

# The Acton Free Press

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## O.H.C. recommends 18 new low rental units in Acton

### Liaison, problems aired at meeting

A representative of the Department of Municipal Affairs answered a series of relevant questions at a special combined meeting of Acton council, planning board and committee of adjustment Wednesday evening of last week. The questions ranged from planning and zoning infractions to liaison.

Graham Adams of the extension branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs, had to admit some of the questions couldn't be answered without legal advice.

Mayor Les Doby was in the chair for the unique meeting and the other council representatives were Bob Drinkwater, Charles Perry and clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie.

A new planning board was recently appointed when the former board all resigned due to alleged lack of council co-operation. On the new board are Sid Saltz, Grant Allan, Mel Blow and Stan Joe with councillors Charles Perry and Bob Drinkwater.

On the three-man committee of adjustment are Ernie Marks, Don Lindsay and Murray Smith. Learning about local difficulties, Mr. Adams said perhaps there is "not enough playback" between the groups. The duties of the planning board are clearly stated in the Planning Act, it

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### Reeve charges town pay rates are inflationary

"Rates of pay are going completely out of control," charged Reeve H. Hinton when a proposal to increase hourly rates for selected town employees was submitted to Council at their regular meeting last night.

The proposal, from number two committee, recommended some employees be raised to lead hands at new rates of pay so they could accept more responsibility and leave the town superintendent free to supervise.

Councillor Bob Drinkwater told council the committee found a lack of supervision in some areas when the town superintendent was away or ill and it was felt the town should have an assistant superintendent or lead hand to share the responsibility. We must pay the going rate in order to get the type of personnel we want.

"We revised the rates just last year," said the reeve.

"We don't want to create added salaries positions," explained the mayor, but these men— one for sewer and water and the other for roads maintenance—will assume new responsibilities.

Councillor Masales assured the deputy-reeve the town work-staff was shorthanded not necessarily because of low rates of workmen.

"We're setting rates now that are inflationary," charged the reeve. "We're creating more problems than we're going to cure. There are other reasons for the shortage of staff. It's poorly organized. People in the town of Acton shouldn't be paying \$2.65 an hour for help."

"Our rates are lower than other municipalities," answered Mr. Drinkwater.

"The reeve wants to be sure people qualify for low rental housing," said the mayor.

Mr. Hinton still strongly objected to raising the rates.

"The reeve is used to dealing with 5 and 10¢ stores and this is big business," needed Councillor Drinkwater.

Mr. Hinton said he hoped the press took note of the last remark.

The resolution passed, the reeve opposed.

Ontario Housing Corporation's survey in Acton revealed a need for 12 family and six senior citizen units, council was told last night.

The O.H.C. recommended consideration be given to the development of 18 Ontario Housing units consisting of four 2-bedroom units, six 3-bedroom units and two 4-bedroom units. Senior citizen units recommended were four bachelor and two one-bedroom units.

Council generally thought these figures presented by Miss Margaret Laing and Charles Schaab of the O.H.C., were low especially for senior citizens. There were no senior citizen couples among the respondents to the survey.

Council grilled the two delegates from O.H.C. about different items in the report before they prepared two motions requesting the corporation to provide rental housing accommodation in Acton. It was agreed, however, to table the motions until the Golden Age club was approached.

Council felt there was more need for low cost housing than shown in the survey. They also felt a poll of Golden Age club

members would give a more accurate yardstick to measure the need.

The study by the O.H.C. did not indicate a need for a land assembly program at the present time, however.

Homes for sale did not appear to be in acute shortage but those available cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Wages in the area are not high and many persons in the local labor force are not

in a position to consider home ownership as yet.

According to the survey there appears to be sufficient land available to accommodate the anticipated increase of 150 dwellings by 1971.

If Acton were to be drawn closer to the metropolitan areas of Hamilton, Kitchener and Toronto in the future, and if consequently the growth of the town would accelerate, a land assembly project, with lots available for lease or sale under the H.O.M.E. program could be of benefit to the town.

The town requested the Ontario Housing Corporation to make the survey to determine the need and effective demand for Ontario Housing in the municipality as well as the survey to determine the need for a land assembly project.

Field work for both surveys

was completed during the week of August 28.

The report consists of two main divisions: the first deals with a general examination of existing economic housing and land conditions in the town; the second deals with the present effective demand for Ontario Housing as revealed by an analysis of the response to questionnaires distributed to all tenants in Acton.

