

# The Acton Free Press

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Don McDonald, Publisher

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## Merging fairs ridiculous

Since Halton Hills was born in 1974 some pretty ridiculous ideas have come down the pike, but none more so than merging the Georgetown and Acton fairs and alternating the event between the two towns.

Despite its unpopularity, Halton Hills has in many areas proved beneficial to the residents of the three former municipalities. Some things have been done which only a municipal government the size of Halton Hills could have accomplished. There have also been some disappointments connected with Halton Hills, but on balance it has been successful.

Now the second tier of local government, Halton region, well that's another matter. It hasn't been a success here or anywhere else.

What is often forgotten is that Halton Hills is a political unit, nothing more and nothing less.

In recent years there have been all sorts of organizations and bodies launched, outside the realm of local government, under the name Halton Hills with the goal of operating in all three areas of the municipality. In most cases these organizations have been spawned from Georgetown organizations and the support comes almost totally from Georgetown.

When little interest is shown by Acton and area residents in these groups' project, it is invariably heard that the backers can't believe Acton dislikes Georgetown that much.

There are exceptions, but most people here don't dislike Georgetown or its people.

Georgetown people interpret disinterest for dislike. They miss the point. Acton is a community unto itself. Tacking the name Halton Hills in front of something doesn't make it Acton's too.

Many, outside Acton, suggest

we are all one town now. Well, we aren't. We are one town now as far as politics are concerned and that's all. The politicians say we are all one town, what else could they say? As far as spirit, community awareness etc., is concerned we aren't one town, and why should we be? In the past year two local organizations, Cancer and Red Cross, have proved umbrella Halton Hills organizations encompassing efforts in both urban areas just aren't needed. In many ways Acton can exist on its own, without any help from bigger Georgetown.

