

# The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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## The Outlook is Good

There's more than the usual stirring of spring building activity in Acton this year. Matter of fact it's rather remarkable the amount of building activity which has been conducted through the winter months and which can be carried on this year. Biggest activity is of course the new industry of the H. K. Porter Co. and the remodeling of the Wool Combing Plant to suit the needs of Canada Packers here. Then of course there is the new addition to the United Church which has much of the exterior finished.

Stopped by winter weather was the water line north of Acton and coming up for the summer is the new industrial disposal plant. It is interesting to note that in the wake of this expansion there is a returning of residence and commercial building expansion. Looking over the picture from the viewpoint of the whole town it is well-rounded and very sound growth for Acton.

Present plans for industry here show the need for more homes. Acton has not and is not likely to become a dormitory town. People who live here will likely find it possible to work here. It is a factor which makes life in a small town most enjoyable.

Shipping of goods by rail and transport and city visitation for Actonians with a fine network of highways, its trains and buses make its location ideal for agreeable living.

Yes 1958 looks like a big year for Acton with all round expansion. Our appreciation and thanks of many others goes to those who have continually supplied the initiative, and to those who carry it to completion and make Acton a better place to live and work.

## Where Ignorance is Bliss

According to the Gallup Poll of Canada, that tireless investigator of public ignorance, half the voters of Canada do not know, or at least cannot put into words, anything for which the Progressive Conservatives or the Liberals stand. Their ignorance about the CCF and Social Credit parties is even greater. Some 60 per cent do not know anything about the CCF and 70 per cent are in the dark about Social Credit. In Western Canada, where these parties have their main strength, the percentages of ignorance are 52 and 60 respectively.

At first glance, these figures do not reveal much on which an enlightened democracy can pride itself, but must be remembered that the poll was taken before the election campaign was really under way. Before March 31 nearly every voter will have been exposed to some form of political education and will have made up his or her mind about whom to vote for.

That does not imply that the average voter will then be able to put into words what he has voted for. He will, as usual, vote in a blind faith that he is doing his duty and that greater powers will carry on from there. The chances are that he will still be inarticulate about what differentiates the parties. Since all the speakers for all the parties will have been promising him things, with only slight differences of degree, his ignorance and inarticulateness may be taken as an expression of political wisdom.

## The Re-covering Miracle

Longfellow once wrote "If Spring came but once in a century, instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous, and the perpetual exercise of God's power seems less wonderful that its withdrawal would be."

Friday is March 21 indicating the first official approach of that wonderful Spring season. It might be difficult to tell from the weather of tomorrow and the next week just whether it will arrive or not, but officially it will.

As Longfellow so aptly indicated we grow accustomed to the changing seasons and often forget the miracles of their coming. But Spring is a long looked for season as it heralds the return of warm sunshine and bright days outside after the long winter.

The trees will begin to show buds, the grass will adopt a brighter green, the flowers will begin to push up, the fields will be prepared for their cycle of growth, children will start playing alleys and jacks, roller skates will make their appearance, sidewalks will be swept of their winter sand and the signs of the approaching season will be welcomed indeed.

We're looking forward to the spring weather and we're glad it's officially here. We imagine you are too.

## Change for the Sake of Change

It is interesting to note the recommendation at the last meeting of county council that the county adopt the D.M.A. manual for assessing purposes.

The reasons given are not new since the subject appears annually and for the past few years has met with little favor since it requires a fair size expenditure to affect the change from the present system.

Added to that is the fact that the present system has not been proven inadequate since its adoption only a few years ago during which some costly proceedings were necessary to have it completed.

The big reason for the recommendation appears to be that Burlington and Oakville plan to use the D.M.A. manual and there just can't be two systems operating in the one county.

We're not opposed to change by any means but it certainly seems foolish to initiate change just for the sake of change. There is always the suggestion that in a short time adoption of the new system will probably be mandatory under the regulations of the provincial department.

The present system of assessment was established on a pattern arrived at by the provincial department and has so far proven quite adequate.

It will be interesting to see what action the various councils take and the result of their action in achieving a uniform pattern of assessment.

