less than 20 feet away was a bear. The animal took a look at the couple, snarled and showed his teeth—then let out an enormous growl.

For the man who had seen plenty of action taming Lions (club members that is) this was a new experience. He decided discretion was the best part of valour. He and his wife turned quietly and headed back toward the cottage. After going about 40 feet or so, he glanced back over his shoulder but saw no sign of the bear, much to his relief!

Apparently the drought is bringing bears closer to habitation, but this is the first known in this area.

The moral of the story is "The Lion is still king of the jungle." Much to Mr. Lauder's satisfaction.

Conclude business in 25 minutes time

Approval to sign a contract to build the Acton Centennial library with E. S. Kerr Construction Ltd., Toronto, was among the items briefly dealt with by Acton Council Tuesday evening during a short 25-minute summer session.

Final approval for the \$72,392.67 project was received from the Ontario Municipal Board July 11.

Council also proclaimed Monday, August 1 as civic holiday and noted there would be no garbage pickup that day. Instead garbage will be picked up the following day with the regular schedule maintained again on Thursday.

With clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie going on holidays, signing authority was given to office manager Joe T. Hursi. An increase of 35 cents per hour was granted Mrs. Madeline Dodds for cleaning services at the town hall. It was also agreed that during August council meetings would be August 9 and August 30.

Council members adjourned to go to the funeral home to pay their respects to the late William Coon who was a one-time councillor and public spirited citizen.

Attending the council session were Mayor Les Doby and councillors Mrs. Doris Fryer, Dr. F. G. Oakes, Earl Masales, Robert Drinkwater and William Williams.

At eight o'clock council reconvened again for a joint meeting with Planning Board. An account of this meeting appears in another article.



—Staff Photo

TENT CITY sprang up Tuesday afternoon at the park as playground leaders and children erected tents for their annual sleep-out in the park. Chaperone for the night, John Leatherland helps to hold the centre pole while Henry Toebes and Jeff Cooper attempt to hold the sagging tent. Close to 60 kiddies enjoyed sleeping under canvas.



—Staff Photo

EVEN DOLLY got into the fun of things Tuesday as children taking part in the playground program enjoyed freshie and baked goods. Left to right are Barbara Vivian holding her favorite doll while Trudy Toebes watches and Frances Corjup pours the doll a drink.