



CBC camera and production crews took over Hotchen's Bakery Monday to film scenes from the story "On the River" which will be shown in the Fall. Star of the play Cosette Lee is shown in the foreground of this picture. Director Colin Smith is at the left. —(Staff Photo)

## Film CBC show at local bakery

Hotchen's Bakery was temporarily transformed into a CBC studio Monday as camera and production crews took over the building to film scenes from the short story "On the River", one of a series of short stories scheduled for showing in the Fall.

**Large crew**  
A crew of 23 people, including five actors and actresses, a director, assistant director, cameramen, lighting experts, prop men, sound equipment technicians and makeup artists were in town for the filming.

It took the group almost the entire day to film a few scenes from the story. When completed the program will be 30 minutes long. The crew now moves on the Uxbridge for more filming at another site.

**Stars here**  
Director of the play is Collin Smith, assistant director is Frank Phillips. Stars of the

scenes filmed in the bakery Monday are Gary McKeehan and Cosette Lee.

A CBC art director chose Hotchen's as the setting for part of the play, after touring several similar shops around the province. Small towns provide the setting for the entire CBC series.

## Church for weekenders

Acton Clergy Association will be providing an opportunity for those who will be away weekends in the summer to attend a service of worship during the week.

Every Wednesday evening from June 18 to September, at 8 p.m., a regular service will be held in one of the town churches, open to all denominations.



HORSEPOWER BACK in 1917 was more apt to be supplied by the horses seen in the field, but there was plenty of vintage power at Crewsons Corners Saturday. Turn inside for story and pictures. —(Staff Photo)

## Robert Little

# Donna Darby top speaker

Donna Darby, a Grade 8 student, placed first in the annual public speaking competition, held at Robert Little School last Thursday.

Speaking on the topic "Dreams", Donna topped eight other competitors to earn the coveted Rachlin Trophy, which has been awarded to the school's top public speaker every year since 1954. Grade 8 student Sharon Phillips placed second. Her topic was "Teachers and the student".

Judges for the contest were Mrs. Vera MacDonald of Georgetown, remedial reading instructor for the Halton County Board of Education, Robert Little vice-principal Mrs. Mary Judd and teacher Mrs. June Doherty.

Donna was awarded first place because of her forceful presentation, audience appeal, poise and manner and the originality of her speech.

Other competitors and their topics were Robert Kilby (John F. Kennedy) and Norman Paulsen (Snow Removal) both from Grade 6; Debra Tuffin (Language) and Daniel Lamarche (Why Men Hunt Rocks), both from Grade 7; and Grade 8 students, Kimberly Tolton (Millionaire's Daughter), Susan Matthews (Water Pollution) and Karen Cole (Surgery).

Every 37 seconds, a patient in a Canadian hospital receives a free blood transfusion.

## Fall hospitalizes local carpenter

An Acton man, Jack Drysdale of 185 McDonald Boulevard, will be confined to Guelph General Hospital for three or four days, following a fall from a scaffold at Beardmore and Company, Tuesday morning, shortly after nine.

Mr. Drysdale, a carpenter with Len Ariss Construction of Guelph, was building forms for a new process tank, being installed

in the Beardmore pollution control plant, when he fell from the scaffold, striking his head on a concrete floor. The blow knocked him unconscious.

Dr. D. A. Garrett attended Mr. Drysdale at the scene before he was taken to Guelph General Hospital by ambulance. He suffered a slight concussion and a 12 stitch cut on the back of the head.



"GEORGE" the Cop directed traffic at the opening of Acton Speedway Sunday afternoon. —(Staff photo)

## Authorize storm sewers serve commercial area

Councillor Bill Coats' suggestion that Acton take a leaf out of Burlington's book and spend a few more mills on capital expenditures was approved by colleagues on Acton Council when a by-law to install storm sewers in the commercial areas of town was passed.