In order to obtain information for the survey, a Housing Analyst from the Corporation interviewed officials in Acton. Included were municipal officials, industrial representatives and realtors. In addition, statistical information was obtained from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the Department of Municipal Affairs and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Councillors and press representatives were each presented with a copy of the report.

Miss Laing outlined the highlights of the report to council, some of which were:

\* Growth rate for the town is projected on a three per cent basis. Estimated population in 1971 will be 5,050 not taking into consideration any major housing starts.

\* The average number of persons per household in Acton was 3.6 for the years 1951 and 1956. In 1961 there was a slight increase to 3.8 persons per household. There were approximately 1,150 units in Acton. Provincial figure is 3.7 persons per household.

\* Craftsmen account for 50.5 per cent of the male and 25.5 per cent of the female labor force in Acton.

\* Wages and salaries in Acton are lower than the provincial average using the 1961 census as a guide. The majority of male wage earners (\$3,000 and \$6,000) earned between \$3,000 and \$6,000 whereas 83.2 per cent of the female wage earners earned less than \$3,000. Over 90 per cent of the male labor force earned less than \$6,000 per year.

\* Almost one out of every three employees of the major industries lives outside of Acton. According to the survey many employees do so by choice but some would prefer accommodation in the town if it were available.

\* The majority of dwellings in Acton are well maintained single family dwellings between 50 and 100 years old. There have been no condemned houses in the town over the past five years although some dwellings scattered through Acton may be classified as sub-standard.

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### Esqueping thinks over

## Milton request for library grant

A request from the Milton public library for a per capita grant for Pineview public school pupils using library facilities in Milton was transmitted to Esqueping Council Monday night by school board member William Lawson.

Mr. Lawson told council they should consider a grant to the three libraries used by township students—Georgetown, Acton and Milton. Georgetown got the heaviest use because of Glen Williams and Norval being close but Acton and Milton were also used frequently.

The request got a mixed reaction from council.

Asked if he wasn't opening the door to further requests for grants from other municipalities, Mr. Lawson said the door was open before he got there. He also inferred the school board would likely have to pay the grant if council refused to do so.

"This is going to take a little bit of thinking," remarked Councillor Jim Goodlet.

"It leaves the gate open to others soliciting grants," said Councillor Patterson. "I'm against it."

Councillor Tom Hill wasn't impressed by his colleague's remarks. "Not only school children but adults from the township are using these facilities," he charged. "We can't expect other corporations to provide facilities for people of the township!"

"Let's build our own library then," suggested Mr. Patterson.

Councillor Hill said there were two or more cards from Georgetown library in his house and he expected there were many more homes like his. Deputy-reeve G. Currie suggested fees in

libraries were maybe not big enough.

"Big enough or not, this township has got to get off its funny and start paying something to these other municipalities supplying services to our township," stated Councillor Hill. "That's been my view for a long time. I suggest we discuss it fairly."

## Remembrance service at St. John's, Rockwood

St. John's Anglican church, Rockwood, was filled for the annual service of Remembrance on Sunday. The service followed a parade from the school to the cenotaph, and from there to the church.

Jim Milne was parade marshal and Robert Leslie read the names of fallen servicemen. Chuck Wright sounded the Last Post and Reveille, while John Hiltz lowered and raised the flag.

Wreaths were laid for the pro-

vince of Ontario by Mrs. George Mack; for the township of Erasmosa by Reeve C. Lush; for the Legion by R.M. Storey and in memory of Donald Hiltz by his brother John Hiltz.

