



Authorize interim levy

An interim tax levy, approved by Acton Council at their final regular meeting of the year, could save the town as much as \$10,600 according to Deputy-Reeve Pat McKenzie. The interim levy becomes effective in 1972.

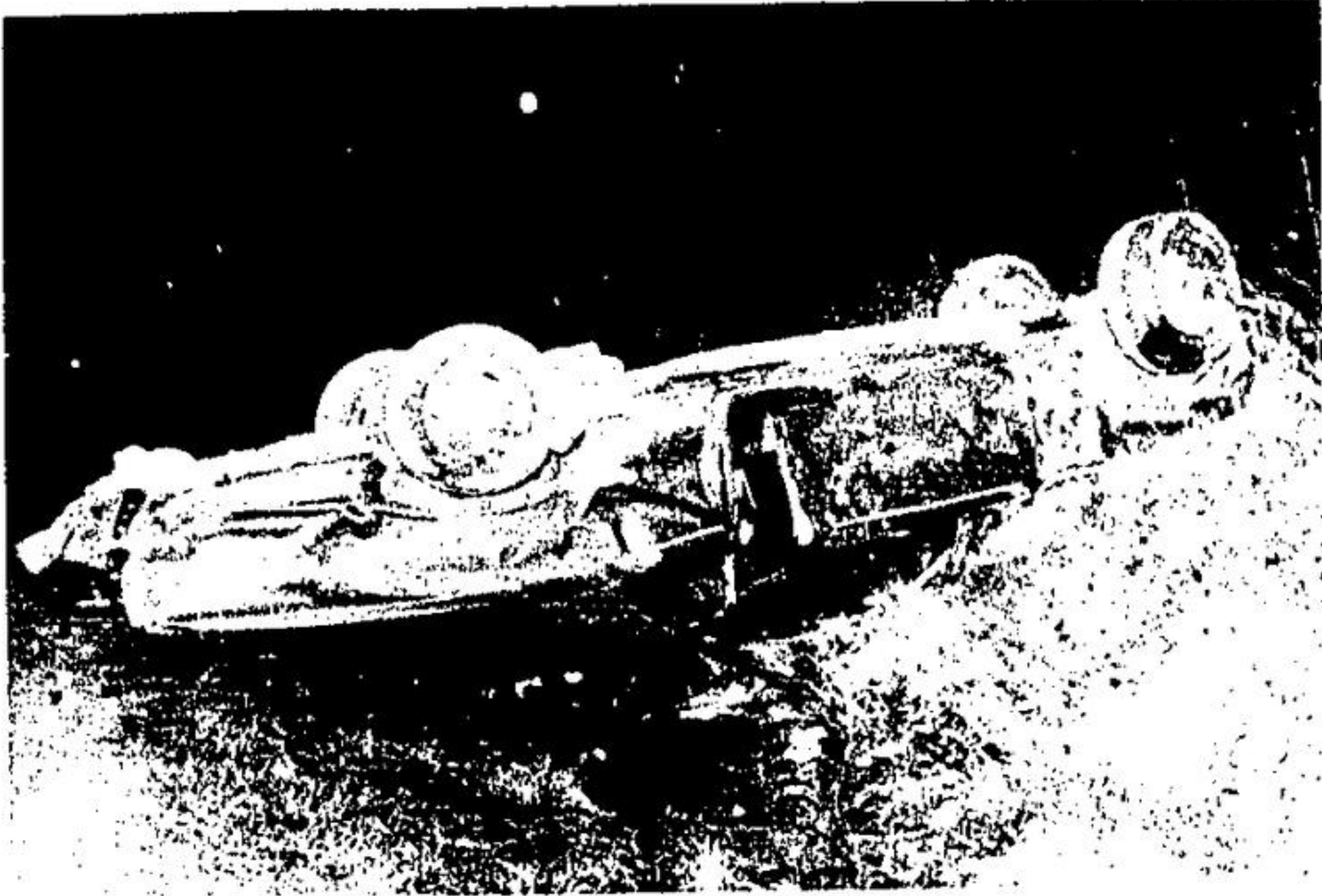
Beginning in the new year, taxes will be due in two instalments, the first on or before January 30 and the second on or before March 31. A penalty of one half of 1 per cent is to be added to overdue taxes on the first day of each month they remain in default.

Previously, taxes were collected in four instalments spread through the year. Council passed the by-law in an effort to reduce substantially the amount of money they have to borrow each year to meet payments, until taxes are collected.

Councillor Bill Coats estimated the town borrowed over \$300,000 in the first four months of last year alone.

A motion to have the monthly penalty on unpaid taxes set at 1 per cent, instead of one half of 1 per cent, was defeated by a narrow 5-4 margin.

