

# The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Fourth Year. — No. 30

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1969

Twenty Pages - Fifteen Cents



## Halton West M.P.P. George Kerr named Cabinet Minister

For the first time ever, a Halton County member of Provincial Parliament has been assigned a position in the Ontario Cabinet.

George Kerr, the Burlington lawyer who has represented Halton West (formerly Halton) riding since 1963 was appointed Minister of Energy and Resources Thursday by Premier John Roberts.

The move came as a result of the resignation of Minister of Public Works Ray Connell. J. R. Simmonett was removed from his Energy and Resources portfolio to the Public Works position, leaving the Energy and Resources post open to Mr. Kerr.

Mr. Kerr was born in Montreal, moving to the Gaspé area of Quebec with his parents in the 1930's. After school, he worked with his father in the lumber business for three years, leaving to add to his education. This included a pre-legal course at the University of New Brunswick, and, later, the Dalhousie law school in Halifax.

At his graduation in 1935, he had been married for two years to fellow-graduate Meredith "Mim" Spicer. He worked as assistant to the county solicitor in Welland briefly.

In 1934 they moved to Burlington, and have since had three children including sons Larry and James and daughter Margot. Within a year of taking up residence in Burlington, Mr. Kerr was elected to town council, serving for two years.

His first bid for the Burlington deputy-reeve's chair was unsuccessful, but he again tried four years later... successfully. It was at that time he left the Hamilton law firm in which he had been employed and started his own practice in Burlington.

His record in the legislature indicates considerable energy



## Night of the Iguana

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## Who rates sidewalks most? question splits council Tuesday

The generation gap between veteran councillor Jack Greer and freshman Peter Marks was obvious at Tuesday night's meeting of Acton Council.

The subject was sidewalks and came out of the No. 2 committee minutes when it was revealed that bids were being sought for sidewalks on Peel St., Brock St., Acton Blvd. and Wallace St.

Councillor G. McKenzie said he noticed that there was no mention of sidewalks in Lakeview subdivision and felt there was a real need for one along Elizabeth Dr. where the entire subdivision congregated and flowed out on No. 7 highway.

Councillor Earl Masales replied that the matter had been discussed but he reminded Mr. McKenzie that construction would depend on how much money was available. Mr. McKenzie said that traffic on Brock St. was not as heavy as it was on Elizabeth Dr. and he could not understand the priorities.

Councillor Marks concurred with Mr. McKenzie's estimate of the situation. He suggested the volume of traffic on Elizabeth

Dr. exceeded any along any street in Acton, and since the area was the highest taxed in town it should deserve some consideration.

Councillor Masales said council was committed to other areas first before any consideration would be given to the Lakeview sidewalks. In councillor Greer's opinion Lakeview ratepayers would have to pay for sidewalks under local improvement since there was no subdivision agreement attached to the area.

Mayor Les Doby injected that holding the mill rate had been a prime concern of councils in the past and that there was now an epidemic of town work to be done.

Deputy-reeve Ted Tyler felt that if the Lakeview subdivision wanted sidewalks all the ratepayers could contribute towards it. He noted several other areas in town had installed their own sidewalks on a local improvement basis.

Councillor McKenzie however was still not convinced. He said "we can't argue about the need on Acton Blvd. and then not give the same consideration to Lakeview since

both are arteries used by school children on their way to school."

The deputy reeve however thought there were some differences and that many of the properties along Elizabeth Dr. would have to be taxed on such a project. There were no properties along Acton Blvd., he said, and this made the difference.

It was agreed the matter should be referred to No. 2 committee for consideration with councillor Marks' remark, "Let's hope we don't lose a kid in the meantime."

The mayor, taking umbrage at Mr. Marks' comment, said he had been waiting 10 years for a sidewalk in his area and still didn't have one.

Let's not make the same mistake now as we did 10 years ago, Mr. Marks replied, suggesting it was time council got things done which had been neglected in the past.

Reeve Frank Oakes was annoyed by councillor Marks' comments. He said every council in the past has tried to do a job, and it was not a mistake to try to keep the tax rate down. He attributed it to reason, or common sense, rather than mistakes. The mayor recalled that the tax rate had four and a half mills chopped off last year when much-needed work on the town streets was neglected. He suggested the councils of the past had done the best with what they had to work with. Councillor McKenzie reminded council that they had spent \$30,000 "in one lick" since they were over a barrel, on drainage in Lakeview but now they have a safety problem and seem to want to avoid it.

Later in the meeting councillor Greer taking his turn at the inquiry session suggested that councillors from Lakeview subdivision should take a look around town and see the needs of some of the rest of town.

Councillor Marks was not mollified by Mr. Greer's remarks and asked for some clarification about what the councillor meant. He suggested Mr. Greer was calling the Lakeview councillors selfish. He stated emphatically "Lakeview councillors have also considered other areas" and it was a gross overstatement on Mr. Greer's part to infer they hadn't.

These remarks came out of Mr. Greer's request for a list of (Continued on Page 3)



## Denis Gibbons joins staff

A graduate of public and high schools in Acton, Denis Gibbons this week joined the editorial staff of the Acton Free Press on a full time basis.

Editor Harley Coffey announced that Denis will work as a reporter, photographer and feature writer, specializing in sports coverage. Denis has been writing a sports column for several months now and covering some events for the paper.

He graduated from Acton district high school in 1962 and was employed at Beardmore and Co. as a shipping clerk, stockkeeper and sales clerk until May of this year.

Denis admits he has always had a special interest in youth work and sports and feels his appointment will assist him to round out his knowledge and branch into other fields. Incidentally, girls, he is still a bachelor.

