

# EDITORIAL

## A Good Year Gone

Acton has had a busy year as we survey the list of achievements for 1950. As we start another year let us look back on 1950 and recall just what has happened.

Sewers were installed on nearly all the streets and since the excavations roads have been settling back with normal traffic resumed. The debentures for \$350,000 on the sewer contract were sold and by early this year the sewerage system should be operating.

Another major expenditure for the year just past was the \$235,000 approved by a 4 to 1 vote of the ratepayers for a new public school.

Acton's population exceeded the 3,000 mark and the assessment of the town was increased \$100,000.

The village became a town, too, with its first mayor and town council conducting the business in 1950. A dedication service in the park was well attended and the first year as a town seems to be a successful one.

The 1950 tax rate was the lowest it had been for some years at 39 mills. A new water supply was located for the town to meet increased demands and Acton's schools enrolled 513 pupils with new courses and improvements.

A contract for \$100,000 was let to the Law Construction Co. for the paving of Highway 25. A flashing light was installed on the Mill St. railway crossing to warn motorists and the town added a grader to its municipal equipment.

The annual Acton Fair was held in cool, windy weather, but attracted a large crowd to make the event its usual success.

Citizens welcomed the expanding plant of A. P. Greene Co., makers of fired clay products to the building on Wallace St. vacated by Armaco Products several years ago.

An additional power supply was provided for the town in the erection of a new sub-station equal to the capacity of the other one.

Miss Esther Taylor headed the polls in 1950 when she was elected first woman councillor for this year.

It was a red letter year for the Free Press in 1950, too. We marked our 75th Anniversary and in a special edition reviewed some aspects of historical interest.

Now that 1950 has gone and been as successful for the town as it was we look forward to the achievements of 1951 with high hopes.

## An Interesting Story

Statistics may not be very attractive but they certainly tell an interesting story. For instance, there are seven Ontario towns that operate their municipal government entirely apart from the adjacent county councils. They are Brockville, Trenton, Smiths Falls, Ingersoll, Gananoque, St. Mary's and Prescott.

The statistics released by the Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs prove once again that it is cheaper to live in the country, too. In 1949 the per capita tax levy in Ontario's 29 cities averaged \$52.35 whereas the same figure for the towns and villages was \$34.44 and for people living in townships \$32.38.

Rural residents are more careful in their financing than their city cousins. While the 29 cities cut their per capita debt from \$192 in 1926 to \$75 in 1949, it still remains far above the \$40 per capita debt of the average township. The towns and villages of the province have not had such an auspicious record. The average per capita town and village debt in 1926 was \$107 and it is now just under \$80. That is twice the average in the townships. Town and village per capita debt was down to \$48.85 in 1945 but the last five years showed an increase of 60 per cent, which is quite a climb in the municipal world for Ontario.

## What a Beautiful Day

The holiday season this year has brought surprisingly fine weather. Christmas was white and New Year's lacked its usual road blocking storm.

It was in all a very pleasant holiday. Just back from the New Year's festivities we recall a great many storms that blocked roads and started the year off with a blast. One storm in particular we were driving through with the car radio issuing repeated warnings that "only fools would drive tonight, don't drive." That was the first radio report we had heard all day.

The Christmas weather followed its customary pattern of favourable weather this year, too. It was a white Christmas even though the snow was not as abundant here as further north. A trip through Arthur and Durham proved that the snow had been falling. Beside the road one car was almost completely buried and in one town a detour was necessary while workmen busily cleared the street.

## Predictions?

New Year's is the time for resolutions and predictions. The latter strikes a number of contradictory notes but because of the quantity some of the attempts at forecasting the future are bound to be right.

One business leader suggests an ambitious stock piling program because of an imminent war with Russia's Communists. Reading another forecaster who claims to have predicted the '29 crash, we find strong advice to the contrary. He feels that Russia would not make war this year.

Forecasting the future is a rather difficult business. War with Russia seems to be the big stumbling block in all predictions. War and peace naturally affect the economy of the country as quite drastic opposites.

No person's advice is as good as one's common sense and we certainly don't intend to clutter up more space by making any personal predictions.

## Television Infant

When you speak of new developments the conversation seems naturally to turn to television, one of the latest electronic developments of the last half century. Just as readily as you speak of it most people agree that it is in its infancy.

Whether in its infancy or not, it is definitely leaving its mark on the age. Color television, recently approved by the American government, was condemned by one speaker, we heard addressing a group of several hundred potential T.V. stars, writers, producers and directors.

The method by which color is brought to the screen, he explained, was by two sets of whirlers, one on each side of the screen, equal to the width of the screen. His idea was that that method of color T.V. would take up most of the living room.

Most reports on the progress of television, of course, come to us from our friends in the United States. Down there, television salesmen have launched campaigns telling parents they are failing in their duty towards their children if they don't provide them with hours of television and a set to invite their small friends to watch.

The salesmen go to great lengths to explain to parents the psychological effect television has on their children.

Television can be a great educational asset if it is used properly but this half-baked appeal to parents to protect their children from a feeling of being left out is somewhat disheartening for an industry as new as television.

