



### Ready to go in Sunday's snowmobile races . . .

SPECTATORS LINE the shoreline as one heat of Sunday snowmobile races on Fairy Lake gets ready for starter Wayne Robertson's

flag. Sunday was bright but icy cold for the event, sponsored by Acton Y's Men.



### They're off! on three lap lake course

DRIVERS TURN the power on as they leave the starting line during Sunday's 12-race snowmobile event. Ed Stewart of Ospringe and Dave Carson of Hornby were top winners. See results inside.—(Staff Photos)

## No charges, injuries three car accidents

Three traffic accidents were investigated by Acton police during the past week.

There were no injuries and since bad driving conditions prevailed, no charges were laid.

### Wednesday incident

Last Wednesday afternoon at 4:35 p.m. two cars were involved in an accident at the corner of Mill and Wallace Sts.

The car driven by Brenda Griffin, Brampton had estimated \$100 damage and the car driven by Donald Price, Willow St., Acton about \$150 damage.

Cons. Helbling investigated the rear end collision on icy streets.

On Thursday morning at 10:50 a.m. Cons. Kresler investigated the accident at Mill and John Sts.

Drivers were George Kornetz, Georgetown, with estimated \$100 damage, and Raymond Kempel, Kitchener, with no damage to his vehicle.

On Thursday afternoon at 3:35 p.m. Cons. Kresler investigated another accident at Acton Blvd. and Arthur St.

The car driven by William Culler, R. R. 1, Hillsburg, had estimated \$300 damage to the front, with the car driven by Kenneth Marshall, Church St., having estimated \$250 damage to the right doors.

## License issuers watch the traffic

New licenses have been issued at a little faster rate this past week, but there has been no real rush yet at the local office, Watson's Music Store.

The Watsons and their extra help, Mary Anderson, sit inside the show window near the Mill-Main corner and can see by the licenses on cars going by that there's a big rush ahead!

### Less than half

So far 1100 licenses have been sold here — less than half of their supply. They ordered 300 more than last year, and have 1650 on hand to sell.

The plates for Acton all start with the letter I, and the numbers 82 or 83 so far.

### Two year term

This year snowmobile licenses being issued are good for two years. The first allotment is gone, and 254 snowmobile licenses have been sold altogether. Business in that department has slowed down considerably as the season progresses.

This is the third year that Mrs. Anderson has helped the Watsons at license season. Their son Scott also helps after school.



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### Train slices car

### Tuesday morning

# Woman escapes with bruises

Mrs. Bernice Gibbs, R. R. 1, Acton, miraculously escaped serious injury when her small car had the front end completely sliced off by an eastbound train at the First Line railway crossing west of Acton, at 8:27 Tuesday morning.

The 32 year-old woman was taken to Guelph General Hospital by Dr. D. A. Garrett who was passing by. She was released after X-rays and emergency treatment for minor injuries.

Southbound in her 1954 Vauxhall, Mrs. Gibbs said she was unable to avoid the crash. She told police she attempted to stop but skidded onto the tracks. She got out of the car without assistance after the accident.

Engine 1917 struck the car and sliced the front end off like some giant can opener and tossed it about 30 feet to the side of the tracks. The cab and back end of the car, thrown completely around, were virtually unscratched in the collision. The train was not damaged.

Police investigating the collision shook their heads in disbelief. Ordinarily the train would have dragged a car into it or tossed it.

Train driver Michael Boggis of Guelph and engineer

Lesley Earl of Stratford were able to stop the train — first through since Friday — at the cut about 1/4 mile east of the crossing. Meanwhile, another late passenger train was stopped just west of the crossing until investigation was complete.

Trains along the CNR line were unable to operate Saturday, Sunday and Monday because of snow which clogged crossings and tracks. The First Line crossing was cleared that morning by railway sectionmen.

There are no signals or wig wags at the crossing which was the scene of a train-truck crash and resultant fatality in February, 1965, but Esqueping township and the railway are making plans for signals at the present time. The township council approved plans for the installation Monday night — a few hours before the collision.

High snow banks along the First Line partially obscure a view of the railway tracks for southbound traffic. One nearby resident said the heavy snow of the past few weeks and blowing have made the crossing a real hazard.

Constables Connors and Jordan of the North Halton O.P.P. detachment investigated the accident.



## Wheldon Emerson is Halton deputy sheriff

Former Georgetown mayor Wheldon (Steamer) Emerson began new duties as deputy sheriff of Halton County Monday.

A new deputy was needed following the promotion of Mac Sprowl to sheriff when Sheriff Andrew Frank retired.

Mr. Emerson served on the Georgetown council for five years from 1968 and one two-year term as mayor, 1969 and 1970. During his term in office, he was primarily involved with conservation and generating community enthusiasm.

For example, Mr. Emerson initiated a barber-shop quartet in the town.