## Meets Actonians in London hotel

Peter Hurst arrived home Thursday from Lagos, Nigeria, after a tour of duty with the Department of External Affairs.

His wife preceded him home by a few months. They had been in Lagos two years.

He goes to Ottawa the end of July for further posting.

On his way home, Mr. Hurst saw a familiar face in a hotel in London. The two men looked at each other for a few seconds, with recognition dawning, before they were able to put names to the faces.

Peter had met former mayor John Goy, who's away with Mrs. Goy on a trip that co-incides with the anniversary of D-Day.

## Rape charge laid Saturday

After a 14-year-old Acton district girl was reported missing, a charge of rape was laid against a 24-year-old father of four Saturday.

Acton O.P.P. initiated the investigation after the girl's father reported her missing from the home where she had been baby-sitting. Since the alleged offence was committed outside the town boundaries, the case was turned over to the North Halton O.P.P.

The girl had gone baby-sitting Friday evening for relatives of the accused man. When they returned about 4 a.m. she was not in the house. Police were told the girl was persuaded to go outside and get into a truck with the man who drove off with her. The truck was later ditched on a country road.

The driver saw himself up to police on Saturday night. Acton police helped to find the missing girl.

## Public hearing

A public hearing is scheduled for the council chambers at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 12, to continue hearing persons interested in supporting or opposing the restricted area bylaws. Ontario Municipal Board representatives will chair the hearing tomorrow.

## What Council did

At the regular meeting Tuesday night, Acton Council:

Read the amended swimming pool by-law three times and passed it. There are three minor changes in the by-law which passed last year. Depth of water in a swimming pool affected by the by-law must be at least 24 inches and capable of being swum in. Original restrictions on fencing have now been appended to other materials providing an equal degree of safety can be used. Council will insert an ad in the Free Press to notify pool owners of the by-law.

Endorsed a resolution from the city of Kitchener complaining about the government takeover of assessment in the province. Acton Council felt the assessment program should be carried out on a regional basis. Councillor Marks said he could not agree with several statements in the Kitchener letter to the provincial authorities and voted against it. Deputy-Reeve Ted Tyler also voted against the resolution.

Passed a resolution authorizing installation of an air conditioning system in the town offices at a cost of \$1,125. Hank's Heating and Air Conditioning received the contract. Further in the meeting Reeve F. Oakes said the police force had asked whether they couldn't get "even a small fan" to circulate the air in their offices since the town would have some left over from the town offices. Clerk J. Hurst said an old air conditioning unit stored away might be suitable.

Heard in No. 1 committee minutes that a letter was received from a taxpayer objecting to the increased cost of education and the resulting lack of good service in town. The clerk was instructed to advise the letter writer that letters of this nature should be directed to the elected member of the Halton County Board of Education.

Discussed further a meeting with county council road committee to investigate the lack of county roads in Acton and district.

No. 2 committee minutes revealed sidewalk construction is being considered on one block on Peel St., Brock St., Acton Boulevard and Wallace St. The clerk was requested to obtain at least two invitation bids on both concrete and asphalt sidewalks.

All members of council attended the two and a half hour session with Councillor Earl Masales in the chair for Committee of the Whole.

## Lad has concussion, cuts in bike-truck accident

Paul Lowe, seven years old, suffered cuts and a concussion when struck by a panel truck on Churchill Road South Wednesday of last week.

Paul was riding his bicycle behind a road grader and turned out in front of the truck, coming from the other direction, driven by Leo Lauverink, R. R. 2, Acton.

The driver braked but was unable to avoid hitting the youngster.

Paul suffered multiple abrasions to his face, scalp, shoulders, chest and legs, and a concussion. He was treated at the scene and taken to Queen's General Hospital by Dr. C. Hutchison.

He was released from hospital Saturday and is still recuperating at home.

Cora Nick Farion investigated and provided an escort for taking the boy to hospital. No charge was laid.

The boy's mother had special praise for the policeman and the doctor who attended to the boy so promptly, and said they felt he had been "very lucky".

## Protect house on holidays

In an effort to curb summer thefts, Acton O.P.P. asks that vacationers notify them when they leave, so that regular checks on the vacant house can be made.



EDWARD ALBERT BERNARD, 24, of 137 1/2 Ave., Toronto, escaped with only a cut right eyebrow, when his 1969 Dodge collided with a dump truck owned by Chivers Construction and driven by Claire Methias, 27, of R. R. 3, Acton, on

Wednesday, June 4 on Hwy. 7 near the First Line, west of Acton. The car damage was estimated \$1,500 to the front and while the truck had an estimated \$300 damage. Time of the accident was 1:15 p.m.—(Photo by Ed Long)

## Fish tables from lake summer season here

"Summer's officially here," muttered parks manager Harold Townsley after he fished 14 picnic tables out of Fairy Lake on Tuesday morning.

The first break-out of vandalism since the park gates opened for the summer season, manager Townsley wasn't pleased but admitted it confirmed the summer was high.

He and his staff are also busy repainting the wading pool and hope to have water in it by the weekend.

Although there have been swimmers in Fairy Lake, Mr.

Townsley says the oil and sand stirred up by dredging have not made ideal conditions. The Fairy Lake clean-up will not be complete until later this summer and possibly fall when the dredge will finish the job of removing 400,000 cubic yards of silt from the lake.

Meanwhile there is an admission charge into the park on Sundays and holidays of \$1 per car and many visitors have enjoyed the facilities already. Biggest influx will come with the warmer weather.