

# The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10th, 1957

## A Day for Thanksgiving

In a country in which the storehouses are bulging and the market places offer everything that is needed for human need, where the places for amusement and entertainment are at every hand and where a people seem to have the hours to spend, where not only the surface of the land is rich but down deep the earth is yielding to aid those who seek riches, comes a day, for Canadians, next week when by proclamation we as a people are asked to give thanks for all we received.

Thanksgiving Day for Canadians is next Monday. It is more than another holiday. When one looks around it may be considered that one day in the year is not enough for thanksgiving and certainly it isn't. Every day is one in which we may well count our blessings. Never was there so much comfort in every day living for man. Go where you will you see a growing development, more opportunities for those who seek them, advancement in health for all people, comfort in living methods. To enumerate them is an endless task.

Most of our hardships are of our own making while everyone must admit that our blessings come from an all-wise providence. A ruling hand that sees all and cares for all if we only heed its guidance.

So on Monday give thanks, count your blessings and pause for a moment and realize that all good comes from God and the only way we can continue to advance is by our thankfulness and obedience to His will.

## A Culprit in Confusion

Perhaps in this immediate section the daylight saving time is not causing the same inconvenience it is elsewhere. We often wonder who is it really or what group it is that continually seeks changes in time. Each spring a letter goes out to Municipal Councils from an association connected in name at least with the railways. Each year the railways as a whole continue to pay no attention to daylight time and operate on standard time. It is usually claimed that many municipalities are going on the daylight hours but we have never yet seen a list of municipalities who have requested this Association to act for them.

We have seen innumerable protests against daylight saving time and this year more are protesting the action in lengthening the period to the end of October.

The Wingham Advance calls it a "Thorough Mess" and goes on to point out the confusion that is resulting from the extra month this year. The Smith's Falls Record-News asks why the time extension and expresses opposition to the extra month this year. It points out some things that many folks would like to know.

We asked when the question was first raised: Who is the Railway Association? Again we ask. Who is the Railway Association? Nobody seems to know! Yet the group must be powerful. What good is the extra hour of daylight now? Would be better to have it in the early morning hours, and those who have to go to employment by 8 a.m. would not feel that they had to arise in what seemed the middle of the night. We hope that next year the period of Daylight Saving Time will revert to the period in effect in previous years, from last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in September.

## At Home and Abroad

We didn't know the background for the trouble in Little Rock. We never heard of the place until the fuss was stirred up about segregation or integration. It seems that many who have courage seem thoroughly ashamed of it all and deplore the action that has been stirred up. We don't know why France can't get anyone to lead a government or get an administration that will survive. We don't know why leaders of the Union can have all the reported doing charged against them and still be returned to leadership by the membership.

We don't know why strikers in Murdoch-

ville, Que. can suffer for months and then be told from Montreal to go back to work and do the best they can for themselves. We don't know why Russians or anybody wants to start a whirley gig rounding around in space. We've always liked our sun and moon and stars the way they are, and they've never done us any harm. Knowing nothing about these things we are not going to add further to the confusion and only admit our ignorance.

To all those who read and dwell upon these things and can do nothing about them we can only express our sympathy. We do know intimately about things closer at home in Halton County, in its townships and towns in our home and might be able to do something to help.

We wonder many times if there wouldn't be more happiness and more improvement in general well being if each of us would pay more attention to the things at hand than becoming confused over world matters of which we know nothing and are inadequate to give any assistance.

## Pensions Not the Answer

A striking fact about the population of Canada, as of all or nearly all advanced countries, is a steady gain in average age, writes J. B. McGeachy in The Financial Post. The proportion of people over 65 is increasing. Among every 1,000 Canadians now living 78 have passed that age. The number was only 55 in 1931.

This aging process is sure to continue as medicine and sanitation make progress. Expectation of life for a new-born Canadian infant is now about 70 years. It may be 80 or 90 before this century ends.

It follows that at least some of the extra income required for a higher standard of living among the "aged" — no longer the right word for the average man of 70 — will have to be either earned or saved in advance. No feasible increase in old age pensions will suffice. Any realistic approach to the problem must recognize this. Forced retirement from work at age 65 is, as I see it, sure to become as obsolete as the sacrifice of maidens to the fertility god.

