

What council did

At the regular meeting Tuesday night, Acton Council:

* Engaged Ab Robinson as caretaker at the town hall at a salary of \$45 a week until the town office is moved; the rate will be \$25 a week. There was some discussion about the advisability of calling tenders for the job, a policy most councillors subscribed to, but it was agreed time and the reputation of the man hired were sufficient reasons not to in this case.

* Accepted the one dollar offer of Don Swackhamer for tearing down and removal of the barn on Main St. N. town property.

* Authorized purchase of shelving for the new vault at a cost of \$100.

* Authorized No. 2 committee to renegotiate the fire budget this year. Council turned down an increase this year and any contemplated increase must be submitted prior to 1969.

* Approved the annual levy of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority of \$3,986.90. The levy is based on 90¢ per capita for each municipality in the watershed.

* Read three times and passed an amendment to the official plan as required by the Ontario Municipal Board for the Goy, McGladrey and Ridley properties.

* Approved payment of \$7,237.22 to Zorge Construction for their work at the town office.

* Authorized advertisements in the press to sell the three-acre plot of land on Churchill Rd. E. formerly occupied by the town dump for the erection of apartments. Council decided the land would only be sold to someone who'd make a firm offer to build apartments on it.

* Approved increases of \$5 per week to town office workers although some councillors thought the jobs should be classified before this was done. Opposed were the reeve, deputy-reeve and Councillor Tyler.

* Approved salary increase to the town office manager of \$300 for 1968. Tyler and Perry opposed.

* Approved a \$300 increase in the salary of the town superintendent for 1968. Tyler and Perry opposed.

* Approved a \$200 increase in the assessor's salary, Perry and Hinton opposed.

* Approved a \$400 increase in the clerk-administrator's salary for 1968. Councillors McKenzie, Perry and Tyler opposed.

Undecided about fire

Milton Fire Department has still not decided what caused the fire that gutted a Speyside home Tuesday afternoon of last week. The frame home of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Wilson and their two young children caught fire around 2.30 p.m. and nearly levelled the house before firefighters brought the flames under control.

Fire Chief A. E. Clements said Mrs. Wilson thought the oil space heater might have caused the fire. Mr. Wilson was working and Mrs. Wilson and the children were away when the fire broke out. A motorist spotted the fire from the highway and alerted neighbors.

Firefighters were worried for a while, when they reached the smoke-filled home, there might be people inside. However the only casualty was the family cat which perished in the flames.

The Wilsons lost all their possessions. Neighbors, the town of Milton welfare department and the Sarah Martin Chapter of the I.O.G.E. supplied them with some clothing and furniture. The family has since found accommodation with friends in town.

Chief Clements estimated the loss at around \$4,000, which includes the contents of the rented home. He said it was another instance where a water tank truck would have helped the fire department. The brigade radioed back to Milton for a tanker with 1,500 extra gallons of water, when the fire pump's 500-gallon tank began running low.

Reeve's county stipend, activities needed by council

Motions to increase the mayor's honorarium to \$1800 annually and extend the number of meetings for which councillors are paid were vigorously debated before council passed them at last night's meeting.

The proposal to extend the \$12 per meeting councillors receive to a maximum of 65 meetings was opposed by Reeve Bert Hinton who felt the \$600 councillors receive now was adequate. The reeve stated the Town could not afford to pay anymore.

"We're inviting all the other boards to raise the treasury," claimed Mr. Hinton who felt the town should not be asking other people to volunteer their services, when honorariums were increased to council.

"I don't know how the reeve establishes councillors' worth," said Councillor Drinkwater, "but I've got a question I'd like to propose to him."

"How much is the pay on county council and would he be willing to say how much he receives from the county?"

The reeve refused. "I'm not going to make comparisons."

Councillor Drinkwater shifted the question to Deputy-reeve Oaks who said the per diem rate at the county level was \$20 with no maximum on the number attended.

"How can you make comparisons between the county and what Acton can afford to pay?" asked the reeve.

"That talk doesn't cut any ice

with us," answered Mr. Drinkwater. "I attended some 70 council and committee meetings plus others which probably put my attendance up near the 100 meeting mark."

"I said in my estimation it was impossible for Acton to pay," said the reeve.

"I wonder," asked Mayor Doby, "if the reeve would be considering this statement if he wasn't on county council?"

Mr. Hinton said he served when the stipend was only \$300 a year, a figure he corrected later to \$400 when pursued, but denied his interests were tied to the financial rewards.

