

# EDITORIAL

## 1953-1954

As the old year draws to a close and a bright new year is just before us, we would be remiss indeed if we did not voice our appreciation of the things which have made the past year pleasant. It's always nice to just divide a few moments on year ends and anniversaries and think of the pleasant things that have occurred during the year. The incidents which may have been boisterous are best forgotten in the past.

The Free Press like every other town newspaper which records from week to week the events of the community, while an enterprise in dividualy owned is in reality a part of the lives of everyone in town and district. It reaches many fields, provides many services, and has many helpers beside those actually engaged in its production. There are not only the regular correspondents and advertisers, but the friends who give leads on stories of local interest and those who help supply information of topics of local interest. We would be afraid to start enumeration lest some be overlooked. So at this year end we want to thank all those who assist in making the Free Press the mirror of our community.

May we in 1954 have your continued loyalty and we in turn promise you our best to make the home town paper one of which you may all be proud. May happiness and health be yours in the year ahead is the wish of your editor and the entire staff.

## Prosperity, Too

Every year end as we add up the score for the 12 months closing, we all like to gaze in the crystal ball and endeavor to determine what the year ahead will bring. This looking into the future is always a favorite pastime. No matter how often our guesses fail it never seems tiring. So this week we are reading along with thousands of other folks what business men see in the years ahead. As a gauge, of course, the standard for comparison is usually the year just closed.

The most popular fortune tellers are always those who predict a rosy future. The trend follows so often the same lines when business leaders predict the future. It is well that such is the case. If business isn't going to be so brisk who wants to be the pessimist and predict blue rain. The bright future is the one we all want, so why should any business forecaster make himself both lonesome and unpopular like the weatherman?

As we look over the forecasts the business horizons for 1954 do not seem to have any great storm clouds. Many of the predictions are carefully phrased. We have never been successful in forecasting future trends. Sometimes as we look back over the years we find we are not alone in this class. But as a New Year dawns it is still nice to wish that it will bring prosperity to all.

## Good Leadership?

It used to be that the wages paid in comparison with the cost of living was the point that had to be settled by strike action. Now it appears that union officials consider their own security of greatest importance. All are glad to learn that the strike in the gold mining section of Ontario is getting settled.

It is rather interesting to read in the Peterborough Examiner the following article on the comparison of wages in the mining industry of the province.

The wage scales of Northern Ontario miners are already the highest paid by any Ontario industry on the average. So why just the gold miners demand more? Here are some comparative figures for the month of September. In the Nickel Range area (where mixed copper, gold and silver are mined) the average weekly industrial wage and salary last September was \$82.76. The average for the whole of Ontario was \$61.69. Leading Ontario mines reporting their payroll for September show that companies in the striking area paid their miners an average of \$76.57 a week. This was the second highest average weekly wage paid by the mining industry of Ontario. The highest was paid in the Sault region (front) a weekly average wage for September of \$79.55. The average wage paid by all Ontario mining industries was \$69.76.

## Methods Change

In many towns in Ontario the "new" assessment that has been in process of becoming used in Halton for several years is being put into effect next year. The higher assessments are causing some concern and well they might. While most folks seem ready enough to admit there was a need for a new standard of assessment, introduction of the changes does not immediately solve the problem. Sometimes we wonder if any system would be a solution to equitable distribution of the municipal tax load.

As the demand for more services and expansion of the town comes from the citizens the need follows for more funds to meet the rising expenditure. Nobody wants to pay more. The old method of assessment when 20 mills was sufficient to pay for municipal services, saw the mill rate climb three and four times the amount. So now assessment values are being brought into line with present sale values in real estate. The result is for a few years that the mill rate drops.

Then because more things are required to be provided for the municipality the rate starts to creep up again and so often citizens are apt to look at mill rates rather than the amount of tax funds that each property is required to pay. If the present trends keeps up it is quite probable a new measure of assessment will be required a few years hence.

Governments at Federal, provincial or municipal level have nothing to give which is not provided by its citizens in some form of taxation. The methods of collection change with the times. More expenditure means the need for more revenue. The day of balancing may be postponed but never evaded.

