

Blame ice

# Four vehicles hit ditch within hour

Four cars skidded off Highway 7 about half-mile west of Acton within an hour on Monday morning but residents who live along the stretch of road were not overly excited.

They blamed it on a glaze of ice which forms along the shady side of the road, surprising motorists travelling towards Acton. The road is shaded by a reforestation project at this point and cars slip off the slick surface continually during freezing months.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stachyra, out to observe the most recent rash of skidders between 8.20 and 9 a.m. Monday noted they had again lost their mail box to one of the cars.

"That's at least five times in the last ten years," Mr. Stachyra said. "We don't know where to put it to avoid the cars."

And it goes on all through the winter season. The Stachyra home is located on the south side of 7 Highway adjacent to the First Line and 7 corner, just before the roller coaster hills as the road arrives in Acton.

Monday morning they were out assisting motorists who left the road after they hit the ice. It included Carl Cayer of Guelph whose '70 Datsun received \$700 in damages

when it ran into the north ditch and upset.

About 9 a.m. a '67 Valiant driven by Guy Ross of Guelph skidded into the south ditch and received an estimated \$700 damage, clipping off the Stachyra mail box before going deep into the ditch.

Two other vehicles also left the road a few yards away but neither was damaged and one owner was able to drive away.

Another mile further west of Crewsons Corners a '73 Maverick driven by Eva Wands of Oakville skidded off the road and struck some rocks causing \$500 damage. Police blamed it on the muddy roadway.

Other collisions reported by Milton O.P.P. this week included a two car crash involving a '68 Oldsmobile driven by James Stuart of Willowdale and a '73 red Ford pickup truck driven by Gary Newman of R.R. 2, Acton on Friday afternoon near Silvercreek. The vehicles each received

damages estimated at \$500. The Olds was proceeding west on 17 Sideroad, police said, and the crash occurred when it entered the intersection of 7 Highway.

The same day a '72 Ford driven by James Devlin of Toronto left the road near Crewsons Corners. The accident happened in Wellington County but the car wound up in Halton County so it was left to Milton O.P.P. to investigate. Damage to the Ford was estimated at \$1500.

Saturday afternoon a two car collision at the corner of 25 Highway and 22 Sideroad south of Acton caused an estimated \$2,200 damage when a '71 Ford driven by Dorothy McClure of R.R. 4, Acton, and a '60 Ford driven by Slarko Grbinick of Acton collided. Police said the McClure car was going north and making a left turn on 22 Sideroad when the collision occurred.

This is Safe Driving Week.



Patch of ice causes havoc

# The Acton Free Press

NINETY-NINTH YEAR NO. 23

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1973

Forty-Eight Pages—Fifteen Cents



SITE OF THE NEW Legion hall saw renewed activity this week with return of better weather. Trucks that had been mired in mud last week were back at work (above) during Monday's brief sunshine spell. The hall is located on the former Cecil Nelles farm right on the picturesque

shore of Fairy Lake. The photograph is taken from Mill St. W. where the entrance to the hall will eventually be. A subdivision on the remainder of the land is being considered by the Legion building committee to help defray costs. Cement block foundation is already in.

## Four awards to honor principals

In honor of the two retired principals of the public schools, four awards will be presented annually for the next ten years.

Each winner will receive approximately \$50. The bursary will be administered by the principals of both public schools. The Principals Recognition committee had originally been in doubt if they would have a loss, a profit or break even. Word spread, among

been the wish of the principals that the award would eventually terminate. The Principals Recognition committee had originally been in doubt if they would have a loss, a profit or break even. Word spread, among

them, during the dance attended by 800, that it already appeared a good surplus would remain. At last week's meeting committee chairman Ed Leatherland expressed again the group's appreciation to students and former citizens who had assisted, and praised the great community involvement in the events of the day.

## Citizens buck \$8,500 salaries

"Absurd", "arrogant", "mind-boggling" and "absolutely unnecessary" were terms used by about 65 Halton residents when they met at Nelson High School in Burlington last night to protest the \$8,500 proposed for salaries for Halton Regional Councillors.

