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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18th, 1956

Time Now for Action

It's an uncomplimentary mark for a town when a report such as last week's council committee findings on the town hall and arena is published. When public buildings fall to such a sorry state of disrepair as is apparently the case here, it would suggest the community is either broke or doesn't care.

Neither is the case back of the present unhappy days of the arena and hall, however. Circumstances that brought last week's critical report to light are many and hard to trace. This council is no more to blame than previous councils, just as the users—or mis-users—of the arena and hall of today are no more to blame than those of a generation ago.

What is important now is that action be taken to bring these buildings out of the debit side and into the credit of the town. True, the town hall has numbered days—it's served for more than 70 years—but at least as the report leads it should be "maintained only where safety and preservation are necessary."

The arena is something again. This building it not old and should be in condition and improved to serve the youth and adults of Acton for many more years. The most oft-heard reason that it is not in condition is lack of money. Certainly this is no watery excuse, with Acton's tax dollar fractioned many, many times to pay for all the necessary and worthwhile expenses and undertakings the community owns.

To bring the arena up to par or better in one year would be at once too costly. But if a depreciation reserve existed or were created it would eliminate major repair costs on public buildings and would preclude reports such as last week's. A municipality cannot, of course, levy for money and hold it; the reserve would have to be, in effect, planned, gradual maintenance and improvements made from year to year.

One-Sided Advertising

Some time ago a series of liquor advertisements pictured an open dictionary with four lovely flowers lying across the pages.

The words listed included delectable, delicate, delightful, distinguished—all intended to refer to the liquor being advertised. The caption of the advertisement invited the reader, "Look Under 'D'."

So we followed the printed advice and looked under "D" in our small dictionary. On the same page and in the same columns with delectable, delicate, delightful, we found such words as decrepit, defeat, defraud, degrade, delinquency, delirium tremens, delusion, dementia, demoralize, derangement and others.

On the pages with discriminating, different, discerning, we found such words as dipsomaniac, disaster, dire, discomfort, discount, discord.

On the pages with discriminating, distinction, distinguished, we found listed, for example, disease, dishonor, dissipate, distress, disturb, divorce.

The advertisement concluded with the advice that if you haven't tried this brand of liquor recently, "D stands for 'Do!'"

However, not far from the word "Do" in our dictionary, we found in our search that "D" also stands for "Don't!"—Adapted from Christian Science Monitor by "Listen."

Brief Comment

Researchers think that discarded newspaper, being largely made of cellulose, will make cheap animal feeds. . . We may find at long last that our editorials will really be digested.—Nanton (Alta.) News.

One of the unhappy features of any housing shortage is that families who don't particularly want to live together are often forced to do so. The case of a newly-married couple who want a home of their own but have to live with in-laws is probably all too familiar to many Canadians.—Humboldt (Sask.) Journal.

The Cart Before the Horse?

The search for new industry continues to be a heady preoccupation for every progressive community in Halton and elsewhere. It's a search that's well justified; however, it may become frantic at times.

Just such an inference came out of last week's joint meeting of county council planning committee members and representatives of planning boards and councils from Halton municipalities. Even though it came in an oblique way, the criticism could show a cart-before-the-horse tendency in some of this county's towns.

It was suggested industrial promotion or expansion programs were being pushed in front of general local planning. This is hardly common sense, if it is being done.

Both Acton and Milton individually retain a planning consultant—who happens to be the same man—who stresses that long-range planning should never be sacrificed for short-range, industrial promotion expediency. He is not the only responsible planner who holds this advice.

By this it does not mean an industry should be turned away from the town's doors because its particular needs in location and servicing have not been anticipated or provided for in a made-to-order town plan. Not at all. But it does mean that no Planning Board or council should make motions to zone a town, or frame a general plan, then hack the thing up piecemeal or wholesale to suit whichever industrial query may sound good.

Obviously that wouldn't be common sense, or sound planning.

A Time to Review

With machinery being reviewed and set in motion for the annual municipal elections and nominations, thoughts of ratepayers should be turned in review of the actions of elected representatives who work on their behalf for a 12-month period.

It's a well known fact that no elected group in any municipality anywhere has achieved the ultimate by pleasing everyone all of the time, or indeed everyone even part of the time.

The problems of municipal government whether it be regarding schools, electricity or general administration, are many especially at a time when towns and townships are growing. While some of the problems are not new ones many of them are, and the addition of the two often makes a heavy burden.

But despite problems of municipal government those who are elected to public office are there to serve to the best of their ability, the interests of the town or township citizens. If the picture in our municipality is a satisfying one then your job of citizenship should not be replaced with a feeling of complacency; it should instead provide new enthusiasm to support those who have served well.

If on the other hand you are not satisfied with the municipal machinery put into action after the last election, you have a responsibility to do something about it. Perhaps it does not need to be pointed out, but after elections are over is no time to begin 12 months of complaining. Actions will speak louder than words in any community if that action is taken before nominations and elections.

