

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1957

Let Us Remember

With Russia's second earth satellite whirling around the globe and the United Nations organization 12 years old it will be well that as Canadians we remember the contribution of many to the maintenance of freedom.

As a world it will be well that we reflect on the changes in the past 12 years since the second war to end wars was fought with its consequent suffering and loss of life.

We have had a Korean conflict, we have seen the impenetrable iron curtain securely hung, we have heard overtures from the Russian government that in effect meant 'let us divide the world between us', we have endured the cold war, we have sent troops to maintain the peace in Egypt, we have seen 12 years of difficult times in maintaining the peace.

With these things in the back of our minds on November 11 when we pause to remember the supreme contribution of those who gave their life for a way of life they cherished, it would be well in their name to reaffirm our ideal of extending every effort to continue the peace for which they died.

On Monday a brief two minutes silence will be observed in honor of those who gave all they had for a country and a way of life they went to protect. We should remember not only those who did not return but also the relatives who were cruelly robbed of pleasant hours together. Theirs was also a supreme sacrifice.

This Remembrance Day let us remember those who contributed so greatly to the maintenance of democracy and let us reflect on maintaining the world peace they strove for.

"To you with failing hands we throw the torch, be yours to hold it high".

What Nature Could Do

Developments in this twentieth century have been rapid and the field of science has provided us with some startling reading since the atomic bomb ushered in new areas of scientific magnitude previously unheard of by laymen.

We often think there can't be much left for man to discover and that our magnitude on this globe must be something terrific. Of course we can't keep ourselves living in complete harmony and we do lose quite a few lives in traffic accidents, but scientific developments have been great.

We were interested in some of the speculations based on the views of eminent scientists of 52 nations who have been attending the 11th general assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in Toronto. They were thinking of what nature could do and some of the speculations still exceed by far any of man's accomplishments.

If the polar ice-caps were to melt the world's mean sea level would rise by more than 100 feet. Low lying cities like Montreal, New York and London would be flooded.

If another meteorite as big as some that have hit the earth in bygone ages were to land in Southern Ontario, Toronto, Windsor and Hamilton would be pulverized in a single blow more effectively than by any man-made hydrogen bomb.

If the Gulf Stream were to change its routing to any major extent Canada's climate would change with it. Fish populations would move to new feeding grounds and some of the best existing fisheries would cease to be economic.

There would still seem to be ample room for man's progress in this twentieth century.

Asian or Just Plain

One thing about this fall that hasn't added to the attractiveness of the season is the prevalent bug going around that is sometimes referred to as Asian flu and sometimes "just flu".

Besides riddling high school attendance a few weeks ago it seems to be taking another swing around and ganging up on some others it missed. Don't know how much authority there is in it but we heard it was supposed to take a third swing in a few more weeks.

One of those swings isn't exactly a comfortable ride either. It could better be defined as a power-house swing that seems to leave you lower than the floor under your bed.

After the first couple of days of getting hot and cold all over it at least gives one a chance to catch up on the reading that has been piling up for the past several weeks.

A recent five days laid under by the prevalent "just flu" got us through three Newsweeks, a number of trade publications, the daily newspapers and left us with time for a couple of short stories. One magazine arrived late however and will have to be left for later reading.

One person, you know, estimated there was 20 hours reading in the average daily paper if you read everything. We've often sympathized with the editors who daily produce such a mountain of reading and have it skimmed over via headlines. For several days we enjoyed following it more closely though.

The flu does another thing too, it seems. For weeks on end you keep wishing you could catch up on the rest you missed with an endless parade of late nights. The first couple of days in bed though, soon show you how boring rest can be.

Incidentally if you have a visit from Asian flu or "just flu" you'll appreciate these comments, so be sure to save your outdated reading material.

Cake and Circuses

"Let them eat cake," Marie Antoinette is reported to have said about the hungry French. Nero fiddled while Rome burned, according to unconfirmed accounts, but he gave his subjects magnificent circuses to divert their attention from the Sybaritic way of living by his immediate circle and the drain of public funds occasioned by the construction of his golden palaces.

