

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 1957

Quite an Honor

We consider it quite an honor to be rated as one of Canada's best weekly newspapers. While we can't help feeling some pride in the recent announcement we also can't overlook the responsibilities and greater challenge such an award carries with it.

Our success obviously can't be measured simply on the basis of awards. A newspaper could win awards but if it failed to have readers it would certainly be a hollow achievement.

Competition for these awards is generally quite keen and the winning papers displayed at the convention are studied intensively by other publishers for ideas and suggestions that might improve their publication.

There is still ample scope for improvement in this paper as there is in any, and we can assure you we will be studying and editing these improvements where they are possible and practicable.

Our hope is that we may continue to warrant through the newspapers interest and content an increasing number of readers that will place us in even heavier competition.

That Low Cost Housing

The **rainbow** of gold at the end of the modern rainbow seems to be low-cost housing. We've heard it discussed and argued, debated and fought, we've heard the need expounded and ridiculed, but we haven't seen anything that might work this modern miracle.

The responsibility for low cost housing has been laid at the door of governments, planners, builders, subdividers, municipalities and probably others we can't think of.

Municipalities are blamed on one hand for requesting that all services be installed, and on the other for higher taxes to service new developments. Planners are blamed for requiring too large a floor area or too large a lot. Governments are blamed for not offering more cold hard cash and playing the Santa Claus role. Builders are blamed for requiring high profits as are subdividers.

Obviously in Canada there is only a limited need for \$20,000 houses and that's why some are standing empty. Builders are seeking the ways to build a \$10,000 house, we read this week, and some reductions are being effected.

Undoubtedly, one of the biggest single hurdles in lower cost housing is the price of land and its services. The land owner, the developer and the municipality are the three affected in this challenge and they can easily question why they should subsidize new homes for people they don't know.

Indeed, Economist David W. Slater of Queen's University reports that most people are no longer willing to sacrifice everything they have for a home of their own. They would rather spend their money on such things as cars and television sets.

Then, too, we wonder if people would be satisfied with what is referred to as low cost housing.

Unless our tastes are reduced in relation to our pocket book, it will be a long time before that elusive pot of gold is discovered at the end of our modern low-cost housing rainbow.

Brief Comment

We noticed another picnic on the scenic No. 25 highway the other day. The travellers spread a blanket and enjoyed the magnificent view from the mountain. Too bad there wasn't a picnic bench to add to their enjoyment.

Better it would be if more of our young girls were trained in the shops and institutions of our country... so they could make a contribution to the operation of society and help to effect return of neglected women to the home - Cowichan (Duncan, B.C.) Leader.

Your Good Name

The London (Ont.) Chamber of Commerce recently in its membership bulletin addressed an open letter to charity, civic, fraternal, veteran and other organizations, making a point which is as applicable here as in London.

Under the heading "What's Your Good Name Worth?", the article calls attention to the all-too-frequent practice of local organizations permitting their names to be used as "sponsors" by out-of-town promoters. In return for this dubious privilege the organization is promised a share of the net profits or a lump sum guarantee.

The usual practice is that the promoter then sets up a telephone sales crew who call citizens, page by page in the "phone book in an effort to sell tickets to the entertainment, dance or whatever the promotion happens to be. Sales pitch is that the organization needs the money and whether or not the citizen can or care to attend he should buy as many tickets as possible.

These "phone artists follow a prepared script and know little or nothing of the sponsoring organization or its objectives. As far as they are concerned, who cares what they say to the prospect in answer to possible questions or even objections. After the event is over the promoters move on to greener pastures, leaving the local organization to mend its own public relations fences.

The open letter concluded by asking all organizations to first of all turn down such offers and then to advise the Chamber of Commerce so that organizations may be warned in advance.

There have been these "sponsored" affairs in just about every community and in some cases the sponsoring organization had little to show for it. Any organization should look with a jaundiced eye upon any suggestion that it should sponsor such things as games, midways, shows, concerts, and what have you. They should that is, if they value their own good name.

While many of the local Fairs around here lay claim to longer establishment than Acton Fair, the 45 years of the event to be held this year do not truly indicate the holding the fair here in the days when every township had its own fair in Halton County, the Equivocal Township Fair alternated the event every two years between Acton and Georgetown.

