



AL HOLMES, of Willow St. demonstrates the easy way to clear a driveway Monday. He was just in the middle of his job when the snow monsters rose up and attacked. The photo above shows the wedge tactics which the snow things used to trap Mr. Holmes. He managed to escape but appears, in the photo on the top right of the page, to have been infected by the dread beast, and is slowly turning into a snow monster himself.

"Change has to come"

Government should look at regional government

Regional government has been with us for more than three years now and, according to Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, residents in north Halton are generally dissatisfied and annoyed by the new system of government.

Mr. Reed said the unrest seems to be most acute in Acton and the two former townships, but he added, "I'm hardpressed to find anyone singing the praises of regional government."

Mr. Reed had spent the evening prior to the day of interview with this reporter,

meeting with citizens in Nasagaweya and hearing complaints and concerns the citizens want to voice.

He came out of that meeting concluding that there were just two major issues bothering the people in that area, regional government and proposals for market value assessment.

Talk costs

The MPP notes that costs are things generally talked about in connection with regional government. But he feels a lot of the unrest comes from the remoteness people feel in relation to municipal

government now.

The balance of representation lying heavily in favor of the south and against the north at regional government makes it difficult for the north, Reed said.

"Darcy McKeough (Provincial Treasurer) admitted during a speech to the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce that it is more expensive and there is duplication. It didn't sit too well. It's like he was saying that's the way it is and that's what you're to get," Reed recalled.

"Change must come. Citizens' groups are making their feelings felt," he said.

Revolution

Reed recalled Treasurer McKeough telling Halton Regional Council that any change would have to be initiated at the regional, not the provincial level. MPP Reed predicts the big push will come from the people.

Reflecting on McKeough's statement, Reed said he dearly wished the government would take a look at what regional government has done instead of waiting for "some kind of minor revolution."



JULIAN REED
Halton MPP

Phone calls help committee

The members of the Actonians for Acton committee are discovering that people find it easier to talk to them than to write, as previously requested.

This committee of 18 citizens is reviewing regional government. Sub-committees have been formed and are looking into various aspects of the question and possible alternatives to regional government. They will be meeting again on Sunday, Jan. 23, and they want as much input as they can before that.

They asked before, via The Free Press, for letters. Now they add to that a list of people who can be phoned:

Chairman Peter Papillon 853-0612, vice-chairman Norm Elliot 853-1804, directors Charles Leatherland 853-1745, Lou Bonnette 853-1016, Ray Arbie 853-0744 and Bill Yundt 853-1621; or Brendan Aherne 853-0911 in the day or 853-1293 evenings.



MAYOR TOM HILL with his new chain of office, after it was presented by Rev. Harold Llewellyn, at the inaugural meeting of Halton Hills council.

Stolen

A 23 channel CB radio and antenna were stolen from a car parked at the Churchill S. apartment buildings on the weekend, according to the police. Owner is a Simcoe man.

Police rate up

Last month there were 1,309 criminal offences handled by the Halton Regional Police, which brought their year end total up to 18,217, according to statistics released last week at a Halton Police Commission meeting.

Of the monthly offences the police managed to solve 49.5 per cent of the cases, which was above the year's average of 45.9 per cent.

Police apprehended 131 people for liquor offences last month while the next highest total was 106 people apprehended for shoplifting goods worth under \$200. Of this total, 35 were male juveniles and 29 were female juveniles. One male was charged with rape last month in Halton.

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services for them. He pointed out Halton Hills has good rail access, but none to a major highway.

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because of events of the past two or three years. So you must be careful of your activities, and carry out your duties in a responsible and proper manner, never allowing any suspicious act."

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Blitzed by blizzard all schools closed

The sudden storm which struck Acton on Sunday night closed schools, disrupted mail service, stranded motorists, and caused one death in the area.

Al Mitchell, 47, was shovelling snow at his home at 289 McDonald Blvd. when he suffered a heart attack. He noticed chest pains and was taken to Glenlea Clinic.

His death was one of several in Ontario attributed to the storm. Mr. Mitchell's funeral is not in Acton.

Acton police reported a surprisingly quiet and accident free day on Monday. Sergeant Dick Hilton felt that "most people did the smart thing and stayed home." The department's major problem was with parked cars that interfered with snow removal

entrances announcing the by-law.

Schools closed

Monday was the first time since February of 1970 that all schools have been closed because of the weather, according to the Board of Education. Acton High School was reopened on Tuesday, but with the buses still out, there were "only about 150 kids" in school, said principal Dean Fink. The school operated on an altered time table, because of the low number of students. Instead of trying to hold normal classes, the school set up opportunities for individual instruction and review and outdoor activities such as snowshoeing for the students.

School buses did not operate again Tuesday due to the condition of rural roads.

According to postmaster Gord McKeown, "all Post Office trucks except Guelph's were pulled off the road on Monday. This affected Tuesday's delivery of out of town mail, but 'carriers delivered what we had,' on both Monday and Tuesday. Mr. McKeown expects service from Toronto to be back to normal for today's delivery. "It's all up to Toronto," he said.