## Beware Charity Crooks

Massed charity drives are now under way across Canada.

Along with the honest canvassers some of the country's canniest sharpsters went in to action, warns The Financial Post.

The crooks will use every trick in the book to fleece business givers and cheat charities of their contributions.

A few simple rules should help you separate the shady operators from the honest charity campaigners.

Don't reply to telephone solicitations.

Don't donate advertisements reading "compliments of a friend!" Sharpsters can sell the same space over and over.

Ask for credentials of canvassers looking for cash.

If you have any doubts about a charity organization, check first, give later.

## Brief Comment

We read recently of a town that lost its chance for thriving prosperity because of its shabby, unpainted appearance and lack of progress. There is no way of telling or measuring the value of a community of a neat appearance. — Humboldt (Sask.) Journal.

According to a report the oil and gas dividends are to be regarded as a form of free handout much similar to the treaty money which the Indians receive annually. In any case the dividends come from the Great White Father at Edmonton. — Vegreville (Alta.) Observer.

Too little credit, we have always felt, is given to those who serve on councils. Services are gratis and councillors, most of them at any rate, really work at their job often at the expense of their own vocation. They deserve many more bouquets and many fewer brick-bats than usually come their way. — Viridan (Man.) Empire-Advance.

Most heartening of all trends evident in Canada today, thinks the Sentinel-Press (Woodstock, N.B.) "is surely the accelerating rate at which we are adding to our population. The monthly excess of births over deaths is roughly 30,000. So long as we maintain a differential of this order we can justify the greatest possible optimism about Canada's future."

Parity with the U.S. dollar might be a fine thing, says the Ottawa Journal, but how it could be brought about is another matter. Interference with the free market in money might create more problems than it would solve. Currency control was accepted by the Canadian people and even then with some reluctance, as a necessity of war; its reception in peace would be something quite different.



"Buried Gold"

—Photo by Esther Taylor

## G.A.D. About...

# Acton Fire Fighting in Recollection

I note that Fire Prevention Week is being observed in Acton; this week so perhaps it might be timely if I would pass on some local recollections about Acton fire fighting down through the years and some recollections concerning the volunteer fire brigade and Acton fire fighting equipment.

Acton Fire Brigade has a long history of over a half century of service to Acton. Many still living here can well remember the old steam fire engine that carted around a configuration in town and even in the district outside the boundaries where a supply of water was available. There were numerous large underground storage basins in town which were fed by wooden pipes from Henderson's pond, then north of Bower Avenue.

The main tank was at the town hall on Bower Avenue and supplied the central part of town. Another was located at the corner of Mill and Frederick Streets and one on Young Street. One had to be filled by pumping from the Main Street creek to north of the C.N.R. tracks. There were also two basins in which the suction hose could be lowered in the creek bed at the school grounds and also at the bridge on Main Street south. Then, of course, there was Fairy Lake for fires in that district.

The old steam pumper was fitted to be drawn by a team of horses or quicker by the brigade or volunteer citizens. Two or three loads of hose and a coal cast were also part of the fire fighting equipment and a hook and ladder four-wheel wagon that carried ladders and rubber buckets for a small fire. The fire in the engine was always laid ready to light and usually was going briskly when the site was reached and often ready to deliver water when the hose was laid.

This equipment gave good service until the installation of a waterworks system in 1920-21. Then came the motorized age and a second-hand Ford fire truck was secured from Mount Dennis, on which was loaded the fire hose and a small tank of water and some equipment. Arrival at the fire was faster and not nearly so laborious.

The steam engine was retained for years and when pressed into service at the big Beardmore fire in 1925 put as much water on the fire as some of the new equipment from the pumper up on the Main Street hill.

Some of us can recall the fires at the sawmill and two others that threatened the village in the hotel at the corner of Mill and Main Streets, the last one about 1919. The first one took all the sheds and stables at the rear of the hotel Sparks and embers were spread over a wide area to other sections of town and threatened many buildings.

At the big Beardmore Co. fire, brigades from Milton and Georgetown joined in the fight but it was found that couplings were not standard and the efforts were hampered.