What were the results? Marie Antoinette lost her head under the guillotine. Nero became the last of the line of Caesars when he committed suicide rather than face his accusers.

Recently there took place in Madison Square Garden an event listed as a "birthday party" to which 18,000 guests were invited by Mr. Mike Todd. Its sole purpose was to publicize the first anniversary of a motion picture which, it must be admitted, has been successful both at the box office and in an artistic sense.

But was it necessary? Even so, the 18,000 who were to be fed on champagne and cake didn't all get it. Eyewitnesses reported waiters hawking the free champagne for \$3, \$5, \$8, or \$10. Apples and frankfurters were hurled as missiles. Some people danced in the 17-foot birthday cake. The police had to be called in to put a cork in the bottle.

This country faces enough troubles at the present time of which the Communist propaganda machine has taken full advantage to advance its cause throughout the world: The launching of an earth satellite before the United States, the testing of an intercontinental ballistic missile, the faubusing of integration at little Rock, the problem of inflation, and many others.

We can well imagine how the Soviets will present a picture to the rest of the world of New York fiddling while the country burns: 50 jeepsloads of champagne and beer, a 1,000-pound birthday cake, fifteen thousand frankfurters and 10,000 Chinese egg rolls for assorted actors, actresses, dancing girls and gate crashers, to say nothing of the parades, elephants, racing horses, oxen, dogs and roasters. Is this our answer to Sputnik?

In the days of the fabulous banquets which preceded the fall of the Roman Empire, the participants used to gorge themselves, retire to a specially named room and empty their stomachs so that they could return to stuff themselves anew. Will it be, "Lead us away to the vomitorium?"

Brief Comment

An acclamation is not necessarily a poor thing in itself. But we would not like to see things deteriorate to the stage where all our representatives are being elected by acclamation.

A Victoria County Historical Society has been organized, a working committee named and a constitution will be introduced. The society is definitely a step in the right direction.

What sight can match that of evening ducks folding their wings and dropping into potholes like children sliding down a banister? When the ducks are slow, nothing refreshes like a short nap amid the tall grass.



G.A.D. About...

Town Hall, a Civic Centre?

Many of us can recall days when any indoor function to be held had to first of all be assured that the Town Hall was available on the date selected. Most everything by way of a public gathering - be it a dance, a minstrel show, a concert or a travelling troupe - the Town Hall was automatically the spot for the event.

No doubt I should have noticed the trend sooner to the many other auditoriums about town but what drove the fact home more forcibly was the announcement that this year Acton's municipal nominations were to be held in the Legion Hall. Now I have no fault to find with any of the auditoriums in town I relate that most of them are more modern than the Town Hall. The heating and facilities are better and I can readily conceive that any of them would make available the quarters at a reasonable cost for municipal purposes.

What I do ponder upon is the thought of what has happened to our own public centre that has deteriorated to the position where we as citizens no longer want to gather there. I quite realize that never again can one hall accommodate all the public functions of Acton. I know the town has grown and the need for more indoor space for gatherings is required. Acton has been fortunate in the fact that the need has been seen and provided for in school, Legion, church halls, etc. But in this need have we been too reliant on others and let our responsibilities be shifted to other shoulders?

I know full well that rental of the Town Hall auditorium was never a profitable part of Acton's municipal budget. I have attended too many council meetings where rebates were asked when the function failed to meet financial obligations, that had been incurred. I can never recall a case where more was offered in rental because of greater success than anticipated. The rental fees have been adjusted many times but never designed to make a profit.

I am just a sentimental oldster I have been attending functions at the Town Hall all my life. I have seen many organizations contribute to the maintenance of the hall by providing new flooring, assisting in decorating, providing new curtains for the stage and so on. I can recall with you many events that were staged here to provide funds for community effort, for projects to help with the war, to buy cigarettes, to provide yarn, to raise funds for war and other public endeavors or to help just carry on local needs.

You, dear readers, who can't recall Marks Bros., who used to pack the hall for six nights, those who don't remember when tariffs were jammed the Town Hall for two or three nights a year and took months of preparation. There must still, however, be many who attended the dances and enjoyed the music of the famous London Harpers or like celebrated bands. Many can recall when the walls of the buildings swayed to the rhythm of dancing feet and questioned the safety of the structure. Many times it has been examined and no weakness has been found.

