

The Acton Free Press

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Sixteen Pages.—Ten Cents.



SANTA CLAUS can come long, short or tall but this one at the Tyler Christmas party Saturday evening was comeliest of the lot. Zenith Armstrong, Miss Acton Fair 1968, distributed gifts and was introduced by Ted Tyler Jr. to the large crowd at the music centre. Guests danced and enjoyed acts by professional entertainers. (Staff Photo)

\$200 Christmas gift for shoppers Saturday

Merchants have a whopping big Christmas present for in-town shoppers this Saturday. The prize money in the final Santa-Rama draw has been increased from \$90 to \$200 and the number of lucky winners from five to nine!

The clown band will tour the town to announce the merriest Christmas draw of them all, at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon on the Y.M.C.A. steps.

The \$200 in vouchers will be divided into first prize of \$50 followed by \$40, \$30, \$25, \$20, \$15, \$10, \$5 and \$5.

Already \$450 has been handed out to happy winners in the merchants' shop-at-town promotion this Christmas. By offering vouchers for all purchases they're showing the local people how they are willing and able to compete with larger centres in goods and service.

There have been 25 winners already, with no duplicates. There has only been one out-of-town winner, a young Toronto man who got his coupon with an order at Hood's drive-in restaurant. He received his cash voucher but it hasn't

been cashed in yet.

Although this Saturday's draw is at three o'clock, the gathering of the thousands of coupons must begin a couple of hours earlier. Anyone with coupons from purchases made after 1 p.m. may drop them into the big container at the Y just before the draw is made.

Last Saturday's lucky winners were: \$30 Mrs. O. Martindale, Elmore Dr., Acton; \$25 Mrs. G. A. Dills, Frederick St., Acton; \$15 Mary Dagle, Mason Blvd., Acton; \$10 J. H. Goy, Acton; \$10 Mrs. E. Bird, R. R. 2

Halton County Board

Director of Education named

The Halton County Board of Education has appointed James W. Singleton to be the Director of Education for Halton County.

Mr. Singleton, a graduate of Toronto Normal School, the University of Toronto and the College of Education, has experience as a public school teacher and a high school teacher. He has been Director of Education in the Town of Burlington for almost 10 years.

Mr. Singleton has held executive positions in many professional organizations such as the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, the Association of Directors of Education and the Association of Senior Education Officials. In addition, he has been president of a number of community organizations.

His experience, over 30 years, has found him active on several special committees for the Minister of Education, as Dean of two of the summer schools for training secondary school



JAMES W. SINGLETON

teachers and as an advisor to many educational groups.

Board chairman Fred Armitage expressed the great confidence of the Board members in the new

appointment and the hope that the organizational plans of the new Board will progress rapidly.

Mr. Armitage also drew attention to the presentations of W. L. McNeil of Milton and A. E. Robinson of Oakville. "We are extremely fortunate to have men of such ability in Halton County," said the Chairman. "They will certainly be offered key positions in the new county structure."

The 50-year-old Mr. Singleton began his new job on Monday. His salary will be finalized later when trustees delve into their budget and manpower statistics but in the interim his salary will be \$25,000 a year—the same as he was receiving as Burlington's director of education.

Halton County Board of Education replaces 10 education boards in Halton. It will have jurisdiction over 11 high schools and 74 public schools, over 2,000 teachers and 46,000 students.

Survey suggests need of indoor swim pool

Are recreational facilities and the year-round program in Acton adequate?

Results of a survey conducted by Grade XI students at Acton district high school and released to the Parks and Recreation Committee at a meeting Thursday suggested that adults think they are, but students have reservations.

Roger Haggitt, Bill Field, Nigel Spicer, Rae Swackhamer, Dave Broostad and Jim Reid conducted the survey under the direction of vice-principal Joe Bray. Questionnaires were sent home with all elementary and high school students.

The question: Do you feel the present recreational program in Acton is adequate? received a yes vote from adults who answered the survey—33 said yes, 24 no. Students at both public and high schools rejected the idea.

Public school students said no—206 to 220. High school students said no—116 to 18.

Public school students in Acton narrowly endorsed the adequacy of present recreational

facilities in Acton 162-150. High school students said they weren't adequate, 124-10. Adults said yes they were adequate, 30-26.

The information was based on information obtained in the survey form circulated to students and parents and reflects only the views of those who answered the questions.

A list of activities published in the report, praised by Recreation Committee members, numbered 55 activities people in Acton could participate in and was not complete. The wide range of interests reflected a diversity of program which astonished members of the committee since it indicated only the involvement of those who completed the survey.

Suggestions for additional recreational facilities and program met with a varied response from those who completed the survey. Most popular suggestion was for an indoor swimming pool and it was endorsed by all three classes, public, high school and adults, although adults took a more conservative view.

Also suggested were movies, tennis, dances, outdoor skating, horseback riding, night school, family billiards, new track at high school, football, snowmobiling, gym classes,

woodworking club, archery and gun club, all supported in varying degrees.

Students conducting the survey noted that some recommendations for recreational activities were already organized and being run and they felt this indicated the public should be made more aware of the activities.

The survey also indicated that Acton citizens can be separated into two groups:

1. Those who are concerned about present conditions and are willing to go out of their way to better recreational activities.

2. Those who are not interested in participating in any of the present activities or suggested future activities. Survey students felt the group in the second category was a small minority.

The survey included a list of buildings and organizations in Acton and an inventory of equipment and facilities available for recreation programs. It also included a list

of activities and organizations presently functioning. This information was obtained from personal interviews with people concerned with the organizations.