The Acton brigade used to sponsor a mammoth fire of July demonstration. It was a gala day in the park with many volunteer brigades from other towns participating in the parade, taking part in the sports and demonstrations of skill in fire fighting and in marching drill teams. The old steamer had every piece of brass and metal gleaming and that day a team from John Williams' stables pulled the engine.

The Acton got another truck and pumper from North Bay and it is still in use as an auxiliary unit. Of course, the final pumper was brand new three or four years ago and serves the brigade well.

One now are the old hook and ladder and the fire hall has been built on the site at the rear of the town hall, which houses all the equipment and provides quarters for the brigade and up-to-date facilities for caring for the equipment. Hydrants about town provide adequate sources of water supply. In common with other towns in the county, fighting of fires is not confined to towns alone but extends into the rural areas.

Names we recall as engineers who fired the old steamer are Henry Grundell and Alf Barber. They were as proud of their equipment in those days as the brigade is today. Down through the years there were many who served on the brigade and as chief. The brigade always elected their own officers and many of us can recall the late Murray MacDonald, who served for many years. Chief at present is Jack Newton.

Acton has been well served by many public-minded citizens on the volunteer brigade. Fires in the town have been well-handled and controlled under all weather conditions.

Color photography as a hobby for the amateur may not be as modern as some may think. The other evening we saw a couple of old pictures in which the late Bill Stark was the central figure. They were in full color. One of the pictures showed him in his den and another was with a hunting companion at Blue Springs lodge. They were in full color and well preserved and must have been taken about 1900.

Perhaps many of the old-timers will recall the late Wm. Stark, who for many years was chief accountant at the Storey Glove Co. He left Acton several years ago and went to Vancouver, where he passed away ten or fifteen years ago.

Another photograph of interest in this same collection was a group of girls and boys gathered about a ridget named Charlie Solie, who used to visit town most every summer. He played on a tin whistle and a small flute and was sometimes known as the "Little Man" because about three or four feet in height and wore a luxuriant beard.

His pumbers on the flute or whistle seemed to attract children just like the Pied Piper. No one here knew where he came from or where he went after a few days but his visits were looked for each year. Maybe some of our readers will also recall this visitor of over half a century ago.

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS

## BACK IN 1907

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 10, 1907.

Heavier rails for the G.T.H. are being laid on the main line between Acton and Stratford. Large gangs of workmen are busy and it is expected to have the line completed in two or three weeks.

The young men who were out shooting in neighboring swamps on Sunday last should be given to understand that there are heavy penalties for such violation of the Lands Day Act.

Guelph buyers paid \$1 for wheat on Saturday.

A debate took place at the meeting of the Epworth League on Tuesday evening between two members from each of the literary and social committees. The affirmative side was debated by Dr. H. H. Miss Lottie E. Spright and Mr. Harold Nicklin, and the negative by Miss Minnie Bennett, Miss A. A. L. Hudson and Mr. A. T. Brown. Many interesting points were brought forward and the debaters on both sides gave ample manifestation not only of wide reading but an ability to express themselves in forceful and convincing argument.

During an auction sale in a Guelph dwelling last Thursday the floor gave away and about 25 people, mostly women, dropped through into the cellar. Fortunately no one was hurt.

The disgraceful row between an Italian and an Englishman on Mill Street Saturday night should have given the combatants quarters in the cells.

The fancy prices being offered for hay are having the effect of inducing the farmers to hold their stocks until the winter sets in.

Long before the town was astir, long before businessmen were out, Mr. Peter Savory of Guelph arrived in town on Monday morning to commence operations on his new residence on Church St. As the tannery whistle blew at six a.m. he with his own hands turned the first sod. Then he handed over the shovel to the contractor. Excavations for cellar and foundations are now in progress.

Miss Aggie Towell, of Toronto, visited Mrs. Mame Masales today. Mr. T. T. Moore arrived home from Toronto on Saturday after an absence of two months. He is rapidly recovering from the effects of his recent operation and no doubt will soon be quite himself again.

The Acton troop of Boy Scouts attended the rally Jack and Dick Van Gozen, troop members, acted as aidesmen.

Harold DeForest of Acton is in Guelph General hospital as a result of an accident on the Guelph-Bookwood highway, just outside Guelph early Sunday morning.

