

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Fourth Year. — No. 30.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 1969

Fourteen Pages—Ten Cents.



HOW NOT TO STUDY is a cluttered desk, a box of chocolates, a portable radio, and a TV guide. For a further investigation see this week's Youth Page.

## Three accidents involve district people, horse

Local motorists were involved in three accidents Milton O.P.P. investigated during the past week.

In Friday's fog, cars driven by Victor J. Geneau of R.R. 1, Acton, and David Kraemer of Linwood, collided on Highway 25 at 22 Sideroad, causing \$450 total damage.

A horse owned by Gordon Thompson, R.R. 1, was injured when it got in front of a car driven by Thomas Perkins, 134 Longfield Rd., on Saturday. The car received \$300 damage. It

happened on 25 Sideroad at the Sixth Line, Nassagaweya.

Eric Verboon of Georgetown and Tilley Veenstra of Cornwall suffered minor injuries Wednesday when a car in which they were passengers collided with another on Highway 7 at McCullough's Corners. Their car, driven by E. A. Verboon of R.R. 1 Georgetown, received \$500 damage.

The second vehicle was driven by James L. Denny, 47 Meadvale Ave., Acton, and received \$450 damage.

## Elect Brendan Aherne to chair Parks and Recreation Committee

Brendan Aherne, last year's vice-chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, was elected to the chairman's post at the inaugural meeting of the committee Thursday evening. He succeeds John Goy who handed in his resignation at the end of last year.

Elected to the vice-chairman's office was Herb Dodds, a one-year veteran of the committee.

Joining the other veteran of the twin hatted board, Councillor Earl Masales, are new members Phil McCristall, Bob Laughlin and freshman councillor Peter Marks.

A letter of resignation from veteran member Hugh Patterson, created another vacancy on the committee, which the members hope will be filled at the next regular meeting. Mr. Patterson's long service (six years) and valuable contribution to the committee were recognized and his resignation was accepted with regret.

Mr. Patterson questioned the action of council in appointing members who weren't recommended by the committee without prior consultation with them.

The committee had recommended two names to fill the vacancies created by John Goy and Art Cooper but council appointed only one of them and took another of their own choosing.

"It was council's wish," shrugged Councillor Masales. He said council voted on the decision and the same thing could happen to any committee where appointments are ratified.

Chairman Aherne agreed but noted it was the first time a recommendation from the committee had not been accepted by council. "In future," he commented, "it might be just as well to submit all the names to council and let them decide."

Committees named by the board for this year are:

Administration and Finance—Chairman, Herb Dodds; Phil McCristall and Bob Laughlin.

Program—Bob Laughlin and Peter Marks.

Planning and Development—Herb Dodds, Phil McCristall and the chairman.

The committee will continue to meet the third Thursday of each month in the library. A special budget meeting has been set for January 30.

Members discussed plans for parks in Acton with the chairman envisioning walking on park land some day from the high school to Prospect Park on Fairy Lake along the creek. "It might take 25 or 30 years to do it but I'd like to see a start," Mr. Aherne told the committee.

Financial statement No. 1 for \$1,648.63 was authorized to be paid.

## North Halton school boards will continue as committees under Halton school board

All the public and high school boards in North Halton have agreed to continue in office as "continuing committees" to the Halton Board of Education until the county board can "phase out" their areas of responsibility.

The five existing public school boards in Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Esquesing and Nassagaweya and the high school boards of the three towns met with County Board officials Thursday when they were invited to remain as working committees until the end of April.

Each board was empowered to handle administration in their local areas in six areas: community relations, personnel, students, instruction, internal committee operations, business and non-instructional operations. Their responsibilities were clearly defined and it was explained their responsibilities will gradually decrease until the end of April when the County Board will have assumed all operations and will be in complete charge.

E. S. Lavender has been named superintendent of the North Halton area, and has set

up his headquarters at Harrison School on Bexway Dr. in Georgetown. His responsibilities will cover all classes from kindergarten to Grade 13 in the five municipalities.

With the exception of 1968 trustees who won seats on the County Board in December elections, all but one of the trustees has agreed to continue to serve. John Ord of Georgetown High School Board, a provincial judge in the County of Peel, stalked out of the meeting and said he refused to continue on the committee. Mr. Ord protested the salary

raises the County Board gave its top administrators and warned the teachers would expect corresponding raises in pay. He and the trustees \$4,000 each for the director and assistant director of education would create inflation. Director James Singleton is being paid \$31,500 a year and his assistant Douglas Lawless is to receive \$29,000.

