

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Second Year.—No. 28.

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Free Press day earlier

For the first time, the Free Press is issued today on a Wednesday rather than a Thursday. Changing buying patterns, with shopping being done earlier in the week, brought about the change after 92 years of Thursday publication. The paper is printed about three o'clock, according to the new schedule, and will be in the post office and town stores as soon as possible after it's off the press, sections collated, addressed, and counted. Out-of-town deliveries will be made Thursday mornings.

Siren wails 13 minutes

The wailing of a siren Saturday noon caused firefighters to scramble and residents to wonder when it kept blowing for over 13 minutes before it was stopped.

At first it was believed to be the Emergency Measures Organization siren but it turned out to be the former air raid siren on top of the Force Electric plant, which is being used for a fire siren.

Dust which had collected on the relay switch, turned into a muddy substance by melting snow, triggered the switch. Hydro workmen made repairs in order to silence the siren.

Rev. D. Engel resigns church goes to Orillia

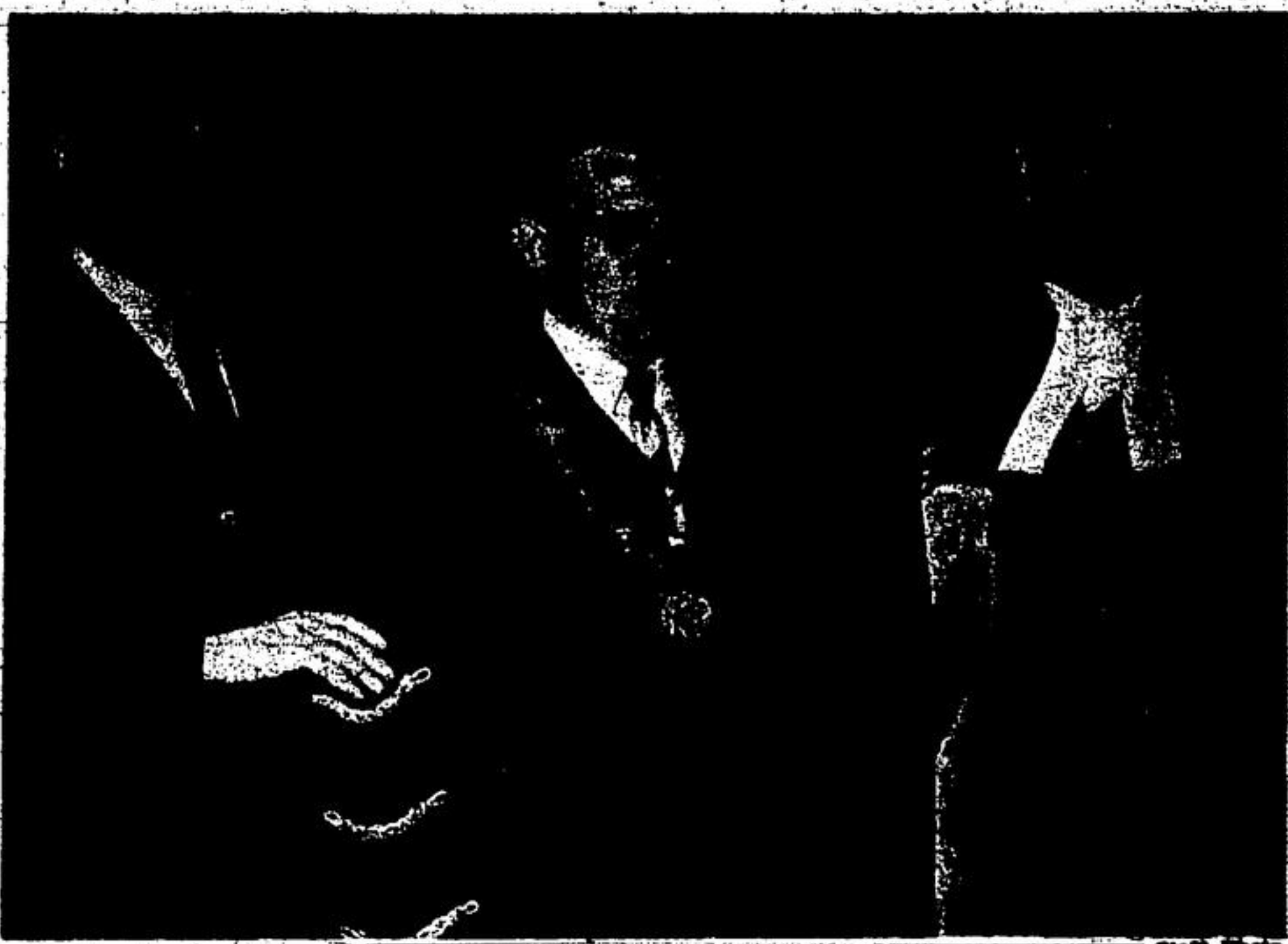
After six and a half years as minister of Acton United Church, the Rev. Dwight Engel will become minister of Westmount United Church, Orillia, April 1. Mr. and Mrs. Engel and their three children, Tom, Judy and Miriam, expect to move in Easter week, the end of March.