## Notes and Comments

In a special feature article, the Christian Science Monitor pays tribute to the home town weekly newspapers of the United States. It states "Well over 75,000,000 persons some estimates range as high as two out of every three Americans read such papers. They are about nine times as numerous as their big city cousins, the metropolitan dailies. And they are more than nine times as diverse. Governor Ribicoff of Connecticut recently said "When I want to find out what the majority of the people of the state are thinking, I go to the community papers . . . small community weeklies are certain to grow and have an increasing influence on state and local government, because of their closeness to the everyday affairs of people." Increasing cost of newsprint remains a concern of many weeklies and the publisher of one of them wrote his newspaper supplier. He said the cost of paper was so high he was going to start printing on bed sheets. That way, he said, he could just collect his old papers at the end of the week, launder them, and start printing all over again. Bolton Enterprise.

## Brief Comment

Canadian electors now have responsibility for deciding whether Canada will be better off under a Conservative or a Liberal regime. Important thing is that balloting on March 31 should render a decisive verdict on this question. - Bonnyville (Alta.) Tribune.

## DECISIVE RESULT

**VITAL LINK**  
If the rail line to Pine Point follows any route not originating in the Peace River country, the development of this area will be set back many years. We cannot be patient and believe that the government will see this without our telling them.  
- Grande Prairie (Alta.) Herald-Tribune.

## NO EXCEPTIONS

Correct habits, firmly established and never weakened by "making an exception because I know it's safe," surround a driver with an additional layer of protection from danger, and the expense of summonses and collision repairs. - Hagersville (Ont.) Press.

## CANADIAN PRODUCTS

If Florida oranges are scarcer and higher in price we can always eat those delicious Canadian apples, and there is no better drink than our tomato juice. When we buy the Canadian products we are helping the industries which help us. - Pickton (Ont.) Gazette.

## MADE IN CANADA

We must purchase more Made-in-Canada products. We must increase the processing of all kinds of goods in Canadian factories. Only in this way can we enlarge the opportunities for stable, year-round productive employment. - Campbellton (N.B.) Tribune.



"Seasonable Symptom"

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

# Let's Look Back for Forty Years

During last week-end when I usually write this column, I was busy so it was Monday before I got down to compiling my column. May I just inject this personal note, to tell all my readers that many friends from the district and out-of-town made us most happy over the week-end in many ways and we do appreciate all these friendships and kind expressions. Now let's just look back at the Acton of 40 years ago in a general way.

Back in March, 1918 Acton and the country generally was still in the horse and buggy days. Travel here was restricted to horse-drawn vehicles. What few motor vehicles there were had been jacked up in the fall with battery and tires removed and the water drained from the cooling system.

Lou Atkinson ran a livery stable and transported the mail to and from the trains. The snow was shoveled from the sidewalks to the roadway and no plows shoveled it back at you. Nature was the only means of getting rid of winter's accumulation.

There was no garbage collection and in early spring, wheelbarrows were used by the householders to cart to the dump the winter's ash- and-dust. Brooms were all just dirt or gravel. When spring came and the bottom "dropped out", traffic even in town could easily become mired in the roadways.

Industry here in Acton was confined to leather and gloves. Beardmore's, then as now, was the biggest employer with Shure's running second. Mason Knitting Co. had not been established and the big building they now occupy was part of the warehousing plant of Beardmore's.

Plastics hadn't been heard about and the Force Electric building

was awaiting the occupancy of a shoe manufacturing industry. Fred Blake was operating a small machine shop on Main Street in a building that had been built for a shooting gallery and boxing at by A. P. Green named no more here than a man's name.

Ajax Engineers may have been operating in Toronto but no one from Acton had a connection with it and I don't believe Eugene Brand had arrived in Acton from sunny Italy to establish himself. Every spring the saw mill on Main Street started operation to cut up the saw logs which had been hauled in during the winter months. I'm not too sure whether the Stacey sheepskin tannery on Main Street was in operation 40 years ago but at least the buildings were there and the big brick chimney.

At that time, the road to Guelph was along the concession lines. There was no highway along the present right-of-way (aside the C.N.R. tracks. The Toronto Suburban Electric Railway was giving travel and freight service from Toronto to Guelph. It was quite a popular means of travel in that time and the station was on Main Street, just south of Church Street. There was no bus service and no paved streets in town.

