

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Second Year.—No. 13.

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## Program at Y all mapped out, no overlapping

There will be no duplication of program for boys and girls at the community centre and at the Y.M.C.A., following a meeting at which the Y. program was mapped out.

Recreation director Howard Pearce met Monday evening with Y board and the two Y instructors for this year, Carl Chadbourne and Pete Lawson. Registration begins next Monday.

Monday evenings at the Y will be boys' club night. There will be group participation in age groups, in a gym and club setting. As well as sports, there will be programs dealing with camping, fishing regulations, woodwork and other crafts. Ages are 11 to 15.

From 8 to 10 p.m. there will be the Y Junior Leaders' Corps, a training program for specially chosen leaders.

Tuesday nights will be given over to the basketball team, the Court Jesters, for practices and games.

Wednesday night's program parallels Mondays, but it's for girls.

The first and third Thursdays are reserved for the Golden Age Club and the second and fourth (Continued on Page Two)



—Staff Photo

**WHIPPER BILLY WATSON**, British Empire wrestling champion, willingly receives an arm hold from George Rowsell, Poplar Avenue, Acton, as brother Robert watches prior to the main match between the "Whip" and Sweet Daddy Siki at the arena last week. On Thursday, October 6, the popular wrestlers return to town and the main bout is a "death match" between Sweet Daddy and Whipper Billy.

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## Unveil Plunkett report

The Plunkett commission report on local government in Halton and Peel Counties will be unveiled tonight (Thursday) for councillors and the press of the two counties, at a special gathering in Oakville. The report is expected to carry some far-reaching suggestions for the future of the two counties and many of the municipalities within their borders. J. W. Spooner, Minister of Municipal Affairs for Ontario, will preside over the gathering and present the report. It was written by Thomas J. Plunkett, a special commissioner appointed by the department to conduct the year long study of local government.

At Thursday's meeting copies will be distributed to councillors and school board representatives from Halton and Peel. Mayors, reeves and deputy reeves of local municipalities, plus the school board chairmen, have received invitations. A detailed analysis of the report will appear in next week's paper.

## Start work next week new hydro building

"We've done two years' work tonight," commented Hydro Chairman Ted Tyler last Thursday at the regular meeting of Acton Hydro Commission when the commission approved the signing of a construction contract with Whitney Construction of Brampton for the new \$61,550 Hydro office and workshop building. "While we've got her on the move, we're going to get

some criticism," he concluded. The contract covers the construction of the new building on Alice Street but does not include electrical wiring, air conditioning or heating, paving and sodding. The wiring and heating will be handled by the commission staff. Electrical heating will be used in the building. The present contract compares with the tenders submitted and rejected in June last year which at that time ranged between a low of \$94,600 and a high of \$104,970 but included heating and wiring. A recall of tenders in November brought tenders from \$93,933 to \$105,415. The price of \$61,550 is a result of negotiations and revisions to the plans between architect Don Skinner and Whitney Construction.

(The contract was signed Tuesday of this week by chairman Ted Tyler and secretary Mrs. Audrey Urquhart. Completion is scheduled for December 31, 1966. Work is to commence next week.)

Also approved at the meeting was a \$3,500 facelift for Alice Street to include street lighting and underground service to serve the Federal Building.

The Ontario Hydro interim operating report for seven months, received by the commission, showed revenue of \$188,387 against expenses of \$165,251 providing the local commission with a \$23,136 operating profit. The return to the commission is at the rate of 12.2 per cent. The report also noted 72 per cent of their 1966 capital expenditures had been expended by July 31—97 per cent of the amount budgeted for transformers has been spent. It is anticipated further expenditures may be anticipated.

Commissioners agreed to match the employee benefit proposed for the municipal works staff through the Mutual Life Insurance Company. Chairman Tyler said the proposal provides "increased benefits with a very small amount of money involved". Mayor Duby advised Commissioners the proposed addition to the benefit "picks up all the loose ends—we'll never have to deal with it again."