At the church's annual meeting Tuesday, January 17, arrangements will begin to secure another minister for the congregation here.

There are three United Churches in Orillia, and Mr. Engel's is a suburban one.

—Christmas is officially over in town — at least as far as the hydro workmen are concerned. Monday they took down the colorful spunkies which illuminated the downtown business section during the holiday season.

—High school report cards out the end of this week.



ACTON REEVE BERT HINTON stepped down from the Warden's chair on Tuesday afternoon when Nassagaweya Township Reeve William Coulter was elected as Halton's Warden for 1967. Past Warden Hinton, left, is shown adjusting the robes of office on the new warden while Halton Judge Alan B. Sprague, who administered the oath of office to the 74 councillor, looks on at right.

Hour-long meeting

Shuffle appointments, hoist assessor's wage

In perhaps its shortest meeting of 1967, Acton Council wrapped up a small agenda and adjourned by 8:30 p.m. All members attended this first regular meeting of the year with Mayor Doby in the chair and Reeve Hinton conducting the Committee of the Whole business.

Major piece of business conducted was the adjustment of the salary of William Erskine, the municipal assessor. On recommendation of the committee Council granted an increase of \$800 per year in 1967 and a further increase of \$250 in 1968. Mr. Erskine has completed qualifying courses and is a licensed assessor. Pleased with Mr. Erskine's work, council endorsed the salary adjustment with the exception of Reeve Hinton who voted in opposition to the resolution.

By resolution Council approved the payment of a \$20 annual membership in the Mayors and Reeves association and authorized the attendance, by the mayor, at the annual convention, May 14 to 17.

The controversy over municipal snow clearing of privately owned parking lots was terminated when the owners, who had requested the service,

withdrew their request. The resolution authorizing the work and basis of charges was rescinded.

A letter from the minister of Municipal Affairs was received thanking council for its submission on the Peel-Halton study. The minister assured council the "views will be given most serious consideration before any decision is made". Clerk McGeachie reported the library debentures had been validated by the Ontario Municipal Board and delivered to the bond company. The cheque for the debentures had been received. A second debenture issue is ready to be validated by the O.M.B. and will then be ready for delivery to the purchaser.

A reshuffling of two committee appointments made at the inaugural meeting of council sees G. W. McKenzie moved from Court of Revision to the Acton Development Commission and Charles Perry switched from the Development Commission to the Court of Revision.

Tom De Vries was appointed to the Planning Board for two years, to replace William Pendleton who resigned. Don Lindsay was appointed

to the Committee of Adjustment for three years, replacing G. W. McKenzie who is now a member of council.

Councillor Bill Williams expressed Council's appreciation when he congratulated the town works department on their efficient snow removal program last weekend. He said the police department had done an excellent job in having cars moved to facilitate the snow removal.

