



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor
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EDITORIAL

Evidence of Progressiveness
Acton voters left no misunderstanding in their decisive vote on the sewage system and disposal plant on Monday. The decision of over six to one property owners those who will have the responsibility of any increased levy to have this convenience installed when the proper time comes, left no doubt as to the will of the citizens.

A town such as Acton which has a municipally-owned waterworks system, arena, fine park, Y.M.C.A. and operates up-to-date fire fighting equipment, garbage collection and all the conveniences and better living conditions comparable with larger cities, was not expected to turn down the installation of a system of sewers. Acton has grown industrially and if this growth was to be encouraged, the sewers and disposal plant became almost a necessity. Acton citizens want facilities comparable with large municipalities and are prepared to see them through. The vote does not mean installation at once. It means that Acton is ready when materials and labor are available for the installation. Acton citizens may well feel pleased with the vote. It is an evidence of the progressive spirit of the community.

A New System
Next year ratepayers of most of Halton County will be assessed under the plan to be established by a County Assessor. At a recent meeting of County Council the appointment was made with the duties to start the first of the year.

It is a plan that has been in operation in some other counties with success. It will bring many changes in assessments and we understand the motive is to establish a scale whereby assessments will be calculated with a view to equality. The thing that interests the ratepayers most is the amount of money necessary to meet his tax levy and he has come to learn that this has a direct bearing on the amount of his assessment. In installing the county system of equalizing the assessment, one of the arguments has been that a raise in all assessments does not mean a raise in taxes. A municipality requires so much money with which to meet its obligations. If the assessment on the whole is raised the mill rate should be lowered.

If the plan is to prove popular county and municipal councils, striking rates should keep this in mind. The mill rate of other years should have no bearing but only the amount required. Low mill rate of any municipality does not necessarily mean low taxes for the taxpayers. It is the combination of assessment and mill rate that regulates the amount of taxes to be paid.

The present system of county equalization in Halton has never met with unanimous approval. It is not likely that any system devised by humans ever will have endorsement of all residents of the county. The new system deserves a fair trial. It is an endeavor to iron out some of the difficulties of the past.

Home-Made Peace
On a single day in New York State, 600 G. I.'s filed action for divorce. They did not seem to realize that the nation for which they fought is essentially a home-made nation. Nor that, in breaking up their homes, they were cutting at the very root of our democratic ideology.

Sound homes—"little democracies" where people voluntarily agreed to live and work together—are the basic units in democracy. Destroy this idea—let home become a "little dictatorship", a man's castle, country club or cave, a legalized love nest or a battleground for self-willed parents and children—let wedlock, for any reason, drift into deadlock easily soluble through easy divorce—and we lose not only the idea behind democracy but any possibility that democracy can work.

In Europe there are millions of displaced persons and homeless children, without training or direction. There are suffering and hatred, bereavement and fear stalking across all the "liberated" countries. Instruction in democracy will prove footless here if we simply restore their devastated homes. We must re-inspire and restore the idea of a sound home.

In Canada, too, homes continue to break up—the homes of stay-at-homes as well as those of the returning soldier. When the marriage knot comes untied it is the children who are left at loose ends. Juvenile delinquency continues to grow with the divorce rate even among children from the "best families." A nation of children on the loose has no answer for the nations of homeless children. It is imperative that we should heighten our idea of the "best families." We must be different at home if we are to prove convincing abroad. We must create a nation of sound families if we are to make any significant contribution to the family of nations.

The first Christmas made home out of a barn. The spirit of Christmas can restore our homes to day—even homes that have grown like a barn due to coldness and indifference. New homes will mean new nations. They will mean a home made peace and a home made peace can last.

Found — The Theatre
Drama in Canada, from the professional big city theatre to the amateur production in the small village, should enjoy a boom this winter. The broadening influence of war upon youth is the reason. Thousands of Canadians who went overseas "found" the theatre, want to see more of it, both as spectators and actors.

With encouragement from municipal officials and drama-loving citizens, long-struggling theatre movements should benefit with resultant entertainment dividends and development of talent. Unfortunately, Canada's small population scattered over a tremendous area has precluded a large-scale professional theatre. That still stands, of course, but with the new-found interest professional companies and home town amateur dramatics, providing they are well presented, should play to filled halls.

They did in Britain, Italy and the European countries throughout the war. It's a fact that thousands of Canadians never had seen a stage production until they went overseas. In the main Dominion's youth left the drama to their elders to watch and attempt to foster. Indeed, for many, there was no theatre in their community even if they were interested.

Canadian fighting men "found" the theatre while on leave. By the end of the war Canadian servicemen and women were sprinkled throughout just about every audience in Britain. Many attended the annual Shakespearean festival at Stratford on Avon.

Typical perhaps of the initial reaction to drama was that of a young Canadian who saw his first stage play and remarked:

"I found something to night I only vaguely realized existed. Now that I've found it I don't want to lose it."

There is talent in Canada, plenty of it. If any proof were needed it could be found in the many troupes which toured forced camps overseas such as the "Blackouts" and "Meet the Navy."

"Meet the Navy" was such a tremendous success during a tour of Canada, Britain and the Continent that it stayed for more than two months in a West-end London professional engagement and hardened London theatre critics called it the best revue of the war, bar none. Some of its cast received stage and movie offers.

