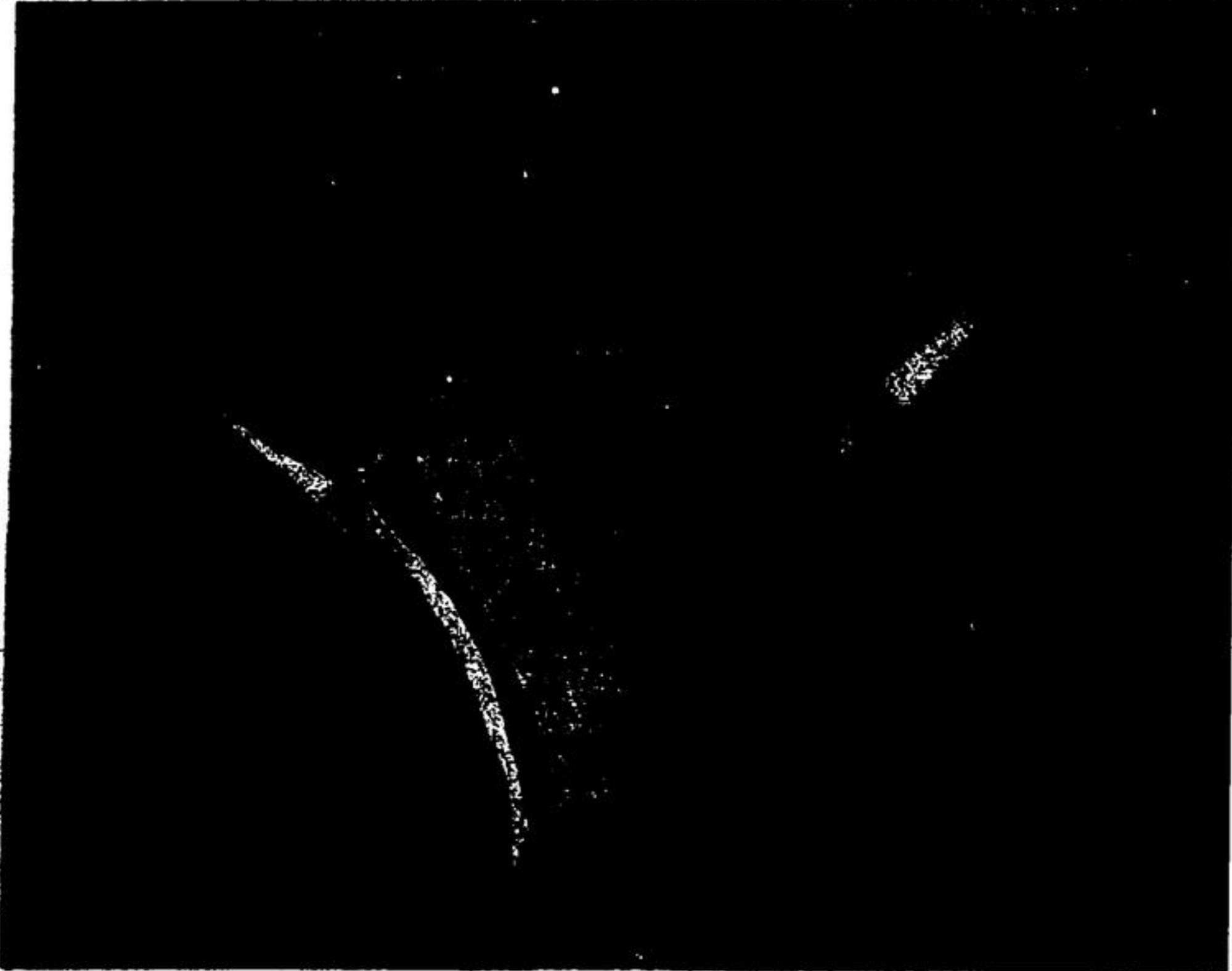


# Esquensing voters to select reeve, council, school board



INCUMBENT REEVE George Leslie and Deputy Reeve George Currie propose to make their contest for Esquensing's top post a friendly one. Reeve Leslie and the deputy-reeve have served on council for many years together. (Staff Photo)

## Leslie, Currie run for reeve Hill deputy by acclamation

Esquensing township electors will go to the polls Monday, December 4 to elect a reeve, three councillors and three members of school board.

Reeve George Leslie has been challenged by Deputy Reeve George Currie for the township's top post in a surprise move which saw Councillor Tom Hill move up the deputy reeve's chair by acclamation.

Four candidates are contesting the three council seats including incumbents C.F. (Pat) Patterson and Jim Goodlet. W.R. (Bob) Lawson and Wilfrid Leslie, two former members of council, round out the contestants.