There was, of course, no television and no radio. We had Wonderland motion picture show where Symon Hardware is now established. Seems to me the pipe of admission was 10¢ but when it first opened, it was the nickel show. Local plays were popular in the winter months and there was a post room over George Holloway's barber shop. The Masonic Hall was upstairs over Kenney's shoe store, which was located on the land now occupied by Acton Creamery. The Odd Fellows assembled in the hall over Hotehen's Bakery.

We didn't have any covered ice but we had a rink down at the foot of Frederick Street with a fine club house. There were some hockey games between nearby towns and some smart ice carnivals. For those who hadn't the admission price, the Maria Street bridge was an excellent place for spectators.

Forty years ago, barber shops were strictly places for men. Women were doing their hair in parlors. There were some beauty parlors but they were not very popular. There were some social dances but they were not very popular. There were some social dances but they were not very popular.

## THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

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| <p><b>THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA</b><br/>St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont.<br/>Rev. Evan H. Jones, B.A., L.Th.<br/>Rectory, 185 Jeffrey St., Tel. 203</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1958<br/>(FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT)<br/>8:30 a.m. - Holy Communion<br/>9:45 a.m. - Church School and Bible Class<br/>11:00 a.m. - Matins<br/>11:45 a.m. - Beginners' Classes<br/>4:15 p.m. - Holy Baptism<br/>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26th<br/>8:00 p.m. - Mid-week Lenten Service. Evensong.</p> <p><b>ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE</b><br/>35 Churchill Road<br/>P.A.O.C.<br/>Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor<br/>75 Cook St., phone 649-W<br/>Services for</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1958<br/>10:00 a.m. - Sunday School<br/>11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship<br/>7:30 p.m. - Evangelistic Service<br/>Wednesday, 8 p.m. - Prayer and Bible Study<br/>Friday, 8 p.m. - Christ Ambassador.<br/>A Friendly Welcome to All</p> | <p><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</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1958<br/>9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer<br/>10:00 a.m. - Junior Church and Church School<br/>11:15 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p><b>BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>ACTON<br/>Rev. Ray H. Cortus, Pastor<br/>Parsonage, 118 Bower Ave.<br/>Phone 206-W</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1958<br/>9:45 a.m. - Sunday School<br/>11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship<br/>7:00 p.m. - Mission Band and Explorers' Open Service<br/>8:15 p.m. - B.Y.P.U.<br/>Thursday, 7 p.m. - Mid-week service.</p> <p><b>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b><br/>IN CANADA<br/>KNOX CHURCH, ACTON<br/>Rev. Andrew E. McKissack, B.A., B.D.</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1958<br/>9:45 a.m. - Church School<br/>11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship<br/>7:00 p.m. - Evening Service<br/>8:30 p.m. - Senior-High Fellowship at manse.</p> |
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Wages were low and work hours long in comparison with those of today. Smoking was not so prevalent and no women smoked in public. Liquor was available but most of the drinking was in the parlors where a man had to stand up to get his drinks. There were no taxes except municipal ones of about 20 mills on the dollar. Daily newspapers were a cent a copy and the Free Press was \$1.50 a year or three cents a copy. We didn't sell over a dozen a week single copies instead of the 800 a week we now sell.

I could go back with you for hours. Life was good 40 years ago. It was not so comfortable and of the same standard as to-day. Wash boards and Sunlight soap were more common than washing machines and clothes dryers were called clothes reels and lines. We had carpet sweepers instead of vacuum cleaners and the women heated the flat irons on the kitchen stove instead of by electricity. You brought in coal by the scuttle and filled the wood box instead of oil tanks or gas supply.

Those good old days are great to look back upon and make you really appreciate the comfort of today. I've no desire to return to them.

**It's Very Unfair Poll Tax Law**  
BURLINGTON - "Burlington's poll tax-by-law in my opinion is very unfair," said Councillor Ray Bryant at the town council meeting last week. "Why tax all single men and not the single women in town?"

The councillor made this statement after council had given two readings to a by-law repealing the poll tax-by-law.

Councillor Ted Smith explained that according to the Assessment Department, collecting the poll tax would be too expensive to make it worthwhile, and therefore the finance committee proposed to stop collecting the tax.

Councillor Coult submitted that for the same reason last year the poll tax had been raised from \$4 to \$10 and he said he would like the assessment commissioner to attend the next council meeting with some facts and figures on the poll tax.

