


The Acton Free Press
The only paper ever published in Acton



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Local Government

Acton's municipal government for 1956 has now been formed. It took the electors two trips to the polls to do it, but the net result has given the voters their democratic right to choose whom they please for town municipal offices.

All in all, there's nothing startling about that, and from January on it's up to those in office, whether newly-elected or re-elected, to serve with the mandate they're given in the collective interests of those whom they will serve.

However, one fact was recalled to mind by an incident shortly before this year's elections. It too may not be startling, but it does arrest the thinking.

When the Acton Ratepayers' Association was formed; members of the Glenlea division were reminded that candidates for municipal office do not run or rely for support on national or provincial political party platforms. This fact, common knowledge though it is, was possibly pointed up because many of the Glenlea residents have lately moved to Canada from Great Britain.

In Great Britain, as in the United States, nominees for municipally elected positions do state and in practicable extent use their political allegiance in electioneering for local government positions.

That Canada does not now find merit in this practice, however democratic it may be, is good. Defense of localized interests and concerns against the growing influence of national and provincial government bureaus, departments, appointed offices and blanket legislation, is hard enough to maintain without Acton's or any other municipality's councillors vying for office on a political soapbox and sounding echoes from the last party campaign.

Municipal government is the government closest to the people. For it to stay that way, and for legislation it enacts to remain in the greatest interest of the municipality, the farther away the issues of party politics are kept from local elections the better.

Theirs Is Not To Reason Why

The Christmas decorations are up and the Christmas music fills the air. Some may say the same old red and green and the same old music. But it's the familiarity of these recognized Christmas decorations and color and the music that has so long been associated with the Christmastide that makes this season distinctive to this particular part of the country.

New decorations are always making an appearance. Other colors are tried from time to time. A new tune or song will make a hit for a year. We don't know why red and green predominate just now or why the old music has more lasting favor than the red nosed reindeer.

Two of the brightest faces we saw while shopping in town last Saturday were boys who were buying a Christmas gift that was for Mother. They had a different gleam in their eye from those who were looking in the windows at toys and children's gifts. Explaining all these things which are indicative of the Christmas season may be possible but who wants to change or alter the traditions that are peculiar alone to these days of the year.

Reason For Curbs

Keeping the boom under control without forcing a drastic slow-down in the pace of business.

That's the chief aim of all the moves—official and unofficial—Ottawa and the banks are taking these days, reports The Financial Post.

Their reasoning: If we can maintain the present pace of business, nobody will get hurt. But if we run head-on into inflation, a lot of people could get hurt. So, like safe drivers, let's slow down before the accident.

That's why it may be tougher in the next few months to buy cars, houses, big appliances and a host of other items that Canadians normally buy on time.

If you have the cash there's no worry. If you're counting on borrowing, it's almost certain to be more expensive.

Fewer Lifts In A Storm

A war which started over half a century ago with the beginning of the automotive age, is drawing to a close, comments The Financial Post: The last few strongpoints of the horse, or at least the working horse, are now surrendering.

A few weeks ago, what was described as the world's largest maker of stuffed horse collars, went out of business in Illinois. In an Ontario cross-roads hamlet recently, the only practising blacksmith for 35 miles in any direction, finally retired at 85.

It is doubtful whether one youth in a thousand today would be able to identify the long, square, tapering horse shoe nail or the pungent smell when a red hot shoe was tried out for size on a horse's hoof.

Horse collars and horseshoes are undoubtedly on their way out but when the snow gets deep and the special treads fail to give traction and you can't follow the road much further in a winter blizzard, it's mighty comforting to see old Dobbin come plodding along and perhaps there's a chance for a sure footed lift. Many of us will always remember his sure-footed and unerring loyalty in getting through where the mechanical wonder of today would fail.

Service To Mankind

The other day the head of the Toronto Better Business Bureau warned citizens against making contributions to phony appeals at this time of year. With so many worthwhile organizations needing help and so many projects that have such proven service to fellow men it seems there are ample opportunities for sharing at Christmas.