Stores in Acton were generally unaffected by the storm, since most Acton stores are closed on Monday anyway. A few of the stores which did

AL HOLMES wound up covered with snow when he tried out his new snow blower on Monday, following the big storm.

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The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Second Year—No. 28.

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1977.

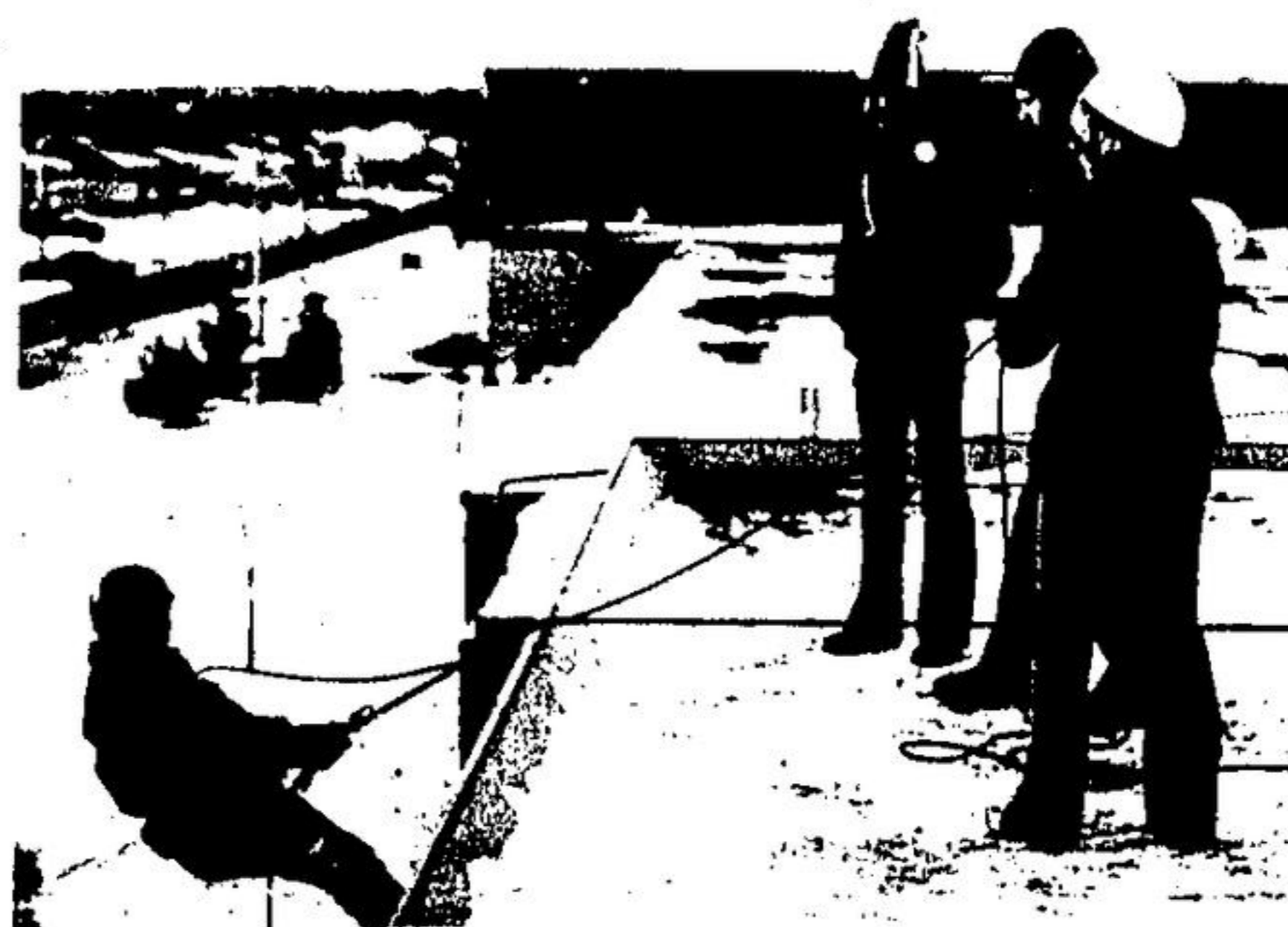
Eighteen Pages—Fifteen Cents

Drug charge

A 16 year old was charged with being in possession of narcotics Saturday at 2:05 a.m. by the Acton detachment of the police. He was apprehended on Mill St. He will appear in court Jan. 20.

Break-in

A break in at a house just north of Limehouse was investigated by the Acton detachment this week, following a report on Sunday. Missing are two televisions, and a stereo with speakers, valued at \$1200.



RICK GIBSON, LEFT, rappels his way down the 25-foot face of the high school under the watchful eyes of teacher Wally Rowley as part of an Outers Club activity. It was the first descent for Rick and for Jocelyn Lamberink (in white helmet). Dave Hannah, in in stripped toque, has been down before.

