

# EDITORIAL

## Immovable Holidays

Christmas and New Year's of 1951 come on the worst days of the week for a weekly newspaper and we had to fight temptation all December to miss this issue. Here we are on Monday, the day before Christmas, writing an article that will appear two days after Christmas and must have a New Year's outlook. But whether the home paper gets the usual attention this week or not, we felt the issue must appear.

We've advocated Mondays for such holidays as Dominion Day, Victoria Day, etc. but in spite of inconvenience no one would think of having such days as Christmas, New Year's or Good Friday switched around to meet any personal or business reasons. Such days have such significance that they might be termed immovable holidays and it is well that no one suggests any change. But in the circumstances perhaps readers may excuse any garbled writing that may appear in these issues.

## Exit 1951 -- Enter 1952

We're drawing to the close of another year. There are just four more days left in 1951 and then in comes 1952 with its new clean calendars and its promises that come with a fresh start in any year—yes and perhaps disappointment which it is always best not to anticipate.

We cannot let 1951 close without expressing our appreciation to all who have made its days pleasant for the home town paper and the staff who endeavor to give you each week a picture of the places and people you know. We won't enumerate because there might be a group of individuals missed. To all of you who may read this our sincere thanks for your co-operation throughout the year.

1952 comes with another new start. A realization that in 1951 we did not accomplish all the things we aimed to do in its 365 days. A hope that in this new year these things left undone may be caught up and the new resolutions included this year with its 366 days. Perhaps that is asking too much for one extra day but then hopes run high for a new year.

For the New Year we wish one and all happiness and health and granted these, wealth is assured in fullest measure, for what more is needed than happiness and health in this life.

## Acton Review of 1951

A quick glance through the files of The Free Press for 1951 provides some interesting highlights in Acton municipal affairs that will at this close of the year bear passing in review. We can only give the headlines. You will recall the incidents and perhaps grasp the magnitude of the work involved. Perhaps, too, it will evoke a word of praise to those public officials who carried the burden during 1951. So aptly it has been said that "hindsight is so much easier than foresight". Here are Acton's 1951 headlines:

- Utilities Commission contend with repairs from Underwriter's Inspector.
- School Board awards building contracts.
- North Halton High School Board rejected a building motion.
- Utilities Commission revised salaries.
- Council sold debenture issue of \$25,500.
- Utilities Commission start to rebuild water tank.
- Council struck tax rate at 43 mills, one of the lowest in county urban centres.
- New fire equipment is inspected and purchased.
- No increase in county rate.
- New Snowblower purchased.
- Esquering entered an appeal against High School levy.
- Utilities Commission bought new truck.
- Seven delegations at council meeting in April.
- Announcement made that Toronto-Windsor highway will pass between Acton and Milton.
- Another \$75,000 borrowed to pay for sewerage disposal system.
- Planning Board start work on new town plan. \$41,668 estimated for Mill and Main Street paving.
- Street lighting improvement arranged.
- North Halton School Board unanimously approved building new schools at Acton and Georgetown and a new gymnasium at Milton.
- Paving of highway No. 25 was completed between Acton and Milton after 30 years of promising.
- Magistrate's Court covered year's biggest docket.
- Acton streets were oiled instead of applying calcium.
- \$750,000 building program summarized in Acton.
- Dominion census showed Acton with 50% increase in population in past ten years.
- Council made deal on new garbage truck for \$25 and old truck.
- Three towns object to Halton's equalized assessment.

Free dance celebrates completion of Acton road repairs. Acton Fair drew half attendance and was nearly rained out.

450 attend Halloween party in Acton arena. Council passes garage closing by-law.

Ontario Municipal Board re-affirmed sewer rate by-law at special hearing.

And this week's news columns complete the 1951 picture.

## Canada's No. 1 Citizen

Recently in Ottawa a group marked the tenth anniversary of Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent's entry into political life. There were many tributes on this occasion. One of the finest came from the pen of Bruce Hutchison, well-known writer and editor of the Victoria Daily Times and we quote these excerpts from his article:

"Mr. St. Laurent has achieved more in less time than any statesman in Canadian history. This statement is not a bit of banquet oratory. It is a mathematical fact.

