

The only paper ever published in Acton



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Let's Make a Start

The time has come in Acton when we may well give some attention to the providing of a hospital here. By that statement we mean preliminary ground work which will take a few years before anything visible can be expected.

True there are grants available from governments to assist in providing hospital facilities but the initiative must come from Acton and not alone from council but from all citizens who are interested in the continued growth and welfare of the citizens.

There is no use thinking it will be a quick and easy undertaking. To us it seems that the first step would be to appoint a committee to give study to the whole question and present to a public meeting the facts and figures that are available. The committee could also secure information from other municipalities in which a hospital program has been instituted.

Last week a new hospital was completed at Park Credit and turned over to the board to be opened shortly. What might be done could be the opening of a fund first, to which donations could be made to form a sort of down payment. Such a fund would provide opportunity for receiving bequests and donations by citizens. When one buys or builds a new home a down payment is required.

The trend today is certainly toward treatment of all illness in hospitals. To serve best they need to be readily accessible and the day is fast approaching when every town must have a hospital of its own. They need not be large to start with but should be of a type which can expand with the need and growth of the community it serves.

First move of course is the establishment of a fact finding or exploratory committee and the sooner this is put into being the better. We need not proceed rapidly but let's at least make a start.

Quick Change

The astronomer says summer officially arrives at 4:57 p.m. EST on June 21, when the sun crosses Cancer. All right, but what happened to spring?

Seems we rush right from winter into summer weather in Canada. One day in mid-April Winnipeg had a temperature of 84 degrees, and Winnipeg that day was warmer than Havana, Miami and Los Angeles.

Of course, Canada is a big country, and it can be summer in one place and winter in another. The same day with Winnipeg basking in the heat, it was below zero at Cambridge Bay, in the Northwest Territories.

The generally mild winter meant that most farmers got an early start on seeding. British Columbia had its mildest winter on record, and the Prairies generally also had an easy winter with frost leaving the ground fast. It was also a mild period, comparatively speaking, for Ontario and Quebec, while the Maritimes enjoyed an early spring.

Now the birds are in full chorus across the land. The migratory flights are well under way to the far north. At Hillspring, Alta., a large white swan attracted attention the other day when it dropped out of north-bound flight and wandered around the streets for a while before resuming its long journey.

But there's a thought-provoking note about these bird songs which bring joy to many a nature-lover. The National Geographic Society calmly suggests these musical cries are really warnings to other birds to keep off.

The male birds are the first arrivals in the north. They choose an area that offers enough food to support a family, then start singing.

The bird songs aren't really invitations to romance, or concerts put on for the benefit of human ears, these experts contend. The songs tell other male birds that the property is taken.

Then, this report says, having established his own territory and fought off other males, the bird is ready to advertise for a wife. It sounds disappointingly human.

For Sobering Reflection

We don't have Canadian figures for comparison but a recent report indicates that more crimes were committed in the United States last year than ever before, and juveniles were responsible for nearly half of them.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover also reported that the crime rate in rural areas jumped considerably more than in cities.

Revealing the FBI's annual crime report compiled from statistics of law officials across the nation, Hoover said a total of 2,796,400 major crimes were committed in 1957 - one for every 61 persons. This is a jump of 9.1 per cent. over 1956.

The report also disclosed that the crime rate had increased four times as much as the population rate in the last eight years.

Youths under 18 accounted for 47.2 per cent. of arrests in major crimes such as murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and larceny.

Juveniles committed 67.8 per cent. of all auto thefts and 53.1 per cent. of thefts of all kinds. Sixteen per cent. more youths were arrested in towns under 25,000 population and 8.1 per cent. more in larger cities.

The survey showed that 95 per cent. of the crimes were committed for profit.

Burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts comprised 93 per cent. of the total, a 9.4 per cent. increase. Robbery losses totalled \$479,000,000 but 59 per cent. of the goods were recovered, including 93.1 per cent. of stolen autos.

The figures provide ground for some sobering reflection since the economy and life of the two countries are very similar.

The cure isn't in doing everything for today's juveniles but it certainly isn't in neglecting them either.

It's Clean Up Month

The slogan CLEANUP! PAINTUP! BEAUTIFY! will keynote Beautification activities in hundreds of communities from coast to coast this month. Last year over 600 communities across Canada held Campaigns.