Mr. Coats recommended the town pay back the \$43,000 debentures necessary in 10 instead of the usual 20 years and

from the Department of Highways. By-law must still be approved by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Council discussed the short term debenture issue thoroughly, noting short term debentures were desirable but the annual rate of payment must take prime consideration.

Complete cost of the project is estimated at \$83,000, \$40,000 of which will be financed by grants

from the Department of Highways. By-law must still be approved by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

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Clerk Joe Hurst told council the town's debenture debt has

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## Bank takes over

# Company in financial difficulty almost 100 employees laid off

People in Acton and district are anxiously eyeing the confused state of financial affairs at the Mason Knitting Co. which have resulted in layoffs to almost 100 employees—mainly women—over the last few weeks.

Only about 30 of the 128 employees who worked when the plant was at full production a few weeks ago, are still employed. They are finishing up an inventory of the firm's assets and completing production lines.

The company's difficulties came to a head when the Bank of Nova Scotia decided to enforce Section 88 of the Banking Act which allows a bank to make claims against inventory when accounts receivable are used as collateral for loans. The Act permits the bank to seize inventory when loans are defaulted.

### Sell inventory

The bank's interest in the company is being looked after by two accountants from the firm of McDonald, Currie and Co. acting for J. S. Whitehead, an agent employed by the Bank of Nova Scotia. Under their guidance the inventory is being sold so the bank can realize some return on their loan.

No one has petitioned for bankruptcy but the two men in charge said the situation could change for better or worse in hours.

"The bank is very interested in getting the plant back on its feet," said accountants H. Vernon Paige and Neale E. Trewartha, in charge of the plant's inventory. However, they admit their firm is hampered in many areas by a lack of information.

Will the plant be forced to close its doors and throw 130 people out of work?

### Three possibilities

Both accountants cautioned against too much optimism but told the Free Press several people were interested in buying Mason Knitting. They saw three possibilities for the company:

1. Creditors could petition for bankruptcy.  
2. Mason Knit could voluntarily file for bankruptcy.  
3. Someone could buy the company now or after bankruptcy.

There are many positive factors to encourage a buyer to purchase the plant and resume full production. A big asset is the Acton labor pool. Employees know the business and have a reputation for producing quality goods.

"Anyone buying the plant

would miss a good bet if they didn't take employees back," said Mr. Paige and Mr. Trewartha.

**Appraisal daily**  
However, as it stands now, the situation must be appraised every day. Employees are laid off or kept on as the situation warrants. Lay-offs have made no distinction between production workers and executives.

The cautious optimism exuded by the two accountants made note that the company had received orders from Arabia this week, a fact they found encouraging and indicative of the extent the company is known.

**Negotiate contract**  
Employees of Mason Knit are represented by the Amalgamated

Clothing Workers and company and union were in the throes of negotiating a new contract when the news was dropped like a bombshell by lawyer Donald L. Black, representing the company.

"We were making progress with negotiations and had high hopes of finalizing the contract when we were informed of the serious financial difficulties," said union representative Jim Harlock of Kitchener. He told the Free Press it was an awful shock for the firm when it was coming out of a slow period very well.

Price Henderson, shop chairman at Mason Knit, backed Mr. Harlock's comments, noting there was shock throughout the plant when the bank notified

them the inventory disclosed a sizable deficit.

Mr. Henderson squelched rumors circulating in town that employees laid off were not receiving unemployment insurance. "Everyone entitled to receive unemployment insurance is," he told the Free Press and the bank is paying the employer's contribution. There are still negotiations over severance and holiday pay, however, which both union men thought would soon be solved amicably.

### Follows consolidation

Ironically the present financial plight of Mason Knit follows only by a few months consolidation of the company with S. Lennard and Sons Limited of Dundas. The Dundas plant was closed, some employees moved to Acton and it was anticipated the expanded Acton plant would produce more than the two combined.

The decision to consolidate in Acton was due to the efficiency and modern equipment of the plant here.

Mason Knit has always been a steady employer since the company started operations here 45 years ago, founded by Amos Mason, an Acton citizen who later was elected first mayor.