## More Editor Change

Another of our friends in the weekly newspaper field has retired from active service the past week. B. C. Smith, for the past 30 years editor of the Creemore Star, has announced the sale of that paper but gives assurance that he will remain with the new owner for a short time to assist in gathering the news. There have been many changes in the weekly newspaper field the past year. Mr. Smith has taken a leading part among newspapermen and has served as president of the Ontario Division of C.W.N.A. The new editor is Mr. Kenneth H. Westbrooke.

As the years roll along we see more and more of our friends in the weekly newspapers retiring and their places taken by new men. While newspapers seem to run on forever, the editors who guide them seem to last a limited number of years. In a busy life of newspaper work the years pass very quickly and it often seems that it was only yesterday when we ourselves were among the younger editors.

When the paper is out every Thursday most editors feel like retiring but the urge to go on comes with the next issue in prospect on the next morning. Next week an announcement will be forthcoming regarding changes on your newspaper but do not contemplate retirement for a few years yet. The same thing that urged us on through 40 years of newspaper work makes it necessary that we continue our calling. The need to provide funds for a livelihood.

## Neighbor Visits

Many of us have come to think that American tourists spend a lot of money in Canada. They do, but in spite of the fact that Canada has about a tenth of the population of the United States the Canadian tourists spend more on travelling in the neighboring country than the visitors from there spend in Canada.

In first three quarters this year Canadian tourists spent \$283 millions south of the line, or about \$32 millions more than we took in from American tourists. Gap was \$35 millions for corresponding period last year. Our spending down there was up six per cent, theirs here, up eight per cent.

The two great countries on the North American continent are good neighbors. When it comes to visiting however it looks as if Canadians are much better in becoming acquainted with the United States than our American cousins in returning the visits and the incidental spending.

## Reading Between The Lines

# NEW YEAR BOUNCING IN AS OLD. LEAVES TIME FOR REFLECTIONS

by Jim Dills

It is New Year's Eve and the Christmas event of the holiday season with a bang to work program scheduled for Monday along with back to school program for students and teachers. But right now it's New Year's Eve and the time to happily greet the youthful new year.

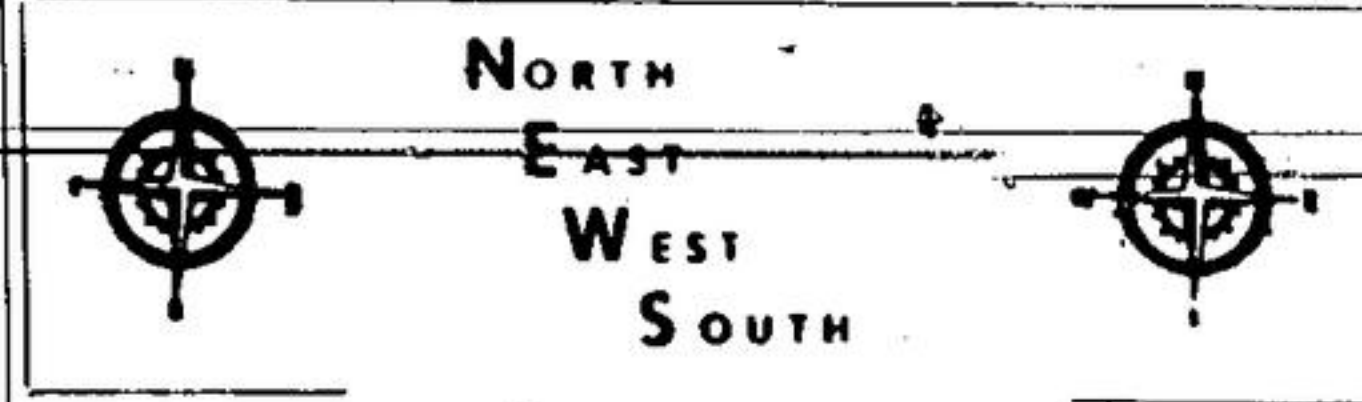
As everyone wishes in the brand new 12 month world is a time for reflection on the events just past. A hasty headline glimpse of the past 12 months is enlightening. On the municipal front progress has not been spectacular as compared to the construction of sewers or other major works. The year has been one of many routine matters with the annexation application rating first in importance. This event, although not successful for the town, was a very lengthy and time consuming project and announcement of another application highlights the closing month of the year.

