

Snow, ice smother district



EVERGREENS WERE overloaded by the storm which dumped another foot or more of snow on top of the existing depth. Even though

the fluffy white stuff is the subject of complaints, the aesthetic effect, on homes is grudgingly admired. (Staff Photo)

The district is still digging out from the first big storm of '68 - and the worst in some years.

Blocked roads, power blackouts, closed schools and mountains of ice and snow characterized the Sunday-Monday storm story.

Ice began the affair, coating everything with gleaming shards of frozen rain. The snow followed, bringing such road conditions it's fortunate there were no more accidents.

Plowing crews worked day and night; those who could stay home did so; police kept cruising; power in Nassagaweya was restored before the situation got desperate. All considered, for a terrible couple of days, things were not too bad.

Everywhere, the schools were closed on Monday. It's an unusual, bad storm that closes Acton public schools. For the

high school and many rural schools the cancellation is a logical one, since many students can't be picked up by bus. Nassagaweya, Esqueping, Acton and Erin schools all opened once again on Tuesday, but in Esqueping the public school buses were not running. Some Esqueping pupils couldn't get to high school transportation, either.

Town workmen worked through Sunday night, all day Monday, and Monday night, at a crash snow plowing and removal program. They even managed to collect much of the usual Monday garbage.

Police worked in conjunction with them, seeking owners of parked cars to move them so the roads could be plowed. Only on Main St. N. by Custom Cleaners was a car parked whose owner couldn't be found. The car had to be towed away to permit the

plows to keep the highway passable. All over town, cars are buried

under peaks of snow. Drivers shovelled for hours Sunday night, thinking they'd be



THESE VEHICLES wear white shrouds as they await owners, willing to dig them out of snow banks which piled up high on driveways and walks. (Staff Photo)

sure to get out Monday to go to work. However, all their efforts were smothered in drifts by Monday morning. Most people in town walked to work, carrying hastily-made lunches. Many started out-of-town but turned back.

Buses were running late. Highways were kept open at all times, but driving conditions were hazardous, especially when the gale swept the snow across the windshields.

Snowplows who really put their backs into it got all the way down to the day-old ice below. Then some of them even put skates on to shovel snow!

Children, blessed with an unexpected holiday, romped in the snow for hours. There were monstrous banks to slide down. Only two accidents in town were attributed to the storm - one involved a town truck out-plowing. Neither was serious and there were no injuries.

In Nassagaweya township, about 100 homes were without power from about 4 a.m. Monday until 1 p.m. the same day. Bad road conditions prevented hydro crews from locating the trouble readily. To add to the problem, families who might have gone elsewhere to get warm were trapped in their chilly homes by drifts.

Those with fire-places improvised old-fashioned meals over the flames.

Snowplows and sanders of the Department of Highways sand pit west of town on No. 7 highway were out in full force from noon on Sunday through that day and night, all day Monday and through Monday night.

There are two drivers for each of the two DHO plows so the men put in many extra hours. "The snow drifted in as fast as we could plow it," said one man.

By Wednesday both highways 7 and 25 were bare after salt (Continued on Page 3)

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SIDWALKS WERE choked by drifts which even by Wednesday still blocked some streets. For business people, it was often difficult to find a place to put the snow. (Staff Photo)

What council did

At the regular meeting Tuesday night, Acton council:

- Introduced, read and passed a by-law to fulfil the requirements of the Emergency Measures Organization Act. Deputy Reeve Frank Cairns said council was not doing anything special - it is a Canada-wide plan to act in co-operation with the county and other organizations on a natural disaster plan. Mayor L. Doby told council although there were scoffers, recent events in London, Ontario illustrated the value of E.M.O. He emphasized the system can be used to get in operation again after any type of disaster.

- Introduced and passed a by-law to borrow \$300,000 from the Bank of Montreal at 6 1/2 per cent to meet current expenditures until taxes for 1968 are collected.

- Authorized the clerk to issue cheques to cover financial statements for \$6,166.55.

- Authorized purchase of a \$100 Canada Savings Bond and a \$25 merchandise voucher to present to retired town employee Wm. Shepherd in appreciation for his years of service.

- Passed a resolution requesting architect Donald Skinner delete the stained glass windows at the front of the Y.M.C.A. from the contract to renovate town offices at the request of the Y board, who wished it left in place.

- Agreed to pay the membership fee of \$20 to belong to the Association of Mayors and Reeves.

- Authorized the clerk to renew the Depot Taxi license and three licenses for Reliable Taxi for 1968.

- Turned down a resolution from Goderich requesting an amendment to be made to existing legislation so cities, towns and villages will not be required to contribute to suburban or county road systems. A recommendation from No. 2 committee that it be turned down precipitated some discussion in which it (Continued on Page 3)

Sidewalk clearance problem for town

Councillor Ted Tyler threw the floor open for suggestions from councillors at Tuesday night's meeting of council about a method of getting people to shovel sidewalks after a snowfall.

