



### The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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Residence 131

## EDITORIAL

### Happy New Year

This is the last issue of THE FREE PRESS for 1939. When we pause for a moment to reflect on the kindness, helpfulness and loyalty that have been scattered through the days of the year that are now almost completed we would be ungrateful indeed if we did not express our appreciation. No doubt we have in the past said the same things that we will say now. Still, that does not detract from their sincerity.

Like other years, 1939 has had its depressed periods. Like every other institution there are times when the going in the newspaper and printing field is not easy. But in all these times it is the loyalty and kindness of friends, business associates, and people who in a community newspaper seem to come from every walk of life. These are the influences that help to sustain in difficult times. We do not dare to be specific by naming these classes of folk. But at the close of this year we want to say to all a sincere "Thank You!"

For the New Year, we wish for all a full measure of all the things that make for a successful year of life. This wish is not limited but extends from the Editor and FREE PRESS staff to everyone who reads this message. "Happy New Year."

### In Better Setting

It was our privilege several times during the Christmas rush to get a peek behind the scenes at the Post Office. We presume Acton was just typical of many other post offices throughout the Dominion at that season of the year. Built and equipped to carry a load for 51 other weeks in the year of not more than a tenth of the Christmas rush, it is remarkable how the Post Office comes through the season and maintains a service which, if everything is taken into consideration, leaves little to be desired.

We are told that each year the service increases. For instance, a rough estimate would be that 5,000 more cards were sent from Acton Post Office this year than last. It was most too busy a place prior to Christmas to wish the staff a Merry Christmas. When one looked at the stacks of mail about on every side, some way that old greeting just didn't seem to fit. But now the rush is over and we can all say to the Postmaster and all the staff "thank you," and a Happy New Year.

### Time to Enjoy Christmas

Sometime we are going to take a day or two away from the office, immediately following Christmas, to enjoy Christmas. That may seem a bit twisted and put in such a way that the wrong meaning may be taken. Every year we, like many other folk, receive a stack of cards conveying good wishes. The trouble is that they come in such a flock that there isn't the opportunity for proper appreciation.

Lying on our desk at the moment is an ungainly pile that is going to repose there until we do get an opportunity to more than glance at them. They are the product of much thought. They convey a message from friends and put in a beautiful way, too. Perhaps to-night, but if not, some night soon, we will derive a lot of joy from that untidy pile. To you who have sent them may we express our appreciation. The older we grow the more firmly is implanted the thought that there must be a Santa Claus. In the meantime, we long for a free day following Christmas to get the most out of these Yuletide messages.

### Let the Good Record Continue

There was a marked improvement in the observance of the Christmas holiday which it is hoped will continue over the New Year holiday this week. Accidents, largely due to individuals driving cars who were in no condition to do so, have been lessened this year. It is regretted that the lesson had to be learned at such a cost but if it is learned that shows an advanced step.

It is quite apparent, however, that in the United States there are still a great number who cling to the belief that one can drive a motor car after drinking intoxicating liquors. Until the believers of this fallacy are eliminated it appears there will still be accidents and lives will be lost. We hope that the good record established at Christmas will not be spoiled. Let everyone make sure that his merriment is shown in a sensible way and in keeping with the spirit of the season. Practise good will to all.

### Every Cause for Optimism

In the matter of relief, it would appear that Acton is in a very fortunate position at the present time. The answer to the statement made at a recent meeting of Council that there were at that time only three receiving aid in the municipality can only be accounted for by the splendid condition of the manufacturing establishments in Acton. There is evidently work for nearly all who are able to fill the positions.

There is evidence, too, that Acton having the type of manufacturing which is very necessary, is due for growth and advancement in the months ahead. Not only is improvement noted now but continuance of that improvement can be assured. Acton's industries are well diversified. The products have a wide distribution and it requires no undue optimism to see a healthy growth here in the days ahead. Truly we can enter 1940 with every assurance that a marked improvement and growth will be noted throughout its days.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

Happiness and Prosperity throughout the New Year to all.

It will be no harm to start this week to practise writing in 1940.

Judging by the smiles on most faces, Santa Claus was again faithful in his task of spreading happiness to everyone at Christmas.

With elections still to be decided, the make-up of the County Council is as much an unknown quantity as the Wardenship for 1940.

This is the season of the year when lower taxation is the usual promise in municipal affairs. It's apparently controlled by the seasons.

The snow came and the weather was delightfully seasonable at Christmas time. Something else there need not have been any concern about.

The weather man has co-operated and that sport, hockey, that holds such a place in the community life here, will likely get under way as scheduled.

Shipments of gold to the Royal Canadian Mint during the first ten months of 1939 amounted to 4,042,650 ounces, representing more than \$11,000,000 in new wealth.

The destructiveness that some individuals exhibit is beyond all reason. The breaking and theft of electric bulbs put out for decorative purposes at Christmas was certainly not in keeping with the spirit of the season.

Municipal bodies in Acton are ready to commence duties after the opening of the new year. Elections have yet to decide the personnel of these bodies in municipalities who adhere to the later date.

