

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, 1957

A New Municipality

Halton municipalities will be watching with interest the activity of the new Burlington that will be officially formed at the beginning of 1958.

Announcement recently noted the new council will consist of a Mayor, Reeve and Deputy Reeve elected at large with one councillor elected from each of the nine wards into which the area has been divided. Nomination day for the new officials will be November 18.

A Board of Education will be established according to the act with seven members elected at large, four for two years and three for one year.

A Public Utilities Commission has been established to control the waterworks and hydro system and will be made up of five elected members.

The task ahead of those who accept positions on the newly formed groups will indeed be large. The nature of a municipality of this type will include the difficulties of a rural population plus an urban population and it will be the responsibility of those named to hold a high regard for the importance of the problems of each.

A problem in northern Nelson of a rural nature may hold little interest for the representatives from the southern urban centre of Burlington, but to each problem, all the representatives must bring their fairest thinking.

Halton has been known to establish precedents before and to have almost one quarter of the entire county under one administration of a rural-urban nature, must be something of a first.

Firsts always bring responsibilities and because of that the new municipality will indeed be in the limelight, not only in Halton but probably throughout the province.

We wish the new administration good luck and its citizens the best in good government.

Musical Stimulant

Music in the garden may be more than a soothing accompaniment for the lover of flowers - it might actually stimulate the growth of flowers and vegetables.

At any rate, a United States magazine reports that experiments at Annamalai University in India have shown that plants can double their growth to the tune of scientifically-timed serenades.

In charge of the experiments is Prof. C. L. N. Singh, head of the university's department of botany, assisted by Stella Ponniah, the university's musicologist.

Chester Duncan, music expert at the University of Manitoba, sagely regarded the matter and said, "Now I know how I'll get that garden of mine to grow." He had not heard of such experiments.

Professor L. H. Shebeski, chairman of the plant science department at the University of Manitoba, said that since the information did not come through scientific channels, as such discoveries normally would, he is inclined to doubt the report.

However, there is a wide variety of stimuli to plant growth, he said, and this growth could result from anything.

The University of Alberta has been experimenting with sonic and supersonic vibrations on plants and has found vigorous plant growth results. Since music is composed of vibrations, there may be a connection between the two projects.

Before-and-after photographs showed plants in a bedraggled state before music treatment, and full and healthy afterwards. The music, transmitted through an electrical tuning fork for periods of 15 to 30 minutes, was played on a veena (an Indian guitar-like instrument), a violin or a flute. Even vocal music was used. Growth acceleration was shown in all cases.

Not only this, but structural changes wrought by music are inherited by a plant's progeny, according to this report.

"I Were Government..."

"I were government and could speak, I would grasp you by your coat lapels and talk to you like this:

"Listen mister, here's what I do for you - I collect your garbage because it isn't handy to keep it around the house. I pave your streets so that you can run downtown in your car and when it is icy I sand them, and when it snows I plow them. I clean them in the summer and at night I light them. I see that you get water fit to drink from your spigots, I keep guard over you and your family and I protect your property from the guest who'd like to steal the silver teapot off your dining room buffet.

"I fight your battles for you. I see that you are not charged more than you should pay for the electric lights you use or the telephones through which you speak. I see that you get ten gallons of gas from the pump when you ask for it. I see that you get pure milk that there are no typhoid germs in the cisterns which you buy. I plant fish in your favorite ponds and streams for you to catch and be about. I carry letters to the ends of the earth and I check up on your wife's hairdresser to make sure that she is physically fit to give her the latest hair do. I give you band concerts in the parks, and I see that your kids have a place to skate in the winter.

"When you smoke in bed or your wife leaves the iron on, my boys show up to put the fire out. I count deer who grow in your woods and I police them to see that they are not wantonly destroyed. I educate your children and I take care of your neighbors who lack jobs or the ability to provide for themselves. I record the facts when you were born and you never have been and never will be out of contact with me until I record your death. All these things I do for you and a thousand more.

And what do you do for me?

"Nothing! Except to grumble for about two weeks when I send you a bill for what I do and curse me (I say think I've been inefficient or careless in doing the things you want me to do and which you know cost you less when I do them for you than if you attempted to do them for yourself. Occasionally you spend half an hour going down to the voting booth and marking Xs for the men and women you happen to think will do the most for you. As soon as you can you dismiss me from your mind and turn to the things which interest and amuse you more.

In the last analysis, I am as much entitled to your attention throughout the year as you are entitled to get what I do for you at the lowest possible cost and without waste or neglect.

Why can't we get together?"

The Listening Post

Candid Survey

Are we better than other people? The Financial-Post does not answer that question but it gives its readers some basic facts.

Canada stands topmost among the nations in drug addicts per million of population. (Part of the reason for our eminence here of course is merely that we are pretty good at counting our addicts. Some countries are very casual about it.)

To suicide, Canadians are not prone. Our score is 7.1 per 100,000 of population. Only Greece at 3.6 is materially lower. Comparatively the figures for some other parts of the world are astonishing: West Berlin 29.6, Japan 25.2, Denmark 23.3, U.K. 10.6 and U.S. 10.1.

Canada's beer consumption, per head of population, is 13.3 gal. about the same as for the U.S. The British put down 17.8 gal. and the Belgians lead with 30.8 gal., followed by Australia at 23.8 gal.

On spirits, the Swedes lead with 1.08 gal. America comes next at 0.89 which is twice the Canadian consumption of 0.40 which is about the same as for the Netherlands, New Zealand, Germany and France.

