

FREE PRESS



TAKING A "PERSONAL" over the phone. Miss Evelyn Braida of the office staff is the voice that greets you on the telephone. In the line of front office activities, Miss Braida is pleased to meet you and settle your printing and advertising problems or take a news item.

The Free Press Has Modern Equipment and Trained Staff

The Free Press has always endeavored to keep abreast with the changing needs of Acton and the district. In 1900 the old Press news press, which had 1400 sheets for many years was replaced by a Babcock two revolution press. This was installed. The old press weighed about a ton, the new press weighed over 11 tons and a foundation had to be constructed below the floor to support it.

Four pages were printed at one time instead of two and the Free Press soon became an eight page paper instead of the six printed on the old Drouth press. Today the number of pages printed is now a less than eight and often more are included. This press also is used for book work, printing 25 pages at a time and for one and two color commercial printing. It prints four pages at the rate of 1500 per hour. All the anniversary issues are printed on this press.

Building Expansion

The present building was constructed in 1904 by the late J. B. Mack. In 1911 another section was added at the rear and gave the building 28x48 with a main addition for the heating system. Last year the old boiler room was torn down and another new section added which gave a section of 28x52 feet more than double the size of the original building. Jones and V. Gills were the contractors on this addition.

The new section was built with the particular needs of a printing establishment in mind. The floor is solid concrete with the heating pipes in the radiators built in the solid floor. The two sides are glass block windows which let in the light but have no glare or heat. The building has insulated walls and ceiling and all electric wiring for machines in the walls and the floors. Fluorescent lighting is provided throughout.

The new section provides a wash room and lockers for the employees and has the heating plant, work shop and room for casting stereo type. A dark room for finishing pictures for the newspaper and printing is also modernly equipped and provides storage for cameras and equipment for photos.

Over a year ago a second Linotype was installed and the two machines are kept busy. One machine carries four kinds of type and the later model has six kinds of type available for the operator without leaving his chair. Just this year one of the machines was equipped to set two sizes of head letters which were formerly set by hand. These new heading faces make their appearance for the first time in this anniversary issue. Needless to say they are the latest faces and complement the new body styles installed last year. It takes little time to be hand set in the office. Here are some lines of type that are now set on the Free Press Linotypes.

This is the News Face
This is a line of Italics

Caps and Small Caps On The
Black face type used in some

A popular book face and
Another heading and book face
PRINTING IN TWO SIZES
AND TWO FACES OF LIGHT
AND BLACKFACE GOTHICS

This type is used in S

A New Head Letter

Another Head Face

This type is used on insurance policies

It will be seen that fifteen various styles of type are now made available in unlimited quantities from the type setting machines of the Free Press. Other sizes in wide variety are found in the type cases of the office up to letters six inches in depth and made from wood.

Automatic Presses

Books, labels, factory forms and a wide variety of commercial print things goes through the automatic presses and job presses at the Free Press. One hand fed press is used for short runs and small forms up to 10x15 inches.

The automatic presses are always of great interest to visitors. There are two of these in our equipment. The Heidelberg press takes forms up to 10x15 inches and has speeds of production up to 5000 per hour. The unprinted sheets are fed into the press by rotating arms at five times the speed possible by hand. The inking is automatically controlled and to prevent the wet ink from transferring to the back of the sheets in the pile a fine spray is given each sheet after it is printed.

The other automatic press is known in the trade as a Vertical Mangle and takes a sheet 14x20 inches. Its feeding operation is different in principle. It has speeds up to 4000 per hour and the fine ink control and spray equipment. This press has a cylinder for printing and does heavily inked forms which are not possible on the smaller presses. All the presses have individual motors and controls. The automatic presses stop if sheets are not properly fed or are misused. The controls are always a source of wonder to visitors in the office and their precision at high speeds is a marvel. The controls are operated by air and each press has its own air pump.