This May several hundred Canadian communities will carry out Beautification projects. In many centers this annual Cleanup Campaign has become a permanent community activity organized by a Service Club or local group. These campaigns are a yearly reminder to the community of its responsibility to itself, for the outward appearance of a community often reflects the spirit of its citizens. How much more attractive it is for visitors to see clean, fresh-looking homes, stores and public buildings, with flowers, grass and trees in profusion!

But it all can be done even without a highly organized campaign if individuals consider their obligations to have their property present an attractive appearance.

May is beautification month so let's make the town and district a place to be proud of.

It's Strangling Cities

Traffic congestion is strangling Canada's major cities, a national survey published this week reports.

Only two of the thirty-one cities that responded to the survey reported no traffic problem. These two, Yorkton and Weyburn, both in Saskatchewan, were among the smallest centres questioned.

In each of the remaining twenty-nine cities, including all of Canada's metropolitan areas, civic officials not only reported steadily worsening traffic conditions but unanimously admitted there was no solution in sight.

The survey says, "revealed was an almost unbelievable picture of disrupted civic life, tattered private nerves and costly municipal confusion."

Two salient points stand out from the report:

First, half the forty billion miles driven every year in Canada by our five million cars is done on city streets. Yet we spend eighty cents out of every road-improvement dollar on rural and inter-city routes, leaving the city sore spots to get progressively worse year by year.

Secondly, many Canadian town-planning experts are not convinced the cities can handle the growing volume of traffic even by plowing unlimited sums into highway development. If all such projects being discussed over planning tables today were completed at current prices they'd cost a forbidding one thousand dollars for every family in the country - and there'd still be no guarantee the national traffic jam would be licked.

The answer? More and more Canadian and U.S. planners are swinging to the view that the cores of our large cities may eventually have to be blocked to motor traffic altogether.

Perhaps that's all the more reason towns our size should be increasingly conscious of the need to give attention to parking problems.



Photo by Father Taylor

"Spring Embroidery"

G. A. D. About

Renovating Early Church Buildings

Changes and renovations in both the United and Presbyterian Churches' buildings... The present Knox Church building had the corner stones laid on September 12, 1894. One was laid by Rev. J. Goldthorpe of Roman Church and the other by Archbishop Campbell of Acton. Rev. J. W. Rae was minister of the church at that time.

The opening services were held on January 24, 1895. The evening service was planned to start at seven o'clock but at 6:45 the building was filled to capacity and the service began.

At the United Church an extension is being built adjoining the building erected in 1875. The present in-use Sunday School accommodation, but will also provide the start for a new church edifice at a later date.

It was in 1874 that Rev. John C. Stephenson started work toward a new church to replace the one which stood at the corner of John and Church Streets. The contract for the then new church was let to Eli Snyder.

The first sod was turned in August and the corner stone was laid by David Plewes of Hamilton on September 29, 1875. The church was opened on July 1, 1876.

The cost of the church site, building, furnishings etc. was approximately \$20,000 and the early subscriptions obtained at the opening services were almost sufficient to cover this amount.

It will be interesting to review a motion from the historical booklet of the then Methodist Church... The cost of the church site, building, furnishings etc. was approximately \$20,000 and the early subscriptions obtained at the opening services were almost sufficient to cover this amount.

Another extract from the booklet of 1895 gives the information that the congregation during the est-

There were three appointments on the circuit Acton, Silvercreek and Crosswicks Corners. Contributions to the above amount were \$25 from Acton \$100 from Silvercreek and \$50 from Crosswicks Corners.

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The first Presbyterian Church building was erected in 1847 and served as a church building for 49 years.

The first church building used by the Methodists was on Main Street and was the one storey wooden building adjoining the three section dwelling. It served from 1844 until 1852. In the year 1852 the congregation built the building on Church and John Streets and used it until 1875.

The first Presbyterian Church building was erected in 1847 and served as a church building for 49 years.



To listen to these words is just like having an arrow go through your heart... We Amos (Amos 4:1-13) do not let us think that the things of God and our language has never before been used to express thoughts like this. It was just as if an arrow went through my heart.

A vigorous Bible-reading church continues to develop in Taiwan... Suggested readings for the week: Sunday, Proverbs 31: 1-31, Monday, Ezekiel 2: 1-10, Tuesday, Ezekiel 3: 1-16, Wednesday, Ezekiel 3: 17-31, Thursday, Acts 1: 1-26, Friday, Acts 2: 1-26, Saturday, Hebrews 13: 1-25.

