

# EDITORIAL

## Easy to Start

This is the season of the year when much of the accumulation of winter gets destroyed with a bonfire. It's a time when often the dead grass is burned so that the new growth can get a start. These spring fires have a place in keeping things tidy. They can also be a real menace to the safety of other property.

If you start to burn a pile of rubbish it's a wise precaution to do it at a safe distance from other buildings. It is best to start a fire on a calm day and to only fire a small amount at any time. Of course, no one would be so careless as to leave a bonfire unattended and not take the precaution to see that it was completely out when left.

A grass fire is something that can easily get out of control. There really doesn't seem much reason for starting one, but then they do break out along the railways and small boys have been known to get a kick out of such a fire.

Fires in spring are very easy to start but get out of hand so quickly. Don't give the fire brigade any more calls than you can help by being careful with spring fires. This can be a very dangerous time of year.

## It's News

Most every one who pays taxes is dissatisfied with the amount of the levy. It doesn't matter whether it is federal, provincial or municipal taxes most all who are called upon to meet them agree that they are too much. Of course, those who are ministers of finance and are called upon to make the levies to meet expenditure usually have a better understanding of why taxes are necessary.

It was newsworthy, therefore, to note that in Walkerton the assessor had tendered his resignation because the council of that town had raised the tax rate at the same time as the new assessment had been introduced. It seems, too, that the man who held this post was considered quite an efficient public servant and had been in office for eight years. Of course, we don't know the background of the case referred to but so often the wrong fellow gets blamed for raising taxes that it may be that the Walkerton assessor was making public protest on his part in municipal tax increase.

It's a rather old newspaper example to say that if a dog bites a man such is not news but if a man bites a dog that is news. Resignation of an assessor on account of high tax rate is newsworthy.

## A Challenge to Youth

Perhaps we are taking our reading too seriously or it may be our age that makes things seem so unreal. An advertisement the other night wanted a man who was thoroughly experienced in all phases of the printing business: presses, composition and even book-binding, but he must not be over 35 years of age. An executive of a New York firm cannot get a job in Canada because he's over 40.

Examination of Mr. Abbott's budget reveals that old age pensions cost a grand total of \$338.8 millions or \$22.65 from every man, woman and child in Canada. For old age pensions last year. The Financial Post says, we paid out an amount equal to more than a quarter of all we collected in personal income tax, or more than a quarter of all we collected in corporation income tax, or almost half of what was taken in general sales tax. Old age pensions last year cost Canadian taxpayers almost as much as the baby bonus, more than three times as much as we spent on public works, and almost a fifth as much as we spent on national defense.

What bewilders us is how young men are going to get thoroughly experienced in all phases of any business before they are 35 when they must go to school until they are 16 years of age. To add to the bewilderment, who is going to pay the income tax to support the pensioners when jobs are hard to get by men over 40. This is certainly a great age for the young men of Canada to show what they can do. We certainly hope they measure up to the commitments for the next 15 or 20 years.

## Our Great Winter Sport

Now that the hockey season has ended the reports are coming out on the costs of keeping the sport going. The Samia Arena Commission had a deficit of \$14,783 on the season. Both the Senior A and junior team didn't meet expenses. The Waterloo arena operated with a deficit of \$13,252. The Ontario Municipal Board would be doing a service to municipalities if a statement was made available for all councils on the financing of municipally owned arenas.

There was a time when the number of arenas with artificial ice was very limited and those having such facilities did very well with municipal projects. Those were the days ago when many who played hockey did not have to be paid for every game and there were teams in many towns which could lay claim to being "amateurs" and fans who would go through any kind of weather to get to a hockey game. Maybe the decline of Canada's great winter sport is owing to the lack of these two very necessary ingredients in the small cities and towns.

It does seem a bit unfair to put the burden on the municipal tax rate. Real estate should not be called upon to bear any more burden. Hockey as a sport seems to require too much equipment for the average town. It may be that television is having an effect even on the gate receipts in the big cities and the whole situation may have to be reviewed.

## Canada's Expansion

The annual reports that are published these days are not just the dull columns of figures that were in vogue until recent years. A very fine example of the present trend is that of Imperial Oil Limited which came to our desk last week. In spite of the fact that we don't own a single share of stock in this company, we found it most interesting. It didn't rely on statistics alone but was profusely illustrated and the story of the company's year of business was most interestingly told as well as the statistical information given.

We learned that of the 245 holes drilled in western Canada 196 were oil wells, 11 gas wells and 38 dry holes. The results of the company's exploration work in Ontario was not so good. Nineteen holes were drilled out of which three brought in oil, four developed gas, and 12 were dry holes.

