



ELMER SMITH

# Retired five months W.D. Elmer Smith dies

Many of the same people who had happily applauded Elmer Smith at Principals Recognition Day in May were together again Remembrance Day afternoon, part of a mournful crowd of 450 attending his funeral at Trinity United church.

Remembrance Day was appropriate as Dr. W. G. Onions and the Rev. A. H. McKenzie both spoke personally of Mr. Smith during the funeral service.

On just such cold November days Elmer Smith had many times played the Last Post, Mr. McKenzie recalled.

Elmer Smith's teaching career began at Alton in 1932; he was principal there and at Istockwood before coming to Acton during the war as vice-principal.

He became principal of the new M. Z. Bennett school in 1957.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife Vivian (Wallis), sons and daughters David of St. George, Brian of Acton, Norm of Montreal, Vivian (Mrs. William Nicholson) of Grand Valley and Julie of London.

# The Acton Free Press

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## Acton's schools may get crowded

The problem of future school accommodation in Acton is a difficult one, Assistant Director of Education E. M. Lavender told the Halton Board of Education Thursday night.

Lavender said the elementary school population in Acton had not increased during the past five years, even though the population of the town had grown considerably.

He indicated that projections show a potential of 314 new elementary students from housing developments on the drawing boards.

Lavender explained that elementary schools and the secondary school in Acton would be overcrowded if the housing plans reached fruition.

The problem is a difficult one, while Robert Little School is a fine old building, it is inadequate in many ways.

M.Z. Bennett is rated as having a capacity of 600, with 539 children now attending school there.

## Set Christmas bus in motion

Although council has still not heard from the Chamber of Commerce concerning Christmas bus service cost sharing, they passed a resolution to proceed Tuesday evening.

Council will engage Tyler Transport to operate the bus Dec. 10 to Dec. 24. Estimated cost is \$58 a day.



Beverley Norton

## Santa Claus is here Saturday

Although Santa Claus has not had this town on his November itinerary for several years, thanks to efforts of Mike Kinal of Home Hardware he has agreed to visit Acton this Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Kinal said he thought Acton should be participating in the annual welcome to Santa and he has gone ahead to arrange the visit to his store.

Santa will start out from the arena and parade along Rower and Mill Sts to Churchill Road, then he'll turn around and visit the

## Low density in subdivision

Acton Meadows developers have decided to revert back to the original zoning on their property for the third phase of the subdivision.

There would be no density problem there. Maps of the new plan show a slight jog in the extension of Acton Blvd. north, with McDonald Blvd. continuing east to Churchill Rd.

## R.N.A. degree

Beverley Norton R.N.A. graduated from Conestoga College of Applied Arts on Oct. 1. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Norton, Guelph St.

Beverley is presently working in surgery at K-W hospital, Kitchener.

## Hydro to still hold decorating contest

Acton Hydro Commission will continue to sponsor its Christmas house decorating contest, commissioners finally agreed Thursday night.

The contest, with prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25, had already been announced and members decided not to change their minds despite talk of power shortages, a letter of criticism appearing in the Free Press, and an Ontario Hydro decision to curtail its own decorative lighting.

Ontario Hydro is cutting down but they're still going to have lights, Mr. MacArthur observed. The town sure looks a lot more cheerful with lights at Christmas.



## Not guilty jury decides in manslaughter trial

A youth defence counsel Ed Shane described as "the victim of a very tragic accident which could happen to any young person" was found not guilty of manslaughter charges in Guelph Friday.

Gregory Dale Damery 16, had been taken into custody in the fatal shooting when Christopher James Ayles, 17, of Rockwood who died last September 2.

The jury took nearly five hours to render its verdict. Judge Lloyd Houlden told Damery the jury's verdict was "a very narrow escape for you" after which he said that he knew Damery would not get into similar trouble in the future.

According to the Centre of Forensic Science firearm expert testimony the shotgun with which young Ayles had been killed had a defective automatic safety mechanism.

Dedication The Remembrance Day program at the high school was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Smith.

## 24 Carats?

IT WOULD TAKE a giant rabbit to be enticed by these carrots, weighing four and three-quarters, four, and three and a half pounds. Robert Reinink, 17, a grade 13 student at Erin, holds the gigantic vegetables dug on the family farm at R.R. 4, Rockwood. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reinink have had carrots for years—but never this size. Robert suspects they'll go to the cows rather than the kitchen.

## Car wrecked in collision

In a collision at the sixth line and No. 7 highway Friday afternoon, a car driven by Dan McTavish was totally wrecked and a truck driven by Joseph Anconin, Weston, had estimated \$800 damage.



Chairman argues with separatists

HALTON CHAIRMAN ALLAN Masson reasons with his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. David Masson about the advantages of remaining in the new Halton region but they are not convinced. David is a trustee in Eden Mills, one of three who arranged separation of the village from Halton into Wellington County.

## Halton chairman's son leads Eden Mills into Wellington

One of the unusual wrinkles which have cropped up for Halton's regional chairman Allan Masson in arranging the transformation from county to region has all been in the family.

While Allan Masson was busy arranging the transition, son David, a resident of Eden Mills, has been one of the trustees arranging for transfer of part of the village into Wellington County.

Nothing personal involved, being a separatist, David says with relish. It's just that Eden Mills wants to be one unit in one county or region.

Even Halton officials agreed the move would be in the best interests of the residents who now can all send their children to one school jurisdiction instead of some going to Halton schools and others attending those in Wellington, as in the past.

## Start design for well

A new town well will be drilled at the tip of Prospect park.

Council Tuesday authorized R. V. Anderson Associates engineers to start the designs on the pump-house, controls, power requirements and connecting water mains as soon as possible, so the work may be completed next summer.

recalled that Mr. Crowley had said this could be done with just the switch panel above ground. Mr. Marks thought it would be a shame to have a utility shack at the end of the beautiful park.

Vandals are blamed for a fire Sunday afternoon on the fourth line of Nassagaweya. Logs and an old hydro reel had been placed at the door of a small cottage and apparently set alight. A passer-by reported the blaze which was extinguished before any damage was done to the building.

## Land sale proceeds

An agreement between the town and Gino Civiero and Paul Nielsen for sale of industrial land on Main N. was approved Tuesday night by council.

Closing date for the agreement was Nov. 1 but both parties had agreed to extension. The present plan of subdivision for the industrial park is in the Land Titles department awaiting approval.

Hufnagel St. will be changed to Commerce Crescent. The name change had been approved by the development commission at Mr. Nielsen's suggestion and will be placed on the plan of subdivision.

## Three make restitution

An R.R. 4 Acton man found a juvenile bending car aerials in the IGA parking lot one day this week and took him to the police station. It was learned then that three juveniles had been involved in malicious damage, removing gas caps and breaking aerials, etc.

## Bikeathon

The late beloved Elmer Smith had done all the preparation for the UNICEF bikeathon, which recently had to be delayed because of bad weather.

The bikeathon will be held in Acton Park on Sunday, November 18 from 1-3 p.m. All arrangements are to be as previously announced in the schools.