He said a good portion of Yonge and Mills Sts. was still not shovelled as he made his way down to the meeting. He wondered if the town was taking the right tack, suggesting perhaps they should follow the example of

other communities and look after sidewalk clearance.

Reeve Hinton agreed the case for change to some other method was valid. He cited the case of one former resident of town who died as a result of snow shovelling. "Those who are physically able don't do it, and in other cases home owners can't cope with the snow."

Mr. Hinton said the town trucks added to the problem by stuffing driveways. "Would the problem be more easily solved if the town did the whole thing?" he enquired.

Clerk J. McGeachle said the town superintendent was disturbed about recent snow clearance in the business section where business men pushed snow on the streets. "The plows clear the streets and property owners push it back on town property, making no effort to put it elsewhere."

"Where else could they put it?" asked Councillor Pat McKenzie.

"I'd advise people who phone"

Hugh O'Rourke elected head of Choraliers

Hugh O'Rourke was elected chairman of Acton Legion Choraliers at their elections last week. He succeeds Jim Higgins. Other officers are secretary Fred Gordon; treasurer Gil Malcolm; librarian Lou Patric. George Musselle will continue as leader and George Hall as pianist. Until Mr. Musselle's health is improved Ted Hansen will act as the group's leader. Mr. Musselle has been in the hospital.

Smoke fills Micro plant alarm sounded Saturday

Fire of unknown origin filled Micro Plastics Main St. N. plant about half full of smoke Saturday afternoon. Firefighters responded speedily to the alarm and were credited with preventing what could have been a serious blaze.

The plant was empty except for a few employees when Vince Duno noticed smoke. Lloyd Broadbent, head of the maintenance crew, turned in the alarm.

Searching through the billowing smoke, firefighters located its source in piles of cartons heading for grinding machines. The heat set off sprinkler heads in the danger area of the plant and water poured down on the cartons. A tow motor was used to pull out the cartons and they were wet down again. Firefighters remained at the plant almost two hours.

Cartons and boxes of plastic were lost in the fire. An

electrical circuit was burned and had to be cut off. There was also some water damage as a result of the sprinkler system going off.

Mayor hopping mad over unreasonable criticism of town staff

Mayor Les Doby is hopping mad about the "unreasonable criticism" some citizens have heaped on the town workmen over snow clearance after the huge snowfall over the weekend and Monday.

"In general people are most understanding but there are a few who are most vehement over conditions," the mayor said this morning. He received two dozen phone calls from people complaining about snow conditions and the Scene St. railway crossing where snow is piled high. "The town staff is doing everything in its power to bring conditions back to normal - they worked 36 hours around the clock plowing and street cleaning. I can stand the criticism but I don't like to see the work force criticized when they are already doing the impossible."

The mayor emphasized that town workmen were able to begin garbage collection on-time Monday although conditions were far from normal. In addition to their regular duties it took three hours to open the cemetery to get into graves for four funerals that day.

"What those who criticize don't realize," the mayor charged, "is that people are doing their level best to clean this snow up." He wondered what some complainers would do if they lived in places where there was no hydro service and streets were not cleared yet. He pointed-out that Acton roads were all passable Monday morning.

The road committee of council after a late session last night, (Tuesday) went to the Scene St. railway crossing to view the road situation there which is always complicated by a narrow road. "Everything is being done to correct the situation and we're not sure who is responsible for that area since it affects the railway, the highways department and the town."

"Perhaps," concluded the mayor, "those who are so quick to criticize should do some self-examination."

Move town office temporarily

Town office renovations at the Y.M.C.A. building are disturbing the office staff so much and vice versa, the office will be moved to the council chambers in the town hall for a temporary period from four to six weeks.

Clerk-administrator Jack McGeachle told council last night (Tuesday), that the contractor was not getting a great deal accomplished because there was limited working area. He talked to the contractor and it was agreed workmen could get a lot more done if the staff could be moved.

Mr. McGeachle suggested the council chambers as an alternative until work was finished and council agreed. Suggestions to use the hydro office were considered but council felt they would interfere with the hydro staff.

A resolution passed authorizing the clerk to move the office temporarily into the council chambers. (Staff Photo)



WILLOW STREET received its quote of the "white manna" - plows pushed huge banks alongside the road, making access to parked vehicles difficult. (Staff Photo)



PALED HIGH over the eaves of the garage, for children around the post office. Game? - this huge drift made a snowy playground King of the Castle! (Staff Photo)

Up \$500

Firefighters collect record \$764 for M.D.

