



# Acton, Canada mark birthdays Monday

Canada and Acton celebrated birthdays Monday—Canada's 107th and Acton's 100th.

Acton actually reached its full century of incorporation January 6 last, just six days after the town was dissolved to become part of the newly-declared municipality of Halton Hills.

July 1 was chosen months ago as the best time for special events.

**Recreates pride**

Although the centennial celebrations were markedly more modest than had been hoped for a year or more ago, Monday's program recreated a feeling of community pride that had been badly bruised by the new area's formation in January.

The family picnic day at the park was the focal point, ending with a giant burst of fireworks after dark.

In the afternoon, a historic plaque was unveiled in a new parkette at the library, while 100 watched and listened attentively. Here Acton's former mayor and town councillors convened again to give their former town an official farewell—in baked tin aluminum.

**Expanded**

The happy picnic atmosphere of past Dominion Days at the park was expanded this year with music, draws, a fishing derby and a splattering of centennial costumes among the informally-dressed throngs.

From a sparse, bright-eyed attendance of a very few to start the day's festivities with the scheduled fishing derby at 7 a.m. until the last reverberating bangs of the fireworks at 10.30, the program accumulated more and more people. Attendance in the park just couldn't be estimated, say the hard-worked gate attendants.

They also sold tickets for the chicken barbecue. Here the bustling Tories thought they sold about 700 dinners—hull, a chicken, heaping scoops of potato and cabbage salad, buttered rolls, ice cream and beverage.

**Draw**

The retail merchants draw was the last excitement of the day before the fireworks. With the crowd in the park growing steadily, Dave Manes and Paul Nielsen mounted the platform with the drum of entries.

Big winner of \$200 in centennial tokens was Wesley Romano, 25 Willow St., who's five years old. The tokens were given to his father in trust. His parents, contacted later, were delighted.

The \$100 in centennial tokens were won by Laurie Archibald, 18, of Guelph, whose father Fred was present to carry off the sackful of loot.

He also made the next draw for the merchants when the name of Father Morgan brought cheers from the crowd. Father Morgan won the sack of \$50 in negotiable centennial coins.

Choralist pianist Richard Weelmark and director Ted Hansen were called on to make two of the draws.

**Best costumes**

The special promotion was part of the 10-day merchant sponsored centennial days, with clerks in costume and sidewalk sales.

Judging of the best costumed clerks was done Saturday by Mayor Tom Hill and Chamber of Commerce secretary Marjorie Staley. They had hoped to find a best dressed woman and best dressed man, but found Paul Nielsen the only really eligible male on the main streets. He was natty in a suit with old-fashioned cape. Since he was a prime organizer of the Centennial Days he was regrettably ruled out of the prizes.

Instead two women took the top honors, Joan Morris in the Bank of Commerce and Maggie Given in Fobert Real Estate.

**Old and new**

Maggie Given wore a white and green dress which had been made by a neighbor of her parents' on the seventh line of Erin Township, Helen Brown.

Joan Morris had the most authentic costume, including a brooch and watch over 200 years old. She is employed in the Bank of Commerce.

**Concerts**

Acton Citizens' Band played an hour-and-a-half long concert, seated on a truck platform. Their audience was informal—chatting, humming, walking keeping time, eating and visiting in turn. Dr. George Elliott conducted a good turnout of band members.

At 8 p.m. the Acton Legion Chorallers mounted the stage to their usual peppy tunes, and found a very appreciative audience. Gil Malcolm introduced the selections and sang several solos. John McIlhugh also got plenty of friendly applause for his songs.

A guest soloist was Jackie Tucker of Uxbridge, whose grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Norman McEachern and parents Mr. and Mrs. Smethurst lived here formerly. Her beautiful voice brought a surprised silence from the large crowd, most of whom didn't recognize her voice among those of their familiar favorite singers and players during the program.

The blue jean crowd enjoyed the rock concert in the park early in the afternoon, given by local musicians.

By firework time, hundreds of people were inside the park, plus hundreds more lining the banks of the far shores. The colored fireworks lit up seas of happy faces.

Since park attendance and booth proceeds help the Acton Firefighters finance the

THE OFFICIAL photograph of the auspicious occasion: the unweaving of Acton's historic plaque Dominion Day afternoon. From the left, area councillor and former reeve G. W. McKenzie; hidden, the Hon. George Kerr; the Rev. A. H. McKenzie; Mrs. Laura Ditrach, former secretary of the development commission who dressed for the occasion; Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill; former

mayor and warden Dr. Frank Oakes; former clerk-administrator and area councillor Joe Hurst; former mayor and area councillor Les Duby; Prof. W. Ormsby of the Historical and Museums branch of the provincial government. Over 100 watched at the charming new park in front of the library.

# The Acton Free Press

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1974

Twenty-Eight Pages—Fifteen Cents

## Campaign to improve Manpower is success

Services at Halton Hills Manpower Center will be greatly improved in the near future.

"We have ordered the furniture and plan to have two counsellors in the office four days a week," Denis Quinn, acting manager of Canada Manpower in Brampton, said.

At present the Manpower Centre has a staff of only one counsellor and is open only one day a week. It is located on James Street in Georgetown.

The expansion of Manpower services came as quite a surprise to Michael Worthington, Plant Manager for Polypenco in Acton, who began a drive to have the Halton Hills service improved way back in March.

