

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



Founded in 1876 and published every Thursday at 50 Mill St. E., Acton, Ont. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the C.W.N.A. and the Ontario-Quebec Division of the C.W.N.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$3.00 in Canada, \$4.00 in the United States, six months \$17.50, single copies 10¢. Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa

Published by the Hills Printing and Publishing Co. Limited
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THURSDAY, MAY 18th, 1958

Save a Life Week

Drownings are the third major cause of accidental deaths in Canada today. Only one in five survive and half a million more die.

Little wonder, then, that St. John Ambulance, foremost teacher of first aid in this country, recommends that as many Canadians as possible learn artificial respiration, a proven way of saving the lives of those rescued from drowning.

This week St. John Ambulance holds its annual Save a Life Week when it offers two-hour courses in artificial respiration to all those wishing to learn this valuable life-saving technique.

Canada, with its many lakes and rivers, is in an enviable position when it comes to enjoyable vacation spots. But it is just because we have so many wonderful water playgrounds that our death rate from drowning is more than double that of England and half as much again as that of the United States. Drowning fatalities in Canada have averaged more than 1,000 each year in the past decade, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. St. John Save a Life Week therefore is particularly appropriate in this country.

Saving the life of a person after breathing has stopped as a result of a water accident, electric shock, poison gas or smoke can be accomplished only by immediate application of artificial respiration. Without someone on hand who knows artificial respiration, nothing much can be done. The more people who know artificial respiration, the more chance there is that someone will be prepared to help.

St. John Ambulance is to be commended for making these classes available. The investment of two hours time in this way may mean a life saved — certainly a magnificent return.

Another Generation

George W. James, for over fifty years editor of the Bowmanville Statesman, last week announced retirement after 40 years guiding this fine family weekly paper. His nephew, John W. James, is the new owner. In its 104 years of history, this is the fifth time the ownership has changed hands.

It has been our privilege to be intimately acquainted with the James family for many years even back to the days of the late M. A. James, but better known with the present generation of George and his son William and with the new owner, John James.

George James started selling type when he was 11. His father, the late M. A. James, paid him 25 cents a week to hand-set patent medicine advertisements. Each week he had to put aside 5 cents of his pay for church collection. During his 60 years with the paper he wrote all his copy longhand.

He served in the First World War with the 235th Battalion, was mayor of Bowmanville for two years and a councillor for 10 years. In 1955 Queen's University, Kingston, conferred upon him an honorary LL.D. degree.

Mr. James is an honorary life member of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association, having served as president and director. He was chairman of the association's advertising committee for 10 years.

He is an honorary member of the Advertising and Sales Club of Toronto and is the only weekly editor to receive an award from the Association of Canadian Advertisers. He served with the War Finance Committee and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board during the Second World War.

The new owner and publisher, John James, started with the Statesman in 1929 as a printer's devil at \$5 a week. He was liberal member of Parliament for Durham from 1940 to 1957.

We wish the older editor many happy years of retirement and for the new incumbent continued success in the conduct of one of the greatest Canadian Weekly Newspapers.

On Empire Day

On Monday Victoria Day or Empire Day will be celebrated. The date now varies from the earliest established 24th of May to the regular Monday to eliminate the confusion in its celebration.

There are those who would seem anxious to abandon the celebration by belittling the Empire. There are many reasons why the Empire is still a reality and a force for good in the world and why we should continue to observe with pride the celebration of Empire Day.

If the British Commonwealth and Empire last for a thousand years men will still say this was their finest hour. These were the words of the great Prime Minister, Winston Churchill speaking in the darkest days of 1940. The dictators had overrun practically the whole of Europe. Only Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa, India and other Commonwealth countries remained to oppose the aggressors and to save the world. It was indeed their finest hour.

But it is not the only contribution which the British Empire has made to the cause of civilization. More than a hundred years before she stood alone against Napoleon who had also conquered Europe and might have been, but for British resistance, a world conqueror. Trafalgar and Waterloo were important hours in history too.

British hopes have never been set on world conquest. It is true that British sailors discovered and mapped new continents and sea routes. British pioneers established new communities in every part of the world and introduced British ways and customs and ideals. The Empire which developed in this way was world wide, but it exercised only a practical influence on world affairs.

If an empire be judged by the standards of the Babylonian or Roman or Spanish empires, as a group of peoples held in subjection by force and exploited to the benefit of the conquerors, then the British Empire might be said to be a thing of the past and can scarcely be said to have ever existed.

Spring Malady

The virus that thrives in the spring, once again abroad in the land.

It strikes only at a select group and it suffers, presently believe it is the happiest malady ever to afflict mankind. Others may feel its repercussions, even though its nature is beyond their comprehension.