Newcomer Jim France indicated he was going to qualify for one of the three school board seats which are vacated this year meaning there'll be a contest with Dr. C.A. Thompson, Chester Early and A. Lloyd Fisher, present members, who are running again.

A packed Esquensing township hall Monday night heard the candidates give their acceptance speeches while incumbents also reviewed their past year in office. Ratepayers had the opportunity to ask questions after the candidate had spoken.

Clerk K.C. Lindsay chaired the nomination meeting as well as giving the treasurer's report. Mr. Lindsay compared the budget of this year, well over half a million dollars, to the \$66,000 when he gave his first report 23 years ago.

Questioned after his report, which was available in printed form for ratepayers, Mr. Lindsay admitted a \$5,000 item reserved for building repairs was ticketed for the township office. The questioner asked for an explanation and was told repairs were necessary because sloppy work was done on the building.

"Sloppy planning would be better," stated the ratepayer, who also thought a full report on the building would be "very interesting." The architect and contractor were identified for the questioner who doubted the material used was poor. The questioner said in his opinion the whole building was a poor piece of planning and doubted Mr. Lindsay's statement that bricks were of inferior quality. With this type of brick and no protection from the elements, he blamed the planning.

Another ratepayer congratulated council for the fact that no bank loans were shown on the balance sheet.

First member of council to give his report was Reeve George Leslie who indicated early he was running for the post again. The reeve reviewed the past year with special emphasis on the legislation passed at county council.

Mr. Leslie predicted regional government was coming but could see no definite change in the near future.

What centennial project in Esquensing? The reeve said it was decided to hand over the centennial grant of one dollar per capita to be given to the Halton County museum.

The reeve also dealt with complaints about weeds which he said were more numerous because the county weed inspector was ill most of the year. A new appointment by county council will solve the problem next year.

Ratepayer Malcolm Freeman asked the reeve what Council intended to do about the stretch of road not yet finished on the seventh line. The reeve said construction would probably start next year but doubted whether paving could be done.

Another ratepayer asked about an \$80 million loan to be given to outlying communities by Metro but the reeve professed no knowledge of the subject. "We're not involved," he was sure.

Deputy-Reeve George Currie, the next speaker, announced he was a candidate for the reeve's chair and gave a resume of his experience on county council. He told ratepayers Halton was the smallest county in acreage but had the largest assessment in the province as well as the second largest population in the province. The county also enclosed the largest town in Canada - Burlington - with a population of 72,000.

Oakville and Burlington contribute 80 per cent of the revenue, said Mr. Currie. "We're lucky in Esquensing. We got two county bridges in the last two years. The province pays 80 per cent of the cost and Oakville and Burlington pay 80 per cent of the 20 per cent left."

"So you can see," explained he, "why we can't tread too hard on representatives from the south."

"Some morning the axe will fall and we will have regional government," the deputy-reeve forecast. He told how different departments in the county were already affected. "As I see it we're gradually losing control until we lose it all. Maybe we won't be gathering in the township hall and we'll be told what to do by appointed representatives."

Mr. Currie spoke of the importance of his work with the Children's Aid Society, a "More important job than building roads in Halton." He also told of the "rumpus" with the nurses. "It's all over now but I don't know if they're happy or not."

He concluded by reviewing road costs in the township.

Councillor Tom Hill, by now sure of the deputy reeve's post by acclamation, spoke next of his concern over roads in the township. He blamed heavy traffic on the main arteries for the condition. Mr. Hill said 85-1/2% of every dollar went into roads maintenance and it was "time we did something concrete on roads."

He predicted government grants would soon disappear unless the township did something soon.

Mr. Hill finished by strongly stating he was in favor and proposed the township have its own

(Continued on Page 5)

# The Acton Free Press

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## Town commended on centennial province sends bronze plaque

Completion of Acton's centennial projects brought a surprise presentation - a bronze plaque from the province of Ontario. Mayor Les Doby proudly showed the new plaque to council Tuesday evening and council agreed it should hang in the foyer of the renovated town offices or in the clerk's office, where everyone can see it.

The plaque reads "Presented to the Town of Acton by the Province of Ontario in recognition of a distinguished contribution by community leaders, the Centennial Committee and individual citizens to the Centennial Celebrations in 1967. The imagination and enthusiasm shown by everyone has made the celebration of 100 years of Confederation in Canada a most memorable one, and one with a lasting effect on each of us." It is signed by Premier Robarts and Minister of Tourism and Information and Chairman of the Cabinet Centennial Commission James Auld.

