



Acton will have its own Red Cross branch by the start of the new year. Paul Richards, president of the Ontario Division of the Red Cross, presents a letter of intent announcing approval for Acton's new Red Cross branch to the man who will be the first president of the branch, Henry Kroes.

Acton gets own Red Cross Jan. 1

With Acton becoming an independent branch of the Red Cross at the start of next year the Georgetown and District Red Cross will shrink.

Last Tuesday's Georgetown and District Red Cross Annual meeting and awards night was special for volunteers from both urban areas of Halton Hills.

Georgetown Red Cross formally said goodbye to Acton's volunteers and wished them luck and the president of the new Acton branch, Henry Kroes, received a letter of intent for the new branch from Ontario Division president Paul Richards.

The letter stated: "As the name implies, the Red Cross organization in any community in Canada is a Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society. It exists by virtue of a Charter given by the Society and its function is to carry on Red Cross work in its community on behalf of and in accordance with the policies of the Canadian Red Cross.

"It is our intent to inform you that your Charter from the Canadian Red Cross Society will be forthcoming upon the signature of the Governor General of Canada. The Right Honourable Edward Schreyer, being appended thereto.

"Having accepted the mandate of the Canadian Red Cross, we welcome you to the Soc-

ety."

In her review of the past two years as president, Tina Yaremy said it was pleasant duty to work with the Ontario Division, Kroes and Acton's volunteers in establishing the new branch.

"The Acton Red Cross volunteers have worked very hard to prove themselves ready for branch status," she said.

Richards observed it has been some time since a new branch of the Red Cross was born.

Until final approval for the Acton branch comes from the national level Acton will remain part of the Georgetown and District branch and then January 1 become a separate branch. National approval is merely a formality now.

The two branches will continue to work closely together, especially on disaster response.

The first executive of the new Acton branch is: President-Henry Kroes; Vice-President-Thys Splinter; Secretary-Carol Prystasz; Treasurer-Frits Dehaan; Campaign Chairman-Bert Vanderlaan; Public Relations-Mario Giles; Blood Donor Clinics-Alice Schreiber; Individual Emergency Aid and Minor Disaster-Anna Arnold; Major Disaster-Garry McPadden; Awards and Volunteer Services-Joan Ford; and Loan Cupboard-Marie Hargrave.

The Acton unit provided a number of services this past year. Around 500 pints of blood were collected at four donor clinics and R. Telford and the Optimist Club helped out by sponsoring clinics held at the Acton Legion.

Over 60 pieces of equipment were available to residents through the Sickroom Supplies Loan Program. Donations totalling \$70 were used to buy a wheelchair and equipment was donated by a former area Women's Institute.

Over 250 people worked on the campaign for funds boosting the amount raised in Acton from \$2,050 in 1979 to \$4,217.50 this year. In connection with the municipal recreation department water safety programs were

held in Acton and badges and cards awarded. During water safety week films were shown in schools and information displayed at the library and in other public areas.

Individual emergency aid provided transportation to the doctor and to clinics for six people and three nights accommodation was provided for a person in distress.

Acton continues to work with the Georgetown Branch and town to train volunteers and plan action in the event of a disaster. In the past year Acton's emergency response team grew considerably and is better organized to meet community needs.

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Santa will arrive in Acton November 29 and be honored by a big parade. Details on page 3.

Hydro rates in Halton Hills are going up. More on page 2.

Last night's (Tuesday) all candidates meeting attracted only a handful of voters. Turn to page 5.

Acton Arts and Crafts held their annual show and sale Saturday at St. Alban's. See This Week Thru the Lens for photos.

A top Salvation Army official came to Acton last week to find his roots. More on page 9.

Ospringe school principal Lorne Browne is retiring. Turn to page 10.

The Acton Free Press

An Inland Community Newspaper

One Hundred and Sixth Year - No. 16

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1980

Twenty Pages - Twenty-Five Cents

Provincial grant for school site

Acton's Catholic parents view the province's decision to give the Halton Separate School Board a \$75,000 grant for the school site as a commitment to finance construction of a new facility here.

"We feel this is a commitment on the part of the ministry (of education) to build a new school here. They wouldn't have given the grant to buy the site if they weren't going to allow a new school to be built," president of St. Joseph's Parents' Association, Vince Whelan, said.

The board bought the five-acre site on Mill Street West in the spring and has been paying borrowing charges since then. The approval of the grant for the purchase of the site will save the taxpayers

some money.

This decision by Queen's Park follows on the heels of a meeting involving Whelan and school board officials with Education Minister Bette Stephenson two weeks ago.