The annual cost to the commission goes from \$198.78 to \$253.36, up \$54.58 per year or 27 per cent.

Accounts totalling \$1,829.57 were approved for payment. \$5,000 was to be reinvested in the Chairman and treasurer in 60 day treasury notes. It is not anticipated the \$65,000 will be required for payment on the new building until the completion of the term.

Mayor Duby asked commissioners to consider what assistance the commission might be able to suggest in provision of lighting in the grounds at the centennial library.

As well as Chairman Tyler, Commissioners Brown, Dawkins and McEachern and Mayor Duby attended.

## Profit-making roller skating replaced by winter program

Recreation director Howard Pearce asked and received permission from the recreation committee to spend half a day a week in the Y.M.C.A. to run ladies' slim and trim classes as part of the recreation program. Mr. Pearce will also consult and advise the two Y.M.C.A. leaders from the University of Guelph so no duplication of programs will occur.

Mr. Pearce's report opened the regular meeting of the recreation committee on the heels of a joint meeting with parks board and No. 1 committee of council, called to untangle the legal measures needed to amalgamate parks and recreation.

Pearce plans for slim and trim also call for a session on Thursday evening with Mrs. Art Cooper acting as instructor.

Preparations for the winter season at the community centre are well underway. Mr. Pearce informed the committee. Roller skating, which showed a profit in its first year of operation, will be finished October 1. New parts have been ordered for the ice making plant and it should be ready for operation shortly after they're received.

Herb Ritchie has been engaged for the winter months and he'll commence his duties in the community centre Oct. 1.

Property chairman Harold Townsley enumerated several problems to be solved in the arena before the season starts. Wire received for the ends had to be sent back and reordered elsewhere since Mr. Townsley felt a puck could go through the mesh.

The Schomberg machine which sweeps, shaves and floods the ice is having minor repairs done including sharpening the blade.

The property chairman disclosed the insurance underwriters objected to more than two persons using the referees' room

last season and there were four referees in it. He felt the room would only house two men.

A suggestion from the property chairman that the large room downstairs could be partitioned and an additional room for referees built there was left until the feeling of the fall fair board was known. Members left the fair board had jurisdiction over the room as part of the agreement during the building drive. They advised Mr. Townsley to consult them before any decisions were made.

The secretary read a letter from Acton district high school board replying to a request from the recreation commission to discuss new tennis courts in town. The board stated they had no facilities available for tennis.

Member Hugh Patterson voiced his concern. "We just asked them to talk about it," he said. Helen Otterbein was more objective. Referring to press reports of remarks attributed to the chairman about the "abuse

and condition of the old courts, she stated "we played tennis on the courts for years and the chairman's remarks certainly didn't apply to them. We paid \$250 a year for use of the courts and they were always in good conditions."

Only tender for rental of the food-booth at the community centre came from Spirl's Corner proprietor Roy Goodwin. The committee asked the administration committee to meet with Mr. Goodwin to discuss the rental before any agreement is made.

The committee agreed to pay fees of \$35 to enable recreation director Howard Pearce to belong to the society for directors of municipal recreation. This body supplies directors with helpful literature and information.

For the benefit of members who weren't at the joint meeting before, Chas. Leatherland explained what transpired and urged members to think about the implications of the Dept. of Municipal Affairs' idea of amalgamation.

The secretary was instructed to find out from the clerk-administrator if the committee was liable for the tractor used in the community centre.

A curling club request to build shelves and dig a two foot trench under the seats in the arena was approved. The curlers are buying new stones and the additional space is needed to store them. Improvements will be at their expense.

Financial statement number seven amounting to \$319.23 was approved for payment.

Chairman Len Lovell presided at the meeting with members C. Perry, O. Coultrup, H. Patterson, Mrs. G. Otterbein, H. Townsley, Mrs. H. Frer, C. Leatherland, secretary Art Cooper and Howard Pearce also in attendance.