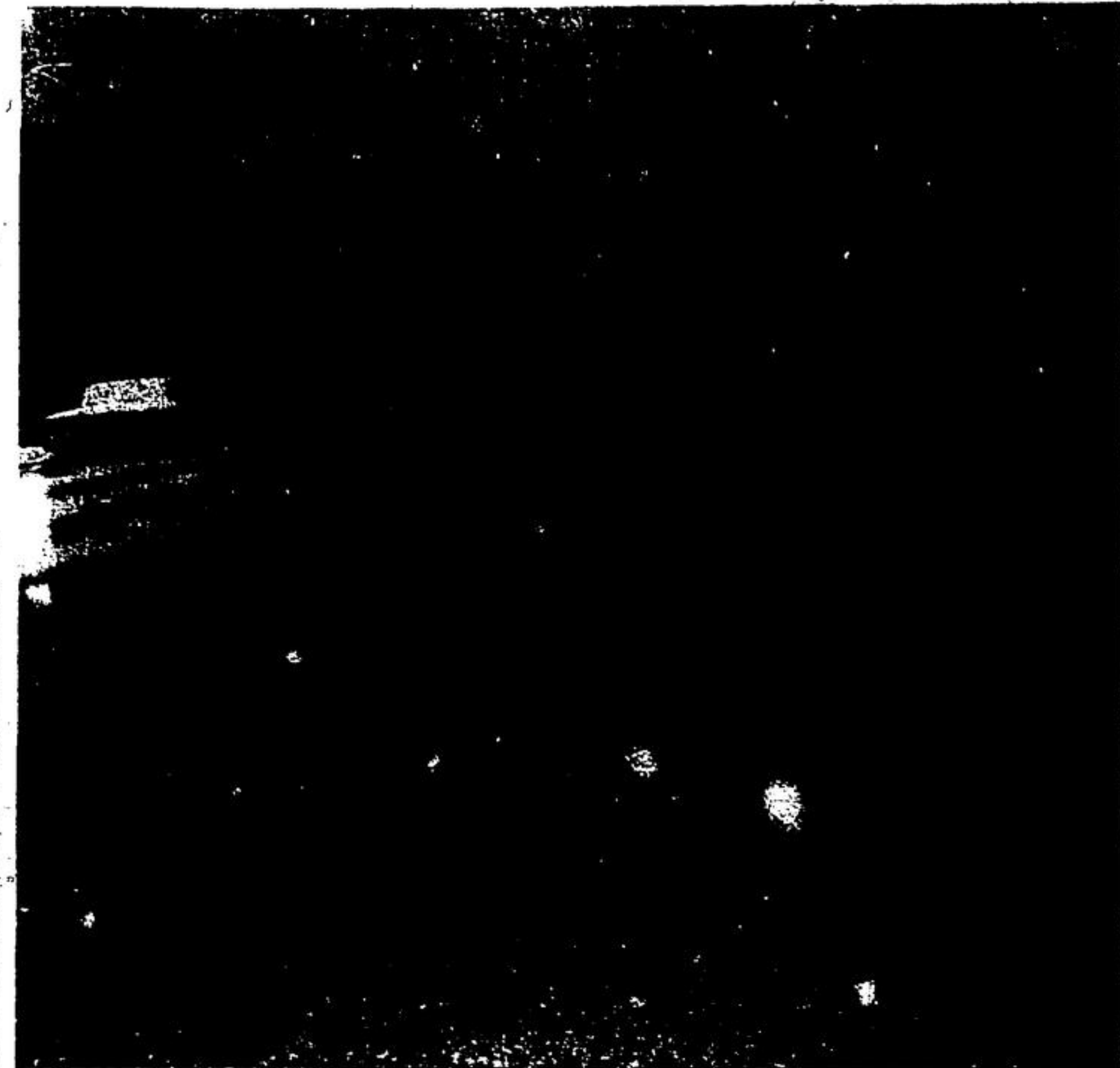
In the Legion color party were Mrs. Doris Angell, Mr. and Mrs. Art Ford and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Buchanan.

Attending the church service afterward, as well as Legionaires and many citizens, were Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs. The Girl Guide colors were dedicated in a brief ceremony.

For his sermon, Rev. Sewell conducted a dialogue with Jim Milne of the Legion acting as critic, and Mr. Sewell as respondent.

For participating Legion members, lunch was served afterward at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milne.

Among those attending this annual Remembrance Day service in Rockwood, was Fred Wright, who never misses.



TREACHEROUS ROADS and slippery sidewalks was poor at times forcing motorists to turn were one result as the first heavy snow of on lights in the high daylight hours. the season hit the district Tuesday. Visibility (Staff Photo)

### Cathy Hinton wins cheque

Cathy Hinton, grade eight student at the Robert Little school, was successful in the contest held last year by the Educational ABC's of Canadian Industry, booklets sent to all schools. She did two projects, one on salt and one on tea, and received a cheque.

The purpose of the program is to afford an opportunity for students to gain an insight into the way in which different industries operate. Some of the industry stories included are: silver, banking, grain, motor car, dairy farming, oil and gasoline, etc.

The program fits principally into the social studies areas although handwriting plays an important part. The best work is sent in as possible prize winners.

Thousands of entries are sent in from every province.

### High hopes!

## Acton's annexation plans left for another council

A request from the Town of Acton to annex land in Esqueping township owned by the town on Mill St. W. and Cobble Hill Road was received by township Council much like the song of the ant and the rubber tree plant.

