

. . A significant decade for Acton

1965

First new Canadian flag raised at the cenotaph by Mayor Doby and Jim Gunn... Joe Ross plans to turn his property into a park... Goy Cartage opened its new warehouse... Billy Middleton citizen of the year... J. Bert Wood sells insurance business... uniforms were introduced at the high school... the Lions Round Up show drew 2,000 to the arena... Acton Medical Centre started... Dr. Harry Harley swept the Halton election... the Legion Choralliers were formed...

1966

Acton O.P.P. detachment increased to six with the arrival of Peter Campbell... Acton reeve Bert Hinton elected county warden... Fred Wright citizen of the year... Howard Pearce recreation director... a new section of Fairview cemetery with 2,500 plots opened... Duke of Devonshire I.O.D.E. marked 50th anniversary... opening fair, deputy minister of highways Cam MacNab promised Mill-Main lights... work starts on library and new hydro building... elections start two-year term... the Free Press switched to offset printing...

1967

Bells and whistles joyfully rang in happy, proud Centennial Year... Bill Coulter is warden... a first and only-time half holiday for Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday in January... Mrs. D. G. Robertson named top rural correspondent by Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association... Herman Freuler's centennial hymn published, sung on TV... the first 40-mile Walkathon... town's centennial library dedicated with ceremony... hydro building opens... Rev. Laurence Doby ordained... 80 high school students visited Expo... the Choralliers sang... Mayor Doby heads the town and village section of the Ontario Municipal Association and president of the Central Ontario Regional development council... a centennial ball, many in costume... dredging of Fairy Lake began... Old Fashioned Day precedes fair... fair breaks all records... C.N.R. starts shut-down of station...

1968

Duncan Moffat installed last high school board chairman... town offices extended, renovated... mural painted by Mrs. J. Bray installed in library... new owner of Mason Knitting, Brendan Swan anticipates expansion... Northern Tackle plant in Rockwood destroyed by fire... Brian Carriere killed... strike at H. K. Porter Plant... council calls public meeting to oppose closing station... site bought for curling club... public school students raise \$500 for Red Cross in walkathon... opposition kills shopping mall proposal... decision to "hurehill" church should amalgamate with Acton United causes dissention... Rev. Michael Bennett ordained... Rockwood United church celebrates centennial... Metro Transportation study released, envisages year 2,000... Trudeaumania hits Halton... Rud Whiting wins election... 1400 in two-mile Orange Walk (and no rain this time)... post office staff on strike... 17 high school students with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martindale tour Europe... W. J. Beatty retires... recognition dinner held for Dr. Buckner and wife... medical centre installs radiology department... Churchill Community church granted official charter... oral French in public schools... Beardmore's urged by public to keep whistle blowing... survey shows need of an indoor swimming pool... Joe Hurst replaces Jack McGeachie as clerk-administrator...

1969

George Currie warden... council approves geared-to-income housing... school boards continue as committees under new county board of education... regional government proposed by Darcy McKeough... education costs rise... Bell rates up... taxes rise... apartment buildings on Churchill S... St. John Brigades area inspection in Acton... official opening of music centre... Miss M. Z. Bennett honored guest at opening of long-awaited M. Z. Bennett school addition, including auditorium... Bill Hoey dies suddenly... model airplane combat exposition... Karen O'Rourke Shelburne fiddle queen... Jeff Denny Southern Ontario Singles Shuffleboard champ... Len Varey killed... parents protest closing Ospringe kindergarten... Lieutenant-Governor MacDonald guest of honor at fair... Halton reeves carve up county for regional government... William Spehar and Gerald Robinson killed... water pollution control plant built... drag strip proposed for Matthews farm... music festival will change to include all performing arts... another public hearing on station set for January, 1970... Paul Paulsen killed... parks board chairman Brendan Aherne resigns... first curling in new building...



LAVINIA LODGE - soaked in the downpour that drenched the Orange walk in July, 1964.