The mayor received the attractive plaque in the mail. It is bronze, mounted on wood, and ready to hang.

## O.P.P. officers quit force

Two constables are leaving the O.P.P. detachment and a former constable is returning.

Constable F. Chamberlain has left the O.P.P. and returned to his home in Woodstock and Constable R. Hildreth is finished tomorrow (Thursday).

Constable Hildreth is moving to Timagami where he'll work in the administration office at the new Sherman Iron mines. He starts Dec. 8.

It is expected Constable Nick Farion will re-join the Acton detachment. He has been stationed at Burlington while recovering from the effects of injuries suffered in an accident.

## Parking lot on Mill St. open to public

The new municipal parking lot is in operation this week, to relieve the Mill St. parking problem in time for the Christmas shopping rush.

The lot is on United Church property with the entrance on Mill St. and the exit on Elgin St. A large sign has been erected, and metal guardrails flank the entrance driveway.

Council approved the plan and arrangements were made with the United Church.

## Message from P. M.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

A nation's wellbeing is usually gauged by the amount of security enjoyed by the citizens. One of the major threats to Canada's population is the senseless killing and maiming that continues to take place on the country's highways and streets.

The problem is serious and must be solved. However, we cannot expect any single individual, group or government to accomplish this alone. Total participation by all is needed.

From December 1 to 7, the Canadian Highway Safety Council is again sponsoring Safe-Driving Week in an effort to impress on Canada's motorists and pedestrians the fact that they too must do their share.

It is my hope that every Canadian with a sense of responsibility will take it upon himself to support the Council in Safe-Driving Week and help free Canada's highways and streets from the stigma of death, violence and crippling injury that has come to characterize them.

L. B. Pearson.

## Two car collision \$1,600 damage

A two car collision at the corner of Mill and John Sts. at 12.15 a.m. Sunday morning sent six people to the doctor's office for cuts and bruises.

Police estimated damage to both vehicles, a '61 Cadillac, owned by John Kersemans, 131 Bower Ave. and a '59 Ford operated by Allan Green, 265 Peel Street, totalled \$1600.

Police said Green was proceeding west on Mill St. and turned south into John. The Kersemans car was eastbound on Mill Street.

Green suffered a bruised knee and passengers Mr. and Mrs.

J. Wilds, were both cut and bruised. Kersemans sustained head lacerations and two passengers, Mr. and Mrs. Les Trevall, had cuts and bruises.

All the injured were treated and released by Dr. T.B. Moore.

## Firefighter talks on hospital safety

Capt. Wes Miller of Oakville Fire Department's fire prevention staff was guest speaker at a meeting of Halton Mutual Aid fire services, held in Oakville Tuesday evening of last week.

## Pedestrians hurt at lights

A rash of accidents over the weekend kept the Acton detachment of the O.P.P. busy sorting out wreckage and investigating causes of smashes.

First one last Friday, Nov. 24 at 6.50 p.m. at the corner of Main and Mill Sts. involved a vehicle owned and operated by Evelyn Porty, 1 Elgin St. and two pedestrians, Thomas Sheguis, 59, and his wife, Jessie, 51, of Campbellville.

Police said the vehicle going north on Main, turned right on Mill when the light turned green. The driver observed the pedestrians walking south. Both stopped, then started ahead.

Mr. Sheguis suffered a sore left shoulder and his wife injuries to her left knee, right leg and wrist.

They were taken to Georgetown hospital for X-rays.

## Two hurt in crash on 27 sideroad

An Acton woman and her 15-month-old daughter were sent to Georgetown Hospital Friday morning with injuries received in a single car accident on 27 Sideroad in Esquensing.

Mrs. Helen Osborne of 173 Perth St., Acton was driving the car when it hit an icy patch and slid off the road, entered a ditch and struck a tree. She suffered head injuries and lacerations to the hip, and had several teeth knocked out. Her daughter Lynda Marie, 15 months old, also received head injuries and forehead lacerations.

They were both treated at the scene by Dr. C.A. Thompson, then admitted to hospital in Georgetown. Const. Gary Corman of Milton O.P.P., who investigated, said the accident happened half a mile east of the Seventh Line.

## Tragic fatality on First Line

# Four youths die in car-train crash

A tragic accident claimed the lives of four 17-year-old boys when their car, a 1938 Plymouth coupe, ran into the side of a train. The collision occurred eight miles west of Milton on the First Line of Nassagaweya north of Five Sideroad at 4:05 a.m. Saturday morning.

The car was split in two and had to be removed by a dump truck. The car crashed into a loaded condola car, used to transport gravel and coal and was dragged for 62 feet up the track. The train had been shunting back and forth on the crossing.