Rumor has it that Hitler is offering a prize—an iron cross probably—to any inventive genius who can devise a zipper contrivance for the bottoms of Nazi ships. The purpose is obvious.—Globe and Mail.

The difficult adjustment as Christmas comes and go is not one for the young folks alone, but when the children show dad how to make the most out of the Christmas gifts instead of him being the instructor.

In Austria recently a number were sent to internment camps for having radios in their possession, while some others were shot. In Canada the only punishment for having a radio is a fine of \$3 a year—and the programs.—Porcupine Advance.

Elections are to the forefront in the adjoining Townships. It might appear that the feeling of the electorate was that if this is the last opportunity for the duration of the war that it will be utilized. As we have said at other municipal election times, it behooves every elector to weigh well the decision he or she is called upon to make. If the selection is being made for a longer period than usual the duty of every elector is even weighted with more responsibility.

## Ontario News of the Week

By Mairle McDonald

Now that the arrival of Canadian troops at English shores has been announced officially, the press of this country publishes for the first time the photographs taken weeks before as these men were saying good-bye to their families and their sweethearts at railway stations from British Columbia to Nova Scotia. So successful was our arrangement of voluntary conscription, thousands of citizens in Canada did not know that any soldiers had left this country. Nobody feels hurt at being deprived of this sort of news, when the curtain of secrecy is one of many steps taken to keep away Nazi submarines and bombers as Canada's youth rides the ocean to England.

For this same reason of conscription, it has not been possible until now to discuss the demerit of those new Canadian soldiers as they set their faces toward Europe and what it has in store for them. And there was one aspect of this departure which was markedly different from the Canadian scene twenty-five years ago. That was a spirit of grim understanding.

How strangely in contrast was the leave-taking this time. True, there was the same confident bearing among the young fellows who boarded the trains as their fathers displayed a generation before, but the cheeriness of those who came to see them off was gone. Fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, who had had personal contact with the tragedies of the last war, couldn't take it. Brave efforts to appear cheerful were pitifully inadequate as tears refused to be dammed. When the trains finally pulled out, strong men sobbed unrestrainedly, here and there women collapsed.

One came away with the strong conviction that here in Canada, we had really joined in the battle against ruthless dictators with the very fullest realization of what sacrifices are being made.

This last week, we have another example of heroism at home. At Trenton, an exploded electric light bulb ignited some gasoline. A young member of the Air Force realized that a valuable airplane was doomed unless it was moved. So he rushed in to save it. In the last report he was said to be critically burned, a patient in hospital. For less than

that, Canadians were decorated in the last war.

A radio broadcast last week brought to mind that there is at least some compensation in the development of science which has helped to make war more horrible. Faster, stronger airplanes, improved explosives, bring a war closer to those far away from it, as the Irishman said. At the same time, Canadians, on December 23rd, were enabled to hear a full account of the arrival of their troops in England. Through the vastly improved medium of radio, listeners on this continent were given a picture of the actual arrival in port, the trip to Aldershot by train, and a description of what the troops were doing in camp; actually heard the voices of members of the first division, a message delivered by General McNaughton, Chief of Staff.

Contrast this with the anxious weeks which elapsed between the arrival of Canadians in 1914 and detailed word about them from England. Led by the Young Men's Club of the Toronto Board of Trade, there has been a widespread movement throughout Ontario to curtail accidents during the holiday season. Law Enforcement Officers are taking a more prominent part this year in combating this public menace. A special appeal has been instructed to take away keys from drunk motorists—and loss of license and other penalties are to be imposed on negligent and reckless drivers. Pedestrians are also being asked to help along the good cause, as it has been established that many accidents have been due to carelessness on the part of people afoot.

To start the New Year off on the right foot, a new Federal law will become operative designed to put a curb on "loan sharks." On loans for not more than \$500, the cost of the loan to the borrower must be shown plainly and must not exceed 2 per cent. per month for a 15-month period on the amount actually placed in the hands of the borrower. The penalty for violation is imprisonment up to one year and a maximum fine of \$1,000, or in the case of a corporation, a fine of \$5,000.

Modern war notes—Soldiers at Exhibition Camp in Toronto have been granted the use of rooms at Parkdale Collegiate Institute, twice a week, for the study of French and German.

### GOING TOO FAR

"What's a man who marries two wives, Dad?"  
"A bigamist."  
"And what's one who marries three?"  
"A bigamist."

### CHILDREN AND CHORES

The modern child is a stranger to work and this isn't good for him, the New York Congress of Parents and Teachers was told the other day by Dr. Luther Gulick. Junior may not agree, but his father probably will, especially if he has brought up in the country, and even, perhaps, if he grew up in a city.

"Disappearance of a work environment" the very phrase would have puzzled a boy some years ago—is causing children to grow up without experiencing the zest of work or appreciation of the value of money. Home and school should provide needed training by "chores and crafts," "A" said. "Not even today's full program of sports takes the place of work."