On tobacco consumption, Canada's consumption (in all its forms) leads the world. We use 6.9 lb. a year - just a shade more than the Americans. Australia is 5.1, United Kingdom 4.8 and Italy 2.1.

Like Russian Roulette

Few people would even consider matching their bulldog against a hippopotamus. But some of them take on even greater odds with their car, says The Financial Post which points out:

Out of 548 motor accidents at railway crossings in Canada last year, in 209 cases or a little less than half, it was the car that ran into the train not the train running into the car. And 30 per cent. of these crashes occurred in daylight hours.

How are we going to save people who would plow into trains, asks The Post?

"A few wouldn't, perhaps, if trains, especially freights, carried side lights or reflecting devices. Sometimes it is very difficult to see a freight sliding across the highway at night.

"A few more people could be protected if they would follow the simple rule of slowing down when they approach a railway crossing and lowering a window to listen.



"Autumn Spiders"

Photo by Esther Taylor

G.A.D. About...

Local Historians I Have Known

During the years I have been in the printing business in Acton, I have had my privilege to meet many local historians in the district. But my first contact with a local historian was in the early history of Nassagaweya Township came in my boyhood days even before starting school.

Mr. Norrish resided in Acton before the turn of the century. He was nearly blind and was forced to retire from the farm and lived in a brick home on Lake Avenue.

John Carton was largely responsible for the compilation of this history printed in 1900. Down through the years it was our privilege to come in contact with several others in Nassagaweya who were historically minded.

There were Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall, who came to us in early years with the history of Ebenezer Church. Mrs. Marshall supplied us with other historical articles, which were printed in the Free Press from time to time.

Then there was W. J. Akins, who had been Secretary of the Fair in that Township for many years and later became Secretary of Acton Fair when he moved to Acton. Many a story of the early settlers was told us down through the years.

I recall chatting with Mr. Akins one day and asking him the reason why the Nassagaweya folk were always so hospitable and congenial among themselves and well. He stroked his beard a moment and pondered a little before replying, "I guess it's because we all had to work together to make a livelihood from the rough land that we shared our problems. We had to stick together."

In later years we have had such folks as former Reeve and warden J. Vanichik and many others who were proud of their township and anxious to record its history. In those days we have Mrs. Hazel Mack, who has spent much time in searching and recording the history of that part of the township.

Up in the Churchill district,

As a youngster, one of my hobbies was taking pictures with a \$2.00 camera. One morning I took a snapshot of Mr. Norrish and finished a number of prints. It turned out to be the only picture available when the revised history was printed at the centennial.

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Up in the Churchill district,

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907 BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, September 10, 1907. Taken from the issue of the Free Press, September 22, 1937.

Mr. H. G. Hunter of the Palace Drug Store has disposed of his free drug store business to Mr. E. A. Robertson of Stratford. In the purchase of Mr. Hunter's interests, he has secured a business that has been built up by careful personal attention to gratifying customers. Toronto milk dealers have increased the price of milk to one cent per quart. Acton dealers announce that they will increase the milk to six cents on the 1st of October.

The Ladies Aid of the Methodist church have inaugurated a new enterprise in a parlour furnishing fund, pushing more or less than the collecting of a mile of coppers. The Ladies Aid of the Methodist church have inaugurated a new enterprise in a parlour furnishing fund, pushing more or less than the collecting of a mile of coppers.

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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 24 Bower Ave., Acton, phone 6	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1957 11:00 a.m. - Rally Day Service Church School pupils worship with adult congregation. 7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship	ACTON PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY Meetings in the Y.M.C.A. Pastor: Rev. K. J. Reid 81 Cook St. Telephone 649-W SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1957 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship 7:30 p.m. - Evangelistic Service Wednesday 8 p.m. - College Prayer meeting and Bible study	BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON Rev. Ray H. Costerus, Pastor Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1957 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Evening Service 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont. Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., L.Th. Rector, 185 Jeffrey St., Tel. 265 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1957 (TRINITY XIV) 8:30 a.m. - Holy Communion 9:45 a.m. - Church School 10:00 a.m. - Senior Bible Class 11:00 a.m. - Beginners' Class 11:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer Thursday, September 26, 8 p.m. Harvest Festival Evensong			

Daughters of Knox Hold Church Meeting

The Daughters of Knox Young Adult Group held their September meeting Monday, September 9 in the church with Mrs. Bernice Van Fleet in charge of the business.

Mrs. Murray Seayne and her group took the worship and study group. Mrs. Peter Edge, Mrs. Alan Holmes and Mrs. Don Laroch were in charge of the worship.

Miss Inez McLeellan introduced the new study book for 1957-58 with the theme, Japan and the Christian Mission - Working Together. This was followed by an interesting film looking into the work in Formosa, a story of a small church at Nahaie, Japan.

The meeting closed with a hymn and the Mizpah benediction. Lunch was served.

Scout, Guide Group Need New Members

The officials of the Scout and Guide Mothers' Association noted this week their next meeting of the season will be held toward the end of this month.

With over 250 boys and girls presently in the Scouts and Guides, the 20 members of the Association are having a difficult time with their small number in carrying out the many projects planned, officials stated.

With a full program facing the group, any mother of a Boy Scout or Girl Guide is invited to join the association in order to lend assistance to the organization.

All proceeds from the Scout and Guide Mothers' Association is used to provide facilities and equipment for the children.