Wide Range of Printing

Five plants in towns of 3000 are equipped to handle the variety and quality of printing that goes through the Free Press plant. Whether it's a sale poster or wedding stationery, the same attention is given in equipment and careful workmanship.

Acton with its 18 industries has a wide variety of printing needs and the Free Press has also many buyers of printing in the surrounding towns and in Toronto. We have many loyal friends who like our service and our work and our ability to give them what they require. We get enjoyment out of the service we give and the work we execute.

It would be impossible to enumerate or display the various printing done in the plant. Some of it is in three colours and requires special inks that are not affected by some chemicals or do not fade in strong sunlight. The quantities range all the way from a dozen to runs of six hundred thousand. Some are single copies and some are duplicate, triplicate and consecutively numbered. Some require special punching, perforating and binding. It is said variety is the spice of life and certainly the staff at the Free Press office have variety in every day production.

An Invitation

We are always pleased to have visitors at the Free Press. There were times when it was very difficult to show the plant as machines and printing occupied every inch of floor space but now there is more room for everything. The only stipulation is that we cannot accommodate children with so many machines in operation and cannot look after large groups unless special arrangements are made. We will be glad to have visitors during this anniversary week. We haven't baked a cake but you are welcome to view our plant.

July 9, 1875—The Free Press office is now in the splendid large room above the Post Office.

Newspaper, Town History Entwined

(Continued from Page One)

In 1913 Acton's tax rate was 40 mills and today with all the changes and improvements the 44 mill rate looks pretty good. There was no municipal arena until 1929 and this year the building will be all paid for. The park entrance ended at Kings Avenue and Park Avenue. Only the ball diamond was cut. It is a little difficult to trace any resemblance to the present day spot of beauty which will this year have another addition, started in a new, varying pool.

It has been a great thirty years to have covered Acton's progress and the history of the municipality. It has been great to have been part of it.

even if it did not have some growing troubles.

In all our association with municipal affairs only once were we excluded from school board meetings and that long house period was 1920. Our Council association had lead us into the Secretaryship of the Murray Memorial Fund for which was an enormous duty. One which finally cemented the Acton Y.M.C.A. building. It was a job we have never forgotten.

It is difficult to say if we have not concluded and merely an impression of our anniversary week every year. Acton has gone far since 1875. It has been a great pleasure to have had a part of covering a part of its history and to have been one of its growth as reflected in municipal affairs.



GEORGE ARLOF AND JAMES ARLOF go over the first sheets of the Anniversary edition in the editorial office. Free Press employees of the Anniversary edition have been busy working on it all day long, mostly in writing the stories and preparing the all pictures presented.

Early Subscribers to Acton Free Press Receive Congratulations, Subscription

We recall that for many years Mrs. Robert Agnew used to tell us of the renewed her Free Press subscription she paid to Jos. Hacking on Dominion Day 1875. The Free Press has been a regular visitor in most Acton and district homes but we believe Mr. G. H. Brown has a unique record. Mr. Brown had been a subscriber for all the seventy-five years the Free Press has been published.

There are other families in Acton and district that have been long-time Free Press readers like Thos.

Gibbons and Leo Flynn and A. T. Brown.

Birthday Present

But we believe G. Herbert Brown, Bowen Avenue, holds the record for the oldest subscriber to the Free Press. Mr. Brown this year renewed his Free Press for the seventy-fifth time. In recognition of this we are making Mr. Brown a special life long subscriber. He will receive the Free Press during his lifetime without necessity of renewal and we hope he gets as much from this plan until the Free Press reaches its 100th Anniversary.



OPERATING THE MACHINES that turn out all the metal typed words which meet you in the Acton Free Press are Mrs. Day Roper and Wilma Quail. Mrs. Roper takes over the machine from Wilma to a law firm to gather with other work because of the increased terms of Wednesday and Thursday operators.



LINOTYPES ARE THE PRIME job of Hartley Coles. A full time operator, Hartley also finds time to act as sports writer as well as contributing the sports section to this special anniversary edition, which is the first attempt at a Sports History for Acton.