

# The Acton Free Press

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## Front page editorial

### What would you do?

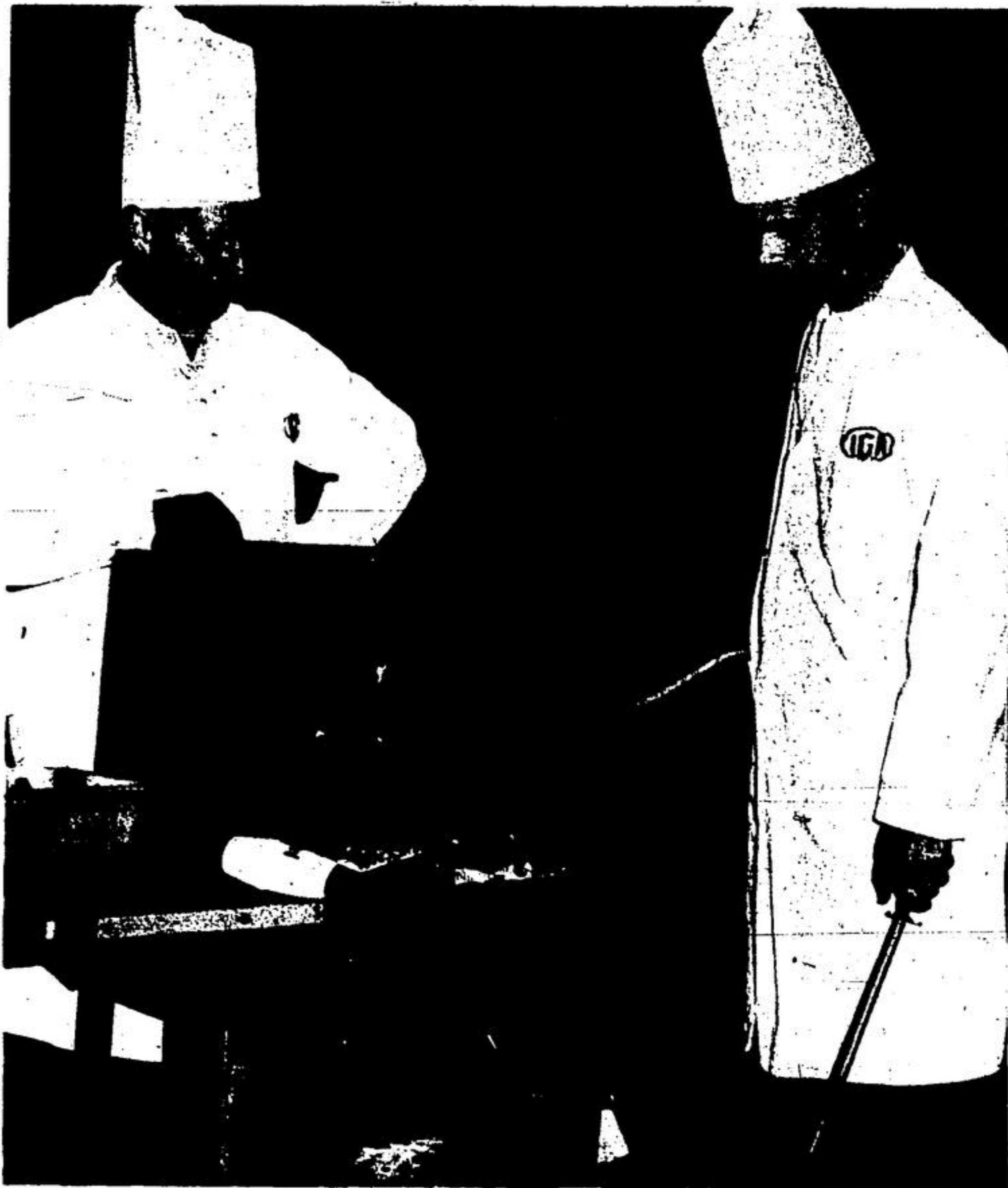
Town officials are wondering what kind of a community residents want in the wake of a trail of vandalism which has spread until it even affects Fairview cemetery. Concern is felt that vandals will get out of hand unless residents co-operate and supply evidence to police.

