

# No liquor plebiscite yet, council decides Tuesday night

Council by a split vote accepted the recommendation of the committee and passed the following resolution: "Whereas Council is of the opinion that an insufficient number of tax payers are interested in a plebiscite concerning liquor outlets; and whereas Council is of the opinion

that the time is not appropriate for such a plebiscite; and whereas any interested group in the municipality may cause a petition to be signed; and if such a petition is signed by a sufficient number of tax payers, that the Council must proceed with a plebiscite. Be it therefore resolved that this Council take no

action on a liquor licence plebiscite in 1970, and be it further resolved that the Acton Chamber of Commerce be so notified." Two opposed Deputy reeve Tyler and councillor Marks opposed the passing of the resolution. Deputy-Reeve Tyler asked the

committee what poll had been taken to determine if enough ratepayers were interested in holding a plebiscite. Councillor Coats replied that it was the opinion of the committee, and pointed out that if sufficient interest were shown by 25 per cent of the electorate by presenting a petition to council a

plebiscite could be held at any time. Councillor Marks said if 15 to 20 per cent of the people support the holding of a plebiscite and say they are prepared to pay for the plebiscite through taxes, or if someone wants to "pay the whole shot", he would support the holding of a plebiscite.

Councillor Coats said the subject had been given to the administration committee for study and the committee felt a reply should be given immediately. He also said the resolution presented by the committee now was in "no way binding on any future council."



WILL THE AIRPORT be that close to Acton? asks Mayor Les Duby of the federal Minister of Transport Don Jamieson, with help from Mayor Brian Best of Milton. But Mr. Jamieson, although he was the soul of courtesy, released no new information. The mayors heard the transport minister speak at the Halton Liberal dinner-dance in Oakville Friday. See inside for a report. —(Staff Photo)

## Announce jetport site by end of November

Transport Minister Don Jamieson told Mayors Les Duby of Acton and Brian Best of Milton that an announcement about the site of the new jet airport would be released within a couple of weeks and certainly by the end of November.

The two mayors questioned Mr. Jamieson following his speech to Halton County Liberals at their annual dinner and dance in Oakville Friday night.

Mr. Jamieson said he hoped to see Premier Roberts the next week and he would then release the report of the findings to the mayors. The transport minister told the mayors and press representatives it would be irresponsible if he released the report prematurely, leading to much land speculation.

Mr. Jamieson did say that "no one place has been ruled out" as the site, quashing speculation that supposed Halton locations have been deleted from the list. Delay in the announcement has been attributed to the difficulty in arranging a meeting with Premier Roberts.



Ninety-Sixth Year. — No. 20

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1970

Twenty Pages — Fifteen Cents



ACTON MEADOWS club champion for the second consecutive year, Mike Prystasz, tries on the traditional champion's green jacket, as 1970 men's executive president Bill Wilson lends a hand. Mike also won a huge trophy for his efforts.—(Staff Photo)

# Close Michigan Bulb 14 years in Acton

The Michigan Bulb Co. will completely close its Acton operation this Friday and move to the Province of Quebec.

Employees of the company, which is located in the Acton Industrial Centre, were shocked when they were notified of the decision last week. Six permanent employees and part time help, which numbers 40 to 50 at peak periods, will be affected by the closure.

### Sold in July

The company's Canadian operation was sold by Michigan Bulb Co. of Grand Rapids, Michigan, to O. E. McIntyre of Montreal in July of this year. There was speculation then that the Acton operation would expand to almost double its volume. Employees were given a raise in pay and there was no indication of a shutdown.

Officials of the company arrived from Montreal last Tuesday and notified Gordon Goodman, who ran the Canadian operation, that they were closing the Acton plant, which is a mail order house for flower bulbs, shrubs and trees for customers all across Canada. Although it was a shock to permanent employees, some of whom have been with the company for 15 years, Mr. Goodman told the Free Press he anticipated the closure.

The company moved to Acton from Rockwood 14 years ago and has been operating from the industrial centre since that time.

### Millions of mailings

Mailings of millions of bulbs and shrubs have been handled by the Acton post office which also will suffer a drop in revenue from the decision to close the Acton operation. Postmaster Gordon McKeown was not available for comment but the Free Press was told the postmaster has notified Toronto head office of the closing.

It is not known whether the closing will also mean a reduction in the post office staff which handled the thousands of parcels despatched each year. Post offices are not graded by the amount of revenue they produce as was once the case.

Permanent Michigan Bulb employees affected by the closing include Mrs. Dave Cohen, Mrs. Hugh O'Rourke, Don Tomlinson, Lil Howson, Ron Bilby and Betty Cole. Mrs. Cohen told the Free Press all are looking for employment. Many of the part time employees, including students, will also be on the lookout for work.

After Friday, there will be nothing left here except the mice, Mrs. Cohen said, sweeping her arm in a circle.

The company has been one of the largest flower mail order houses in the country. Its extensive advertising in national weeklies and periodicals produced customers from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

## Where have the deputations gone?

For the first time in months, the Esqueving township council chamber was free of large deputations, as council sat for their regular meeting, Monday night.

A handful of observers, including Jim Kerr and Don Murdy of Indusmin Quarries and dragway critic Peter Bowman attended but did not address council.

Deputations made up of residents on the township's 17 Sideroad, Fourth Line truck

route and from Limehouse have been jamming the chamber at recent meetings.

Two weeks ago, by recorded vote, council changed the route, but last week pressured by a large delegation of drivers, company executives and driver-owners Reeve George Currie and councillor Wilfred Leslie changed their minds and council once again by a recorded vote agreed to allow trucks to return to the Fourth Line, 17 Sideroad route.



