



ALL READY for April showers is attractive Susan Ellis in a red and royal blue vinyl rain outfit complete with matching umbrella. Sue is one of many who modelled fashions at Rockwood Home and School's fashion show at Rockwood centennial school Thursday evening. See the second front for pictures and story. (Staff Photo)

# Fear flood

## Ice jam in Glen gives Esquesing council anxious moments on Monday evening

Esquesing council rushed through the essential business at their regular meeting Monday night so they could view a threatened flood in Glen Williams.

Council received several phone calls while they were in session asking them to do something about an ice jam at the new bridge in the Glen which already had backed water up around several houses and the Anglican church.

A traditional trouble spot when the Credit River starts its spring break up the Glen experienced

severe flooding last year and residents feared another outbreak. Reports came in that one house with seven children in was isolated which caused some concern among councillors especially after a phone call to R. R. Parker, flood control chairman, revealed the river was the municipality's responsibility.

"Are the children in danger?" asked the reeve of Deputy Reeve Tom Hill, a Glen resident. "I'll call the meeting off if they are."

"If more ice comes down it could get serious," said Mr. Hill.

"If there's none the water will recede. If we could have got some action this afternoon it would have been clear."

Clark K.C. Lindsay confirmed the county engineer and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority had been contacted. Mr. Hill said the C.V.C.A. office thought the Glen was on Authority field officer Stan White's itinerary that day.

"But I didn't see him or anyone from C.V.C.A.," said the deputy-reeve.

"If we can do anything let's do it," said the reeve.

"I wouldn't go out there and dynamite tonight in the dark," said Mr. Hill. "There's one kink of ice frozen on the bed of the river. If we could get rid of that it would be all right."

Mr. Hill assured Mr. Parker in Acton looked after flood control got in touch with him by phone and came back to 'tell' council the river was their responsibility.

"I told him we were spending a lot of money - 90 cents per capita - for nothing then!"

Another phone call from the

Glen with the information the Cooper house was starting to fill with water prompted council to finish proceedings and reconvene at the flood site.

The owner of a crane with a large wrecking ball was contacted and asked to come in to break up the ice jam with a crane.

When councillors arrived in the Glen they found the situation had been exaggerated, but potential danger existed. Water backed up by the ice was inundating houses alongside the river as well as the Anglican church, but it was ob-

vious if the ice jam could be broken the river would be contained within its banks.

The crane arrived and started to work but lost its wrecking ball. It started again Tuesday morning and around noon the ice jam started to move and the water receded.

Township officials were keeping a wary eye on an ice jam on the tenth line this morning (Wednesday) but they are optimistic that the river had reached its peak and the water will recede.

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Third Year.—No. 38.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1968

Sixteen Pages.—Ten Cents.

## Install new mail boxes in Acton post office

Mail delivery in Acton may not become a reality in the near future but the foreseeable future could see house to house delivery if present expansion of the town continues.

Two hundred and sixty more post office boxes were installed in the Acton post office last week to handle the increased demand, making a total of 1224 boxes, using all the available space.

Postmaster Gord McKeown said there must be 2,000 deliveries in order for mail delivery to start in a community. There are only 1341 deliveries now but many of the boxes have two or three homes using them, which would up figures considerably.

There were only 18 or 20 of the present boxes vacant, many of them large office size, when the 260 new boxes were ordered.

Contractor Duncan Kingsbury and caretaker George Collins installed them in the last vacancies Thursday and Friday of last week.

Mr. McKeown said 271 boxes have been rented since the post office moved into new quarters five years ago this month.

## Flag train stops short car wreck

Mrs. Stanley Preston, R.R. 5, Rockwood, escaped with minor injuries when her car hit a patch of ice on Highway 7, clipped a hydro pole and then dropped down a 20 foot embankment onto the railway track west of Acton Friday morning.

A C.N.R. passenger train due to pass through Acton at 9:05 a.m. was flagged down by station agent Charlie Perry after being notified by Don Timmings the car was still on the tracks. The train proceeded slowly and pulled up a few feet from the wrecked car.

Mrs. Preston, shaken up by the accident was the only occupant in the vehicle when it skidded and she lost control coming towards Acton. The accident happened a short distance west of the town limits.

Mrs. Preston was assisted from the wreck by customs officer Vince Montgomery and another unidentified motorist. Constables Bruce MacArthur and Nick Farion of Acton O.P.P. also assisted. She was taken to Guelph General Hospital.

North Halton O.P.P. investigated the accident.



