

## ACTON CONTINUATION SCHOOL Commencement Programme

Tuesday, December 5th, 1944

### Programme

MUSIC		by members of the Acton Boys' Band
East and West—March	Esther's Overture	Roseland Waltz
Merry Mariottes—Characteristic March	Lygia Overture	
GOD SAVE THE KING		
CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS		Dr. F. G. Oakes Chairman Acton School Board
PRESENTATION		Prizes, Diplomas, Medals
SCHOOL CHOIR		Accompanist Margaret Robinson
Home on the Range The Lass of Richmond Hill, with descant—Dunkill		
SOLO—O For Wings—Mendelssohn		Joyce Desureault
PIANO DUET		Hungarian Dance No. 5—Brahms Shirley Elliott, George Elliott
DOUBLE TRIO—Harp that Once Tera's Halls—Thos. Moore		John Fargeter, Jean Harris, Marjorie Britton, Jack Stewart, John Agar, Ralph McKeown—Accompanist Mrs. E. A. Pulker
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE		Three Act Play
SCHOOL CHOIR		John Peel, with descant—Shaw O Canada, arranged by Albert Hans Will the audience kindly join the choir in the singing of the fourth stanza
Ruler Supreme, who hearest humble prayer, Hold our Dominion in Thy loving care; Help us to find, O God, in Thee, a lasting rich reward, As waiting for the better day, we ever stand on guard, O Canada! Glorious and free! We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee, O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.		
Directors of Play—Miss J. Barber, Mrs. R. Carton Music Director—Miss Lynda Stewart, A. T. C. M. Members of Boys' Band—George Elliott, Aldo Brada, Armand Brada, Jim Speltvoegel, Lorne Simpson, Lorne Arthur, John Agar, Ray Arbic, Ernest West, Don Lamb, Julian Zajac.		
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE		The Cast of the Play
Mr. Bennett	Ralph McKeown	Willard Duval
Mrs. Bennett	Joan Fargeter	Betty Britton
Lady Lucas	John Harris	Joyce Desureault
Charlotte Lucas	Raymond Arbic	Bunny Anderson
Jane Bennet	Shirley Kentner	Raymond Arbic
Elizabeth Bennet	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Lydia Bennet	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Mr. Darcy	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Mr. Bingley	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Mr. Collins	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Anelia	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Mr. Wickham	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Bellinda	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Amanda	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
A Young Man	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Captain Denby	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Miss Bingley	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Agatha	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
A Second Young Man	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
A Maid	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Maggie	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Mrs. Gardiner	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Lady Catherine	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Fitzwilliam	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
Mrs. Lake	John Agar	Mac Sprowl
THE WINNERS OF PRIZES, DIPLOMAS, MEDALS, AND TROPHIES		
1. A special prize is given by the L. O. D. E. to the boy and girl in the Middle School having the best all round record, throughout the four years in school. Awarded to Margaret Blow and Jack Mainprize. Presented by Miss A. McCallum, Regent of Lakeside Chapter L. O. D. E.		
2. The School Board medals to the Athletic Champions for 1944 are presented by Mr. George Mason, Junior Girls' Champion, Elaine Arbic; Intermediate Girls' Champion, Joan Somerville; Senior Girls' Champion, Betty Britton, Joan Fargeter; Junior Boys' Champion, Jim Speltvoegel; Intermediate Boys' Champion, Lorne Arbic; Senior Boys' Champion, Ralph McKeown.		
3. The trophies won by the students are presented as follows:		
(i) The A. T. Brown Trophy for Grade IX Academic Proficiency, awarded to Ernest West.		
(ii) The Wm. Cooper Trophy for Grade X Academic Proficiency awarded to Georgina Anderson.		
(iii) The H. H. Hinton Trophy for Middle School Academic Proficiency awarded to Douglas Davidson.		
(iv) The Dr. Cullen Trophy for Proficiency in M. S. Science awarded to June Talbot.		
(v) The Dr. Buchanan Trophy for Proficiency in M. S. Language, awarded to Douglas Davidson.		
(vi) The Dr. J. E. McEwen Trophy for Proficiency in M. S. English, awarded to Douglas Davidson.		
(vii) The F. S. Blow Trophy for M. S. Mathematics, awarded to Douglas Davidson.		
4. The Lower School Intermediate Certificate is granted to John Agar, Georgina Anderson, Raymond Arbic, Aldo Brada, Armand Brada, Willard Duval, May Dyrrie, George Elliott, Donald Lamb, Joyce Lamb, Delores Lappin, Lavina Lawson, Elizabeth Masters, Marjorie Norton, Elnor Ross, Joan Somerville, Donald VanDoorn.		
5. The Secondary School Graduation Diploma is granted to Margaret Blow, Douglas Davidson, Jack Gordon, John Mainprize, June Talbot.		
THE TEACHING STAFF		
C. A. Stewart, B.A., Principal		
Miss Jean Barber—Assistant—Mrs. Ruby Carton		
THE ACTON SCHOOL BOARD		
Dr. F. G. Oakes, Chairman		
Mr. W. Middleton, Secretary.		
Mr. G. A. Dills, Mr. J. A. Chapman, Mr. W. Geo. Mason,		
Mr. F. S. Blow, Mr. V. B. Rumley		