"They've got high hopes," exclaimed Councillor Tom Hill. The town, in their request read by clerk K.C. Lindsay, said the annexation would be in the best interests of both municipalities.

The land is fully serviced by the town. Before development Acton feels it should be in town limits. "Hold it over for next year's council," urged Reeve George Leslie and that's what council finally decided to do. But not before this dialogue:

## Council approves school addition at M. Z. Bennett

### Open house

Staff at the Halton Centennial Manor had their hands full Saturday and Sunday entertaining guests for the open house at the Martin and Pettit Houses. Assistant superintendent Jack Charlton said the greatest number of people came on Sunday but a good crowd toured both buildings Saturday as well.

Mr. Charlton reports all comments were highly favorable and almost all of those people who visited the Home were greatly impressed.

Council accepted the recommendation of number one committee last night (Tuesday) and gave tentative approval to an addition to the M. Z. Bennett school as outlined by the public school board. The board was authorized to engage an architect and obtain estimates of costs for resubmission to council for final approval.

The two storey structure planned will include a gymnasium. Maximum cost was estimated at \$20 a square foot or less.

"It is far more sensible to proceed now than it was a year ago," commented Councillor Earl Masales. "We know more about it now. A year ago details were few."

Mayor Doby said there was a need for one room at the present time at the school and by the time the addition was constructed three rooms would be needed, leaving only one for expansion. "So you can see we are not over-building."

Figures given point up to a great degree of overcrowding if there is no expansion, agreed Deputy-reeve Frank Oates, who chaired the Committee of the Whole session.

## Cars collide on Saturday

Cars driven by Kenneth Clark, Preston, and Ronald Broughton, R.R. 1, Acton, were in collision at the corner of Main St. N. and Elizabeth Dr. Saturday, November 11 at 6:45 p.m. The Preston car received \$75 damage and the Broughton car \$250 to the front end.

## Giant cheque given Y's Men UNICEF collection over \$900

Bearing with them a huge wooden cheque, a hundred children from the Robert Little School raised the Y's Men's meeting last Thursday evening in the Y basement. Led by Jack Holmes playing his trumpet, the youngsters burst in on the meeting and circled the room in boisterous celebration.

Their cheque—painted on wood by Ken Marchmont—measured eight feet by four feet and was sign-painted to indicate the sum of \$920.15. Bank manager Ted Pratt had previously agreed to negotiate the gigantic cheque. When it's duly cancelled it'll go back to the school for display.

The money was proceeds from the school's special UNICEF projects, and when totalled with the Halloween night door-to-door collection the grand UNICEF donation this year is over \$900.

The weighty donation was presented to Bill Wilson of the Y's Men, UNICEF collections origi-

ated here with Home and School some years ago, and Mrs. Wilson was on the first committee. She has been active ever since, and was present at the meeting.

The cheque was borne in by Jim McNabb and Mary Laughlin, and Steven Van Fleet, one of the originators of the ideas, voiced the presentation.

Projects included the walkathon, pancake social, car wash, bake sale, a play and window washing.

To add to the commotion, the Y's Men's hockey team all came to the meeting, too, in their new uniforms. They are, captain Steve McIntyre, Tim McIntyre, Bill McGilloy, John Cameron, Chris Schatz, David Lee, Chris Tennant, Billy Cushman, Ken Withers, Ricky Chambers, Ricky Bonnets, Mike Lutz, Paul Daley, Terry Holmes and Terry Staven. Managing and coaching the team are Lloyd McIntyre, Grant Withers, John Weldon, Donald

Cameron and Lon Bonnets.

After all the boys and girls tramped back out and peace returned, the Y's Men set Friday, Nov. 24 as the night they are going to treat the children who worked for UNICEF to a show. Elmer Smith reported on the sale of turkey tickets and the annual bingo Dec. 2. The chairman of a committee to plan their Christmas party—Doug Copeland, Rick Coe and Brian O'Rourke.

Five awards were presented by the club at commencement and arrangements were made to entertain the five boys at the next meeting, to get to know them better.

District Governor Walk Balke from Kitchener was present and discussed plans for the Valentine Dance for the district and the district conference in April 1968.

Mrs. Kingsbury cooked the meal and the servers were Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Dajats and Mrs. Payman.

MARCHING INTO the Y's Men's meeting Thursday behind the golden trumpet of Jack Holmes Jr., pupils of the Robert Little school presented a monster cheque to the UNICEF chairman,

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilson, shown on the right with Gary Basmann, Steven van Fleet, centre, made the presentation. (Staff Photo)