May of you can recall when nominations were held at noon and more candidates were nominated on the street rather than in the council chamber. The lobby was the important spot to approach your man. Many of you can recall when for years the voters were swayed on the bridge issue from the Town Hall auditorium.

There must be many among our readers who can in their school days remember the awe and stage fright they had when the stage curtains swung wide and you stood there facing the most important audience in your career - your own family and their friends.

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON
Rev. Ray H. Costerus, Pastor
Parsonage, 115 Bower Ave.
Phone 206-W

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1957
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service
8:15 p.m.—Sunday—B.Y.P.U.
Wednesday, November 13, 8:30 p.m.—Quarterly church supper and business meeting.

RESEBYRIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., M.D.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1957
9:45 a.m.—Church School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship

ACTON PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY
Meeting in the Y.C.A.
Pastor: Rev. E. J. Reid
81 Cook St., Telephone 646-W

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 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.

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, NOVEMBER 10th, 1957
9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m.—Junior Church and Church School
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont.
Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., L.Th.
Rectory, 185 Jeffrey St., Tel. 263

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1957 (TRINITY XXI)
8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion (first Communion for the newly confirmed)
9:45 a.m.—Church School and Bible Class
11:00 a.m.—Bible Classes
11:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer
4:15 p.m.—Holy Baptism
Monday, November 11, 11:30 a.m.—Remembrance Day Service (11 a.m. at the Cenotaph)

Records show that the Town Hall was built for \$5,000 to \$6,000. The initial move toward the building was in May, 1881, and emanated from meetings of citizens urging council to take the necessary steps to provide on the ground floor a council room, lock-up, engine room, wood house, and public hall 40 x 70 and to possess good acoustic properties.

This year of 1957, there was built an engine house with full facilities and modern heating at a cost of \$18,000 and adjoining the old Town Hall, which seemingly is not considered fit or has the facilities to hold the gatherings of the Acton Jaycepers.

I don't want to be critical. I would hesitate to incur any additional expense on a presently strained budget, but maybe as a long time I can't resist the need for calling out to the maintenance of the things we have and are still useful as well as that which is new, bright and shiny.

I'll likely go to the Legion Hall for nominations and enjoy the comforts that this modern place affords. But I'll go with the feeling of a traitor.

Rural Schools Shell Out for Unicef Project

At the suggestion of the Eden Child Welfare Institute, the children of S.S. No. 5, Nasaugwaya and S.S. No. 11, Ermosa, showed themselves enthusiastic pioneers of the new look in Halloween activities.

"Shell out for Unicef" was the slogan of the evening, as they canvassed the village homes, not for the usual candies, and apples, but for pennies to provide milk and other necessities of life for the under-privileged children of Europe and Asia.

One penny, which in our country will buy nothing more, counting than a stick of gum, in the hands of Unicef will buy five glasses of powdered milk for needy children. That one fact was enough to arouse the children to activity and they collected enough pennies in that small village to supply almost 7,000 glasses of milk.

New Safety Officer Combats Accidents

Appointment of W. B. G. Reynolds, O.B.E., as Commissioner of Highway Safety heading the Highway Safety Branch of the new Department of Transport, was announced recently by Minister James N. Allan. Mr. Reynolds left his present position as general manager of the Ontario Safety League and took up his new duties on November 1.

"Mr. Reynolds will work in close liaison with the departments of the Attorney General, Highways and Education, as well as interested service organizations and commercial concerns to develop a complete, planned program of highway accident prevention throughout Ontario," Mr. Allan stated.

The federal government must collect more than \$5 million a day in taxation to pay for its current spending on social security, health and welfare.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 11, 1937

A couple of strangers endeavored to work the change racket on an Acton merchant last week. The first stranger made a ten cent purchase and took change for a ten dollar bill.

Along came another stranger and offered a five dollar bill as payment for another small purchase. He then came back and said he had small bills and asked for the large bill back.

The merchant perceived the racket and ordered him from the store. The car was parked on the highway a block away and the case number was secured and given to the police who are investigating.