# Town Hall Tales

At the town hall the play was the thing

by George Elliott

Reading stories of plays in the Town Hall by Alice Duby and of High School Drama Club activities, reminded me that the Town Hall was the local center of theatrical activity in years gone by.

The stage was not a large one but it was excellent for the sort of 'drawing room' plays produced by local theater companies. There was no stage house above the stage for handling sets so they were simple and left in place. The side stage space was adequate if the number of props to be moved on and off was reasonable. Dressing room space was inadequate; there were two of them presumably one for each sex, with a connecting door between.

To get from one side of the stage to the other, backstage, necessitated some door knocking and hurried covering up as actors went from side to side past whoever happened to be changing or being 'made up' at the moment.

The lighting was simple but effective, there being overhead lights but no spot lights except, on rare occasions when one was brought in to spot the stage from the back of the hall. Footlights were an afterthought and a row of them could be set up at the front of the stage if needed. All in all productions were simple and economical in terms of material and people required. This was a great advantage then since the play and not the setting was the focus of attention.

The hall itself was an intimate one. It had excellent acoustics and because most seats were close to the stage you looked up at the actors; even with someone tall in front it was possible to see. This closeness brought the audience right into the action of the play.

As we discovered just recently the stage floor had been sloped downward from back to front by the Town Hall builders to improve the lines of sight from the level hall seating area to the stage.

The builders knew what they were about in those days. There was a high curved proscenium arch over the stage from which hung a dark rose, scalloped, curtain fringed with gold lace. This squared off the stage opening which was then closed off by curtains of the same dark rose colour moving out from either side. The person who operated the curtains on the left front of the stage, also turned the house lights on and off. The stage lights also operated from here but since no dimming was possible they were turned on and left on for a performance. Different groups used the hall for their plays; you just asked Council for permission. The St. Alban's players were noted for their expert productions before my time but some plays in later years I do remember.

Back in the late forties the High School put on what was perhaps the most ambitious play performed for some time in the Town Hall and certainly the most ambitious ever attempted by the High School before or since. Under the direction of Mrs. Ross Carton, who taught all the English and French in the High School, and assisted by Jean Barber, who taught Latin and History, the school produced a stage version of Jane Austen's romantic novel 'Pride and Prejudice'. At that time I had not read the novel but I was certainly entranced by the play. Late movie addicts can catch the screen-

play of it starring Laurence Olivier and Vivian Leigh if they keep watch on the TV guide.

It was a long difficult play, not really a comedy which is easy for amateurs to do, but a serious play of character and manners. A substantial royalty was paid to the owners before the play could be produced.

Mrs. Carton did an admirable job of rehearsing the students, most of whom had never done any acting before. The casting was superbly done and looking back today I wonder how those teachers managed to know enough about their students to choose correctly those who would fit the parts best since they had to be pretty well type cast. After years of intermittent playgoing, and having seen the movie version and read the novel, I am still amazed at the quality of that play as I recollect it.

The two principals, Ray Arbic as Darcy and 'Bunny' Anderson (Stewart) as Elizabeth had difficult romantic leads but they performed flawlessly, in fact they were the stars of the show. I remember on the last night of the play, when, as Darcy and Elizabeth, in the last scene their 'on again', 'off again' romance came to a successful conclusion, they embraced and kissed happily as the curtain closed.

From the audience point of view it was a perfectly natural ending to a romantic play but the kiss wasn't in the script. This was a pretty daring bit of ad lib business for a High School play in those days especially since the two of them were already going steady with their future spouses at the time.

Some of the cast of that play still live here in town. Collins the curate who tried for Elizabeth's hand and lost was played by (now Sheriff) Mac Sprowl. Jean Harris (McPhail) was Charlotte Lucas who got Collins on the rebound.

Elizabeth's younger sister Lydia was Shirley Kentner (McKeown). Mr. Bennett, Elizabeth's father, was played by Ralph McKeown, and Will Duval made a properly distinguished English butler. Lorne Arbic, Ray's brother, had a walk on part with a few lines and he took to going down to Watsons dairy bar for refreshments after being made up and before his part came on. The last night of the play he took too long over a milkshake and didn't get back in time for his entry. But the play went on and they ad libbed that bit so his part wasn't missed at all much to his chagrin when he turned up a few minutes later.

