

# BREAK FAIR RECORD

While other fall fairs in the province reported dwindling attendance and lagging interest, the 56th annual Acton Fair broke all previous gate records with another gala two day event Friday and Saturday.

Friday's gate receipts for the night performance were down from last year's record-buster but the receipts for the big day - Saturday - were \$400 higher than any previous high.

President Wilmer Fryer and his directors were delighted with the response from the public jammed into Acton park for the festivities.

Highlight of this year's fair, of course, was the visit of Lieutenant-Governor Rosa Macdonald and his honor guard with a military section in Saturday's parade.

Over 2,000 people packed Acton community centre Friday night to see 17-year-old Cathy Smith, a lovely miss from the Churchill area, claim the Miss Acton Fair crown from 12 other contestants. Judges were almost stumped by the comeliness of the girls. They pared their selection down to five and then kept the girls in suspense as they chose Miss Smith, a grade 11 student at Acton district high school.

The fast-paced variety show which preceded the selection of Miss Acton Fair kept the huge audience which filled all available seats and spilled into the aisles, entertained and amused. Stars were Cy Leonard and his dummy and the Allan

The Lieutenant-Governor, meanwhile, was installed in a marquee where he was formally introduced to about 200 invited guests. Outside the pipes went through an intricate drill and ceremony.

Fair board secretary Mrs. C. W. Swackhamer estimates 8,000 people went to the Saturday show. "That's without counting those who went in over the fence," she commented with a smile.

The Lorne Scots brass band also gave a concert on the grounds and they were followed by a smart display of marching and music by the Opti-Knights.

The Lt.-Governor officially opened the fair on a platform containing president Wilmer Fryer, M.P. Rud Whiting, the Hon. George Kerr, Minister of Energy and Resources and M.P.P. Jim Snow as well as Acton reeve Dr. F. Oakes, ladies' president Mrs. Ruth Linham and the Lieutenant-Governor's niece, Mrs. Wilson.

The tail-end of the parade was the signal for the huge crowd lined along the streets to enter the fair grounds where they over-ran the midway and spread thickly into the community centre, the horse, cattle, chicken, swine and sheep shows.

The Lt.-Governor, viewing the grounds and the action going on all around him, said Acton could be changed to "Action" judging by what he saw. He congratulated fair officials on the success of their show and took a keen interest in exhibits.

The midway was crowded for both days and King Shows want to sign a three-year contract to ensure a place in future Acton fall fairs. They had nine rides and various types of games and eating establishments where food was dispensed.

All the food booths did a roaring trade with the Limestone W.I. and Acton Junior Farmers setting the pace.

Hall exhibits were down this year but the committee in charge had the displays set out attractively and without clutter. Commercial displays in the arena did a brisk business.

Winner of the Simpsons-Sears special award of a silver serving tray to the exhibitor winning the most points in the homecraft,

canned goods baking classes was Miss Margaret Johnson of Milton. Miss Johnson, exhibiting for her second year at Acton, won 28 firsts, 27 seconds and 16 thirds as well as prizes in the plants and flower section.

Beef and dairy classes at the far end of the park were glutted with entries as were the ponies and light horses. The ponies, said one judge, were of good quality and made for "tough judging."

The inimitable Vince Mountford kept the program moving from the stand, cracking jokes and entertaining with stories between classes.

At the cattle rings tireless Nino Braida shepherded the overflowing entries through the various classes assisted by the Ontario Shorthorn Lassie Queen and the Halton Shorthorn Queen, both in highland dress.

Winner of the Eaton livestock special awarded to the exhibitor winning the most points in the



STARS OF THE 1960 fall fair, Miss Acton Fair Cathy Smith and Lieutenant-Governor Rosa Macdonald beam over the chrysanthemums decorating the platform Saturday. (Staff Photo)

## The Acton Free Press

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BEAMING THROUGH happy tears, Miss Acton Fair Cathy Smith is encircled by the finalists, Anita Thibodeau, second runner-up Margaret Slaven, first runner-up Rosemary Bird and Kris Houpor. The pert young winner is in grade 11 at A.D.H.S. Judges admitted their difficulty in choosing a winner from the 13 charming entrants. (Staff Photo)

### Lieutenant-governor charms hundreds at marquee, throughout fair grounds

"You've made me feel at home," beamed Lieutenant-Governor Rosa Macdonald when he officially opened Acton's 56th fall fair Saturday afternoon. Despite his age, he showed no signs of fatigue after happily greeting hundreds of Actonians in his special marquee and throughout the bustling grounds.

He arrived in town about noon, left about 4 o'clock and had another engagement scheduled for the evening. There was a royal reception for the royal representative. Crowds lined the streets to wave and cheer as he passed in the first section of the long parade. (However, some didn't realize the smiling gentleman in the convertible was the Lieutenant-governor until they saw his chauffeur-driven limousine coming along behind, with its unique 1-1 license plate).

