



TRUMPETERS MARY WATSON (left) and Chuck Wright are in harmony at a band practice. Mary has been in the Acton Citizen's Band eight years and, when at Acton High School, played saxophone. Chuck

started playing music in 1922 in England. He has played in theatre orchestras, dance bands as well as St. Alban's Symphony Orchestra and the Rugby Philharmonic.

'Wild dreams' coming true for Acton's Citizens Band

by George Evashuk
Herald Staff Reporter

Today, when George Elliot, bandmaster of the Acton Citizen's Band taps his baton on the music stand to get the attention of the 61 musicians, he keeps alive a tradition started in 1872 when an itinerant "music man" from Toronto got on a Grand Trunk Railway car to sell music instruments to towns along the route. And although that music man was asked to resign by the board of directors of the Acton band after a few years for being "addicted to spirituous liquors" and many town bands had blown their final note, the Acton Citizen's Band is enjoying a period of growth unmatched in their long history.

Former band president Gerry Paton said that 10 years ago, when Elliot became bandmaster, the band was lucky to get 25 people turning out and it was a "wild dream" to imagine a band 90 strong. But since then the band has won two firsts in competitions at the Canadian National Exhibition (1973 and

This is reflected in that one-quarter of the band's repertoire is devoted to "serious" music and sacred music played at each concert. In addition, the band also forms a singing choir with a four-part chorus, he said.

"It's much more easy to do sensitive music with a choir than with the band itself," Elliot said, adding that "everybody has to sing."

In their red blazers and blue skirts or slacks, the band presents a bright picture at parades and concerts. The uniforms are paid for out of the grant the band receives but the increasing costs have seen the end of the tailor-made uniforms with gold-edged dark lapels and epaulets of the past.

Also coming out of the grant is the cost of the band instruments, Elliot said, adding that over the years the band has accumulated \$20,000 worth of instruments. An acquisition program begun five years ago is completed with the exception of an alto clarinet which will be purchased later this year, he said.



BANDMASTER GEORGE ELLIOT gets close to the french horns during rehearsal. The musicians (from left to right) are Keith

Thomas, band president, John Watson who also plays in the Acton High School band as does Stan Petric who is learning the tuba.

1975), has a training programme involving 33 adults, juniors and beginners, and plays 18 to 20 engagements a year.

"We always were desperate to get bodies to fill the seats," said Paton who has been with the band seven years and plays the tuba. "Now we've got personnel," he added and the band can be made discriminatory.

Elliot, who is a professor of bio-chemistry at Guelph University, started in the band in World War 11 when the band was under the direction of Charles Mason. The Mason family, through Amos and Bert, had directed the band since the early teens of this century when John Hill, a local merchant who had taken over from the original music man, no longer was able to direct the band.

But \$20,000 doesn't go very far, Elliot said when your shopping list includes tubas at \$1,000, trumpets at \$700 each and saxophones at \$300 each.

The cheapest instrument, Elliot said, is the clarinet at \$125 which is why it is used for beginners in the training programme. Since the Acton High School has an active band, many members of which play in the Citizen's band, the training programme has been eased a little, Elliot said.

Playing in the adults' band or the junior band is not a matter of age, but of maturity and musical ability. In 1975, when the band won first place at the C.N.E. public school children were playing side by side with middle aged band members.

Elliot was part of a children's band formed by Charles Mason when many band members left to fight the war in Europe. In 1947 Elliot was a member of the band which won first prize at the Canadian National Exhibition. In 1966 Elliot succeeded Alf Perrot of Georgetown as bandmaster.

One of the reasons, perhaps, for the band's growth and musical success is the fact that it has a place to call home. In 1965, the band's board of directors approached the town to ask for permission to use its annual grant to construct its own building. The town agreed and by the fall of 1966 band members were rehearsing in a 50 by 80 foot building which they had constructed themselves.

Other than the grant from the town, all money used in construction of the building was raised by the band itself, Elliot said.

Elliot feels the band's repertoire has two roles. The first, of course, is to supply music for the community, he said. The second is to supply to band members appreciation of types of music they may not come in contact with.

