

# Lions centennial pool opened

A cheque was presented, ribbon cut and speeches made to mark the official opening of the Acton Lions centennial pool Sunday afternoon. Nearly 200 joined the 13 members of the sparkplug Lions club for the program in the high school auditorium.

Tours of the sparkling new \$310,000 were led by high school students before and after the ceremonies, and lunch was served after as everyone chatted.

**Highlight of the program** was the presentation of a giant cheque for \$50,000 from project chairman Art Gordon and all the Lions to Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill. This sum was the goal set by the Lions club when they started their campaign in Acton.

Contractor Gordon Hicks of Con Dign Construction and architect Don Snider presented a master key to club president Don Gordon.

"This father-and-son team on the Lions executive both spoke words of thanks to the community."

**Speakers** High school teacher Jim Goring was master of ceremonies and promised no pomp and undue circumstance, but a lot of fun.

Norm Elliott spoke as a former Acton councillor who has been involved in the early stages of the project. Council had been frustrated in their attempts to find a project for the town's centennial, he said, and were very happy to have the Lions introduce one.

It was a staggering idea and many didn't feel a town this size could have a pool.

He recalled the original cost estimate as \$125,000. "A lot said we'd never see this day," he said. He gave a strong vote of thanks to the Lions for coming up with the idea, convincing the people and sticking with it.

**Tremendous** Halton Hills councillor Les Doby also spoke of the Lions' tremendous effort. Acton celebrated its 100th birthday just as we became non-existent as a municipality. He felt our centennial programs

had been satisfactory, however. He thanked all who had been involved in 1972.

Vic Bristow, Lions campaign chairman, thanked "all the little people." It wasn't just us and council. He thanked those who collected and those who donated the \$50,000.

Mayor Tom Hill spoke of the club's belief in their project and dedication to their project and now its finish.

Architect John Snider especially thanked Reg Irish, superintendent of design and construction for the county board of education; Jim Evans, superintendent of plant operation and maintenance for the north area, and Art Burrill, supervisor of caretakers for the north area. He extended congratulations on behalf of the people who worked on the job.

Halton school board chairman Judy Alexander wished the children and their parents many hours of recreation.

**Elected officials** Minister of Government services Jim Snow recalled

that when he was Lions zone chairman Acton was a small club, but not small in ambition. He mentioned the future Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

M.P. Dr. Frank Philbrook, who had played on a Lions hockey team, feels pools are badly needed, and it's dangerous to learn to swim in lakes. Under the federal-provincial winter works program, \$75,000 has been provided or 28 percent of the cost. 100 percent of labor costs were paid to the end of May and 50 percent thereafter, under winter works.

The Rev. A.H. McKenzie gave the invocation and the Rev. Len Ewing the benediction.

**Just 13** The 13 enthusiastic Lions who saw their dream come true are president Don Gordon; past president Tom Fountain; first vice-president Don Murdy; treasurer Jim Mitchell; secretary Neil Miller; John Tamer Don Marzo; directors Art Gordon, Ray Evelan and Vic Bristow, with

members Morley Allan, John Greifeneder, Peter Papillon and Alf Berry.

**Figures** The pool is 82 feet, two inches long by 42 feet wide, ranging in depth from three and a half feet to 13 feet. It holds 170,000 gallons of water at 80 warm degrees in a room heated to 83 degrees. There are three-feet and nine-foot diving boards, two saunas, showers and change rooms.