"All the years you were on council you served on the county council, too," charged the mayor.

"You never just worked at the local level."

Mr. Hinton outlined the number of meetings he attended and said he felt his work on the county was above reproach especially inasmuch as about his convention expenses.

Councillor McKenzie remarked the reeve's activities on county council were well known especially at conventions.

"It's a complete lie, a fabrication," shot back Mr. Hinton. "I've paid my own way to conventions. I've done a job more there than you would have done. I'm not one bit ashamed of anything I've done. Do something about Acton first before you make remarks about me," he told Mr. McKenzie. "That's a derogatory

remark."

"You always say you pay your way but no one else seems to think so," said Mr. McKenzie.

Mr. Hinton outlined a trip to an industrial convention in Seattle which cost him \$800 and work he had done at a convention which brought the subject of elderly citizens' housing to the attention of the town. "You're quite green at this," he lectured Councillor McKenzie.

"I may be green but I'm not gullible," answered Mr. McKenzie.

Deputy-reeve F. Oaks said the important thing about council's rate was it remained the same. "It's the same rate for every meeting. There could be as many as 85 meetings but we'll only get paid for 65."

"What was last year's average?" asked Councillor Tyler, a newcomer to the discussion.

"It averaged 60," answered the clerk.

"We still attended meetings we weren't paid for," observed Councillor Masales.

"I gave a lot of myself to the county. I like the work and..."

That rebut came through your stand on the motions said the mayor.

Argument concluded with the reeve saying he wouldn't stand for the criticism of my efforts and the honesty of my motives. Both motions passed with the increase to the mayor opposed by Hinton, Perry, and the mayor. Opposed to the extension of rates for council were the reeve and Councillor Perry.

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Third Year.—No. 37.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1968

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

Fourteen Pages.—Ten Cents.



Fire levels Rockwood plant last night!

Northern Tackle plant destroyed by fire Tuesday

Northern Tackle plant in Rockwood was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday night during a driving snowstorm. The factory is housed in a converted freight shed by the Rockwood station.

The old building was one of the village's landmarks. Rockwood and Guelph firefighters fought the searing blaze for several hours. Guelph brigade was called about 9:30 p.m.

Intensive efforts proved fruitless and the building was a complete loss.

It housed Northern Tackle office and plant. Fishing tackle was produced and the machinery involved was lost.

Northern Tackle is associated with Stag Lubricant plant next door. Monte Root of Rockwood and Bob Armstrong of R.R. 4, Acton, operate the businesses. Roy Murphy, manager of Northern Tackle discovered the fire.

Cause of the fire and estimate of damage have not been determined.



ALLAN HOLMES and his son enjoy the lively sing song.

Scout, cub banquet at Knox attended by 150 lads, dads

In Tuesday's blinding snowstorm just about everyone was able to make it to the Cub and Scout Father and Son banquet except the guest speaker! The Ontario Water Resources Commission representative didn't drive up due to the worsening storm.

Dr. Allan Buchanan willingly and ably filled the gap, showing the 150 attending his latest movies. He and Mrs. Buchanan just recently returned from another trip, and she showed pictures of Las Vegas and Hawaii.

The turkey dinner, hosted by the sponsoring Rotary club, was served by members of the Scout and Guide Mothers Auxiliary, assisted by some of the Rangers. Section leaders, Mrs. Earl Jordan, Murray Coyne and Henry de Vries, reported on the two cub packs and scout troop.

Mr. de Vries introduced his two leaders, one a new leader. He said next fall he expects 14 boys will move on to Venturers, the new group of boys between Scouts and Rovers.

and mentioned future events from March into June, both on local and District levels.

Ralph Davies, Rotary president chaired the program. Rev. A.H. McKenzie said grace.

Mac Sproull introduced the members of the new group committee, chairman Ron Lewis, secretary Mrs. Alice Wilkinson, treasurer, Gordon McKeown, Howard Coles, Bruce Cargill, Gary Dawkins, Fred Gordon, John Toebes and Hugh Patterson, Allan Lauder, with Ted Hansen at the piano, led the group in a singsong

Found wallet

Last Wednesday a wallet was found, brought to the police office and returned to the owner. Nothing was taken from the lost wallet.

Youngster dies as flames sweep Moffat area house

One of six children of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Law, R.R. 1, Moffat, died when flames swept part of their home Wednesday of last week. The 19-month-old boy, Harvey John, was apparently standing in front of a wood stove when it exploded.