The company paid \$60,662,324 in taxes which was an increase over the previous year in spite of the reduction in federal tax. Last year the percentage of Canadian crude oil run was 56% and the previous year was 50%. Earnings retained during this year and used in the business were \$24,106,733. These figures are merely given to show the part played in the development of Canada by one of the big companies. They are indicative of the story behind the scenes in the great expansion of Canada. Many annual reports of 1953 will corroborate the one we have quoted.

## Other Papers Say:

Deloraine (Man) Times: We contend that when members and adherents of the several religions reach a certain state of Christian perfection, there would be no need of putting on tees, dinners and bazaars to make sure the parson receives his wage, the coal is paid for, and the other odds and ends are not charged. It will be the advent of the millennium when this stage in Christian progress is reached.

Canada is a predominately Christian country and it is a great factor in our social and political life that cannot be ignored, comments the Simcoe, Ont. Reformer. Regrettably it is quite true that with a large number of Canadians their adherence to Christianity is a fragile thread. Nevertheless, it is a link surviving from childhood.

We haven't run out of jobs in Canada by any means, declares the Financial Post. There is work waiting to be done by our new frontiers. We may have to work a little harder. We may not be able to pick and choose as we have been doing in the boom period since the war. But this country was built by men who were not afraid to go after jobs. It cannot hope to continue to prosper and sell its production on the markets of the world if we sit back and wait for the jobs to come to us.

## Reading Between The Lines

### CIVICS LESSON AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL WOULD LEAD TO ENLIGHTENED CITIZEN

by Jim Dills

If you had but last week County Council decided not to sponsor the annual visit of grade eight students from Halton to the May meeting of the county council when they listen to the session, are entertained at lunch and see the county buildings.

As was explained at the meeting last week, the original intention was to offer a lesson in citizenship. The pupils being sent had registered a decreasing interest which did not warrant a continuation of the program, it was suggested.

The regrets that I express in seeing this program discontinued have a personal foundation. I did one year make the trip to county council representing my class. Most vivid recollection of the event was the awe inspiring room in which the county council meeting was held. It also serves as the county court room.

No doubt there are hundreds in Halton county that have not only never attended a county council meeting but have never been inside the county buildings located in Milton, where the many county items of business are conducted.

But then we don't have to go to Milton's buildings for a civics lesson. Students of the local school might learn a great deal

by visiting a meeting of the town council, looking into the administration of a town and understanding the other functions that would contribute to their individual value as citizens. Few people when elected to public positions have any idea of how things are conducted and the important channels through which items of business have to pass. A lesson in civics first at the municipal level is urgently needed.

It may be that the situation is beyond the understanding of grade eight public school students although it seems doubtful. However there are always the high schools which might teach civics as a subject.

The net benefit would not all fall to the students. Officials would be more inclined to put their best foot forward in seeing that students received a good lesson in the operation of municipal government.

It is time now that students be given something very close to themselves on which to establish a foundation of good citizenship. Imagine how many less harassed public officials there would be if people understood the situation they face.

A trip to the town council, not to criticize but to listen, would be good for more than students, too.



### To Vote on Authority

A meeting of representatives of the 15 municipalities which lie partially or totally within the Credit River watershed, spreading through four counties will vote on the issue of forming a Credit Valley Conservation Authority on May 9, the Georgetown Herald informs. At present 15 centres comprise the group considering formation of an Authority.

### A Disposal Problem

Rapidly growing Burlington, the Gazette says is faced with a garbage disposal situation that may add another three mills to the tax rate in the next few years. This on authority of the works department to council. New dumping facilities, possible erection of an incinerator plant or the installation of individual incinerators in each home are being studied.

### Official Order Made

Last week the Champion reports, a total of 612.76 acres was officially added to the Town of Milton as final annexation order was received from the Municipal Board. Tax notices to those in the annexed area delayed pending arrival of the official order, were also mailed last week.

### New Housing Area

Known as Edgewater Holdings Ltd. a new corporation to develop industrial and residential areas in southern Trafalgar township has been formed. The company has taken over approximately 1,100 acres in the south-east corner of the township. It is expected some 1,800 homes are in construction schedule for the new area.

### Stormy Session in Bronte

According to the Record Star, it was a stormy session when Bronte Public School Board approved a categorical pay schedule for teachers including a maximum of \$5,000 a year for the Principal, R. A. Hopkins.

### Wellington Rate Up

An increasing tax rate is merely a sign of the times and no cause for alarm, Wellington County Warden R. L. Pallframan assures in the Erin Advertiser. The rate for the county increased an average of 3.5 mills over last year's 13.92 mills for that county.