"Macdonald became Prime Minister after a lifetime of apprenticeship. Laurier similarly prepared from his youth and, as a party leader, suffered cruel defeats before he reached office. Mackenzie King set his ultimate goal in college and needed 30 years to achieve it. Within seven years of entering politics (with no intention of remaining there) Mr. St. Laurent was Prime Minister.

But there is a broad, though intangible gulf between the leadership of a government and the leadership of the nation. Mr. St. Laurent was fully accepted within one year. That is the final test of a Canadian statesman. That is the measure of Mr. St. Laurent.

"One does not know what history will say about Mr. St. Laurent, the statesman in domestic politics. It cannot fail to say, for the facts are already established, that he was the man who, more than any other, led Canada out of isolationism into the world and, in so doing, gave Canada a place in the embryonic but growing community of free nations such as it has not glimpsed, much less achieved, before.

"That work in international affairs has been sufficient, one might say, for any man's lifetime but even at Mr. St. Laurent's age, plenty of work still lies ahead. After these unbelievable ten years Mr. St. Laurent must see, like the aging Ulysses, some work of noble note yet to be done, and doubtless he sees that all his work, past, present and future, rests on the sovereign fact of his own life—a fact which he could never sink below and would not wish to rise above—that he is, in every fibre, thought and instinct, a Canadian."

## Party Stalwarts

That accumulation of old material which gathers around a newspaper office that has been in operation for years isn't termed the archives and in newspaper parlance it isn't exactly the morgue. We might just say it's some "old stuff" and on going through some of this "old stuff" the other day looking for some other "old stuff" we came across a little booklet dated 1878 and headed "Mackenzie Reform and Revenue Tariff", and in the blank spaces on the cover were filled in "Riding of Halton, Township of Nassagaweya, Polling Division No. 3".

Examination of the inside pages revealed it was a voters' list given to a canvassing committeeman and rule No. 4 for the guidance of this individual said, "Having received his canvass book he should canvass his sub-division thoroughly and having personally ascertained how each elector will vote, should mark opposite the names, under the proper column 'Reform', 'Conservative' and 'Doubtful' voters and under the column of 'Remarks' such suggestions or references as may appear necessary for the information of the Division Chairman or Candidate."

Well, we looked through the book and whoever owned it was rather lax in his duties because there was a mark opposite only ten names, but he must have been mighty proud of his work because the result of the voting is given on the last page and it was 108 Reform, 32 Conservatives and no doubtfuls and no remarks. The candidates were McCraney and McDougald.

Only the old-timers will, of course, remember the election of 1877. But perhaps the younger readers will relish what a "party stalwart" had to be to ascertain personally how every voter was going to vote and also to remember this was in the days when the fastest transportation was a horse and sulky and the roads were corduroy and unplowed and required stamping to travel.

Perhaps we should give the last admonition in the book, "One month's earnest work in every polling division in every riding of the Dominion will make Victory Certain!"

Yes, they sure took their politics seriously 75 years ago. There were no snap elections in more ways than one.



"I'VE LOCATED THE POUNDING NOISE IN YOUR MOTOR."



## THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

### BACK IN 1901

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of Christmas morning, December 25, 1901

The Free Press this morning wishes every reader a merry, merry Christmas and extends best wishes for joy in every home. No country has so many homes as ours. During the past month happy schoolgirls have been eagerly counting the days until the holiday recess when they could go home, carrying many dainty gifts of their deft handiwork to the loved ones there. Eager boys from college halls have come back to the fire-side where anxious prayers have risen daily. Young men from the mart of commerce and the paths of trade have put the city with its manifold temptations and cares behind them to find rest and strength in the old country home.

Acton, like scores of other municipalities, has a case of smallpox. Dr. McKeague at once diagnosed that Mrs. A. Vance had smallpox. The local board of health was immediately called. Arrangements were made for a double-walled isolation tent to be located in the large field in the rear of Mrs. Ryder's residence; this residence and family to be quarantined; an experienced nurse to be engaged; special sanitary constables to patrol the vicinity; and a proclamation for compulsory vaccination of every citizen within four days. If a physician is needed, a young doctor has volunteered to tend the case.