Worthington had all but given up because he was informed on June 10 by Manpower Minister Robert Andras that if any office was expanded in this area it would be in Bramalea. Worthington was stunned when Quinn informed him of this new development on June 27.

"I think this is just a case of the right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing," Worthington explained as the reason for the apparently sudden decision reversal on the part of Manpower.

"The service here has been pretty pathetic for quite a while," Worthington said. He cited two examples of Manpower's inaccessibility with which he was very familiar. From September 26 to November 5, 1973 he waited for Manpower to send him some applicants for jobs at Polypenco and didn't receive any until November 5. On another occasion he was sent only two people between February 18 and April 25 of this year. Worthington had also spent a half day at both the Brampton and Guelph Manpower offices coding his job descriptions and outlining his Companies operations to counsellors. "I figured that if Manpower was that inaccessible to me, an employer, it must be even worse for a fellow in the area who was unemployed," he added.

Worthington took his plight to Halton Regional Council on March 8 and was informed that it was a federal matter but that the Region would assist.

On April 5 he and Allan Masson, Halton Regional Chairman, went to Halton M.P. Terry O'Connor with the problem. O'Connor forwarded it to Manpower Minister Andras four days later and nothing more was heard about it for a month.

May 10 saw the first response from the Federal government in the form of a letter, from R.A. Girard, Departmental Assistant to Andras, stating that Manpower Centers throughout Halton were being investigated.

Then one month later came the letter from Andras, saying no to Georgetown expansion.

Mr. Worthington was surprised when Bob Parker, former Manager of the Brampton Manpower Centre visited him on June 6 to thank him for the effort he was making and said he realized there was a definite problem with Manpower services in Halton Hills. Parker also admitted that for a long time he had been trying to get an improvement.

"Something obviously went wrong somewhere between Brampton and Andras but I don't know where along the line," Worthington added.

The office in Georgetown will open after the furniture arrives, a new sign is put up, and the Regional office for Manpower gives its approval for the opening.

Staffing of the office has not been done either and it might involve moving some counsellors from the Brampton office, Quinn said.

"I'm delighted with the prospect of improved service for Halton Hills. It remains to be seen if it will improve things but it is certainly a positive step," Worthington said.



CAMEO-BROOCH features beneath a flower-brimmed bonnet create a portrait for photographer Peter McCusker. Model is Maggie Given, one of the prize winners in the merchants' costume contest during Centennial Days. She works at Fobert Real Estate.

JOAN MORRIS, who works in the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, won the award for the most authentic costume for Centennial Days. She borrowed her shawl from a friend, made her skirt 35 years ago, used an old blouse and decorated a hat she had at home. Her brooch and watch were her grandmother's and are over 200 years old.

## Free Press sold out

Copies of last week's Free Press were sold out in record time. One reason was the Centennial Album insert of old pictures, but as well there were many pictures of graduates and weddings that also evoke special interest to families.

Although Free Presses in whole of June 26 are just about collectors' items already, there are copies available of the Centennial section alone. They're on sale at the Free Press office - fifty cents, please.

## Coins are popular items

Centennial tokens - legal tender in Acton till September - are going like hot cakes already!

At least one store is completely out of its supply by Tuesday (yesterday). Out-of-town shoppers are picking them up delightfully as souvenirs. Some have gone already to Hamilton, Burlington and Guelph and they're not likely to be back in circulation again here.

The Legion tokens are being given out with dollar value as regular change.

There were 10,000 coins put out for distribution at the first of July. Not all are out to the participating stores; the banks are still stocked.

THREE CHOICES FOR YOUR



SEE PAGE NINE

## 10 Ontario scholars announced at high school

There are 10 Ontario scholars at Acton high school this past year with over 80 per cent at the end of grade 13. Four of them attained the high mark in January.

Highest marks were obtained by Andrea Broostad with 93.8 per cent. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Broostad, 44 Nelson Court. She was also an Ontario Scholar in January with 91.8. She'll study pharmacy at the University of Toronto.

Glen Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Y. Lee, 68 Churchill rd. S., attained 87.2 per cent. Julia Aitken, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Aitken, 176 Tildey Ave., has 86.7 per cent.

Susan Jamieson has 85 per cent. She's the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo R. Jamieson, Ballinacra. She finished her year in January.

Louise Harmsma achieved 84.3 per cent. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harmsma, 92 Agnes St.

Jim McNabb, son of Mr. and Mrs. James McNabb, 47 Cobblehill Rd., has 86 per cent.

Susan Shoemaker has 83 per cent. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Shoemaker, 55 Mill St.

Caroline Merrin has 82.2 per cent. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Merrin, 25 Knox Ave. She completed grade 13 in January. Bonnie Bristow and Bruce Swift both have 80 per cent. Bonnie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vic Bristow, 128 Elizabeth Dr. and finished grade 13 in January. Bruce is the son of Mrs. Elsie Syme, 20 Elmore Dr., and the late Frank Swift.

Eight of the Ontario scholars are graduates of the Robert Little school. However, Susan Jamieson attended Stewarttown senior public school and Glenn Lee the M.Z. Bennett school.



Andrea Broostad 93.8, Glenn Lee 87.2, Julia Aitken 86.7, Jim McNabb 86, Susan Jamieson 85, Louise Harmsma 84.3, Susan Shoemaker 83, Caroline Merrin 82.2, Bruce Swift 80, Bonnie Bristow 80