

# The Acton Free Press

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## Sunshine and crowds welcome Santa to town on Saturday

The weather was perfect when Santa Claus came to town Saturday afternoon, behind 22 entries and two bands in a lively parade.

The Mill St. paving wasn't finished, and if the temperature had been any higher, the three blocks of dirt could have been a quagmire of mud. If the temperature had been any lower, musicians would have had trouble with their instruments.

Just one or two degrees below freezing made for optimum conditions, and the sun was shining brightly in a clear blue sky for the happy occasion.

Jim Rivett, the Y's Man who headed the committee this year, points out his club just took the initiative that got people started. He says the parade was a real community

event.

Next year His committee members and the participants are all pleased with the parade, and he says there will in all likelihood be another parade next

year. He would like to see it on an earlier weekend, however, probably in late November.

The state of Mill St. was a concern and it had been hoped the paving would all be done by parade day. It wasn't, but the construction men made

every effort to co-operate. Saturday morning several men were back at work levelling the dirt roadway. Manholes that were protruding too high and could have caused difficulties for walkers were removed. All the

big equipment was moved out of the way.

Winners

Best float overall was the M. Z. Bennett entry; it wins \$50. Second overall was the Acton Y's Men's green caterpillar, which won \$30.

Winning \$20 each as tops in their category were First Acton Beavers for service groups; St. Alban's church for church groups, Salamonia Construction for commercial entries; Speyside public schools for schools and Acton fair board for "other".

Other floats were entered by Osprings scouts, Bell Canada, Gord Dawe, Acton fair board, Acton scouts, First Acton Beavers, First Acton Brownies, Halton Hills recreation, Acton fire department, Country Mart, Robert Little school, Churchill community church, Acton Junior Farmers, Robert Grundy, Acton Snowmobile Club and the Georgetown fire department.

There were actually two more entries last year. Judges were Dr. Frank Oakes, Dr. Jane Hoslid and MPP Julian Reed.

On committee Working with Jim Rivett on the parade committee were Chamber of Commerce representative Paul Nielsen, churches, representative Terry Bridges, Y's Men George Wallis who was in charge of finances and Ralph Hall; Y's Menettes Louise Clark, Marg Wallis and Lynn Robertson; firefighter Larry Frizzell, Scoutler Mark Rowe and Sgt. Dick Hilton of the regional police, as well as Dana Coates.

Mr. Rivett had praise for the many other people who co-operated as well.

Donations covered all the costs, he said.

New route Starting the parade on the Crescent worked out well. It was an innovation dreamed up by firefighters, who were very capable parade marshals. There was little traffic congestion.

Scouts with CB radios helped keep track of the parade en route. Parking was reserved at the arena for the big floats.

Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band joined the Acton Citizens' Band in providing instrumental music. Some of the people on the floats sang lustily as they proceeded down the street, and one entry broadcast recorded music.

Treats About 700 candy cans were given out along the route and 300 in the Y afterward. There were 550 balloons given out as well. Some floats had riders who tossed out gifts of candy.

Three friends of committee chairman Jim Rivett came out from Toronto to take part, John Pool who was Big Bird, Bob Ritchie who was Daffy Duck and Bill Reid who was the egg. Two of them were invited up by last year's chairman, Tom Madrick, and had such a good time they were happy to come again, they said.

Other clowns were Y's Men and members of the Georgetown fire department.

Share Santa There were two people who shared the role of Santa. For the parade, Bert Robertson drove his own horse which was decked out with antlers to mimic a reindeer. His cutter was mounted on a float. The cutter had been damaged in a fire at the Robertson home last winter, but he had restored it for this year's parade. Afterward, Ron Douglas took over the character in the Y and did a tremendous job talking quietly to the many children who awaited their turn. He also donated make-up and made up the clowns.



BEARDMORE PARTY drew crowds to the plant Saturday afternoon for fun, food and gifts. Here, Susan Lindsay takes her turn on Santa's knee while Miss Acton Fair Charmaine Bigelow assists.

### Remove tower

## Repairs needed for town hall

Structural repairs required to bring Acton town hall up to standard were outlined for Halton Hills council last Tuesday in a preliminary report from Alan Zeegen Associates, consulting engineers.

The report concluded that the first and second floors of the building appear to be in good order, but a detailed examination of the structural floor system would have to be made to determine the load-carrying capacity of the floors. The report suggests the bell tower on the roof should be removed.

Parts of the roof system are overstressed under current conditions and some reinforcing would be necessary.

The exterior masonry walls are extensively cracked and repairs to the brickwork and some foundation work would be necessary.