David Law, 12, was taken to hospital suffering from burns and another child had a cut leg.

Guelph firemen arrived at the two-storey stone house when Mrs. Law and a neighbor were rushing the children to the hospital. Mr. Law explained he had put coal oil in the wood stove, and it is believed a spark ignited and exploded.

The fire was contained to the kitchen, upstairs bedroom and bathroom.

Neighbors helped clear away debris and looked after Mr. Law's dairy herd.

An inspector for the fire marshal's office investigated. Dr. Frank Farmer, Wellington County coroner called the boy's death "a very tragic accident" and said no inquest will be held.

In addition to his parents, brothers and sisters Douglas, 15; David 12; Elizabeth, 14; Russell, 9; and Vera, 4, the boy is survived by grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Roselofson and grandmother Mrs. James Law, all of Hamilton.

Funeral services for the boy was in Waterdown.

Two-car accident

Saturday morning at 10:10 a.m. a two-car accident at 280 Queen St. was reported to Acton O.P.P.

Ray Evelan, driving east, was turning into his own driveway on the south side of the road when his car was struck by another driven by Steve Woloshyn, R.R. 4, Acton.



3,800 chickens perish in Friday fire

FIREFIGHTERS were forced to don Scott air packs when dense clouds of black smoke hampered their efforts to fight Friday morning's poultry barn fire at the farm of A. Neumann, R.R. 1, Acton. Nearly 4,000 chickens perished in the blaze and extensive damage was done to buildings and equipment. It took firefighters a little over an hour to douse the fire.

(Staff Photo)

Fire which apparently broke out in an egg grading room, destroyed most of the front end of a modern poultry barn, and 3,800 chickens, Friday morning. The destructive blaze was on the farm of Alfred Neumann, R.R. 1, Acton, while Mr. and Mrs. Neumann were away on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilles Boisclair who also live on the farm were at home but Mr. Boisclair was in bed sleeping after working the night shift when the fire broke out.

Mrs. Boisclair, outside at the clothesline, discovered the fire. She tried to open the chicken out but could not budge them.

Then Mrs. Boisclair tried to phone in the alarm but the telephone wires were burned and the phone out of order. She woke her husband and he drove into town and raised the alarm at approximately 10:20 a.m.

Acton Firefighters responded immediately with two trucks but the front of the barn was a mass of flames when they arrived. They emptied their tanks on the fire and one truck made a trip back into town for water.

Meanwhile, firefighters discovered a pond nearby, broke the ice and set up the portable pumps.

Dense, black smoke hampered their efforts but the brigade had

the fire under control and out within an hour.

The intense heat and smoke destroyed all the 3,800 chickens in the barn and damaged equipment as well as burning the front part of the building.

Mrs. Neumann arrived home before firefighters had the blaze out but Mr. Neumann was at work in Oakville.

Contents and building were covered by insurance.

The farm is located on No. 25 sideroad, about half a mile south of No. 25 highway.

Public meetings to decide on street lights

Public meetings in both Stewarttown and Glen Williams will inform residents of the estimated cost of street lighting they requested it was decided at a recent meeting of Keesling council.

Stewarttown which has no street lights will have 18 175 watt mercury vapor lamps installed at an approximate cost of \$2200 if the project is approved. Coupled with the hydro cost over three years the average ratepayer would pay \$8.08 for the same period.

Novall's improvement in their street lighting will cost \$3600 for 30 175 watt mercury vapor lights. Spread over three years a householder with a \$3,500 assessment, considered average, would pay \$30.94.

Beware of muskrat ramble warns Acton naturalist

Muskraats enroute to and from their holes are not to be trusted warns amateur naturalist Al Lauder in the wake of an Acton boy being bit by one last week.

Mr. Lauder said a course he took at the University of Toronto advised naturalists to beware of muskraats rambling because they invariably bit when something creeps up in their path. He had found this to be true on experiments he conducted.

"On one occasion I parked a truck in front of a muskrat and it attacked the tires," he said. Mr. Lauder advised children to stay away from the animals

especially at this time of year when high water may have flooded them out of their homes.

"They could be particularly vicious now," he warned.

Broken on Saturday stoplights repaired

The stoplights did just that Saturday — they stopped operating. Two of the sets of lights spent the Sabbath under tanks and were repaired Monday.

They were operated for a while by hand before getting the "green light" of approval.