

Heavy rains affect local crops

Heavy rains this summer have affected the yield and price of local crops, the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food office in Milton reported this week.

Corn is experiencing variable conditions ranging from good to very poor. The crop is thriving in soil with good drainage because excess water is allowed to drain off easily. But areas with poor drainage store water that ruins the crop.

Oats and barley, like corn, have encountered variable conditions this year, depending on drainage.

This year's oats are not as well filled as usual, with winds and heavy rains causing lodging.

Wheat prices are way down this year because the extra moisture has caused plants to sprout. This year's crop is 90 per cent off with a high incident of lodging.

Soy beans and vegetables are reported good because the light soil they're grown in affords excellent drainage. Soy beans will need some good weather for harvesting.

Pastures and hay are reported excellent this year with a high incidence of second cut. Some hay

has been lost in the fields because farmers were unable to beat the rainy weather.

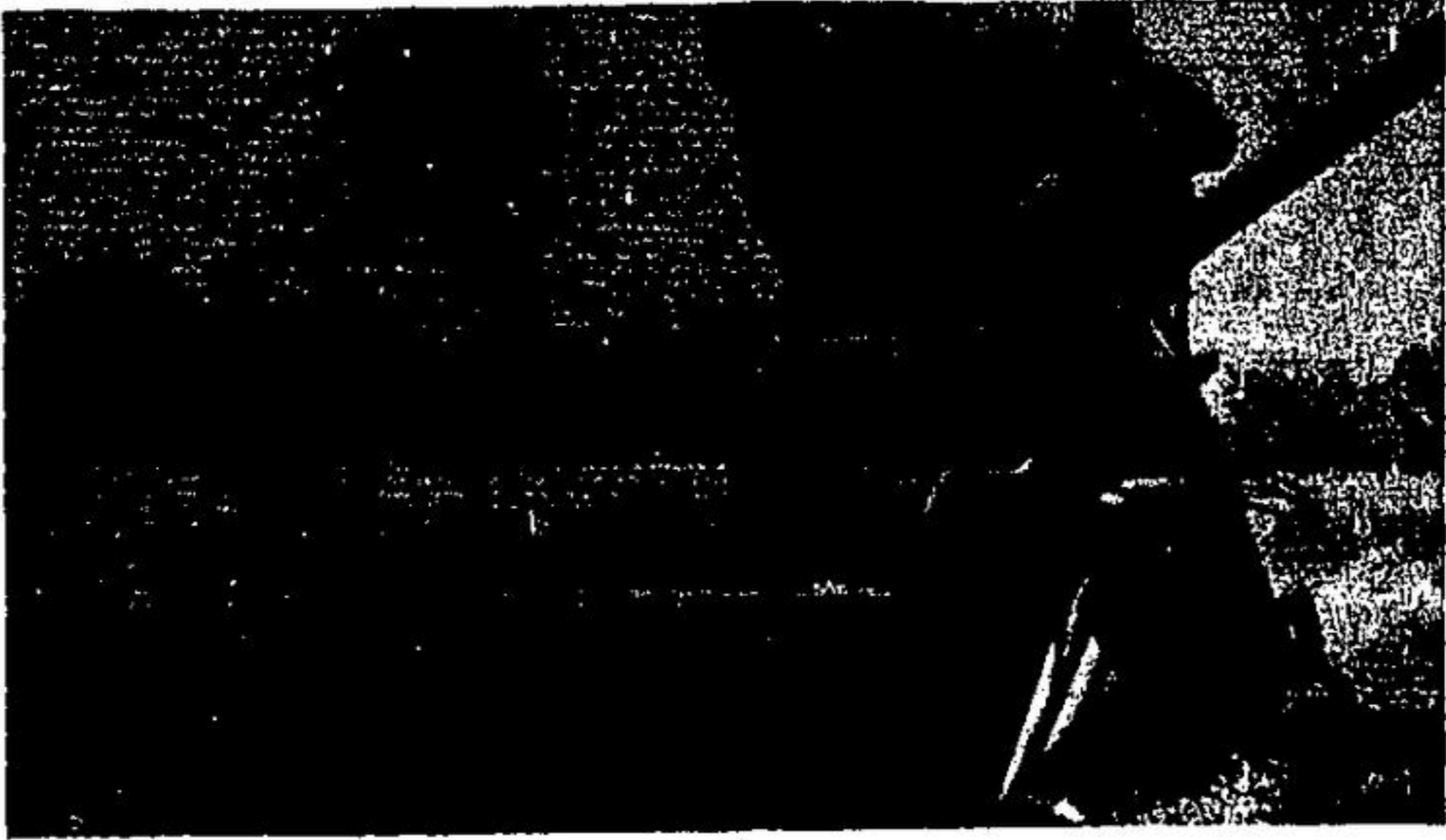
New seeding this summer is said to be progressing well.

