

Highly trained, dedicated

Acton Firefighters keep in trim with extra instruction, training

Fire Chief Mick Holmes gives a rundown on the activities of the fire department, long an asset to the town.

The town of Acton is proud of its Volunteer Fire Department. Composed of a fire chief, assistant chief, 3 captains and 25 firefighters, this body of 30 trained men are on duty 24 hrs. a day.

Although, volunteer in name this body of dedicated men are highly trained in the most modern methods of fire fighting. To attain this efficiency they practice faithfully each week under the watchful eye of their captain instructors.

Every opportunity to attend out of town instruction courses are taken by individual firefighters who upon returning do their utmost to pass this valuable information along to their brother firefighters. Once each month, usually the first Monday, time is taken out to gather in a group and this period is used to carry on a business session during which the details necessary to make a fire department function are ironed out and new plans laid for the future.

Acton's fire fighting equipment has always been of the type to meet the modern demand and keep abreast with the latest firefighting techniques. This year they were fortunate to add to their equipment one new fire pumper which brings their quota up to three very efficient fully equipped.

One of these fire fighting pumps belongs to the Acton



MICK HOLMES Chief

rural area and although maintained by the Acton fire hall and used to fight rural area fires with a contingent of 8 firefighters as drawn up in an agreement with the councils of Erin, Nassagaweya and Esqueping Townships.

Maintenance of the Fire Hall is carefully looked after by the fire department with cleaning, waxing, repairing any general additions. Just recently a bright new flag pole and flag were added to the hall and the undertaking of taking down the old fire bell from the Town Hall belfry and after cleaning it up it was decided to place it on a cairn outside the hall as a centennial project.

Dating back to 1800's, this will be quite an addition to the ap-

pearance of the Acton fire hall and will no doubt create quite a sensation to anyone who remembers the old method of announcing a fire.

Today six fire phones are located in the homes of firefighters, one in the town office and one at Beardmore and Co. When a call comes in to 895-1212 all six phones ring but are answered by the first person to pick up one. After complete information has been received regarding the fire that person presses forward a switch which is close at hand and which in turn activates the sirens, one of which is located atop Police Electric and one at the Town Hall.

The first firefighter to reach the hall picks up the fire phone in the hall and upon receiving the message he quickly jots down the location of the fire on a nearby blackboard for the benefit of the reporting firefighter.

Trucks are quickly dispatched to the fire destination and a close contact is kept between



FIREFIGHTERS INSPECT DAMAGE AT FIRE

Mayor DUBY looks at Acton

We all realize that we are living in a fast - changing world. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each one of us to keep up with the changing times.

We can't, on the one hand, stress the need for advanced education, and meet its high costs of today - without surely recognizing that we must constantly up-date our own knowledge, so that the administration of a municipality is conducted in a manner appropriate to a well-run business.

The methods of 50 years ago are not valid today. Today's are highly diversified and usually require a more than usually acquainted bimodal with the advances that are taking place, because running a municipality is big business and municipalities are required to have a high degree of knowledge and skill as does any other flourishing modern-day enterprise.

Your council is, or should be, the municipality's Board of Directors, setting policy and seeing that it is carried out. Municipal administration, due to change, has become a complex business. There is no such thing as a learned man - just learning men. To be sure, we all know many people who have had the opportunity of extensive education, and to this point they are very well informed, but in the broad sense, we are never through learning, and to meet the "challenge of change" on the municipal front, we must all be prepared to become better qualified to do the job.