### Small Sportsmen's Show

The Oakville and District Rod and Gun club is pondering the idea of promoting a miniature edition of the annual Sportsmen's Show. Such a show would be held in the arena, the Journal reports, and would include similar features to those highlighted at the bigger city event.

### Hospital in Burlington?

Among some of the questions which stimulated considerable discussion at a recent meeting of Burlington Chamber of Commerce, were the following: Can Burlington support a hospital? How large a building should be undertaken to be worthwhile? What type of hospital should be built? What can be expected from the provincial and federal governments?

### Moot Meeting in Milton

A committee empowered to call a public meeting of Milton ratepayers to discuss interest and financing of a new hospital in that town was formed at last week's banquet of the Chamber of Commerce. At the same meeting retiring hydro superintendent Bob Phillips was honored after 30 years in that post.

## Poet's Corner

### APRIL HAPPINESS

By Mary Ellen Varley

Beyond the lake, dawn spreads  
her wings to see  
For everyone to see  
And deeply in my heart there sings  
An April melody.

Of the buds and the flowers  
That in the woodlands grow,  
Lifting their cups for the showers  
That make their petals glow.

The robin's chirrup from the hedge,  
When crocus blooms appear  
All along the lawn's edge  
God's stars of the year!

The little winds from everywhere  
Touch earth with their probing toes,  
And so my feet without a care,  
Would go where April goes!

# AT THE Churches

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

KNOX CHURCH, ACTON  
Rev. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG  
M.A., B.D., Minister

SUNDAY, APRIL 25th 1954  
9:45 a.m. - Church Service  
11:30 a.m. - Morning Worship  
2:15 p.m. - Church Service  
7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship  
8:15 p.m. - Adult Evening Auxiliary Service

### ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

(Anglican)  
Rev. Ralph E. Price, B.A., B.D.  
Rector

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER  
April 25th 1954  
9:00 a.m. - Holy Communion  
10:15 a.m. - Church Service  
11:00 a.m. - Beginners' Class  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer and Sermon  
7:00 p.m. - Evening Prayer and Sermon  
He is ever ready to help you  
God who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ

### UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Acton, Ontario  
A FRIENDLY CHURCH  
Rev. E. A. Curry, B.A., B.D.  
Minister

Parsonage—29 Bower Avenue  
Phone 60  
Miss O. M. Lampard, A.T.C.M.  
Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, APRIL 25th 1954  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship, Subject: The Passing and the Resurrection  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship, Hymns, Prayers, and Pictures, contributed  
Be not proud of race, fact, or place

### BAPTIST CHURCH

ACTON  
Ray H. Costerus, Pastor  
Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave.  
Phone 206

SUNDAY, APRIL 25th 1954  
Daylight Saving Time  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship, God's Service  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship  
8:15 p.m.—BYPU  
Wednesday—4 p.m. Mission Band  
8 p.m. Prayer meeting followed by social program

### GERALD A. CANDLER

Chartered Accountant  
Monday to Friday 7-9 p.m.  
Saturday from 9 a.m.  
27 Acton Blvd.  
Phone 56; Acton

### ALFRED J. BISHOP

Certified Public Accountant  
Main St. Telephone 7-3355  
Office open Monday and Friday evenings

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

### BACK IN 1934

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 19, 1934

Acton Business Men's Association added another success to their list of successful events in the earlier and daily party in the town hall last evening. The prizes were presented by Mr. John Wood, president of the Association.

The average value of farm land in Canada in 1933, including both improved and unimproved land as well as houses, barns, etc. is placed at \$24 an acre. Average values placed on livestock are: horses \$52, milk cows \$31, other cattle \$17, sheep \$1, swine \$8.99. Average wages of farm hands during the summer season were \$17 per month for men and \$10 per month for women, board and lodging included. Counting in the value of board the average wages for men were \$32 per month and for women \$22.

A pretty spring wedding of local interest was solemnized when Marjory Sinclair Reid became the bride of Mr. Charles W. Landsborough. Charming in ivory crepe-back satin, made in princess lines, and with veil and cap caught with orange blossoms, the bride entered the living room of her home to the strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March, played by Miss Margaret Brown. The popular young couple left that evening for a motor honeymoon trip to Galt, London and other points, amid showers of confetti and good wishes from their friends.

Announcement is made this week by a number of stores in Acton of uniform store closing hours. Commencing in May, these stores will close at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday. The stores will be open for three evenings each week, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Mr. John Crawshaw has disposed of his general store business at Spessy to Mr. George Douglas of Guelph.

The back roads are in their usual running condition. The road gang has been put on several of the streets in town with good effect.