In the works for the ban is a community arts festival for Acton, Elliot said, which would be bankrolled by money the band would raise. Arts and crafts exhibits, school exhibitions and a massed band and choir would fill a full-day at the arena, Elliot said, adding that the idea is at least a year off.

Also in the future, Elliot said, is a moveable band stand on wheels which the band would use to play in different locations. It's needed, Elliot felt, because the band stand in the park can hold only 25 musician.

One of the band's highlights is the joint supper concert it holds in the park behind the band building with the Acton High School band each year, Elliot said.

Elliot is an energetic bandmaster who obviously enjoys the music and the interaction with the musicians. Often during the rehearsals, he moves right into a group of french horns or flutes to "get the feeling just right."

How does a professor of bio-chemistry fit many hours of band work into his schedule? Just fine, Elliot said. "When one gets too wearing, you've always got the other."



Acton had its share of bumps and grinds

The following traffic accidents occurred in and around Acton the past week:

The short stretch of pavement on Mill St. between the set of three railroad tracks and the single line was the scene of an accident March 15 at 5:13 p.m. when a car driven by Kathleen Hall, RR2 Acton, was in collision with a car driven by

William Hietala, 349 Orville Rd. Police estimate damage to the Hall vehicle at \$250 and to the Hietala vehicle at \$100.

At the northwest corner of Halton Hills First Line and the Erla-Esquesing Townline a car driven by Donna Krapek, 62 Guelph St., Acton was in collision with a school bus driven by Johanna Venema, 40 Agnes St. No one was hurt.

The accident occurred March 19 at 8:15 a.m. when the Krapek vehicle went out of control on wet ice and collided with the school bus which was turning sharply left to avoid the ditch.

Damage to the Krapek vehicle was \$450, police estimate. The school bus was not damaged.

Katherine Hall, 23 Norman Ave. was involved in an accident March 18 opposite her residence at 4:30 p.m. when

her car was in collision with a parked car owned by the Acton Chapter of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Police estimate damages to the Hall vehicle at \$10 and to the VON vehicle at \$150.

After exiting onto Mill St. E. from a private lane 50 feet west of John St., where the view was obscured by parked cars and trucks, a car driven by Carl Hartwig, 31A Mill St. was in collision with a car driven by Robert Manderson,

20 Delrex Blvd. Georgetown. The Manderson vehicle sustained \$125 in damages, police estimate, while the Hartwig vehicle escaped unharmed in the mishap which occurred March 17 at 4:30 a.m.

A car driven by Mary Schmit, RR1 Acton, was in collision with a car driven by Elizabeth Gough, also of RR1 Acton, at a curve on Halton Rd. 15 about a mile west of Hwy. 25 on March 15 at 11:30 a.m.

Police estimate damage to the Gough vehicle at \$175 and to the Schmit vehicle at \$25.

A parked car owned by Winnifred Brinklow, RR2 Acton, sustained \$100 in damages after being in a mishap with a car driven by Joseph Vostry, RR4 Fergus. Police estimate damages to the Vostry vehicle at \$50.