Needs heat A heating system would have to be installed for the second floor. The present furnace at the first floor level would have to be enlarged.

Re-wiring is needed for the electrical systems. Washroom facilities need insulating. Insulation is also required for roof space and exterior walls.

The fire escape from the second floor is currently provided by an exit door onto the

existing flat roof. Some further fire-related work would be necessary to bring the building up to standards.

Example The firm said the two-storey brick building is "a particularly fine example of the type of architecture common in Southern Ontario" during the period of its construction in the late 1800s.

The first floor now houses the police office and the senior citizens' drop-in centre. The second floor is one large open area, still containing the 17-foot deep raised stage, with small dressing rooms.

The main arch over the front entrance doors is badly cracked as is the masonry in the area above the arch. Masonry cracking is also noticeable at most of the windows. There was only one crack which appeared to run into the foundation wall, the report stated. "This was very fortunate since it indicates that only a small area of underpinning may be necessary to stabilize the foundation movement occurring at this point."

With the exception of the front arch which would have to be completely reconstructed, most of the defective brickwork can be removed and replaced at the locations of the cracks.

There is no basement. The second floor cannot be reached now from the first floor, but only via the outside staircase.

The second floor seemed to be in good condition, with some cracks and stains in the plaster. There were some areas of wood rot on the roof deck and rafters but generally the wood was in sound condition. Some of the long span rafters and main wood beams would need re-inforcing as they are overstressed.

Bell tower The wooden bell tower extends over the main roof. The bell tower is supported on posts which bear in the two main wood beams which span across the building. The bell tower has a lean to it, and the report suggests that the bell tower should be removed since "not only is it probably unsafe but removal would relieve the loading from the main beams below."

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## Swine flu shots available in town

A swine flu vaccine clinic will be held in St. Alban's Hall, 52 Willow St., this Friday from 2 to 8 p.m.

Those persons 20 years of age to 64 will receive Monovalent A New Jersey 76 Swine, those 65 and over will receive Bivalent A Victoria 75 and A New Jersey 76.

People who have chronic conditions such as kidney, chest, heart condition, diabetes and are between the ages of 20 and 64 years will also receive Bivalent vaccine.

Those who may not receive

any vaccine are those who are allergic to egg, chicken or chicken feathers, those who have an infection at present, and those who have received any kind of vaccination in the past two weeks or plan to be vaccinated in the next two weeks.

Clinics have already been held at the Milton Health Unit on Monday and Tuesday, (yesterday) at the Georgetown Health Unit, and today (Wednesday) again at the Milton Health Unit. The clinic will return to the Georgetown Health Unit on Thursday.

## Heated trough for Lake ducks

The ducks at Fairy Lake will have their own heated drinking trough, Halton Hills council decided Tuesday night.

They will not be housed as they were last year, but the town will feed and water them.

Town Engineer Bob Austen said the Acton Fair Board had refused to have the ducks housed for the winter in their

building. He said the Fair Board offered steel posts and cover to build a lean-to.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said wildfowl don't have to be inside in the winter. The engineer said he phoned two supposed experts on wildlife, who both said if no-one feeds them they will fly to open water and will not freeze.

Councillor Les Duby said there is no easy solution to the problem so the town should simply feed them.

The engineer said the town has had offers from farmers to put them in the ponds, which they keep open in winter.

"Let's not duck the issue", quipped Councillor Ernie Sykes.

Councillor Ern Hyde suggested it would be simpler to let the farmers take the ducks, and the town supply the feed.

Duby said in the past the lake was kept open and the town workers fed the ducks. Councillor Ric Morrow stated the ducks should not be fed. "All the experts say to stop feeding them and they will fly away."

"Sorry you've got Ward. One problem," retorted Duby. "Why don't you get rid of us?"

Councillor Dick Howitt said horse owners use troughs with a heater in them so the water doesn't freeze, and suggested the same could be done for the ducks at very little cost.

"In Acton we have a lake and ducks, and the people like to see them. It's an inconvenience, but the people

### Paving done hopefully soon

King Paving equipment can still be seen on Mill St. today (Wednesday), but the work will be completed soon.



DIVISION COMMISSIONER Joy Cox, left, pins a thank you badge on the lapel of a surprised Deputy District Commissioner Bea Ginger Monday evening during the Brownie and Guide Christmas party.



PARADE WITH 22 entries and two bands led Santa Claus into town Saturday afternoon. A large crowd watched the glittering parade in the bright sunshine. Y's Men spearheaded the organizing of the parade for the second year in succession. More pictures inside.

