Special events to make Christmas brighter

The Acton Centennial Commission is going ahead with several projects to brighten up the festive season in Acton beginning with the appearance of the Tree House TV show at the Robert Little school auditorium Saturday afternoon.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday

evenings the Acton School of Dance will stage their annual carol festival in the streets of town assisted by the Firefighters and the Royal Canadian Legion Choraliers. The girls will be knocking on doors for centennial

Sunday night Acton Citizens'

Band is presenting their annual Christmas treat at the high school auditorium. They will be assisted by the Royal Canadian Legion Choraliers in a program with a theme Music for all presenting their annual street

The appearance of the Tree House at the school Saturday will be the Centennial Commission's Christmas gift to Acton and area children. Prizes are being offered Tastes. The band will also be for the best decoration made by a boy and girl and Kim Campbell Christmas concert next week as and the Kinettes, baton twirlers

and marching group, will also be appearing on the program. in the annual carol festival presented by Joyce Carpenter's Acton School of Dance, singers will cover the west side of town as far as the CN tracks, Tuesday



Ninety-Eighth Year - No. 24

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1972

Twenty Pages-Fifteen Cents.

Acton man found guilty of arson

Gordon Franklin Adamson of Acton was convicted in provincial court Monday of arson in connection with a September 22 fire at the home of Mrs. Ann Mowat, 8 Frederick St.

He was remanded in custody parts of the exterior of the house. until December 18 for sentencing. charge of attempted arson at the home of Jack Pope, 179 Poplar Ave., as well as auto theft and dangerous driving charges laid following previous offences.

The Mowat house received an

At the December meeting, Erin

Township Council was surprised

to learn the town of Acton built a

pumping station in Erin

Township without first obtaining

the Fourth Line building existed

until it was brought to their

Acton clerk-administrator J. T.

Hurst said a permit was probably

overlooked because the town had

received permission from the

township to go ahead with the

installation of the water line, but

Most councillors were unaware

No permit

a building permit.

attention that week.

in township

estimated \$737 fire damage to the front porch and pillars. There was no fire at the Pope residence. although police found a five gallon can three-quarters full of gas and noted a gasoline smell on

Adamson elected trial by At that time he will also face a magistrate without jury and first pleaded "not guilty". However, he later changed his plea to "guilty" on the advice of his lawyer, when Judge William Sharpe refused to uphold a claim by the accused's lawyer that a

statement signed by Adamson. confessing to the crime, should not be allowed as evidence. Judge Sharpe ruled the statement had been given to

Wood voluntarily. In the statement, Adamson said he'd been at home drinking earlier in the evening, then went for a walk and found a gas can near the railway tracks. He said he took a hose and siphoned gas from a truck parked at the rear of a Church St. apartment. He then

Kleenway awarded

watermain contract

Acton O.P.P. Constable Roy

went to the Pope residence and threw gasoline on the doorsteps. A dog began barking, so he ran away and hid, but retrieved the gas can when he saw police had arrived. He ran to the Mowat house on Frederick St. about 146 miles away and lit the front porch on fire, returned home by the railway tracks and threw the can

Adamson said in the statement his intent was to burn the house down. He said he did not know there were people sleeping in them at the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Pope were both at home. Mrs. Mowat was in bed and her son John had arrived home only moments before the fire was started. Recalls events

Recalling the events early hours of September 22, Con. Wood testified he first responded to a call to the Pope residence about 1.05 a.m. There, he said he found the gas can three-quarters full and noted gas all over the front door and screen door. He spoke to Mr. Pope for a few minutes then went outside to discover the can was missing. He said there was gas on the side door and three windows of the

At 1.45, Wood sald he heard the fire siren go and while on his way back to the police office, he observed the Mowat residence on fire. He said the balcony, pillars, door and a couple of chairs on the porch were burning.

Wood testified he first saw John Mowat attempting to extinguish the fire with a garden hose. Acton Firelighters arrived and put it out completely. Wood said he noted a pool of gas on the grass in front of the house and detected a strong gasoline odor.

Returning to the Pope residence, the investigating officer said he searched grounds at the rear of the house and found a pair of men's black leather gloves and a gas can cap.