- In the past few weeks vandals have:
  - Broken and stolen floodlights at the new centennial library.
  - Sprayed no parking signs with red paint.
  - Bent and defaced street and stop signs all over town. This is a special target.
  - Used the cemetery for a golf course and dug up divots in the turf.
  - Toppled tombstones and vented their special hate on ornamental work on the stones.
  - Stolen centennial decorations and flags.

Naturally, town officials are concerned and they believe taxpayers should be, too, because it's costing them money.

Police cannot be in all places at once. Their hands are tied if there is no evidence to register a complaint. They'd like co-operation, so those responsible for these acts can be prosecuted.

Like the town fathers say: What kind of a town do the people want?



CHEFS VIC PATRICK and Charlie Auger test the condition of this large roast of beef at Saturday's legion barbecue when 12 portable barbecues cooked savory meals on the Legion parking lot. Tarpaulins had to be erected over the barbecues when drenching rain fell but the roasts, averaging 15 pounds, were ready for dinner after seven hours on the spits. One hundred and eighty attended the barbecue and dance afterwards. (Staff Photo)

## To leave in church

### Miss M. Z. Bennett honored U.C.W. presents two flags

The beloved leader of the United Church Friendly Circle, which became part of the U.C.W., was especially honored by many of her former pupils in both school and church, at the centennial pot luck supper and meeting of the U.C.W. on Wednesday evening of last week.

Miss M. Z. Bennett retired as principal of Acton public school many years ago. She was the dedicated leader of the active Friendly Circle for many years before it became associated with the new United Church organization, the United Church Women.

There were nearly 50 at the special meeting last week, and many of them had been mem-

bers of her popular group. She reminded them, "Although we did have social times, I never hesitated to remind people that first and foremost we were a Sunday School class."

Mrs. J. Gibson read an address to Miss Bennett and presented her with a small personal gift from the group. Mrs. B. Veldhuis then presented her with two large flags to be placed in the church in her honor—the new United Church flag and the new Canadian flag. Plaques will be placed on the holders, and the flags will be dedicated next Sunday.

Deeply moved, Miss Bennett thanked them all "from the bottom of my heart" for the honor.

For the meeting, almost everyone was dressed in costumes of bygone days, either assembled from attics or newly made with the centennial "look."

The menu was old-fashioned with stew, meat pies, cold meats, home-made brown and white bread and rolls, pickles, strawberries and cream, corn meal bread and maple syrup.

The tables were decorated with old milk jugs with obsequies of iris and oil lamps.

President Mrs. T. Shields welcomed members and guests and Miss Bennett said grace. Mrs. W. Waterhouse read the scripture and Mrs. Grace Reed led in prayer. The hymn was a favorite of Miss Bennett's.

In charge of the interesting program, Mrs. C. Rogvaldsen traced the history of the church from Acton's earliest days, and showed many old pictures. At first the Wesleyans met in a log schoolhouse on the second line (the former Switzer farm), moving from there to a log cabin on the corner of Church and Main, the home of the Rev. Adams who bought the property that is now Acton (then Adamsville). Then they built a small frame building on the corner of Church and John St.

There were many hardships—it was a year before they had pews or the church walls plastered. But the church was filled even though the people sat on planks. The first building cost 50 pounds in 1852. A committee of men in 1873 planned to build a new church. The Methodist church on Mill St. was built in 1875 at a cost of \$8,000.

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## Tim Daigle hit by car

Seven-year-old Timmy Daigle, 90 Main St. N., suffered a complex compound fracture of his left leg when he darted in front of a car near his home at 3:45 p.m. Saturday.