An accident was narrowly averted on the C.N.R. on Monday night when a Toronto-bound train came to a sudden stop near the railway bridge over the Speed River in Guelph. The passengers were jolted as their seats but no one was hurt. The engine was derailed and part of the tender.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

- | MEDICAL   | MISCELLANEOUS   |
|---|---|
| DR. W. G. C. KENNEY<br>Physician and Surgeon<br>Office in Simon Block<br>43A Mill St., Acton<br>Office Phone 78<br>Residence 115 Church St. E.<br>Phone 150 | RUMLEY FUNERAL HOME<br>Phone 609 night or day<br>Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.   |
| DR. D. A. GARRETT<br>Physician and Surgeon<br>Corner of Willow and River Sts.<br>Entrance River Street<br>Acton, Ontario<br>Phone 238                       | OLIVE M. LAMPARD<br>A.T.C.M. R.M.T.<br>Teacher of Piano<br>ACTON STUDIO<br>St. Albans Parish Hall<br>14 PARLIAM.<br>Tuesday only<br>Phone TA 2-3514 |
| DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER<br>Physician and Surgeon<br>39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont.<br>Phone 679<br>Office Hours 9-6 p.m.                                      | OPTICAL<br>E. L. BUCHNER, R.O.<br>Optometrist<br>48 Mill St. E. Phone 115<br>Office Hours<br>Wednesdays 1:30 - 6:00 p.m.<br>Evenings by appointment |
| F. L. WRIGHT<br>20 Wilbur St.<br>Acton, Ontario<br>Phone 95<br>Appraiser, Real Estate<br>and Insurance  | AUDITING - ACCOUNTING<br>LEVER & HOSKIN<br>Chartered Accountants<br>51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W.<br>Hamilton<br>Phones: GL 1-4825 EM 4-9131       |
| WM. R. BRACKEN<br>INSURANCE AGENCY<br>Phone 26 8 Mill Street<br>GENERAL INSURANCE   | EARL G. BLACK<br>H. Conn. H. L. C.A.<br>CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT<br>Farmer's Bldg., 100 Main St.<br>Milton, Ont.<br>Tel. 6-4542                         |
| J. BERT WOOD<br>INSURANCE AGENCY<br>Life and General Insurance<br>Phone 583 124 Mill St.<br>After hours TA 4-3930, Guelph                                   | WALTER H. POPE<br>Certified Public Accountant<br>Chartered Secretary<br>39 Main St. S., Georgetown, Ont.<br>Tel. 7-4821                             |

## DENTAL

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|---|
| DR. H. LEIB<br>Dental Surgeon<br>Office—Corner Mill and<br>Frederick Streets<br>Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.<br>TELEPHONE 19 - ACTON         |
| DR. A. J. BUCHANAN<br>Dental Surgeon<br>Office—5A Mill Street<br>Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.<br>Closed Wednesday afternoon<br>Telephone 148 |

## LEGAL

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| C. F. LEATHERLAND, Q.C.<br>Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public<br>Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m.<br>1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.<br>Saturdays by appointment only<br>Office 22 ACTON Phone—Res. 151  |
| A. BRAIDA, B.A.<br>Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public<br>15 Cork St. E., Guelph, Ont.<br>Phone TA 4-5473<br>Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.<br>Monday to Saturday<br>173 Main St. South, Acton, Ont.<br>Phone 878<br>Office Hours:<br>6 p.m. to 9 p.m. |

## BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 14, 1937.

The car being loaded with supplies for the west is on the shoe factory siding at the C.M.H. The car destined from here is going to Stony Beach, Saskatchewan.

The new Brock St. bridge is completed but the start is not yet open for vehicular traffic.

Students of the high school held an enjoyable social evening on Friday last. A variety of games and dancing were the features of the event.

The Nesingaway Women's Institute held the Acton W.I. last Friday evening. After the regular business session, Mrs. Richard, president of the visiting group took the chair and her group gave a very fine program of entertainment. After the meeting closed a social time was spent.

The front roads on the south side of Mill Street from John to High Streets has been completed and the new catch basins of standard type have been put in. Some difficulties have been encountered but Mr. Holland who is in charge of the work is now making good progress.