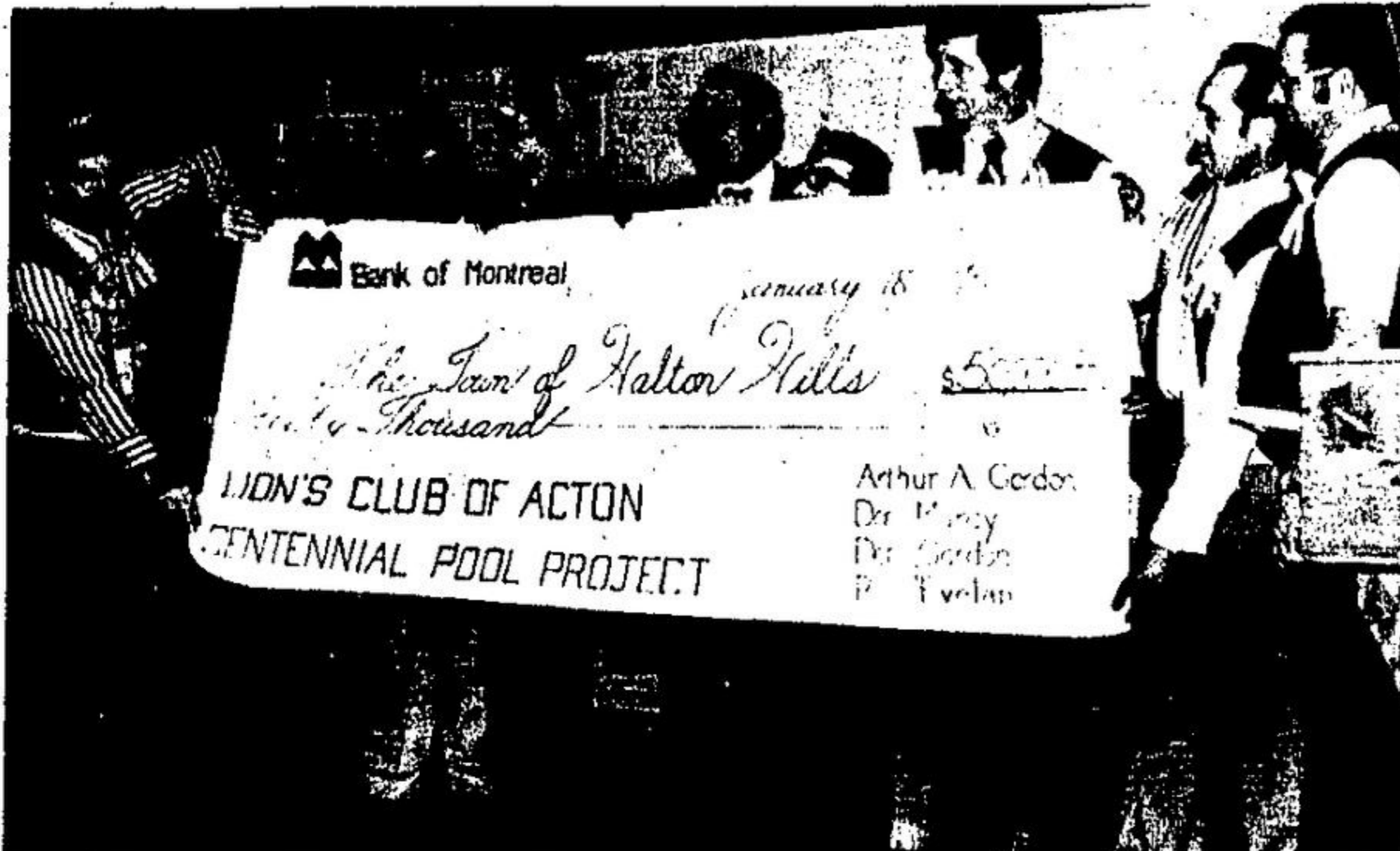
No more than 225 are allowed at one time.

The schools use the pool in the daytime and public swimming and lessons are at night and weekends.

Lions zone chairman Ray Harlow of Georgetown was among those attending.

The high school band, directed by Dave Sale, played all their liveliest tunes.

High school students guided tours through the new pool complex, and served coffee and cookies.



**GIANT CHEQUE**, three feet by eight feet, was presented by the Acton Lions to Halton Hills mayor Tom Hill Sunday afternoon as the town's contribution toward the Centennial pool. Left to

right Ray Evelan, Morely Allan, Tom Fountain, Peter Papillon, Tom Hill, Vic Bristow, Don Gordon, Don Murdy and Art Gordon. The mayor took it to the bank in Georgetown the next day.

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## Spark from torch

### Fire inside partitions basement to roof

Sparks from a torch were believed to be the cause of a fire at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Friend of R.R. 1, Acton on Monday.

The Acton and Milton volunteer fire departments joined forces to fight the blaze which started when Mr. Friend was thawing out some pipes with a torch. Sparks from the torch ignited the basement woodwork,

and ceilings. It was feared one of the walls would cave in, but quick and efficient actions by both department avoided this.

Damage to the house is extensive and according to Milton fire chief Bob Clement, the building is beyond repair.

The living room furniture, mostly antiques, was removed from the house before the fire reached the middle floor.

Firefighters stayed at the house for four hours before the fire was totally out. The incident was in the Milton fire district by six feet.

### Fatal accident near Speyside

Acton firefighters put out the fire in the basement before the arrival of the Milton men, but were hampered in their efforts to contain the flames. The fire got inside the partitions and worked its way through the house, inside the walls. Various fires broke out throughout the house, causing severe damage in the floors

Eric Stanley Reid, 23, of Milton was killed in a one vehicle accident on highway 25 near Speyside last night at 9:40 p.m.