The young lad was taken to Guelph hospital by ambulance. Police said a car driven by Harold Snow, Royal York Rd., Toronto, was proceeding slowly south on Main St. The driver was watching children on his left when the young lad darted out from his right to rejoin his friends and was struck.

Constable Hildreth investigated.

## Tenders to dredge lake to be opened July 4 12 firms interested

Tenders for dredging Fairy Lake will be opened on Tuesday, July 4 and its expected successful bidder will start operations soon afterwards.

McNamara Construction Co. moved a large dredge into Fairy Lake on Tuesday to test its capacity in emptying the lake of the large deposits of silt which are making the water unsightly.

The company intends to bid on the project which the Credit Valley Conservation Authority recommended to the Department of Energy and Resources Management as a means of enlarging the storage capacity of Fairy Lake.

Seventy-five percent, or \$146,500 of the estimated \$198,000 cost will be borne by the pro-

vince while the Authority will pick up the tab for the remaining 25 per cent.

The lake will be dredged to remove silt and weeds which are clogging the water and preventing natural springs from flowing. Increased storage capacity will augment the flow into the Black Creek during the low water period in summer months.

Headwaters of the creek which flows into the Credit River are in the lake.

At last night's council meeting clerk J. McGeachie disclosed 12 firms were taking out plans and specifications for the job.

Mayor Les Duby said he thought a meeting should be arranged with the Authority and all members concerned since neither the town or lake owners knew nothing of plans for the lake.

## Holiday store hours

Centennial holiday weekend brings a change in store hours, which can be checked in the ads this week. Most Acton stores will be open Friday, June 30 till 9 p.m., closed Saturday, July 1 for Dominion Day and will also have their regular closed day on Monday, July 3. Most of the grocery stores will be open both Thursday and Friday evenings until 9 p.m.

Further discussion followed and the mayor suggested that council take their time before making a decision.

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## Committee's recommendation illegal

# Accept resignation of Planning Board

The resignation of members of Acton Planning Board was accepted with only Councillor Bob Drinkwater opposed to a motion at last night's regular meeting of town council.

However, a recommendation from No. One Committee that a new board composed of three councillors and three ratepayers be formed was deemed illegal by clerk-administrator J. McGeachie and the matter was sent back to the committee.

Mr. McGeachie told council the recommendation was in direct contravention of the Act. Council can not constitute a majority on Planning Board and since the mayor is an ex-officio member, a six-man board could only have two councillors on it.

Councillor Drinkwater was opposed to the recommendation stating he thought differences with Planning Board could still be patched up. He sympathized with members of the board whose recommendations were turned down continually.

One planning board recommendation, said Mr. Drinkwater, was turned down and then supported at the town and village section meeting of the Ontario Municipal Association. "It's funny they recognize the need when it goes somewhere else," he said.

Reeve Hinton said Mr. Drinkwater was out of order since council had already made a

decision on the matter, to which Councillor Drinkwater retorted the reeve did it all the time.

"This has been a comedy of errors on the part of both bodies," said the mayor. "No consideration was given, and even the press compared us to a bull in a china shop."

"The press was not fully informed on this matter," answered the reeve.

"They didn't have to be," retorted the mayor, claiming it was simply a matter of consideration.

"Council voted," emphasized Mr. Hinton. "We can't postpone every decision until we

wait for other people. Citizens have no wish to pay for private development."

"Council had the opportunity to defer this and didn't," the mayor reminded the reeve.

"The only reason council voted against it was because they thought the town would pay. It was not Planning Board's intention for the town to pay."

I tried to explain this, but wouldn't be heard," said Mr. Drinkwater. "I don't think we should be hasty in accepting resignations."

"Would Planning Board reconsider?" asked the mayor.

The reeve said he agreed with a point Councillor G. Mc-

Kenzie made questioning the communication between council and planning board. "There has not been good communication with the board."

Council's two board members, Perry and Drinkwater, suppressed their indignation by outstaring the reeve, then Mr. Drinkwater accused Mr. Hinton of saying no to one resolution at council level and yes at the town and village section of the O.M.A.

