

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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THURSDAY, AUGUST 29th, 1937

Plant for Progress

Wider streets and new hydro lines have necessitated the removal of many of the town's fine old trees that add the beauty to its streets. The recent move of a hydro line on Church St. brought down nine or ten trees on that street to the alarm and concern of the residents there.

Undoubtedly when a town is growing and new services must be added some of the charm of the smaller town, such as tree-lined streets may stand in the way.

There will not be any solution to the removal of trees but the program of removal appears very one-sided. The other balance of tree-replacement is completely missing.

In the hurry of clearing the way for an immediate project there is some urgency in tree removal. Since none of us are endowed with far-sightedness that will project us 20 years ahead, we cannot attach the same urgency to tree planting.

In fact the only tree planting of any importance in the last few years was the planting of an oak tree I believe for the coronation of the present monarch.

With two new subdivisions completely treeless and many other parts of town without future provision for shade, there seems to be a certain urgency in this business of tree planting.

If the project cannot be handled by the municipal council perhaps a group of civic organizations could set an objective of planting fifty trees a year in the interests of the future residents of the town.

Waiting for Frost

With summer still in full swing, luring the traveller, fisherman and camper, there's one group that in the later part of summer tends to be less enthusiastic about the great outdoors. Their banner the paper handkerchief, their passport the sneeze, they are the hay fever sufferers.

But of many a wisecracker, they wish summer away, longing for fall frosts when the last bit of pollen will disappear. If the disease itself were more dramatic, or its effect evident at other times of the year, non-sufferers might take the affliction more seriously. But the reddened nose and swollen eyes give everyone, damp and dispirited victims included, the impression of tiresomeness.

Nature has played one of its less pleasant practical jokes. Ragweed, chief offender as a dispenser of irritating pollen, bears no inconspicuous a flower that bees and insects usually attracted by color do not visit the plant. Instead, wind is the pollinating agent, and the air is burdened with pollen.

But where nature presents a problem, science can sometimes furnish the answer. Medicine has come up with serums and antihistamine drugs and thus kept many a pollen-sensitive person from suffering. But the best aid of all seems to be a mechanical one—air conditioning.

At least, it is the best remedy if one has to stay at home and cannot take advantage of that age-old prescription, "a change of air." For there are many pleasant places on earth where there is no hay fever. An ocean voyage, a tour of the Swiss Alps, would ensure a pleasant August and September for the thousands who now sniffle their way through these lovely months.

For many, alas, that is not practical. One can only hope that science and mechanics, with their seemingly endless resources, will come up with a small portable, lightweight air-conditioner that the females can pass off as a devastating new hat, and the men can use as a brief case.

Brief Comment

The fact that we are living here indicates that it must be a pretty fair place, otherwise we would move out. So let's show others we are proud of our town by supporting wholeheartedly the fair and other events held in conjunction with the Humboldt (Sask.) Jour-

By the Road Side

One of the attractive summer sights in Ontario is the family picnic by the side of the road. These outings dress up the countryside.

The roadside table is bedecked with gay cloth and a variety of food lovely to eye as well as stimulating to the appetite. One catches a glimpse of cold meat, potato salad, pie and pitchers brimming with milk. Feasting his eyes on these delicacies, the motorist, as he drives by, is prompted to imagine his own menu for such an occasion. Thus one picnic inspires another in a round of summer pleasure.

One of the paradoxes of this beautiful roadside site is the lack of picnic tables on highway 25 between Milton and Acton. Every summer, and this one is no exception, picnickers are seen squatting on the side of one of Ontario's most beautiful roads.

This newspaper has repeatedly suggested the need and a resolution from the North Halton Urban Board emphasized the value of benches. No benches or tables appeared and another summer has slipped away without this tourist convenience.

The road is still not without its beauty though, come the fall with its changing panorama of color that 11 miles of highway cannot be exceeded in beauty throughout the north.

It might be a little nippy for a picnic, but if the picnic bench attractor was there it might encourage some hardy souls.

What about it Mr. Hall. Doesn't the department have one spare picnic table for No. 25.

Water, Water Everywhere

That sparkling liquid-water has taken on particularly important status as an issue lately. Of course it would not be that way if it wasn't either in short supply or polluted.

Fortunately it isn't and hasn't been polluted so obviously the quantity available to consume is limited.

For some reason or another the lawn watering restrictions are being justified through a line of reasoning that puts additional pumping facilities in opposition to installation of water meters.

