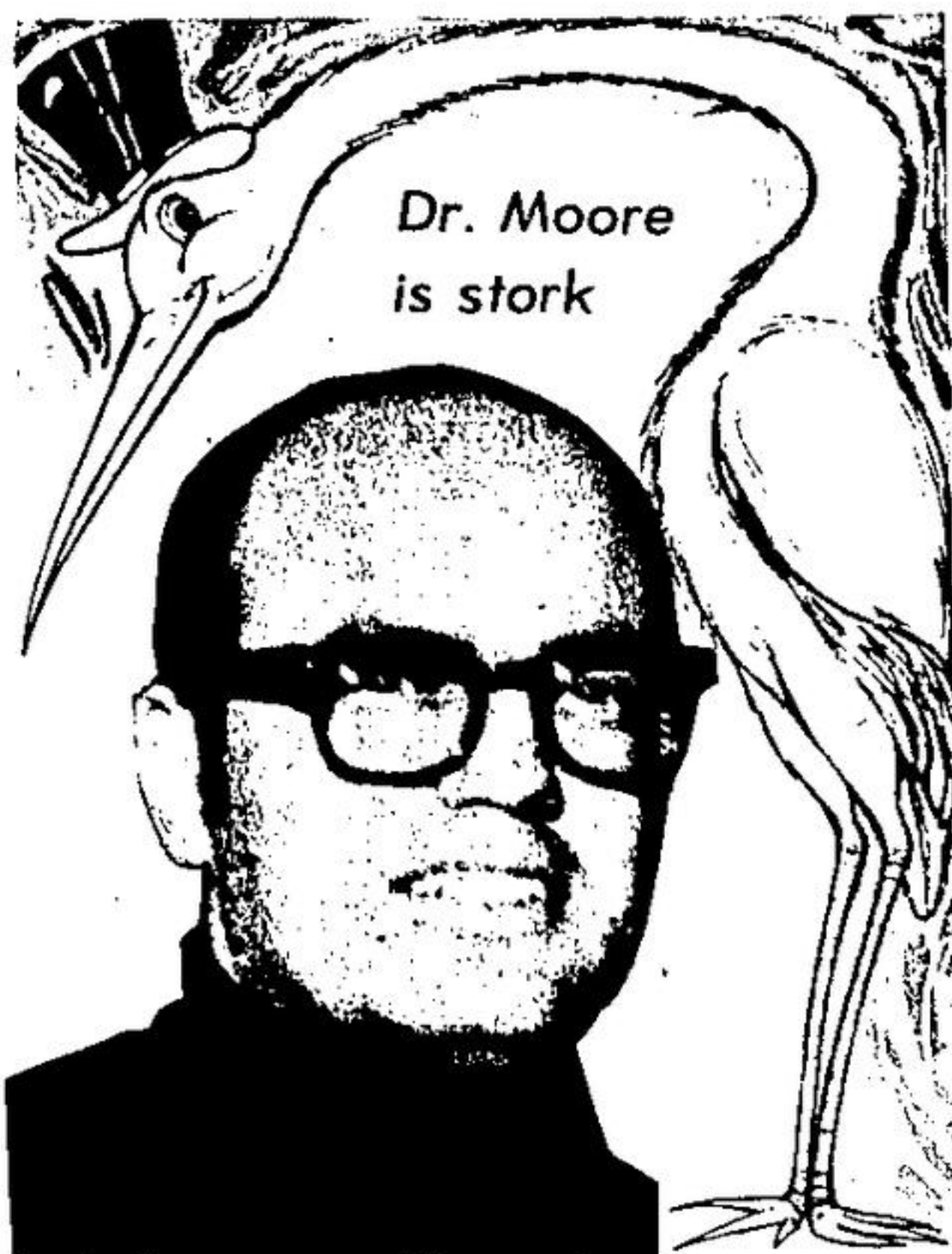




Photo by Lorraine

Wendy Mason and Tracey Anne



Dr. Moore is stork



Anne Perry and Michelle Leanne

Photo by Lorraine

The Acton Free Press

Ninety-Seventh Year. — No. 36

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1972

Sixteen Pages—Fifteen Cents.

Leap Year daughters

Birthdays once every four years haven't yet begun to worry two appealing infant girls, born Tuesday, February 29 at Guelph General Hospital. The Leap Year charmers are Michelle Leanne Perry, second daughter for Anne and Don Perry, Main St. N., and Tracey Anne Mason, first child of Wendy and John Mason of Aberfoyle.

Delighted grandparents for Michelle are Mr. and Mrs. Bill McCabe and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Perry, Acton and for Tracey, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kennedy, R. R. 2, Rockwood and Corp. and Mrs. Ray Mason of Acton.

