

Council asks voters to decide extended franchise

"Are you in favor of extending the right to vote at municipal elections for members of council to all persons of full age, who are British subjects and who have resided in the municipality for at least one year, in accordance with the Municipal Franchise Extension Act?"

That's the question eligible voters will be asked to decide on at Acton's next municipal election in December 1972. By a narrow margin of 5 to 4, Acton Council voted last night (Tuesday) to allow the question to be placed on the ballot next

year. Councillors Marks, Coats, Elliott, Masales and Chapman voted in favor of holding the plebiscite. Mayor Doby, Reeve Oakes, Deputy-reeve McKenzie and Councillor Greer opposed the move.

If the plebiscite shows a majority of electors are in favor of the extended franchise, it will mean the end of present restrictions, which require that citizens be either landowners or tenants, in order to vote at municipal elections.

Explains reasons Councillor Marks, who

authored the motion to put the question to the people, explained his reasons.

"We want to give the people of Acton a chance to decide if this is a good idea or not. We all have our own personal reasons why it is or why it isn't," he said.

He denied the move was designed to have more young people vote, claiming a survey proved that two thirds of the town's population, who would be allowed to vote if the plebiscite is approved, are oldsters and that only one third are in the 18-21 age bracket.

Marks was replying to a suggestion by Councillor Greer that if the group decided to pack council with a lot of young blood they could.

"If they decided they were going to put in a dome in Acton, all the young people would be voting for it," Greer suggested.

One list

Seconder of the Marks motion, Councillor Bill Coats said one reason he supported it was that there might be a number of plebiscites coming up, including those on liquor and fluoridation, at which all persons of legal age

must be allowed to vote.

"If we had the extended franchise, we might get down to having only one voters list for all elections," he said.

Deputy reeve Pat McKenzie claimed council would in effect be endorsing the extended franchise by allowing the question to be placed on the ballot.

"We'd be saying as responsible elected people, we're supporting this. We'd be saying to the people on the street we think this is right," he suggested.

Marks disagreed council would

be endorsing the question by approving the motion to place it on the ballot.

"All we're saying to the people is we need help to decide on this, what do you think," Marks said.

Councillor Masales discounted Greer's suggestion that all young people might vote in a block.

"A lot of people were fooled by the provincial election," Masales reminded council. "I don't think you can say young people are going to go against the grain."

Councillor Elliott suggested the older-younger argument was a ridiculous one. "This may

sound silly, but maybe the young people in town wouldn't like to see so many oldsters given a vote," he said.

More responsibility

Reeve Oakes said he thought oldsters have a greater sense of responsibility because they've been around longer and have learned more.

Restating his reasons for proposing the motion, Marks said, "I was concerned about some of us who have parents who are no longer home owners, people who are an intricate part of the community. They are in

fact contributing greatly to the welfare of our community," he claimed.

Greer said he didn't want Acton to be a gulinea pig.

"Not enough municipalities have tried this yet," he said.

Before the motion was voted on, Marks said he was not personally in favor of the phrase "who are British subjects", in the motions, but that it was part of the wording of the Municipal Franchise Extension Act.

Moose pasture goes for \$104,000

Acton Council has accepted in principle the sale of 48 acres of town land south of Cobblehill Road to Alteo Construction at a price of \$104,000 in spite of Councillor Peter Marks' charge that council are doing local taxpayers a great disservice by selling it so cheap.

Alteo made an offer to purchase the property, but the offer became null and void when the purchaser failed to make the down payment by the required date, according to a legal opinion secured by council's administration committee.

Mayor Les Doby said at a

recent council meeting, council is every bit as much to blame the deal was not closed, because it failed to come up with a zoning decision on the land.

Council applied to the Department of Municipal Affairs to have the land rezoned residential months ago, but the

department's conservation branch wrote back to say a certain amount of it must be held for conservation.

Marks maintained the land has increased in value since the time the original offer to purchase was made. He said the committee felt at the time \$104,000 was a fair

price for farm land.

"We advertised farm land and that's what we thought we sold. We now have a new ball game. That's prime residential land," he claimed. The land has been described by some as a "moose pasture".