Board chairman Fred Armitage defended the salaries, saying the men deserved the pay for the work that lies ahead. He added the salaries are in line with other counties.

## Acton man crushed in accident

This community was shocked by the tragic death of George Robinson, 100 Crescent St., Acton, in an industrial accident in Guelph, Tuesday.

Well known in the town and district, the 48 year old man was apparently directing an unloading operation at a Guelph transport depot when crushed. Guelph police had not completed an investigation when the paper went to press.

Son of Frank Robinson of Georgetown, the victim is survived by his wife Marguerite (Kentner), a daughter Mrs. Diane Evans of Limehouse, sons Allan of Acton and Brian and Kenny at home. He is also survived by a brother, Douglas Robinson of Beamsville and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday with interment at Greenwood cemetery, Georgetown.

## Grand Jury scores staff shortage

Conditions at the Halton County Jail, a nursing shortage at the Health Unit, and overcrowding at the Children's Aid and Family Court buildings in Milton were scored last week in a report submitted to Mr. Justice Lacourciere by a grand jury attending the winter sittings of the county.

The busy jurors inspected the four buildings as part of its traditional duties and found several faults. They were impressed, however, with the facilities offered senior citizens at Halton Centennial Manor and gave the Manor's design,

maintenance and operation an "A-1" rating.

At the Health Unit, jurors noted with alarm that only 15 nurses constitute the present staff, while "there is a demonstrated need for at least 33 nurses." Owing to the shortage the work load is being curtailed and only necessary services are being provided. "If this is indeed the case, a full investigation should be made of actual requirements of this vital service, and appropriate staff recruited." The jurors also suggested salary adjustments to attract competent staff, particularly in the nursing profession.

They also found fault with the furnace, which they said is not adequately heating the basement area of the building, and recommended weatherstripping on the rear doors of the building.

Jurors praised the operating conditions and atmosphere at the county jail, but suggested several minor improvements in the building, including:

A private entrance for prisoners to relieve congestion in the front offices, to be installed where the vault and driver examination centres are now;

## Post office will open half day Saturdays

Contrary to an earlier announcement by the national government, the Acton post office will not be closing all day on Saturdays. Beginning Feb. 22, Saturdays will be open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The lock box lobby will be open all day, and rural route delivery will operate as usual.

Transport Minister Eric Kierans justified Saturday closing for all urban post offices, by estimating that it would save the government \$13 million this year.

According to Acton Post Master Gord McKeown, "It wouldn't make much difference here. The shut-down will only cut costs in urban areas with letter carriers."

At the present time, the post office remains open all day Saturday. However, Mr. McKeown doesn't feel that the change to half-day will be a hardship to residents. "At least 90 per cent of the people come in during the weekdays as well."

Beginning Feb. 1, the post office hours during the week will be 8-5:45. These hours will include Saturday until the change on Feb. 22.

Mr. McKeown doesn't anticipate any reduction in staff under the new schedule.

## 73 skidoo...licenses sold but car sales way down

There's no doubt, now, that snowmobiling is the fastest growing sport in the district.

Already 73 licenses for skidoos have been issued at the local bureau.

This is just since November 1, when legislation came into effect requiring licenses for snowmobiles.

At first, issuer Edwin Watson was only sent ten licenses. But he sold seven of them the first day! He promptly ordered 100 more licenses and of these, only 37 are left.

Some of these are sold to skidoo salesmen, but most of them go to private owners of the speedy new vehicles.

Car licenses? That's a completely different picture. Sales are way down, compared to the same time last year. The local office has 2,150 licenses on hand, and only 276 have been sold so far.

The Watson family are afraid they're really going to be

Transfer of E.M.O. equipment to the fire hall; Improvements to sinks, a staircase, heating piping and electrical wiring; Better ventilation, particularly in the staff area;

And turning the unused crown attorney's office into an office for the jail governor.

Overcrowding was noted in the Children's Aid building, a converted residence, but operations are being run efficiently, the jurors said.

"Well, high intolerable" conditions were found at the Family Court building, where the waiting room and corridor were jammed with people on a court day. The judge's chamber is also shared by probation officers and counsel.

Jurors suggested an investigation to see if family court could be moved to the Brown St. court house failing that, temporary facilities such as a portable school room type of building should be erected at the rear of the family court building.

They suggest holding family court twice a week instead of weekly, to alleviate the crowded conditions. An "alarming trend" upward in the number of cases was noted.