As for me, I was the orchestra. There was an off-stage hall in one scene and the sound of music was supposed to float over the scene. I played a Strauss waltz on the old Town Hall piano right down in front for that scene so I got to see everything up close. Before the play some High School members of the Acton Boys and Girls Band played to entertain the audience.

Another play I remember well was brought to the Town Hall by a woman's group from Hillsburgh or Erin. I guess no men up there were interested in acting because they took all the roles and actually did quite well in the male parts.

The play was 'Little Lord Fauntleroy' a real Victorian drama. I remember they didn't have all their lines down, perhaps because it was a long play. To solve the problem little pieces of paper were stuck about in inconspicuous places on the stage with the lines on them.

It must have been difficult remembering to which potted plant your next line would be pinned. Quite a bit of dialogue took place with the speaker holding a drape back and looking out a window. Some one back stage must have kept changing the lines taped to the window as the play went on so it was a useful dodge.

One principal part was that of an elderly gentleman, Lord Fauntleroy's guardian. The woman taking his part was director of the company and she did a fine performance even to the voice. She sat in a chair beside a table for most of the action and beside her was a picture of some departed relative on an easel on the table. I suspect the script for the whole play was behind the picture.

These are only a couple of the plays I remember in the Town Hall and these would be near the end of its career as a playhouse. There must have been many other memorable nights when rapt audiences watched and listened to their fellow Actonians capture some of the glamour of the theater on the old Town Hall stage.

## Trinity group sails on brigantine

by Deb Wellwood

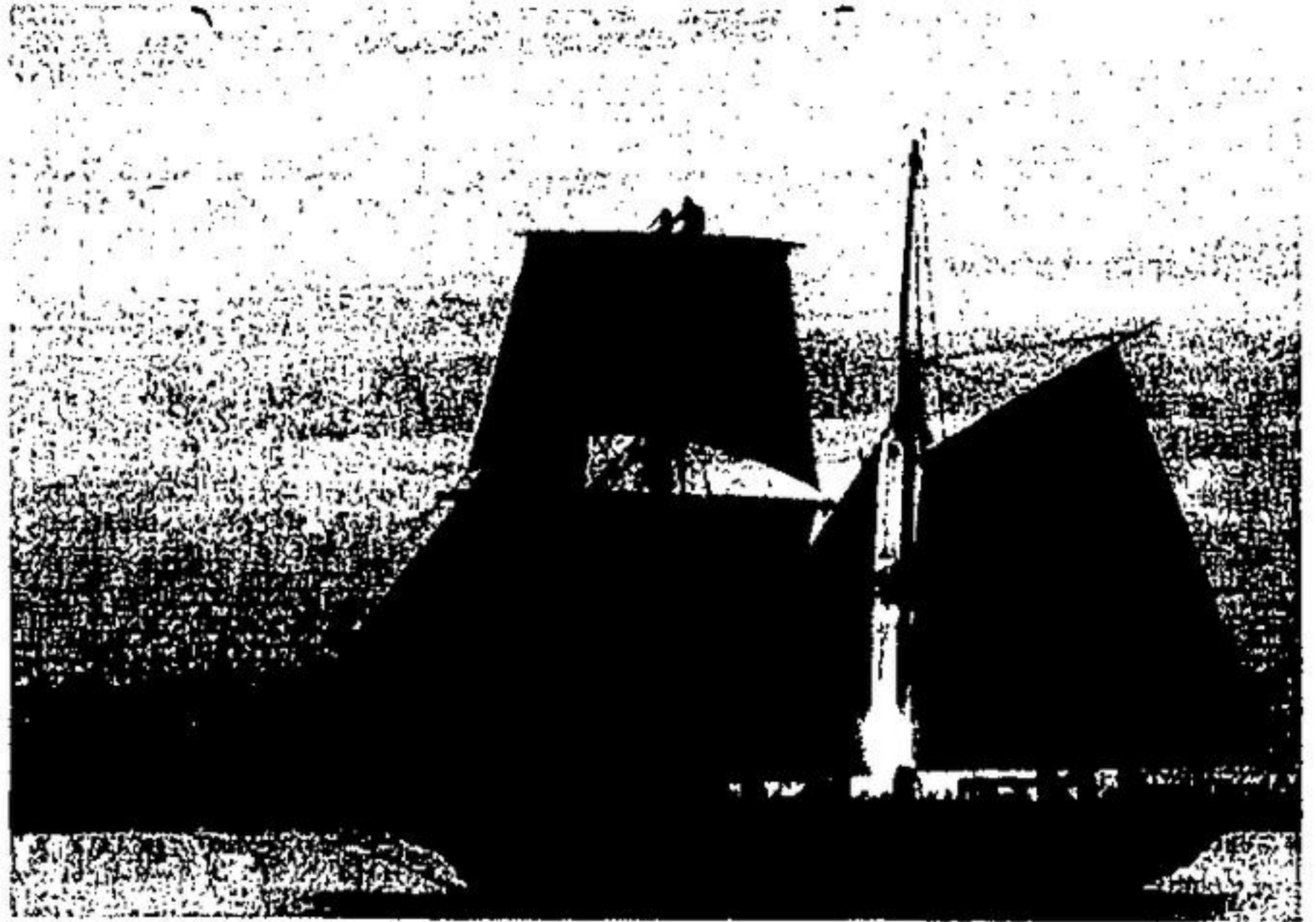
A group of people from Trinity United Church's youth group ventured out onto the waters of Lake Ontario this weekend for a great sailing adventure. We arrived on pier 4, at Toronto harbour at 7 Friday evening to meet our challenge, the "Pathfinder".