## December municipal election start of new two-year term

Voters going to the polls in the municipal election this December will mark ballots for candidates for council, Hydro-Electric Commission and public school board, who will all take office for a two-year term.

This decision was finalized Tuesday night when a by-law adopting the two-year term was approved by the majority of council. Only dissenting vote was cast by councillor C. F. Leatherland.

Acton Fire Hall will sometime in the future house a new fire truck. Tuesday night council approved the tender from C. E. Hickey and Sons for the new truck at a price of \$22,700. The vehicle is being purchased under the Emergency Measures Organization plan and 45 per cent of the cost up to \$18,000 is borne by the government with the town assuming the balance. This means a grant of \$8,100 will be paid leaving Acton's share at \$14,600.

As the truck is not expected to be delivered until next year, payment for Acton's share will be taken care of out of the equipment fund established this year.

It was explained to council that the Fire Marshal had visited the town and inspected the present 1953 G.M.C. truck, now 13 years old. He told Mayor Les Duby once a fire truck is 15 years old it can no longer be traded in or sold to another community but could be kept in good repair and used as a second vehicle.

It was also learned that under the E.M.O. plan only 25 trucks could be purchased this year and Acton was 23rd on the list. If the town decided against purchasing the truck this year, there would be possibly be another two or three years' wait before it would become eligible under the plan again.

Two other bids received included one from King-Seagrave at a price of \$25,757 and one from La France at a price of \$24,835.

Clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie advised council he had received further word from the Department of Highways stating signal lights could be installed at the Mill-Main intersection but the town would bear

the entire cost. It was noted the Department is available for design and layout of the lights. The clerk was instructed to have the department prepare plans and specifications which will be studied and tenders called to obtain prices. Final decision for installation of lights will be based on the total cost.

Attending the meeting were town assessor William Erskine and town employee John Dunn. Mr. Erskine was presented with his assessor's certificate after completing a three-year course

from Queen's University, Kingston. He thanked council for sending him on the course and said it took a great deal of hard work and study but he had gained considerable knowledge from the course which would be a great benefit to himself and the taxpayers. He was commended in turn by all members present.

John Dunn was presented with a certificate from the Ontario Water Resources Commission for successful completion of a three-year course in water pollution. Mr. Dunn expressed ap-

preciation to council for sending him on the course and said it gave him more initiative to work for the town and although the certificate could come in handy to obtain a job almost anywhere, "I don't intend to leave Acton," he added. Mayor Duby and council members congratulated the workman in the manner he carries out his work and the interest he takes in it.

Accounts totalling \$8,596.81 were approved for payment.

## Investigate expansion of town office propose including library, hallway

Expansion of present facilities at the municipal office is under consideration by council by incorporating the present library room and possibly the front hall of the Y.M.C.A.

Tuesday evening council agreed to request architect Donald Skinner to investigate and report on approximate costs for the renovations.

Councillor Earl Masales wondered if prices might be obtained from local contractors and was told this would be possible, but the advice of either the architect or an engineer would be necessary to determine the stress and strain on present walls.

A long, hard battle by Tom Brankiewicz to have his property rezoned from R-M to R-3 in order to allow its development came to a conclusion Tuesday night when council approved the change.

Mr. Brankiewicz had visited council on several occasions and the last time was accompanied by his solicitor. At this meeting

the solicitor pointed out by leaving the property zoned R-M only apartments would be permitted and in his estimation the land didn't qualify for this due to the proximity of the creek bed and lack of parking area.

By resolution the planning consultant will be requested to change on the zoning map from R-M to R-3 designation, properties on Main St. N. from the boundary of the Brankiewicz and Bonnette properties south to and including the Ancker property as well as including all of the Brankiewicz property. Councillors Robert Drinkwater and Earl Masales voted in opposition.

