

The Story of Acton Today

This is Acton today. This eight page supplement to the Free Press, prepared under the sponsorship of the local Chamber of Commerce, brings to Free Press readers and to hundreds of others who have never seen this newspaper before—a comprehensive story in words and pictures of Acton today.

The Chamber of Commerce making this special edition possible has opened the doors for hundreds on this continent and in Europe, to learn something of this active industrial community and the rich agricultural area in which it lies.

On these pages will be found not only stories of Acton's industries, its commercial activity and tra-

legic location, but stories and pictures of its social institutional life.

To many familiar with Acton this edition will reaffirm that this is a prosperous and pleasant community in which to live. It will reflect the pride Actonians have for their home town.

To others, not familiar with Acton, this edition may offer some idea how a progressive small town in Ontario—Canada's industrial heart—lives today!

That's why extra copies of this Free Press supplement are being printed this week. These copies will be sent to trade commission-ers; international commerce houses and industrial expositions abroad.

as well as to Canadian and American industrial offices, government planning and development departments and to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce for distribution.

This year, with nearly 500 new homes planned for erection in town, new families will be expected to assimilate into the business and social life of Acton. The business directory, on the back page of this supplement, will be useful to these people, as will the social directory on local organizations.

There is much valuable information in these pages—just as there is much of value, current and potential, in Acton today.

The Acton Free Press.

Eightieth Year. ACTON, ONTARIO, MAY 26, 1955 Special Section

Acton Mirrors the Progress Of Canada's Small Towns

Easy Access Makes Acton's Location Good For Industry

Acton is an easy place to get out of and is equally as simple to get into. Located at the junction of highways seven and 25, it has north-south, east-west highway travel facilitated by regular Gray Coach bus service. The third highway that will add noticeably to the east-west travel is the all new 401 highway that will cross No. 25 highway only a few miles south of town when its construction is completed, linking Toronto and the Quebec border.

Air travel is convenient with the Malton airport just over 25 miles away. Linking the major cities of the continent, this air travel service is only about the same traveling distance from Acton as it is from the centre of Toronto.

Passenger and freight service is provided by the Canadian National Railways, whose main line from Stratford to Toronto serves Acton. Within the town itself, taxi service meets the need of residents and cartage and trucking facilities are available for short and long distance hauling.

Bustling seaway activity will be only 30 miles from Acton, at Port Credit, where a major port is expected to be located.

By plane, train, truck, or freighter, Acton is located for easy access.



E. TYLER Mayor of Acton

Saturday Busiest For Acton Stores

Saturday night is the evening "in town" for the farm families of the district. Although farm wives drive for their shopping when it's needed, Saturday is still the day the town is busiest.

Groups of friends chatting on street corners, their bundles in their arms, recall that modern living has not eliminated this pleasant habit of tradition.

ACTON'S DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES PAY TWO MILLION IN YEARLY WAGES

Variety, the old adage says, is the spice of life but it's also the keynote of Acton's industrial output. Cold statistics tell us that over \$2,000,000 a year is paid to Acton workers and more than a thousand are employed in the 20 industrial establishments.

Old and comparatively new industries contribute to the gross products that exceed \$10,000,000 a year and are shipped from Acton on their route to other countries and across Canada.

Hospital supplies, fine leathers, heavy punch presses, fire brick, wood and steel structures, knit goods, plastic products, combed wool, electrical appliances, gloves and shoes are among the products that bear a label "Made in Acton, Centre of Progress."

In terms of years some of the industries are old, some new. The variety has provided an attractively balanced economy for the town generally on which solid plans for a bright future can be made by present industry—and those who would join the community.

Arrival of Gas Appears Imminent

Several companies have approached the Acton council within recent weeks seeking natural gas franchises. A general plan to serve the north section of Halton county with this commodity, new to the area, has been presented that would necessitate a pipe line from one crossing the south section of the county.

Interest has been sparked in this development by the announcement of the local Anthony Gas and Oil Explorations Ltd. of discovery of four natural gas wells within a few miles of the town. Drilling operations are continuing.