"It's obvious the people paying the bills (adults) are happy with recreation in Acton," committee member T. Tyler Jr. observed after the report had been scanned.

"Mr. Bray pointed out some things were missed on the survey," said member Hugh Patterson and he pointed out there were 55 activities listed and it didn't include commercial recreation.

"We could take another step now," said chairman John Goy, who reminded the committee the report conducted at the committee's request, was the first step to determine the extent of recreation in Acton and have a guide for future activity.

"Another step would be to let

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Mail volume down

The volume of Christmas cards is down so far this year, according to Acton postmaster Gord McKeown, despite the fact that sale of stamps has indicated no change.

He concludes that people are just slower than usual getting cards in the mail.

"By this time last year, we had gone over our peak load. So far we haven't reached a peak," he said Monday afternoon.

Business is expected to be extremely heavy all this week and extra workers have been hired to handle forward mail. Seven trucks come in loaded every day and five go out.

"Right now we're up to date," said Mr. McKeown. "Local mail is being put out the day it comes in. We can't guarantee we'll be able to keep up though."

Reports from various other parts of Ontario indicated Christmas mailing was down 30 to 40 per cent although many post offices reported they were out of six cent stamps. In Toronto the post office reported mail volume had already exceeded last year's and the postmaster expected a record far beyond anything yet.

Fears were expressed when rates for Christmas cards went up that many people would cut down on the number of cards sent out.

Post office officials feel, however, that since the sale of stamps is high that people are slower sending cards this year.

Pied Piper fairy tale

Following a recent story in a daily newspaper about an invasion of rats in Glenlea, the Free Press conducted its own survey to root out the rodents.

However, all of the people contacted in the supposed danger zone reacted with astonishment. Several were indignant at the mere thought. One man admitted his neighbours had problems with a rat—him. No one had complaints about the four-legged type.

The story originated when Mayor Les Duby told the Hydro Commission last week of a complaint he had received from a man who had discovered two or three rats outside his home on Mowbray Place. He felt they might have come up from an old dump site when digging started on new homes in the area.

Obviously, if there was a subterranean colony of rats who were forced out by the shovels, they weren't very many, or they didn't feel welcome in Glenlea.

Meeting McKeough

Mayors, reeves and deputy-reeves of Halton County will meet with Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough Friday in Toronto to discuss regional government.

"In light of the regional government policy recently announced by the government, I am looking forward to hearing the views of members of the county council and mayors", the

Minister's invitation indicates.

At its October meeting Halton County Council approved a resolution calling on the province to proceed with the transition to regional government in the county. The resolution did not mention boundaries or representation.

It is expected the meeting in the MacDonald Block at the Parliament Buildings will be closed.

Currie joins Day, Ledwith in race for Warden's seat

The two-man race for the seat of Warden of Halton County for 1969 turned into a three-way race this week. Reeve George Currie of Esqueving, the veteran county councillor who held the post in 1936, says he's back in the running.

Until now, pundits were predicting a two-way race between Reeves Austan Ledwith of Milton and Alan Day of Oakville. But Reeve Currie promises them a good fight.

Protocol says a man should not be warden two years in a row, and the post of honor is usually moved around from municipality to municipality on a "turn" basis. But Reeve Currie says there is nothing in the rules to prevent a man staging a comeback for the job after 32 years away from the county's top chair.

"There have been a lot of changes in 32 years," he added. Esqueving's last reeve was Wilfrid Bird, who died three-quarters of the way through his term of office in 1962. The township has not had a warden since that year.

11th fatal accident in N. Halton

North Halton's 11th fatal accident of 1968 claimed the life of a Toronto man Saturday evening. Robert Alex Scott, 27, of Toronto was killed when a car driven by Patricia Ann Cooper, 22, of Toronto went off a curve and hit a tree on the Ninth Line, Esqueving, north of Glen Williams.

The driver suffered injuries to her hip. The car received \$1,600 damage.

Giant card

With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Wednesdays, the next two issues of the Free Press will be published on Mondays instead.

Next Monday, December 23, this paper will be like a giant Christmas card, filled with special greetings to all the readers from friends and businessmen.

Watch for it Monday afternoon about 3.30 p.m.



RICKY DODDS, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dodds, was among those receiving gifts at the Firefighters' Christmas party Sunday at the fire hall. More pictures inside. (Staff Photo)

Decking the halls with stolen lights?

The theft of a another string of outdoor lights was reported to the police by Mrs. George Haggitt, Westcott Rd., on Friday the 13th. Apparently thieves had also made a previous attempt to steal a spotlight at the home.

A set of Lakeview lights have also been reported stolen by thieves who sadly lack the Christmas spirit of "giving".

So somebody, somewhere, is probably decking the halls with stolen goods.

Space race

At 10.08 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16, the police got a phone call. A space ship was reported. Red and green flashing lights, with a circle of white underneath.

Caller refused to give name. Const. Kressler rushed out. Soon came back in again. Wrote in the police daily book where all occurrences and details are meticulously listed: "Object not encountered." Case closed.

Band concert Sunday night

The pre-Christmas Citizens' Band concert, which has become more and more popular each year, is coming up again this Sunday night. It's to be in the high school auditorium.

Acton Legion Choralists will sing and Joe Petric will play the accordion. They were the guest artists at last year's successful concert.



TABLEAU WAS PART of the C.G.I.T. annual vesper service. Included are Mary Laughlin as Mary, Sandra Patterson as Joseph, shepherds Bonnie Jones, Linda Perry, Carol Masales and Martha Long, and Wise Men Carol Pickles, Barbara Reid and Mary Ann de Haan. (Staff Photo)