The company became Mason Knitting Limited in February of 1968 when George Mason, successor to his father at the company's helm, sold to a group headed by Brendan Swan. In turn, B. H. Dorfman of Toronto bought out other directors in 1970 and assumed ownership.

## Thief unlocks drawer gets Foodland \$1700

Investigation continues following a daring theft at Foodland store last Thursday afternoon. An unknown man opened a locked drawer in the office in the store and took \$1700 in cash, ready for use in cashing cheques on payday.

Assistant manager Harry McKillop, who had seen the man in the office pretending to use the telephone, discovered the loss very soon but was unable to trace him.

Three men were apparently involved in the plot to take the cash. Two entered the store together, another separately. But apparently they drove away together.

All were well dressed. In fact, a Gerber salesman, who was kept busy talking to one of them, said later he thought from his manner and dress he must have been a supervisor.

Another man kept a cashier occupied at the front of the store. The man who had gone into the office came out and inquired about beef before leaving.

**Question neighbors**  
Customers said they saw the men heading over toward Canadian Tire—likely to their car.

A police inquiry of neighbors and nearby businesses brought no more information.

Cons. Bruce MacArthur and Terry Devine, who are investigating, ask anyone who may have information about the theft to contact the police office.

There were few people in the store at the time of the theft, early in the afternoon.

**Used phone**  
Foodland had always let customers use the phone in the office if they wished, so it was not unusual to see a stranger headed with the receiver in his hand.

A similar theft occurred Saturday in Milton at the Super Save store in the plaza. Good descriptions of two men were obtained.

# P.C. nominations in Acton May 26

For the first time in history, Halton West Progressive Conservatives will hold a nominating convention in the northern end of the riding—in Acton.

Four cabinet ministers of the Ontario government will be special guests at the convention in Acton district high school on Wednesday, May 26.

And a fifth cabinet minister, of course, will be the Hon. George Kerr, Minister of Energy and Resources Management, who will again contest the Halton West nomination. He has held the seat since 1967 when the new riding was created.

### Welch here

The guest list of cabinet ministers will be headed by the Hon. Bob Welch, who holds the controversial educational portfolio Premier Bill Davis vacated, and includes the Minister of Mines Lee Bernier, and Ministers without Portfolio the Hon. Jim Snow and Hon. Richard Potter.

Organizers of the convention hope it will be a "fun" thing. They are bringing the Burlington band up to parade through Acton prior to the convention meeting, along with a strong Burlington contingent of Tories.

Buses will convey band and boosters to town.

The decision to make Acton the

venue of the convention was a wrinkle dreamed up following a recent visit by Mr. Kerr to town when he conferred with party workers, who pointed out the town had never been host to a nomination meeting. They figured it was past due.

The executive went into a huddle and the proposal was turned into reality. The riding of Halton West is dominated by Burlington but includes Nassagaweya township, a strip of northern Esqueving and the town of Acton.

The Tories hope to jam the Acton district high school auditorium with supporters and anyone who enjoys an election meeting. Mr. Kerr's executive assistant Gordon Hampson points out it will also give voters in the

north end of the riding an opportunity to attend the convention without travelling far.

### Contest post?

Although no one has come forward to contest the seat held by the Hon. George Kerr, there is always a possibility.

Premier Davis recently stated in Hamilton that the popular Burlington lawyer will head the new Department of the Environment when the portfolio is to be filled, providing an even wider role for George Kerr who stepped into one of the hottest posts in the province when he was appointed to head the Department of Energy and Resources in June of 1969. He was reappointed in February of this year by Premier Davis.



ROBERT LITTLE Grade 8 student Donna Darby proudly displays the Rachlin Trophy she won in the school's annual public speaking competition, last Wednesday. With Donna

are runner-up Sharon Phillips (left), Robert Little teacher Ena Gibson and Vera MacDonald of Georgetown, one of the three judges. —(Staff Photo)