

Ont. Municipal Board grants Rubin, Sesto appeals

Ontario Municipal Board representatives granted appeals by Rubin Corporation and Sesto Construction for variances on houses in Lakeshore subdivision in two separate appearances before the Board in the council chambers Monday. Both companies appealed when Acton Committee of Adjustment turned down their applications for variances from the by-law.

O.M.B. representatives F. C. Blake and H. E. Roberts heard the Rubin appeal in the morning and reversed roles as chairman to hear the Sesto case in the afternoon.

In both cases the O.M.B. stated the variances were only minor and recommended less attention be given to the mathematics of the by-law and more to the effect variances would have on appearances.

In stating the board's decision on the two Rubin Corporation applications chairman Roberts commented, "When dealing with infringements of this character it is necessary to regard the aesthetic effect and it's not ordinarily felt that strict mathematics are so important."

"Both houses are in the same ownership so one is injuriously affected."

While each of the applications was regarded as a minor variance, he said the board rejected counsel's suggestion that one house should be considered reversed. "This would amount to rewriting the bylaw," he commented.

There were few people at the Rubin application at 10 a.m. - clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie as observer, Rubin construction manager L. G. Livesay and counsel Robert J. Swayze, the two O.M.B. representatives F.C. Blake as chairman with H.E. Roberts.

The O.M.B. representatives

heard the explanations for the side yard variances from the two Rubin representatives, studied the bylaw and clock plan.

Town clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie reported that council had no objections although "not too happy". The two houses concerned are on lots 163 and 164 in Lakeshore subdivision. Neither is sold yet.

Mr. Swayze suggested the house on lot 163 be considered reversed and side yard requirements would be "ample." In his summation Mr. Roberts rejected this proposal.

On lot 164, the side variance amounted to about six inches. The requirement is 4 feet, 6 inches.

Mr. Livesay said the errors occurred through "carelessness, primarily." He explained Rubin workmen are used to N.H.A. housing standard of four feet and assumed the six inches was feasible.

The board representatives pondered the meaning of the town's bylaw (which is being completely changed next month.) Mr. McGeachie said he could explain the intent of the bylaw, but Mr. Roberts declared "bylaws speak

for themselves; we're not concerned with intent."

Rubin Corp. has already had 13 other variances approved.

The hearing was over in about three-quarters of an hour, with the O.M.B. representatives giving their brief summation and decision after a short conference in the back room.

granted for a house on lot 69 known as 123 Elizabeth Drive, for 17 feet front yard or 17 foot backyard. He started building right away but was unable to see the building inspector until the house was nearly ready for insulation. Then the building permit was refused because the house was a foot and a half too far back.

Mr. Perini said he stopped building immediately when he realized the house exceeded the variance and filed another appeal to the Committee of Adjustment. It was refused.

and it was a mistake the house was too far back on the lot.

The O.M.B. representatives withdrew and within a few minutes emerged from consultation granting Mr. Perini the variance. Mr. Roberts said the variance was "minor and the appeal should be allowed" although there was some confusion as to where the frontage of the lot is since it also was partially on Tidesy Avenue.

Mr. Roberts also said they based their decision on the effect more than the mathematical or linear dimensions if the variance was minor.

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Third Year.—No. 25.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1967

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Dept. Ottawa, for Postage Paid in Cash at Acton, Ontario.

Thirty-Eight Pages.—Ten Cents.



To light Glenlea Park for night tobogganing

Glenlea park is now 75 per cent on the way to completion, Brendan Aberne told recreation and parks commission members at their short meeting last Thursday night. He recommended spotlights on existing poles for night tobogganing, and he was duly instructed to inquire about the method and cost, and proceed.

An advertisement will be placed in the Free Press when the lights are ready.

He also recommended snow fence alongside the railroad track. While sleighs and toboggans are safe on snow, he thought they might career up on the track if the hills were icy.

People are enjoying tobogganing on the hills already, Mr. Aberne said, with the enthusiasm of personal experience.

He commended the town on their work on the park and a letter was to be written expressing thanks to the works staff.

The hills have all been "shaved", he said and the gully filled in and a run made for toboggans. Mr. Aberne has long been a promoter of the park in Glenlea, first on parks board and now on the amalgamated board.

The commission hopes to complete the work there next year. Looking back over the year and in a Christmas mood members also decided to have the secretary dash off a seasonal note of

thanks to the Y's Men for their work on the ball diamond and to H.K. Porter Company for sharpening blades of the ice equipment.

The meeting was transferred from the council chambers to the back room when it was discovered development commission was holding a meeting around the council table.

Present at the back room session were chairman John Goy, members Aberne, Hugh Patterson and Art Cooper with manager Harold Townsley and secretary Doris Townsley.

Winding up the year in the continuing cheery mood, Mr. Goy thanked all the members for their support in operating the "successful show." He said it was especially pleasant for the commission to have people like Harold and Doris Townsley in charge.

A letter was read from the Legion Minor Sports and the Legion expressing thanks for the use of the room in the community centre.

Playground supervisor is to be named soon so she can help with selection of other leaders. An experienced former leader is being contacted.

Looking ahead to budget season, Mr. Townsley reported prices had been secured on rewinding a motor, painting all the arena but the two main meeting

rooms, and on snow plowing equipment.

Demonstration of snow removal equipment will be requested for the first of the year.

A price will also be obtained on steel seating for dressing rooms, as in Hespeler arena.

"Very interesting," was Mr. Townsley's comment on an Arena Association meeting he and Mrs. Townsley attended in Kitchener. The next meeting is in Toronto Lakeshore Lions Memorial Arena Jan. 10.

Skating is "holding up well", he said. The arena will be closed Christmas Day, and there will be public skating every afternoon during the holidays. The night program remains just about the same during the holidays.