Inspector arrives At 4.15 p.m. the same day Wood said he went to 114 Longfield Rd., along with Con. Paul Brown of the Acton detachment and Inspector Terry Murray of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office. There Wood said he asked Adamson some questions and invited him down to the police office. At the office Adamson was questioned further by Wood and Inspector Murray. Wood testified he could smell gas on Adamson's fingers at the time, but said the

accused had not been drinking. in cross-examination Wood said be had mentioned nothing to Adamson about getting help for himself nor suggested a jail term, before the accused gave the statement.

Inspector Murray supported Wood's testimony and confirmed there had been no discussion about a jail term.

Later, Wood testified Adamson pointed out the Pope residence and the Mowat residence as the places he had been and also identified the black gloves as his

Directs police Adamson later directed police to a location about 200 yards east of Hillcrest Ave. where they found the gas can, Wood said.

The accused was taken to the county jail and his family advised

of the move. Wood testified neither Mr. Pope nor Mr. Mowat were Acton's business section. acquainted with the accused. In his summation, Crown

Attorney James Treleaven said Mr. Mowat aroused his mother from bed when he saw the smoke and flames. He said Acton fire chief Mick Holmes also detected

residence. Judge Sharpe has asked for a tion. pre-sentence report before sentence time 2 p.m. December

a gasoline odor at the Mowat

Deadlines for Dec. 27 issue Acton Free Press

Deadlines for news and advertising for the Wednesday. December 27 issue of the Acton Free Press will be noon on Saturday, Dec. 23.

The business office, advertising department and news office will remain closed from noon Saturday, Dec. 23, reopening Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 9

a.m. The office will not be open on Boxing Day.

An attempt by advertisers and news correspondents to meet these deadlines will be



AKELA FORBES COLE, left, and "Tiger" the scout hall. Sixteen new Cubs were badges to Cubs invested into the 1st Acton parents witnessed the ceremonies. Pack in special ceremonies Monday night at

Don Franklin present neckerchiefs and welcomed into the pack by leaders while

-H. Coles Photo

Invest 16 Cubs Monday

Akela Forbes Cole officially invested 16 new Cubs into the 1st Acton Pack at special ceremonies Monday night at the scout house.

The boys were presented with neckerchiefs, badges and Acton flashes to sew on uniforms by Akela and Tiger, Don Franklin, while approximately 20 parents and brothers and sisters of the new cubs watched. Baloo,

Karen Cole and King Louis, Jim Parker, assisted in the ceremonies.

New Sixers and Seconds were also inducted.

The new Cubs are David Allen. Mork Dawkins, Jack Garton, Robbie Grant, Fred Kappert, Jan Kyrstein, Steve Matheson, Keith McQuade, Kevin McQuade, Kevin Middlebrook, Rick Papillon, John Toebes, Bruce Witherley and Stephen Cameron. Robert Johnson was unable to

Sixers and Seconds inducted were Clay Cameron, Marshall Bell, Steven Muckle, Dale Anderson, Trevor Hoy and Geolfery Why.

ceremonies performed in front of the Pack Mascot Totem, a stuffed wolf.



(Photo by D. Gibbons)

ACTON HIGH teachers Sandra Fleming, their talents. Mrs. Fleming played the part of Brian Skerrett and Sue Burns joke with each a lady of the evening, while Mr. Skerrett and other before making their stage debuts Friday Mrs. Burns played the parts of husband and night in "Bernard and Other Losers", a play wife. Theatre arts teacher Jeff Sansom in which students and teachers combined directed the performance.

Councillor Greer contends Acton has ample parking

Councillor Jack Greer has little patience with those who complain about lack of parking spaces in

Mr. Greer's measurements indicate there is parking for five cars for every store in town which does not provide parking

All of this parking is within a five minute walk of the Bank of Montreal, which is situated in the core of the Acton business sec-

pointed this out to the Development Commission, he told council when the subject of parking came up last week.

Councillor Greer said he did a survey at the request of the merchants and he had no axes to grind either for or against increased parking spaces. He felt many people refused to walk any distances to shop in Acton but would travel to other cities and towns where the walk and parking fees were accepted.