Clerk McGeachie reported the contractor for the signal lights at Mill and Main Streets had advised him the steel light standards would be delivered late this week or early next week. He was informed the installation of the lights would proceed immediately and they could be installed before the end of the month.

Shelving for the new centennial library is scheduled to arrive this week and Mayor Doby requested assistance from the town staff in its unloading. The Mayor reported on inspection of the library building by the architect. He said nothing of major importance had been turned up. One of the thermopane glass windows is to be replaced because of an improper seal between the two sheets of glass.

Reeve William Coulter Halton's '67 Warden

William John Coulter, reeve of Nassagaweya, became Halton County's 102nd warden, and at 35, one of the youngest ever elected to the position, at the inaugural meeting of Halton County Council Tuesday. The election was unanimous as two other nominees, Reeve W. Hunter of Georgetown and Reeve A. Ledwith of Milton withdrew.

Warden Coulter is this year beginning his fourth year as a

member of Halton County Council, and his seventh year in Nassagaweya Council. He was elected to the township council in 1961 and served as a councillor for three years, moving up to the Deputy Reeve's seat in 1964 for one year. He was Reeve of Nassagaweya in 1965 and 1966 and was returned for a two-year term as Reeve in last December's elections.

In this three years as a coun-

ty councillor he has been active in several committee positions. He is one of two Halton representatives to the Halton-Peel Regional Detention Centre committee and vice-chairman of the group. During 1966 he was chairman of the county roads committee and a member of the personnel and Manpower committees as well as a representative to the Halton Museum Board. He manages a family grocery firm in the village of Campbellville.

Warden-elect Coulter expressed his appreciation for the confidence expressed in electing him to the position. He anticipated a busy year with reorganization of the Health Unit, construction of a new jail, and the solving of personnel problems among the topics to be dealt with. He expressed a hope he would be able to fulfill a full and rewarding year.

His Honor Judge Alan B. Sprague addressed the council and administered the oath of office to the 14 members. He traced the responsibilities of

the judiciary and executive branches of government back to 1215.

"In Centennial Year, you and I, in different ways are servants of the people of Canada. Canada will be as great or small as her servants," Judge Sprague concluded.

New members on county council this year are Deputy-Reeves F. G. Oakes of Acton, George Currie of Esquesing and Arthur Speight of Georgetown. About 35 spectators were present for the inaugural meeting including a number of former wardens.

The prayers of dedication were given by Rev. R. P. E. Jeffares of Campbellville and the invocation by Rev. D. Nicholson of Campbellville.

Major business of the meeting, besides electing the warden, was establishing the various committees that will be operating during 1967.

About the middle of February the big General Fireproofing plant on Highway No. 7 near Georgetown is expected to start operations.

Trees go up in a blaze largest crowd ever watch

A crowd estimated at over 900 adults and children gathered in the darkness Thursday night of last week, illuminated only by a steady fire burning in the town dump to await the annual Christmas tree burning ceremony.

Heavy clothing including scarfs, togues and lined mitts were the order for the night as the temperature dipped to around 15 degrees. Mayor Les Doby and Chamber of Commerce member Paul Nielsen touched off the blaze of hundreds of trees which had been gathered the previous day by town workmen.

A sprinkling of gasoline over the already tinder dry trees had been placed by Firefighter Sam Tennant. When the mayor and C. of C. representative tossed in lighted papers, the blaze went off with a whoof. Soon the sky was illuminated by the roaring fire and spectators were backing away from the intense heat.

Some were on the scene before 7 p.m. and kiddies enjoyed climbing over the large pile of trees prior to the lighting. Trees were parked on both sides of Churchill Road South and motors were left running with heaters going full blast in the cold.

Acton firefighters arrived with one of the trucks and stayed until the last tree burned, then doused the embers. St. John Ambulance Brigade members were on hand with an ambulance in case of injuries. A Tyler Transport van truck arrived, loaded with coffee and 30 dozen doughnuts. Soon after the trees began to blaze, young and old alike were lining up to receive a cup of coffee and a doughnut. Some had to be turned away when all the supplies were gone early; others didn't line up but went home to thaw out.

