

Santa at Micro party



WAITING FOR SANTA at the Micro Plastics Christmas party was a real ordeal for some children Saturday. Two of them occupied his chair until the jolly old elf appeared in the window of the music centre. (Staff Photo)



SANTA CLAUS appeared at the Micro Plastics Christmas party Saturday with gifts for over 175 children. The program in-



cluded movies, a trick rope and whip exhibition and lunch. (Staff Photo)

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Council grants ALL employees \$10 Christmas bonus

Hard bargaining for a union contract between town employees and council was apparent in a discussion over a Christmas bonus at Tuesday night's meeting of Acton council.

A recommendation from No. 1 committee of council that a Christmas card and \$10 voucher be sent to all salaried employees of the town was turned down in favor of a resolution that the bonus be extended to all employees of the municipality. Only Reeve-elect Dr. Frank Oakes voted against the motion. Councillor Bob Drinkwater questioned the original

recommendation asking why it just included salaried employees. Reeve Hinton, chairman of No. 1 committee, said it included everyone not under union contract. He maintained it was better to abide by the contract and not upset anyone.

Mr. Drinkwater agreed but argued it was the practice in the past to treat all employees equal. "It's the wrong time of year to set a precedent," he maintained. "Maybe Mr. Drinkwater can get the rest of the town under union contract," the reeve suggested. He maintained the town was treating all employees alike.

"It's a poor gesture in this day and age," charged Councillor T. Tyler. "There's too many Scrooges around. I'm for giving it to all employees. He suggested salaried employees should be given extra if the town wanted to show appreciation.

Councillor Perry, a member of No. 1, said he had never agreed with the resolution at committee level.

Councillor E. Masales said everyone was aware of No. 2 committee's feelings. "This is a goodwill gesture, not a bonus for better jobs. Mr. Hinton suggests union people get something salaried personnel don't."

Councillor G. McKenzie said, however, he had supported the resolution because when the bonus system was started town employees were poorly paid. The new contract gained them many more benefits.

"They are still on par with other industries in town," countered Mr. Masales.

"That's got nothing to do with it," Mr. Tyler maintained. "This is a Christmas gesture. Most of us receive something from our employer at Christmas."

"Why did they join the union?" asked Dr. Oakes.

"To better themselves," answered Mr. Tyler.

"At the expense of the taxpayer," retorted the deputy-reeve. "Let's show our joyfulness by giving a bonus. Other years we negotiated successfully but they called in the union task force to bargain this time. They started it."

"You're just putting another nail in the barrier," Councillor Tyler said.

"You wouldn't have the present employees on the contract and wages paid before," Mr. Masales stated.

"I support unions 100 per cent," Mr. Hinton maintained, saying he had taken the management side at the bargaining table but had always supported negotiations.

"Well I certainly don't support unions," retorted Mr. Tyler. "Anyone who knows anything about the Teamsters will know why."

Mayor Duly reminded council it was too late to go back to the original idea of giving fresh turkeys to everyone.

Councillor McKenzie said he supported the bonus as a good will gesture, but that his idea of the gift was to benefit salaried people and offset gains made by others.

The amendment authorizing the \$10 bonus passed with Dr. Oakes still opposed.

Black-out blamed on overload

An overload on land fuses is blamed for Monday night's power failure that left nearly a dozen Acton streets in the dark during supper hours.

Acton Hydro superintendent Doug Mason explained that his men had to replace a land disconnection on the corner of River and Main streets. In addition, a 200 amp fuse opened up on the Queen and Young corner.

The power break occurred at 8:10 p.m. cutting off homes along Main Street north, Churchill Road north, Mill Street east, Arthur and several streets in Lakeview subdivision. It took two hours to replace the power.

Mr. Mason denied that the sudden cold spell had anything to do with it. He said he felt it was simply a case of overload with the addition of Christmas decorations to regular prime time consumption. Similar breaks have occurred before but not for some time.

Committee: A group of men who, individually, can do nothing, but collectively can meet and decide that nothing can be done.