Mr. Reid was travelling south on highway 25, when his car skidded into the east ditch, striking a tree. It is

believed he was alone in the car at the time of the accident.

It is unknown at this time whether there will be an inquest into the incident. The roads were lightly snow-covered.



**WATER WAS FED** to the eaves of R.R. 1, Acton house owned by Gordon McConnell and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Friend on Monday as fire climbed through the house inside the walls. Acton and Milton volunteer firefighters battled the flames for almost four hours.

## Recreation will be directed from Acton

The recreation co-ordinator for Acton and Esqueving moved in on his new position on Monday, Jan. 13 and spent most of his first week familiarizing himself with the communities and their facilities.

A graduate in physical education from McMaster university, John Ross Cooper received his Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Toronto. As well as teaching know-how he brings with him two years of practical recreational experience. Since his graduation in 1972, he has been with the Etobicoke Parks and Recreation Commission where he was working in community schools and he was also in charge of playgrounds and children's and adult cultural programs.

An avid sportsman, the co-ordinator sees recreation as something which covers a much broader spectrum of human needs than just physical participation. He feels there is as great necessity for a variety of cultural interests and is prepared to get behind their incorporation into his new communities where and if required.

**Cycling tours** A former star on McMaster track teams, he says he still runs to keep in shape. If he sees an interest in jogging in the town he will promote such a program. He feels that everyone should be involved somewhat in a physical fitness program that is cardiovascular. He lists running, jogging, cycling, swimming and cross-country skiing as the five main ones. He also participated in men's field hockey and basketball. In Etobicoke he was in charge of a bicycle club. He would like to assist cycling enthusiasts who want to organize tours and trips.

Mr. Cooper is pleased with the facilities he sees in Acton. He is now sure in which area he will begin. He feels that

after working in Etobicoke he will have to adjust to a smaller community.

Matching his knowledge of physical education with today's updated thinking on recreation, he is more interested in assisting groups rather than getting behind individual requirements. Mr. Cooper says that, when he first graduated as a physical education teacher, he wanted

to pass on his knowledge of athletics to high school kids. Since working in the field of recreation, however, he finds he can provide the same thing in a different way. "I can teach youngsters how to use leisure time in a creative way and learn self-development at the same time," he said.

The co-ordinator feels that recreation is another path to



**HOW ABOUT THAT!** Jack Carpenter is totting up top ratings in his new radio show. Story inside today's Free Press. -Photo Don Wilcox, courtesy CP&A

## Recreation committee

### Short two applicants suggest appointees

The dilemma of not enough applicants from Acton and too many from Georgetown for the Acton area recreation advisory committee, was solved by Halton Hills administration committee in a compromise move, Monday night.

Three Georgetown residents will be assigned to the Georgetown, (Wards three and four) committee, which is presently undermanned, and the four Acton applicants will be on the Acton committee. Two other Acton residents, members of last year's advisory committee, and previously members of the parks and recreation committee, were also named to the Acton advisory committee.

Council must ratify the appointments before the names are disclosed.

Councillor Les Doby said there were seven applications for the Acton committee but three were from Georgetown. He warned Acton people would be upset if Georgetown residents were appointed to the committee. He explained two members of last year's board had not applied since they were upset at the handling of the appointments, and the lack of letters of appreciation. But he had confirmed

they would like to be on this year's committee. He said one other previous member said he could not be on the committee due to business.

"I'm tired of these people from Acton saying they would have applied if they thought they would be accepted. They should apply like everybody else," growled Mayor Tom Hill.

"A lot of people won't accept that this is the way we're doing it, they feel there was a lack of courtesy shown them when no letter of appreciation was sent, and no one asked them if they wanted to be re-appointed," retorted Doby.

Councillor Ric Morrow suggested the three Georgetown residents be put on the Georgetown committee since they are short members. "It doesn't really matter whether there's seven or nine members on the committee he commented.

Councillor Ray Booth agreed with Morrow, saying it would be a different situation if too many applied, but when there was not enough, it seemed like a logical solution.

Morrow went on to suggest the four Acton applicants and the two others mentioned by Doby be appointed to the Acton recreation advisory com-

mittee. He suggested another appointment from Ward Two (Esqueving).

Chairman Dick Howitt agreed with the Georgetown appointments, but claimed it was the residents of Ward Two (Esqueving) own tough luck if no one applied. "No one in Ward Two should complain about lack of representation if they don't bother applying."

Morrow contended the people in Esqueving had never had any contact with recreation departments and wouldn't think of applying. He pointed out they were now paying a share of recreation and should be represented, "even if we have to go out and find them."