OFF TO SEE Europe in July 1968, were high school students with teachers Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martindale. On the tour were Ann Watson, Lorraine Servos, Marie Timbers, Jackie Palmer, Gordon Morris, Nancy Morris, Ken MacColl, Brian Fisher, Sharon White, Bill Black, Bob Bonnette, Gary Dobbie, Robert Lindsay, David Pink and Elaine Johnson.



1867 | 1967



REEVE BERT Hinton was county warden in 1966.



1867 | 1967



HYDRO BUILDING was officially opened the same day as the centennial library with speeches and a tour for the public.



IN JUNE 1960, former principal Miss M. Z. Bennett attended the official opening of the M. Z. Bristow. Bennett school addition. She talks with board members Murray Smith, Cyril Bishop and Vic Bennett.

Those were the sixties

Controlled steady growth, deep concern over impending regulations sweeping changes in education, improvement of town facilities, fine new homes and buildings - and a glorious centennial celebration signify the Sixties in Acton.

Subdivisions and apartments swelled the town and strip development of houses crisscrossed former farm land. Planning becomes more and more recognized as a vital and urgent concern.

Small country schools closed up, one by one, as area schools were planned and built. Then the county board of education took over from the local boards in a wrenching change.

Back in 1965 the Free Press first began to report prediction on regional government. The Plunkett report shocked us in 1966, followed by the McKeough recommendations that have still left us rocking.

An issue that flashed through the Sixties was the dangerous Mill-Main corner, culminating in the erection of stop lights. Another recurring issue, since then, is the closing of the station - and that one isn't settled yet.

Talk of emergency measures dwindled off and talk of pollution increased.

There were few very serious fires, but too many - mostly young people - lost their lives in tragic accidents. Some drowned but most were killed in car accidents.

The decade saw respected clergymen come and go, and popular teachers arrive and leave.

Night school - a booming success early in the '60s, dwindled off to nothing, but is seeing its most successful resurgence since '69. Ten Citizens of the Year over the decade - Dr. W. G. C. Kenney, Bill Coon, Madeleine Gibbons, John Goy, Miss M. Z. Bennett, Bill Middleton, Fred Wright, George Musselle, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Charlie Thomson. Special honors to them all.

In a decade of violence in other parts of the world, the sixties found Acton peaceful and content (sometimes bored), yet admonishing petty thefts, minor infringements of traffic and liquor laws, annoying vandalism. A couple of strokes were settled peacefully. Our young people developed the Walkathon to raise money for favorite charities; collected for UNICEF on Hallowe'en. In a decade which reported church attendance dwindling, three new churches were built here.