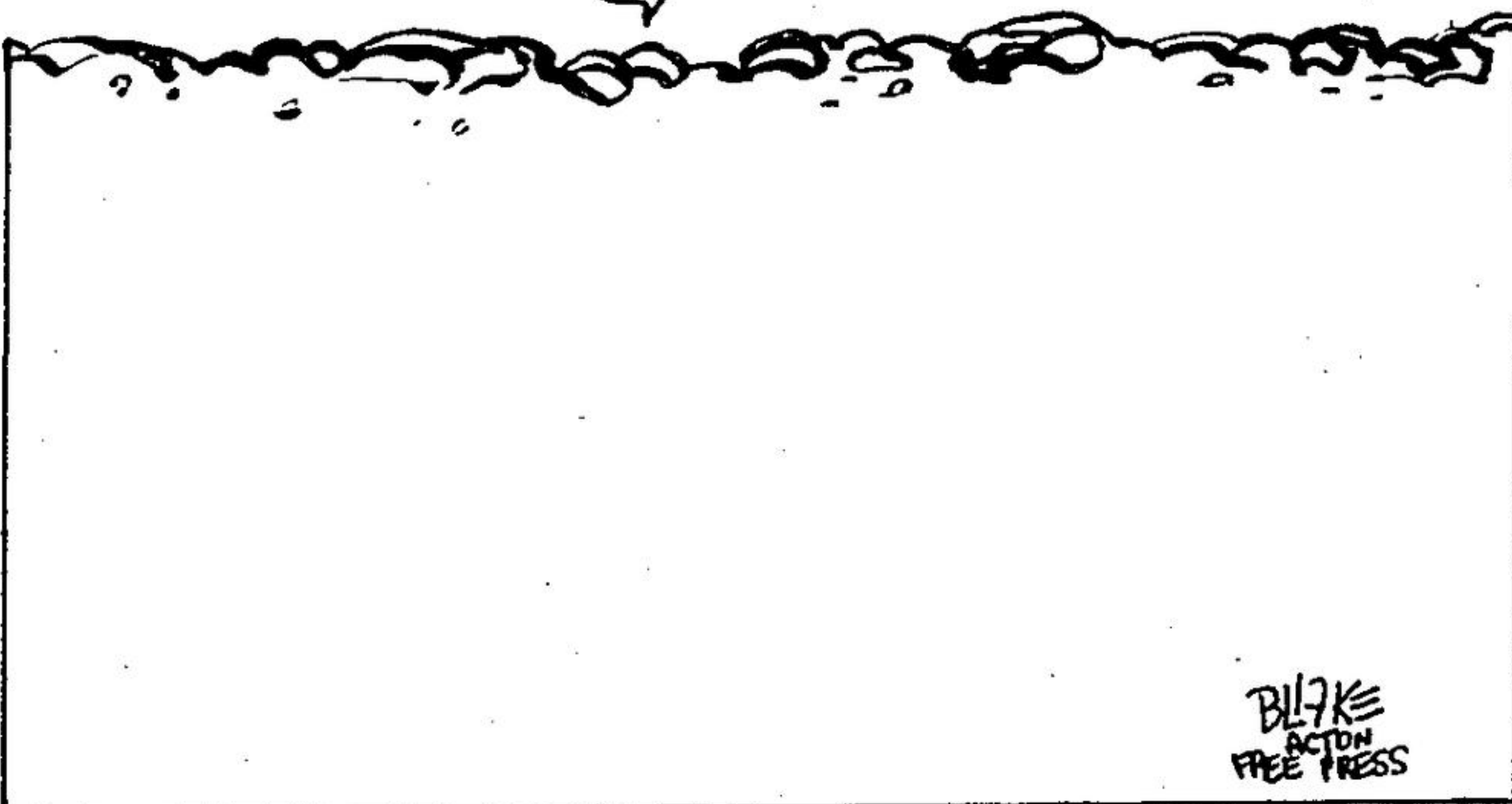
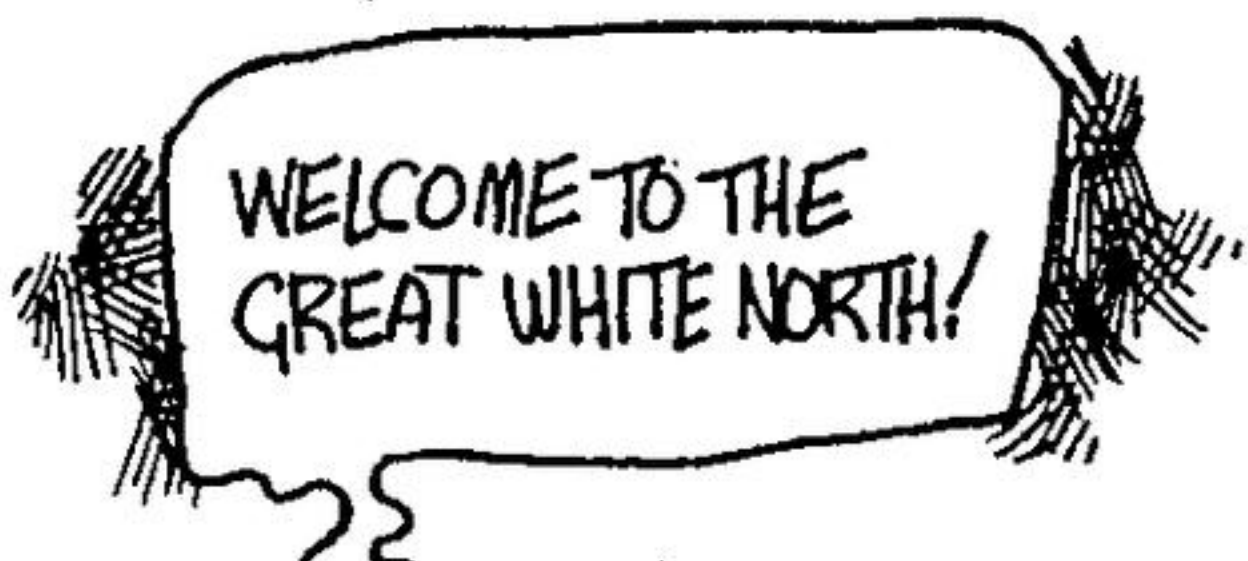
That brings us to the idea of one member of the Georgetown Fair Board who thinks the fairs should be merged. She suggests there are mutual benefits, but admits her motive is to save a failing Georgetown fair.

What earthly purpose can merging the outstanding Acton fair with the weak Georgetown event serve, except to give Georgetown residents a great fair in their town every two years.

It's the people here who have made the Acton fair such a tremendous success, second to none in the province for a town this size.

Maybe the person who suggested this preposterous idea thinks that by merging the fairs the people here will help revive the fair in Georgetown. She'd likely discover people work so hard on the local fair because it is a community, the Acton community not Halton Hills, event.

She also says if you talk about an idea long enough it often comes true. Right now the merger idea is just that, her talking and nobody listening. It can only be hoped, for the preservation of Acton's identity, that she is wrong and simply talking about something long enough won't result in it happening.



## On the Leavell

With Helen

Former Acton resident Ab Tennant has been named Georgetown Citizen of the Year.

Tennant is well known in Acton for his chairmanship of the the Halton Hills Hydro Commission, and the Georgetown Spiritual Board, among other community-spirited projects.

And while on the topic of former Acton residents, Harold Deedles (the spelling may be incorrect, my source did not know how to spell it), recently won \$50,000 in a lottery draw recently.

Deedles owned the Dominion Hotel many years before it burned down and is now running the Loreto Hotel, near Lefroy.

La Leche League of Acton has begun another series of meetings. The second meeting in the series, "The Art of Breast-feeding and Overcoming Difficulties" will be held on Monday, February 8 at 8 p.m. at 128 Elmore Drive in Acton.