It has never been a simple "either, or" problem. Obviously the town must install additional pumping facilities if the quantity of water available to consume is to be increased. The question of water meters is purely a revenue problem not a supply problem.

Discussions on the town water supply have been sporadically carried out for at least two years. Initially the consideration was toward a reservoir. This idea was apparently dropped when the former town engineer resigned. We aren't any expert on the best solution or the need for a reservoir but if the idea had any merit then it should have been thoroughly investigated whether an engineer resigned or not.

The most recent trend in water supply increases has been to discussion on increased pumping facilities. The solution has been delayed, purely and simply through the increasing difficulty of financing any municipal project.

This however is no reason to delay clear long-range thinking on the part of the water committee. It is too late to begin the planning when the financial market appears satisfactory.

The committee, it appears has three planning problems. (1) How should the supply be augmented just by increasing pumping or construction of a reservoir to level off the peaks. (It was on one of these peaks, lawn watering restrictions were imposed). (2) What type of program can be blue printed to replace some of the hopelessly inadequate water mains in the old section of town. (3) Will meters be a more equitable method for payment of water rates and will they in any way cut the demand for water.

Lawn watering, which is blamed as the root of all this trouble, has certainly led to a tremendous waste of water at times. Councillors point out the consumer is not charged for his service on his bill and this fact is recognized. This should not however be given as the reason for council delay. It's purely a matter of financing. But the planning must be done now.

Water is important to attracting new industry but it is equally important to those who turn on their tap and find it empty.

The water committee must have its answer ready and its course carefully plotted.



—Photo by Esther Taylor

"White Sail and a Flowing Sea"

G.A.D. About

Of Other Years in Comparison

Remember when garden parties used to be a big attraction in this district from June through August? Don't exactly know when they ceased but I suddenly realized that there hasn't been a single one in Acton district this summer. Of course, they underwent a considerable change in their attractions during the years.

First ones I can recall were held at home gardens or on the front lawn at someone's home. There was usually a picnic supper and a program and it could be secured for 25c per adult and less for children. I can recall one such event at Charlie Davidson's farm on the second line and others at the minister's home of various churches. Homes had fences in those days and admission could only be secured through the front gate.

The lunch gradually was deleted from the program and they were held in the park and not in the gardens. Electric lights appeared over the platforms and the regular attractions were the band and a concert program. City artists became the attraction. There was invariably a refreshment booth on the grounds but of course this was not included in the admission price.

Maybe some of you can recall when the band wore little coal oil torches on the front of their caps and later had bigger ones that were set in the ground on poles. The programs were held earlier in the day so that the band and artists could see their music. Nobody had heard of daylight saving time.

Of course, the artists such as Jimmie Fox and Jessie McLaughlin, etc., have passed on. We suppose the professionals of today are all on TV and the local artists find other ways of developing their talents and the audience turns the dial, each to their individual taste.

Don't know that the programs are any better or that culture has been improved from garden parties to the present day.

Some programs miles away are only sustained now because the audience cannot get at them and express face to face their displeasure but the old-fashioned garden party hasn't a chance today. No group would be willing to take the risk of bad weather and high prices of talent to gamble on a garden party program as a money raising event, as it looks as if the event has gone with the changing times.

The other day, W. R. Johnston, R. R. 3, dropped in with an old map which he had found in a book he had purchased at an auction sale. It was published in 1821. Very little of the land north of Lake Simcoe is shown. Guess most of the land north had not yet been divided into counties. The map is designated as a "map of Upper Canada engraved for statistical account."

My, what new lands have been developed in these 150 years. Don't know where folks went on their vacation in those days.

You know, when we used to have garden parties and the bandmen carried the torches to read the music, we spent a lot of time planting fine maple trees along Acton boulevards. Now we have our lighting and power lines along the street. There's something sad about the way the trees have lost out in the years.

Maybe I'm old-fashioned, maybe it's just sentiment. We've got light on our streets and in our homes. TV, radio service and power are run by electric lines but we are fast losing those lovely trees from Acton's streets and there doesn't seem to be any solution to the problem.

The old gives way to the new because the service of the new is more important and folks would not want constant interruptions in a service that has become so important in every home.

I am not sure that the switch of boxes with the log ones very close to the floor at the Post Office is a greater convenience than the old arrangement. Suppose someone has to be low man sometime.