CONTRACTOR DUNCAN KINGSBURY and caretaker George Collins install 260 new letter boxes at the post office. The boxes - which make a total of 1224 - take up all the available space. Postmaster Gordon McKeown said nearly all the available ones have been rented in the past few months. The new boxes, it is hoped, will look after needs for some time. (Staff Photo)

## Build 40 houses in Acton

The extent of spring residential building in Acton will likely depend on the amount of mortgage money available.

The Rubin Corporation started the final phase of the Lakewood subdivision when construction began on a house on Elmora Drive last week. Plans are being made to erect another 40 houses on the street which extends from the top of the subdivision to Fairy Lake parallel to Tiddy Ave. providing mortgage money can be procured.

Building permits have also been procured for three houses in the Glenlea area.

Other building will likely be restricted until the addition to the sewage plant is at least on the way. The present plant's facilities are taxed handling the present demand.

Rumors are also rife that the former Tony Seay farm will be developed and the area behind Fairview cemetery.

## Pat asks:

### Disease lurking in Georgetown sewage sludge?

Unlike its sound, salmonella is not an imitation fish but a disease which Esquesing councillor Pat Patterson suspects sludge from the Georgetown sewage plant might be infecting township residents with.

"Georgetown is putting sewage on farm lands in Esquesing and I'd like to know whether salmonella fits into the situation," said Mr. Patterson at Monday's meeting of Esquesing council. He advocated a check with the Health Unit to see if the sludge could be a sanctuary for the bugs which cause the illness.

Reeve George Currie nodded his assent and asked the clerk to make a check with the Health Unit.

"Many people think they have the 24 hour flu and it turns out they have salmonella," Mr. Patterson continued.

"It's a serious infection."

## Police attribute rash of accidents to slippery streets, carelessness

A spate of accidents involving local drivers occurred on Acton streets during the past week, some of them caused by bad driving conditions after the heavy snowfall and fogged windows and others police attribute to carelessness.

First one occurred on March 13 at 7:45 a.m. on Main St. near Reliable Taxi. John Bousfield's vehicle was not damaged while the car driven by Lavorna McEachern, R.R. 1, Acton, had \$75 damage to the right front fender.

The Bousfield vehicle was southbound on Main followed by the McEachern car. Constable N. Farion investigated.

Fifteen minutes later Constable Farion was called to Guelph St. where cars driven by George Albert Maltby, R.R. 2, Acton, and Ole Bendt Nilson,

were in collision. The Maltby vehicle, westbound on Guelph, stopped for a left hand turn, police said, when the collision occurred. Maltby's car was damaged to the rear for an estimated \$250. The Nilson vehicle received \$50 damage to the front end.

At 6:05 that evening a car driven by Alfredo Lucorelli of Acton was in a crash with a tank truck driven by John George Hargrave of Acton. Only \$20 damage was reported to the car as both were backing out of laneways on Queen St.

Friday, March 15 at 4 p.m. a two car accident on Yonge St. caused \$275 damage to cars driven by Harry Oehlrich, Acton and Christell Hines. The Oehlrich vehicle with \$75 damage to

the right rear was stopped, waiting to make a left hand turn onto Peel, police said when the accident occurred. The Hines auto was eastbound.

Constable D. Stafford investigated.

Cars driven by Edward Kuhn, Acton and Erna Jean Smyth of Toronto were involved in a minor collision Saturday at 12:30 p.m. on Mill St. W. There was \$50 damage to the Kuhn car and \$5

## Could cancel school carnival

Future of the year's school ice carnival will hinge on a meeting Monday night, arena manager Harold Townsley said this week.

Unless there's more enthusiasm shown Mr. Townsley predicts this year's and all subsequent carnivals will be written off.

to the right rear of the Smyth vehicle.

Police said Mr. Kuhn was parked on Mill facing east and the Smyth vehicle backing from a driveway when the collision occurred.

Constable Farion investigated. The same day at 6 p.m. cars driven by George Young and William E. Hansen, both of Acton, received \$70 damage in a rear-end collision. The Young car westbound on Mill stopped to make a left turn, police said, when the crash occurred. Constable B. Kressler investigated.

Two hours later on Churchill Rd. a car driven by John Thomas Lazenby of R.R. 1, Acton, and another driven by Marie Annie Couture smashed with the Lazenby vehicle receiving an estimated \$40 damage to the left rear. Police said it was parked on the west side of Churchill Rd. The other vehicle was being backed out of a driveway.

Constable Kressler investigated.

## Stop "deterioration"

# Overhaul Halton assessments

A major overhaul of Halton County's assessment figures will go into effect this fall, and the results should be showing up on the 1969 tax bills.