One of the most worthwhile of these is the Christmas Seal campaign whose funds have done and will continue to fight tuberculosis until the disease has been wiped out. It's a year around fight that is winning. Here in Halton County is one of the most active organizations carrying on the fight against Tuberculosis and for better health of any place in the province. The familiar Christmas Seal sale provides the funds to carry on this work.

The decorative little seals serve more than a decoration and carry an evidence of goodwill to all men. In the spirit of Christmas invest in the things that have proven through the years to be serving mankind.

Brief Comment

Most fire calls are for chimney and stovepipes. It is evident householders could do a lot to prevent these trips.

If you haven't been slowed down to winter driving conditions by compulsion, best to do it the cheaper way. Automobiles and human bodies are expensive to repair when they leave the roadway.

It will be illegal to pass a school bus picking up or discharging children on Ontario highways as of February 1, 1956. A long needed amendment to the Traffic Act.

A bright note on the financial side of motorists is the announcement that insurance for careful drivers will cost less next year. Savings will be absorbed by increased license fees.

Orangeville has decided to remain dry as it has been since 1910. The voters there weren't fooled by the promises of more business coming to town with the freer sale of liquor.

Canada has made another big deal in selling butter to East Germany below cost. Sort of greasing our way into better foreign relations we suppose. In the meantime, Canadians are coloring their own margarine to make it look like butter.

If less time, money and space in our school buildings was devoted to "ice cream education" it would go a long way toward relieving pressure on the schools. Students are encouraged to take it easy and have a good time during school years—Prince George (B.C.) Citizen.

We regret the passing of the old molasses hogshead from the general store. Buying a gallon of molasses in the wintertime was a leisurely process—part of the enjoyable fabric of rural life. So time marches on and we now buy our molasses in packages—neat, antiseptic and uninteresting.—St. Croix (N.B.) Courier.

In Pembroke, as in numerous other places, it has been customary for some years to observe the day after Christmas as Boxing Day, but this year, December 25 falling on Sunday, Christmas will be observed the following day. What then is to be done about Boxing Day?—Pembroke (Ont.) Observer.

Important Canadian news and official statements just don't get into American newspapers, declares the Ottawa Journal, which adds: "The truth is that the only way by which Canadians can get noticed in the United States press, or much noticed, is to have more quintuplets—a pretty rugged regime. Speeches just get into wastebaskets."



Photo by Esther Taylor
ONLY ONE GUESS and you'll probably be right. What genial be-whiskered old gent—with a suit as red as his nose and hair as white as the snow that crunches under the weight of his toy-filled, reindeer-drawn sleigh—could put such a wonder and enchantment into the face of this little lassie?

The Bible Today
REV. G. P. PARSON, District Secretary.
Upper Canada Bible Society

History is repeating itself right now. Recently a Hausa native in Northern Nigeria walked seven miles to a Sudan Interior Mission Book Shop to get a Bible. As not one was available there, he went another seven miles to Kagara to find the same acute shortage. With determined expectancy he traveled another mile to where a Bible Society Colporteur lived. After his 15 mile jaunt he found the supply exhausted there also.

In his disappointment he could not believe that 10,000 Hausa Bibles were at the time enroute by boat to Nigeria from Bible House in London. The fact is this quantity would be far short of meeting the need even when they arrived. One hundred and fifty years ago a little Welsh girl, Mary Jones by name, after saving for 10 years, walked 26 miles to get a Bible, only to find the last copy sold.

200 Lost Kiddies Have Several Santas

Two hundred of the lost children of Europe are celebrating a renewed faith in life this Christmas in the village of Pestalozzi, which lays atop a pine slope in the shelter of a Swiss mountain snuggery. For these children each Christmas is now a milestone toward a new and better life. No longer do they broodingly recall how they were brought, bitter, starved and scared, to the sanctuary they call the village of hope.

The population of Pestalozzi is almost all children—living testimony of Europe's severe winter. They came, deserted and destitute, from countries as far apart as Finland and France, Britain and Bulgaria, Austria and Greece. For some, if they can or care to remember, the past spells terror. For others shame looks starkly like an old enemy's shadow, such as for the little Polish boy sold by starving peasants for a sack of flour. Yet still they believe in Santa Claus.

Santa for them is a group of adults of mixed nationalities who long ago agreed to devote their lives to the humanitarian project that is Pestalozzi. They are led by a young Swiss ex-air force aviator, Arthur Bliss, who adopted the idea for the village of hope from the conception of a Swiss author, Walter Robert Corti.

Volunteers from 17 nations gave time, labor and money to help build the village early in 1945. Men from throughout Europe, men who had been enemies, worked on its construction as their contribution to a problem they themselves had created. The first batch of children moved in in 1946. They under-five then predominated. Now most of the children are well into their teens.

AT THE Churches

- UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**
Acton, Ontario
Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D., Minister
Parsonage—29 Bower Avenue
Phone 60
Mr. George Elliott,
Organist and Choir Leader
76 Bower Ave., Acton, phone 6
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1955**
9:50 a.m.—Junior Church.
9:55 a.m.—Church School.
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Prayer.
- THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**
St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont.
Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., L.Th., Rector
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1955**
9:00 a.m.—Holy Communion.
10:00 a.m.—Church School.
11:00 a.m.—Beginners' Class.
11:00 a.m.—Choral Communion.
7:00 p.m.—Annual Candlelighting and Carol Service. The Christmas Story in word and song, sung soft and glowing candlelight.
- Sunday School Christmas Parties**
Friday, December 16, 8 p.m.
Junior and Senior Departments.
Monday, December 19, 7 p.m.
Beginners' and Primary Departments.
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG, M.A., B.D., Minister
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1955**
9:45 a.m.—Church School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—C.G.I.T. Service.
A Warm Welcome Awaits You
"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."
- BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON**
Ray E. Corterus, Pastor
Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave.
Phone 206
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1955**
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Mid-week Service.
- ACTON METHODIST ASSEMBLY**
Meeting in L.O.L. Hall, Croverton's Corner.
Pastor: Rev. E. J. Reid,
St. Clair St., Telephone 926.
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1955**
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:30 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Cottage prayer meeting and Bible study.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1905
Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 14, 1905

It has been suggested, now that the population has reached nearly to the 2,000 mark, that steps be taken by the authorities to have Acton incorporated as a town.

The 57th annual meeting of the Acton Branch of the Bible Society will be long remembered as unique in some respects and highly interesting throughout. Rev. W. E. Hazard, the new field secretary, delivered his maiden address. The executive recommended the appointment of the following officers for 1906: president, Fred Eastwood; vice-president, Robert Waldie; secretary-treasurer, A. T. Brown.

The conduct of some who occupy seats at entertainments in the town hall is often very annoying to the orderly portions of the audience. This was also the case several years ago until Constable Graham threatened to place the unruly frequenters in the cells. A trial of the same effective remedy by Constable Price would have good effect.

About nine o'clock on Monday evening the isolated barn on the lot where Bannockburn school stands was destroyed by fire. The barn was owned by Duncan Mann. The building was erected by Thomas and Edward Moore for Hugh Mann over 50 years ago. It stood as plumb and firm as when built and was in good condition.

Mr. John S. Coleman and family entertained the Methodist Sunday school at an oyster supper.

Trafalgar township council will vote to abolish statute labor at the municipal elections.

The insurance companies are sending out circulars warning merchants and others against the use of inflammable Christmas decorations, especially in connection with electrical systems.

On Friday afternoon, the 22nd, the Christmas examinations at the public school will be held. The public are cordially invited to be present in the afternoon.

The sleighing will ensure a lovely Christmas trade.

BACK IN 1935
Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 11, 1935.

Rev. E. G. Baxter of Brownburg has accepted the call to Acton and Georgetown Baptist churches.

Between 80 and 90 citizens from all parts of Halton county gathered on Tuesday evening at Milton Inn as guests of the retiring warden, Mr. H. Cleave. Mr. Cleave has represented Georgetown on the county council since 1928.

The Christmas tree has been erected by the municipal employees this week and stands at the Mill and Main street corners. The tree is a splendid one and the lighting effect arranged by superintendent Wilson is particularly attractive.

