

# The Acton Free Press

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Sixteen Pages—Ten Cents

## Bill Lasby

# Acton high school student's steer wins Queen's Guineas at "Royal"

When 17-year-old William Lasby, a grade 12 student at Acton District high school, wrote an essay last week, entitled, "Queen's Guineas Here I Come" it was more or less a private dream on paper.

The dream came true for the modest young man last week at the Royal Winter Fair. He won the Queen's Guineas, the ultimate award for a 4-H club member.

His 950 pound Shorthorn steer took the grand championship, won Bill the \$250 prize and then was sold to Dominion Stores Ltd. for \$9 a pound, which amounted to \$8,550 for the young owner.

Bill's entire family from R.R. 2, Rockwood, including his brother Bob, 16, a top competitor as well, were on hand to cheer the young man on. There was a lot

of time and effort involved in the project which meant first of all getting 75 per cent in his Acton 4-H Club project. Starting in May the steer had to gain two pounds each day over a five month period to qualify for the finals.

"It was a thrilling day for us," enthused Bill's mother, Mrs. G. Wallace Lasby, "when he won the Queen's Guineas."

Sire of the calf that won the award took the E. Braida trophy for two years in a row at Acton Fair. Both grandsires were from the prize Shorthorn stock of Scotsdale Farms owned by S.G. Bennett. Nino Braida one of his leaders in Acton 4-H Club work was delighted.

Winning the Queen's Guineas was an achievement which start-

ed back in 1907 when Bill's great grandfather, Wallace A. Lasby, bought a Shorthorn heifer. The family has raised the breed ever since, capturing many coveted prizes from their Nassagaweya home.

Bill's win was the culmination of years of breeding and personal selection. A total of 209 exhibitors had the same ambition.

Who helped most with advice on the project? "My father," said Bill without hesitation, Mrs. Lasby agreed. "I don't think a boy could achieve what Bill has unless the family was behind him all the way."

A member of Eden Mills Presbyterian Church where he sings in the choir and is active in Young People's activities, Bill

Lasby's main interest in life is agriculture. He'd like to be an agricultural representative and has some of his prize money ticketed for tuition for the course required.

Bill was on the 4-H trip from Halton to Maryland this summer and his whole life is centered on a love of agriculture pursuits.

Mrs. Lasby is happy with his decision, one shared by the rest of the family. "I've always lived on the farm and I think farm life is wonderful."

The honor and the money are, of course, the big things when one wins the Queen's Guineas but there's a trophy to keep for a year, ribbons and a silver tray he retains. These awards were presented by Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, William A. Stewart.

Could be there will be yet another winner of the Queen's Guineas from the Lasby clan, Bob

placed in the top 10 of his Shorthorn class while a sister Cathy, 14, has ambitions of her own for next year. All are students at Acton district high school.

Cathy was the top first year 4-H member in Halton last year. Halton County Council, delighted with the third Queen's Guineas to Halton in 13 years, presented Bill with cuff links and a tie-clip with the county crest on at their meeting Tuesday afternoon.

Warden Bill Coulter presented his fellow Nassagaweyan to council with pride.

The young herdsman was on TV on the CBC program "This Land" Saturday night. It was a co-incidence the producer of the show owns 10 acres of land across from the quiet sideroad where the Lasby's live.

On yes, that essay. It was a co-incidence too!

Bill's mother thinks he should write a sequel now.



QUEEN'S GUINEAS winner, 17-year-old Bill Lasby of R.R. 2, Rockwood, shows the cuff-links and tie clips Halton County council presented him, to sister Cathy 14, brothers Bob, 16 and David 4. His third try for the coveted prize, Bill's steer was selected from 209 Ontario entries. He's a member of Acton 4-H Club. (Staff Photo)

## LATE NEWS in Brief

### Gas explodes Ron Langford's barns burned

The frightening explosion in natural gas lines at Huntsville Monday, destroyed two barns on the farm of former Acton resident, Ron Langford. The explosion rocked the entire town at 5:30 p.m. and flames shot hundreds of feet in the air. The explosion left a crater 100 feet long surrounded by a large burned-out patch of mud.

A large rock, hurled by the blast, crashed through the roof and kitchen ceiling of Mr. and Mrs. Langford's home about a quarter of a mile away.

Mrs. Langford and her 88-year-old mother, Mrs. Mary Hemmings, ran to a neighbour's home, then drove to a relative's. Her 85-year-old mother-in-law, Mrs. Alice Langford, who has a heart condition, was rescued by an OPP constable who drove almost to the edge of the flames to get her in his cruiser.

At first the roar of the explosion and flames was so great the women could not hear each other. Mrs. Langford fell it was miraculous they were safe.

About 20 homes were evacuated by police; train service was delayed and gas service was shut off between Sundridge and Bracebridge.

The fire, a thundering torch 500 feet high, burned furiously for two hours.

### Bennett Shorthorns sweep Royal

The Scotsdale herd of S.G. Bennett, near Ballinacra, made an exceptionally fine showing at the Royal Winter Fair. Both premier breeder and premier exhibitor banners were Scotsdale wins, also grand champion male, Scotsdale Wellington, and grand in females Scotsdale Abretta Queen.