WHAT IS AHEAD FOR ACTON

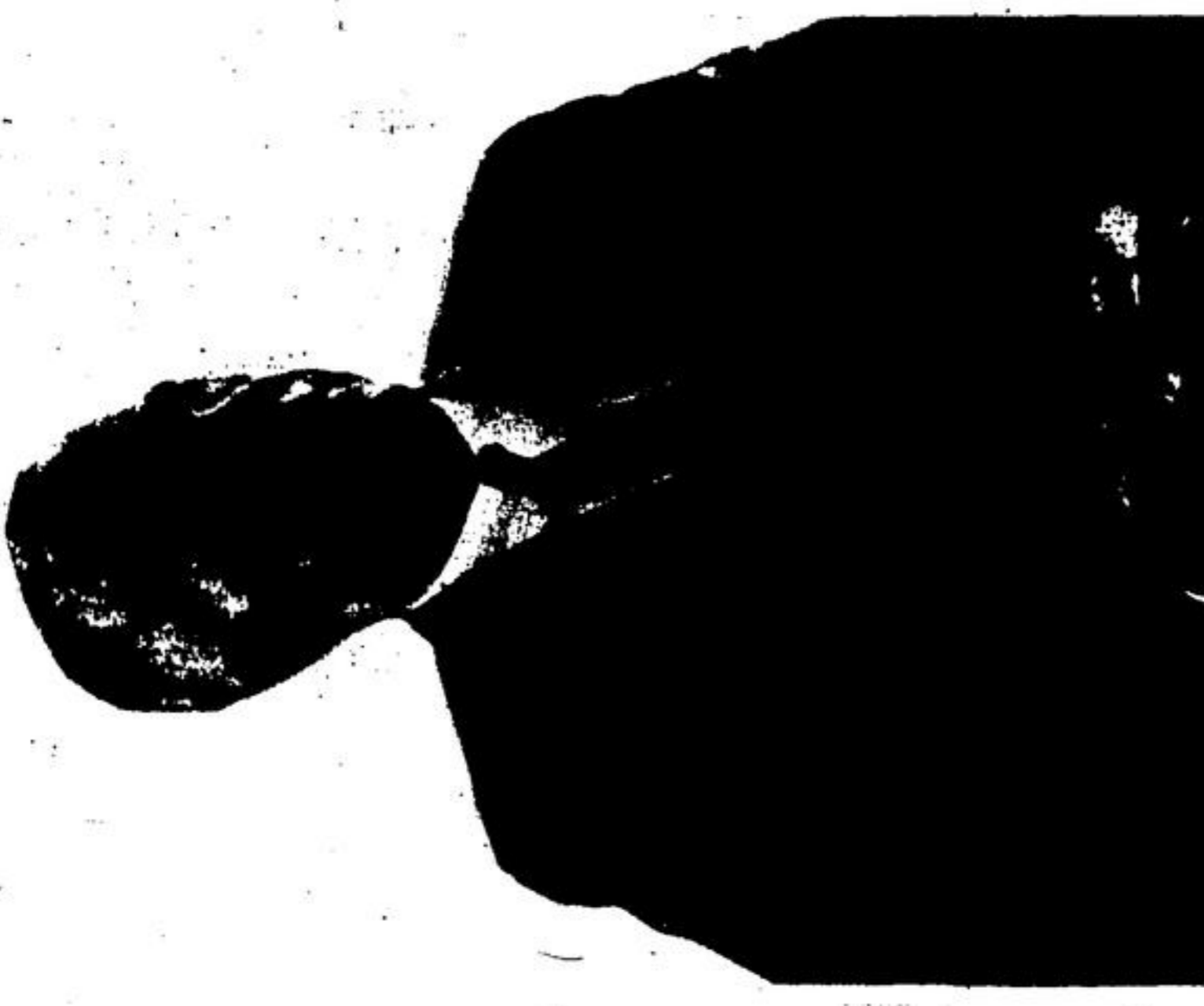
For some years now, we have seen a steady, well paced, normal growth in our town. In fact, in some years, our population has remained constant, or even decreased. But we are no more immune to rapid growth than any other municipality. If conditions warrant it, if and when this happens, and it is almost inevitable, let us hope that our people in authority at that time will call on all the resources known and available to them, to cope with this natural circumstance of modern-day living.

Let us take, for instance, an industrial inquiry re: locating in Acton (and we have had quite a few). One of the first questions asked is - What facilities and interests does your town have to come here?

We could never say we had an adequate library facility - but now we can. Another important query is - Do you have adequate housing for our people? Once again, we could only say no, but this will change. When I think of the small, light industries we may have missed that could have employed our young female population (which is an obvious need in Acton today), I can only suggest that we should move ahead in every area, considering all things on their merit, so that we can qualify for some of the progress we see around us.

AND NOW FOR SOME POINTED COMMENT -

- 1. In spite of some criticism to the contrary, we have much better roads and streets than they have in some municipalities many times our size.
2. As you move about the country, one of the first things that strikes you is the high quality of our drinking water by comparison.
3. We also have one of the finest municipal parks for any town our size, made possible mostly by nature, and not at the expense of ratepayers.
4. It is my sincere hope that your council will soon be able



MAYOR L. G. DUBY reports on changing conditions within the municipality and outlines what you can expect in the future. The Mayor was honored this year with the chairmanship of both the town and village section of the influential Ontario Municipal Association and the Central Ontario Regional Development Council. (Staff Photo)