While the newly formed group intends to fight the regional council on the salary question, executive mem-

bers and the membership at large made it clear that they would be forming strong ratepayer groups on a regional basis with organizations in Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills. After defeating a motion that would have recommended regional councillors accept \$4,000 rather than \$8,500 the group agreed to strike a committee to study

the salary question and eventually negotiate with the councillors. The group reasoned that the people were the bosses and councillors should negotiate salaries just as they would have to in industry. Fred Leighton of Burlington was one of the most outspoken critics of the \$8,500 salaries. Burlington councillors will receive \$5,800 at the local level as well as

the \$8,500 at the regional level. Leighton said the councillors "were a bunch of bandits". "They are all rookies who want pro salaries. They are wet behind the ears and should be evaluated by a committee. Four grand is too much." Referring to regional government in general Leighton said "the new system would be a political

monster the like of which our country has never seen. We don't want to feed the monster we want to cage it," he said. Leo Haber, chairman of the meeting told the group he and W.S. Thompson of Oakville were scheduled to appear before regional council on that matter next Wednesday. John Somerville of Oakville, a ratepayer activist there, said the new group shouldn't limit themselves to the salary question. He said the group should organize themselves so that they could have someone at every local and regional meeting in a watchdog capacity. He pointed out the salary was only a small percentage of the total budget the council would deal with. Lashing out at the raises Somerville attacked the reasoning that an

## Beardmore announces new list of officers

The committee met again last week to finalize the details for the residue of their bank account. They agreed they would carry out the wishes of the principals by establishing bursaries for a boy and a girl at each school, selected as the best all-round students in grade eight. The awards will continue for 10 years, at which time the invested capital and interest are calculated to bring the account down to zero. It had

G. H. Dickson, Vice-President of Canada Packers Limited, announced the following appointments were made at the annual meeting of Beardmore and Co. Limited, held at Acton on November 28. Chairman of the Board—G. D. Mungall. President and General Manager—P. F. Dunham. Vice President—C. R. Heard. Assistant General Manager—C. A. Conway.

Secretary-Treasurer—L. E. Youngblut. Directors elected were as follows: S. G. Bennett, C. A. Conway, P. F. Dunham, R. L. Eveland, J. G. Greifeneder, C. R. Heard, J. E. Lareau, G. D. Mungall, L. E. Youngblut. G. D. Mungall is a vice-president of Canada Packers Limited and S. G. Bennett is a former vice-president of Canada Packers Limited and former president of Beardmore & Co. Limited.

## Reports of energy crisis viewed with suspicion by Actonians

Christmas is a must for everyone and no threats, certainly not those proposed by Ontario Hydro will be able to take away the sparkle from the festivity as far as citizens in Acton are concerned. Most Ontario residents are confused. They have been hearing constantly during the past few months warnings about energy shortages, hydro cutbacks and the need to reduce electrical usage. All in a province where, for the last two years, Ontario Hydro has been promoting sales on products utilizing the energy they are now telling us we must conserve. Toasters, fry pans, electric blankets, and the etcetera items with the hydro label are high on the priority of Santa's lists. On a poll of Acton residents it would seem that many of them are not certain there is a real need for concern and expressed their own viewpoints on Christmas home and town decorating. Ivan Harris, a resident in Acton for over 40 years, says that he doesn't know for sure if there is a crisis but, if we're going to see shortage of power we shouldn't waste it.

He said he does not approve of Acton Hydro's Christmas home decorating contest because if there are other places short why not here in Acton, too? Mrs. Sam Holmes enjoys the Christmas spirit that prevails. "If there is a shortage of hydro," she said, "then we should cut down but if there is none, they really do brighten things up for Christmas." She likes to see the decorations. Rita O'Connor, 133 Crescent Street, has lived in Acton for 11 years. An employee of the Foodland store on Main Street she is not certain as to whether the shortage is as serious as they say. The recent warnings have affected her thinking however and she says, "I'll be just a bit more cautious in stringing lights outdoors this year." Rita feels that, in supplying power to the U.S. it could be like everything else that is sliding away and it could provide greater shortages for Canadians. June Levy is an art teacher in the Acton high school, on staff for the past three years. She feels that there is a crisis but is concerned that citizens are at the mercy of the news

media. She feels that the press should give actual reporting on specific problems so that when people read something in papers, readers would know whether it is factual or simply sensational. "It's the duty of the press to enlighten the public honestly," she said. Emma Cole, a long time resident on Frederick Street said: "I don't think there is a shortage here in Canada as much as there is in the States. I always try to save and am always careful of lights at any time." Miss Cole thinks we should decorate for Christmas spirit but questions street lighting decorations so early. "How are we to know for sure if we have problems," she said. "It's up to those at the head of Hydro to tell us honestly what the circumstances are. If they don't know who does?" In charge of the High School cafeteria in Acton, Mrs. Shirley Kitts of R.R. 1, Georgetown, says that all we know is what we read in the paper but how can we judge what is the truth? "Sure I'm going to decorate with Christmas lights. I'll go ahead until they say definitely that we actually have a crisis."

