

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Third Year.—No. 42.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1968

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

Fourteen Pages.—Ten Cents.



**CREDIT CARD**, a five-year-old pacer belonging to Dave Lindsay of Acton made his first appearance of the season at the Mohawk Raceway last week, finishing in the money. Trainer-

driver Bill Wellwood said Credit Card qualified for the race with a time of 2:10 1/5. For a behind-the-scenes account of the Mohawk raceway turn inside to the second front.

## Council sets 1968 budget residential rate up one mill

### Hundreds of fire calls cost \$40,000 so far

A plague of grass fires during the past three weeks has cost an estimated \$40,000 to the taxpayers of Halton county, Milton fire chief E. A. Clement suggested today. The fire situation has reached emergency proportions in the county and the five county fire departments have answered hundreds of calls, he said.

Acton fire department had another eight grass fires the past week. In the past two weeks the Acton brigade has answered 10 calls to grass fires in Esquewing township alone.

Most of the grass fires have been blamed on human carelessness. Open fires and bonfires, whipped by winds, have spread

to fields, trees, bushes and stumps and even threatened homes near Esquewing dump. One hay stack was lost this week.

The Milton chief felt the \$40,000 figure was a conservative one.

Georgetown, Milton and Acton fire chiefs understand they may be asked to draft a bylaw to help prevent the rash of township spring fires. Milton, Acton and Burlington have local bylaws that require a permit for burning.

There is no bylaw or even request in Esquewing or Nassagaweya. The townships pay a flat rate to Acton.

### P.S. board upholds \$145,190 requisition

At a special meeting of the public school board on Tuesday evening, the once-reduced requisition for council was passed by the full board without further

cuts as requested last week by council.

On motion of Vic Bristow, seconded by Charles Heard, the board will requisition council for \$145,190 for 1968 plant operation. (The original requisition was for \$167,794.)

Total operating cost is \$386,446. Grants amount to \$209,044. The difference is taken up by operating surplus and non-resident fees.

Chairman Cyril Bishop outlined the series of meetings held to prepare the budget.

The board sought an increased Department of Education grant, because of increased costs. After reviewing enrolment and costs, the department advised they could only increase the grant by \$7,000, for a total of \$209,044.

After being asked to cut their requisition, the board met and cut their budget by \$18,766, Mr. Bishop said. The budget committee was given a complete breakdown of the new \$145,190 figure.

The cut was made by deferring the engaging of teachers for remedial reading and oral French, a librarian, eliminating the purchase of approved library books and visual aid materials.

"We stressed the board was not happy to make these cuts," he emphasized.

However, at the subsequent meeting of council, the school board was asked to cut their \$145,190 figures "by at least \$30,000."

At Tuesday's special meeting the board unanimously maintained the \$145,190 figure.

would look into the possibility of adopting the Code.

Earlier in the meeting, correspondence from the Fire Marshal's office confirmed they would be starting a municipal fire protection survey in the township

starting May 1. The Fire Marshal will review the township's present set-up and make recommendations respecting prevention.

It is expected the survey will be completed June 29.

### Salvation Army honors Dr. Buckner with award

On Wednesday, April 3, at the 9th annual dinner meeting of the Salvation Army House of Concord, Dr. Robert Buckner was singularly honored.

He was the recipient of the Order of Distinguished Auxiliary Service scroll, the Distinguished Service Cross which is the insignia of the Order, from International Headquarters of the Salvation Army, London, England.

It is only the second time that this award has come to Canada and only the 107th in the world. Commissioner Wiseman, head of The Salvation Army in Canada

and Bermuda, made the presentation and read from the scroll that "Doctor Robert Daisiel Buckner --- during the course of some nine years through giving on his own initiative honorary medical care of such high professional tone that the entire House of Concord project is acceptable to Government and in social work circles."

The House of Concord is the first institution in Canada for the rehabilitation of young offenders. Dr. Buckner received a standing ovation from the large gathering present.



**MEASURING OVER 10 FEET** at the base, this large Poplar tree blew over between houses occupied by the Lindsay and Salt families Sunday without injuring anyone. The tree was partially rotted. High winds Sunday were blamed for toppling the giant. (Staff Photo)

## Ask Esquewing adopt National Fire Code to help curb grass fires in township

Georgetown fire chief Erwin Lewis made a strong plea before Esquewing Council Monday night for the township to adopt uniform National Fire Code regulations in the three Esquewing fire areas.

Disturbed by the rash of grass fires in the township which has kept the Georgetown, Acton and Milton fire brigades busy this spring, Chief Lewis outlined the advantages of the Code to councillors.