This year the mildew caused by the wet weather has affected a sharp increase in disease but it is well within control.

The Department of Agriculture notes that conditions here are excellent compared to those in Eastern Ontario, where dairymen are looking over miles of rotted hay and field after field of drowned yellow corn.

Because Eastern Ontario farmers have not harvested rotting hay, there is a shortage of cattle feed. Milk production is down 20 to 50 per cent. Grass has lost its nutrient value.

Crop experts estimate rain killed off 75 per cent of the corn and spring grains crop. The Cornwall area received 10.74 inches of rain this Spring—double the 5.18 inches in 1971. The stricken area includes eastern Grenville, Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell and southeastern Carleton counties.



The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1972

Twenty-Six Pages—Fifteen Cents.

Ninety-Eighth Year. — No. 8

Flash fire claims life \$10,000 lane damage

The sudden explosion of a sanding machine he was operating at Acton Bowling Lanes Friday afternoon has resulted in the death of 32-year-old Denis Maurice of Stoney Creek.

Mr. Maurice suffered third degree burns to 80 per cent of his body when the machine exploded and started a fire which also caused an estimated \$10,000 damage to the bowling lanes. He ran outside the building with clothes blazing.

He was taken to Milton hospital by a passing motorist who was flagged down and later transferred to Hamilton General Hospital where he died Sunday.

Mr. Maurice and his brother

Clean-up begun!

Cleaning up has already begun at Acton Bowling Lanes to ensure that bowlers will be able to open at the earliest possible opportunity. But proprietor Ken Hulford told the Free Press that he can't set a definite opening date.

The \$10,000 fire damaged all six lanes and Mr. Hulford said a number of different companies would have to contribute towards the renovations. He is planning no changes in the business.

Royal, both employees of Cardinal Bowling Alley Services had been working alone in the building since shortly after noon hour. Royal was unhurt. Acton Firefighters responded

to the alarm about 2 p.m., after Mr. Maurice had been taken to hospital and a Friday afternoon crowd of shoppers in the IGA store below the bowling lanes evacuated.

Smoke was pouring out of the second storey windows and Firefighters had to don Scott air packs to enter the building. Chief Mick Holmes ordered a second truck with additional equipment to the scene shortly after.

Store safe

Although all six bowling lanes received fire damage, the IGA store was not damaged. Firefighters used exhalators to remove smoke which passed from the top floor above to a room at the back of the store. Shoppers were back in the building by 4 p.m.

It is believed the sanding machine may have struck a nail in the floor causing a spark to fly up and ignite the dust bag.



ACTON BOWLING Lanes received an estimated \$10,000 damage Friday afternoon when a sanding machine operated by 32 year old Denis Maurice of Toronto exploded. Mr. Maurice received third degree burns to 80 per cent of his body. He died in Hamilton General Hospital Sunday, Checking damage to the building and the machine (foreground) is by firefighter John Krapek. (Photo by D. Pink)

Sportsmen's show Labor weekend

Two 10-speed bicycles will be prizes for a boys' and girls' bicycle rally at the Labor Day weekend sportsmen's show being sponsored by five Acton service clubs at Prospect Park.

The rally obstacle course is being set up and operated by the Ontario Provincial Police for boys and girls eight to 14 years of age to acquaint them with safety laws. The winning boy and girl will each receive a brand new 10-speed bicycle, the first one through the course is not necessarily the winner.

Saturday's events will start off with a parade led by Acton Citizens' Band from the railroad station to the park. Bramalea Lions mini-bikers will be a feature of the procession which will also have prizes for the best decorated bicycles.

Application forms for the contest and tickets for all events at the special weekend are available at the downtown

Saturday country market or from members of service clubs.

Main attractions

The bicycle rally is one of the main attractions of this year's sportsmen's show which will also feature two dances, a soccer game, boomerang throwing contest, demonstrations of scuba diving and other sports events still being planned. And a big gun

show is set for the Sunday.

The Friday night dance will have an Oktoberfest theme with Nick Osbelt and the Rhythmic Five, a German-type band, while Acton's own Shaynes will provide the music for Saturday dancing at the community centre.

The Halton Antique Arms Association will sponsor another gun show at the community

centre, Sunday. The shows are attracting antique gun collectors from all over Canada and the United States and are believed to be the largest of their kind in the country.