CAMPBELLVILLE

Evening Auxiliary, Home Helpers Meet

The Blair Evening Auxiliary August meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. W. Robertson on Wednesday evening. Mrs. W. Humble presided and opened the meeting with the call to worship. Mrs. D. Inglis read the Bible lesson from Ephesians and second Corinthians, bringing out "be thankful in all things." There was a devotional work by the inspector some fine evening when no one is expecting him.

Mrs. Roger Mahon gave the topic from the study book and brought out many interesting thoughts on the unfinished task in south-east Asia. This task brings heavy responsibility to the western churches, as the eastern churches have few leaders.

In the absence of the secretary, Mrs. Robertson read the minutes of the last meeting. Mrs. Inglis gave the financial report. Goodness was the secretary used for the roll call. The Good Thought was given by Mrs. Menzies, who read an article on "Influence" written by Jane Scott.

Billy Robertson played two lovely piano solos. The offering was received and dedicated by the president. Hymn 371 was sung and the meeting was closed with prayer.

Home Helpers Meet

The Home Helpers meeting of the W.M.S. of St. David's church was held in the church school room on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Greenlee opened the meeting with a poem, Shine Forth. The scripture lesson, taken from Matthew, fifth chapter, and first Thessalonians, was read by Mrs. Lorne Mitchell, followed with prayers by Mrs. E. Simpson. The secretary used for the roll call. Mrs. Greenlee's report was given. The cheer secretary read several thank you notes.

Mrs. Simpson, the Home Helpers secretary, gave a short talk on the work of this department. The roll call was answered by 15 ladies. A letter received from Mrs. Gordon of Farnsworth was read, in which she made an appeal for contributions for the work in which she is engaged.

Mrs. G. Black gave a very interesting talk on the work among the Philippines. Very many of them are Christians and call themselves the United Church of Christ. Everyone enjoyed Mrs. Black's talk. The meeting was closed with prayer by Mrs. M. Buck. A social period followed.

BIG FAMILY
Leavitt, Alta. (CP)—Nearly everyone in this southern Alberta community went by the same name when more than 400 descendants of Thomas R. Leavitt, community founder, attended a family reunion.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 15, 1907.

Some time on Sunday night, the eight inch elbow at the stand pipe in the O.T.E. yard leading from the big 1000 gallon tank burst, and made quite a flood until the water was turned off.

Mr. John Harvey has disposed of his dray business, with his outfit, godwill and his beautiful residence on Park Ave.

On Tuesday evening, Thomas Hault had the misfortune to lose his left hand. He is an Englishman, age 18, and has been in Canada for six years. On Tuesday at noon, he loaded an old rusty double-barrelled muzzle-loading shotgun and fired at some pigeons in Mr. Osmund's farm yard. Nothing seemed to be wrong with the gun but no pigeons fell and some of Hault's friends teased him about his poor marksmanship.

He went back to the barn yard in the evening having loaded the gun very heavily. He fired at the pigeons and when the gun went off, it burst at the breach, a piece of it being blown away. Hault's left hand was badly mutilated and when taken to a surgeon in Milton, it was found necessary to amputate the hand.

On Saturday afternoon, a smoker passing through the park dropped a lighted match in the dry grass and went on in a few minutes the spark was fanned to a blaze and with the prevailing westerly wind, was soon acting towards Mr. John Russell's barn. The alarm of fire was raised and the fire brigade soon raced to the park.

A large number of citizens who noticed the flames aimed themselves with branches of trees and succeeded in controlling the blaze within a few minutes. But for these prompt actions, the result might have been disastrous.

The ball playing on the streets, with or without lacrosse sticks, is against the law, boys.

A new 60 foot windmill has been installed at the Dominion Hotel to pump water for the new system to be installed there.

A horse belonging to a couple of young farmers got loose in the Station Hotel street yesterday morning and ran down Mill Street at a lively clip. A broken axle was the extent of the damage.

Humors are a life again that gambling by throwing dice and otherwise, is frequently indulged in on certain hotels in this locality. There is evidently work for the inspector some fine evening when no one is expecting him.

BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, September 2, 1937.

Bobby Preren of Acton was one of three winners in the Halton County Lord Nelson Essay Competition. The prizes were presented at the Palmer school where Bobby read his essay. Over 50 students competed in the event.

Acton Orange Lodge will hold their annual decoration service on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. The parade will form at the Lodge Hall, Willow St., and accompanied by the Juvenile Fire and Drum Band of Campbell's Cross will proceed to Fairview cemetery.