15 miles out Snowmobiler's wrong turn

A snowmobiler from Guelph became lost in the bush Monday evening, after he and a companion, also from Guelph left Acton Legion hall about 6 p.m. and headed north-west to the Wellington-Halton town line. After crossing the lake and starting in to the bush known as "the Ponderosa", the men became separated.

After a couple of hours, at about 9:30 p.m., the one man grew so concerned he called the Acton detachment of the regional police.

The police queried the man and also contacted Guelph O.P.P.

Plans were set up for making a search of the area, including officers on snowmobiles.

Before the search began, the missing man was heard from.

He had taken a couple of wrong turns... and snowmobiled all the way to Hornby garage.

He called Milton O.P.P. from there, and they contacted Acton. The friend drove the 15 or so miles down to Hornby to pick up his friend, who by then was out of gas. The search was called off.

Accidents

Two cars were towed away Monday morning about 10:30 a.m. following a collision less than a mile west of Acton. The car was driven by William Howsell, Guelph, and the other was parked partly on the roadway, and owned by Jules Fyler, R. R. 3. Damage was estimated at \$800 to one and \$700 to the other, according to the Milton O.P.P. who investigated.

Roads were slippery when two cars were in collision at the corner of No. 5 sideroad and Highway 25 Monday at 4:45 p.m. Drivers were Joanne Turner, lot 5, Con. 3 Acton and Byron Fumbers, 240 Elmora. Total damage was estimated at about \$150 by investigating police.

Despite the bad road conditions and blowing snow, there were few car accidents Monday.

"Many people stayed home," police surmise.

Judge D. Latimer swears in board

Provincial Court Judge Doug Latimer, Georgetown, swore 12 veteran trustees and seven of the eight newly elected trustees into office at Halton Board of Education's inaugural meeting, Thursday.

Latimer said it was an honor to be asked to swear in the new board and then jokingly noted he was a product of the public school system but none of the trustees could be blamed for that. As a former member of the old North Halton Board of Education and Georgetown High School Board of Education, he said it was particularly pleasing to be swearing in trustees.

Latimer observed the

board serves a much larger "arena" and operates in more "luxurious quarters" than trustees in days gone by but they are there for the same reason as their predecessors, to discharge responsibilities to the best of their ability.

He said a member of the silent majority in Halton he wanted to remind the trustees their real responsibility was to the children living in the region.

"Your trust and responsibility is to prepare them for the complex and very challenging world," Latimer declared.

"The education of young people is the reason you are

here."

Latimer had the 19 men and women read aloud with him the declaration of Oath of Office and Oath of Allegiance and then sign the documents.

Only one trustee, John Bradley, who represents the separate school supporters in Halton Hills and Milton, was absent from the meeting. It was announced Bradley missed the inaugural meeting because of a previous business commitment.

Director of Education Em Lavender read the reports from the Clerks of Halton's four municipalities con-

taining the results of the election.

Latimer swore into office returning trustees Bill Lawson, Milton, Judy Alexander, Bill Herd, Len Auger, Len Crosier, and Jim Clelland, Oakville, Rev. Garry Morton, Fred Armitage, Noel Cooper, Dr. Helen Howard-Lock, Edna Robinson and Bill Priestner, Burlington.

He also swore in seven new trustees including Don Long and Bert Hinton, Halton Hills, Ivan Armstrong, Milton, Elsie Hinson, Oakville, Elaine Riehm, Cameron Jackson and Florence Mears, Burlington.

March of Dimes starts this week

The 26th annual campaign for funds begins this week in Acton and across the province and the Ontario March of Dimes is optimistic about reaching their target of \$500,000.

"That is the minimum required to maintain the present program and to handle the increased demands brought about by government cutbacks in social and health services," says March of Dimes executive director Arthur MacAllum.

The Acton campaign is again under the guidance of Alice Doby, who is attempting to have coin boxes placed in all banks and school cafeterias. The campaign will go on for three weeks.

Contributions to the fund can be made in care of the Bank of Montreal, or Mrs. Doby will pick them up. She can be reached by phoning 853-1854.

Mrs. Doby will also be giving March of Dimes bulletins to the churches in town.

Multi-million fire in Georgetown

The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office is investigating an early morning fire in Georgetown which destroyed most of the Bookdale warehouse plus the Rapid Print shop and a small motorcycle repair shop, early last Thursday morning. The fire marshal is automatically called in to investigate any fire in which damage exceeds \$250,000. Early estimate placed value

of book stock at Bookdale at \$3 million but some are still usable.

The front half of the one storey building, owned by Bookdale, a distributing firm for Avon and Warner paperback books, was damaged beyond repair. Georgetown Firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading extensively beyond a wall to the back part of the ware-

house. The Rapid Print and motorcycle shops were located in the destroyed front half of the building.

Acton firefighters were called and remained on alert in Georgetown fire hall. The alarm was first turned in by Nish Vardy, a night foreman at the DRG Stationery plant across the street, and by police, shortly before 2 a.m. Flames were shooting 30 to 40 feet into the air and the fire and smoke were clearly visible as far away as the Silvercreek hill between Georgetown and Acton.

Town identity emerging, Mayor Hill predicts

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