The Antique Arms Association is sponsoring the Labor Day weekend activities along with the Lions Club, Rotarians, Y's Men and Chamber of Commerce.



THIS IS THE way they did it back in grandma's day. Six year old Kelly Cushner was in the limelight of the "Hard But Happy Times" float, first prize winner in Thursday night's summer playground windup parade. The float was constructed and occupied by the 5-7 year old girls under the direction of leaders Val Mitchell and Donna Drew....For story and more pictures see inside. —Photo by D. Gibbons

Councillors want police crackdown on cyclists

Councillor Norm Elliott got the support of several councillors in a bid to ask Acton police to initiate a program to crack down on Acton cyclists.

Elliott told council Tuesday there is a tremendous increase in the amount of bicycles in Acton and motorists were finding it difficult to drive because many of

the cyclists either were ignorant or paid no heed to the rules of road.

"I had to thread the needle myself tonight on the way to this meeting," he told councillors, noting it was not a pleasant experience. He said several residents had complained to him about the actions of some cyclists who ride all over the road, disregarding signs, don't have lights at night, ride three and four abreast and pay no heed either to motorists or pedestrians.

Need booster

"Several people have approached me," he said, "and I think we should ask the police to sponsor a program in the schools when they re-open. I realize there have been programs in the past, but I think they need a booster shot."

"I agree," said committee of

the whole chairman Jack Greer. Mayor Les Duby hopped on the bandwagon, too.

"I followed Councillor Elliott down and the problem of cyclists three and four abreast was compounded by motorcyclists going in for a barley sandwich." He warned there had been one serious accident involving a municipal vehicle and a cycle and it would be wise to act now before the problem builds up.

Defending the use of bicycles rather than noisier vehicles Reeve Frank Oakes said it was a real treat down "our way" to have cyclists near the park. Councillor Orv Chapman agreed, noting cyclists were not yet the problem here they were in other places. Council generally agreed cycling was good but abuses must be corrected before some serious injuries resulted.

Teachers oppose early return

District 9 executive of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation has gone on record as opposing any policy requiring teachers to return to school before the legal date of opening.

In a strongly worded statement to the press, the OSSTF said it took a poll of the membership concerning a recommendation to this effect from a Halton County Board committee and found:

(1) 97 per cent of the teachers are opposed to any policy requiring teachers to return one week prior to the legal opening day of school, which is the day after Labor Day.

(2) 90 per cent of the teachers are opposed to any policy requiring teachers to return one day prior to the legal opening day of school.

"Our teachers in Halton who want to meet, do so voluntarily,"

the OSSTF release said. "If a particular staff decides through a vote that it is their desire to come one week or one day before the legal opening of school, we feel it is their right, but the decision should not come from above." The decision must be solely made by the teachers.

The teachers contend they are professionals and are busy taking courses and other relevant work through the summer to prepare themselves for another year of teaching.

District 9 president Tom Ramautarsingh told this newspaper the recommendation which teachers opposed from the Board of Education Priorities and Expenditure Committee stated that "all schools should hold pre-opening day staff meetings late in August or early in September and all teachers should be expected to attend.

\$11,698 damages

Approximately \$11,698 resulted from accidents that were investigated by the Milton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police last week.

During the period between Aug. 13 midnight to Aug. 19, seven persons were injured and eight cases of property damage were reported as a result of accidents.

During the week officers investigated three thefts and two cases of breaking and entering. There were 128 charges laid and 45 warnings issued during the week.

Twelve persons were charged under the Liquor Control Act, two for assault and two vehicles were stolen. Officers investigated two complaints of trespassing

Acton O.P.P. investigate collisions

Acton O.P.P. reported two vehicle collisions over the past week.

The first occurred on Main St. S. at the bottom of the "cemetery hill" when a vehicle driven by Hugh A. Forbes of R.R. 1, Acton, sustained \$1800 damages in a single vehicle crash at 2 a.m., August 17.

The second occurred on the parking lot of the Olympia Drive-in, Queen St., the next day at 10:40 p.m., when a parked car owned by Charles Allan, Mowbray Place, Acton, was struck by another vehicle and incurred \$100 in damages. The second vehicle, driven by Gerald Rennie, of Acton, had no damages.

Police also executed a warrant for the arrest of an Acton man on three charges August 17 and he appeared in provincial court, Monday, where he was fined \$100 for causing a disturbance.

A stolen bicycle was reported on August 17 but still has not been located. Police have been hampered by lack of identifiable fenders the bicycle.