The chief breeding grounds of the germ lie far from city pavements but it has been known to bite in strange places, such as parks, aquariums and the sidewalk in front of sports store windows.

The gestation period may be lengthy and the early symptoms difficult to detect.

A victim's fellow office worker might note some of its signs in a distant look of the eye, a tendency to stand for long periods just looking out the window and an absorption in weather forecasts.

His wife might become suspicious when he spends solitary evening hours in the basement, rummaging through closets or littering a workbench with what might appear to be unutilized as the working parts of an elaborate watch.

When his neighbor detects the problings of a flashlight beam on the lawn just about the time of night that the dew worms emerge from the earth, there is little room left for doubt.

No need to call the cops. It's just a bug-bitten fisherman on the loose. Phoning the doctor won't help either.

Only one kind of medicine will do any good and around about now it's being swallowed in large doses. Fishing seasons are getting under way across the country.

In Ontario and Quebec, opening day of the trout season May 1 produces a fever that almost amounts to mania and stacks up anglers elbow to elbow at the more accessible holes.

No need to worry though, it will subside in a couple of weeks, at least until the bass season begins at the end of June.

Brief Comment

COST OF EDUCATION

One of the important facts, which cannot be overlooked, is the mounting cost of education. Even though the Ontario department of education is attempting to lessen the direct cost to municipalities through a new system of grants, these increased grants do not provide sufficient funds for boards of education. Fort Frances (Ont.) Times.

FARM SAFETY

The farm machine operating season is with us again. Let us make it a safe one. Remember that excessive speed or a high centre of gravity or a quick clutch can roll tons of steel onto you. It has happened all too frequently right here in Haldimand-Hagersville (Ont.) Press.



"Wee Willie"

G.A.D. About...

Old Swimming Hole More Modern

I was greatly interested to read last week about the progress being made at the Park in providing dressing rooms and the start of a new grandstand. The behind the scenes financing arrangements and who did what or what not at all, I cannot say, but the progress of the foundation already constructed and actual progress was the feature worthy of attention. So one day during the week I was tempted to visit the park for an inspection.

In my boyhood days, our home was on Park Avenue. The last house next to the park. They of course, the entrance to the park was right at the end of the street. Knox Avenue had not been opened and was one big field where we used to pasture our cow in the summer. The grandstand was on the south-east corner and the old lake pond was at the rear of a lot off Lake Avenue. The ball diamond was in front of the grandstand 30 years or so ago it was moved west and across the park to its last location.

The new dressing rooms are being built inside the park circle and will face along the ball diamond first base line. They will be made between the waiting pool for children and the bathing beach on Fairy Lake. It would seem a favorable location for most of the park functions but may cause some dislocation of fall fair regular plans. No doubt it will be a great convenience for park users provided, of course that it is not abused by a few.

Don't think for one minute that we folks who were young 30 years ago didn't enjoy the park and the old swimming hole without all these modern conveniences. Dressing rooms were behind any but of shoulders. For the boys, with summer clothing usually a pair of knee pants and a blouse and 10 cent straw hat, dressing was quick and done.

For the girls who went for a swim in Fairy Lake it was more complicated. Arrangements had to be made with Tommy Hunt for use of their bathhouse for changing apparel. Bathing in the pond on those days was like the feather shop restricted to men and boys only. The boys who could afford it had a 10 cent pair of toilet mat and a tub of cold water. Before you turned in for the night a cut on a burn or a head cut without much treatment other than a bandage.

In later years, we had a couple of shelters for changing clothes and going in swimming at the park. This year the facilities are getting a "real modernizing touch" by the folks who want to see improvement from what they had in their boyhood days.

Of course, there were swimming places in Henderson's Pond 50 years ago. There was one on Alice Street under the big tree and over at the dam there was a spring. Now the dam has gone and only a small stream trickles down through the property.

Some of you who read this column may also remember the club house on the southwest bank of Fairy Lake. It was a neat little building with lower floor used for local change and landing platform. The upper floor and balcony were club rooms and had limited facilities for holding social functions. It was quite the place for the young men of those days. It gradually fell into disuse and was torn down to make way for the new swimming hole.

Yes, Fairy Lake and its 35 acres has always been an attraction for Acton. As the years roll along its popularity seems to increase. Its park location is a very favorable one.

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SILVERWOOD

Women's Institute

For their May meeting the members of Silverwood Women's Institute extended the hospitality of Mrs. W. H. Reid in her new home. There were 15 ladies present. The new president, Mrs. W. R. Norton, spoke on the chair.

Roll call was responded to by a joke. At the conclusion of routine business, the program was taken over by Mrs. Douglas Peck. Guest speakers were given by Mrs. H. Reid.