Almost 140 members of the Leslie Clan met for their seventh reunion and picnic on Saturday, August 28, at Swastika Beach.

Acton Intermediate lost the first game of the baseball play-offs to Milton on Saturday, when they were defeated by a score of 9-0.

The poor fielding display put on by the locals certainly proved that their long lay-off didn't do them any good. They could do little or nothing with the willow until the ninth, when they unleashed a terrific fusillade of bats and with a couple of maces thrown in, it netted them seven runs to give them a nice three run lead.

Gordon worked on the mound and his pitching was one of the highlights of the afternoon. Had his team mates turned in the same kind of a game, they would have come home with number one in the bag.

The second play-off game for the county championship was fasted for Acton by darkness last night with Milton leading by a score of 12-1 in the eighth inning, the umpires called the game on account of darkness. After considerable arguing, the game was arranged to be played in Acton on Saturday.

Taken from an ad butte: 2 lbs. for 66c; side ham, 2 lbs. 10c; ham-burg steak, 2 lbs. for 25c.

A structure on the roof at the public school is being re-angled this week.

Mr. William Gowdy has purchased from the Gypsum Lime and Alabaster Company, the old Gowdy homestead, 160 Main St., Milton, Ont.

Double votes are being given out by the merchants this week in the Goodwill contest. Several changes have been made in the running as the contest goes into the final stretch.

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MEDICAL	MISCELLANEOUS
DR. W. G. C. KENNEY Physician and Surgeon Office in Symon Block, 43A Mill St. E., Acton Office Phone 75 Residence: 113 Church St. E. Phone 150	RUMLEY FUNERAL HOME Phone 600 night or day Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.
DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance River Street Acton, Ontario Phone 138	LEVER & HOSKIN Chartered Accountants 51 Main St. N. 313 King St. W. Toronto 1 Phone: GL 1-4888 EM 4-0131
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DENTAL	GRAY COACH LINES COACHES LEAVE ACTON
DR. H. LEIB Dental Surgeon Office—Corner Mill and Frederick Streets Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m. TELEPHONE 19 - ACTON	Daylight Saving Time Standard 6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Holi.); 6:57 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; 1:36 p.m. - 5:06 p.m.; 5:35 p.m. - 8:33 p.m.; 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Holi.). Standard 10:57 a.m.; 1:37 p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 8:27 p.m.; 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Holi.).
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN Dental Surgeon Office—3A Mill Street Office Hours—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wednesday afternoons. Telephone 148	CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS Standard Time Kathleen Daily 5:40 a.m.; Daily except Sun- days 10:00 a.m. 7:15 p.m.; Sunday only 8:01 p.m.; Daily except Sun- day Flies at Georgetown and Sun.; 6:27 p.m.; Daily Flies at George- town 10:11 p.m.
LEGAL	WEDNESDAY Daily 1:00 p.m.; Daily except Sundays 8:01 a.m. 6:50 p.m. (The daily 1:00 p.m. Flies Sunday only 1:35 p.m.; Sunday only 8:00 a.m. (the stop); Sunday only Flies at Georgetown and Sun.; Daily Flies at and Sun. 10:11 p.m.)
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THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D. Minister Parsonage—30 Beaver Avenue Phone 60 Mr. George Elliott, Organist and Choir Leader 78 Bowler Ave., Acton, phone 6	BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON Rev. Ray H. Cotterus, Pastor Parsonage, 115 Bowler Ave. Phone 200
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1937 Morning Prayer cancelled during August and Labor Sunday. Resumed Sept. 8th. 10:00 a.m.—Junior Church resumes September 1st. 11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship. Guest Preacher—The Rev. P. Deeth, Hillsburg.	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1937 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School. 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. 7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA. St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont. Rev. Evan E. Jones, B.A., L.Th. Rector, 185 Jeffrey St., Tel. 363	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA ENDS CHURCH ACTON Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1937 (TRINITY XXI) Early Communion cancelled until Sunday, September 8th. 9:30 a.m.—Mass (St. John's church, Hillsburg). 11:00 a.m.—Mass. Services conducted by Mr. J. L. Lantry, B.A., B.T., licensed lay reader.	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1937 9:45 a.m.—Church School. 11:00 a.m.—Public Worship. Speaker: Rev. A. H. McKenzie.
ACTON PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY Meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Pastor: Rev. K. J. Reid. 81 Cook St., Telephone 640w.	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1937 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.