Estimating 32 of the 48 acres

will be zoned residential, Marks said the town would receive less than \$3,000 an acre for the land, in view of the fact they're already committed to a \$10,000 brokerage fee. Land sold in Acton recently has gone for as high as \$6,000 an acre, he said.

(Continued on Page Eight)



CHRISTMAS SEAL campaign supplies have been distributed at the schools by Halton County TB and RD Association president H. H. Hinton (centre) and Acton board member Mrs.

David Swetman (left). Receiving the seals and counter display trees, at the Robert Little school are Becky Baxter, Janet Adair of Eden Mills and principal G. W. McKenzie.—(Staff Photo)

—CHURCH SERVICE folders restaurant place mats and Christmas tree decorations are being supplied in town by the Halton County Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association.

Appoint Mrs. Mann to help unemployed

Efforts of Halton M.P. Rud Whiting to obtain some form of unemployment officer in Acton was rewarded this week by the announcement that Mrs. A. K. Mann of Arthur St. has been appointed a claims agent for the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Mrs. Mann will assist anyone in filling out claims for unemployment insurance at no charge. Claims will then be forwarded to the Unemployment Insurance Commission office.

The new service will commence as soon as Mrs. Mann

completes a course with the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Mrs. Mann's main duties will be to assist applicants with the initial application but she will not be empowered to interpret the Act.

Having problems Unemployed people in Acton and district were having a problem with filling out applications and it meant a trip to the Unemployment Insurance Commission office in Waterloo, an inconvenience few relished. The Acton Liberal Association was made aware of the problem

and they in turn notified M.P. Rud Whiting.

"Rud worked hard to get this service for us," said Halton Liberal officer Lou Bonnette.

"It shows he takes an interest in this area and spares no effort to see we are accommodated. We had a unique situation here with the shutting down of Mason Knit," said Acton Liberal Association president Aldo Braida.

"I'll be watching closely to see how it works out," M.P. Whiting told the Free Press.



WEARING A black arm band protesting the Amchitka atomic bomb blast is Cathy Ashley, a student at the high school. Many students wore the symbol.—(Staff Photo)

Two Rockwood women survive car-train crash

A near tragic accident occurred on the C.N.R. railway crossing on Watson Road just north of No. 7 Highway inside the Guelph City Limits on Monday afternoon at 3.40 p.m. when two Rockwood passengers were hit by a diesel Canadian National No. 4525 as it travelled west into the city.

Under intensive care at the Guelph General Hospital with conditions serious but not believed to be critical, are Mrs. Jean Lucy Meadows of Division Street and Mrs. Dorothy Elga

Bolton of George Street. Both of the ladies have had operations for punctured lungs and are suffering from face and head lacerations. Jean Meadows has a broken nose and cheek bones with severe eye injury.

Car demolished Travelling west on No. 7 Highway, the driver and owner of the 1967 blue Vallant made a right hand turn on Watson Road and failed to see the train approaching. With a quarter of a mile clear vision Corporal Saunders of the Guelph Police

Division cannot at this time account for the accident but feels that it was a miracle that the passengers survived. The right front of the lead engine struck the right rear quarter panel of the car, spun it around and embedded it into the train traffic signal standards. The car was completely demolished.

The engineer driving the train was Jack Hurley of Stratford, Ontario. Ironically, Mrs. Meadows and Mrs. Bolton had successfully driven home from Southampton

the evening previous and were happy to have arrived safely as driving conditions had appeared hazardous.

Mrs. Meadows whose husband had met a similar fate in 1967 when his car rammed into another vehicle which cut straight across in front of him on the No. 7 highway by Stevenson's fruit market was considered to be a capable and reliable driver. She was taking Mrs. Bolton into Guelph to see a doctor when the accident occurred. Guelph Police continue investigation.

Bell asks for hike

Increases in telephone rates proposed by Bell Canada could mean as much as 45 cents a month for individual line residence service in Acton, with a similar percentage increase for business service.