Mayor Duby voted against the move along with Councillors Chapman, Coats, Marks and Elliott. Supporting the motion were Reeve Oakes, Deputy-Reeve McKenzie, Councillor Greer and Councillor Masales.



THE DRIVER AND TWO passengers emerged with only a few bruises and cuts from this upside down vehicle in a Christmas eve collision at Crewson's Corners. Earl Butler of R.R. 2, driver, Darlene Welch and Chris Denny of Acton were taken to hospital by a passing motorist.—(Staff Photo)



SEVEN PEOPLE WERE IN THIS car when it plunged over an embankment after a collision at Crewson's Corners Christmas eve and came to rest in a swamp. Police report only minor injuries from the crash which occurred about 5 p.m. Friday.—(Staff Photo)

Christmas eve collision injures 10

A spectacular two car Christmas eve collision on 7 Highway at Crewson's Corners resulted in an estimated \$3,800 damage and sent 10 persons to Guelph hospital. Nine were treated for minor injuries.

One child was admitted to intensive care and expected to be released from hospital today (Wednesday).

A westbound car driven by Ken Wilson, 21, of 138 Ashbrook Ct., Milton, ended down an embankment into a swollen swamp on the south side of the road. Passengers included Nancy Wilson, Sean Wilson and a family from Ottawa, Andre, Dianne,

Kimberley and Jennifer Ouellette. Two of the injured were kept overnight in hospital for observation.

Driver of the other car, Earl Butler, 20, of R.R. 2, Acton, and passengers Chris Denny and Darlene Welch received only minor injuries although the vehicle landed upside down in the ditch, on the north side of the highway.

Passers-by aid

The collision occurred just west of the corner. Soon after it happened passers-by had aided the injured and driven them to Guelph hospital. Passengers in the Wilson

car were dumped into the water along with Christmas presents.

One unidentified man threw everything out of his car, bundled the injured in and drove them directly to the hospital. Then a man in a pick-up truck drove the remaining pair to hospital. The driver and passengers in the Butler car were driven to hospital by a friend, when North Hallow O.P.P. and an ambulance arrived all the occupants of both cars had gone.

The Wilsons and Ouellette were returning to Milton for dinner when the collision occurred. Plans to drive the

Ouellette family to Toronto International Airport for the flight back to their Ottawa home were necessarily postponed.

Mr. Wilson told the Free Press that the child in intensive care at the Guelph hospital was believed to have swallowed swamp water tainted with gasoline. The child was making good progress Tuesday and was expected to be released that day or Wednesday.

John Bol, viewing his umpteenth collision at the corner, said the hamlet should be renamed "Gruesome Corners" because of the spate of accidents there this year.



Prize winning Braida home on Longfield Rd.

Quiet, well lit Christmas

Christmas in Acton and district was quiet.

It was green.

The traditional dreaming of a white Christmas worked no miracles and snow was conspicuous by its absence.

Despite the lack of snow, the town was festooned with lights and holiday decorations that outdid anything so far. Some of it was prompted by the hydro commission contest, no doubt, but also to celebrate one of the most joyous holidays of the year.

Hydro commissioners were more than happy with the response to their contest for the best decorated houses. They felt the town was brighter than ever.

Shoppers turned the final week before Christmas into a bonanza, filling local stores with buyers.

Quiet eve

Christmas eve in Acton was quiet. People stayed home with their families and many attended the traditional candlelight services and midnight mass at Trinity United, St. Alban's and St. Joseph's churches. Other churches held Christmas services on Sunday.

Police reported few incidents as the bachelors of the force patrolled leaving constables with families free to stay home. At

New Year's the bachelors are relieved and the others take over.

Most disappointed people in town and district were those who received skis, sleighs or snowmobiles from Santa Claus. They bemoaned the lack of snow and some searched vainly in northern points for some winter haven with plenty of the white stuff. But even the northern cupboard was bare.

Weather change

Acton had a whole gamut of weather conditions Monday. Blowing snow in the morning turned to freezing rain all afternoon. Then the temperature rose, the ice melted, and a stiff breeze came up as skies cleared. By the middle of the night streets were clear and the snow started again.

Tuesday morning there it was snowing in Acton, there was rain in Rockwood and Guelph.

Fairy Lake was slushy last week, but boys were out skating on it on the weekend.

Town workmen were out sanding roads and sidewalks Monday, while the district crews were out on the highways. Despite their efforts driving was very treacherous. Even the sanders had trouble getting up some hills and many drivers reported skids and near accidents. Accidents in the area were luckily minor and there was just one accident in town blamed on the storm.

Driving conditions were good Christmas Day. Some golfers were reported out playing on the weekend.