LOWERING ONE of the large cement tiles into position on the Tyler Ave. project. Spring creeks which created flood conditions during a torrential downpour last summer made an underground system necessary. The system flows into Fairy Lake.

## Glen Williams feels ignored wants on map

Glen Williams wants to be recognized.

At the regular meeting of Esquesing Council on Tuesday night, clerk K. C. Lindsay read a request from business people in the Glen, that a road sign be put up in Georgetown with directions to the village, and also that Glen Williams be marked on the official Ontario Highway map. It argued that smaller places in the area are marked on the map and visitors often have difficulty finding it.

Council passed a motion to forward a copy of the letter to MPP Jim Snow and the Department of Highways.

The newly formed Esquesing Planning Board approached council for permission to draw up an agricultural holding by-law for presentation, and that funds be available for professional assistance if needed.

Reeve Currie felt it was pointless to go ahead with any plans until after the meeting of Halton county officials in Queen's Park on Wednesday on regional government. However, Council passed a motion for the board to go ahead with plans.

Fred A. Helson of R.R. 2 Georgetown, and Fred Nurse of R.R. 1 Georgetown, have been appointed to the Halton County Planning Board.

In response to a signed petition complaining of excessive blasting in the two township quarries, Mrs. Hughes of the Provincial Mining Inspectors' branch has been contacted by MPP Jim Snow and is prepared to meet with council and quarry representatives in the near future. It was agreed to invite representatives from the residents on the petition to attend the meeting as well.

K. C. Lindsay hinted that he would like to see tax rebate certificates eliminated. He declared that despite the certificates, only \$11,000 of a total of \$800,000 taxes came in before the specified date. "People try to cash the certificates in at banks and all over. It just isn't worth all the trouble," he said.

However, rather than cut them out entirely, Council agreed to stipulate on the certificate that it would only be redeemable at the township office. This should eliminate much of the confusion.

Council came out with a negative attitude toward a letter from the township solicitor asking for their reaction to another member of his firm taking the Acton case in land annexation.

Tom Hill was furious. "Can you see us in front of the OMB with our lawyer against his partner?" "The towns always win anyway," submitted K. C. Lindsay. "That's because they promise services, but look at that last piece Milton annexed. There is still no sign of anything being done."

## Tire, rim taken from parking lot

Alvin Moore, R. R. 1, Acton, reported to Acton police the theft of a tire and rim from the back of his half ton truck, parked in the IGA parking lot. The theft occurred Thursday, January 16. The value of the lost goods was set at \$25.

## Acton's marathon walkers, delegate in spotlight at cancer society seminar

Acton's delegate and Acton's eager young people were highlighted at the campaign seminar held by the Ontario division of the Canadian Cancer Society. About 350 attended the two-day meeting at the Westbury Hotel, Toronto, Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19.

Representing Acton and district was Mrs. Ray Arbic, the local campaign chairman. Mrs. Arbic was asked to present a paper on residential canvassing, and later was one of six panellists, answering questions

on the subject.

She was also asked to be one of 13 at the head table at the closing luncheon. She was "pleased and honored— for Acton," she said.

A highlight of the Saturday evening program was the premier showing of the Cancer Society film, Who Saved Johnny Q. The film was partially taken at Acton, when some of the local young people who participated in the Cancer Walk last spring were interviewed. The interviewer and film crew came to the high school several

months ago to shoot the segment for the film.

The Acton young people caught the special attention of several of the speakers at the seminar, who chose through them to refer to the way youth is eager to make its place in the world.

Joseph A. Whitmore, campaign chairman for Ontario, mentioned the unique contribution young people can make. Dr. Wake of Carleton University, Ottawa, who was guest speaker at the closing luncheon, and Graham Silcox of Kitchener also mentioned the

special contribution of enthusiastic young people.

Executive, staff and campaign chairman of Cancer Societies throughout Ontario attended the seminar.

Announcement of the naming of Miss Hope, Ruth Ann Campbell, was made. She will represent the Cancer Society at special events through the coming year.

As usual, the Acton campaign for funds for the Cancer Society will take place in April. The film Who Saved Johnny Q. will be shown on television during the campaign month.



BRENDAN AHERNE was elected chairman of the Acton Parks Board and Recreation Committee at the inaugural meeting in the library Thursday evening. Left to right, members of the dual-purpose committee are new members Phil (Scotty) McCristall, Bob Laughlin, vice chairman Herb Dodds, chairman Brendan Aherne, secretary

Doris Townsley and council appointees Peter Marks and Earl Masales. One post remains vacant following the resignation of Hugh Patterson over a dispute with the method council used to make new appointments.