In a year Canadians eat nearly 30 million gallons of ice cream.

### BACK IN 1904

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 21, 1904

There was a excellent sleighing in the Ottawa area recently over the week end.

A large number of citizens assembled in the Council Chambers last Wednesday evening to organize an Acton Lawn Bowling Club. Rev. J. C. Wilson was in the chair and the following officers were elected: patron, D. Henderson, M.P.; Hon. Pres., W. A. Storey, President; A. H. DeWitt, Vice Pres.; W. Stark, Sec.; Thomas A. J. McKeenan, Com. of the Green; A. H. DeWitt, Hon. Gen. M. P.; Moore, A. A. Stroud and Hevee Swackhamer.

An enthusiastic meeting of Acton Golf Club was held on Thursday evening, both ladies and gentlemen being present in considerable numbers. The officers were elected as follows: Hon. Pres., Father Foenney; President, J. Lawson, V.S.; Vice Pres., A. H. DeWitt, Chaplain, Rev. J. C. Wilson, Captain, A. J. McKinnon, Sec.-Treas., W. Stark, Lady Patronesses, Mrs. Geo. Havill, Mrs. H. S. Holmes, Mrs. McNeil, Mrs. John R. Kennedy, Mrs. C. S. Smith, Mrs. Alex. Secord, Mrs. A. H. DeWitt, Mrs. J. Francis, Mrs. J. C. Wilson.

Group committee, the officers and Messrs. W. J. Gould, C. R. McIntosh, F. J. Muttie.

In the far-off days a generation or two hence, the boys and girls of today will be recounting to the grandchildren in their knees the stories about the great winter of 1904. It will certainly seem like a fairy tale to be told that winter came with splendid sleighing on the 10th of November, 1903, and that on 16th April, five months later, there was six or seven inches of snow on the ground and the sleighs were running and the merry sleigh bells jingling.

The Jack the Hunter store has subsided. It is believed the camp has left town.

Mr. J. B. McKenzie has commenced the erection of a new house on Agnes St. near Elgin.

BORN  
WILSON, At Knox church, marriage on Saturday, 9th April, to Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Wilson, B.A. a son.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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Saturdays by appointment only  
Office 22 - Phone - Res. 104  
ACTON

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Chartered Accountants  
Successors to  
JENKINS AND HARDY  
1305 Metropolitan Bldg  
44 Victoria St. Toronto  
Em. 4-9131

### MEDICAL

DR. W. G. C. KENNEY  
Physician and Surgeon  
Office in Symon Block,  
43A Mill St. E., Acton  
Office Phone 78  
Residence 115 Church St. E.  
Phone 150

DR. D. A. GARRETT  
Physician and Surgeon  
Corner of Willow and River Sts.  
Entrance River Street  
Acton, Ontario  
Phone 238

DENTAL  
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN  
Dental Surgeon  
Office Leishman Block, Mill St.  
Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
X-RAY  
TELEPHONE 148

DR. H. LEIB  
Dental Surgeon  
Office: Corner Mill and  
Frederick Streets  
Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
TELEPHONE 19 - ACTON

VETERINARY  
B. D. YOUNG, B.V.Sc.  
C. L. YOUNG, D.V.M.  
Veterinary Surgeons  
Office: Brookville, Ontario  
Phone: Milton 165/21

F. G. CAKES, B.V.Sc.  
Veterinarian  
Office and Residence: 24 Knox Ave.  
Acton Phone 130

### TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

#### GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON  
Eastbound  
7:30 a.m. 7:50 a.m. 11:33 a.m.  
2:08 p.m. 5:08 p.m. 6:33 p.m. 8:29 p.m. 10:58 p.m.

Westbound  
10:27 a.m. 12:52 p.m. 2:57 p.m.  
5:27 p.m. 7:27 p.m. 9:12 p.m.  
11:32 p.m. 11:2 a.m. Sun to Kitchener only.  
Daily except Sunday and holidays  
Saturday Sunday and holidays

### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Standard Time  
Eastbound  
Daily 6:40 a.m. Daily except Sunday 8:55 a.m. 7:10 p.m. Sunday 8:55 a.m. 6:50 p.m. Daily except Saturday and Sunday 9:02 a.m. Daily Flyer at Georgetown: 9:02 a.m. Daily Flyer at Georgetown: 10:11 p.m.

Westbound  
Daily 1:28 a.m. Daily except Sunday 8:48 a.m. 6:50 p.m. (flagstop); 7:44 p.m. Daily except Saturday and Sunday 9:10 p.m. Saturday only 2:30 p.m. Sunday only 9:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 7:05 p.m.

# The Acton Free Press

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