In police court in Acton last Thursday, Richard Sharpe was sentenced to 18 months in the Ontario Reformatory, which he pleaded guilty to a charge of forgery. Sharpe forged the signature of an Acton plumber on a cheque and presented it for payment at a local store under the name of George Grant.

A Rally Day service was held at St. Albans Sunday school on Saturday afternoon. The lessons were read by Gordon Gibbons and Bruce Pargater. Canon A. P. Banks of the diocese of Algoma, was the speaker.

The Acton troop of Boy Scouts attended the rally Jack and Dick Van Gozen, troop members, acted as aidesmen.

Harold DeForest of Acton is in Guelph General hospital as a result of an accident on the Guelph-Bookwood highway, just outside Guelph early Sunday morning.

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# THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

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| <b>BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br>ACTON<br>Rev. Ray H. Costerus, Pastor<br>Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave.<br>Phone 206-W                 | <b>UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA</b><br>Acton, Ontario<br>Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D.<br>Minister<br>Parsonage 20 Bower Avenue<br>Phone 60<br>Mr. George Elliott,<br>Organist and Choir Leader<br>76 Bower Ave., Acton, phone 6 |
| <b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1957</b><br>9:00 a.m.—Sunday School<br>11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship<br>7:00 p.m.—Evening Service    | <b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1957</b><br>9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer.<br>10:00 a.m.—Junior Church and Church School.<br>11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship.  |
| <b>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA</b><br>KNOX CHURCH, ACTON<br>Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie,<br>Pastor                           | <b>THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA</b><br>St. Albans Church, Acton, Ont.<br>Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., L.Th.<br>Rectory, 185 Jeffrey St., Tel. 365   |
| <b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1957</b><br>9:00 a.m.—Church School<br>11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship<br>7:00 p.m.—Evening Service    | <b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1957</b><br>(TRINITY XVII)<br>8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion.<br>9:30 a.m.—Church School and Bible Class.<br>11:00 a.m.—Beginners' Classes<br>11:00 a.m.—Matins.   |
| <b>ACTON PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY</b><br>Meeting in the Y.M.C.A.<br>Factory Bldg., K. J. Rice,<br>81 Cook St., Telephone 648-W | <b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1957</b><br>11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship<br>7:00 p.m.—Evening Service<br>Wednesday, 8 p.m.—College Prayer meeting and Bible study.   |

## Lobster Season Spring and Fall In Cape Breton

MAIN A DIEU, N.S. (CP)—The weatherbeaten houses of this Cape Breton village look down on a small, snug harbor, the home of 30-odd boats busily engaged every spring and fall in catching lobsters.

This year the lobster fishermen of Main a Dieu set out about 10,000 traps, an average of about 200 a man. In a good season, they can earn about \$2,000 each.

This year's spring season, which closed July 15, was hampered earlier by stormy weather and ice floes from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Cold water was blamed for a lack of the shelled ocean delicacies, much in demand in the United States.

But lobstermen set their traps just the same, gambling on luck in such traditional spots as stormy Scaterie Island, and the rocky Port Nova Islands.

Lobstermen must leave port early each day—about 4:30 a.m.—because they have only 10 hours to haul the traps set the day before. Their gaily-painted boats are sturdy and built to endure choppy, inshore seas. The boats average 28 feet in length, without cabins, and are usually powered by old automobile engines.

## TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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| <b>GRAY COACH LINES</b><br>COACHES LEAVE ACTON<br>Daylight Saving Time<br>Eastbound<br>6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.)<br>8:58 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.)<br>11:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.)<br>1:06 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.)<br>Westbound<br>10:27 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.)<br>5:27 p.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.)<br>1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Hol.)  |
| <b>CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS</b><br>Standard Time<br>Eastbound<br>Daily 5:40 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 10:00 a.m.; 7:15 p.m.; Sunday only 8:01 p.m. Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 8:02 a.m.; 6:37 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 p.m.<br>Westbound<br>Daily 11:44 p.m.; Daily except Sunday 8:30 a.m.; 6:35 p.m. (Flag stop); 7:40 p.m.; Saturday only 1:25 p.m.; Sunday only 6:53 a.m. (Flag stop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 7:58 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 8:31 p.m. |