Quite a number of years ago, Professor Thorstein Veblen expounded a theory which he called "conspicuous consumption". The theory deals basically with buying things to keep up with the neighbours. And from the United States comes an example of that where people are buying imitation television aerials and erecting them on the roof-top. Quietly they sit back with the satisfaction of having kept up with the neighbors in a cheap way. Veblen had a lot to say about that.

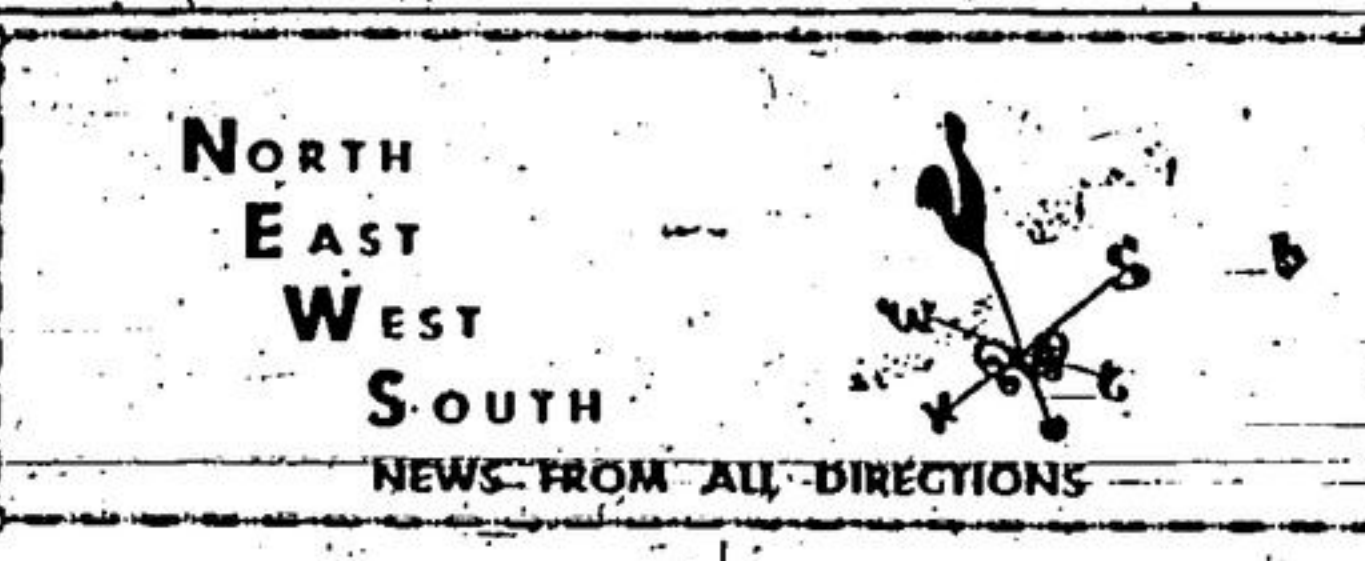
Another angle on the television story is one only recently uncovered. Thieves go into a high class suburb, look for television aerials and make a note of the house for a quick robbery.

Television is definitely making a mark on our age and its potentialities are great. All that remains to be done will take time, but we certainly hope it will not have its growth stunted in the type of programs it features.

## Editorial Notes

This item clipped from an English newspaper further evidence that the British has not lost his sense of humour. "Mr. Charles Garland, Vice-President, National Union of Manufacturers, said at Manchester yesterday: "Our grandfathers worked six days a week, walked to church on Sundays and sang: 'Work for the Night is Coming.' Now their grandchildren work four days a week, take a bus to church and hear a hired choir singing: 'Art Thou Weary, Art Thou Languid?'"

For pay boosts to the armed services, the civil service and the Mounties, national expenditure will be increased by \$46,500,000 a year. Whether the increase is as good as expected in the services is not known. Government employees have to wait until Parliament approves of the new schedule which is not so good. And there are 6,000 who will be laid off next April, which in itself is a government admission that there has been over-staffing. Employees who have been working 39 hours a week or less will be required to work longer hours. Can that be termed austerity? All in all, most Canadians will approve of remuneration of all employees in the public service adequate to the times in which we are living.



### Milk for Winnipeg

The first man to sell bottled milk in Winnipeg, James H. Elliott, celebrated his 85th birthday in Oakville last week. "I'm in fine shape," he declared. Born in Lanark County, he went west in the eighties. For several years he was on the council of Assiniboine, a municipality west of Winnipeg and he was the only completely white man of the group. He came to Oakville in 1918. Although not definitely stated as Mr. Elliott's recipe for longevity, he declared in an interview, "I've been a Methodist for 80 years."

### Churchill's Message

An article in the Christian Science Monitor reprinted in the Guelph Mercury, tells of the arrangements which resulted in the sale of Christmas cards carrying reproductions of some of Winston Churchill's paintings this year. Evidently Mr. Churchill cabled the firm making the cards after the agreement, "I am delighted at the opportunity of having my paintings exhibited in America through the medium of Christmas cards." Since rights to 18 cards were purchased and only seven were printed this year, the rest will be available for interesting as well as skillfully painted Christmas cards again next year.