There was a wonderful volume of Christmas eve purchasing last night. As the 200 and over employees of Boardman and Co., and the Acton Tanning Co., wended their way to their homes on Monday noon, they formed a procession at once unique and attractive. Every employee bore a plump Christmas turkey—a Christmas favor from the firms above named.

### HIGHWAY UNIFORMITY

A new and uniform system of highway signs has been established by the United Nations. Primarily it is based on pictorial devices, rather than the written word. To understand the new warnings easily and quickly it will not be necessary to be familiar with the language of the country in which one may be traveling.

### Back in 1931

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 24, 1931

The weather of the week didn't give much impetus to the Christmas spirit.

The most accurate man in town at guessing weights would appear to be Charles Holmes for he guessed the exact weight of the big candy cane in Wiles window. The can weighed 14 lbs. 03/4 ounces and that was Charlie's guess.

A blaze in the attic at the Rectory of Rev. McBride caused considerable damage on Friday evening. It was necessary to run a line of hose into the attic and therefore water damage was considerable and much more serious than the actual fire damage.

The Warden's dinner at Milton last Thursday evening was an outstanding celebration. During the serving of the dinner the Capital Orchestra, of Brampton, gave splendid musical selections. Warden Mason was presented with an engraved gold headed cane from the county councillors.

Last Thursday evening a birthday surprise party was given Mrs. E. Huffman by a number of her friends.

### BORN

TERRY — At Brantford General Hospital, on Wednesday, December 23, 1931, to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer J. F. Terry, a daughter.

## Truckers Report On Soul-Searching

Canada's organized trucking industry says the Financial Post is taking a good hard look at itself and has decided to face some economic facts of life:

1. Within the next year or so a large section of the industry is going to be controlled by Ottawa, instead of the provinces.
  2. Canada's railways, which have already entered the trucking business in a big way, are likely to wade in even deeper.
- This industry soul-searching took place at the annual meeting of the Canadian Automotive Transportation Association.

The third largest telescope in the world is in use at Toronto's Dunlop Observatory.

# AT THE Churches

**Presbyterian Church in Canada**  
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON  
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG  
M.A., B.D., Minister  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1951  
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship.  
7.00 p.m.—Divine Worship.  
Visitors are Welcome

**Baptist Church**  
ACTON  
Douglas B. Shuter, Interim Pastor  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1951  
10.30 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11.30 a.m.—"The End Is Not Yet."  
7.00 p.m.—"Starting from the Word Go."  
8.30 p.m.—Bible Society Fireside  
Knox Church—Speaker, Miss Nellie Anderson.  
Friday, December 28, 3.00 p.m.—Mission Band; 8.00 p.m.—B.Y.P.U.  
Welcome to All

**United Church of Canada**  
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Rev. E. A. Carrey, B.A., B.D., Minister  
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Phone 80  
Miss O. M. Lampard, A.T.C.M., Organist and Choir Leader  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1951  
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship.

**St. Alban's Church**  
(Anglican)  
Rector—Rev. W. G. Lorton, M.A.  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1951  
Sunday After Christmas  
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Beginners' Class.  
7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer.  
8.30 p.m.—Fireside Hour at Knox Church.  
A Welcome Awaits You

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### TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES  
Standard Time  
COACHES LEAVE ACTON  
Eastbound  
at 8:30 a.m.; 8:58 a.m.; 11:23 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:03 p.m.; 6:33 p.m.; 8:39 p.m.; 10:58 p.m.  
Westbound  
10:17 a.m.; 12:52 p.m.; 2:57 p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.; 9:12 p.m.; 11:33 p.m.; 1:12 a.m. (Sun. to Kitchener only)  
a—Daily except Sunday and holidays.  
b—Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Standard Time  
Eastbound  
Daily 6:40 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 9:54 a.m.; 7:10 p.m.; Sunday only, 8:16 p.m.; Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9:02 a.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown, 10:11 p.m.  
Westbound  
Daily except Sunday and Monday, 2:04 a.m.; Sunday and Monday only, 12:38 a.m.; daily except Sunday, 8:48 a.m. (6:50 p.m. flag stop); 7:44 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun., 6:10 p.m.; Saturday only, 2:36 p.m.; Sunday only 9:48 a.m. (flag stop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph, 7:05 p.m.

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