

EDITORIAL

Getting More Out Of It

Many folks have learned long after school days are completed that there are subjects which life experience has shown would be beneficial and a source of pleasure in their every day life if the privilege was available for continuance of study. It is with this thought in mind that night classes in various subjects have been made available in the towns of Milton, Acton and Georgetown for the past few years.

That these classes were appreciated is evidenced by the popular demand for their continuance. In all three towns there are available fine school buildings. To give their greatest return on the investment they need to be in use for more hours that school age pupils require. Arrangements are now in progress for those beyond school age to make use of the facilities and take the courses again this year. From here on the success or failure depends entirely on those who want these courses. Past experience has proven that the group does profit from these classes. With more facilities it is to be hoped there will be even more participate in each of the towns and that leisure hours will find joy in continued education and acquiring of new skills.

Prevention Can Help

We are very thankful that we are not one of those who suffer from that chronic malady known as hay fever which is particularly distracting at this season when the hay is all in and the weeds are in full bloom. When we look at the luxuriant growth of yellow golden rod to be found on vacant properties we are not struck by its prolific bloom but by a feeling all is not being done that might be accomplished for the relief of sufferers from hay fever.

We hear a great deal about preventative medicine. The urge is made to have periodic check-ups on one's health. Perhaps this could be carried a little further to have a more thorough clean-up of the weeds that cause so much discomfort to many people at this time of year. We do not say there has been any neglect of duty, but we do see a needless growth of weeds. Their destruction is not only one for municipal attention but one in which every property owner can cooperate.

Elimination of these weeds will earn the gratitude of all sufferers from hay fever. It will also make a better appearance of any property.

Youth and Challenges

It has been many a year since any sports event has stirred Canadians as deeply as the effort of Marilyn Bell who completed the swim across cold Lake Ontario last week. There was a time when a swimming event was quite an attraction. It was developed when another unknown Canadian of that time, George Young, fought through a night to accomplish a swim that had heretofore been a challenge. We have been wondering just what was the motivation of public feeling that suddenly projected an almost unknown girl of 16 years into such prominence. Most everyone has an opinion on this and no doubt all of them were steps of Marilyn Bell's climb to fame. Judging from reports it would seem that Marilyn was having some difficulty getting understanding of public acclaim too. It was not as familiar to her as Lake Ontario.

There are some thoughts that have had prominence in our analysis of our own view of the event. One, of course, is our admiration for the fearless youth of today in tackling the unconquered. There is the joy, too, in realizing that the youth of today are just as good as the youth of any day in meeting challenges and the majority of them are fine young people.

In these days of guaranteeing everything before undertaking anything, it is pleasant to think a slip of a girl backed by the faith of a coach undertook the long gruelling swim without definite promise of any award. There is joy, too, in the thought that having reached the end of the rainbow the pot of gold was no myth but a reality. There's a lesson in this for the mature thinking as well as the youthful thinking. We need more people who will face the world's challenges alone

and unafraid. Willingness to prove their worth before asking the reward.

The inspiration which Marilyn Bell and Gus Ryder have given to the thinking of Canadians is appreciated. May they both have guidance and steadfastness in this world of acclaim to hold fast to the principles that have placed them on their present high pedestal of fame.

Some Things Unchanged

There have been many changes in the 42 years since Acton Fair held its first annual exhibition. Having followed most of them in these two score years we are tempted to reminisce a bit as the event of 1954 comes up.

Forty-two years ago patrons and exhibitors were limited to the immediate locality. Livestock had to be driven to the fair on the hoof. There were no trucks to bring in stock for miles around. Every property in town was surrounded by a fence and the gates were kept shut against stray animals. The first day of the Fair was really a preparation day and it sure was needed. When Acton Fair started the age of mechanization had not yet gotten underway.

The midway was composed (no, made-up would be a better word) of shows and games. The mechanization did not include even a portable merry-go-round. Those were the days when the first motion pictures flickered on the screen and the big Toronto fire was a thriller. The drill shed was the place for hall exhibits and the first night was a preview of the prize winners and a program by Acton Citizens' Band under the leadership of John Hill.

There have been many changes since George Havill and George Hynds headed that first event 42 years ago. But there are some things which never change about Acton Fair. One of them is the opportunity for meeting friends. Remember how that first year the 48th Highlanders Band came by train and the old boys and girls paraded down the street from the station? Difference is now they come by ones and twos and cars. But they come and the welcome is just as warm.

The exhibits of the farm are there and they are better. There's the sale of fruit the same as in early years and balloons are still an attraction like apples on a stick and popcorn. People eat more since the buns and compact meat forms are available. Just as it was in 1912 the weather for fair days is a mighty important factor in the success and enjoyment of the event.

The Fair on Friday and Saturday of this week is a vast improvement since 1912 but all the good features still remain and are unchanged.