During the week in Warden A. Mason was highly honored in receiving from the Secretary of State at Ottawa a silver Commemorative Medal. Citizens join in congratulatory letters to Mr. Mason on the honor bestowed.

On Sunday evening the barn on the farm of David Mateman at Crosswicks Corners was completely destroyed by fire. The blaze was first noticed by neighbors about 7:45 and had gained considerable headway by the time it was extinguished.

St. Andrew's Boys' Band of Acton again visited Acton and gave a splendid concert in the Town Hall on Sunday evening.

George Mason, Southwicks, addressed the meeting of the Guelph Rotary Club last Tuesday evening.

A crew of about a dozen men are drilling now at Seynook Valley property a couple of miles west of Acton. The men are quartered in the building on the property and are operating a diamond drill.

Mr. Robert Parkinson left this week to make a home in Toronto where he has secured a position in General Motors as an architect.

A case of interest to all Fall Fair Societies was heard at Milton at the fall assizes. Mrs. Annie Hillson, 54 Mill St. E., Acton, was awarded \$1,000 after being injured during the Milton Fair, when a horse knocked her down causing serious injuries.

BACK IN 1907

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Wednesday, November 7, 1907

M. H. S. Holmes went to Hamilton and brought his son Bert home from the hospital there. Bert's wounded limb has gotten along wonderfully well. It is quite healed up and he is able to get about on crutches. His indomitable pluck has stood him well under his painful misfortune.

New Hamilton youths were fined \$2 each and costs in Magistrate Court for disorderly conduct "right after night." They had boozed around and threw things at the house of George Simpson, an inoffensive Englishman only a few months out.

Mr. Gordon Johnston, who has been engaged in the hardware store of his uncle late for some time has taken a situation in a small business in Toronto. He is to be in that town on Saturday.

Last Friday the fringe of the fog swarmed on the Spanish property now owned by R. Sinclair, fell with a crash and many another of the daily institutions of the locality has disappeared.

The Mill was built between fifty and sixty years ago by the firm of which the late Judge Smith was the head. The frame of the mill was made of heavy pine timber and was built on a foundation of stone.

The mill time reputation was made by the fact that the engine of the mill was built at Kitchener. The mill was built with machinery, done by Acton men.

After doing some justice to what was provided the large audience reported to the auditorium of the church where a program of help was being conducted.

The street crossing will stand starting off next Saturday on a week during the month of November.

The new house on Wellington Street, Misses A. and M. Stewart and John and Betty, are now under completion. They are a credit to the locality.

Mr. W. B. G. Reynolds, appointed to head the new Highway Safety Branch of the new Department of Transport, will be in Acton on Tuesday.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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|---|--|
| DR. W. G. C. KENNEY Physician and Surgeon Office in Symon Block 43A Mill St. E., Acton Office Phone 78 Residence 115 Church St. E. Phone 150 | RUMLEY FUNERAL HOME Phone 609 night or day Bruce E. Stoenmeyer, Mgr. |
| DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance River Street Acton, Ontario Phone 238 | OLIVE M. LAMPARD A.T.C.M. I.M.T. Teacher of Piano ACTON STUDIO St. Alban's Parish Hall 14 PARK AVE. GUELPH Tuesday only Phone TA 2-3514 |
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| DR. A. J. BUCHANAN Dental Surgeon Office—8A Mill Street Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday afternoon Telephone 148 | Standard Time Eastbound 6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and 11:11, 8:58 a.m., 11:33 a.m., 2:08 p.m., 3:08 p.m., 6:33 a.m., 8:33 p.m., 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.)) Westbound 10:27 a.m., 12:57 p.m., 2:57 p.m., 5:27 p.m., 7:27 p.m., 9:13 p.m., 11:22 p.m., 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Hol.) |
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| A. BRAIDA, B.A. Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public 15 Cook St., Guelph, Ont. Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sundays, 10:30 Saturday 175 Main St., Acton, Ont. Phone 878 Office Hours: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. | Westbound Daily 11:45 p.m.; Daily except Sunday 8:30 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.; Sunday only 9:45 a.m. (Flight) Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 7:06 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 1:0 p.m. |