

**Amalgamate with Milton**

# St. John Brigade ends 13 years of service

There is no longer a St. John Ambulance brigade in Acton.

The 23,432 hours of voluntary duty its members have rolled up over 13 years are over, and the nine remaining members of the group expect to go down to Milton to join the small group of 10 there.

**Money low**

A brigade should have 15 members and Acton has fallen below that. Financial campaigns have not been particularly successful and donations too few. Headquarters always anticipates that after two or three years a brigade will be self-sufficient. Its own town should maintain it.

To the surprise of headquarters, this never happened in Acton. The brigade always had to have a financial boost from headquarters. Yet it ran on a shoestring.

Ruefully, Mrs. George Hargrave this week added up some statistics as she went through the papers of the brigade.

She was surprised at the numbers of unpaid duty hours and at that, not everything was counted.

There have been 50 men, 39 women and 75 cadets registered as members during that time.

2,578 cases

There are records of 2,578 cases and of 281 trips to hospital. The mileage on the two brigade vehicles totals 12,427.

The Acton brigade was enrolled April 30, 1957 and received its charter September 1957. But the records closed February 1, 1971.

**One strong group?**

Oakville corps officer John Wilson and area officer Norm Carlson talked over the situation

## Council speechless

"We look back with pride to the record of St. John and accept with regret the loss of the brigade to Acton," a slightly shocked Mayor Les Dudy said following announcement to council Monday of the termination of the St. John Ambulance in Acton.

St. John staff officer Bob Hart attended council Tuesday in uniform to make the news public. Councillors were too surprised to make much comment. Mr. Hart expressed the thanks of the brigade for council's help in the operation for the 15 years in Acton.

It will be a loss to the community and I'm at a loss to suggest how we can find any alternate service, the mayor said.

Permission was granted for the brigade to hang their Citizen of the Year plaque on a suitable wall belonging to the town in the hope the organization can be revived in the future, a possibility Mr. Hart did not discount. He said a St. John council would have to be formed first if the brigade was revived in Acton, however.

with the Acton members as they ceased to exist this month. If they join Milton, it's hoped the two groups can make one good strong brigade.

The Milton brigade started after Acton, and at one stage Milton members were part of the thriving Acton group.

**Milton donations**

Now they have a better situation than Acton. An old school was donated to them as a building, and was moved to a lot beside the railroad tracks on Martin St. A doctor donated the land. Their two ambulances were donated by service clubs. Membership is now up to 10 from four, following a drive.

The Acton brigade made its first vehicle out of donated parts and built the second vehicle themselves.

Expecting to join with Milton are George and Marie Hargrave, Bob and Kay Hart, Marius and Gerda Camman of Georgetown, Doris Cook, Bella-Maye Roszell and Peter Holmes. Another member Gerry LaMarsh thinks he might join Brampton since he

worked there.

The Georgetown brigade has also folded.

"We're very sad and upset about it all," says Mrs. Hargrave, recent winner of the high St. John award as Serving Sister and the one with the most duty hours.

**Taught many**

She thinks back to the flourishing years of the Cadets, when boys and girls in their home-made grey uniforms took part in brigade activities and learned first aid and nursing techniques.

Mrs. Hargrave has taught many of the courses which are a vital part of St. John work.

A donation would come in after a course was held, but they were never enough to make the brigade self-sufficient. Council made an annual donation but it went through to headquarters. Local plants, too explained donations were looked after by their head offices.

Mail campaigns never produced much money here. In Milton, a door-to-door campaign

produced more.

**May still return**

The Actonians will start with Milton this week - going into the new group as Privates. There will be a policy meeting to decide the best way of doing things together.

It's possible that, on application to the Milton superintendent Don Miller, brigade members may still be on duty at Acton events such as the fair, operetta, or other single events. They would have to drop their faithful attendance at hockey games and car races.

**Transfer supplies**

Their ambulance and all their supplies will be transferred to other groups.

It's not much consolation to them, but records will be kept of where the Acton supplies are. If by any chance they start up here again, they could have their own vehicles and supplies back.

Present regulations say a brigade must be self-supporting before it may even begin. And actually, a brigade is not recommended for towns of less than 5,000 people. A smaller

population doesn't produce enough new members all the time.

Yet the Acton brigade was very successful in everything but finances. They were the town's Citizens of the Year in 1968.

**Impetus**

Their first big accident was a train wreck at the station about 12 years ago. It gave them impetus to build their first ambulance, made with Mansell Nelles' assistance. Then they built their next vehicle "from scratch".

At first they met in a small room at the back of the town hall, and then went to a basement room at the arena.

The Cadets were in operation for four years with a peak membership of 52 boys and girls.

"We've done it all ourselves", said Mrs. Hargrave sadly as she looked back over the years.

They'll be sending individual letters of thanks to many who have tried to help over the years, including the local committee which ran the financial campaigns.

## Obey Toronto - Centred Region report?

# "Might as well fold-up" - planner

"Why doesn't the province tell us what the Toronto-Centred Region plan will let us do? Otherwise we might as well fold up our Planning Board", Councillor Jim Watson declared at the inaugural meeting of the Nassagaweya Township Planning Board last week.