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS

## BACK IN 1908

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 19, 1908.

Gambling is becoming notorious in certain quarters in town. Within the past week statements have been made within this office by reliable parties, that a company of young men had been seen throwing dice for money in the smoking room at the G.T.R. station and that several others were playing a game for quarter dollars for stakes on the bar of one of the hotels in the presence, and with the consent of the bartender.

Surely these offenders are unaware of the fact that heavy penalties are liable for such offences.

Mr. Edward Tweedie offers the privilege of dumping ashes, etc., on his lot at the corner of Church and Eglin Streets. Don't trespass, however, get his permission first.

Wheel is down to Mr. this week and Harley Mr. Oats are up from Mr. to Mr. peas \$2 to \$5 and hay from \$15 to \$17.

Contractor McKenzie has added a gasoline engine to his shop equipment.

During his sermon on Sunday morning Rev. G. W. Barker had used the expression "The tears of cannon and the bullets of artillery were heard" when a somewhat alarming peal of thunder accompanied to the heavy rain storm prevailing.

The principal feature of the Epworth League on Tuesday evening was a debate on the topic "Resolved that women should have the parliamentary and municipal franchise." The affirmative was taken by H. P. Moore and J. Coleman, and the negative by Rev. G. W. Barker and Principal W. H. Stewart.

The judges awarded the honors to the negative, but explained, the number of points awarded to each side was so nearly even they had experienced great difficulty in coming to a decision. Mr. Harold S. Nicklin presided.

The snow has rapidly disappeared during the week. There being little frost on the ground, there is small likelihood of serious flooding taking place.

Mr. T. James Moore, who was appointed assistant city clerk of the City of Guelph, was promoted to the clerkship on Monday at a salary of \$1,000.

Henlock back continues to come in from loads. The bark men have had a busy time since New Year.

## BACK IN 1938

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 24, 1938.

Fire of unknown origin broke out Sunday evening about 9:30 in the club in the exact room at the Beardmore Company plant here. Fortunately the blaze was detected before it had gained much headway.

The fire apparatus at the plant was soon put into operation and the fire extinguished. The Acton brigade also responded but it was not necessary to use their equipment.

The fire originated in the same section in which the disastrous fire in 1924 started when a whole section of the works was destroyed and damage of over \$100,000 sustained. Since then a sprinkler system has been installed.

Leslie Lamb, 18 of Acton, lost three fingers on his left hand while operating a buzz saw on the farm of David H. Hutchinson on Monday.

An enthusiastic meeting of the Acton hockey club was held last evening in reviewing the year's activities. Both president H. H. Holt and manager V. H. Hume expressed appreciation of the cooperation that had been accorded during the year.

The following officers were elected for the coming season: president W. D. Talbot, first vice-president W. H. Coan, second vice-president W. H. Clayton, treasurer W. K. Graham, secretary W. E. Middleton.

Executive committee were J. M. McDonald, V. H. Hume, R. H. Holt, J. Coughlan and Harry Holm.

Quite a number enjoyed the St. Patrick's supper arranged for last Thursday in the ladies of the United Church. The menu was delightfully Irish with meat, pork and potatoes as the main course.

Two men were injured late Thursday afternoon when their car went out of control and struck a large boulder on the highway about two miles west of Acton. Dr. Gilchrist of Toronto offered a free chest X-ray and a number of local tests and Cleveland hospital received them and a cut hand.

Both Wilds in Acton on Tuesday March 22 1938 to Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Wilds (nee May House), the gift of a daughter.