He said the regulations which require a permit before lighting a bonfire have practically eliminated nuisance fires in Acton, Milton, Oakville and Burlington, where the Code is already in effect.

"They credit the permits with stopping the grass fires," Chief Lewis affirmed. He is working on Georgetown to adopt the same system. The Georgetown Brigade has had 48 calls since March

30, 16 of them in the township and 32 in town.

If the township adopts the Code fines can be levied for contravention. It has been the experience of those who have already adopted the National Code that few fines need to be levied.

Chief Lewis agreed with a suggestion from Councillor Bob Lawson that permits could be issued from the township offices. "I've talked with Acton fire chief Mick Holmes and Milton Chief Clements and they agree something should be done about the nuisance fires in the township," Chief Lewis continued.

"Last weekend we got to sit in the fire hall for four days over foolishness, neglecting our own people," the Georgetown chief told council.

Council was sympathetic to the chief's views and agreed they

## Large Poplar crashes between two houses

A large poplar tree, measuring 10 feet in circumference at its biggest, broke off in Sunday's high winds and "miraculously" lit between two houses on Crescent St.

Weakened by rot on one side the huge tree lit between houses owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. "Dude" Lindsay and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Salt. The Salt home was damaged and a car owned by their son also received damage.

"It was a miracle no one was hurt," exclaimed "Dude" Lindsay who said he has been asking the town to remove the tree for the last five years. "I was sitting reading the weekend papers when I heard a loud crack about four o'clock. I ran to the window and saw the tree spread all over the yard."

The big old poplar broke a window, damaged the sawtooth and the TV aerial at Fred Salt's residence. Mr. and Mrs. Ron Salt visiting their parents had a new car parked in the driveway which the tree also made several dents in and scratched up.

The tree was "off balance" from previous trimming, charged Mr. Lindsay. The trimming had rotted one side and the high winds weakened it and brought it down. He forbade his daughter to sleep in the front bedroom on a recent night because he feared it would blow over on his house.

A skilled woodsman could not have dropped the poplar as well as the wind did Sunday. Only the top branches caused damage to the Salt residence.

"I've talked with the town for the last five years about taking that tree out of there, said Mr. Lindsay and argued with the clerk as late as last Monday about it.

"I say it is my responsibility, I say it is theirs. Now the insurance company can settle it."

Impact of the tree also caused damage to the Lindsay lawn. Towns workers cleared the Salt driveway of branches after the accident.

Residents in the area fear more of the large trees will suffer the same fate. They're fearful someone might be under the next one.

### Slash general purpose rate in midnight session Tuesday

Slashing at the general purpose rate in a midnight oil burning session last night, (Tuesday) Acton Council almost held the line on the 1968 mill rate which will be hiked one mill on residential property and 2.2 mills for commercial and industrial.

The modest hike, a move council tried to avert by various stratagems brings the residential rate to 77 mills and industrial and commercial to 87 mills. Last year's rate was 76 and 84.8 mills respectively.

Council was disappointed the public school board did not cut their requisition so felt the only alternative was to chop the general purpose rate which they had succeeded in reducing by one mill already. Further chops of \$11,450 - the entire equipment depreciation amount -- \$500 from the Development Commission budget, \$1,000 from Planning Board budget, \$350 from the Cemetery budget, \$2,000 from the Administration budget and \$7,650 from the Roads budget took the general purpose account down another three mills.

This was the only way for council to hold the line.

The public school rate is up 4.4 mills residential and 5 mills commercial and industrial. Most of this hike was due to teachers' salary raises.

There was a slight .1 mill increase in the high school budget and a .1 mill increase in the county levy.

Taxpayers will also get relief from a new measure introduced into the Legislature designed to reduce municipal property taxes on every self-contained residence. Under the plan the province government will pay an average of about 15 per cent of the property taxes of each residential taxpayer in Ontario. This will work out to between \$45 and \$65 on the vast majority of the residential properties in the province.

The legislation imposes a duty on landlords to pass on the full amount of the tax credit to tenants.

Tax credits will be deducted on municipal tax bills or property owners will be refunded the amount of tax credits if they have already paid their taxes.

Clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie, outlined some of the highlights of the plan to council which will increase the burden on his office when it is passed.

Budget committee chairman, Deputy-Roeve Dr. Frank Oakes, voiced a vote of thanks to Mr. McGeachie for the many hours of extra work he put into preparing the budget.

"The clerk worked hard on the budget. He had five straight nights and worked weekends to have this ready. I'd like to think he can have a day off sometime. He's put in hours and hours of overtime and I can't let it go by without some appreciation of the extra work. I'm sure I speak for everybody around the table."