He made the observation after the secretary suggested the Board confine its efforts to those within the framework of the Toronto-Centred Region Report.

The Report places Nassagaweya in Zone Two, a recreational and conservation area where growth is to be restricted.

**All in limbo**

Secretary Campbell Thompson reported every subdivision plan in the township had been placed in limbo by the Department of Municipal Affairs pending revision of the township's Official Plan to coincide with the Toronto-Centred Region Design for Development.

Endorsed it Board member Don Smith reminded members the Board had endorsed the Toronto Centred Region report when it was released.

The Campbellville subdivision was the only one that had proceeded far enough to go ahead.

"The Department has guaranteed there will be no consideration of plans of subdivision for six months and possibly a year," the secretary pointed out, indicating it would take that long to develop provincial policy on the Toronto-Centred Region report.

**Endorsed it**

Board member Don Smith reminded members the Board had endorsed the Toronto Centred Region report when it was released.

Ron Cooksley, a new board member, suggested representatives of the Community Planning Branch be invited to a meeting for discussion.

The secretary called on the board, in establishing its priorities for the year, to concentrate on a development policy. He pointed out the township growth rate is greater than that of Milton and there are still 400 separate parcels of land not built on. He noted there were more separations not built on now than there were before the current zoning by-law was approved.

## David Swetman

### Y board chairman

After many years on the Y board, Elmer Smith's name was dropped from the board of directors Wednesday evening of last week at his request. After all the officers were named, it was decided to make Mr. Smith an honorary member of the Y board.

He remains an active member of the Y's Men's club.

**Moves up**

David Swetman heads the Y board this year. As vice-chairman last year, he replaced chairman Bob Laughlen who resigned when he took a new position at the community college. In Owen Sound.

A new board member, Y's Man Pat McGreene, is vice-chairman this year. Mrs. Marie Tremills was again named secretary and John Last again named treasurer.

**New directors**

Three directors return to the board, G.W. McKenzie, Jake van der Kooy and Shirley Brostad, with three new members, Mr. McGreene, Don Perry and Allan Eastwood.

The Y's Men's club is considering projects and possible renovations, and further meetings will be held soon to make decisions about the Y.

## Choralliers hold second pub night

The Choralliers' second Pub Night last Friday was a resounding success with 150 attending the event in the Legion hall. There was a program of music and dancing to Harry Arbie's tapes.

Pub lunch consisted of meat pies, sausage rolls and salad. (Last time fish and chips were served).

Sisters Agnes McIntyre and

Isabel Moore played guitars and sang Western songs in harmony. Mayor Les Dudy played his guitar and sang and Henry Leachman played the harmonica. W. Ferguson played the banjo and Jimmy Higgins sang. Flora McKenzie Harris sang, solos and Scottish duets with her husband Dave. Gil Malcolm was a capable M.C. with a fund of jokes.

## Large increase in twp. library membership

Erin Township Library Board will receive a \$3,300 grant from the township. Most of this will go to pay the cost of new books on the rotating system, and shelving.

Appearing before council for the library board, Carmen Parkinson said that he had many enquiries as to when the library would move into its new quarters in the township hall. He stated they cannot afford the move and

additional furniture, although the Womens' Institute has promised tables and there have been other individual promises.

Concern was shown over the lack of funds for proper remuneration of the librarian for her extra work.

Library membership rose from 157 in 1969 to 269 in 1970. Over the same period, the increase in books circulated was from 3,100 to over 5,000.

## Ask Erin twp. council consider prefab homes

Dave Meal, president of Glendevon Enterprises, appeared before Erin township council to report on the progress at the new subdivision.

He stated one of the requirements of the Department of Conservation, had been to have the creek bed, running through the subdivision, enlarged to hold 70 times its regular flow to anticipate floods like Hurricane

Hazel. He also asked council to consider factory-built homes in the area, pointing out that they would cut down on on-site labor costs, and would help answer the housing shortage problem.

Following an invitation to visit factories or meet with manufacturers, Deputy-Reeve Matheson stated he would like to see a house already up as manufacturers make claims that are not backed up sometimes.

## As PM Darcy would swim with Kerr

Carrying the pollution torch high Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough told 300 Conservatives he would swim in Hamilton Bay with George Kerr in 1975. He said he would swim as premier of Ontario. He made the vow at an all candidates meeting in Hamilton Feb. 2.

McKeough, one of five candidates facing the delegates and alternates at the meeting held in Hamilton, devoted his 10 minute speech to pollution. He claimed Ontario was ahead of any other jurisdiction in the fight against pollution and promised greater support for Kerr's programs.

Both McKeough and Robert Welch used pollution as the theme of their speech and both urged strengthening the International Joint Commission which is studying pollution of the boundary waters between Canada and the United States.

Asked for his feeling towards pollution Minister of Education said, "I'm against it." Davis has continually evaded any specific promises concerning his efforts in the pollution fight

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