## Three police forces in pickup truck chase

Several Ontario Provincial Police cars with sirens blaring chased a pickup truck through the streets of Acton Thursday afternoon before the truck was finally forced to stop south of Acton on Highway 25.

The truck, however, and pursuing police cars reached speeds of up to 80 miles per hour at points between Cambridge and Acton.

The chase began at 3:59 p.m. Thursday when Const.

Brian Voegtli, of the Waterloo Regional Police, saw a blue pickup truck back into a parked car on Main Street in Cambridge. He stepped in front of the truck but had to jump away when the vehicle

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### No news is bad news

The lack of information at election headquarters riled Councillor George Maltby.

He told Halton Hills council, Tuesday night, people in Ward Two who didn't feel like driving to Gordon Alcott Arena in Georgetown didn't know what was going on. "When they phoned election headquarters they were told they couldn't give out that information."

Councillor Pat McKenzie said he planned to zero in the "poor show of election procedure" in the new year. He said many people away

out near Acton had to drive to Limehouse to vote, and people living in downtown Acton had to go to the Legion, on Acton's outskirts.

Councillor Roy Booth claimed people in Ward Three had to go past one polling place to get to the one where they voted.

Councillor Russell Miller said he had several calls from people in Acton, who called him at the arena to try to get some information. He said the Clerk Administrator had instructed the people tabulating results not to give out any information.

## Another rate increase for Acton hydro

For the second time in less than a year, hydro rates are being increased, Acton Hydro Commission announced on Thursday.

At the commission's monthly meeting, representatives from Ontario Hydro told the members an increase at the local level was necessary to alleviate Acton's costs, due to the Ontario Hydro's 33 per cent increase, due January 1. The local commission pays Ontario

Hydro, and bills Acton customers, for services rendered in order to raise money to pay the higher echelon.

Local residential consumers will be paying 22.9 per cent more for hydro, as of March 1, 1977. These customers are billed every two months, and will be paying 6.8 cents per kilowatt (kwt) for the first 100 kwt and 3.4 cents per kwt for the next 400 kwt. They will also pay 2.25 cents per kwt for the

balance. People who rent a hydro water tank are allowed 1000 kwt at 2.15 cents per kwt at no balance charge.

This is an increase from 5.9 cents per kwt, for the first 100 kwt, 3 cents for the next 400 kwt, 1.6 cents for the next 1000 kwt, with 1.75 cents per kwt being paid for the balance.

Commercial consumers, billed monthly, face a 25.5 per cent increase. Costs will be 6.80 cents per kwt for the first 50 kwt., 3.40

cents for the next 200 kwt, and 2.75 cents per kwt for the next 9750 kwt. The costs of the balance will be 1.6 cents per kwt.

This marks an increase from 59cents for the first 50 kwt, 3 cents for the next 200 kwt, 2.25 cents for the next 9750 and 1.15 cents on the balance.

Water tank rentals will remain the same at two dollars for a 40 gallon tank, and \$2.50 for a 60 gallon tank,

per month. The minimum monthly bill will stay the same also, at \$3.50 per month for commercial customers and \$7.00 every two months for residential consumers.

The Hydro Commission is absorbing nine per cent of Ontario Hydro's increase, instead of passing it along to the consumers.

The commissioners explained that the rate increase conforms with the federal government wage and price control guidelines.

## Christmas rush on at post office

The Acton Post Office is experiencing the first few days of the Christmas rush, according to Postmaster Gord McKeown.

Monday afternoon seemed to be the beginning of the rush, he said, with over 8,000 pieces of mail being sent out to various locations each day this week. The average in the off season is 2,000 a day.

Mr. McKeown also said the amount of incoming mail from other towns has been heavy, but has not yet reached its peak.

No additional staff has been hired, but the present part-time staff may have their hours extended if they are needed. Mr. McKeown said this should be enough staff.

Letter carriers in town will be working extra hours during the rush. They are already slated to be delivering mail this Saturday and will work a normal shift until Friday.

Mail service will shut down from December 25 to December 28, with regular service resuming on Wednesday, December 29. For the New Year's holiday, staff will work a regular day on Friday, December 31, but have January 3 off to observe the holiday.

### Three injured

Milton Ontario Provincial Police estimate \$2000 damage to a car driven by Frances Teasdel, 138 King St., Milton, after it went out of control on Highway 25 just south of 22 Sideroad and crashed into a hydro pole on the east side of the highway.

Police say Mrs. Teasdel was heading northbound when the incident occurred. There was \$300 damage to a hydro pole, report the police.

Three people were injured, including the driver, and were treated at Milton Hospital.