Acton arena was erected in 1929.

Fondness for Books Developed Early

"I want a Bobsey twins!" Ungrammatical but apt, that's a popular remark among the junior readers of Acton as they line up regularly, every two weeks, with their classes for "library day."

Shepherded by teachers, the boys and girls develop a fondness for reading early as they search through the titles in the well-stocked children's section of the library.

Commercial Life Active Through Full Range of Business Categories

When residents take a look at Acton, they realize it's strictly a one horse town. Business facilities have expanded over the last years so much the only horse on local streets is driven by a milkman.

There is a total of 64 different classifications of business in retail and service establishments that fill the needs of local residents. The majority of the business section is located on Mill St. with some circling the corner on to Main Street. Acton merchants have their shelves well stocked with the merchandise requirements for residents of the town and surrounding district.

Postal and express facilities are provided at the post office with six trains carrying incoming and outgoing mail daily. The Customs office was recently named—on the basis of the volume of business handled—a port of entry providing ideal facilities for importation of goods by industry and smaller business.

Two medical doctors, two dentists and one veterinarian are located in the municipality as well as a rest home, a nursing home and funeral director.

Legal facilities, the Bank of Nova Scotia and Bank of Montreal, two hotels and eight garages are also included in Acton's well-rounded list of services and facilities.

A hawkers and peddlers by-law governs those who solicit support within the municipality and serves as a protection to prospective purchasers of transient goods.

Protection for the businessman is found in the practice of merchants refusing support to outside requests for donations until the solicitor has been interviewed by the Chamber of Commerce committee.

While Acton may be physically only a one horse town, its commercial section reflects the varying needs and desires of a growing town. The familiar Saturday night shopping is still a feature of the business section that provides the friendly meeting and exchange of conversation on Mill Street Saturday night.

The children made no fuss as they received their inoculations from the Health Unit team.

A nurse from the unit is in attendance at the public school regularly. Also under the Unit's jurisdiction is the Baby Clinic.

Acton has two doctors, two dentists and a chiropractor.

Salk Polio Vaccine Given to Children

The Salk polio vaccine is being given to Acton children in grades one, two and three currently. The Halton County Health Unit began administering the vaccine even before the final report on its value was released, pioneering in protection for local children.

Not Just Big Boom Natural Growth

In all of the national growth in Canada, Ontario has shown by far the greatest gains and Acton, now enjoys a strategic position of impressive importance.

In natural resources Canada ranks as one of the wealthiest countries in the world. In area it is third largest.

Of its ten provinces, Ontario is the most central, the most populated, and the wealthiest.

Acton is located in the hub of industry which circles the capital of the province, Toronto.

The present unprecedented expansion has nothing of the earmarks of a boom. It is a natural growth paralleling the increasingly important position occupied by Canada in world affairs.

With its vast supplies of raw materials, its greatly expanded capacity of production, its rapidly growing domestic market and increasing foreign demand for its products, Canada now ranks among the world's leading trading nations.

Acton has had a variety of bands, the first organized in 1875.

ACTON - AN IDEAL INDUSTRIAL SITE IN PREMIER PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Within a 100 mile radius of Acton, Ontario there is a concentration of Ontario's greatest buying power, which province also represents:

