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The story of the old arena

By MAC SPROWL

Acton Fair's September, 1941 arena show featured Blondie and Athabaska providing fun and Ginger Oil, an acrobatic horse. On Dec. 25, 1941, it was noted that the war played havoc with hockey the previous year with only rural hockey. Previous to the war Intermediate, junior and rural hockey was played at the arena.

On Dec. 24, 1942, Reeve McDonald reported that arrangements had been completed and the arena was leased for the duration of the

the Wool Controller of Canada or the authorized agent. The opening of an outdoor rink was discussed.

On April 29, 1943, Chief

war, probably a year after, for the storage of wool. The rental was \$65 per month. The Reeve and Clerk were by motion authorized to sign any necessary document with

Historical Society meets

The Esquesing Historical Society meets in Georgetown's Knox Presbyterian Church on Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Ontario Geneologist Brian Gilchrist will speak on family history and its role in local history, (or stories you'd rather your future inlaws not know until after the wedding!)





855-4232

Harrop reported the fence back of the arena was damaged during the wool storage.

On Sept. 2, 1943, it was a big disappointment to many that the arena was not available for the fair. The Fair Board announced that the big night show would go on as usual outdoors.

The following July 20, 1944, it was announced that a grand concert would be held in the Town Hall on the Friday evening of the fair with a dance to follow the concert. It was felt the first night performance must be obtained when the arena was available again.

On Jan. 29, 1945, it was reported that the arena would probably be clear of wool before next season. On July 5, 1945, a letter from the Wool Administration pointed out



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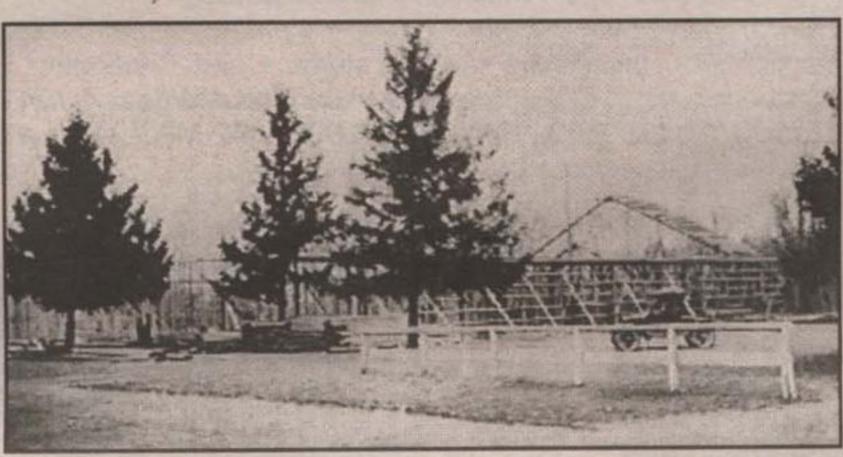
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The building of the old arena on Oct. 20, 1929. - Photo submitted by Bob Landsborough

the wool stored there had all been sold and the building would soon be available and free of storage. On July 12, 1945, there were still millions of pounds of wool in the arena. It stated there had been a great deal of conjecture and anxiety about when the arena would be clear and back to its intended use.

Acton council had written about the termination of the lease and in the past few days there had been a movement of wool from the building for shipment. An estimated million pounds of wool were stored there. It was done up in bales weighing approxi-

mately 800 pounds each in about 1,250 bundles. The curling rink was covered with bales. Part of the ice surface and seating was piled to the steel girders. The entire storage space used was covered with railway ties and planking. The trucks plying between the arena and station carried about 10 bales each trip so required 129 trips to be cleared in one month.

On Sept. 14, 1945, there was still wool in the arena. It had been occupied for almost three years. Finally, on Dec. 27, 1945, the first intermediate hockey game was played in the arena.

Everyone Loves a Parade!

Acton Agricultural Society



85th Annual Fall Fair Parade



12 Noon on Saturday September 19, 1998

Assembling at 11 am • Parade Theme is Optional Parade will assemble on Acton Boulevard in front of McKenzie-Smith Bennett School and end at Prospect Park

ENTRY FORM

Name of Group:

Contact Person:

Address:

Phone:

Brief Description of Float:

Overall Length of Float:

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