Same doctor

Both babies were delivered by Dr. Brian Moore of the Acton Medical group. Michelle was born at 9.07 a.m. and weighed six pounds, 8½ ounces. Tracey arrived at 9.48 a.m. and weighed seven pounds, 2½ ounces.

The Perrys have another daughter, Stacey Lee, who's now 22 months old. Don Perry is associated in business with his father at Lakeview Discount Centre.

John Mason, formerly of Acton, works at the Ford plant at Oakville and they live at Aberfoyle.

Third birth

There was another Leap Year birth in the district, too — with a difference.

Duncan Moffat, well-known Nassagaweya farmer, had a leap year calf born Tuesday. In his 36 years of farming, it was his first leap year calf!

Snowmobile

Accident kills electrician

A snowmobile accident Sunday claimed the life of electrician contractor Antonino Gitto, Guelph, a former resident of Acton. He was 29.

Mr. Gitto had been snowmobiling with friends in Puslinch township south of Arkell when it is believed he lost control of the machine rounding a curve. The snowmobile went over a bank, throwing Mr. Gitto against a tree.

He was taken to Guelph General hospital but pronounced dead on arrival. The accident happened about 1.43 a.m. between the 9th and 10th concessions south of county road 34.

Business grew

Mr. Gitto owned and operated Nino Gitto Electric Ltd. in Guelph. He started the business in 1966. As the business grew he moved it from his house to York Rd. and then Victoria Rd.

He is survived by his wife the former Maria Jansen, daughter Anita, son Nicola; parents Mr. and Mrs. Domenico Gitto, Guelph; brothers Horace of Oakville, Joseph of Milton and Jack of Toronto; sisters Mrs. Giovanna

(Carmela) Mainone of Weston and Mrs. Giacomo (Maria) Rosella of Etobicoke.

Requiem high mass was celebrated at Holy Rosary church Tuesday morning. Burial was in Marymount cemetery.

This is the first snowmobile fatality in the Guelph area. It was one of four in Ontario over the weekend.

Youths charged

Two youths, aged 17 and 21, were charged with causing a disturbance after they were fighting and swearing on Mill St. last Thursday evening at 6:50 p.m.

Geese return

If you didn't have your eyes down warily stepping through slush this morning, you might have seen 40 to 50 geese flying back north.

Ernie McEaney phoned the Free Press Wednesday morning to pass on the good news.

Halton of future - - two cities?

Halton of the future—will it be two separate cities, one in the north and one in the south?

It could be, according to Roger Cloutier, deputy clerk of Burlington, who has prepared some study material recommending such a set-up to one of the TECO (technical co-ordinating committee) sub-committees of Halton County Council.

Sneak preview

His report, apparently supposed to be a confidential draft of a proposal his sub-committee is studying, was placed on the agenda of Milton Council's meeting Monday by mistake.

"It had no business being there," Cloutier told this newspaper the morning after the meeting. "It was just a piece of study material for our committee, and I just sent copies of the draft to six members of our committee. It has not been adopted by the committee. It's just an idea."

Start Saturday evening Masses

As a result of new diocesan regulations, Catholics in Acton and district will be able to fulfil Sunday mass obligations by attending mass Saturday evening.

Father J. J. Gillen announced that Saturday evening masses will start at St. Joseph's Church this week at 7 p.m. and there will be a change in time for one of the two Sunday masses. One will be said at the regular hour of 9 a.m. and another at 11 a.m., instead of the usual 10:30.

Saturday evening masses are designed to make it more convenient for Catholics to attend mass in the changing social and working environment of modern society. Although it is relatively recent in the Hamilton diocese, of which Acton is a part, they have been held for some time in other Canadian dioceses.

Hope to save hand

There's still hope that Ed Heffernan's right hand can be saved, following an accident at Beardmore Tuesday of last week. He is in Guelph General Hospital where it's reported all possible is being done.

His right hand was crushed and burned in a hot plate press and he was rushed to hospital by Les Duby.

Mr. Duby, who is safety-coordinator for the plant, says it's been a long time since there has been a serious accident in the plant. The machine was equipped with a safety bar and Mr. Heffernan is an experienced operator.

Family, friends and fellow workers are all deeply concerned and hoping for the best.

Like Plunkett's

Cloutier's draft suggests two separated and single-tier municipalities, one in North Halton and one in South Halton—along the lines of the two-city concept proposed by municipal planning consultant Thomas Plunkett four years ago. The Plunkett proposal was dropped by the provincial government as unworkable, partly because it lumped the assessment-rich southern lakeshore communities of Halton and Peel into one lakeshore city, leaving the northern towns and rural townships alone in a second municipality with a much smaller tax base. All the municipalities in Peel and Halton opposed the Plunkett plan when it was unveiled.

Current trends in both counties are toward each county as a separate region of regional government.