I think it was in 1912 that the directors decided this partnership would end and the fair would always be held in Georgetown. At that time, Nassagaweya held a fair at Brookville. There was a fair held in Rockwood and Trafalgar held a show at Oakville and Nelson. Fair was at Burlington. Milton has always been recognized as a county event.

This left Acton the only village without an annual fall event. This condition was only allowed to exist one year and Acton Fair made its debut. I think there were between 400 and 500 members that first year and citizens and former citizens of that time were fired with an enthusiasm that was contagious and assured of success. George Havill was the first President and George Hynds the first Secretary.

As I recall, my early enthusiasm for the fair came before this act of independence when Jack Tracy was Secretary. As a lad, I lived next door to the park. In those days the fair was the biggest event of the year. The old dirt shed was the building for the "inside" exhibits. It was then on the site of the present arena and in the corner was a stand where the band played a program for the first night and folks got in for ten cents to look at the exhibits displayed there. Sewing machine and piano exhibits were wonderful. The sewing machines produced frilly edges on fans that were given away and the piano contributed to the musical program. Remember the blind

Fall and Elections

Perhaps you've been pretty busy cleaning up the garden and lawn, getting ready for fall and preparing the house for winter, but you know it isn't too long to municipal election time.

Sure, it's a couple of months but a little thought now on the subject might be to advantage in providing your municipality with the best possible candidates for the various municipal posts.

Some interest shown at this time in studying the needs of the community, the qualifications of possible new candidates to replace those who may retire, will be time intelligently spent to the advantage of your community.

In times of steady growth this community must have the best possible direction and leadership. It must be kept abreast of the times and in line with the economic limitations imposed on it by the money available.

Perhaps you've been completely satisfied with all aspects of municipal administration and it's easier to be a little complainer than a big worker anyway. Too often we look for major issues of commission or omission in the records of the past year. Perhaps it's time we looked on the personal responsibility of community service as one of the factors that would interest one in municipal work.

In any case, when the leaves begin to fall and bonfires begin to smoke we shouldn't prepare for winter hibernation. Election time will be fast approaching.

Liberal Leader Resigns

Mr. St. Laurent's decision to resign the leadership of the Liberal party is being received with genuine regret throughout Canada. His health has been cited as the reason for the decision.

The Liberal leader and former prime minister has been a distinguished Canadian politician and respected world leader. His contribution to public affairs has been outstanding and his wise counsel will be missed at Ottawa as it will in the councils of the West.

If Canada is a stronger and more united country today than it was in 1945 much of the credit must go to the retiring leader. If the Western world is stronger and more united, and it is, then some of the credit must go to Mr. St. Laurent, who was one of the architects and leading spirits behind the formation of the North Atlantic Alliance.

There comes a time in the affairs of all men when they must step down and turn the reins of leadership over to younger and more vigorous hands. Mr. St. Laurent has realized this and he has cleared the way for those who would follow.

"Tree planting program planned" - this headline which appeared in a recent issue of the Napanee Beaver is one we would like to read in The Reporter. There is no doubt that growing Gananoque needs a planned program of planting trees and replacement of old trees - Gananoque (Ont.) Reporter.



"Getting Chestnuts"

-Photo by Esther Taylor

G.A.D. About...

Acton Fairs in Recollection

While many of the local Fairs around here lay claim to longer establishment than Acton Fair, the 45 years of the event to be held this year do not truly indicate the holding the fair here in the days when every township had its own fair in Halton County, the Equivocal Township Fair alternated the event every two years between Acton and Georgetown.

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The midway used to be the aisle from the entrance to the hall. It was here that such attractions as moving pictures were shown in a big tent. Of course, every story of the great Toronto fire. It was here there came one year a burlesque show. Think it was referred to as a Hootsey-Tootsey show. I never knew what it was but it caused a lot of comment and curiosity of those who dared to attend.

It was along this aisle that Cy Kennedy set up his menagerie of freak animals. It took all one night to move in and a couple of days to move out. Think the chief attraction was a three-legged calf but there were other mysterious freaks that kept the still night alive the night before the fair and small boys inattentive at school until they moved away.

We didn't have trucks and autos in those days. Cattle, sheep and hogs were driven in herds to the fair. Of course, every private dwelling was fenced in and it was important to keep the gates closed. The farmers drove in with horse and buggy or family democrat and they stayed all day. The fair was a pretty local event.