A paper by Mrs. George Henderson on the motto "He who laughs last laughs best" left the audience convinced that it was a good policy to love folks rather than laugh at them, as a disparaging way.

Mrs. Peck gave an interesting paper on the early history of Essex township and S. S. No. 16. Many of the descendants of pioneers mentioned are still living in the district.

Local Views
Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lindsay on the birth of their son.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Shaw, Mrs. Myrtle Foster and Mr. Tush Foster, all of Toronto, visited with Mr. and Mrs. George Burt on Sunday.

The Stone School choir is to be congratulated on winning second place at the Music Festival.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Ford of Bolsover spent a few days recently with Mr. and Mrs. H. Marchington. Mrs. Marchington attended the three-day conference last week at Guelph for District Directors of the Women's Institute.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1938

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 10, 1938.

About four o'clock this afternoon the firemen were called to a chimney fire at the house of Mr. Wesley Allan on Brook Avenue. Damage from smoke was the chief loss. Chemically seen had the fire under control and it was not necessary to turn on the water pressure to subdue the blaze. The boys made a good run and the fire was soon under control.

Members of the Board of Managers of Knox Presbyterian Church gathered at the home of Mr. William H. Kennedy on Saturday evening and presented him with a glass jubilee mug in honor of his services to the church. Mr. Kennedy has served for 25 years as treasurer and is retiring.

A quiet wedding took place at the United Church, Parsonage, Acton on May 7, when Gladys Booth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Booth of Palmer, Ontario, was married to Charles McLean, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Davidson of South Bay, Ontario.

Nearly 100 boys scout will make Acton Park their headquarters this week end when the Acton Troop will stage a jubilee. The event Saturday afternoon is open to the public. However, the jubilee will not be a show or exhibition. It is a gathering of scouts participating in sports and scouting activities.

Rev. P. A. Sawyer, former rector of St. Alban's Anglican Church, was guest speaker at the Young People's banquet in the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening. The banquet supper was prepared by five ladies of the W. A. Mrs. Book, Mrs. Waller, Mrs. Nellis, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Barker and the 20 guests were served by members of the Acton Boy Scout Troop.

Last Monday afternoon directors of the Acton Park Fair, went to work at the park and the earth that has been dumped there to widen the race course was leveled in short order. Men and teams went to work and made short work in widening the course at the west end. It is now ready for the change in the grades and when the drives in the race course for the Acton Fair in September, we believe they will have no cause for complaint with the track.

BACK IN 1908

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 14, 1908.

On Monday night the boiler of the powerhouse was being blown out and cleaned for testing. There was consequently no electric current available for either street or private lighting. The reason for the lack of lighting is quite defensible, but it is surely due to the pattern of the lighting system that makes it given when lights are to be cut off.

The Hampton Juniors played the local at the park here last Saturday and the visitors went home withing a 2-0 defeat.

The first public meeting announced here for the present campaign will be held in the interest of Mr. H. D. Warren, the Liberal candidate in the House of Commons, on Thursday evening.

Councillors Dr. Gray and Alex Bell and Messrs. John Harvey and H. P. McLean, a committee appointed by the Board of Trade to confer with Messrs. Beaudouin and Company relative to the acquisition of the real estate on the corner with Mrs. A. O. Beaudouin, 141 Victoria, Mr. Beaudouin's express of late offering to lease the mill to be owned and the town will play its part in the property to a large extent.

Rev. A. C. Wilson, M.A. of Toronto, preached at the Baptist Church last Sunday afternoon with a very good acceptance. So well pleased were the members of the congregation with his ministrations that they met after the service and unanimously decided to extend a call to him for the pastor. The call has been presented but Rev. Mr. Wilson is not yet given his decision in the matter.

Mr. Ayres bought the property upon which the Dominion Hotel now stands and created a ten commodious new hotel and for 29 years, conducted the house. The hotel on Tuesday afternoon was made ready for the arrival of Rev. A. C. Wilson, M.A. of Toronto. He arrived on Tuesday afternoon and last Thursday, Mr. Wilson, formerly of Toronto, came to Acton to take charge of the property of the Baptist Church, which he had just purchased. The change was given and the hotel was converted and named by the Victoria Hotel Trust of Montreal.

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DR. H. LEIB Dental Surgeon Office, Corner Mill and Frederick Streets Office Hours: by appointment TELEPHONE 39	CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS Standard Time Eastbound Daily 5:40 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 10:00 a.m.; 7:16 p.m.; Sunday only 8:01 p.m.; Daily except Sunday 9:02 a.m. (Guelph); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 7:05 a.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun 5:31 p.m.
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