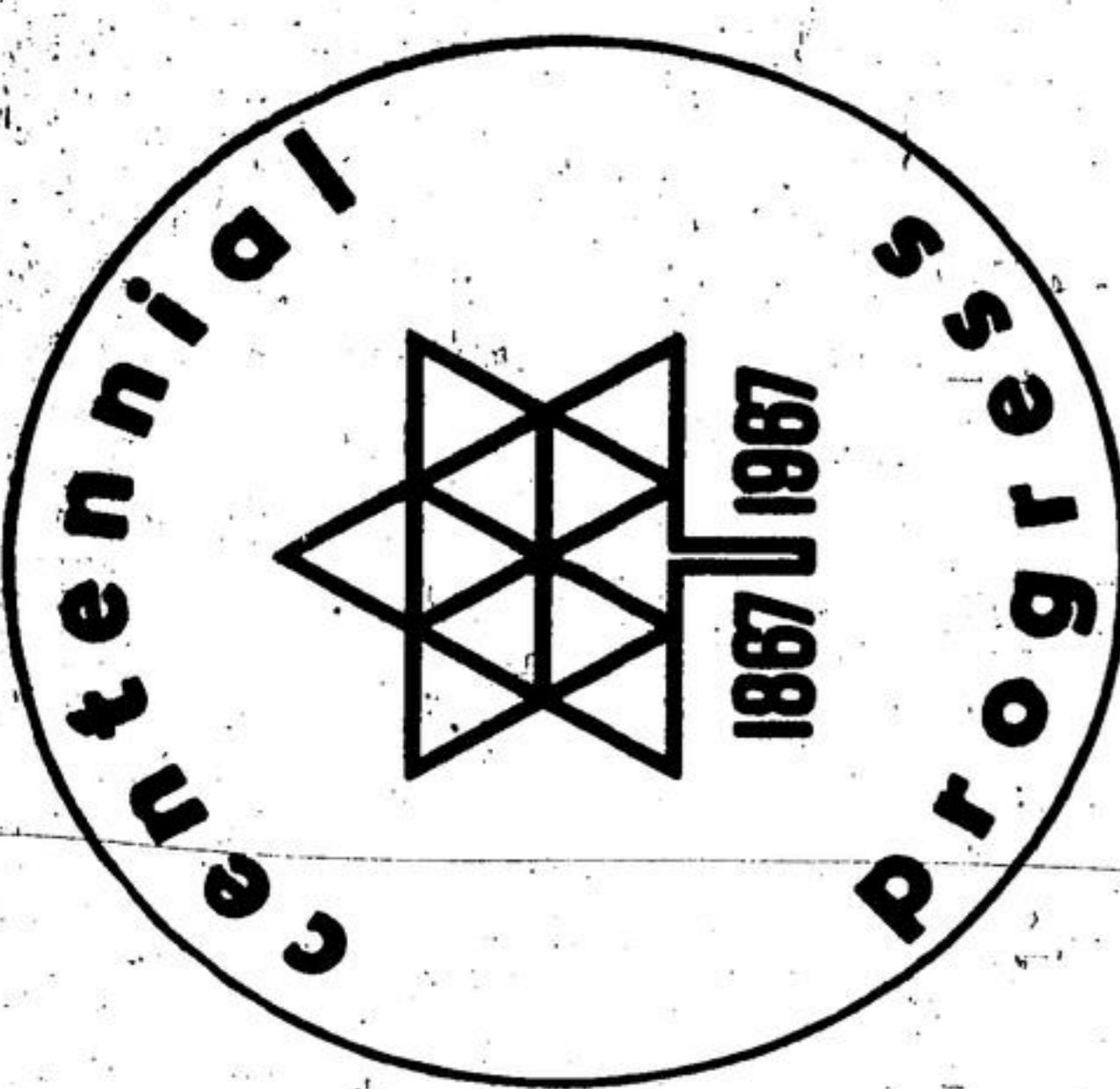
to make possible adequate low rental accommodation for our senior citizens. Steps have already been taken.

5. The dredging program, planned for Fairy Lake this year, should have a profound beneficial effect on the town in many ways.

6. I have had many calls and letters complimenting Acton and its people on their fine new library and hydro facilities. I am very personal thanks for a job well done.

7. I would like to see the relationship of the Planning Act, amendments to make possible more flexible planning for small towns, who are endeavoring to comply with official plans. I

your council and its various boards and commissions, must be prepared to move into those areas which we are forced to face today with open minds, weight the advantages and disadvantages of all proposals, and then move ahead in a decisive manner. While your council may not agree with every individual, let us agree that local government will always be less than perfect, if our separate identity as a town, human beings, who are also less than perfect.



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Firefighters are equipped to fight all types of blazes