"Our fight for a new school is starting to draw to a successful conclusion," Whelan declared.

Parents began to fight for the new school promised for Acton within two years of the opening of St. Joseph's in a 100-year-old rented stone building. Their battle caught fire early this past summer when the province funded a new school in Oakville over the request for a new facility in Acton. St. Joseph's is now operating for its fourth year.

Lack of support

Music festival disbanded

The North Halton Music Festival has been disbanded after last minute attempts to revive it failed. Meanwhile the executive committee is left with \$1,600 in the bank.

Doug Magwood, principal at Acton's M. Z. Bennett public school and festival chairman declared the festival is finished, as of December 1980, at a general meeting Wednesday.

The decision came after survey results showed schools in the area were non-supportive of the event. A dozen schools said they would participate in the festival, while 16 said they would not. Only five music teachers showed up for the meeting at M. Z. Bennett library, besides Magwood, although everyone was invited.

Those who did show said they were supportive of the festival, but felt without co-operation from other schools, it would be impossible to continue.

The meeting was to have been a debate on the disbanding of the festival, but poor attendance, said Magwood, made it obvious to everyone the event cannot go on. No vote was held.

Magwood said several events led to his motion to disband the festival. It suffered from poor attendance in 1978-79 season, so last year's was cancelled while the festival was reviewed.

Several meetings with the Kiwanis Club of Georgetown and the music co-ordinator and other administrators for the board of education proved to be fruitless. The Kiwanis would support the festival, but Magwood said, music in the classroom is the administration's first concern.

Results of the survey, sent to all public and separate elementary schools in north Halton and

the Christian School in Georgetown, which were poor, and the poor attendance Wednesday was the final proof.

"I feel it's my duty as chairman," Magwood said, "to make the motion. After a year of trying, I just don't see the support."

The main factor for lack of support is the competitive nature of the festival. Elementary school choirs used to compete for prizes. In the survey, three schools which said they would attend, would only do so if the festival were non-competitive.

Another drawback is the timing. Many teachers found the traditional May dates too disruptive to their other yearly events, such as operettas.

Yet, both Magwood and the teachers present at the meeting, said the festival, although a headache for organizers, was appreciated by the students. It gave the children a chance to see what other schools were doing and to strive for a goal.

Since the festival was disbanded Wednesday, there was no election of a new executive. But the old one is faced with disposing of \$1,600, presently collecting interest in a Georgetown bank. The money was accumulated from donations from Women's Institutes, and other community groups.

Magwood said he would meet Joan Clark, music co-ordinator for Halton Board of Education for ideas but wouldn't authorize disbursement of funds until other members of the committee are consulted.

It is hoped by the executive, the money be put towards groups and activities in North Halton Schools.



Trick or treat

Ghosts, goblins and other strange creatures of the night will haunt the streets of Acton this Friday evening. Trick or treaters like these four, David Maksymyszyn, Michael Hignett, Christine Hess and Diana Frehs, will be

knocking on doors looking for Hallowe'en candy. These four pupils in Carol Lawson's grade four class at M.Z. Bennett are busy preparing to carve pumpkins for the festivities. Photo by GORD MURRAY

Citizens' group forming to enhance Acton's appearance

A small group of residents hope to form an organization next month which will work to beautify Acton.

The birth of the as yet unnamed citizens' group is the result of a trio of workshops sponsored by the University of Guelph's Rural Development Outreach Project which were under the direction of Landscape Architecture masters student—Janice Cervell.

The workshops have attracted about 30 people and the group will meet next Wednesday, November 5, at the home of Bill Coates, 31 Young Street, to pick a name, choose officials and form a plan of attack to achieve their goal, a more attractive Acton. They also hope to receive support from community organizations and possibly affiliate themselves with the Chamber of Commerce or Business Improvement Area.

During the three workshops residents picked out features of the town they felt were assets and those which were liabilities. In many cases assets, like Fairy Lake, were also viewed as liabilities because they haven't been fully utilized or developed.

By the end of last Wednesday's workshop they had identified five major concerns which they'd like to see community groups, the municipality and province work to improve.

Fairy Lake, the dam area beside Mill Street West and streams around the lake all need to be made more accessible to the public and developed so they'll be used more for recreation assets.

Residents who attended the workshops also felt something must be done to reduce traffic congestion downtown and supported a by-pass. They urged the town study the problem soon and if more off street parking can be secured then parking spots on Mill should also be removed.

Many buildings, in both residential and commercial areas, need to be spruced up it was determined and the BIA will be approached about improving the entrances to Acton with signs.