A final Christmassy note was interjected just before the meeting ended when a member asked warily about a former bone of contention. "How are things with the curlers and the booth?"

The Yuletide answer: "Peace and goodwill."

Night airs

Tonight (Wednesday) on the steps at the town office Acton Citizens' Band plans to have a concert to serenade shoppers,

Residents report lights being taken

A rash of missing Christmas lights from private residences with outside lighting displays has prompted some residents to phone this newspaper with the complaint.

One lady on McDonald Blvd. reports children were seen taking her bulbs.

Others can't pinpoint who is responsible for swiping the coloured lights but they are keeping a sharp eye out for possible offenders.

Some, disgusted at the petty thievery, have taken outdoor lighting down, vowing they'll never put it up again.

The rise in price of bulbs to replace those missing is also a sore point with victims.

Renovations

Work began Monday on the re-modelling of the town offices.

Commission decides

No price increase to Acton consumers despite raise in Ontario Hydro rates

"Escalating wages, salaries, interest rates" which boosted Ontario Hydro's interim rates for power will not affect Acton consumers for next year at least.

Acton Hydro-Electric Commission passed a motion at their last regular meeting Thursday to leave the present rates to the consumer as they are, in spite of the increase in cost to them.

"I think we can absorb this increase, at this time anyway," said chairman Ted Tyler. "The increase of business we are doing and additional power we'll consume can be absorbed without any increase to the consumer."

Approximate increase in price for power bought by the local commission from Ontario Hydro is six per cent. It becomes effective February 1, 1968. Some municipal utilities, like Acton, are able to absorb it, but in the long run according to Ontario Hydro, the effect of rising costs for 'wholesale power will be translated into higher rates to the consumer.

Ontario Hydro chairman George Gathercole said they have been fighting the trend of rising costs for a number of years. In some instances there have been

reductions in rates and in other municipalities there have been no increases in power costs in 10 years or more. Figures to demonstrate this showed the average residential cost per kilowatt-hour in 1965 and 1966 was 1.13 cents compared with 1.17 cents in 1966.

The Hydro chairman said one of the principal problems is the rising cost of money in the marketplace. A decade ago Hydro was able to acquire money at four per cent or less, but its most recent bond issue carried a coupon rate of six and a half per cent. Rising wages and prices of materials were also blamed.

The Acton commission took some satisfaction in the fact they were able to hold the line for 1968. The motion to retain present rates passed unanimously.

In his report Superintendent Doug Mason reported linemen were busy installing the colored Christmas lighting in spite of sickness.

Commissioner Doug Dawkins

asked if the commission hadn't agreed to co-operate with the municipality in keeping the decorative lights in good order for centennial year. The chairman agreed they had assured the town and the Chamber of Commerce they would co-operate to keep the lights going for the balance of the year.

Christmas turkeys will be presented to each member of the staff, the Commission agreed by motion.

Secretary-treasurer A. Urquhart was authorized to pay accounts amounting to \$21,425.99.



THE COMBINED CHOIRS of the high school glee club and the Legion Choralists sang Christmas carols for an appreciative audience which spilled over into the bleachers of the high school auditorium Sunday night. Occasion was the annual Christmas concert presented by Acton Citizens' Band. (Staff Photo)



MOHAMMED SHAFFI, Muriel McCutcheon and at Ray's Chicken Coop at the Beardmore Christmas party. More pictures inside.

Hire extra staff to handle peak

"We're over the peak now," Postmaster Gord McKeown said Monday of the record volume of mail which passed through Acton post office this year.

There was a big run on mail over the past weekend but the regular staff spent some overtime hours coping with the flood of greeting cards and parcels which annually tax facilities during the Christmas season.

Four extra helpers, Mrs. Al Coombs, Mrs. Don Holmes, Mrs. Jean Marcoux and George Collins assisted the regular staff in the peak period. Three of the regular staff, instead of the usual one, worked the night shift from midnight until 8 a.m. for most of the month. They were Mrs. John Chapman, Mrs. Harvey Kirkwood and Alice Pilkington.

"It will all be downhill from now on," predicted the Acton

postmaster although there is still a heavy volume of local greeting cards to come.

Biggest Christmas card

A special 24-page section in today's Free Press brings to all our readers the best wishes of merchants and businesses who serve you throughout the year.

The section, with a colored front page, is no doubt the biggest and thickest Christmas card you'll get this season.

Carpenter Kids on Big Al's show

Thursday afternoon (tomorrow) Jack and Joyce Carpenter's group of young singers and dancers will appear on Big Al's television show from Kitchener. The Carpenter Kids will appear on the show for two four-minute segments of carol singing.

It's the first television performance for some of the youngsters.

Wednesday the group is going carol singing, with a party at the Carpenter home afterward.

\$300 crash

Damage of \$300 was reported by Milton O.P.P. this week, to a car driven by Charles Mike Homier of 350 Orville Rd., Acton. The car was involved in a one-car accident on the Fourth Line of Easting, north of 17 St. Road, Saturday morning.

Burned mother leaves hospital for Christmas

The Gallas family, which was burned out two weeks ago, is back together again and in a new home for Christmas.

Mrs. Alvin Gallas, who was in hospital in Gush receiving treatment for burns, cuts and shock received when rescuing her children, is out again.

The family is now living on the third line of Erie township, in the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Wes Leitch.

The family lived formerly on the fifth line below Springs.

Many donations of clothing, bedding etc. have been made to the family since the fire which completely destroyed their home. The mother broke a window to release two children.

GOSH, SANTA, do you have to leave so soon, says Kelly Manes. She was one of over 50 children who received gifts at Firefighters' Christmas party.