

# Ratepayers receive reports from mayor, hydro, school boards

## Mayor reviews council year

On behalf of Council, Mayor Les Dury reviewed the year of nomination meeting last Thursday.

"Please permit me to express my personal appreciation to all members of council and the town office and work staff for a job well done in 1966, and to assure them I have appreciated very much the great degree of co-operation they have always accorded me. I am also most grateful to the company for whom I work, who have been very generous in allowing me the time required to carry out the full round of duties that are involved in holding the office of Mayor. Urgent matters very often necessitate leaving your regular work immediately to attend to them.

"You have been provided with copies of the auditor's report up to September 30. You may find some points you would like to ask questions on.

"Once again this year, we have made further improvement to our waterworks system by installing the new line from Churchill Rd. to Yonge and Mill Sts. For some years, we have been urged by our engineers and the underwriters to provide more adequate flow and pressure to our downtown commercial area. This is now a reality. While the business of it was negotiated early in the year, we deferred the actual work until recently to qualify for the winter works subsidy, which is always a saving to the municipality.

"We have also almost finalized three years of negotiation with neighboring municipalities to aid us in solving our garbage disposal headaches. The dump has certainly been a problem and we know it was shared by many of our ratepayers. At this point, I can assure you we are prepared to move ahead in a new area under the land-fill method or if need be, by controlled incineration before dumping.

"We have continued our sidewalk improvement program and have covered another approximately one and a half miles of walk.

"Our housing needs have been relieved to the extent of some 20 new homes in Lakeview subdivision and elsewhere. This is considerably more than we have been able to accomplish for the past few years. This has also allowed us to get on with the completion of the unfinished subdivision and to initiate underground lighting in Acton. Improved lighting has also been completed in other parts of town.

"As recently as last Tuesday night, we accepted a tender for the installation of traffic lights at the Mill and Main intersection. You are all well aware that this is the climax of a very lengthy ordeal we have had with the powers that be who control the decisions in this area. We have already contracted for the new road markings that will be required and which will be done immediately. The complete installation of the lights will take 8-12 weeks, due to the time required to make delivery of the equipment.

"Your council has had the foresight to take advantage of the subsidized program for municipalities with regard to additional firefighting equipment under the EMO scheme. Few municipalities will qualify and the fact that we had our application approved will mean a saving of \$8,000 to Acton for equipment we would have had to replace in a year or two in any case at full cost to the town. We have an efficient and well equipped fire department and this will assure us of the continuation of this calibre of protection.

"Our assessment this year has increased to date by \$98,257 and will be well over the \$100,000 by the year end. In other words, the assessment next year's council will work with will be approximately \$7,350,000, as compared to \$7,245,000 that started us off in 1966.

"And also the Town of Acton, the people of Acton, have not been denied the genuine way to participate in next year's centennial celebrations of Confederation's 100th birthday.

"We have, for all to see, a very fine edifice in our centennial library, a much needed, improved service to our citizens, both young and old, through which we can now take our place with all communities from coast to coast and share in the general improvement of our country, while at the same time, we have satisfied a great need of our own community.

"With the opening of the new library early next year, and the moving of its operations, we can now proceed to improve the facilities for our town administration staff by perhaps utilizing the space that will be made available in the YMCA building. Renovations would be considerable but this proposed extension of town office facilities will be done firstly to provide a better service to you, the ratepayer.

"With regard to the Plunkett Report of which you have heard much controversy, your council has very seriously considered all of the aspects of the proposal and have already voiced their approvals and disapprovals of certain recommendations included in the report, and have come up with some counter recommendations, if such a change of boundaries is made compulsory by senior levels of government. We can only wait and see what will develop from here on, but in the meantime, we must carry on in our best interests for the future, just as though the report did not exist.

"We have been almost the whole of this year, working with our engineers, pressing for a thorough study and recommendations to guide us in our deliberations with regard to increasing our pollution control system, better known I suppose, as the town sewage disposal plant. Its capacity must be increased by next year's council, whether we duplicate or triple our existing facilities, or complement them by setting up a new system of tertiary treatment to ease the load on our existing plant.

"We have gone through the painfully slow but necessary procedures to acquire signal lights at the Eastern Ave. crossing. This was a budgeted item but there is some doubt if we can complete the work this year due to the colder weather. This work called for street widening at the crossing, involving asphalt work which could not be done until next summer. But the work is approved and will be done.