"I didn't," said the reeve. "It's the town's wish we don't add to the burden of ratepayers."

"Do you accept council's wish every time?" asked Mr. Drinkwater.

The reeve sidestepped with a remark Planning Board has had the same chairman for

years.

"Can't we still ask these men to reconsider?" asked Councillor McKenzie.

"It's better to face facts," said councillor Earl Masales. He said remarks at a previous meeting by Reeve Hinton had precipitated the decision.

"You can dismiss those remarks," said Mr. Hinton. "Mister Footitt, Miller and Wilson were my nominees on the board." The reeve said he was not saying whether he was right or wrong.

"They did," replied the mayor. "They all resigned," said the reeve.

Further discussion followed and the mayor suggested that council take their time before making a decision.

"Set only one council meeting for each month during the holiday periods of July and August. Proposed dates were July 25 and August 15.

Made no decision on an application from the Pentecostal church for a variance so an addition can be built. Two motions, one for and the other against, were lost.

Accepted the recommendation of No. 1 committee that the resignation of Planning Board members be accepted. Councillor Drinkwater opposed.

Passed a motion that the Ontario Housing Corporation be requested to initiate and carry out a survey to determine the need for serviced land in town. In the event the survey shows a need it was resolved the O.H.C. proceed with plans to develop the land as indicated by the survey.

Agreed to ask the Acton Development Commission to reconsider the proposed location for a sign advertising industrial locations.

Passed a resolution that the Ontario Housing Corporation be also requested to undertake and carry out a survey to determine the need and effective demand for family rental housing accommodation on a geared-to-income basis in the town of Acton.

Carried a motion to have a traffic survey done on the proposed industrial road from the second to the third line.

Gave permission to W. Waterhouse to make a parking area for his car on town property. Mr. Waterhouse has been looking after the proper-



TWO FLAGS, to be left in the United Church in Miss M. Z. Bennett's honor, were presented to her at the U.C.W. meeting last week. She was formerly the beloved leader of the Friendly Circle and Acton public school principal. (Staff Photo)

## What Council did

At their regular meeting last night Acton Council:

● Authorized the payment of \$9,314.22, financial statement number nine, and \$70.52 for the plaque at the centennial library.

● Agreed to recognize the Chorale and composer Herman Freuler with a gift of a centennial medal.

● Authorized the Chamber of Commerce to use land on Mill St. W. behind the cemetery for a trap shooting competition in conjunction with the fall fair.

● Passed a motion that they would advise the Decoration Day committee consideration would be given to erection of a fence at the Pioneer cemetery.

● Gave permission to the I.O.G.E. to hold a tag day on fair day.

● Read a letter of thanks from M. Z. Bennett school pupil Henry Van Stralen outlining details of the school safety patrol jamboree at Ottawa. Also received a card of thanks from the Robert Little school.

● Patrol members Donna McCabe, Brad Timbers, Barbara McNabb and Henry Van Stralen attended.

● Carried a motion to have a traffic survey done on the proposed industrial road from the second to the third line.

● Gave permission to W. Waterhouse to make a parking area for his car on town property. Mr. Waterhouse has been looking after the proper-



FIRST DREDGE to test the silt and weeds at Fairy Lake was assembled Tuesday at the park and finally floated in the evening. McNamara Construction is making tests in order to bid on the job of cleaning up the silt-clogged parts of the lake. Dredging is expected to increase the storage capacity and provide an even flow of water down the Black Creek through the dry summer months. (Staff Photo)

## Centennial edition next week

A centennial progress edition of the Free Press next week will point with pride to Acton's improvements, growth and changes. While many centennial editions look back, ours will look forward. Many extra copies will be sent all across Canada, to trade fairs and conventions.

A separate section on the town has industrial backing with special ads. The ad of each supporting merchant has a unique illustration.

Official boards are compiling articles which look ahead to a bright future and second century of continuing expansion. Watch for next week's centennial special!