Another resolution presented by councillors C. F. Leatherland and Mrs. Doris Fryer to change on the zoning map from R-1 to R-3 designation all properties on plans 28, 332 and 335 lying north and west of the lands adjacent to Young and Queen Sts. but not including school properties was defeated.

Mr. Leatherland in requesting

the change said homes in this area were not all classed as R-1 but varied, including some business residences, and was of the opinion there was land available which could be built on by veterans under the Veterans' Land Act. He said these could compare to the present homes on Churchill Road N. These homes are not serviced with sewers but by septic tanks. He was of the opinion council would be stunting the growth of the town by not allowing homes to be erected without sewer services.

He was told by the clerk that services were available on part of Churchill Rd. N. and one home was already hooked up. Mayor Les Duby, himself a resident in this area, said it was the general opinion of the few residents they could get by with septic tanks until such time as the town found it feasible to install sewer mains.

During the Number Two committee report it was learned Len Adams, proprietor of Willes' Bus (Continued on Page Two)

## To seek amalgamation advice on recreation, parks board

Efforts to amalgamate Parks Board and the Recreation Commission, approved in principle by both bodies, were deferred until a further meeting with representatives of the Department of Education and the Department of Municipal Affairs can be arranged.

This was decided at a joint meeting of the two boards with the No. 1 committee of council, clerk-administrator J. McGeachie and secretary Art Cooper in the council chambers Thursday evening. Councillor Charles Leatherland acted as chairman.

Object of the meeting was to thresh out the legal problems involved in amalgamating the

two boards. Further advice will be sought since conflicting views on the possible merger were presented from Department of Education and Department of Municipal Affairs representative.

Doug Patton, area representative for the community programs division of the Department of Education, advised representatives from both boards at an earlier meeting amalgamation was a fairly simple matter. He produced drafts of a by-law to back up his case.

Clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie, however, cloistered with an official of the Department of Municipal Affairs at a recent

convention, was advised amalgamation was virtually impossible. This official declared both parks and recreation must have two sets of books but it was possible to have the same membership.

Mr. McGeachie told the meeting Board of Parks Management was in the same situation as school boards. They can approach council and demand money. On the other hand, the recreation committee's requisition for money is at council's discretion.

In the ensuing discussion, parks board member Nino Braida felt the onus was on the recreation committee to prove amalgamation was needed since they initiated the move. "Parks board is running smoothly," he said. "I wonder if all this trouble is worth it. I can't see one board running two sets of books and two sets of minutes."

Chairman Charles Leatherland disagreed with Mr. Braida. "It would cut meetings to one where two are now needed," he declared. Duplication of work and the lack of liaison between parks and recreation would be eliminated.

Suggested complement of a new board was seven parks board members who would be joined by five additional members for a recreation meeting.