NEARING THE FINISH of the 20 mile UNICEF Walkathon Saturday, first place finishers Mike Luty, John Hansen and Bernie Taylor jog a little to beef up their time. It took this energetic trio only four hours and seven minutes to eat up the 20 mile distance.—(Staff Photo)

# Most of 149 participants finish 20-mile Walkathon Saturday

Possibly the best organized walkathon yet piled up dollars for UNICEF Saturday as 149 walkers strode along a 20-mile route.

Drenching rain the Saturday before forced cancellation of the walk, and the wait produced a fine, sunny fall day for the now-annual event.

Most of the walkers were from the town's two public schools with some from Speyside, a half dozen or so from the high school, and two teachers. The tramping teachers were Gerry Brouillard who teaches French, and grade 6 M. Z. Bennett school staffer David Boycott. Both finished.

### Not too far

The 20-mile route was felt a reasonable distance for youngsters to go.

Three Tyler transport buses took the eager young participants to the starting point about five miles above Hillsburg. They came down the seventh line to Ballinafad, went west to Chur-

chill and down to the M. Z. Bennett school.

The walk began at 8:45 a.m.

First: Mike Luty

The first in at 12:52 were a trio, with Mike Luty making a last second spurt to get in his home school door just a second ahead of John Hansen, also of M. Z. Bennett school, and Bernie Taylor, Robert Little student.

## Collect stones broken by cemetery vandals

Following last week's decision by Nassagaweya Council to restore the vandalized Cove Chapel Cemetery on 28 Sideroad, township works crews have collected all the grave stones and trucked them to the township office.

Employees hope to fit the broken pieces of headstones

together and come up with a design for a cairn. There are not sufficient funds in the 1970 budget but council hopes to plan the work in the new year. Meanwhile it is applying for a provincial historic plaque to mark the cemetery.

The council agreed last week to post a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the vandals who toppled and broke the headstones. If the reward is not collected by April 1 the money will be used for a cemetery restoration fund, with work to be completed next May. Council plans a Founders' Day service to rededicate the cemetery.

## Esqueving approves grants

Esqueving Council Monday night approved payment of grants to the recreation committees of the towns of Acton, Georgetown and Milton to help pay the way of township minor hockey players using facilities in each of the towns.

Out of a total of \$1,500, Georgetown will receive \$749.85 for 96 boys enrolled, Milton \$473.70 for 60 enrolled and Acton \$276.45 for 35 boys enrolled.

Grants were based upon the number of boys enrolled for minor hockey in each town.

first girl, and a high school student: Hector Daigle, Wayne Allan, Gary Bannon.

At 1:44 — Jamie Vickery.

At 1:45 — Ron Turkosz.

At 1:46 — Wayne Bannon, Steven Salt and Dave Salt.

At 1:49 — Peter Miller and Mike Mitchell.

"Tremendous" effort

About 90 per cent finished the course, estimated principal Elmer Smith who headed the organizers.

"The kids were tremendous," he enthused.

Cars patrol

A lead car, like a motorized Pied Piper, led the lively long parade, bearing a sign warning cars to watch for walkers. Three cars constantly patrolled the route, and behind the last youngsters came another car, also with a big placard warning traffic.

The two ends of the parade (Continued on Page 3)

# Firefighters collect over \$1,200 to assist Muscular Dystrophy fund

People in Acton have got big hearts.

That's what Torontonians Frank Murphy, executive director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association said after Acton Firefighters presented him with a \$1,200 cheque earmarked to fight the disease. Uniformed firefighters made the presentation Sunday afternoon in the fire hall.

Acton's contribution amounted to 300 per cent more than the usual for communities across the country, averaging out to over 25¢ per head, compared to the average of 8¢ per capita.

Firefighters collected over \$1,200 in a door-to-door canvass around town in September. Campaign chairman Bern Van Fleet, delighted with the response, said he and his committee wished to thank the people in town who co-operated in making this year's donation to help fight muscular dystrophy.

Frank Murphy was more frank. "It was a case of muscular dystrophy benefitting because the best people in town were working for us—people with big hearts."

Firefighters across Canada have collected over three million dollars for the M.D. fund. "Without the firefighters, they wouldn't be able to do the research on the disease and assist the number of people we

have," Mr. Murphy insisted. Mr. Van Fleet passed the

compliment back to the people of Acton who contributed the money

and topped all existing records for the campaign.



## Big hearts

ACTON FIREFIGHTERS present a cheque for over \$1,200 to the executive director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association in a brief ceremony Sunday afternoon. Campaign chairman Bern

Van Fleet made the presentation with committee members left to right, Don Van Fleet, Sam Tennant, Wilf McEachern and Lloyd McIntyre. Frank Murphy of Toronto, executive director of

the Muscular Dystrophy Association accepted, lauding the firefighters and the people of Acton as people with "big hearts". The Acton campaign netted 300 per cent over the national average.—

(Staff Photo)

# Acton's population up 45

There are 180,614 people in Halton County this year, 4,835 of them in Acton.

The county population total was released this week by the Brampton office of the Regional Assessor, which has taken over the assessing and population tabulation from the local municipalities.

Slight gain

Acton made a slight gain of 45 people over the 4,790 who were listed as residents of the town a year ago. The county made a gain of 2,992 over the 177,622 total of 1969.

Other municipal totals with the increase or decrease shown in brackets are: Burlington 82,620 (+1,255); Georgetown 15,949 (+476); Milton 7,268 (-279); Oakville 57,771 (+1,512); Esqueving 8,900 (-159); and Nassagaweya 3,271 (+142).