A low tax rate led the hands of council at the beginning of 1953 that was a welcome change to most taxpayers but did not receive endorsement from all quarters naturally with some citizens suggesting more improvements should have been made with a slightly higher rate. In other more general classification 1953 saw a federal election with the representative of Acton and Halton being named out of a Conservative ticket. Protestant churches organized a successful

church picnic as a cooperative effort highlighting the year with these groups.

The year of 1953 didn't provide the setting for any noticeable increase in sports interest. Lacrosse was the only spectacular sport of winter in an otherwise dull list and the time and problems of this group were not met by consistently packed houses despite a non-championship that was no doubt the sports highlight of the year. Biggest sign of progress in 1953 was the beginning of construction on a new high school under the administration of the North Halton High School Board.

News and events from the national and international fronts of the world affected Acton as they did other world communities. King George VI died and Eliza both were crowned Queen. Services of sympathy and dedication were Acton's participation in these events. An armistice was signed in Korea and several local soldiers were released from service at that cold distant trouble spot. And Acton district joined other nations and towns in contributing relief to the flooded countries of Belgium and Holland. 1953 on the way out ended by the helping hand of passing time and all look forward to the events and signs of 1954. With no knowledge of what the new year holds for good and evil it's a time for firmly rooted faith that "things work out for the best." In the general happy, range scheme of things Happy New Year!



## Honor Couples

At the last council session of the year in Bronte, the council honored three couples who have been married 50 years or more. Scrolls and gifts were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rivaz, Mr. and Mrs. Anson Patterson and Mr. and Mrs. John A. Clemence.

Mr. Patterson has worked for the township for 26 years and Mrs. Patterson has been a W.A. president for 25 and missed only three meetings. They farm north of Palerme.

Mrs. Rivaz is a charter member of the Women's Institute. Mr. Rivaz is the son of St. Charles Rivaz and Lady Rivaz, former lieutenant governor of the Punjab.

Mr. Clemence came to Bronte at the age of six from New York and married a Bronte girl. "I Wish I Did" We read more about the wedding story without a spot of paint of some at the Bronte Junction. Mr. Clemence was a member of the Bronte W.I. and was a member of the Bronte W.I. and was a member of the Bronte W.I. and was a member of the Bronte W.I.

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On October 27 a hen laid a book-ends away by truck valued at \$1400. The hen laid a book-ends away by truck valued at \$1400. The hen laid a book-ends away by truck valued at \$1400.

## Trickin' Chicken

Evidently a chicken on the farm of Lloyd Ramsay at R.R. 1 Moffitt is producing two-income eggs. For a few weeks every three days the individualistic chicken laid a large egg with another perfectly formed egg inside.

The chicken is a cross breed between a Barred Rock and a New Hampshire. What do the Ramsays do with these freak eggs? We hear they simply eat them both.

## New Canadians Compare

We hear so often that Christmas in Canada is too commercialized. It was interesting then to read one of the Oakville papers this week that some of the new Canadians in the county certainly do think it's too commercial here. One of the paper's reporters simply asked some of them.

One Australian girl and Christmas in Australia was more important. One of her reasons was that she was disappointed in the fact that she had never seen a real Christmas tree.

Another girl said that she had never seen a real Christmas tree. She had never seen a real Christmas tree. She had never seen a real Christmas tree.

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## THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

### BACK IN 1903

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 31, 1903

Now keep your eye on the leap year! The Christmas school of the Baptist Sunday school was held on Wednesday of last week. A supper was held and Santa made his visit. The committee in charge of providing the annual Christmas Tree for the children of Acton have decided to cancel the event for this year. The money which would have been used will be donated to the funds of the Acton Welfare Board.

The mercies dropped to 21 below zero last Monday night, the lowest in eight years. The absence of wind and the fine clear atmosphere made the cold less perceptible but it kept people huddled.

At a meeting of Esquimaux Farmers' Federation last week William Bowman was re-elected president and George Leslie secretary. There was an exciting runaway on Church St. Tuesday. Damage was confined to a broken shaft.