The annual Christmas tree burning was termed a huge success by Chamber of Commerce members. The Chamber sponsors the annual event.

Members handing out coffee and doughnuts included Ted Tyler Jr., Orval Chapman, Tedford Reidt, Henry Deveau and Paul Nielsen. Assisting them was Mrs. Ted Tyler Jr.

Name Tom Watson chairman at H.S. board inaugural meeting

A brief inaugural ceremony including the oath of office and spiritual guidance launched Acton district high school board members into the Centennial year, 1967, Monday evening.

The oath of office was administered to each member by secretary William Middleton and Rev. Dwight Engel from Trinity United church read several passages from the book "Gregory the Great" dealing with learning and teaching. Last year's chairman Tom Watson was chosen unanimously to head the board again this year with Chester Anderson repeating a second term as vice-chairman.

Committees will remain the same as last year with finance committee comprising Chester Anderson and Duncan Moffat; management, Ray Arbie and Mr. Anderson; property, Kerwin McPhail and Mr. Arbie and transportation, Mr. Moffat and Mr. McPhail.

Other routine business completed at the inaugural meeting included re-hiring William Middleton as secretary-treasurer; re-engaging caretakers Rudolph Spielvogel, Ken McKinnon and Norm Robinson for another year; re-hiring attendance officer Cam Leishman and re-engaging office typists Mrs. Allan Lauder and Mrs. William Pendleton.

During principal E. A. Hansen's report it was noted that several teachers had been on the sick list and the anticipated enrolment for grade nine in September was expected to be increased from the present.

The "Why's" of education as well as costs involved were foremost in Acton district high school board chairman Tom

Watson's inaugural remarks to members shortly after he took the oath of office.

The chairman told members he was pleased to have been chosen as chairman for a second consecutive term. He voiced appreciation of the co-operation received last year and said he expected the same support again this year.

"I wonder if the word 'education' is fast becoming the most emphasized word in the dictionary. One of these nights I would like us all to sit down and answer the 'why's' of education. Why the cost per classroom? Why the cost per teacher? Why the high cost of education, as well as many others."

The chairman continued as he remarked "I am beginning

to wonder if we aren't being short changed along the line and as a result we, the board, are not short changing the public. I am wondering who is dictating the cost of education." Mr. Watson said he would explain his feeling another night when members could take time to discuss the problems.

Property chairman Kerwin McPhail noted in the principal's report that two inspectors had visited the school during the first week after Christmas holidays. He said he didn't think it was fair to the teachers to be inspected so early after school began as students hadn't had a chance to settle down following holidays. "It doesn't give the tea-

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Hydro, library get final inspections

Two public buildings, Acton Centennial Library and Acton Hydro building, which were recently completed, received final inspections this week before final payment to contractors can be made.

Acton's Centennial library was a busy place Monday afternoon when representatives from the architect's office, engineers, contractors and subcontractors were combing the building from top to bottom to make certain every detail had been finished to satisfaction.

Alf Duck, representative from architect Donald Skinner's office, Port Credit, along

with electrical and plumbing engineers and contractors were on hand, and Mayor Les Doby representing the library board, were present to make sure all details were correct.

On Tuesday morning Mr. Duck, representing Mr. Skinner's office, journeyed back to town for the final inspection of the new hydro building on Alice St. Commission chairman Ted Tyler Sr., and representatives from general contractor Whitney Construction were there as every inch of the building was inspected.

"Nothing of major importance" was seen in the final routine inspections.

Birthday today for famed Sir John A.—and children play

The birth of Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, is observed today with a first-time half holiday for schools. A late decision of the Ontario Department of Education produced the holiday—the first and maybe the last of its kind.

Acton's school children have this afternoon (Wednesday) free after special classroom sessions on the subject of Sir John A.

The unique half-holiday will, it's hoped, remain in the memories of the young people as a fitting start of centennial year celebrations.