At the park, he stood on a special dais backed by school flags, to review the Lorne Scots. Then, in a shady, carpeted marquee at the park, the distinguished visitor greeted about 200. He had just a few moments to spare, to rest on the mayor's chair, during the hour-long reception. Guests were introduced to him by his aide, Col. Hardie. They included fair board members, representatives of various organizations, the town's Citizen of the Year Charlie Thomson and the Miss Acton Fair competitors.

### Mayor drops bombshell

Mayor Les Duby dropped a bombshell at the council chambers Tuesday night when he announced that the official plan may be back in Acton on Thursday.

"Thursday?" asked deputy-reeve Tyler. "Hard to believe," said councillor Bill Coats. "Someone said if the government lost the election in Middlesex, we'll get some action!" laughed councillor Pat McKenzie.

The mayor and reeve Frank Oakes visited Toronto on Tuesday and talked with the chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board who promised that after months of waiting the official plan would be in Acton Thursday.

The mayor and reeve also asked Mr. Kennedy, chairman of the O.M.B., his opinion of the development of the industrial park and he stated the board was quite prepared to support the \$50,000 earmarked for

### Two cars collide

On Bower at Mill near the tracks on Saturday two cars were involved in a collision investigated by Acton police. The car driven by Tom Fidler, 48 Nelson Ct., received an estimated \$100 damage and the car driven by James Laughlin, 70 Nelson Ct., \$125 damages. The Fidler car was making a turn off Mill onto Bower when the accident occurred.

### Four break-ins reported

Four weekend break-ins were investigated by Acton O.P.P. Two weren't discovered until Monday, but police suspect all four took place on Friday evening.

Three of the incidents took place in Lakeview subdivision, the other at the hydro office.

The Robert McGregor family were at the fair when their Elmore Drive home was broken into Friday night. Entry was made when a kitchen window was forced open to permit a hand to reach in and unlock the door. The house was ransacked in the search, and about \$75 was believed stolen.

The same night, when Mr. and Mrs. Vic Bristow and family were at the fair, their Elizabeth Dr. home was entered through a back bedroom window. About \$150 in cash and a coin collection was missing.

On Monday a break-in was reported at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bray, Elizabeth Dr. A rock had been used to break a basement window, but the intruder apparently found himself locked in the laundry room and departed. Nothing was found missing. Police suspect the incident occurred the same night as the other two.

Also on Monday, hydro superintendent Doug Mason reported a break-in at the hydro office. Entry had been made by slipping a lock, and about \$7 used for pop and lunches was taken. Nothing was disturbed.

Again this week the Acton police urge citizens to let them know if they see anything suspicious. Phone them, and if the recorder is on, please leave a message, they ask.

### Prize lists next week

A picture is worth a thousand words, says the old proverb.

This week's Free Press has plenty of pictures of Acton's fall fair, and next week's paper will specialize in the thousands of words - the prize lists in livestock, poultry, hay and grain, vegetables, fruit, flowers, domestic classes, school children's classes and specials.

### Youth seriously hurt

## Car-train collision claims life of 13-year-old boy

Police are still mystified about the cause of a car-train collision at the Main St. N. railway crossing in Acton early Sunday morning which claimed the life of 13 year-old Gerard Andre Gauthier, of Toronto, and seriously injured 20 year-old Gerald Prevost of 13 Church St. E., Acton. The crossing is equipped with signals.

The weather was clear and the road dry when the car, which police presume was driven by the Acton youth, collided with the 24th car in a freight containing 38 cars and three engines about 3.05 a.m.

The train crew travelled past the crossing almost two and a half miles before they were aware there was anything wrong. The air brakes on the train let go and the crew of the train stopped it to check on the brake failure.

The crew found the rear front wheels of a cement hopper car were derailed and left big gouges in the ties as the train proceeded and the brakes had been severed.

They walked back to the Main St. N. crossing where they found the Prevost car, a '61 Chev convertible, wrapped around the signal pole on the north side of the tracks. Russell Gauthier, 13 of 439 Sackville St., Toronto, died in the wreckage, pinned

between the car and the signal pole. Constable Bruce Kresler of Acton O.P.P. notified by a passing motorist, Gordon Ward of Georgetown, found Prevost in the field west of the car and north of the tracks.

He was treated at the scene by Dr. C. Hutchison and taken to Guelph General Hospital with a concussion, fractured right knee,

### Power break

Unusual is the only word to describe Monday's situation along the business section in Acton.

Barber shops on one side of the street were dispensing old fashioned haircuts - without power. On the other side the barbers were humming away merrily with clippers and all.

Reason? Dust on insulators caused a power leakage which started a hydro pole in the Robert Little school grounds burning at 4 a.m. Don Ryder notified Acton Hydro and they in turn notified Ontario Hydro.

The fire was extinguished at 11 a.m. Meanwhile the current was broken in some sections of town and district, throwing clocks and routine into confusion.

CRUMPLED REMAINS of the 1961 Chev convertible were wrapped around the flasher standard at the Main St. N. railway crossing after a collision with a freight train Sunday morning at 3.05. Thirteen-year-old Russell Gauthier of 439 Sackville St., Toronto, lost his life in the crash while Gerald Prevost, 20, of Church St., Acton, lies seriously injured in Guelph General Hospital. (Photo by E. Taylor)



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