When the Canadian forces were in Italy, opera at first was shunned by entertainment-minded men on leave. Then, sometimes out of sheer desperation for something to do, many attended, got to like it. Toward the end of the war opera queues in such places as Rome, Naples and Bari included scores of Canadians.

Now is the time to build up dramatic art. It provides both education and entertainment and therefore is definitely worthwhile.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our language may not be polished but it can always be clean.

We can't do a great deal for our nation unless we give a square deal to our neighbors.

Snow plows have been out on the highways and we hope they are in good repair again after last winter's pile-ups.

Yes, it is time to do your Christmas shopping early. Christmas is two weeks from Tuesday. We hope you have better luck than we have had.

No beechnuts, no hazel nuts, no apples, there fore—no snow. So pack those great big overcoats back in the closet, and put the rubbers in a nice convenient spot. If the weather prophets are right it's going to be a mild winter. According to one local woodsman, this shortage of apples and the two types of nuts is the surest sort of a sign signifying an open winter, and this is based on a reputation of over forty years of prophesying with rarely a miss. —Woodstock (N. B.) Sentinel-Press.

The LETTER BOX

To the Editor, Acton Free Press, Dear Sir:

At a meeting of Council held on the 21st instant, two complaints were presented, both concerning children under the age of 16 years: (1) alleges that children under the above age are out too late at night and are not equal to their studies the following day and (2) alleges a considerable increase in juvenile smoking by boys even as young as 11 years. These are very serious complaints, affecting as they do the health and well-being of the children and in order to bring about an improvement in both issues I should like to bring to public attention generally, Section 16 (1) and (2) of the Children's Protection Act R.S.O. 1937, "Children out at night" (1) No child shall enter in any public place after the hour of 9 p.m. or be in any place of public resort or entertainment after that hour unless accompanied by parent or guardian or an adult person appointed by parent or guardian to accompany such child. (2) A child found violating the provisions of Sub-Section 1 may be warned by any constable or probation officer or officer of a children's and society and if such warning is disregarded or after a second warning the child is again found violating he or she may be taken to the shelter.

It is not the intention to interfere with any child proceeding from any home to a friend so long as that child does not enter in a public place of resort to a place of public resort such as a restaurant, after the hour of 9 p.m., Band practice, Y.M.C.A. Hall, Club, religious gatherings, etc. are not classed as places of public resort or entertainment but children attending such functions should be allowed to go very shortly after the hour of 9 p.m. and should be advised to proceed straight home. Second shows and dances which commence after 9 p.m. are definitely prohibited unless the children are accompanied thereto and their parents and are cared for thereat. The parent or guardian is responsible and a penalty is provided in the case of any parent or guardian who permits his child to violate the provisions of the above Section 16 (1) and (2). It is hoped however, that court action will not be necessary, nor will it if free cooperation is forthcoming from and by all concerned. There will, of course be occasions when special arrangements will be necessary.

The Juvenile Smoking Act, as contained in the Criminal Code, makes it very clear that children under the age of 16 years are not at any time to be in possession of tobacco in any form, or cigarette papers, whether such tobacco or cigarette papers be for his own use or otherwise. No mention is made in the Act of any provision whereby children are allowed to purchase of a note purported to be written by the parent and a good thing too as I have heard of one of two cases in which notes have been written by the boy, then given who have signed the parent's name. It is also an equal offence to give or supply tobacco in any form to a juvenile.

Merchants are then not to be permitted to sell tobacco in any form to children under the age of 16 years. Any constable is authorized to seize tobacco or papers found in the possession of a child and the magistrate is empowered to ascertain the source of supply either on oath or affirmation.

There is another very serious common practice even amongst boys. That of using obscene language. The penalty for this is heavy if caught, the least being 7 days in jail. All those having a part to play in stamping out these unlaudable practices, and I hope again it will not be necessary, or at any rate in few cases, to resort to court action.

F. E. HARRIS, Chief of Police

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F. E. HARRIS, Chief of Police

Business Directory

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DR. W. G. C. KENNEY
Physician and Surgeon
(Successor to Dr. J. A. McNiven)
Office in Symon Block, Mill Street, Acton
(Office Phone 78—Residence Church St., Phone 188)

DR. H. G. JOYCE
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Office at R. H. Elliott's Residence
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Eglin Street, Acton
PHONE 222

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DR. HUGH S. AUSTIN
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TIME TABLES

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Table with columns for route (Going West, Going East), days, and times. Includes routes like Daily except Sunday, Saturday only, Daily except Sunday, Monday only, etc.

GRAY COACH LINES

Table with columns for direction (Eastbound, Westbound), times, and destinations (To London, To Stratford, etc.).

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STUFFED OLIVES 1/2 doz 43c
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BABY 7c
O'CEDAR POLISH 23c
SNOWFLAKE AMMONIA 5c
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MACARONI 2 lb 9c
White Beans 2 lb 11c
EXTRACTS 23c
CREAM OF WHEAT 1 lb 24c, 32c
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KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN 21c
VITA-B CEREAL 10 PKG 25c
QUAKER OATS QUICK 19c
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Hawthorn Floor Wax 45c, 83c
GREEN PEAS 12c
Choice Malaga GRAPES, lb. 19c
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Juicy Navel ORANGES, size 289, doz. 41c
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Fresh Tomatoes, Cauliflower, Celery, Green Onions, Peas, Special Week-end Prices