There are a number of vacant properties around Acton which are overgrown with weeds and residents felt weak by-laws should be more strictly

enforced. They also supported legislation governing derelict buildings.

Residents also discussed: the unattractive appearance and litter at the Becker's Plaza; the lack of bus shelters around town; the need for boat and canoe rentals at Fairy Lake; the need to ban motorized boats on the lake; the need for a playground in the Kingham area; the lack of trees in newer subdivisions; garbage dumping in the rural area; the problem of loitering by youths downtown; narrow sidewalks downtown; poor parking at the rink, inappropriate street lighting and poor looking store signs downtown.

An official of the Ontario Ministry of Housing outlined various funding programs to improve the

appearance of the town, noting virtually every concern the group could come up with would be eligible for grants except the loitering and sign problems.

Both the government spokesperson and the group emphasized the importance of the municipality bringing in a minimum maintenance and occupancy by-law, something which has been in the works for some time.

The residents discussed the importance of the refurbished town hall being made to look in balance with the fire hall at the rear and also suggested development of nature trails through the swampy area at the bottom of the Kingham subdivision and preservation of flora and birds.

Court upholds conviction of Limehouse 'fake priest'

Denis Edward Scallen, also known as Rev. Dan Scallen, has started serving a six-month sentence for fraud in connection with a 'monastery' he ran near Limehouse.

The Ontario Court of Appeal on October 17 upheld the 1978 conviction of Scallen for fraud amounting to \$4,080.

Scallen appealed that conviction in which he was found guilty by a judge and jury.

Through the two-week trial Scallen maintained his claim that he was an ordained Roman Catholic priest. Roman Catholic Church officials, however, denied that claim.

Scallen ran his 'monastery' north of Limehouse for several years.

Scallen also denied ordering three teenage nuns, who lived at the religious retreat, to strip in front of him as a form of religious penance.

The Crown has to decide what to do about the one

rape charge and two charges of indecent assault which were laid against Scallen two years ago.

Scallen defrauded three Oakville residents and a Brantford couple of \$4,080.

The trial featured testimony by Scallen concerning how he became a 'priest'.

Scallen testified he was ordained by a Bishop Joseph Rauber, a group which broke away from the main body of the church in the 19th century. Rauber was ordained in the Syro-Antiochian Rite.

Scallen told the court that while he knew Rauber was Old Catholic Church he learned through study of canon law the bishop's authority was still good and that his ordination as a priest by Rauber would be valid.

Scallen told the court his activities were well known to local Roman Catholic Church authorities. He said he was never told to stop. He also said he was never called before an ecclesiastical court.

Acton near growth limit

Unless the province increases the sewage limits on Acton there won't be much more growth here.

Monday Halton Hills general committee reviewed a report dealing with the Acton urban boundaries study and it was revealed that Acton is very close now to the equivalent population limit set by the province.

Queen's Park says Acton can only have an equivalent sewer serviced population of 10,000 people based on the ability of receiving streams to accept effluent from the sewage plant. The number of people living in a community along with industrial, commercial and institutional (churches, schools etc.) land uses are figured into the sewage population equivalent limit set by the province.

The report shows Acton has 7,087 residents living in 2,340 dwelling units. Industrial effluent equals the amount generated by 1,185 residents, commercial properties equal 675 people and institutional uses eats up another 405 equivalent population which means Acton has an equivalent population of 9,352 people already, leaving very little room for growth.

However, residential, industrial and commercial projects planned for Acton which have been given draft approval by the municipality amount to an equivalent population of 3,027 people for an Acton total of 12,379 equivalent population, well over the 10,000 equivalent population limit set by the province. In addition proposed residential and industrial developments for Acton which haven't

received any municipal approval yet would be equal to another 1,542 people for a total equivalent population of 13,921.

The boundary study is to determine if the urban boundary for development of Acton should be extended further than it already is in the region official plan. It will also determine how much infilling and development of areas within the present urban boundary can take place.

Councillor Roy Booth observed unless the province changes the equivalent population limit upwards, as has been requested by the town, Acton can grow very little. In fact projects which have received draft approval or more from the municipality put Acton substantially over the limit.

In light of this fact he predicted people need not fear there will be development outside the present urban boundary and the present boundary probably won't be extended.

Councillor Mike Armstrong said the town must tackle the boundary study first and then look at the sewage limit. He says the town wants the limit increased so Acton could have an equivalent population of 12,000 still below the level needed for existing and partially approved developments. There would seem to be no chance of accommodating developments which have been proposed but have received no approval.

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