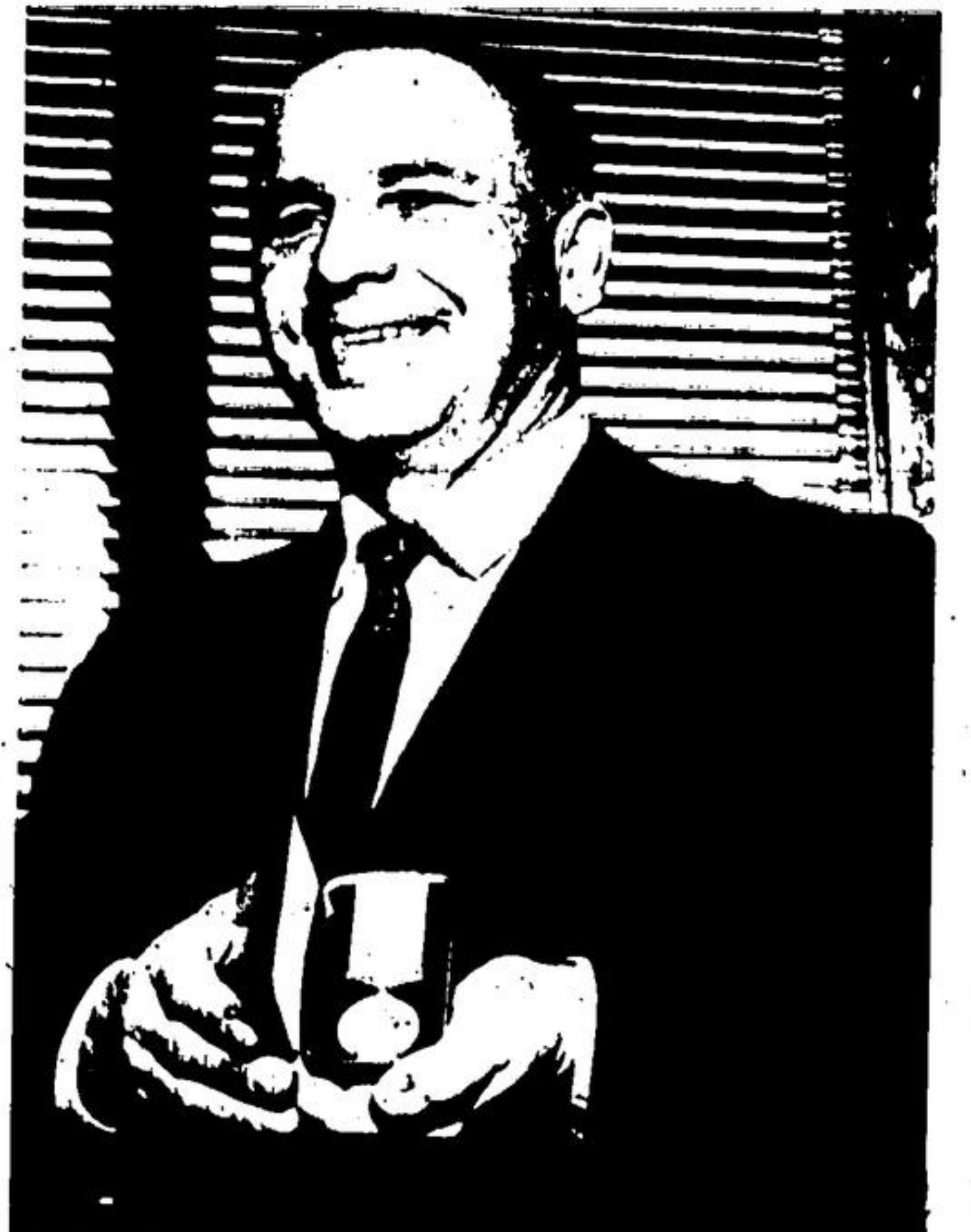
A record \$764.35, up \$500 from last year, was collected by Acton Firefighters for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada during their campaign in November and December.

The firefighters used a new technique this year - a house to house canvass - as against their old method of relying on canvassers in several locations. Canvassers were used in addition to the canvass and the results astonished the committee.

Committee chairman Herb Dodds was assisted by Leo Synnot and Harry Otterbain in organizing the campaign.

"We also received donations from the Lions Club and the Beardmore Fire Department," explained Herb, "which also helped boost the total."

Benefits of the financial campaign will be shared by children and adults afflicted by muscular dystrophy.



IN RECOGNITION of his service to the town and nation, Mayor Les Doby was chosen by an independent committee to receive the lone centennial medal conferred by the municipality. The mayor's wide interests and work for the town made him the "logical choice", the committee agreed. Postmaster Gord McKeown and publisher Dave Dills also received the medals. (Staff Photo)