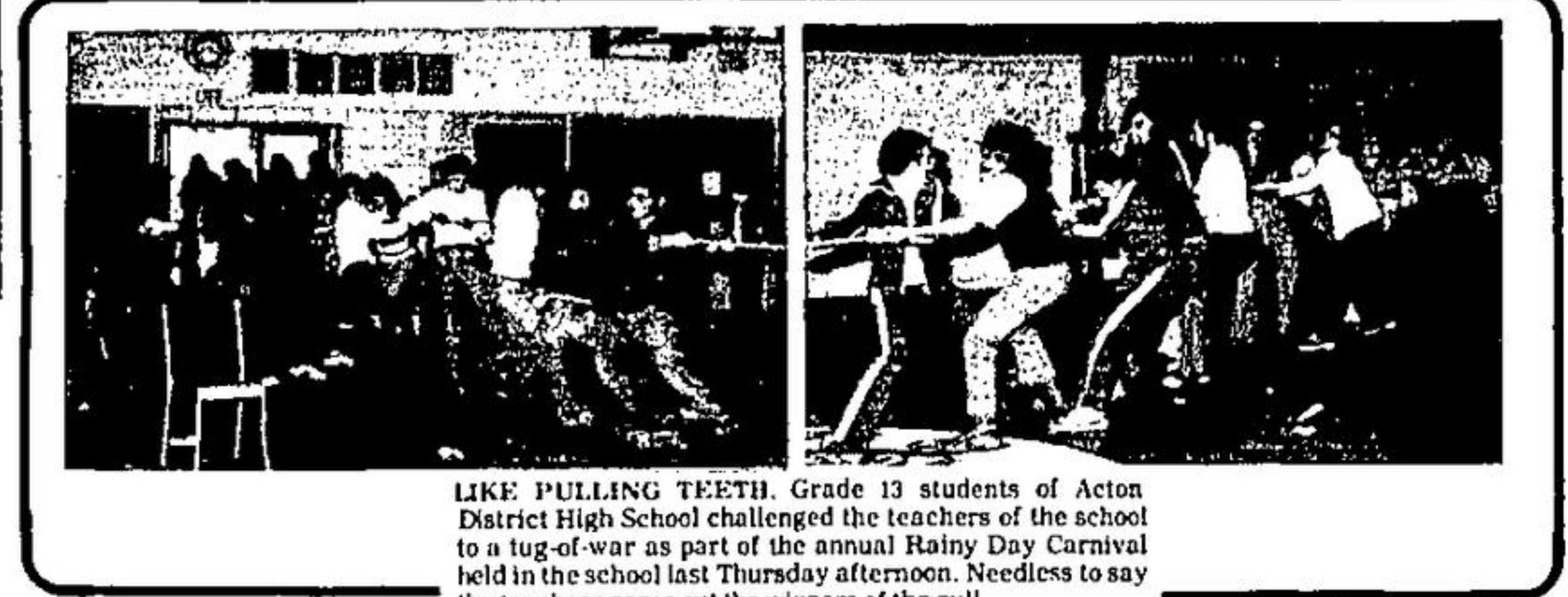
The accident occurred on Mill St. E. about 25 feet west of Frederick St. on March 17 at 4:45 p.m.

the HERALD Home Newspaper of Halton Hills Acton Page

Service Centre opens its doors

Just a reminder that the Acton Community Services Centre will be having an open house this Saturday between 2 and 4 p.m. It is your chance to get to know better, Judy McLin co-ordinator of the recently

opened centre, as well as the board of directors and workers from the social service agencies who will be working through the centre. Come in for coffee and doughnuts.



LIKE PULLING TEETH. Grade 13 students of Acton District High School challenged the teachers of the school to a tug-of-war as part of the annual Rainy Day Carnival held in the school last Thursday afternoon. Needless to say the teachers came out the winners of the pull.

Three Acton students win Sheridan awards

Three Acton students enrolled in Sheridan College and one Georgetown student were among the recipients of special business and secretarial awards presented

last Wednesday. Louise Harmsma, of Acton, a student in the Medical Secretarial course, was awarded a \$100 award from Oshawa Wholesale.

Bob Runham of Georgetown was presented a \$75 award from Kennedy Ford. Mr. Runham is a student in the Marketing Research course. A \$250 award from Bell

Canada was presented to Bonnie Bristow of Acton for her studies in the Legal Secretarial course.

Rob Ellerby, Acton, was presented a \$100 award on behalf of Premier Concrete. Mr. Ellerby is a student in the Finance and Accounting course at Sheridan College.

The awards were presented following a brief address from Rudy Zabel, Dean of the School of Business and Secretarial Studies. Dave Tinker, head of Business, and Margaret Samuel, head of Secretarial Studies, presented the awards.

Antiques for fun and pleasure

"The Pine Chair at Acton", has a name which definitely describes Acton's newest shop. In it you'll find pine pieces, antique articles and product lines which blend and compliment the older, more traditional furnishings.

Terence and Pat Gwyer, who presently live in Oakville, purchased the building which has housed a wood-working operation and a glove factory in years past, and opened the doors of their new shop last Wednesday.