The usual election time slogan of "vote as you like but vote" has been under some study in the United States during the hectic election year there. The study has changed the slogan to suggest a study of the candidates and issues and then vote. This change would seem quite sound. Along with the privilege of voting should go the accompanying responsibility of knowing what you're voting for.

It is to be hoped this year's nominations in all the towns and townships in Halton will reflect a healthy vigor of an informed electorate. If this is the case, elections will be a true reflection of the town or township ratepayers.

Where Credit is Due

This week, smooth black layers of hard-topping are stretching out over Acton streets. Preparation work that has been continuing for weeks by the town crews and paving contractor is culminating in an achievement by this year's council that is going to add greatly to the appearance of Acton, to say nothing of the utility for local motorists.

The job is a big one, and an expensive project. Council has shown the ratepayers, however, that the annual cost to pay off the debenture is no more than the yearly maintenance bill the second-best roads of oil and gravel incur. And in the end, Acton will have paved roads.

Credit is certainly due for the realization of the project, to the council who undertook its instigation and to the community of taxpayers who although not asked in a mandate, largely indicated their endorsement through less official means of expression of public opinion.

Credit will certainly come to this community from outside its borders as well. There are few towns in the province the size of Acton that can boast a fully paved network of streets.



—Photo by Esther Taylor

Color Against the Autumn Sky

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

All in the Name of Progress

Another beautiful week gone by—that is, weatherwise. Wasn't it grand for the International Plowing Match? We would like to have spent a day there but at the moment we have too many things to keep us at home.

Ah, now as I write I hear the fire siren. A frightening sound, its wailing voice carried by the wind for miles through the country air. Apparently the fire truck is not coming this way; at least there is no sign of it, nor of the steady stream of traffic that usually follows in its wake.

Which reminds me—last year when I was in England, my nephew and I were driving through the Fen district and came to a detour in the road. For a few minutes we wondered why it was there—no construction work going on.

And then Desmond saw smoke. "Oh, so that's the reason," he exclaimed. "There's a fire over there so the police are not letting the traffic through." There you have a solution for avoiding traffic problems created by curious spectators. Just as simple as that. Only the fire, fire-fighters and people living in the immediate vicinity were allowed near the scene of the blaze. No traffic tie-up, no curious crowds hampering the efforts of the firemen. If such a solution works in one district, why not in another, including Ontario?

However, I must confess I do not know whether it is a custom that prevails throughout England. I should have inquired but I didn't. Our little family is still with us.

The last two week-ends it has been increased still more by the addition of the Toronto folk. And believe me, when David, Carol and Nancy start chasing each other through this house, the dust really flies. Next week we may have another niece and her two children here—but only for a couple of days.

Partner and I just smile when people say to us—"You would be far better off in a smaller house . . . so much less work." Maybe—but I wonder! How could we ever handle a sudden influx of young married couples and their children if we had only five or six rooms to accommodate them? Where WOULD we put them? Why, some of the ranch type bungalows don't even have a basement.

Well, I imagine a lot of country people whose farms lie in the path of Highway 401 will be interested—perhaps alarmed—at the news in a recent broadcast that the proposed 401 is to be widened from a four-lane to a six-lane highway—at least in the congested areas. More land to be taken away from the farmers; more farm families that will have to be evacuated and forced to find, or to build, another home for themselves elsewhere.

But where—that is always the big question? We're driving through a country district one day last week and were told all the farm land we were passing had been bought for subdividing. At that moment I noticed a very nicely planned modern house standing in its own grounds, which compelled me to exclaim—"That house

evidently belongs to someone who thought he was building a nice home for his family out in the country. What a hope! By next year he will find himself on the edge of a subdivision."

In that same district there is a lovely wooded section along the highway. It is a spot that I have always loved ever since I first saw it well over 30 years ago. Now the beautiful maples and soft woods are being slaughtered by huge, roundly bulldozers. As we rounded a corner and saw this unpleasant sight, I could have wept with vexation.

To me trees are among the loveliest things that God created. And bulldozers, the ugliest, most destructive things man ever made, even though I know they are a necessary evil that we cannot do without. I hate to think that in a year or two they will be working even here at Ginger Farm, leveling trees that we planted the first year we were here as well as older trees that were full grown long before we came. However, we do know that the Department of Highways does not destroy trees if it can be avoided. No, it isn't the government that is the worst culprit. The greatest destruction takes place on land bought for subdividing, for industrial projects and for community shopping centres.

All this we have to accept in the name of progress. Perhaps if we didn't know the before and after pictures so well, it wouldn't hurt so much. Perhaps, too, we might be thankful for small mercies if we take the time to look around and see the number of trees that are still left to gladden our hearts. Some of the small towns in Ontario have beautiful tree-lined streets. Of course, the houses on such streets have a tendency to be a little dark—but then you can't have everything. Bright houses and treeless surroundings go together—and vice versa.

Russian Delegation Of Timber Workers Visits Burlington

BURLINGTON—Eight members of the Russian delegation of Timber Industry Workers, headed by G. M. Orlov, Minister of the U.S.S.R. Timber Industry, were guests recently of A. S. Nicholson Lumber Co. of Burlington.