The municipal election on Monday was confined to a contest for school trustees and as a consequence lacked the zest which usually accompanies the polling for Reeve and councilors. Only 109 votes were polled as against 294 last year. The Board of Education for 1904 will be composed as follows: W. H. Kenney, Henry Timmell, H. H. Johnstone, John S. Coleman, John M. Melton and M. D. Alex. Hamshaw.

The war news has acted on the wheat markets, due to the expectation that an outbreak of hostilities between Japan and Russia would put a stop to Russian shipments. It would be very desirable to have a fire drill adopted for our public school.

### BACK IN 1933

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 28, 1933

We got it 1933 on Monday and thereafter. The Christmas concert of the Baptist Sunday school was held on Wednesday of last week. A supper was held and Santa made his visit. The committee in charge of providing the annual Christmas Tree for the children of Acton have decided to cancel the event for this year. The money which would have been used will be donated to the funds of the Acton Welfare Board.

Parents and friends of Leone school were given a splendid concert on Friday. Rev. C. L. Poole was the chairman. Of course, the Christmas tree laden with good things was the climax.

Last evening the officers of W. L. Lodge were duly installed. They are: P.M. W. Bro. Arch. Nally, W.M. Bro. H. L. Ritchie, S.W. Bro. C. A. Darby, J. W. Bro. George Gordon, S.D. Bro. V. B. Rumbley, J.D. Bro. R. A. Wilson, J.G. Bro. F. S. Hall, chaplain; V. W. Bro. W. M. Cooper, treasurer; Bro. C. A. Conway, Secy. W. Bro. R. M. McDonald, D. of C. W. Bro. C. W. Wilson, organist; Bro. Dan. Taylor, S.S. Bro. F. E. McChesny, J.S. Bro. Cecil Crapp, I.S.D. Bro. John Jennings.

The rush at the post office is over and postmaster Matthews and his staff are settling snugly. Any hockey fan who failed to witness the opening game of the local O.H.A. schedule here last night passed up one of the finest exhibitions of the visitors at the local arena and any old time these two meet, if you want hockey, by there. Acton came out on top of a 5-4 score but it was a slug dog battle right through. The line-up was: Acton, Holloway, goal, Gibbons and Greer, defense, Terry, center, Morton and Chew, wings, Jack Kentner, Joe Kentner, Walters and Anderson alternates.

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## The Acton Free Press

The Only Paper Ever Published in Acton

Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 56 Mill St. E. Acton Ont. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the C.W.N.A. and the Ontario-Quebec Division of the C.W.N.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance \$2.50 in Canada, \$3.00 in the United States, six months \$15.00, single copies 5¢. Authorized as Second Class Mail. Post Office Department: Ottawa

G. A. Dills, Editor and Publisher

**BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE TELEPHONE 174**

**BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON**

Ray H. Costeras, Pastor  
Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave.  
Phone 286A

Thursday, December 31, 10:00 p.m. Watchnight Service

**SUNDAY JANUARY 3-8, 1954**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
7:30 p.m. Evening Service  
8:30 p.m. BYPU

**AT THE Churches**

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

**SUNDAY JANUARY 3-8, 1954**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m. Evening Service

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**  
**KNOX CHURCH, ACTON**  
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG M.A., B.D., Minister

**SUNDAY JANUARY 3-8, 1954**

9:45 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m. Evening Service  
A Warm Welcome Awaits You

**ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH (Anglican)**  
Rev. Ralph E. Price, B.A., B.D. Rector

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
January 3rd, 1954

10:00 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Beginners' Class  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Church Communion  
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer  
Sermon  
Preacher for the day: Rev. A. A. H. Powell, St. Hilary's

**ALL WELCOME**

**TIGHT LIGHT**

At the Acton Free Press, we have a special feature called "Tight Light". It is a weekly publication which contains a lot of interesting news and information about the town and district. It is a must for everyone who lives in Acton. The "Tight Light" is published every week and is available free of charge to all our subscribers. If you are not a subscriber, you can still get a copy by sending us your name and address. We will be glad to send you a copy.