Cloutier chose Highway 401 as the dividing line between the two Halton cities. "The division is suggested particularly because of the Toronto-Centred Region Plan, which for all intents and purposes restricts any large-scale development in the north part of the county", he said in his report.

Own services

The report says each city would have its own administration and responsibilities for social services, children's aid work, homes for the aged and welfare. Hydro and water could be the council's own responsibility but could also operate as separate utility commissions. Both cities would be large enough to support sanitary landfill sites, transportation, industrial development offices

and other municipal departments, he continued.

In the northern city, administration could be handled similarly to the present method in police villages. Services could be sold to the north city by the south city, he added.

He suggests three co-ordinators would be named for each city, one for administration, one for services and one for works. These men would be similar to managers, and report to the elected council.

One rep. per 12,000

For councillors, he envisioned one representative per ward, with a ward being roughly 12,000 people. Special consideration would have to be given the rural areas. The mayor, he said, should be chosen by the elected representatives and elections should be every two years.

Costs of policing the northern city should be negotiated with the Ontario Provincial Police, he suggests, which is providing coverage for most of the north now. Fire, parks, libraries, museums, planning boards, education, water and sewers would all be responsibilities of the local council.

A separate rural and urban tax rate is suggested for each municipality. The south presently owns its own hydro, while the north is partly locally owned and partly owned by Ontario Hydro. All present personnel should be guaranteed employment for 18 months. Each municipality would assume the county roads within its jurisdiction—the south immediately, the north over a five year period.



HILLSBURGH pee-wees were the victors in the successful Legion pee-wee house league tournament on the weekend. Tourney chairman Alan Hall presents the trophy to captain Kent Kennedy, as coach Dennis Van Wyck and manager George Wheeler look on proudly. . . For story and more pictures see the Free Press sports pages. —(Photo by Jim Jennings)

Debt-free Esquesing no easy regional takeover says Hill

Esquesing reeve Tom Hill told colleagues on township council that when they talk about regional government they should remember Esquesing is virtually debt-free and in a better position than many of the municipalities who would like to take them over.

"We've got a 20 million dollar assessment, which is higher than at least the other municipalities in the county," he said in an outburst of plain talk, "and we are in a better position to take them over than they are to take us."

But he warned fellow township

councillors the township would have to fight to preserve its identity and it would be a "fight to the end."

"We'll have to fight every step of the way," Hill said aggressively warning others the township didn't intend to lose its identity.

Hill declined to name any of the municipalities who might have regional designs on Esquesing, noting everyone knew who they were.

"Let's start our expropriation proceedings now," quipped Councillor Coxe.

Free Press wins three awards

The Acton Free Press took two first prizes and a third in the 1971 Better Newspaper Awards announced this week by the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association.

The Free Press took first in the coveted General Excellence awards for newspapers in its own circulation class and Rockwood correspondent Lorraine Root was judged the champion correspondent among the 100 newspapers in the Association.

Third prize again went to the Free Press for the best editorial page among all the weeklies in Ontario, an honor the paper won last year as well. The Grimsby Independent and the Clinton News Record shared the paper in the judging which was done this year by members of the New York state Weekly Press Association.

In the general excellence class the Free Press led a prize winning field consisting of the Bradford Witness and the Listowel Banner, in that order.

Champion correspondent Lorraine Root received a \$100 cheque and two certificates for her writings on the Rockwood page each

week. Ontario Hydro presented the cheque and one framed certificate while the OWNA presented the other. Lorraine is the first

Free Press writer to take the award since Mrs. D. C. Robertson won it in 1967. Mrs. Robertson was Ospringe correspondent then and now lives in Acton.

Editor Hartley Coles accepted the Free Press awards at the annual convention of the OWNA held at the Holiday Inn, Toronto, last week.

The only other nearby newspaper to win an award was the Burlington Post which took a third for its sports page and the Brampton Guardian which took a first for the spot news picture and a second for its women's page.

Chuck McKnight of Tillsonburg was elected president of the OWNA at the annual convention succeeding Wilson Boyer of Bracebridge. He told the closing convention exercises that weekly newspaper prospects are bright, faith in the product is high and has never been more respected. The association represents 180 of the province's 200 weeklies.

Free Press awards went up on office walls this week, joining dozens of others the newspaper has won over the years.



Champion correspondent Lorraine Root and editor Hartley Coles with certificate.



AFTER KNOCKING, clergymen were ceremoniously admitted to Knox church new \$55,000 addition by clerk of session William Near Sunday afternoon. Heading the group is moderator the Rev. John McBride followed by the Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, the present

minister, and former ministers the Rev. John Anderson, the Rev. Forbes Thomson and the Rev. Robert Armstrong. Near 300 attended. Turn inside for news stories and pictures.—(Staff Photo)