"I could go on at great length about other works we have been able to finalize, such as the signing of a new ambulance contract etc., but in view of other reports you will hear this evening, I should bring my remarks to a close.

"I want to say it was a privilege and a pleasure to serve the ratepayers of Acton in 1966 as your Mayor."

Two classes of Esquesing P.S. pupils occupy two classrooms in the stone school till Speyside P.S. school addition is ready at rental of \$100 per classroom per month.

"It may be interesting to you to learn the 1966 September enrolment in North Halton — Acton 91, Esquesing 1,370, Georgetown 2,372, Milton 1,087 and Nassagaweya 630.

"Nassagaweya grades 7 and 8 girls and boys receive home economics and industrial arts weekly at a rate of \$3,500 per year. 1966-67 and Esquesing P.S. Board have a contract with us for remaining one and a half hours weekly at \$75 monthly for 1966-67 school year.

"To provide the M. Z. Bennett public school with long overdue accommodation, the board has submitted sketch plans for one library, one classroom and one general purpose room for assembly, P.T. etc. This presentation has been approved by the Consultative Committee and has been forwarded to the Department for tentative approval.

"Cost of M. Z. Bennett public school roof repairs was \$6,069 and Robert Little public school roof was \$11,505. All repairs have been approved for grant purposes.

"Our Junior Safety Patrols are doing a fine job and we are proud of them.

"We believe that our staff are maintaining our high standard and improving all of the time."

During the nomination and ratepayers' meeting Thursday of last week at the Robert Little public school, Mayor Les Dury reported for council, E. G. Tyler Sr. reported for Hydro, Vic Bristow reported for the public school board and Chester Anderson reported for the high school board. The reports in full are published on this page.

## Complete texts given

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## Outline H.S. education

The report of Acton District High School Board was read by Chester Anderson, the finance chairman, at nomination meeting.

"The official enrolment of Acton District High School for the present term is 427. Of this number, 281 reside in Acton, the remainder in the portion of the townships of Esquesing and Nassagaweya located within the district.

"The school offers the following courses — 5 year Arts and Science, grades 9-13; 4 year Arts and Science, grades 9-12; 4 year Business and Commerce presently being offered to the grade 11 level, will extend to grade 12 next year; Special Commercial course in grade 12.

"In addition to our enrolment in Acton District High School, tuition is being paid for 37 students attending other schools to obtain courses not available at our school, such as 5 year Business and Commerce, 5 year or 4 year Science Technology and Trades or Occupations course. Of these, 26 are attending Georgetown, nine are at Guelph and two are at Milton. Although tuition is paid by the board, students provide their own transportation.

"The teaching staff consists of 25 teachers including principal and vice-principal.

"It is felt the calibre of staff is constantly improving and the record of graduates of the past year would tend to prove this point. Of 24 students eligible for grade 13 diplomas, 18 obtained these and in grade 12, 43 of the 56 students were successful.

"The total budget for the 1966 operation is \$285,761. Of this amount, \$184,253 or more than 64 per cent represents teachers' salaries. Of the total budget, provincial grant is estimated to be \$189,700 leaving \$96,061 to be raised from tax levy. Acton is required to provide \$63,535 or approximately 66 per cent of the total taxation.

"As a result of requests from elementary school principals and inspectors, the school is endeavoring to provide a modified occupations program for some students in grade 9. These students are given extra time in home economics and industrial arts and follow curricula best suited to their requirements, as far as facilities will permit."

## Hydro Commission solvent

Hydro commission chairman Ted Tyler Sr. reported: "Barring any major incidents in the next two months, it would appear that the Acton Hydro Electric Commission can again report a most satisfactory year. There has been an increase of \$9,500 in revenue for the 10 months ending October 31. This indicates that more and more people are taking advantage of hydro's conveniences, particularly the hot water heating, as our records indicate an increase of approximately \$600 in our flat rate water heater revenue.

"Also contributing to the increase is supplementary heating. A number of our customers have installed electric heat in basement rooms and other hard to heat areas. Total revenue for the 10 months is \$263,152.

"The cost of power paid to Ontario Hydro in 1966 is \$174,720. Power cost for the same period last year was \$188,660, or a decrease of \$13,940 for 1966. We are attributing this decrease to the installation of capacitors on our lines which have corrected a costly power factor problem and to a lower interim rate. Beginning this year, our interim rate had been reviewed on the basis of the new costing method which had been designed to attain a greater degree of uniformity than previously and, as a result, this new rate represented a decrease in cost for this municipality.