—From the last Y's Men's bulletin: A lot of people are in debt because they spend what their friends think they make.

### End of the line

## Bus careens off highway driver injured Saturday

A Gray Coach Lines bus, out of control early Saturday morning ran off Highway 7, crossed a parking lot, ran between a big signboard and tree, crossed a ditch and ended up on Elizabeth Drive.

The driver of the bus - it's only occupant - suffered facial cuts and a possible fractured skull. He struck the heavy front windshield.

He was taken, dazed, to David

van der Bent's office for treatment and then to Guelph General Hospital.

David Jamieson of Queen St. E., Toronto, was driving the big bus through the fog on slippery roads when a car with high-beam lights approached him, he said. As he pulled toward the side of the road to avoid a collision he struck the ditch on the west corner and lost control of the heavy vehicle.

The accident occurred at 6:55 a.m. The driver was following the regular early morning bus to Toronto.

Cons. Bob Hildreth investigated. Damage to the bus was estimated at \$1800 to the steering, windshield, and scrapes to both sides. The steering mechanism was completely inoperable.

In its careening course, the bus plowed a ditch through the muddy ground. It reached the end of the line - 45 miles too soon - beside the Les Halladay home.

Slippery roads and foggy, wet weather contributed to the accident, also, police figure.

The bus was viewed by dozens of spectators as it stood crosswise on the corner of Elizabeth Drive and Main St.

It was thought at first the big vehicle hit the guard posts only a foot or so from the home of Les Halladay but police believe bent wire and posts was due to an accident of the previous week.

Residents of the house thought someone had tumbled from bed when they heard the noise.

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THIS GREY COACH bus left the road in front of Lakeview Discount Centre on Main St. N. early Saturday morning and the driver guided it through the narrow opening between an elm tree and a bill board, over a four foot ditch before coming to rest on Elizabeth Dr. The driver was the only occupant of the bus. He was taken to Guelph hospital with a suspected fractured skull. Spectators were amazed the huge bus was able to navigate the narrow opening between the billboard and the large elm. (Staff Photo)

### Struck by car Gary Meecham hurt Monday

Five-year-old Gary Meecham of 109 Church St., Acton, suffered facial contusions when he was struck by a car Monday, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. He was treated in Guelph General Hospital.

Police said the lad was running east on the shoulder of Church St. when he ran in front of the car driven by Roy William Short, Main St., Erin.

He was hit by the right front fender of the car. There was no damage to the car.

Cons. Bruce Kressler investigated. The boy's symptoms resulted in an exploratory operation at Guelph but no internal injuries were found. (His ailing appendix was taken out, though.)

--If you're making Easter holiday plans far ahead, don't forget the next winter school holiday - March 16 to 24. Good Friday and Easter Monday, April 12 and 15, are holidays, too.

### After years of boys

## New toy shop owner orders last-minute doll - for girls

A Mini Toy shop, which after Christmas will switch its name to Mini Crafts, has opened an entirely new field of endeavour for Mrs. Mary Hegedus.

Her own two boys are now well past the toy stage.

Zoltan, who has been helping get the shop ready, attended St. Michael's choir school in Toronto and then went two years to study music at university - one at Baltimore Conservatory and another at Jacksonville university. He studied, organ, piano and theory. Then his interest changed to psychology, and he is now working at the Warendale school and taking a psychology course.

Their younger son Attila is a sculptor and artist, and after

graduating from the Ontario College of Art became a teacher at St. Michael's College. He teaches art, woodcarving, make-up for theatricals, and is stage designer. He was just recently married.

There are also 13 German Shepherds in the family!

Mrs. Hegedus has been back to Hungary to visit and finds conditions much improved.

Travelling through Acton, she saw the good Hungarian name of "Toth" on a store, and went in to visit. Frank Toth crossed the street Tuesday from his shoe repair store to give encouragement to the proprietor of the new business.

### Present twp. council signifies they'll stand for nomination

Municipal electors in Esquesing township will have a chance to nominate candidates for the offices of reeve, deputy-reeve, three councillors and three members of school board at the township nomination meeting Monday November 27.