### Bowled Over

The Georgetown Herald records for proof and posterity that Mrs. Al Zeravlev set a new record when she bowled an almost perfect game to end her frames with a total of 405. The previous record there was 404, bowled by Hugh Dickie two years ago. The boxes carried two spares, then nine strikes and a time score on her last ball. She won a turkey for the accomplishment.

### Christmas Visitors

Three homes in Oakville were broken into on Christmas eve and another sometime over the same week-end, according to the Oakville Trafalgar Journal. At the latter home, the thief or thieves took blankets, apples, a radio, Christmas presents, some liquor and tobacco. But, left behind, either by error or barter, was part of a roast chicken. As the Journal puts it, "Santa was not the only Christmas Eve caller."

### Erin did not publish a paper between Christmas and New Year's.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

### BACK IN 1901

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thurs., January 3, 1901

May the new century bring prosperity to all.

The nominations for County Councilors resulted as follows: Nelson and Burlington, J. G. Wilson and J. C. Smith; Oakville and Trafalgar, H. W. Cook and Geo. Andrew; Esquimaux and Georgetown, Dr. Webster and John Wriggleworth; Acton, Nassagaweya and Milton, J. H. Peacock, D. Hutchison and G. Havill.

The Free Press carrier boys presented their New Year calendar for 1901 with their compliments to the subscribers in town on New Year's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Mason entertained very hospitably the Methodist Sunday School orchestra on New Year's Eve. The event was intended as a farewell to Messrs. C. J. Matthews and E. J. Moore, who have been members for several years.

At half past seven there was only standing room left in the town hall for the Knox Sunday School Christmas entertainment. The cantata was highly patriotic with the choruses splendidly rendered under the guidance of Mr. A. T. Mann. Misses Mindie, McKeague, Ruby Clark and Annie Cory took their different solos in a most acceptable way.

### BACK IN 1930

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 31st, 1930

New Year's Eve. A Happy New Year to all.

The new Christmas sleighs, toboggans and skis and likewise the new skates have been put into real service this week.

When David Holmes' car capsized in the ditch on Wednesday evening last, three wheels were broken and the car was rather badly damaged.

John Kentner of Acton is playing with the Guelph professional hockey team this year.

The Community Christmas Tree on Christmas Eve was a splendid event. There was plenty of crispness in the atmosphere and kept all on the move to keep warm. There were six hundred bags distributed. Santa Claus visited the homes where the children were shut in, owing to sickness, and left a treat for each one.

On Saturday night, while Mr. Stephen Cox was at the arena in Acton, his car was stolen from where it was parked in the Park. It was recovered on Sunday in the Police yard at Brampton, not damaged.

Mr. G. D. Herbaugh, left on Sunday to accept a position at Endicott, N.Y. where he was employed prior to coming to Acton.

### MARRIED

DAVIDSON ANDERSON - Mr. Crewson's Corner on Wednesday, January 2nd, by Rev. H. A. McPherson. Acton John T. Davidson, of the G.T.R. Caledonia, son of Charles Davidson, Acton, to Agnes, daughter of William Anderson, Esq., Crewson's Corner.

### BORN

RAMSDEN - On Monday, December 29, 1930 at the General Hospital, Guelph, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordon Ramsden, Acton, the gift of a son.

### DIED

FORBES - At the family home, Church Street, Acton, at midnight December 29, 1930, Nicholas Forbes in his 76th year.

# AT THE Churches

### Presbyterian Church in Canada

KNOX CHURCH, ACTON  
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG  
M.A., Minister

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1951  
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship  
12:15 p.m.—Sunday School  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service

### United Church of Canada

Acton, Ontario  
A FRIENDLY CHURCH  
Parsonage—29 Bower Avenue  
Phone 60  
Rev. E. A. Currey, B.A., B.D., Minister  
Miss O. M. Lamppard, A.T.C.M., Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1951  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Subject "Wrestling Christians"  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship. Subject "More Hymns and Their Stories"

Thought for the Week  
"Thoroughness"  
"If I were a cobbler, it would be my pride  
The best of all cobblers to be;  
If I were a tinker, no tinker beside,  
Should mend an old kettle like me."

### St. Alban's Church (Anglican)

Rector—Rev. W. G. Laxton, B.A.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1951  
Epiphany I  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Holy Communion, Boy-Girls' Class  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer  
Annual Vestry Meeting Monday, January 15th at 8 p.m.  
A Welcome Awaits You

### Baptist Church

ACTON  
Mr. Stanley Woodcock,  
Student Pastor

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1951  
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class  
11:30 a.m.—Morning Service  
12:30 p.m.—Communion  
Friday, January 5—4 p.m. Mission Band; 8 p.m., B.Y.P.U.  
Saturday, 8 p.m.—Skating party, Acton Arena.

Canadian engineers have learned that trapping air bubbles in fresh concrete increases its resistance to frost damage.

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