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Table listing church services for various denominations including The Anglican Church of Canada, United Church of Canada, Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Knox Church, Acton. Includes times for Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday services.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1938 and Back in 1908

BACK IN 1938

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 5, 1938

On Thursday evening of last week, during a light shower, a bolt of lightning struck a tall elm tree on the farm of John J. Henderson, township of Nassagaweya. The tree was set aflame by the lightning but the blaze was not noticed until one hour after it was struck. The burning limbs and trunk appeared like a word cross from a distance. It was over 60 feet high and could be seen for several miles.

Among the items of business discussed by Lakeside Chapter, 10 P.E. Thursday night was financial assistance in providing shelter for bathers at Fairy Lake. Miss Emily Young gave a chapter of history and Miss Mary Jackson gave current events. Business was presented over by the regent, Miss Margaret Healy.

Workers under the direction of the Acton Cemetery Board commenced this week levelling the land recently acquired next to Fairview cemetery on Main Street. The old sand pit that had been along the front of the property has gone and the hill facing along Main Street is to have a gradual slope back to the cemetery property.

Knox Ladies Aid Society held a presentation for Mrs. G. B. Agnew who is leaving Acton to take up residence in Toronto. Following the reading of an address by Mrs. G. Lantz, Mrs. Allan Smith presented Mrs. Agnew with a gift on behalf of the group.

Holy Cross Church was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday morning, April 30, when Kathleen Healy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Treanor, became the bride of Neil William Gibbons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gibbons of Acton. The Rev. Father J. J. McElroy officiated at the nuptial Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. John Alger removed to Godtha this week where Mr. Alger has been appointed a guard at the Ontario Reformatory. Mr. Alger will continue his connections with the Lorne Seals local militia.

The boys of St. Alban's Young People's society took the members of the congregation on Tuesday evening in the Parish Hall with a comedy entitled 'Cold Storage'. Those participating included George Easton, Olive Rogers, Bill Hamble, Douglas Maplehead, Bob Goodall, Bert Patrick, Percy Elliott, Dot Easton and Harry Rogers.

A neat marble slab bearing the name of the church has been affixed to the front wall of the Baptist Church.

Misses Beardmore and Company have closed the chopping mill at Mill Street and the farmers who ordinarily trade in Acton are being obliged to go elsewhere for their chopping. This is a great detriment to the town and steps must be taken to have the mill put into operation again at the earliest date.

To this end a meeting under the auspices of the Board of Trade will be held in the Town Hall Friday evening.

BACK IN 1908

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 30, 1908

Last Thursday night, the bar at the Dominion Hotel was broken into and a quantity of cigars, cigarettes and flasks of liquor stolen. A dollar or two of loose change in the till was also taken.

A few nights previously an entrance was effected to Statham's grocery by a rear door and some 20 or 25 pounds of chewing and smoking tobacco, a box of cigars and about four dollars in copper were taken. The indications point to the perpetrators being local miscreants and well acquainted with the premises of both places visited.

Last Thursday morning when the dead grass was being burned off in the yards of the Acton Tanning Company, fire ran under a stack of hemlock bark and ignited it. A silent alarm was sent into the fire department. The steam fire engine was promptly on the scene and after a couple of hours playing upon the bark the last smoking stack was quenched.

The annual meeting of the Lorne Tennis Club was held on Monday evening with the following officers elected: President, president A. A. Seal; Secretary, Charles Beardmore; Treasurer, Miss Healy; Sports vice-president, Miss Beatty; and press committee, J. A. Patterson. A. McLean, J. Wood, F. M. Healy, T. Beatty and J. G. Matthews.

J. B. Mackenzie, contractor, is converting his building on Church Street into a carpenter shop and adding a new store front 20 x 27 two storeys with office in front on the ground floor. He will operate a planer, circular saw and other small machines with gasoline as motor power.

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PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

Professional directory listing medical, dental, legal, and accounting services, along with a travellers' guide for the Gray Coach Lines. Includes names like Dr. W.G.C. Kenney, Dr. D.A. Garrett, Dr. Robert D. Buckner, F.L. Wright, W.M. R. Bracken, J. Bert Wood, Dr. H. Leib, Dr. A.J. Buchanan, C.F. Leatherland, and A. Braida.