Finally the pressures from a

growing family and a lack of time made him give it up. Also, as he put it, "Many politicians become dull after too many years in office. I thought it was best to make way for new ideas and I left without any bitterness."

The duties of the sheriff's office are perhaps some of the most unpleasant in the county. They are under the heading of civil law, and include repossessing property and operating county and supreme courts.

Mr. Emerson has been involved with the county for many years, in various ways. He played Junior B hockey for Milton in 1942 and is an honorary member of the Georgetown Rotary Club.

## Plan addition Ukranian camp

Additional housing facilities in the form of housekeeping units covering 800 square feet each are planned for the Ukranian Youth Association's Camp Hemelda on the Fourth Line of Esqueping, just east of Acton.

Steven Kuz, a representative of the association appeared before Esqueping Council Monday night requesting approval of the project. Mr. Kuz told council plans call for construction of about eight units at first, on 90 acres of land adjoining the present camp which covers 100 acres.

Units will be made available especially to young couples of the association who are not able to afford a holiday at a resort. The buildings are to be used in the summer only. Access roads and separate recreational units are also planned. Water for the units would come from a central well.

The association's present Camp Hemelda has been established in Esqueping for 20 years. Facilities include 15 cottages, several playing fields and an olympic-sized swimming pool.

Mr. Kuz said proposed units would be of timber construction, but would have no basements. Present buildings at the camp are constructed on a one block pier. Materials would be purchased from local companies, according to Mr. Kuz.

When deputy-reeve Russell Miller said he thought the buildings should have a three block solid foundation, Mr. Kuz replied the association would comply with any regulations in the township's building by-law.

Council decided to discuss the request further at their next committee meeting. Reeve Tom Hill promised to have an answer for Mr. Kuz within a month.



### First train in three days

CONSTABLE CONNORS of North Halton O.P.P. takes notes at the scene of Tuesday's car-train crash which saw Mrs. Bernice Gibbs, 32, escape with only minor injuries. The train can be seen, where it stopped, down the tracks, while the entire front end of the car, right, was tossed to one side. The rest of the car was untouched in the crash, spinning around to face north.—(Staff Photos)



## Groundhogs cross up researcher

"Maybe the Acton Free Press should have consulted a groundhog instead of a researcher," says Murray Smith Jr. of the recent article in the Free Press, which quoted him about the ancient institution of ground hog day.

"The animals only half-fulfilled my prediction of their time of emergence. Instead of coming out in the last week of February, Dr. Walker spotted the first two animals (both adult males) at 8 a.m. February 12.

"This means they emerged 10 days earlier than last year and only 10 days too late for groundhog day. Maybe next year they will come above ground on February 2," Mr. Smith says, "on their day."

## Gun show

Another gun show will be held this Sunday at Acton Meadows golf club. The event is being sponsored by the Halton Antique Arms Collectors Association, and begins at 9 a.m.

## Spring soon?

Good news! Spring is just around the corner.

Joan Waldie called the Free Press Tuesday to report she had seen not one but two crows drifting over the country that morning.

Alec Johnson reported he had seen one earlier in the week. Perhaps the crows, one of the first harbingers of Spring, can see Spring from their greater height than we poor mortals testily living through one of the worst winters in decades.



## Carnival queen

CHRIS BRUNELLE, a pretty 17 year old brunette, was crowned "Snow Queen" at Acton District High's winter carnival "Ookpik II" last night, (Tuesday). A grade 13 student, Chris was chosen from five finalists in the contest.—(Staff Photo)

### O.P.P. report

## Parking tips from police

During our reporting week of February 7 to February 14, the men at the Acton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police while working a total of 205 hours patrolled 642 miles of town roads.

Three property damage accidents were investigated during the week. The total damage in the three accidents was estimated at \$900.

### Bad driving

The very bad driving conditions were taken into account and no charges were laid in any of the accidents. Nine charges were laid and seven warnings issued to motorists for various infractions of the Highway Traffic Act.

Two charges were laid for operating a vehicle without insurance. One was the operator of a Skidoo. So don't forget when you operate your Skidoo on the roads, make sure the vehicle is insured. The operator and the owner can be charged.

General occurrences investigated numbered five. They were

two cases of reported assaults, a liquor seizure, and two disturbances in local hotels.

### Face wind

Motorists! In cold weather, if you have to sit in a parked car for some time, always try and choose a position facing into the wind. A tail wind can blow carbon monoxide from the exhaust back under the car. From there the deadly invisible and odorless gas can seep into the passenger compartment if there are cracks or rust holes in the flooring. And remember, you young motorists, when you park with your favorite girl to look at the stars make sure you don't back into a snow bank and keep your engine running. You could end up with the stars.

### No insurance

A local man was charged with operating a motorized snow vehicle, without insurance, on highway. The charge by Acton O.P.P. was laid last Friday.