Present and proposed residential rates for the Acton, Rockwood and Georgetown exchanges are as follows:

ACTON		
	Present	Proposed
Individual	\$4.65	\$5.00
Two-Party	3.60	3.95
Multi-Party	3.25	3.55
ROCKWOOD AND GEORGETOWN		
Individual	4.80	5.25
Two-Party	3.80	4.15
Multi-Party	3.35	3.65

Bell's basic rates are figured on the number of telephones you can reach without paying a long distance charge, plus application of a formula based on distances between exchange centres.

Bell is pinning a great deal of its case on inflation when it appears before the Canadian Transport Commission to justify its appeal for an increase in telephone rates. The company says expenses are rising faster than revenues with present rates. This is due to increased salaries, wages and benefits, increased research and development expenses and increased material costs and depreciation expenses, the company maintains.

Bell claims to have done all in its power to help fight inflation but says it does not have additional revenues to meet the current and projected needs of its subscribers. Area manager Lloyd Benby says two or three subdivisions in his area would have to wait a long time for telephones because the company does not have the capital to expand.

Main feature of Bell's application to the Canadian Transport Committee is the 9½ per cent increase in the cost of the basic monthly service. Towns with under 1,000 telephones will pay a higher percentage but the increase would not surpass 60 cents because the bill for basic service is smaller to begin with.

In total Bell Canada is seeking \$78.1 millions spread out over 6,200,000 telephones. The company says it hopes to spend \$70 million over the next five years on improvements in rural service. Main aims of the rural program are to reduce the number of customers on multi-party lines and replace almost 30,000 miles of exposed wire, mainly with below ground cable.

Bell applied for an increase in 1968 for \$83.6 million but the Canadian Transport Commission allowed the company only \$27.5 million. The company returned in 1970 asking for \$30 million and was granted \$22,500,000.

The company expects its application will be opposed by the Ontario Mayors and reeves who went on record before objecting to the increase.



FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON came Sunday and it wasn't long until children were out romping in the white stuff, some of them for the first time. Robert Jennings, a relative newcomer to Canadian winters enjoys his first walking encounter by rolling a snowball to throw at his father behind the camera. Sunday's snow was joined by more Monday and Tuesday but the weatherman predicts Indian summer is due in today (Wednesday). Indian summer, shrewd forecasters say, comes after the first snow. It allowed the Indians time to finish off their final chores before they climbed into birch bark lodges for the real cold months.—(Jim Jennings Photo)

Money is available

Acton service clubs and other public bodies should take a good look at the new federal government program "Labor Intensified" if they want to build a new swimming pool or something else of an unprofitable nature, M.P. Rud Whiting told The Free Press this week.

The Government has introduced the program in an effort to employ more people and get the economy rolling. Grants are available for community projects and Mr. Whiting thinks Acton clubs and other public bodies stand a very good chance

of obtaining money. "I'm not guaranteeing anything," he said, "but interested clubs or other organizations should submit an application." Interested parties can either get in touch with Mr. Whiting or enquire at one of the Canada Manpower offices which have information on the program.

The Halton M.P. says that perhaps some people are not aware that there is another program operated by the Department of Agriculture which has grants for erection of community buildings.

Break-in foiled?

While John Turkosz was working in St. Alban's church Saturday night, a window was broken and apparently someone tried to gain entry through the kitchen. The caretaker apparently frightened the person or persons off, and he notified police.

On Friday at 12.55 a.m. police investigated an accident which involved one moving car and two parked cars. Damage was estimated at \$750. A Milton man was charged with impaired

driving. November 6 at 3.15 p.m. two cars were in collision and police investigated. Drivers were John McMullen, St. Catharines, and Larry Dredge, Milton. Damage was estimated at \$450 and there were no injuries.

A car reported stolen from Mill St. Nov. 2 was recovered the next day on Bower Ave. Owner was Ethel McMullen, Acton.

A small basement window at Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle was broken and police informed.



BEANIE BRIGADE... representing the four house league teams at A.H.S. are Gary Masters, Bill DeHaan, Shelly Wensley and Ron Loutlet. Colored beanies show who's who.—(Staff Photo)

See Page Seven