People nowadays look on shopping as an outing, he told the Free Press, and there was little municipal bodies could do to change the attitude unless there were attractive features to draw shoppers.

The discussion started when members of council observed that the Knox Church lot, a recent addition to the town's parking space, was not being used and some motorists were parking or the street.



SNOW CAME FIRST, followed by sleet and Cars, such as this one greeted drivers. The over and the sun shone Wednesday morning, weekend.

rain and then high winds which blew clouds weatherman predicts better weather for the -J. Jennings Photo

was checking with the engineer. bidder has done many jobs of a Schools closed roads too icy

All North Halton schools north of No. 5 highway were closed

today (Wednesday) due to road conditions. Tuesday's freezing rain and snow had left the country roads covered with ice and water and considered hazardous for school buses. Many town children headed off for school unaware of the

cancellation. Crossing guards, on duty early, had had no word of the school closing, and shepherded youngsters across the road twice in quick succession as they were sent home

Local children who attend General Brock school and the Christian school in Esquesing also stayed home due to driving conditions for the buses.

Work all night Town workmen cleared roads and sunded starting Tuesday night at midnight. Acton OPP report no accidents

Acton Council awarded the

watermain system to houses

along Highway 25 South to

Kleenway Construction at a cost

of \$31,015. The company made the

The public works committee

low bid for the work.

cessfully completing the project as required." Rock excavation will be done by A. McDonald of Stoney Creek, a company specializing in the work. Other bids for the job which is

recommended the town accept the Kleenway bid because "from being done to service houses with both the town's and our own water for systems alleged to have experience we know the low been spoiled by Beardmore effluent, came from Dundas Construction Co. \$35,825; Civiero Construction \$40,902.50; Twinbee Construction \$42,175; Cornell Construction (1971) \$49,412.06; and Lloyd Renick and sons

Construction \$53,025. south of Acton. The Department homes were tainted by effluent

A lengthy and brisk discussion similar nature with excellent tender for extension of the town's results and are of the opinion the was precipitated by Councillor company is capable of suc-

locating in town. Most councillors felt-there was no way the company would fall to honor the agreement. "All cards are stacked for us," said

Councillor Earl Masales. "It is airtight," the reeve

here," insisted Marks. subdivision agreements and

despite the weather. from the company'

The cost of the extension is being paid by Beardmore, which is under a Government order to provide water for the homes, of the Environment wells in these

Marks' suggestion that it would be good business practice to get the money from the company first before the town committed itself to the project financially. Councillor Coats agreed, suggesting the town should treat all companies alike, wondering whether the same principles would apply to a new company

"But there are legal loopholes The clerk said that the contracts were tighter than the

there was little likelihood of (Continued on Page 3)

Could be last one

Warden's race underway

In early January the new warden for county council will be chosen to lead Halton in 1973. Some observers feel the warden could be the last or the second to

the last before regional government is invoked here. At least five members of the 1973 county council have expressed interest in the seat in one way or another. Georgetown

Reeve Ric Morrow and

Nassagaweya Reeve Mrs. A. MacArthur have said they would seek the \$10,000 a year post.

Second try It marks Mrs. MacArthur's second attempt at the post. If elected it will mark the second time Halton has been led by a women. Mary Pettit won the seat in 1949 and became the first woman in Ontario to hold the position of Warden. She represented Nelson Township at that time and later sat on Milton

Other names reportedly interested in the seat this year are Esquesing's: Reeve Tom Hill, Oakville's Reeve Allan Masson and Burlington's Deputy Reeve Dave Coons said he'd take the position if it was offered to



WITH ACTON'S NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS as a backdrop, some of the familiar carols. The girls will be assisted by Acton Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Left to right are Susan Centennial fund. McPhail, Barbara Reed and Carol Pickles harmonizing with

members of the Acton School of Dance practice for their 12th firelighters and the Royal Canadian Legion Choraliers in this annual carol festival to be held in the streets of Acton next year's festival. Proceeds from donations will go to the Acton

—J. Carpenter Photo appreciated.