Reeve asks questions

Sewage overflow, tiling Tyler, advises on contract

Reeve Hinton was assured at Tuesday's council meeting the discharge of effluent into a ditch by an Acton company was unintentional and would be corrected.

Mr. Hinton was questioning a report in the minutes of No. 2 Committee which revealed the Ontario Water Resources Commission had investigated the complaint. The committee decided the matter be left for the O.W.R.C. to settle with the company.

Told the industry was the H. K. Porter Co., the reeve asked why it happened. Mayor Duly replied that something had gone wrong with the discharge unit. Mr. Hinton said other industries had been criticized for this and that council has the responsibility to direct that no one should discharge effluent into a ditch where the water goes on into Fairy Lake.

"The committee left it with the O.W.R.C. to handle," explained clerk-administrator Joe Hurst. "They have asked

changes he made so it won't happen again."

"It was not a deliberate attempt," the mayor insisted. "They were having a problem with grindings." It was pointed out that the sewage plant had difficulty handling any surplus effluent at the time.

"How is the O.W.R.C. involved?" asked Councillor McKenzie.

"They're taking samples all the time," replied the clerk. Mr. Hinton also questioned if work was going to proceed on tiling of Tyler Avenue despite information from the Department of Highways that grants probably wouldn't be available until 1969.

"You voted for it," replied Councillor Ted Tyler, lone objector to the resolution passed at council's last meeting. Mr. Tyler felt the matter of a grant was too unsettled to vote for the motion.

"We were assured by the Department to proceed and grants would be available," said

Councillor Drinkwater.

"If there's no payment this year we'll have to re-apply in 1969," the clerk stated. "The work has been accepted by the Department as a subsidized project. I'm quite sure they'll accept it in 1969."

Committee of the Whole Chairman Chas. Perry said there was no sense in further discussion. "Regardless of the outcome, work has started."

"There's no recourse," the mayor concluded. "There's no point in deferring work that has to be done."

Mr. Hinton, speaking to councillors-elect Peter Marks, Bill Coats, Jack Greer and Orv Chapman who attended the meeting as observers, said that they should make themselves informed on the south spring water contract with Beardmore and Co. which soon comes up for renewal. He said the town sold water at lower than cost under the present contract. He advocated the contract should be renegotiated at a new rate.

"No consideration was given to the capital costs involved," Mr. Hinton claimed about the charge of 9 cents per thousand gallons. He said other firms felt the town was subsidizing Beardmore's. He suggested, however, that Beardmore and Co. would not be difficult to deal with.

Among other things council:

- Passed a resolution proclaiming Thursday, Dec. 26 as Boxing Day.

- Reviewed possible openings on committees appointed by council.

- Heard the reeve express his appreciation to the press for their reporting of the election especially to Esther Taylor whom he said deserved a tremendous amount of credit for her coverage. Mr. Hinton said her reports were fair and accurate. He also commended The Acton Free Press.

Two newcomers county council

Two new members, one of them a woman, will join Halton County Council when the group's inaugural meeting is held in early January.

Mrs. Anna MacArthur, Nassagaweya's new deputy-reeve, won't be the only female on Halton's senior municipal body. Burlington's Deputy-reeve Mrs. Evelyn Burke joined council a year ago to start her two-year term. The other newcomer is Acton's new Deputy-reeve Ted Tyler Jr.

The Halton council is comprised of the reeve and deputy-reeve of each of Halton's seven municipal councils. In the five towns the reeve and deputy are ranked second and third to the municipality's mayor in the two rural townships Esqueping and Nassagaweya there is no mayor and the reeve and deputy head up five-man councils.

With no elections scheduled in Milton, Oakville and Burlington in 1968, it left just four municipalities and eight county representatives open to challenge for their jobs. Reeves Allan Day of Oakville, Austan Ledwith of Milton, and Gordon Gallagher of Burlington, and their deputies William Gillies, Ron Harris and Mrs. Burke all automatically return to round out the second year of their two-year terms.