Arriving around noon, the delegates were first conducted on a tour of the Nicholson plant, then the Holiday plant, and later went to the Estaminet for luncheon. The Russians are making a three week tour covering the Canadian lumber industry and are in this country at the invitation of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association.

They were welcomed to the Nicholson plant by Mr. A. S. Nicholson and were later given a survey of business methods and organization by Mr. W. A. Nicholson.

STRANGE CATCH—SUBBURY, Ont. (CP)—Constable Don Patterson was fishing on Manitoulin Island when he found an arrowhead lying in six inches of water. He had the Indian relic mounted and presented it to a tourist.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1936

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 22, 1936.

The Men's Club of the Acton Y.M.C.A. will be launched next Wednesday, October 22, at a supper in the gym of the Y. It is planned to have all the activities for the men of the Association to be carried out through this new club. Plans for the season will be presented at the opening meeting. All men of Acton who are interested in the new venture are cordially invited to come to the supper on Wednesday. The speaker will be Mr. J. W. Cairns, manager of the Bell Telephone Co. in Toronto.

The anniversary fowl supper of Knox church was held Monday evening. A program followed the chicken supper. The attendance was one of the largest which has favored this popular annual event.

Acton hockey team has all the boys in town except Norm Morton, who went north to play in Kirkland Lake. Ho Marzo of last year's Oakville Seniors is back home. Two new chaps came into town just before the deadline and established residence.

The 104th anniversary of Ebenezer church will be held next Sunday with Rev. George S. Cassinger, B.A., former pastor, as guest.

The Young People's League of the Eden Mills community met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Argo. Mrs. W. Bridle delivered an interesting address.

Barr's 10 cent list: cauliflower 10c, carrots six lbs. 10c, cucumbers 3 for 10c, Silverwood milk 10c, puffed rice 10c, tin spaghetti 10c, salmon 10c, Lux or Rinso 10c, tomato juice 2 for 10c, vegetable marrow 10c, fresh peanuts 10c.

Big feature at the Gregory theatre this week is San Francisco, a picture brimming with romance, love and comedy, starring Clark Gable, Jeanette MacDonald and Spencer Tracy.

Walker Lodge and visiting brethren paraded from the Lodge Hall and held their service in the United church, Sunday evening. The sermon was by Rev. Dr. Morrow.

Members of the Duke of Devonshire chapter IODE held a hard times party. Prizes were won for costumes by Mrs. W. G. Cullen, Miss F. Hurst and Miss M. Jackson.

BACK IN 1906

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 18, 1906.

A number of young ladies in town have organized a Shakespeare club. They will read Canadian poets until Christmas and then one of Shakespeare's plays.

The Toronto Normal school is in receipt of a handsome silver medal presented by the Governor-General, Earl Gray, and the Countess Gray, to be given to the pupil who took the highest standing in general proficiency. The fortunate winner is Miss Daisy Nicklin of Toronto.

A most bloody and brutal fight took place in the drill shed last Saturday evening. It was pre-arranged and was witnessed by several professional and other citizens who desire to be recognized in town as respectable citizens. The whole affair is disgraceful and criminal.

The bachelors' tea given in the town hall at Rockwood last Friday evening under the auspices of the young men of St. John's church was a splendid event and a gratifying success. Rev. Mr. Wilson of Acton was chairman. The ladies were forbidden to use their right hand, also pass any remarks about the tea, or to arrange a headdress, a fine of five cents being charged for each offence.

Halton county fair was a good show despite wet ground and premature snow in evidence. The show of horses was very fine indeed and proved very fully that the county will continue to lead in horse flesh.

Mr. J. H. Denny is building a new brick residence on his property at the corner of Queen and Wellington streets.

"A waterworks system for Acton is one of the public works we must soon consider," said Dr. Gray at a meeting of council.

Brampton has voted \$32,000 for a sewage system.

Thanksgiving turkeys are scarce and dear.

Today is Thanksgiving. Union services are being held in the Methodist church.

The Ontario Bank has failed, and has been taken over by the Bank of Montreal. Other banks have guaranteed full payment to the depositors.

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THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

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, OCTOBER 21st, 1956

9.45 a.m.—Church School
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship
Mr. Douglas Black, B.A., minister of Rockwood-Eden Mills charge, preaching at both services.
8.20 p.m.—Young People's meeting.

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON

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

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont.
Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., L.Th.
—Rector

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 1956

8.30 a.m.—Corporate Communion and Breakfast for the Men and Boys of the Parish.
9.45 a.m.—Church School and Senior Bible Class.
11.00 a.m.—Beginners' Class.
11.00 a.m.—Choral Communion and Sermon.
1.00 p.m.—Holy Baptism.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie,
B.A., B.D.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 1956

9.45 a.m.—Church School
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting.

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 1956

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.

ACTON PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY

Meeting in L.O.L. Hall, Crewson's Corners.
Pastor: Rev. K. J. Reid,
81 Cook St., Telephone 649w.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 1956

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.