Dead are Lorne Miller, Jacobus Ronald Boers, Terrance Van Buskirk, all of Campbellville area, and John Newell of 68 Margaret Ave., Kitchener, formerly of Acton. Separate funerals were held.

Lorne Miller was the son of Harold and Pearl Miller and the brother of Judy, Donna, Brenda and Linda. Funeral service was held Monday at McKersie Funeral Home in Milton and interment was at St. George's Church cemetery in Lowville.

Terry Van Buskirk lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Van Buskirk at R.R. 2, Campbellville. He is also survived by three sisters. Funeral service was Monday and interment was in St. David's Presbyterian Church cemetery in Campbellville.

Newell's funeral was held in Kitchener.

He is the son of Leonard Newell of Milton and Mrs. Lena Newell of Kitchener. Requiem high mass was held Tuesday in St. Mary's Roman Catholic



BYSTANDERS LOOK at the mutilated vehicle, the side of a train near Campbellville early a 1938 Plymouth coupe. Four boys were killed and the car demolished when it ran into Saturday morning. (Photo by Esther Taylor)

church and interment was in Woodland Cemetery, Kitchener. He is also survived by three brothers and one sister.

Ronald Boers was the son of Arle and Anna Boers and the brother of Martinus (Ries) of Milton, Dirk and Margaret at home. Funeral service was held Monday at McKersie Funeral Home and the burial was at St. David's Presbyterian Church cemetery, Campbellville.

The car belonged to Van Buskirk but it is not known who was driving at the time of the tragedy.

Three of the occupants died instantly and the fourth died en route to Milton District Hospital.

Milton O.P.P. described the accident as the worst in years. It was North Halton's first multiple fatality in several years.

A.H. Bird, assistant commissioner of the O.P.P. in a statement Monday, estimated the speed of the vehicle as about 60 miles per hour.

Milton O.P.P. Constable Terry Devine said he had seen the car at Moffat and followed it, intending to stop it for a routine check.

Const. Devine denied chasing the car.

"If it had been a chase, I would have hit the train too," he said. The cruiser was a short distance behind the car when the accident happened.

John Smith, a Canadian Pacific railway flag man, was on duty at the scene and had a lantern to warn oncoming vehicles. He said he leaped aside when Van Buskirk's car approached.

The railroad crossing is marked but has no flashing signals or warning light.

## Town labor force applies for certification in union

A hearing will be held at the office of the Labor Relations Board, Toronto, this Thursday morning on certification of the town labor force as members of the Union of Public Employees.

All are eligible, under union terms, except the office staff, superintendent and those above the rank of superintendent.

Council Tuesday night approved the creation of a position of foreman or assistant superintendent and that these be excluded from the bargaining unit. Council also authorized William Sharpe as solicitor in the matter.

The Mayor, clerk and other interested councillors will attend the hearing, and will not oppose it unless advised by their solicitor.

Two more demonstrations of tractors for sanitary land fill at the dump will be given this week, bringing demonstrations to seven.

Mayor Doby pointed out this equipment has been needed from the beginning.

Sanitation chairman Tyler reported incineration method has not been abandoned but the two methods will complement each other. Certain garbage must be buried. Prices range from \$17,000 for a new tractor, on down. Rental is also being considered.

One tractor will be left with the town force for use next Monday. Mr. Tyler bemoaned the fact he is running out of companies to demonstrate.

Praising the newly-opened parking lot beside the United Church, Reeve Hinton suggested consideration might be started on a similar lot behind the Presbyterian church.

Other councillors urged waiting till they see how the first municipal lot works out. "It's been quite vacant so far."

Mr. Hinton felt a lot behind the Presbyterian church would service the church, overflow from the community centre and Main St. N. shoppers.

The town will apply for a loan of \$324,677 to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to finance an addition to the water control plant.

Council decided not to oppose an application from Sesto Construction for variances in setbacks at a house at the corner of Tides Ave. in Lakewood. The builder had proceeded without a permit and his application was refused by the Committee of Adjustment. No other objections were expressed and the builder was having difficulty setting up a hearing with the O.P.P. before

winter. A town-owned barn will be advertised for sale and removal. Micro Plastics are vacating the barn.

Renovating the town hall bell-fry was authorized at an estimated cost of \$200. "It'll be quite serviceable housing now for the siren."

Council also:

\*Authorized purchase of a new pump for Lakewood sewer pumping station, recommended by the engineer to complement the existing pump. Quotations were received from three companies. Cost is \$872 plus tax.

\*Authorized payment of \$409, O.M.B. fees in regard to approval of the new sewer plant acquisition. "It's too bad we have to" (Continued on Page 3)