High school principal Ted Hansen had still not received official notice of the half-holiday yesterday, although a fellow principal phoned the Department of Education and confirmed the newspaper reports.

Illness of one of the history teachers, Miss Vira Flak, added to the difficulty of special programming, he said.

A telephone call from the inspector confirmed the news for the public schools.

With no auditorium, a special assembly at the M. Z. Bennett school was out of the question, but each classroom was having special lessons, principal Elmer Smith said.

At the Robert Little school, too, classes were considering the significance of the holiday and of course, as principal G. W. McKenzie pointed out

"more will be done as the year goes on".

At his school, each class is being asked to decide on its special centennial project and to suggest a school project. A teachers' meeting is being planned for next week to correlate the plans. One class has already chosen the history of the school as a project and another, noting the tannery was here even before confederation, chose a history of Beardmore and Co.

A well preserved plaster figure of Sir John A. Macdonald is the latest addition to the trophy cabinet at the Robert Little public school.

The figure was presented to the school about four years ago by Mrs. B. D. Rachlin (the former Ethel Starkman) on behalf of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Starkman, who were both well known to older Acton residents.

Robert Bonnette, now a grade 11 student at Acton District High School, painted the figurine when a grade 8 pupil at the Robert Little school but principal G. W. McKenzie kept the figurine under wraps until this week. It is being displayed in the hallway at the front entrance with signs announcing the first half-day holiday for pupils today, in memory of Sir John A. Macdonald.

While all Esquesing schools and other district schools observed the half-holiday, it was

generally felt there had not been time to arrange anything special for this week, other than classroom instruction on the statesman.

Education minister Bill Davis announced the holiday last week. He said the cabinet approved the holiday earlier in the week but the announcement was withheld pending word on the federal government's intentions. He expressed "disappointment" that Ottawa has planned nothing out of the ordinary for the 152nd anniversary of the birth of the famous statesman.

Sir John Alexander Macdonald, that shock-haired gangling architect of Canadian nationhood, once complained that because he had gone to work so young at learning law, he had no boyhood. However, his manhood was one of the most important that Canada ever nurtured.

It was Macdonald who fought so hard for federal union of the provinces of British North America. It was his vision and his drive which prevailed over the petty men who would have sacrificed strong central authority on the two-edged sword of parochial jealousy and provincial advantage.

He was brought to Canada from Scotland as a small boy. He became a lawyer in Kingston in 1836; a member of the Assembly of the Province of Canada in 1844 and by 1857

was joint leader of the Liberal-Conservative Party with Georges Etienne Cartier. These two, with Brown of Toronto, Reform Party leader and publisher of The Globe, saw the terrible danger of the growing split between English and French speaking Canadians and first proposed federal union.

However, it was primarily Macdonald who persuaded the Charlottetown conferees of September, 1864, to attend the Quebec conference in October and laid the groundwork for Confederation.

His conviction won out over the doubts and fears of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and his sowing saw its fruition in March, 1867, when the British North America Act was passed in London.

On July 1, Canada East and Canada West, now called Quebec and Ontario, joined the two Maritime provinces in the Dominion of Canada, the name decided by the British foreign secretary, Lord Derby.

So the nation which Macdonald had fought so long for was born and he was its first Prime Minister. He went on to serve it for another quarter century. He was also the prime mover of North America's first transcontinental railway, the C.P.R.

It is fitting that, as his birthday is observed today, we recall the prophetic rallying call of Macdonald's political meetings: "You'll never die, John A!"



ACTON'S CENTENNIAL LIBRARY received its final inspection Monday afternoon when officials went through the building from top to bottom checking the work. Contractors, engineers, a representative from the architect's office and Mayor Les Doby made the inspection. Left to right checking a list of work are electrical engineer Fred G. Hunter, work superintendent Dean Crowe from Kerr Construction, Alf Duck from the architect's office, Jake VanderKooy, electrical contractor and Mayor Les Doby.