Any women in the area who are interested in information about breast-feeding and meeting in informal discussion with other mothers are welcome to attend. Nursing babies are very welcome too.

A lending library of books on childbirth, nutrition, breastfeeding and child care is available also. For further information call Sharon Duff 856-9935 or Sandra Kenzie 878-4732.

There have been several requests from people in the area wanting more information on Protect-Alert, a home security system for invalids, seniors or others who may need medical assistance in a hurry. The story was on the front page of last week's Free Press, telling of one man's happiness with the system.

A warning to parents of school age children in these days of high snow banks. Please remind your children of the dangers of walking on the road, especially when they are so bundled up they may not hear an oncoming car. Children should also be taught not to walk on the snow-banks, or slide down them towards the road. All can be fatal habits.

And a warning to drivers also to be on the lookout for children in the snow. No matter whose fault an accident is, it is still a difficult thing to shoulder for the rest of your life.

And speaking of snow, I really think credit should go where credit is due. The town's works' staff should be commended for the great job they did in clearing the roads after Sunday's storm. No matter how good a job they did, there will always be the complainers, but on behalf of the people who can appreciate the work involved, I thank you.

I was extremely surprised to see my small street plowed when I got up on Monday morning. While I was home in my comfortable, warm bed, there were people out working. Sure the end of my driveway was plugged, but so what. You can't expect there to be clean roads, and no snow in the driveway.

The speed with which the works' crew cleared the snow from the downtown area was excellent. They can't be everywhere

at the same time, but they sure have been trying the past weeks.

Jack McKerracher, 90, 128 Church St., recently gave me the following poem for publication in this column. He explains it really hits home:

I'M FINE—I'M FINE  
There's nothing whatever the matter with me  
I'm just as healthy as I can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees.  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape that I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet  
Or I wouldn't be able to walk on the street.  
Sleep is denied me every night  
And every morning I'm a sight.  
My memory is failing and my head's in a spin.

I'm practically living on aspirin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.  
The moral is, as this tale we unfold  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say "I'm fine," with a grin  
Than to let them know the shape we're in.

How do I know my youth has been spent?  
Because my get-up and go got up and went.  
But in spite of all that, I'm able to grin  
"Old age is golden," I've heard it said,  
But sometimes I wonder as I go to bed,  
My ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the able until I get up.  
Ere sleep dims my eyes I say to myself,  
"Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"  
But I'm happy to say as I close my eyes

My friends are the same as in days gone by,  
When I was young my slippers were red,  
I could kick my heels right over my head,  
When I grew older my slippers were blue  
But I could still dance the whole night through.  
Now I am old, my slippers are black  
I walk to the corner and puff my way back.  
The reason I know my youth has been spent  
My get-up-and-go has got up and went.  
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin  
Of all the places my get-up-and-go has been  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
I pick up the paper and read the obits,  
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead  
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

—Author Unknown.

## MEANDERINGS

by Mabel Barkman  
Valentine Roll

Nearly everyone likes a jelly roll and for Valentine's Day why not make one and decorate it to suit the occasion.  
Just spread the roll with raspberry jam and on top of this spread a whipped topping of your choice. Roll up lightly so as not to crush the cream and then take a small strainer, put in some icing sugar and sift it over the roll.  
You can cut off the crusty edges and eat them yourself with a cup of coffee and then the rest will disappear like magic at dinner or a Valentine's party.

## Outdoors

BYLORNE FLETCHER

Along with a good many other anglers from the Acton area, I have my ice hut out on Lake Simcoe.

Even with all the cold weather the ice conditions are not the best, approximately 10 inches, Canadian that is.

One has to watch the pressure cracks, a wet foot has no place in below zero weather.

So far fishing has been fair. There's plenty of action, but no big fish.

Evidently some of the local fishermen at Warton have lost many of their ice huts on Colpo Bay at Oxenden. Fishing on ice where the main lake is not frozen over can be very chancy business, large waves and an offshore wind condition can soon leave you wishing that you had a paddle.

The Rainbow are hitting well at Meaford, but Splake are not around as

of this date.

It seems the M.N.R. is contemplating reintroducing a fishing licence in the near future. This is OK by me providing the funds collected are earmarked for restocking purposes and not just another rip-off of the taxpayer in order to put more money into the government's general funds.

Also if a licence is introduced it should be for women as well as men. It just won't work any other way.

Members of the Steelheader and Salmon Fishing Association should take another look at what their executive is doing in regards to the Notawasaaga River. They are lobbying to have the river opened the whole year around at a time when the fishing has come to a very low ebb. Just another instance when commercial interests push something for their own advantage with no care for the consequences. Have fun in the snow.



Jerry Brudey, a musician from Toronto, delighted Robert Little students like Clay Kistner, Maryka Box, Darrell Ford and Jodi Coleman at his concert last Wednesday afternoon.