Glowing Prominence

Driving up the seventh line in Trafalgar township towards Hornby the other night as we passed through the inky blackness of the night we came upon the floodlighted Bethel Church near Drumquin. It was the first floodlighted church we had seen in the district and we paused to look closer.

As we continued driving we couldn't help thinking more along that line. Few churches can afford the installation price of the necessary lighting equipment yet it is one of the prerequisites of the construction of a new industrial plant. It's just good advertising to light the sign on the plants, but how many of our churches have the necessary lights to make them stand out at night.

Perhaps it's time we started spotlighting our churches. It's just possible it might lead to giving them the prominence we give our industrial might and continuing growth. Perhaps it would help lead more people to a mental spotlighting of churches if they were physically spotlighted.

There is no particular reason why our churches should sit in the dark. In fact, if anything is spotlighted it should probably be those institutions. Bethel Church on the seventh line stands out with glowing prominence, a prominence other churches would be wise to follow.

Other Papers Say:

We note that the Nova Scotia municipalities, in recent meeting, suggested a further tax on liquor in this province, with an eye to raising funds for medical care.—Antigonish (N.S.) Casket.

Reading Between The Lines

SWELLING EDUCATION COSTS HERE EVERYWHERE PROMPT BAD SOLUTION

By John Black

It was discouraging to members of the North Halton High School District Board and disconcerting to school ratepayers last week to learn that Acton's gleaming new high school was one room and one teacher short of sufficient.

This inadequate accommodation and staff condition cannot be blamed back to the school trustees or anyone else. To the best of its capability this board, like other boards, reckoned the allowances for space and teaching personnel on anticipated enrolment before building.

That fulfillment proved greater than expectation was due to a variety of the troublesome variants which cause school trustees to lose heart in their valuable municipal service. Population movements, school area enlargements, uninforming birth rates, these and other uncontrollable factors can undermine the most painstaking plans to cope with educational problems.

Just how far these untamed social factors can knock planned school provisions for a roll of pins is poignantly illustrated in the case of Acton public school. In 1949 board members estimated there would be 529 pupils in the elementary grades in September, 1954. The figure was based on calculations of the number of preschool children in families living in Acton.

Last week 590 pupils crowded the public school, enlarged only two years ago. With the modern tendency of city-bred industries to branch out or relocate in suburban or country areas and their labor forces to fan out into towns and villages for jobs about, another headache arises not only for the school trustees but for the council members.

While an erstwhile-rural township grows fast with million dollar industrial assessments, the be-

lured towns and villages are expected to provide more schools, extended services and greater housing for the families of the men who commute to work every day out of town and into the township-heated factory.

Municipal officials can well shake their heads in despair or indignation, which ever mood with the cause. What can be done, they ask, to fit some pattern of regularity to plans towns must follow to meet the education needs and at the same time spare the municipality the disaster of school costs tipping any balance its financial disposition might have?

From scattered council chambers, Home and School Association halls, trustee rooms and guested dining rooms there has stumbled, in recent years, the ill-thought answer of government assumption of most or all of education costs.

This would be a dangerous solution indeed!

As it is, the state presently theorizes, selects and programs all educational material notwithstanding a grant or two, of religious instruction. To the direct representatives of the taxpayers, the school trustees, the state leaves a minority measure of jurisdiction in administration and ownership of facilities. When it comes to renewing or enlarging facilities, another state bureau will pass or reject permission.

Through a partial grant structure the state now manages some control over the remaining potpourri of decisions in elementary and secondary education left in the taxpayers' hands. By assuming full financial responsibility in all areas of education, the government would mischievously socialize more institutions. Parents of school pupils would see their youngsters intellectually nurtured in the questionable administration of the state.

Method in Manoeuvres
In Oakville last week hearings renewed, after a lengthy lapse, on the town's application to annex some 5,000 Trafalgar township acres, included in which area are about 32½ acres, holding the highly-desirable Ford plant and its \$10,000,000 investment which, according to local papers, will be the point of emphasis in the whole proceedings.

Horn Hanks Hot
In Bronte on a recent Sunday morning Dan MacLeod was disturbed to hear his car horn start honking loud and long, started looking around for two young suspect sons but was startled to find his car on fire and burning to such a degree it was out of control. The young sons were, all the while at Sunday School.

Money From Memories
In Erin \$36 unexpectedly arrived for the Treasuries of the Cemetery Board and the Agricultural Society when members of the Erin Old Boys and Girls Association, Toronto division, which last celebrated a get-together in 1912, decided to close the books.

Say OPP "Sidestepping"
In Georgetown charging the provincial police headquarters with "sidestepping", members of council instructed the clerk to apply for the commission—which has been refused once already—to allow the local detachment to use a speed trap. Investigation revealed, the argument refusal said, that "few accidents and no fatalities" in town rendered the trap unnecessary.