Boys who were boys 40 or 50 years ago, especially on a farm or in a country village, remember their work and chores as a joy, not as "guidance" or "character building." Of course, there were times when fishing in the creek would have been more fun than hoeing corn. Sometimes, too, it was hard to get out of bed at 5 a.m. to go for the cows in the lower pasture, or to carry corn to the Rhode Island Red hens and chickens long before breakfast. But when a boy took a calf or chickens of his own to the country fair and came home with two blue ribbons, early rising was forgotten. Pulling the wood box in the frosty twilight wasn't really a chore, it was the prelude to a warm, cheerful evening in the farmhouse, with next day's lessons learned in the glow of a kerosene lamp beside a big dish of popcorn or Northern Spy apples, followed by a game of dominoes when the "examples" or "compositions" were finished.

Chores indeed—end outdoor—were a way of life in those halcyon days. Even the feat of establishing effective contact between a reluctant calf and a bucket of skimmed milk was an adventure, however unevenly the milk was divided between the calf and a boy's overalls. Picking apples on a sunny autumn Saturday when school didn't "keep," or carrying baskets of husked corn into the corncrib—who could ever call that a chore! And wasn't a boy proud when he was big enough to drive the big Percheron farm team, or to guide the plow?

Yes, children and work still need to get acquainted. Maybe there are ways to do so to-day. There should be. But will there ever be pleasanter ones than those in our simpler yesterdays?—Christian Science Monitor.

He—What part of the car causes the most accidents?  
She—The nut that holds the wheel.

## Business Directory

**MEDICAL**  
DR. J. A. McNIVEN  
Physician and Surgeon  
Office and Residence—Corner Beaver Avenue and Elgin Street.

DR. E. J. NELSON  
Physician and Surgeon  
Electro Therapy Phone 66

DR. WM. G. CULLEN, L. M. C. C.  
Physician and Surgeon  
Office Hours—1-4 and 7-8 p.m.  
Sundays by Appointment  
Mill Street, near Frederick Street  
Telephone 128

DRS. FRED AND STEVENSON  
CAMPELLVILLE  
Phone—Milton 2353 — After 10 p.m. Milton 2W  
Office Hours: 8-9 a.m., 1-3 p.m., 7-8 p.m.  
Sundays by Appointment only

**LEGAL**  
C. F. LEATHERLAND, B. A.  
Barrister and Solicitor, Notary Public  
Issuer of Marriage Licenses  
Registrar of Births, Marriages, Deaths  
ACTON  
Office 22 Phone—Residence 151

KENNETH M. LANGDON  
Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public  
Offices:  
Georgetown—Gregory Theatre Building  
ACTON—Over T. Seynuck's Cafe  
For Appointments Phone Acton 45 or Georgetown 85

Office Hours—Acton, Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Evenings on request.

**DENTAL**  
A. J. BUCHANAN, D. D. S.  
Dental Surgeon  
Office: In Leishman Block  
Hours: 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Evenings by Appointment  
Gas for Extractions X-Ray Closed Wednesday Afternoon Phone 148

P. W. PEAREN, D. D. S., L. D. S.  
Dental Surgeon  
Office in the Symon Block  
Phone 29 Mill Street, Acton  
Rockwood Office open every Thursday Afternoon and Evening

**VETERINARY**  
B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.S.C.  
Veterinary Surgeon  
Office: Brookville, Ontario  
Phone—Milton 1464

F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.S.C.  
Veterinary Surgeon  
Office and Residence—Knox Avenue  
Acton—Phone 136

**AUCTIONEERS**  
FRANK PETCH  
Auctioneer and Representative Commercial Life Assurance Co.  
Phone 613 Georgetown  
GEORGETOWN P. O.

## TIME TABLES

### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY

AT ACTON  
STANDARD TIME

Going East	Going West
Daily, except Sunday 6:45 a.m.	Daily, except Sunday 4:15 a.m.
Daily, except Sunday 9:45 a.m.	Daily, except Sunday 7:00 p.m.
Daily, except Sunday 4:28 p.m.	Saturday only 12:38 a.m.
Sunday only 8:19 p.m.	Sunday only 11:32 p.m.
Flyer, at Georgetown 9:41 p.m.	Flyer, at Georgetown 6:09 p.m.
	Flyer, at Guelph 5:45 p.m.

### GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON  
Standard Time

EASTBOUND To Toronto	
6:51 a.m.	9:11 a.m.
12:01 p.m.	2:06 p.m.
4:21 p.m.	6:31 p.m.
8:46 p.m.	

WESTBOUND — To London

10:23 a.m.	11:38 a.m.
2:23 p.m.	4:25 p.m.
7:53 p.m.	10:18 p.m.
11:23 p.m.	ex 12:08 a.m.

a—except Sun. and Hol.; b—Sun. and Hol.; c—Sat. only; d—except Sat., Sun. and Hol.; e—Sat., Sun. and Hol. 8-to-Kitchener, 9-to-Stratford.

### SALLY'S SALLES



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Col. R. V. Conover, Commanding Officer