Having previously purchased a ten-acre site in Acton the Gwyers expect to move to Acton within one month's time to make Acton their new home.

The two antique buffs, travel to Europe annually and it was through these travels that they acquired their great love for old and antique pieces. Now, Mrs. Gwyer noted, they can combine their love of travelling the European countries with the hunting of interesting and beautiful pieces for their new shop.

Banner year for OXFAM and Cancer Soc.

Approval for the Acton chapters of the Canadian Cancer Society and OXFAM to erect banners across the streets was given by the works committee Monday evening.

The Acton branch of the Cancer Society will have a banner across Mill St. in downtown Acton during April, Cancer Month.

OXFAM plan to have a banner near where Hwy. 7 turns into Mill St. Both requests are now subject to council approval.

Fire Chiefs get holidays this summer

The town's general administration committee has approved requests from the two area Fire Chiefs to combine their holidays with the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Fire

Chiefs to be held in Vancouver later this summer. Area One's Fire Chief, C.H. Holmes will be away from August 16 to September 6 and Area Two's Chief, Ken Buikema, will be away from August 22 to September 6.

Town staff prepare for mosquito spraying

Reacting to a recommendation by the ministry of health that a wide area west of Toronto be sprayed to control a possible outbreak of St. Louis Encephalitis this summer, Councillor Ric Morrow has urged immediate action by both Halton Hills and Halton works department.

At last Tuesday's town council meeting Councillor Morrow noted that the region's medical officer of health had suggested that all municipalities prepare stand-by plans if it's deemed necessary this spring to spray areas in which the disease-carrying mosquitoes are bred.

Acton plant fund approved

An application has been sent to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for a \$23,333 loan to Halton for the construction of the addition to the Acton sewage plant.

Italked to my Gold Medal Banker and started earning higher interest on my savings.

Manager DAVID PEACH And Colleagues Will Welcome You

Good things happen with a Gold Medal Banker. Let's talk.



One more time for high school debentures

The Halton Board of Education doesn't put any faith in that old saying "Better late than never."

Because it was passed a matter of seconds after the mandatory midnight adjournment hour two weeks ago, one trustee forced the board to reconsider the ap-

plication for funding for the new Acton High School at last Thursday's board meeting. The approval for the application to the Ontario Municipal Board for \$1,255,000 for the new high school—of which \$3,850,000 is to be debentured—was granted with little comment.

Teacher leaves Robert Little

The following appointment, and resignation were accepted at last Thursday's Halton Board of Education meeting: Mrs. Alice Mintern has been appointed, effective February

23, to a position at Robert Little School in Acton. The resignation of Mr. Leon Tuk from the staff of Centennial Public School was accepted.

Acton's fowl problem not so bad after all

When the ducks wintering in the Acton Agricultural Society's poultry barn finally move out, the works committee will make good the damage caused by the fowl, the committee decided.

According to earlier reports the damage amounts to about three pieces of plywood. Councillor Joe Hurst, who was to have submitted a written report on the fowl problem to the works committee, was unable to do so. He had flown south for a vacation.

THE BOAR'S HEAD BUTCHER SHOPS

DOWNTOWN STORE 877-1311 MOORE PARK PLAZA 877-1811

THE UNSINKABLES

LEAN, BEEF, PRE-SEASONED	
HAMBURG PATTIES	89¢ lb.
RIB STEAKS	\$1.49 lb.
CENTER CUT LOIN PORK CHOPS	\$1.69 lb.
TENDERLOIN END PORK CHOPS	\$1.59 lb.
COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS	\$1.55 lb.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

30c LB OFF THE REGULAR PRICE OF FRESH, SLICED COOKED HAM

JUST ARRIVED FROM NEW BRUNSWICK

CHOICE SOLE FILLETS	\$1.69 lb.
COD FILLETS	\$1.39 lb.
FLOUNDER STEAKS	\$1.99 lb.
SEA SMELTS	69¢ lb.

NEWFOUNDLANDERS' SPECIAL

SALT TURBOT \$1.19 lb.

ALSO AVAILABLE, FRESH WHITEFISH FRESH SHOCKED OYSTERS & SMOKED HADDOCK FILLETS