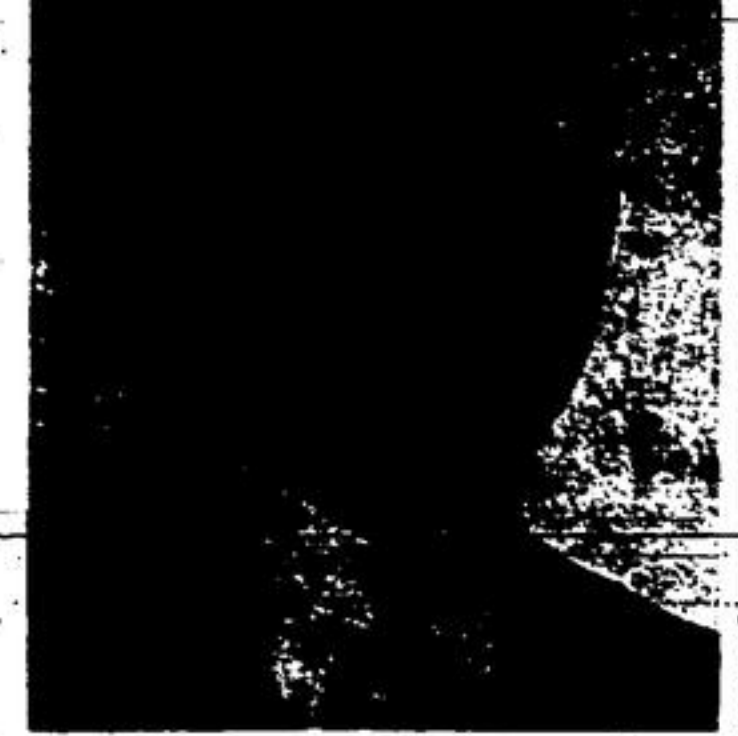
33% of Canada's TOTAL Population.	Domestic Income
40% " " " "	Retail Sales
38% " " " "	Buying Power
44% " " " "	Manufacturing Production
52% " " " "	Purchases by Industry
48% " " " "	Motor Vehicle Registration
45% " " " "	Electric Energy Consumed
50% " " " "	Household Appliance Purchases
45% " " " "	Chain Store Merchandising
46% " " " "	Residential Telephones



DR. F. G. OAKES Public Utilities Chairman

ACTON FROM THE AIR

is shown well spread out with plenty of space to grow, especially in industrial development as the ample rail siding area at centre right illustrates. Top right is Fairy Lake, a well-known Acton landmark, and upper left is the Beardmore



M. HOLMES Planning Board Chairman

O.A.C. To North University to South

For students here, an Acton high school diploma doesn't necessarily mean the end of training. Many higher educational facilities are very close and so economical to attend.

Commuting home week-ends is easy for University of Toronto students. It's just 45 miles with frequent buses and trains. One talented Actonian, Frank Bean, travels to Toronto for singing lessons at the Conservatory of Music and the United Church organist, George Elliott, goes to Toronto regularly for further organ training. These are just examples of the unlimited possibilities of advanced education within reasonable distance.

For those whose interests lie in another direction—there's a short trip in another direction, too. Just 15 miles up No. 7 highway is Guelph with its famous Ontario Agricultural College, the Ontario Veterinary College and Macdonald Institute. Many local students go there to obtain a degree, or to attend a valuable short course or convention.

Would-be teachers choose between Hamilton and Toronto Teachers' Colleges.

Within 15 miles there are two business colleges—one in Milton, the "County town" of Halton, and another in Guelph.

Labor Conditions Satisfactory Here

Local conditions make this part of Ontario very favorable in regard to labor.

Within the area immediately circling Toronto, which includes Acton, there are 40 per cent of all the manufacturing employees of the entire province.

Living conditions for labor are good here, with a wide diversity of industry with a minimum of seasonal operations.

There has not been a strike in an Acton industry for the past fifty years!