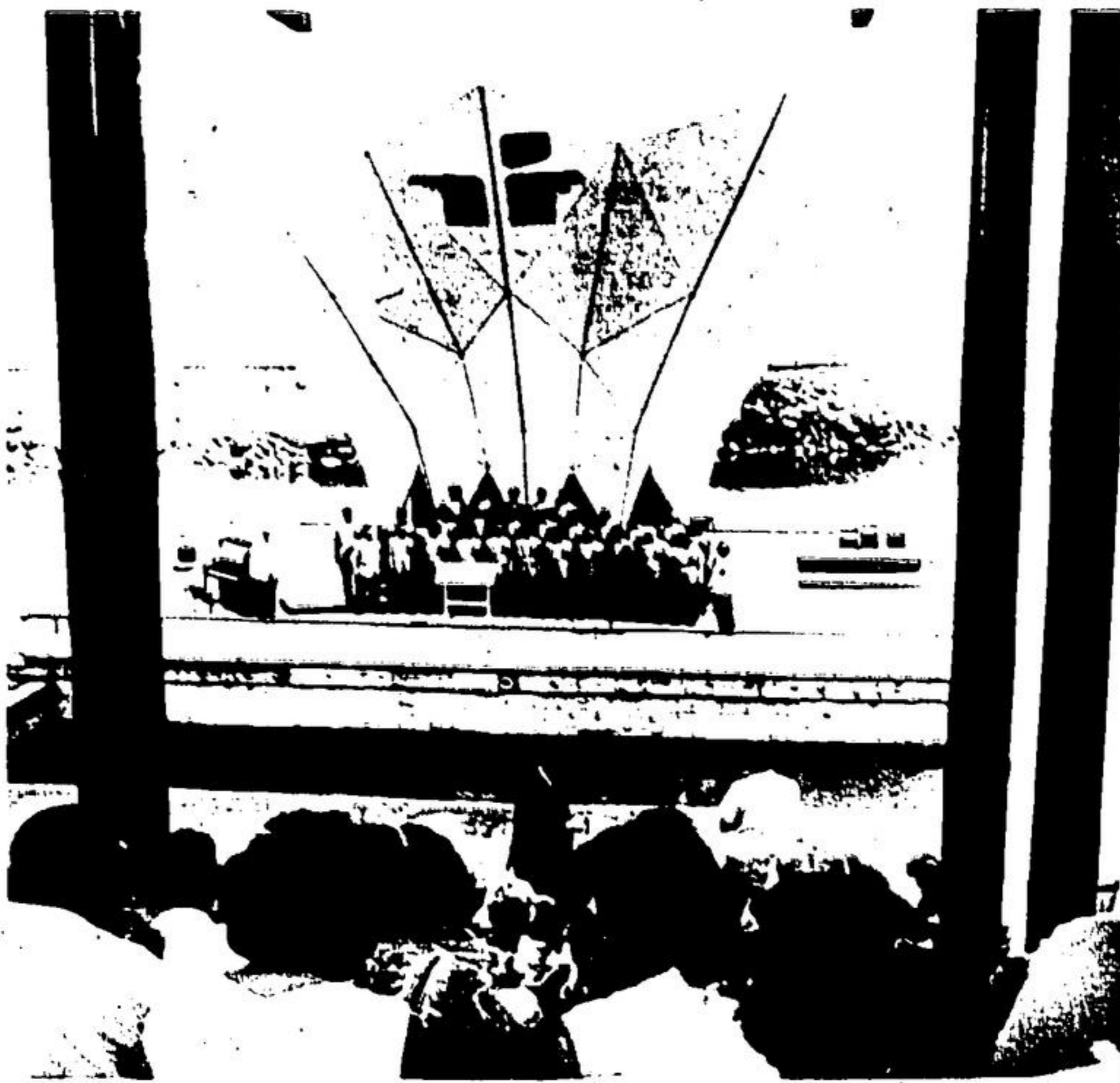
Community spirit swelled in Churchill, when nearby residents decided to retain their own old frame church, despite a decision they should amalgamate with a town church. A non-denominational community church was organized - perhaps a more important sign of the future than is realized.

The building of the community centre and installation of artificial ice brought better hockey, curling, roller skating, wrestling, shows and dances there. The formation of a recreation committee brought an improved Prospect park, a new Glenlea park, a series of recreation directors, swimming lessons and a full summer playground program. The Golden Age Club was developed by the first recreation director.

The town was happily united in the successful campaign to raise money for the community centre in 1961, and felt the same exultant sense of community feeling again in 1967, when centennial year saw the culmination of various far-sighted projects. Centennial produced the library, indirectly the music centre, many dances and teas and school projects, as well as personal goals. The Choralliers and high school students went in groups to Expo and one of our citizens had a centennial hymn published. The bells that rang in 1967 reverberated all year, and even longer, in community pride. And a new flag flew.



LARGE CROWD attended official ceremonies to open Acton's centennial project - a new library building, in June 1967.



ON DOMINION DAY weekend, Acton Legion Her Majesty the Queen. Choralliers raised money for their trip by bus to sing to the country. Choralliers sang at Expo in Montreal under leader George Musselle. Another visitor that weekend: