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Geologist Finds People Enthused In New Searches

RENFREW, Ont., (CP)—Dr. W. D. Harding, has this Ottawa Valley town of 7,000 all hepped up about minerals.

Dr. Harding, a geologist of the Ontario Department of Mines, recently conducted a prospecting school here. Each evening about 100 farmers, hunters, fishermen and school boys went to his class in the Renfrew Collegiate Institute.

Even some of the town's housewives took in the lectures so they would be able to recognize valuable mineral deposits on their outdoor expeditions. Aim of the lectures was to teach them how.

The geologist pointed to nearby Halesy station as an example. The station now has substantial magnetism deposits that were originally dug up by plowing farmers.

The farmers had sworn at the rocks for years until someone came along and told them the rocks were magnetism ore. Investigation proved the deposit substantial enough to establish a plant.

Dr. Harding said graphite, feldspar, iron, molybdenum and beryl are the minerals most likely to be discovered in the Renfrew district. There are other possibilities, too, such as uranium and smallite, the formation which contains cobalt.

Saint John, N. B., is Canada's oldest incorporated city.

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PARKS IN ACTON will be the major concern of the Board of Parks Management, created this week by by-law. These pictures show the work being done by volunteer workers to provide Horby, one of Halton's smallest but liveliest centres, with a community park. Top workers clear trees up while below a bulldozer moves trees.

District Retarded Children Assoc. Nets \$300, Transportation Funds

The Milton and District Association for Retarded Children report net proceeds of over \$300 in their draw to provide funds for the Sunshine School. The draw, held on Tuesday afternoon, was made by Chief of Police Jim Bradley, assisted by Police Constables Ray Anders and Ron Rupert.

The winners are as follows: Mrs. Lena Lemon, Bronte Street, matching trillite lamp and smoker and magazine rack; Mrs. M. Burrell, 180 Ontario Street, electric coffee percolator; Mrs. K. Wilson, R.R. 2 Georgetown, automatic electric iron. If the prizes are not claimed at MacNab's Furniture Store within a week, the prizes will be awarded to alternates.

Proceeds from the draw will be used for incidental expenses of the school. The chief use will be transportation for the pupils. One new boy started classes this week, bringing the number of pupils to seven. The school was started in the fall with three pupils.

Acton's History, Expansion Featured In Bell Telephone Magazine Article

The May issue of the Bell Telephone company's employee magazine, "The Blue Bell," carries a well-written story on Acton today, a brief bit of history about the town, as well as historical data on early telephone facilities here.

Along with the story are pictures of the town's central Mill St. area, Fairy Lake, chief operator Mrs. Margaret Ford with district manager C. S. Keith and plant wire chief W. Higgins, also a photo of Editor G. A. Dills with C.W.N.A. president John Vopni.

The full text of the story is printed here for Acton readers who may not see the issue of the "Blue Bell".

It was a cold, bone-aching night in January, 1830, and the weary traveller saw the outline of a tavern ahead of him on the rut-ridden county road. When he reached it, he found the doors locked. But to his astonishment, a notice was pinned to a nearby tree telling him to partake of whisky, which was provided for all travellers, free of charge, in a black kettle hanging from a branch.

The traveller partook of the strong drink and carried on his lonely way.

Little did he know that whisky wouldn't be offered with such generosity 125 years hence and that the tavern was located in an area that would become part of an industrial town called Acton, Ontario.

Many settlers in the district came from Scotland, and if existing legends and anecdotes present an honest picture, early residents were lusty, courageous folk — colorful, vivid characters who dared to be individuals.

By outward appearance, Acton today is typical of most Ontario small towns. Exceptions include the fact it is the smallest town in that province with a Y.M.C.A. building, and one-third of the residential area has blossomed since the Second World War. The latter came about despite the lack of expansion in industry during the same period.

In the words of the town's "official" historian, Frank McIntosh, "Acton is becoming a sort of dormitory" for persons working in nearby Milton and North Toronto. Most long-time residents feel the new homes will bring needed dollars to the town.

Acton, 45 miles west of Toronto, 35 miles north of Hamilton, and 92 miles east of London, is situated in

an industrial hub. The excellent water supply from a cool spring, an abundance of electricity and outstanding town conveniences (Acton has the lowest comparative fire loss in the Dominion) make it sound like a town with a future.

According to clerk-treasurer Jack McGeachie, the recently formed Chamber of Commerce, of which he is a prominent member, is pulling all stops out in a campaign to bring new industry to the town. Since 1946, the residential-industrial balance has been broken with the erection of approximately 300 homes in two large subdivisions.

Provision has been made for a new shopping centre on the east side of the town and a new bank building will see completion this year. It will replace present inadequate facilities.

Acton boasts one of the best tanneries in Canada—Beardmore and Company Limited, which employs about 600 workers — mostly local folk. Founded in 1844, the tannery has created most of Acton's history. Other industries include a plastics company, brick works, knitting factory and a creamery. Until recent years, glove making was one of the main industries.

Announcement by the Ontario Department of Highways that the Toronto-Windsor highway will pass within a few miles of Acton has increased the townfolks' optimism of the industrial future. Perhaps this fact helped trigger the residential building boom.

Generally, residents want to preserve the town's history. Acton was first known as Danville, then Adamsville before being named Acton by the first postmaster, Robert Swan, in 1844. The town was named after Acton, England, which adjoins London. It was incorporated as a village in 1873 and became a town in 1950.

In December, 1855, the first telephone exchange was established. A line was developed from Toronto to Guelph, through Acton, in 1884, giving the village its first contact with the outside world. Dr. N. McGarvin, dentist, was the first exchange agent, and the responsibility was passed on to a number of druggists.

Prior to this exchange, a Mr. Rae, the Grand Trunk Railway agent, had developed a telephone which had been in successful operation over a three-mile circuit for some time before 1883. There was some doubt as to its legality, but evidently the fledgling system was no innovation for those times. The

story of the inventor died soon after 1886. Historian Frank McIntosh recalls Rae as a somewhat "unusual character."

An item about Rae's invention appeared in the Jubilee issue of the February 1883 edition of the *Trader*, a Toronto magazine which is still being published under the newer name, *Trader and Canadian Jeweller Publication*. In part:

"The instrument has been in successful operation over a three-mile circuit at Acton, for some time and although it has received no greater test as far as its utility for this distance, leave no doubt as to the possibility of its successful operation over longer stretches."

Today the Acton exchange is supervised by Chief Operator (Mrs.) Margaret S. Ford, who with her staff handles about 4,600 outgoing calls per day for more than 1,000 customers. Acton falls within the Company's Guelph territory, with manager Clarence Keith, supervising construction foreman Hugh Walford, plant wire chief Bill Higgins, supervising engineer Bob Hamilton and traffic superintendent Gord Buck in charge.

The town's telephone story has been well covered by the weekly *Acton Free Press*, under the editorship of G. A. Dills. According to a recent historical piece in the newspaper, "telephony in 1888 was not the simple thing it is today. To be heard at all, even over a relatively short distance, the subscriber required at times the voice of a circus barker."

The *Free Press*, with a present circulation of 1,700, has won more than its share of Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association awards since its first edition in 1875. It has had only five editors, Mr. Dills taking over the reins in 1927.

With his fingertips at the pulse of Acton, Editor-in-chief Dills can best sum up his town's progress and future.

"What will be Acton's future? Our hope is that it will be patterned on its past—not a town of big booms and deep slumps—but of steady, progressive growth."

"We do not look eagerly forward to great population and big area if it means the loss of a friendly understanding of a people united and working for the common good of the whole community and the district."

"It's still of that size where industrial workers can in an hour have the midday meal home; and we call it dinner, not lunch."

Indians in B.C. Join New Trend Of Modern Life

VANCOUVER, (CP)—British Columbia Indians are creating a minor social and industrial revolution.

Though they still live on the reserve, by preference, the days of the trapline, the dugout canoe and the tom-tom are no more. The reserves have transformed into neat, suburban-like communities.

The housewives go about their daily routine of cleaning, shopping and cooking and the children go to school. Most of the men and some of the women are gainfully employed.

Indians are taking their place alongside the whites in positions of increased importance. Indian girls who once sewed beaded moccasins and made camp fires, now become nurses, teachers and stenographers.

Some Indians go to university and more are getting technical and vocational training.

Simon Baker, councillor of the North Shore Indian reserve, is a foreman of longshoremen and is one of 75 Indians earning from \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year. About 90 per cent of employable males on his reserve are working and earning from \$3,500 up to \$5,000 yearly.

Most homes on his reserve have fully modern services, including the latest kitchen equipment and television sets.

The newer homes show a trend toward town planning, featuring up-to-date architecture set on surveyed, regulation-size lots along streets carefully laid out.

The reserve functions under democratic rule of a council of 10 elected for life. Frank E. Anfield, Indian Affairs superintendent, is chairman. The reserve operates an annual budget of \$30,000 covering all expenses.

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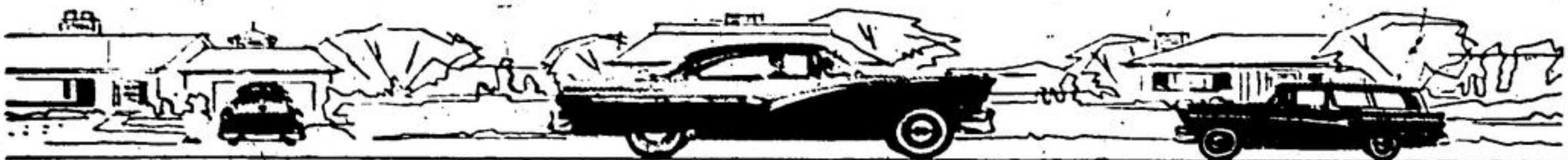
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