Halton County Assessor Robert H. Beach is directing the re-assessment program that is being carried out in each of Halton's seven municipalities -- a two-year program to equalize land and building assessments. The program has one goal, Mr. Beach explains: "to insure that all ratepayers in Halton pay their fair share of the cost of operating their municipality, no more and no less."

The rapid increase in property values in Halton over the past few years has caused a deterioration of assessments, Mr. Beach explains. "It has become very apparent that equalization throughout the county and within each municipality has been deteriorating as the market continues its climb," he said.

Compounding the problem is the fact the market does not always change by the same degree in each municipality, or even

with each area of a municipality. He says that even within each class of property -- residential, farm, and industrial-commercial -- the changes have been varied.

The re-assessment plan began in October of 1966 when Mr. Beach and the county's seven municipal assessing staffs met and decided to launch a new

equalization program. It began with research in sales analysis and sales maps that lasted through 1967, followed by the implementation of the new assessments this year. This fall property owners will see a difference in their assessment figures, and in 1969 they will pay municipal taxes based on the new assessment.

Burlington has experienced the most rapid rise in market values over the past three years, Mr. Beach explained. But for the last two years the town assessors have been gradually adjusting their land values to keep the percentage of assessment close to the proper figure -- one third of the market value. Other Halton municipalities have not kept up with the changes, however.

Local assessments were given a major overhaul in 1961-62, but with the exception of Burlington's recent changes, little else has changed since then.

Mr. Beach has recommended that each municipality start a public relations program to introduce the changed assessments. Open houses at the local assessor's office will give the property owner a chance to discuss the changes, and a note of explanation should be mailed with each assessment notice in September, he said.

"I think this will cut down on the number going to court to protest," he concludes.

## Decision in September on county assessment

A recommendation to establish a county assessment commissioner system for Halton was deferred for six months during Tuesday's County Council meeting, following prolonged debate.

An amendment to the committee recommendation called for the deferral and establishment of a committee of the heads of all the municipal assessment departments in Halton, under the County Assessor, to review the subject.

Each municipality currently operates its own assessment department. Under the county assessment commissioner system, the county would name a county assessment commissioner who would be responsible for all the assessment in Halton.

Burlington Deputy Reeve Mrs. E. Burke introduced the deferral motion, posing a number of questions on the system which she felt remained unanswered.

Reeve W. Coulter of Nassagaweya noted the county had gone through the same procedure for three years now of stalling. He told council department heads had already discussed it and it was now time for the political people to decide if they would establish such a system.

Introduction of the county school board in 1969 would be difficult, the Nassagaweya Reeve suggested, if some uniform basis

of assessment was not established. "I envision one of the most contentious equalization hearings in the county if the system is not adapted."

Reeve A. Ledwith, Milton, expressed his support for the delay only if a time limit was placed on it.

Mrs. Burke proposed a six month delay on the decision. "It's not to be implemented until January 1969. What's the hurry", she asked.

The amendment to the report (Continued on Page 5)

## Citizen of Year dinner date set

Who will be Acton's next Citizen of the Year?

The announcement will be made in the Free Press just before the annual dinner which is set for Saturday, April 27. Tickets will be available soon from any C. of C. member, the Bank of Montreal, Nielsen's clothing store or Mills Stationery store.

A hot dinner will be served by the band ladies' auxiliary. A dance will follow the program.



GRADUATION NIGHT for 22 Pairs and Squares dancers was last Thursday. Turn to page eight for pictures.

## Nervous animals

### Elk dies of broken neck

A veterinarian's report on one of Halton Region Conservation Authority's dead elk has borne out the earlier theory -- the animal probably ran into a tree and broke its neck while running from children who were seen bothering the animals in the enclosure near Hattiesville Point Park.

Campbellville vet Dr. Cliff Young did a post mortem on the female elk and suggested in his report it broke its neck and subsequently died of pneumonia from exposure. The report was read to Thursday's meeting of the Authority executive committee.

"The Department of Agriculture says we have to vaccinate

the elk for TB and brucellosis," Field Officer Dave Murray told the executive, "but we are very reluctant to do this. The elk are very nervous animals, if they get too excited they just drop dead."

The Authority got five elk from an Alberta game preserve in December, but two decaying their first two weeks here. Two of the remaining three are females, and due to calf in the spring. Mr. Murray suggested the Authority should wait until calving time to vaccinate the elk--any extra connection might bring about the demise of more of the nervous animals, he indicated.