Seventy in the shade on Tuesday and 85 in the sun. The second day of spring excelled itself.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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| <p><b>MEDICAL</b></p> <p><b>DR. W. G. C. KENNEY</b><br/>Physician and Surgeon<br/>Office in Symon Block<br/>434 Mill St. E., Acton<br/>Office Phone 78<br/>Residence 115 Church St. E.<br/>Phone 150</p> <p><b>DR. D. A. GARRETT</b><br/>Physician and Surgeon<br/>Corner of Willow and River Sts.<br/>Entrance River St.<br/>Acton, Ontario<br/>Phone 238</p> <p><b>DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER</b><br/>Physician and Surgeon<br/>39 Wellington St. Acton, Ont.<br/>Office Phone 670<br/>Office Hours 6-8 p.m.</p> <p><b>REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE</b></p> <p><b>F. L. WRIGHT</b><br/>20 Wilbur St.<br/>Acton, Ontario<br/>Phone 145<br/>Appraiser, Real Estate and Insurance</p> <p><b>WM. R. BRACKEN</b><br/>INSURANCE AGENCY<br/>8 Mill St. - 1st floor<br/>Phone 26<br/>Res. 535-11<br/>GENERAL INSURANCE</p> <p><b>J. BERT WOOD</b><br/>INSURANCE AGENCY<br/>Life and General Insurance<br/>Phone 585<br/>124 Mill St.<br/>After hours TA 4-3950, Guelph</p> <p><b>DENTAL</b></p> <p><b>DR. H. LEIB</b><br/>Dental Surgeon<br/>Office—Corner Mill and Frederick Streets<br/>Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.<br/>TELEPHONE 49 - ACTON</p> <p><b>DR. A. J. BUCHANAN</b><br/>Dental Surgeon<br/>Office—34 Mill Street<br/>Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.<br/>Closed Wednesday afternoon.<br/>Telephone 143</p> <p><b>LEGAL</b></p> <p><b>C. F. LEATHERLAND, Q.C.</b><br/>Barrister &amp; Solicitor, Notary Public<br/>Office Hours: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.<br/>Saturdays by appointment, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.<br/>Office 25 - Phone - Res. 151<br/>ACTON</p> <p><b>A. BRAIDA, B.A.</b><br/>Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public<br/>9 Elm - 5 p.m.<br/>15 College St. East, Ont.<br/>Phone TA 4-2342<br/>Office Hours:<br/>9 a.m. to 5 p.m.<br/>Monday to Saturday<br/>173 Main St. South, Acton, Ont.<br/>Office Hours:<br/>6 p.m. to 9 p.m.</p> | <p><b>MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p><b>RUMLEY FUNERAL HOME</b><br/>Phone 600 night or day<br/>Bruce E. Showmaker, Mgr</p> <p><b>OPTICAL</b></p> <p><b>E. L. BUCHNER, R.O.</b><br/>Optician<br/>48 Mill St. E. Phone 115<br/>Office Hours:<br/>Wednesdays 1:30 - 6:00 p.m.<br/>Evenings by appointment</p> <p><b>AUDITING - ACCOUNTING</b></p> <p><b>LEVER &amp; HOSKIN</b><br/>Chartered Accountants<br/>51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W.<br/>Hamilton, Ontario<br/>Phones: GE 1-4224 EM 4-9131</p> <p><b>NEVILLE STOLLER &amp; CO.</b><br/>Accountants and Auditors<br/>Trustees in Bankruptcy<br/>3 Mill St. Acton (corner of Main)<br/>Telephone 18<br/>Head office 330 Bloor St. West,<br/>Toronto 12<br/>Phone 2-5680</p> <p><b>EARL G. BLACK</b><br/>B. Comm., R.I.A., C.A.<br/>CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT<br/>Farmer's Ridge, 105 Main St.<br/>Millton, Ont.<br/>TR 8-4542</p> <p><b>TRAVELLERS' GUIDE</b></p> <p><b>COACHES LEAVE ACTON</b><br/>GRAY COACH LINES</p> <p>Standard Time<br/>Eastbound<br/>6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun and Hol.)<br/>8:58 a.m.; 11:35 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:08 p.m.; 7:12 p.m.; 9:32 p.m.; 10:08 p.m. (Sun and Hol.)<br/>Westbound<br/>10:27 a.m.; 12:57 p.m.; 2:57 p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.; 9:12 p.m.; 11:22 p.m.; 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat. Sun. and Hol.)</p> <p><b>CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS</b></p> <p>Standard Time<br/>Eastbound<br/>Daily 6:45 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 10:00 a.m.; 7:17 a.m. Sunday only 8:01 p.m.; Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 8:02 a.m.; 6:57 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 p.m.<br/>Westbound<br/>Daily 11:41 p.m.; Daily except Sunday, 6:30 a.m.; 4:30 p.m.; 7:40 p.m.; 8:58 a.m.; 1:22 p.m.; 5:40 p.m.; 9:45 a.m.; (except on Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 7:48 a.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 6:18 p.m.)</p> |
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