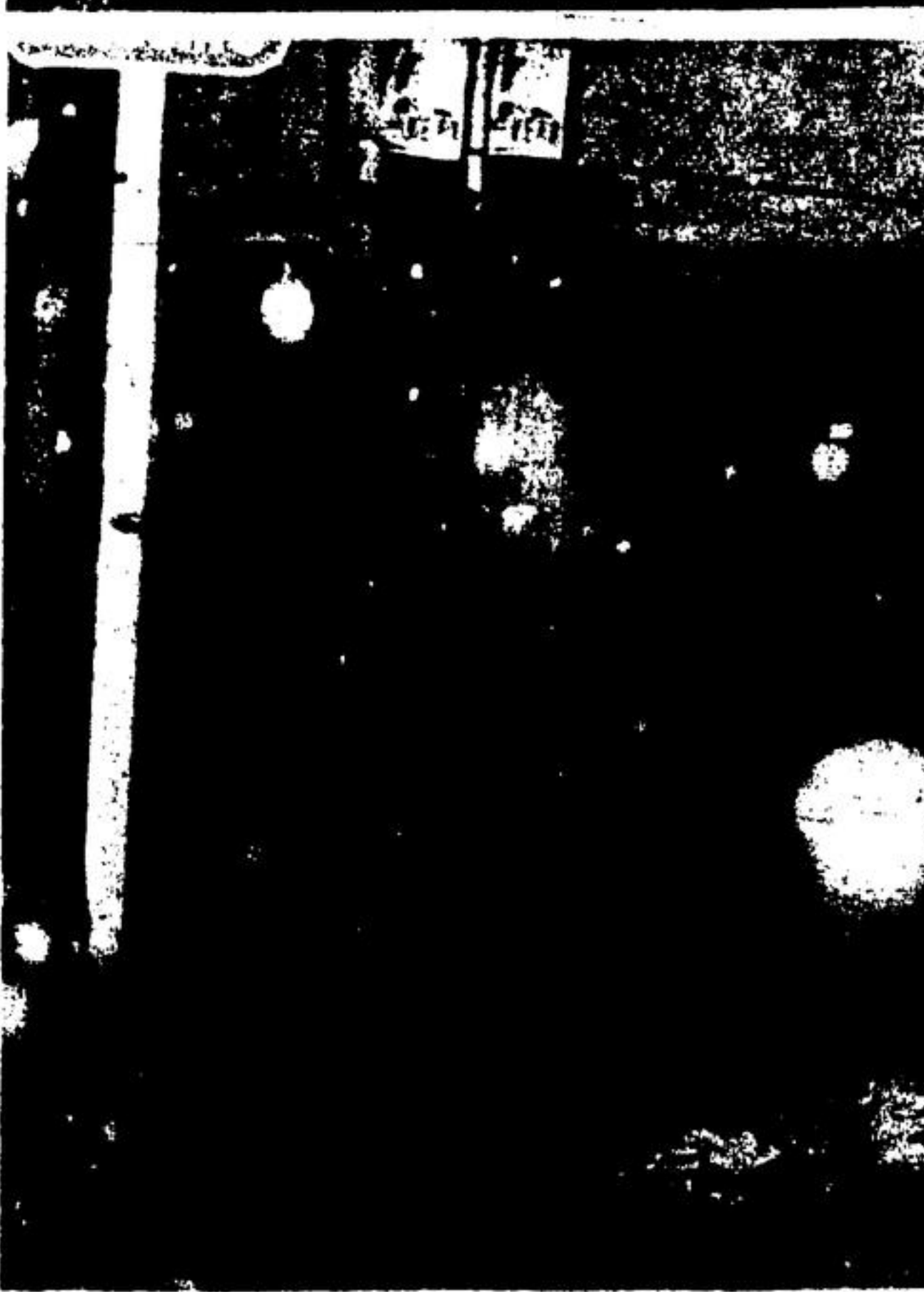
The meeting will be held in Esquesing community hall, Stewarton.

Quizzed by The Free Press all present members of the township

council signified they would be running for office again although the deputy-reeve would not say where.

Councillor Tom Hill said there was mechanical-shed business left to be dealt with and he'd be tossing his hat into the ring.

Councillors Patterson and Goodlet were also committed. Reeve George Leslie said he would contest the reeve's post.



## Acton men involved in area accidents - one man injured

Five Acton and district drivers were involved in three accidents, Milton O.P.P. investigated during the past week.

Just one was injured - Daniel Robert Almond of 146 Longfield Rd., Acton, whose car rolled over and hit a hydro pole Sunday. Mr. Almond suffered scalp lacerations and a bruised chest and was taken to Georgetown Hospital for treatment. Damage in the one-car crash totalled \$875 which included \$125 worth of hydro pole.

A three-car collision on the Sixth Line Nassagaweya south of Highway 7 Saturday caused a total of \$725 damage. Parked cars driven by Ronald Papillon of 80 Rosford Terrace, Acton, and Wilfred J. Duval, 213 Mason

Bld., Acton, and a car driven by Kristian Larsen of 163 Longfield Rd., Acton were involved. The same day a car driven by George E. Leslie of R.R. 4 Acton rolled over on the Third Line Esquesing just south of Acton Limestone Quarries, causing \$1,000 damage.

### Lions at track

Members of Acton Lions Club, wives, and guests were at Mohawk Raceway Monday evening where they enjoyed dinner and stayed for the race program.

Over 50 attended the social night which Lion Ray Swolan convened.

### New skating hazard on pond

Skating on Fairy Lake is going to be different this year - but on Tuesday children started out onto the ice apparently unaware of the new dangers created by the dredging.

Neighbors watched with alarm as darkness approached and carefree children skated near a patch of open water, and over greatly increased depths.

Police were called to come and warn the youngsters. The dredging operation has created a strong current of water which slows freezing this fall. Also the workmen are breaking the ice so their work can continue. As near as 10 feet from the shore, there is a patch of open water between 15 and 18 feet deep.

Children who are accustomed to skating almost all over the pond, and walking across the ice to the arena, will have to learn the new hazards of the pond.