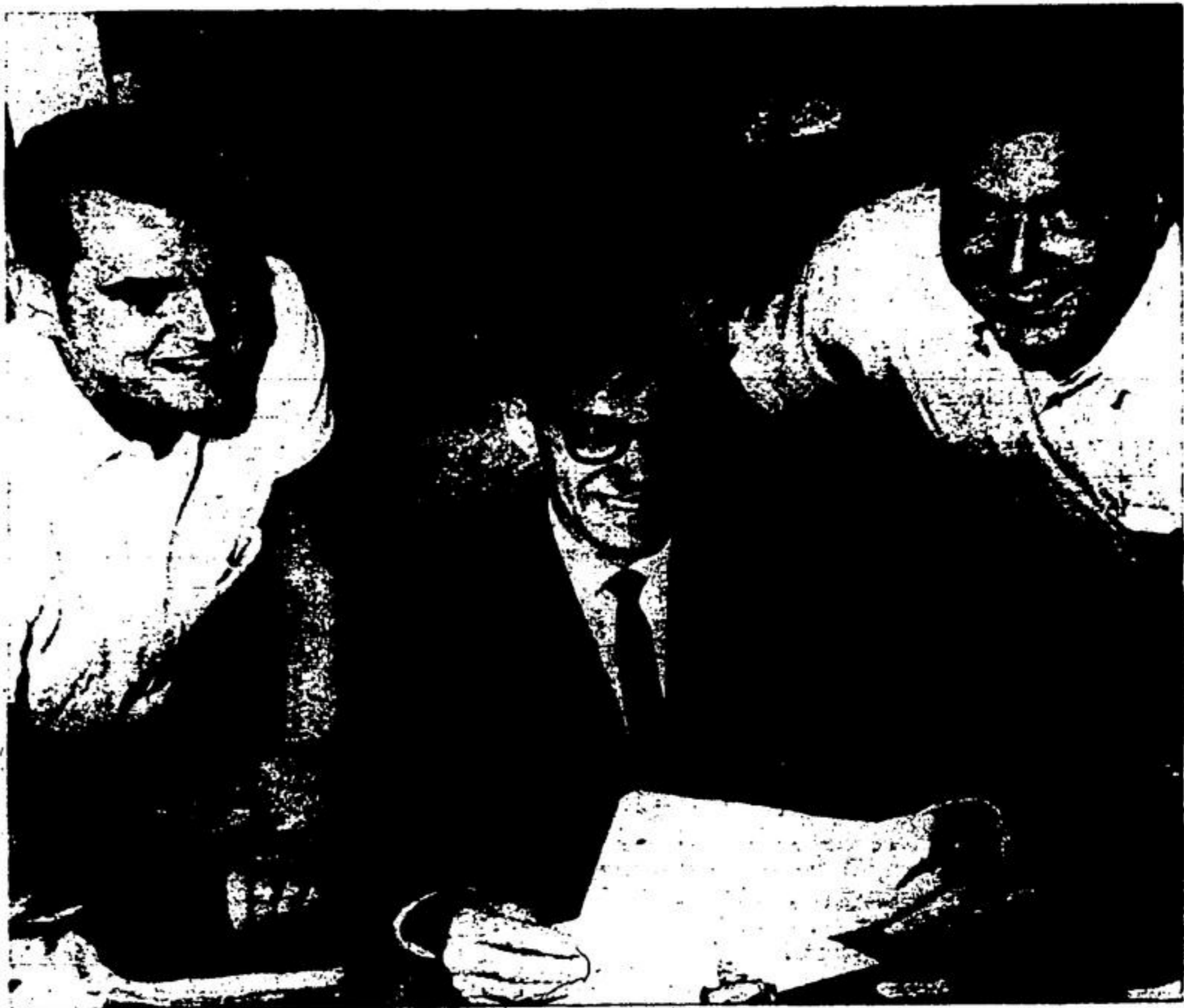
"I'm inclined to go along with Nino," said recreation committee chairman Len Lovell. "All this trouble doesn't seem to be worth it; two sets of books, two meetings in one night."

The chairman injected, "But the Department of Education could do the job. He intimated it had been done in other centres."

Mr. McGeachie felt before any decision was made, a meeting with Mr. Patton of the Dept. of Education and Mr. Taylor of the Dept. of Municipal Affairs, should be organized. His suggestion was acted on and joint secretary Art Cooper was instructed to arrange for Mr. Patton's attendance. Mr. McGeachie will contact the representative from the Dept. of Municipal Affairs.

In the meantime, members of both boards were advised by the chairman to make up their mind if they are in favor of a seven man board with five ad-

(Continued on Page 2)



—Staff Photo

SEASONS OPENING for Acton Y.M.C.A. takes place next Monday when program director Carl Chadbourne and assistant Pete Lawson start the fall and winter program. This Monday the two men, who are attending Guelph University, met

with Acton recreation director Howard Pearce to map out a program. Left to right are Pete Lawson, Carl Chadbourne and Howard Pearce. A complete program for all age groups appears elsewhere in this issue.