Perhaps it was this limited range of competition that inspired me one year to get fired with the desire to enter our Jersey cow for exhibit. But I was not encouraged from the first. Either explained it was only a grade cow. The carrots in our garden grew big that year and I also planned to exhibit some of them. I all ended for lack of a dollar to buy a member's ticket. Nobody would gamble on the chance of a prize for any of my exhibits and my sister, who was showing some fine ladies work, refused to let me enter the cow in her ticket. In dread that if it won she would be listed in the prize winners as the owner of the best cow I was allowed to enter the carrots but had to stand for hours at the secretary's desk in the town hall to get an entry ticket. The carrots didn't win anything anyway.

My enthusiasm for the fair was in no way lessened and later in life led me to the meetings of preparation in the months between yearly shows and I got to realize all this event meant. In course of time I like many other citizens, became president and found out that even here were disappointments that even the way.

The year of my presidency I had the doubtful honor of not taking in enough revenue to pay all the prize winners and that year only a percentage was paid. It was a year often with Acton Fair. Perhaps of better success, I was offered another chance to be president and I declined myself, which I didn't accept.

I never claimed any credit for calamity that year but had a good day as far as the weather was concerned but those were the years when pig war raged. That year it claimed the life of young Knox Beardmore, a son of Lt.-Col. Tourance Beardmore. The funeral was held the afternoon of the fair and the whole of the community was in the mood for a holiday outing at the fair.

Oh, what recollections creep in over the years when one gets thinking about Acton Fair. For years I played in the band and what a night and day of activity when pig war raged. That year it claimed the life of young Knox Beardmore, a son of Lt.-Col. Tourance Beardmore. The funeral was held the afternoon of the fair and the whole of the community was in the mood for a holiday outing at the fair.

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907 BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, September 12, 1907.

Col. Galloway, D.A.A.C. of Western Ontario, inspected the accounts and stored in the Armory of No. 6 Company, Acton, last Thursday. He complimented Capt. Gamble very highly upon the splendid condition of everything, the best he said, in half a score or more of years he has been making his annual inspection.

When Mr. M. H. Worden came back from the west, he brought with him his pet dog, an Irish water spaniel named "Harney". He was left with his brother, Mr. J. P. Worden, until the Canadian National Exhibition, when he was entered for competition among thousands of canines from far and near.

When the judges had completed their numerous duties, Harney was decorated with red ribbons and his proud owner had the distinction of first prize possession of the first prize water spaniel at the dog show.

Acton schools have the largest attendance this year in their history. The High School department has a very large registration, it being upwards of 40.

About 50 wild ducks were observed in Fairy Lake this week. They were soon scared away by the promiscuous firing of unskilled sports.

A group of baseball chasers known as the Elizabeth Street baseball team arrived in Acton this week to play a game of baseball. The bunch came, played the game and chased the ball driven over the field by the Acton heavy hitters, and went home with a core of one to eight in Acton's favor.

Mr. Amos Mason of Alton was home this week.

A swindler has been working Acton, Smithville and Welton as agent of the Toronto World. He collected subscriptions and gave his own checks signed "Armstrong". The World is anxious to catch him.

Mr. Charles Wells has been appointed ticket agent to succeed Mr. C. J. Wallace.

The builders must hustle now or the frost will nip their fingers.

Mr. Adam Cook reports the delivery of the first apple barrels for the packing of his fall apple pack. Fall apple packing will commence generally next week.

Officers and several members of the Acton Legion attended the autumn church parade of Zone 13 at Ixington on Sunday.

Taken from an old Domestic shortening, 13c pound, tea, half pound, 25c, butter, 3c pound, fresh hamburger steak, 12c pound.

The September meeting of the Rockingham Institute was held at the home of Mrs. H. Maude. There was a good attendance with several visitors present.

With only 10 days to go in the Good Will Contest it remains for contestants to see to it that they vote as promptly in order to share in the prize list which will be awarded at the close of the campaign.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Hewitt of Stratford visited with Acton friends over the week-end.