Gentlemen At School
In Erin 150 students registered in the local public school when classrooms opened for fall business again last week and in making arrangements of the fact, the local paper adds the following: "It is a fact that I will be noted that for the first time in many years, gentlemen are principal of the public school."

A House of Their Own
In Burlington, forming a combined town hall to house municipal office police and hydro offices as "not feasible", a council committee last week recommended that any future plans for a new police building must be for a completely separate structure. The idea, as presented, didn't go over too well with the rest of council.

Pupils Total 820
In Milton last week 820 pupils entered the town's three schools to record the highest enrolment in the town's history. Interim accommodation is being used until the new public school is built; the high school has a new addition and the Catholic students from town and area are attending a new separate school for the first time.

Police Crowd Burlington
In Burlington long arms of the law stretched all over the town this week as some 300 members, with waxes, of the Chief Constables' Association of Canada stopped off to banquet with chiefs of police of the six district municipalities during their week-long convention in Toronto and as part of a bus tour in the Niagara peninsula.

Disposal Demonstration
In Milton this week members of council were scheduled to watch a demonstration of a machine designed for the sanitary and full method of garbage disposal following discussion of various advantages and characteristics at a recent council meeting. The machine is also suitable for snow loading and other municipal jobs; it was learned.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1934

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 13, 1934

At a special meeting of council, it was decided that the basement for the entire new Y.M.C.A. building would be excavated and the section under the gymnasium equipped with steel girders, so that in future if desired, and funds were available, a swimming pool would be constructed.

The Camp Fire club of the Baptist church held an enjoyable meeting on Monday evening. The first item on the program was a treasure hunt through the town, which came to an end at the home of Wilbur McMillan. The Camp Fire club made up of the teen-age members of the Sunday school.

Practically all is in readiness for the twenty-first annual Fair at Acton, next Tuesday and Wednesday. For the first time an amplifier system will be used at the show on the first night.

On Thursday afternoon the Ever-ton Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Walter Coaling, there being 22 members and three visitors present. The contest for the member serving the most new members in the past four months was won by Mrs. Thompson Stewart, having five.

An interesting event took place Friday night in connection with the re-opening of the rock school on the Gravel road, near Rockwood, which was destroyed by fire in June after being struck by lightning. Miss Margaret Thomas of Rockwood is teacher for the school.

There was quite a heavy frost in the district last Thursday night.

Members of the family of the late Nancy Wilson and William Connor of Grand Valley met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Atken, Orangeburg, on Sunday.

Mr. H. E. Alton has tendered his resignation as Eramosa tax collector.

More than 1,600,000 pounds of shaving cream are produced in Canada in a year.

BACK IN 1904

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 15, 1904

Acton property continues to change hands freely. The brick house and the lot on Bower Ave., owned by Joseph Anderson and occupied by Mr. A. H. Devitt, manager of the Merchants' Bank, has been purchased by Mr. Joseph Holmes for \$1500. John Russell, Erin, has purchased from Thomas Easton the brick house at the corner of Young and Queen Sts. Sunderland Taylor has purchased from J. B. Mackenzie for \$500 the new house on Agnes St.

Mr. A. M. Smith returned from his three months tour of Great Britain last Thursday. He had the most unusual experience of only 10 or a dozen wet days during his entire stay.

For the year ending in June 1900 emigrants from Britain sailed in Canada.

Contractor J. B. Mackenzie is making preparations for the erection of a new building, estimated at \$25,000 for Mrs. J. H. Mackenzie, corner M. St. and Agnes St., for a store.

Mrs. L. C. Clark has secured classes in vocal music at Acton, and will be at Mrs. Mathews' place every Saturday.

The maple pole dates of Acton are likely to be quite a feature at the fair here on October 4.

Another milestone in the history of the Congregational church at St. Charles' Hill is to be noted as a result of the church's 25th anniversary, celebrated in a special service on Monday night at the home of Mrs. J. H. Mackenzie, corner M. St. and Agnes St., where the whole congregation appeared.

Acton Board of Trade has discussed the advisability of securing a cheese factory for the town.

Heavy frost on Monday night last.

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Rev Ralph E. Price, B.A., B.D.
Rector

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
September 19th 1954

10:00 a.m.—Church School
11:00 a.m.—Beginners Class
11:00 a.m.—Choral Communion.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon
Visitors Very Welcome

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
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Rev. E. A. Curry, B.A., B.D.
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Parsonage—29 Bower Avenue
Phone 60

Miss O. M. Lampard, A.T.C.M.
Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1954

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
9:45 a.m.—The Church School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:00 p.m.—Masonic Church Parade

Thought for the Week:
"Sometimes the most difficult feat of muscular strength is just holding our tongues."

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1954

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Young People's

The Acton Free Press

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