Recreation Director Doug Collison assured Morrow the various recreation groups in Esqueving preferred to run things their own way. He

pointed out the areas were split far apart, and he felt it was working well in the former township and should be left alone.

Morrow agreed to abide by Collison's opinion.

Doby said he was mainly concerned that people who give their time freely to the community feel they are appreciated.

Howitt said the two Acton residents should indicate they are willing to apply.

Booth agreed, saying it wouldn't hurt them to send a letter.

"It rubs me a little, I get the feeling they are trying to dictate to council whether or not they will apply," commented Howitt. He said, however, he was willing to go along with the recommendation.

"A little give and take until things are ironed out, never hurts," commented Doby.

## Allow Acton park expansion plans

Plans by Halton Hills Council to negotiate a purchase of several building lots adjacent to Fairy Lake in Acton for a park complex were endorsed by Halton Region's Planning and Development Committee last week.

The land is currently owned by a developer and a plan of subdivision for the land has been presented.

"This proposed plan of subdivision consists of approximately 4.9 acres of land adjacent the north-easterly section of Fairy Lake just west of Main St. The plan

encompasses 12 single family lots, four semi-detached lots and a commercial block all in conformance with the Acton Official Plan. These lands are quite flat, sloping towards the southern part of the property where a creek empties into Fairy Lake. Part of these lands are subject to flooding. Some concern has been expressed by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority over the use of these lands for residential purposes.

"The acquisition of the lands would make a valuable contribution towards the future recreational potential of Fairy Lake," planner Bob White said in a report.



**WAS PROSPECT PARK** invaded by an unidentified flying object on Friday? Not quite. An OPP helicopter landed at the park and the occupants deserted it while at the local detachment of the OPP.

## Flu bugs many

Although not in epidemic form, the flu that is going around Acton and area is "bugging" a lot of people.

Local doctors' offices reported many patients and heavy bookings because of the illness. House calls to the elderly have been numerous, and the symptoms vary from person to person.

Headaches are the common complaint, as well as very high fevers, inducing sweating, chest colds and derivatives such as pneumonia and bronchitis. Weakness, aches and pains in joints and necks are causing quite a few people

worry and discomfort.

The schools' attendance is no different than at any other time, even though there are a lot of people coughing and sneezing. The students who are away are generally absent because of the flu, but there are no more away than usual, according to Joan Williamson at the Acton high school.

The local pharmacies have been busy filling prescriptions of antibiotic pills and decongestant medicines.

The flu was at its peak in December, especially around Christmas, but is tapering off now.

## But nobody home

### OPP helicopter drops in

When members of the OPP helicopter team drop in for a visit, they REALLY drop in.

Cons. Gerald Dowd of the OPP and civilian pilot Ed Porco arrived Friday by helicopter and circled the town curiously before deciding to land in the park. They had made radio contact with their fellow officers of the OPP and a cruiser met them and gave them a lift over to the Acton OPP office on Willow St.

Here, however, the flying visitors found nobody at home but clerk Sue O'Shea. The two men on duty were attending an in-service training lecture at the OPP office in Milton. A Milton officer was covering

Acton in event of an emergency.

**List landings** The helicopter and its crew were out reconnoitering this district and might be back again some day.

One of their objects was to spot good landing places in case they are called here in an emergency.

They set out from the OPP general headquarters heliport in Toronto in their Bell Jet Ranger helicopter and cruised up to Acton on a clear, frosty morning.

The OPP has two of these helicopters which have been doing search and rescue work for two months now.

They spend a lot of time visiting detachments and demonstrating their equipment. It includes two stretchers, siren, loudspeakers, a night sun lamp which can light up a whole block from above, and a special hoist.

The hoist could lift people and snowmobiles and even heavier objects such as a stranded boat.

The first week the helicopters were in service, one was called to Moosonee to bring an Indian family out of the bush. They had almost run out of food when the OPP arrived from the sky.

In another case, a dog team and its handler went into the bush by helicopter and lo-

cated a body.

**Team** The helicopters are available to go wherever they are required. There are four training OPP personnel and four civilian pilots in the team.

Cons. Dowd says Acton park would be a good place to land, but probably only in winter. He visualized lots of children there in the summer, making a landing worrisome. He also took a good look at the Legion parking lot and the Department of Highways property west on No. 7 highway, for summer emergency landings.

They took off from the park in a swirl of snow.



**ADMIDST SWIRLING SNOW**, Acton's unique visitor took off for parts unknown. Friday's visit by the OPP helicopter was not of any urgent nature, but someday could be. See accompanying story.