The Public Utilities Commission received the report of the hydro-entailors this week and the office here was found to be operating in splendid condition.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

- | MEDICAL | MISCELLANEOUS |
|---|--|
| DR. W. G. C. KENNEY
Physician and Surgeon
Office in Symon Block
434 Mill St. E., Acton
Office Phone 78
Residence: 115 Church St. E.
Phone 130 | RUMLEY FUNERAL HOME
Phone 600 night or day
Hazel E. Shoemaker, Mgr. |
| DR. D. A. GARRETT
Physician and Surgeon
Corner of Willow and Howe Sts.
Entrance: River Street
Acton, Ontario
Phone 228 x 5 | OLIVE M. LAMPARD
A.T.C.M., R.S.M.
Teacher of Piano
ACTON STUDIO
St. Alban's Parish Hall
14 PARK AVE., GUELPH
Thursday only
Phone TA 2-3414 |
| DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER
Physician and Surgeon
39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont.
Phone 670
Office Hours 9-5 pm | E. L. BUCHNER, R.O.
Optometrist
48 Mill St. E., Acton
Office Hours
Wednesdays 1:30 - 4:00 pm
Evenings by appointment |
| F. L. WRIGHT
20 Wilbur St.
Acton, Ontario
Phone 85
Appraiser, Real Estate
and Insurance | LEVER & HOSKIN
Chartered Accountants
51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W.
Brampton, Ont.
Phone GL 1-4823 EM 4-9131 |
| WM. R. BRAGKEN
INSURANCE AGENCY
Phone 26
8 Mill Street
Phone 555-R
GENERAL INSURANCE | EARL G. BLACK
B. Comm. R.I.A., C.A.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Farmer's Bldg., 103 Main St.
Milton, Ont.
TR 6-842 |
| J. BERT WOOD
INSURANCE AGENCY
Life and General Insurance
Phone 585
124 Mill St.
After hours TA 4-3880, Guelph | WALTER H. POPE
Certified Public Accountant
Chartered Secretary
39 Main St. S., Georgetown, Ont.
TR 7-4821 |
| DR. H. LEIB
Dental Surgeon
Office - Corner Mill and
Frederick Streets
Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
TELEPHONE 10 - ACTON | GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Daylight Saving Time -
Eastbound
6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun and
Holidays) 8:58 a.m. 11:52 a.m. 2:00
p.m. 5:08 p.m. 6:33 p.m. 8:33 p.m.
10:08 p.m. (Sun and Holidays) |
| DR. A. J. BUCHANAN
Dental Surgeon
Office - 3A Mill Street
Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed Wednesday afternoon
Telephone 148 | Westbound:
10:27 a.m. 12:57 p.m. 2:57 p.m.
5:27 p.m. 7:27 p.m. 8:12 p.m. 11:24
p.m. 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and
Holidays) |
| C. F. LEATHERLAND, Q.C.
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public
Office Hours: 10 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays by appointment only
Office in ACTON - Res. 151 | CANADIAN NATIONAL
RAILWAYS
Standard Time
Eastbound
Daily 8:40 a.m. Daily except
Sundays 9:30 a.m. 11:52 a.m. 2:00
p.m. 5:08 p.m. 6:33 p.m. 8:33 p.m.
10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Holidays)
Georgetown Mill p.m. |
| A. BRADA, B.A.
Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public
18 Corp. St. E., Guelph, Ont.
Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday to Saturday
175 Main St., South Acton, Ont.
Office Hours:
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. | QUEER FIND
ESTEVAN, Sask. (CP) - A colony
of some 1,000 red-sided garter
snakes was found in a gully about
four miles from here. |

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, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1957**
9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. - Junior Church and
Church School
11:15 a.m. - Morning Worship
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN CANADA**
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie,
B.A., B.D.
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1957**
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Public Worship
7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
Guest minister: Rev. George E.
Wilson, B.A., St. Andrew's
Church, Hillsburg, Ont.
- THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF CANADA**
St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont.
Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., Th.
Rector, 185 Jeffrey St., Tel. 265
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1957**
8:30 a.m. - Holy Communion
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Beginners' Class
11:30 a.m. - Choral Communion
- ACTON BENTOCOSTAL
ASSEMBLY**
Meeting in the Y.M.C.A.
Pastor: Rev. K. J. Reid
81 Cook St., Telephone 640-W
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1957**
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
- BAPTIST CHURCH**
ACTON
Rev. Ray E. Costarus, Pastor
Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave.
Phone 806-W
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1957**
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Service
7:00 p.m. - Morning Worship