## Back issues

10 years ago

February 2, 1972

Waves of impish delight rolled across Canada this week when it was announced Acton had formally made a bid for the 1974 Grey Cup football game in the teeth of tough competition from cities such as Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton. Canadian football commissioner Jake Gaudaur announced Friday that Acton had made the bid for the game and the brief was one of the best offered so far.

People with \$5,000 a year incomes will soon be able to buy three bedroom townhouses in Acton for \$17,400 and \$900 down. Alteo Construction announced this week construction will start on the first phase of their 140 home subdivision to be known as Kingham Hill Estates in approximately two weeks.

There will be at least three men seeking the Halton Conservative ticket to challenge Liberal MP Rud Whiting for his seat in Ottawa. Terry O'Connor, 31, of Oakville, Bert Hinton, 59, of Acton, and Jim Muir, 36, of Oakville have declared themselves candidates.

New for Acton is a travel service and Ted Tyler Jr. is filling the blank in the town's business with a modest start as an agent this week.

## 20 years ago

February 1, 1962

First meeting of 1962 for the planning board was held in the council chambers last Thursday evening. Hilton Elliott, serving his third year of the three year term was named chairman for the second year. Vice chairman is Ken Hardman, former chairman of the committee of adjustment. New members of the board appointed by council are Aldo Bralda, Syd Lamb, Ken Hardman and Bert Hinton. Council's representatives who were appointed to the board last year are Frank Prouse, and Ham Peal. Jack McGeachle is secretary-treasurer.

Traditional dish, haggis was piped in Saturday evening when Acton Scottish Dance Club members and guests honored the Immortal Bard, Robbie Burns.

## 50 years ago

January 28, 1932

A surprise party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Hall on Monday night on the occasion of Mrs. Hall's birthday. The evening was spent in games and contests and dancing. A dainty lunch was served. Mrs. H.S. Wilson and Mrs. G. Mann were awarded first prizes for high lady and gent. The consolation went to Dora Denny and Bob Hall.

Miss Helen Shea, of Toronto, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Middleton for a few days.

Mrs. R.L. Davidson spent the weekend with her friend Mrs. Joe Thompson of Guelph.

## 75 years ago

February 7, 1907

Reeve Swackhamer has received samples of signs which could indicate the names of all Acton streets. The design is a plain gothic blue enamelled letter on white enamelled steel, and is quite attractive. All the streets can be supplied with these signs at a cost of less than \$50.

The assessment shows the population of Acton 1705, Oakville 1861, Milton 1435, Georgetown 1322, Burlington 1400. Oakville loses hundreds of people when the autumn comes each year, but Acton's is an all-the-year round population. Acton has in addition some 130 persons in Beardmore Crescent. The Georgetown Herald comments "The Beardmores are doing great things for Acton, and, if reports are true, they are only at the commencement of great things that are now in prospect."

Thomas Lynch, the first male child born in Guelph, died in Toronto at the age of 79 years.

## 100 years ago

February 9, 1882

The young folks of Rockwood being desirous of getting up a dance, and feeling, we presume, rather ashamed to call it by its right name, conceived the idea of announcing a Winter Picnic. The "break down" took place on Friday evening and under the disguise the lads and lasses say they enjoyed themselves.

Messrs. Christie and Henderson have surveyed their property on Bower Ave. and Willow St. into village lots. The new street to run from Bower Ave. to the pond will be called Alice and the alley to run along the rear of the lots Accommodation.

The second lot of tenders for the town hall were opened, but each was higher than the amount at the disposal of council. The architect is again obliged to curtail.

A large number of young folk gathered at Matthews Hall for a social evening with Messrs. D.C. Lawson and G.C. Clark who intend leaving for Rockwood Academy. The evening was pleasantly spent in games and social amusements.

The Cordovan Tannery now employs 25 hands and expects before long to employ 50.



Vic Bristow with the heart fund flag.

## Heart Fund campaign underway in February

February is Heart Month across Canada and on Monday over 100 canvassers started their month-long campaign in Acton.

Vic Bristow, chairman of the local campaign, has set a goal of \$4,500 this year, the same figure they fell \$200 short of last year.

Canvassers will be out to all homes in town, while Bristow himself will be doing the industrial and commercial canvass.

Boxes of roses have been placed in stores and businesses for contributions also.

Most of the money, Bristow says, goes for heart research, i.e. pacemakers, drugs to prevent second attacks, development of new surgical procedures, etc.

With a national target figure set at \$11 million, Bristow hopes Acton can play a good part in raising that amount.

In memoriam donations can be made through Bristow, throughout the year, as well as at Acton Home Furnishings.

Last year his canvassers raised the most ever in Acton in his seven years as chairman. Bristow hopes to see this year's figures surpass 1981.