Once aboard, the seven member crew divided us up into three watches (red, white and blue). Each watch was taught how to coil the lines, tie various knots, and then given a station to man in preparation to set sail.

Once under sail, we were welcomed by Captain Richard Birchill, and then the first watch was off to work. The remaining watches were then encouraged to bed down for a few hours to be alert and prepared for their midnight to early morning watches.

During each watch we were responsible for sailing maneuvers, and maintenance of the boat. The crew was very patient and helpful, especially as we tried to learn all the various nautical terms. It was almost like learning a new language.

They tried to vary our stations each time we were on watch so we could learn as much as possible. Everyone was encouraged to participate in taking down and raising the sails, doing speed calculations, climbing the rigging, and even trying their hand at navigation by taking a turn at the ship's helm. Saturday morning began by



BRIGANTINE "Pathfinder" is a 60-foot, steel-hulled, two-masted vessel equipped with engines as well. A group of Acton people last weekend joined the regular crew of Commanding Officer, senior and experienced boys and girls. These young people sign up for two week sailing programs, and special groups, such as Acton's are accommodated. The program is designed to give young people a chance to broaden their horizons.

scrubbing the deck, polishing the brass, and cleaning the seamen's and officers' quarters.

Our destination for the day was Port Dalhousie where the Pathfinder was to be a honoured guest at the yacht club's annual Sail Pass. A sail pass marks the beginning of the yachting season where the commodore welcomes the

boats, and gives them his best wishes.

After a short stay in Port Dalhousie we set sail again back for the shoreline of Toronto. We arrived in Toronto harbour at 11 a.m. Sunday with our adventure almost over. We then went below deck, packed up our gear, said our goodbyes to the captain and crew, and headed

home for Acton with our "sea legs".

Participants for the weekend adventure were Chuck, Jean, Kathryn, and Miriam Beaton, Pauline and Bill Leslie, Joanne and Peter Marks, Rob Allen, Joanne Miller, Juanita Andrews, Deb Wellwood, Lynda Shadbolt and Sue Mellor.

# FINAL NOTICE

## BANKRUPT SALE

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# LAST TEN DAYS!

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- 4 Channel amplifier with 8 track **\$99<sup>00</sup>**
- GE Frost free gold refrigerator **\$459<sup>95</sup>**
- 18" Admiral color t.v. 1 year complete manufacturer's warranty (one only) **\$349<sup>95</sup>**
- 6 Drawer double dresser & mirror (as is) **\$49<sup>95</sup>**
- 2 pc. House of Braemore sofa & chair **\$399<sup>95</sup>**
- Restonic pull-out bed chesterfield (one only) **\$199<sup>95</sup>**

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## HOURS:

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Sat. 9-5

## Bike safety week

"Summer's here and school children of all ages are using bikes for transportation and recreation. And I sincerely hope Bicycle Safety Week, June 18-24, will remind all cyclists to be extra careful on the roads," Minister of Transportation and Communications James Snow said this week.

Last year, 48 cyclists died and 3,257 were injured in bicycle-related accidents across Ontario. "Although motorists and cyclists are equally entitled to a share of the road," Snow said, "I urge cyclists to take extra precautions. Driving one of the smallest vehicles on the road, they should always remember it's difficult for motorists to see them." Throughout safety week, safety organizations, local community groups and the police will promote safe bicycling habits for adults and children.

## 9TH ANNUAL LAWN PARTY

### at HALTON CENTENNIAL MANOR

186 ONTARIO STREET S., MILTON  
SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH, 1978

1:00 - 4:30 P.M.

FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES  
HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, LUNCHES,  
ICE CREAM, POP, SALE OF BAKED GOODS,  
AND CRAFTS  
BRING THE CHILDREN AND ENJOY A PICNIC  
ON THE GROUNDS

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER  
ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE INDOORS.