Last summer, Miss Mary Chalmers of the shipping department of Mason Knitting Co. lost a bracelet on which her name was engraved. It was given up for lost. Last week postmaster Matthews received a letter from George Bros., merchants in Montreal, enclosing the bracelet and asking him to return it to its owner. It would seem that the bracelet was lost in packing a case of goods in the plant, had gone through the wholesale house and to the merchants in Montreal, who found the article and returned it.

Ontario's traffic toll will be heavy. Extra care is needed in winter driving.

A surprise party and presentation was held at the home of Mr. E. Fatt on Thursday evening, when a goodly number of their friends and neighbors gathered to honor Mr. Charles Fatt and his bride. There was an address read by Mrs. Duncan Moffat and a presentation of a fine set of dinnerware made by Messrs. A. Diamond and Malcolm Moffat. Mr. W. F. Darby was chairman. The evening was spent in dancing and games.

Trafalgar council is considering the feasibility of creating reservoirs for fire protection.

The first skating in the arena was on December 18. The hockey players had a workout last night.

The 10th anniversary of Dublin Institute was observed.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

- 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
- DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER
Physician and Surgeon
39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont.
Phone 679
Office Hours 6-8 p.m.
- 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
- OPTICAL**
E. L. BUCHNER, R.O.
Optometrist
48 Mill St. E. Phone 115
Office Hours
Wednesdays only, 1:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday evenings by appointment.
- VETERINARY**
F. G. OAKES, B.V. Sc.
Veterinarian
Office and Residence—24 Knox Ave.
Acton—Phone 130
- B. D. YOUNG, B.V.Sc.
C. L. YOUNG, D.V.M.
Veterinary Surgeons
Office: Brookville, Ontario
Phone—Milton 165r21
- REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE**
F. L. WRIGHT
30 Wilbur St.
Acton, Ontario
Phone 95
Appraises, Real Estate and Insurance
- W. R. BRACKEN
Real Estate Insurance
Phone 35 Acton
List your farms, business or home with us. We invite you to see our facilities in securing a purchase to your property.
- R. F. BEAN LIMITED
Real Estate and Insurance
83 MILL ST., ACTON
Phone 585
- LEGAL**
C. F. LEATHERLAND
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public
Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
Saturdays by appointment only.
Office 22—Phone—Res. 151
ACTON
- LEVER & HOSKIN
Chartered Accountants
51 Main St. N. 44 Victoria St.
Brampton Toronto
Phones: 2478 EM 4-9131
- M. E. MANDERSON B.A.
Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public
77 Mill St. Phone 585
Office Hours
Tuesday 1-5 p.m.; Thursday 1-5 p.m.
Georgetown office by appointment
4 Main St. S. phone Triangle 7-2464
- MISCELLANEOUS**
RUMLEY FUNERAL HOME
Heated Ambulance
Phone 699 night or day
Serving the community for 46 years
- OLIVE M. LAMPARD
T.C.M., R.I.T.
Teacher of Piano
ACTON STUDIO
St. Alban's Parish Hall
14 PARK AVE. GUELPH
Phone 296
- TRAVELLERS' GUIDE**
GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
6:38 a.m., 8:58 a.m., 11:33 a.m.;
2:08 p.m., 5:08 p.m.; 6:33 p.m.; 8:29 p.m.; 10:13 p.m.
Westbound
10:27 a.m., 12:52 p.m.; 2:57 p.m.;
5:27 p.m.; 7:42 p.m.; 9:12 p.m.;
11:27 p.m.; 1:12 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 Sundays 10:00 a.m.; 7:15 p.m.; Sunday only 8:01 p.m.; Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9:05 a.m., 6:17 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 p.m.
Westbound
Daily 11:44 p.m.; Daily except Sunday 8:48 a.m.; 6:03 p.m. (Stop); 7:49 p.m.; Saturday only 8:28 p.m.; Sunday only 9:45 a.m. (Stop); Sunday only Flyer at Geor. 7:05 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. to detour passengers from West Toronto and beyond 6:10 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. Flyer at Guelph 6:08 p.m.