Three accidents during week

Three accidents were investigated this week by Acton O.P.P., just one of them during the bad ice storm Monday.

On December 23 a pedestrian Mrs. Hanne Schroeder, Elizabeth Dr., suffered a bump to the back of the head was treated at Acton Medical Centre.

Driver of the car involved was Handy Weldon, Mowbray Place. The accident occurred at 9 p.m. on Mill St. E.

Mrs. Schroeder was crossing the street when the accident happened.

On Monday, when road conditions were icy, Mrs. Anella Aksamit of Rockwood was driving on Main St. S. when the car struck a hydro pole. The pole was broken off at the bottom and damage to the car was estimated at \$700 to the front-end.

Other police detachments in the vicinity were swamped with accident calls Monday during the storm. Highway 401 was particularly bad keeping the North Hallow detachment at Milton busy.

Collision

On December 24 two cars were involved in an accident on Willow St. S. about 1:40 p.m.

Drivers were Ray Swackhamer, R.R. 2, Acton and Kirsten Sorensen, Rockwood and the Swackhamer car had about \$100 damage.

The accident happened when one of the cars was pulling out of the angle parking lot by Moss Hardware.

Installation postponed

Installation of new officers of Walker Lodge, planned for Monday evening, was postponed due to bad weather.

New Year's resolution

Deputy-Reeve Pat McKenzie thinks Acton Council should make a New Year's resolution to conduct their meetings in a more orderly fashion.

Chairman for the committee of the whole session of this year's final regular meeting, the deputy-reeve suggested meetings could be improved, if councillors took more care to direct their remarks to the chairman. He also mentioned the possibility of having councillors stand, whenever they wished to speak.

Speakers always stand at county council meetings.

Veteran councillor Jack Greer saw only one disadvantage to McKenzie's suggestion.

"Peter might get flat feet," he chuckled, in obvious reference to Councillor Marks who usually doesn't hesitate to speak up.

Marks demonstrated a willingness to consider the proposal by standing to propose the motion of adjournment!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? Turn to the editorial page and find out.

Christmas bill delights lady

Christmas bills may worry some people but one delighted Acton lady wouldn't trade hers for \$999.

She received a wallet, with a \$1,000 bill enclosed, from her husband for Christmas. She still hasn't got over the shock.

"He asked me dozens of times what I wanted for Christmas and I never did give him a straight answer," she said.

"When I opened the present I thought at first it was a \$100, then \$500 but it finally became clear it was a \$1,000 bill."

There were no bills of that large a denomination in the Acton banks. The husband procured the only one in Guelph.

Apprehended

Two juveniles were apprehended by Acton O.P.P. last Wednesday for the theft of minor items from three stores. Restitution was made.

Carollers raise first funds for Acton's 1974 Centennial

Acton's 1974 centennial may seem a long way ahead but already money has been raised and deposited for a newly opened centennial fund.

Members of the Acton School of Dance deposited \$65.00 with bank manager Don MacDonald Thursday morning, the receipts from their annual Christmas carolling the previous night.

The Carollers under the direction of Joyce Carpenter sang carols and Christmas songs in most of the areas of Acton, being transported by bus and using the Acton Firefighters'

public address system. At one point they joined Acton Citizens' Band on the steps of the YMCA carolling to appreciative Wednesday night shoppers.

Residents were invited to join in the singing and many did standing on doorsteps or joining the young singers at the microphone on the clear, crisp winter night.

The chorus plans to repeat the carol singing again next year and build up the fund further.

Appear on TV

The day before Christmas four of the girls appeared on the

Centennial for St. Alban's

1972 marks the centennial year of St. Alban's as a parish. The coming year will be filled with centennial celebrations.

Archdeacon Brillinger, rector from 1934 to 1937, will be the first in a series of rectors visiting here. He will be preaching Sunday, January 9, and a reception is being planned to follow in the parish hall.



ACTON SCHOOL OF DANCE members donated \$65 they raised by carol singing to the Acton Centennial cause Thursday morning at the Toronto-Dominion bank where manager Don MacDonald, treasurer for the newly organized centennial commission, accepted the money. The girls travelled by bus donated by Tyler Transport and with the aid of a public address system from the firefighters sang carols in almost all parts of Acton. Left to right are Bonnie Bristow,

Diane Bousfield, Lorrie Pickles, Cathy Ashley hands the money over to Mr. MacDonald while commission member Paul Nielsen watches. Hidden among taller carollers is Vicky Bristow. Not shown in the photo but taking part in the ceremony were Barb Pratt, Carol Pickles and school dance teacher Joyce Carpenter who organizes the annual carol sing.—(Jack Carpenter Photo)