Married with three children Shirley feels that charity begins at home and that Canada should look after herself before sharing power with the U.S. At the Senior Citizens' Tuesday afternoon meeting at the St. Alban's parish hall Bert Davidson, who has lived in the Acton district all his life and is respected and well known in the district, said: "I would expect that Hydro is fairly reliable right now. I think we have an abundance of power in Ontario and I don't think there's anything to be worried about for a year or two anyway." The United States? Mr. Davidson feels that the U.S. should look after their own hydro. "I think they've neglected themselves," he said, and added facetiously "Maybe this will smarten them up a little." Mrs. Jean Precious, 129 Mill Street was also at the senior meeting and said that, if there is a shortage "We got along before, using candles when I was a little girl and we can get along again." She said there is an element of danger resorting to the old lighting habits, however, but said that she was relying on what she had heard on TV and

radio as to whether or not there is a shortage. She wasn't sure whether the Ontario Hydro was just trying to scare us or not. Mrs. Frances Cutts of 69 Bower Avenue has lived in Acton 40 years and likes the Christmas decorations as they only happen once a year and are wonderfully cheery. A young mother was stopped for questioning on Bower Avenue, Gail Ferguson, formerly of Brampton but living in Acton on Knox Avenue since November. "My husband insists on cutting down on hydro," she said. Her husband, an American Motor employee in Brampton, is concerned about the crisis and keeps electricity usage to a minimum. "Hydro shortage?" "Not yet" said Ivan Lillycrop, who has taken up residence in Acton within the last two years, and lives on Churchill Road. "We should have enough generating plants now to keep things going but if we continue to use hydro for heating the reserve isn't going to last long." Mr. Lillycrop favors part-time use of decoration lights over Christmas this year. "Just a

few hours each evening" he said and plans on decorating as usual. What do High School teachers Keith Black, as the head of Geography and Boris Shean, in Business Administration, think of the possibility of an energy crisis? Keith Black said that there is an obvious shortage of energy but not in the hydro department. "I never did think people should decorate," he said and feels that outdoor decoration displays are wasteful. "We're all guilty of being wasteful," he said, "and always look at the other fellow but fall into the same pattern ourselves." Boris Shean has lived in Acton for a year on Clare Court. "We have an energy crisis," he said but compares it to the gas shortage which will be noticeable only when they raise the price. "Who can put the finger on the energy crisis?" he said and questioned its connotations. "Is it political or economic? I don't know the roots," he said. "The States would help Canada, though." Kevin Payne, 14 Acton of 52 Main Street, said that he didn't agree that there really was a problem and felt that

there should be enough hydro for everyone. He doesn't believe the papers and T.V. and hopes his mother and stepfather will go ahead with Christmas arrangements as usual for his three older brothers and three younger sisters. Asked if they were going to apply their special artistry on the house decorating scene for which they won acclaim last year, Mrs. Rena Arble and Mrs. W. Miller of Mowbray Place, first and second winners, had this to say: Rena Arble: "I really haven't made up my mind yet because I don't know what to do. You read in the paper that hydro says go ahead but it would be better if we knew for sure what it is all about." Rena said they had half decided to cut back when, in driving around in other areas last weekend they saw many lighted decorations. "It was fun," she said but does not want to contribute to a scarcity if there's a need. Mrs. Miller said that although she and her husband had discussed the advertised crisis, they were going to go ahead with their outdoor lighting but had decided not

to leave the lights on as long as usual. "It's a good idea to be prepared," she says and even the other members in the family are turning off lights. "My family are very conscious of keeping down the power use" but Mrs. Miller feels that a person could save up through the year and then splurge at Christmas. "Myself I think you get a deeper spirit if there are decorations around" she said, mentioning their reindeer hadn't consumed too much lighting power last year. As it stands members of the Acton Hydro Commission are going ahead with festive lighting arrangements as usual. The advertisements are out and the best decorated contest is still on the Acton agenda. "We're not encouraging extensive usage of hydro," said Will McEachern, chairman of the Acton Hydro, "but we're not discouraging it either until a directive is handed down by Hydro from the Government." Will said that George Guthercole and Darcy McKeough have said it's okay and have never contradicted themselves yet. The Acton commission members feel that, as you can't save hydro it must be used and, as far as the chairman is concerned "there is no shortage!"



JUNE LEVY



BERT DAVIDSON



RON KUIKEN



KEVIN PAYNE



IVAN HARRIS



RITA O'CONNOR



SHIRLEY KITTS



BORIS SHEAN