Reeve George Currie and Deputy-reeve Tom Hill of Esqueping successfully

defended their positions against challengers in last week's township elections. In Nassagaweya, when the sitting reeve William Coulter decided to retire Deputy-reeve William Hoey stepped up to contest the reeveship and won it in a two-man race. Mrs. MacArthur, a councillor in the township for several years, was acclaimed to the post of Deputy-reeve.

Acton's sitting reeve H. H. Hinton decided to contest the mayoralty seat and lost in the battle of the ballots. This left his seat open for an acclamation for former Deputy-reeve Dr. F. G. Oakes. Councillor Tyler stepped up and won an acclamation as deputy-reeve. Georgetown Reeve William Hunter was also acclaimed to the same post—he is just completing a year as Warden of the county council. His Deputy-reeve Arthur Speight trounced one challenger in last Monday's election to return to the county chambers as Georgetown's second representative.

Now the membership of the council for 1969 has been decided, the campaigning should start soon for the Warden's seat. Although no public announcements have yet been made, probable challengers are Reeves Allan Day of Oakville and Austan Ledwith of Milton. While councillors unofficially use the "turn" system, no-one

has ever sat down to define any regular order for "turns."

The unwritten ground rules say a municipality cannot have a warden two years in a row—he must be a reeve—and the same man should not hold the office twice even at intervals. Vote-gathering often starts in early December, as soon as the municipal elections are over, and the candidate often has a pretty good assurance of the seat before the early January inaugural session convenes.

Of the seven reeves, pundits predict a Day-Ledwith fight.

Reeves Gallinger, Hunter and Currie are being ruled out because they have already held the post. Reeves Oakes and Hoey, while experienced on county council, are new at being reeves and not likely candidates for a race.

Milton's last warden was Dr. C. A. Martin who took over late in 1962 when Warden Wilfrid Bird died in office, and held the post for the remainder of that year and all the following year. Oakville's last man in the top seat was Herb Merry in 1965.

Reeve Ledwith was nominated for the post one year ago but declined, to make the election of Warden Hunter unanimous.



MAKING A BIG DEPOSIT, Y's Man President Gary Bateman handed over Robert Little School's U.N.I.C.E.F. Barrel worth \$766.88, to teller Sherry Morris at the Bank of Montreal Friday.

Parking

By-law receives two readings

An amendment to a by-law to regulate parking at streets leading to the Beardmore and Co. plant entrance on Elgin St. received two readings at the regular meeting of council Tuesday night: it was opposed by Reeve Hinton.

Mr. Hinton objected to the by-law on the grounds parking should be allowed through the week on Elgin and intersecting streets on at least one side for the convenience of people who live on the streets. The by-law would prohibit parking in some areas through the week but relax rules for the weekends.

Councillor Bob Drinkwater said there was no room for parking on either side. The

mayor reminded council the resolution leading to the by-law had been discussed at "great length" before it passed. The by-law can not proceed beyond two readings until a new council is in power.

The reeve said he felt the main requirement was to get the snow plow and garbage truck up and down the street. "One side should be left for parking," he insisted and recommended the south side as suitable.

Council turned his suggestion down. "It means widening the street," the mayor claimed, "a matter taxpayers will appreciate. It's not a matter of denying the ratepayers. We're just making the best of the situation."

Phoney bank inspector fails in attempt here

Last Thursday afternoon a phoney bank inspector phoned one of Acton's older women residents, who lives alone. After

she had talked to him, she called police who watched in vain for the crook to show up at her home.

Both banks were advised to watch for him.

The caller had told the woman he wanted her help in catching a thief.

A stranger also obtained a copy of the voters' list this week. However, police wonder if this man might have another racket on the go—as a phoney insurance salesman. No incidents have been reported yet but they are urging residents to be wary.

The phoney bank inspectors have had luck with victims in Milton and Georgetown recently.

Two cars collide during snowstorm

During last Thursday's snowstorm, two cars were in collision on Queen St.

Raymond Patenaude, R.R. 1, Acton, was driving east on Queen, and William George MacDonald, 49 Roseford, was attempting to come onto Queen from the Acton Plaza when the accident occurred. The Patenaude car had about \$75 damage and the MacDonald car \$5 damage.

No charges were laid.