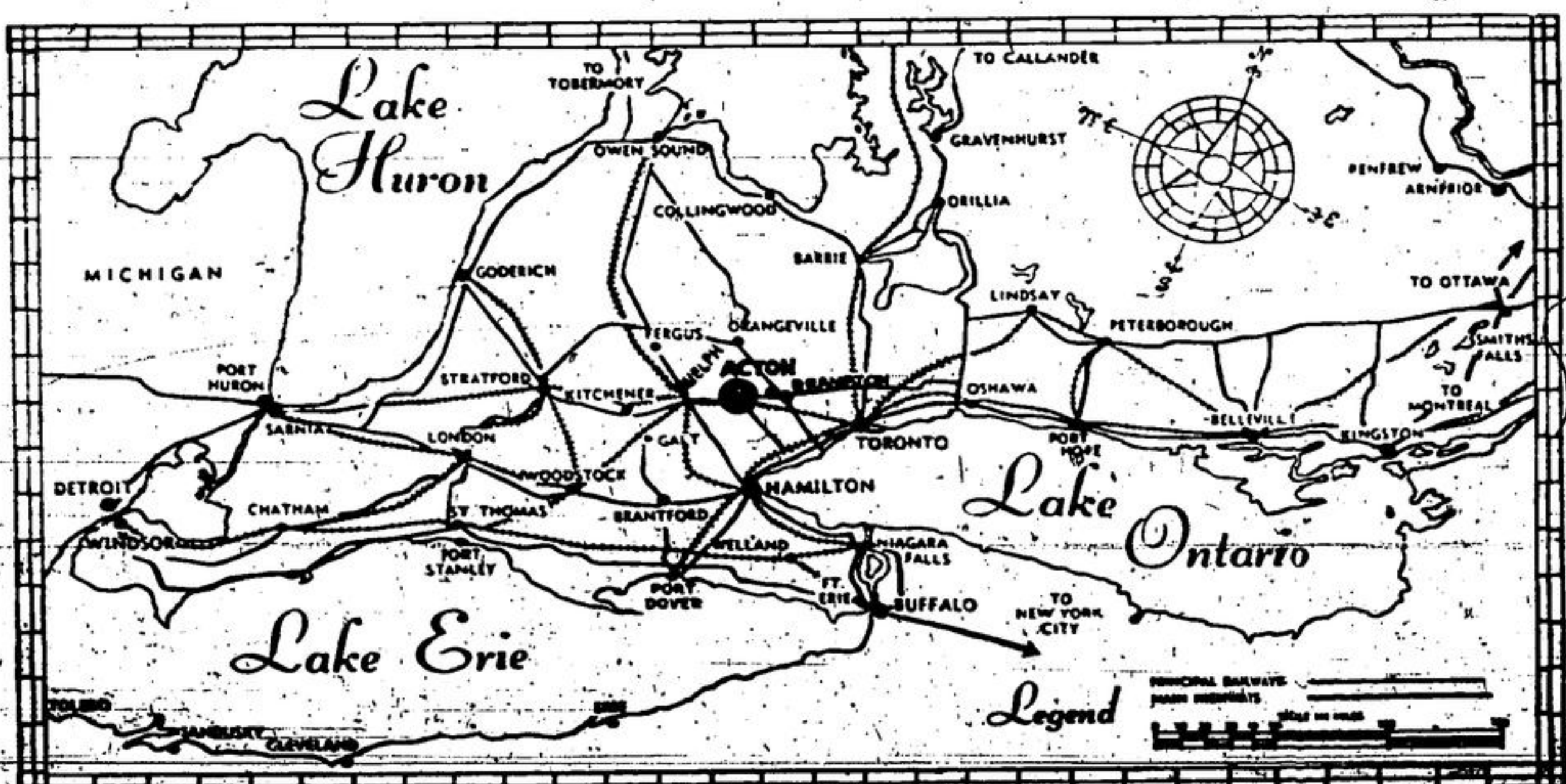
Labor rates are moderate and the labor turnover small.

Labor laws covering working hours, workmen's compensation, factory conditions, etc. are moderate yet not onerous. In the majority of instances they have been determined to the mutual satisfaction of employee and employer after years of progressive negotiations.

Picnics in Park Summer Highlight

During the summer picnickers and fishermen come to Acton park from miles away.

On the other side of Fairy Lake Spony Jaque has created another park called The Breezes, with cabins, refreshment booth and boats for rent.



Approximate Highway Mileage From Acton	Mileage
Buffalo	78
Chicago	485
Cleveland	272
Detroit	212
Erie	171
Hamilton	35
London	92
Montreal	390
Niagara Falls	70
Ottawa	320
Port Huron	175
Port Credit	30
Toledo	275
Toronto	45



J. W. WOLFE P. G. Board Chairman