"Based on these figures, it would appear that Acton consumers might enjoy a rate change next year. However, just this week we have been informed that the interim rate has been increased for 1967. Based on our

last month's power consumption, it shows an increase in cost to the commission of \$2,600.

"On a 12 month period, this is an approximate increase of \$31,200. This is one item over which the local commission has no control. However, when all facts and figures are known, it could be that our regional office will recommend a review of the rates and we may still have a reduction.

"By the end of the year, we will have a new hydro building completed. This will cost in the neighborhood of \$75,000 and will be paid for from available funds. No debentures were necessary to pay for the building. The contract price was \$61,550, but it does not include any electrical work, landscaping, graveling or walks.

"We had a capital expenditure budget this year for \$31,000, of which 90 per cent has been expended. This budget includes all work on the distribution system — overhead and underground — transformers, meters, street lighting (which is reimbursed by the town), water heater installations and control, office equipment and other equipment for outside work.

"This year we purchased a new 1966 van for meter reading purposes and utility vehicle. We also purchased a post hole digger which is mounted on our 1963 Ford truck. Four new all electric homes have been completed this year for a total of nine. This does not include the medical centre or the new hydro building.

"Seventy-nine water heaters have been installed this year so far, approximately 40 per cent on a rental basis. This makes a total of 380 since the program was initiated in 1961."

The Acton Free Press, Thursday, December 1, 1966

## P.S. board chairman reports

Public school board's report at nomination meeting was read by chairman Vic Bristow.

"I have much pleasure in submitting a progress report of 1966 plant operations. 1966 budget \$264,462; levy \$107,722; grant \$156,740.

"Our September enrolment — 912 pupils, who are taught by 28 full time teachers, two part-time teachers, one music supervisor, two vice-principals, and two principals.

"With one exception, in each school, the teachers who were engaged for 1966-67 school year are all experienced teachers — Miss Gallagher, home economics and rotary teaching; Mr. Hines, industrial arts and rotary teaching; Miss Ellis, special opportunity class; Mrs. Titon, Mr. Urchuk and Mrs. Terry Masales, college graduate; Mr. Bateman returned to us after a two year absence and Miss Heller, college grad, were the replacement teachers; Mrs. Mary Irwin teaches three half days each week.

"We have renewed the floors and lighting in the stone school and added a fire escape, which improvements have been approved for grant purposes.

"The stone school has three good large classrooms and two smaller rooms, one of which has been conditioned for the Special Opportunity Class. It appears we must have another Special Class and classify them as Junior and Senior Special Opportunity Classes. One room is being converted to a library.

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Apparently there's a variety of ways of taking the Christmas holiday this year. Boxing Day Monday adds to the confusion.

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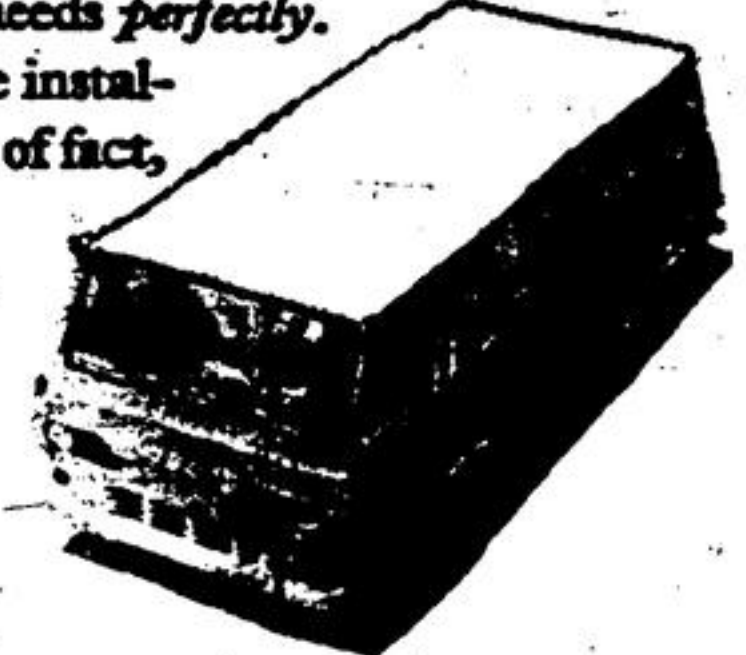
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