"Give him two days off," agreed Councillor Perry.

"I agree," said the mayor. "Mr. McGeachie should take a day off whenever he feels free to."

Following is a breakdown of the budget with a summary at the tail end:

1968 CALCULATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LEVY	
Residential Assessment — 4,086,965.00 @ 90%	3,678,268.00
Commercial & Industrial .....	3,568,393.00
Less Hydro Assessment .....	34,075.00
	3,534,318.00
Total for Taxation .....	7,212,586.00
Debt Service Levy as per Schedule	
Principal .....	31,700.00
Interest .....	19,829.25
	51,529.25
Township of Esquewing .....	600.00
	52,129.25

(Continued on Page 5)

## Nine weekend fire calls one menaces nearby homes

Fire call overlapped fire call over the Easter weekend when the Firefighters sped to nine calls. One was in Acton, one in Erin township, one in Nassagaweya and the rest in Esquewing township. This makes a total of 10 fire calls to Esquewing in the past two weeks.

Exhausted firefighters were thoroughly ready for their "day of rest" which they had on Sunday.

Thursday at 1 p.m. fire spread after a householder set fire to rubbish on the Crescent. Flames burning into the long grass were extinguished by the firefighters.

Good Friday saw a series of calls which found the brigade prepared for a bad couple of days. Warm weather and a brisk wind, coupled with the spring housecleaning urge, set the scene for the subsequent hours.

At 9:50 a.m. the first call was to the Seventh Line of Erin township, north of Ballinacra. When fire spread from burning rubbish, both Erin and Acton brigades were called. Acton's rural truck got stuck in the field and it took another truck to pull it out.

At 10:10 a.m. the alarm sounded again, sending another crew and truck to the Third Line of Esquewing to George Malby's home. The fire had spread from burning rubbish out of control into bush and grass and was difficult to extinguish.

At 12 noon there was a minor call to Esquewing dump.

At 3:50 there was another alarm to lot 27, concession 7 of Esquewing where a grass fire was burning at a country home.

### Improve No. 25 Hwy. build bridge

The Department of Highways has announced there will be considerable work done on Highway 25, from south of Acton to Oupring.

Schedules call for grading, drainage, granular base and structure in the 5.9 mile stretch from one mile south of Acton to Highway 25 at Oupring.

Included in the schedule is a bridge over the Eramosa River, a mile south of Oupring.

Clearing will also be done on the 5.9 mile stretch.

### Change in whistle hours

Beardmore and Co's whistle, which usually blows each working day at 8 a.m. will switch over to its spring schedule.

The whistle will blow at 7 a.m. starting Monday and at 4 p.m. instead of 5 in the afternoon.

This is a departure from last year's practice of blowing the whistle at 7:30 in the morning and 4:30 in the afternoon.

### Two car collision — \$575 damage

District motorists were involved in a \$575 property damage accident on Highway 7 Tuesday evening of last week.

A car driven by Kenneth McDonald, R. R. 4, Rockwood, received \$125 damage while \$450 was the estimate on repairs needed for one driven by Thomas Shannon, R. R. 1, Acton.

They collided just east of the Halton-Wentworth County Line. Neither driver was injured.

### Windows shattered at CNR tool shed

At eight o'clock this morning (Wednesday) a case of malicious damage was reported to the police. Some time between 4 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. five panes of glass in the CNR tool shed were broken by stones.

The shed was undamaged at the time of the last routine police check at 4 a.m.

A note, scrawled in pencil in a foreign language, was wrapped around one of the stones. It's awaiting translation at the police office, but the police are certain it'll turn out to be more insulting than informative.

### Cycle accident

A Hamilton motorcyclist was injured when his bike flipped on Highway 25 just south of Acton Sunday afternoon.

Milton C.P.P. said a fellow cyclist's motor seized up and his machine quickly slowed down, causing Val John Gascoyne of Hamilton to brake and swerve his cycle. The man suffered mouth lacerations and several scrapes, and was taken to Milton District Hospital for treatment.

### Two car collision on Mill St. Friday

Only accident reported to Acton C.P.P. during the past week involved two cars driving north on Mill St. at Knox on April 12.

Involved were a car driven by Cameron Forbes, Cobblehill road, which received \$18 damage to the left front fender, and a car driven by Terry McMillan, Mill St., which received \$128 damage to the front end.

Local 22450 of the New Workers Union at the N. E. Paster plant have set a Thursday midnight strike deadline if wage demands are not met.

# STRIKE?