The Acton Free Press

The only paper been published in Acton

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THURSDAY, JUNE 19th, 1958

Still Clearing the Land

Back in the pioneer days when settlers first established themselves on the land, the object was to first clear the bush for enough land to grow crops to feed the household and furnish sufficient fuel for heating and cooking. For many years wood was the only fuel in this part of Canada.

As our forefathers became settled in communities or towns they planted trees about the streets and homes to bring with them some of the beauty of nature they had found in the woods and our streets were lined with stately maples and our yards had fruit trees to help supply our needs.

Our way of life has undergone another phase. Now we have other fuels and wood is seldom used as a fuel as other means are easier. Big canneries and cold storage are displacing the home canning done by the housewife. The production of good fruit requires knowledge of proper sprays and cultivation and equipment for garnering the crop. It's not a hobby any more but a business of skill.

But still we continue the urge to clear the land. Wires and trees are in the paths of services we expect in our settled centres. Trees are not for built up towns and cities and so we remove them. We don't need the fuel they would supply and we seek out their beauty and utility in some other spot often reached by miles of travel. It's quite a circle in our ever changing mode of living when we do take time to reflect on it all.

Some how we can't help having regret as we see fine trees of half a century of growth removed. But progress these days is still marked by clearing the land and building of bare highways and streets. The shade of the old apple tree with its hammock beneath has now gone to the enclosed porches or the north bush with its second summer home.

An Urgent Need

As long as there are accidents and illnesses there will be a need to maintain an adequate blood bank. But there is a danger that the blood bank may not be adequate unless we all accept our share of responsibility.

In Acton the community set a record for the greatest number of contributors per capita when over 400 gave blood at one clinic. Since then the number has dropped according to Miss Janet Hay, director of the donor panel for the area, to the point where a clinic once a year might be more effective.

This time Acton residents are asked to contribute blood through the clinic at the Milton Legion Hall on June 24 in the hope that there will be a capacity clinic in one town. Plans then call for the next clinic to possibly be held in Acton.

In Georgetown recently a small clinic of 175 contributed representing 2.4 per cent of the local residents.

This area is included in the "free blood area" and if accident or sickness requires blood for you you will receive that blood. Miss Hay explained that one truck driver, injured in a serious accident received 147 pints of blood. This is not possible unless the blood bank is kept functioning.

The contribution of blood is something that most people can give without any problem. There is no necessity to dig into the wallet, no need to spend hours on fund raising projects, no need to tie up many nights. It's a simple 20 minute period of relaxation.

Be a booster for the blood bank and take your friends on June 24 to the Legion Hall, Milton between 1.30 and 4.30 or between 6.30 and 8.

Down With Drowning

Canada has been blessed with hundreds of thousands of beautiful lakes, rivers and streams. They are ours to enjoy in so many ways. Unfortunately, their appeal for healthful, happy recreation is always marked by Canada's annual drowning toll.

This week has been named "National Water Safety Week" and it is the hope of the Canadian Red Cross Society that this promotion will save lives this summer.

The need for education in water safety is apparent at every turn. Our headlines usually give the grim details. There is always the thought that the majority of these deaths could have been avoided if a few simple rules had been learned and practised.

Death by drowning plays no favorites. Men, women and children of all ages are its victims. Expert swimmers are no exception and are as likely to become a drowning statistic as are those making their first venture in the water.

The Red Cross rules of water safety are simple. They are merely the practical application of common sense. Parents are requested to become familiar with these simple rules and to give guidance and example to their children. Boating enthusiasts should realize their responsibility for others seeking recreation in the water and have consideration for their passengers.

This year everyone can have a happier vacation and a more healthful summer if we learn and observe the Red Cross rules of water safety. Our drowning record is not a proud one. A mutual effort will save lives this summer.

Canada in 1980

The desire to know what lies ahead stirs all of us at one time or another. But it is a desire seldom satisfied. We know too little of where we are or even of the broad direction in which we have moved in recent years, let alone the obstacles or opportunities ahead that may divert us from our present course, to be able to predict the future with confidence. Nevertheless, while accurate forecasts are difficult to the point of being almost impossible, they must frequently be attempted, for it is necessary to form an impression of what the future holds in order that plans may be laid to day to meet the needs of tomorrow. The task of forecasting is a challenging one. And no greater challenge has been faced in this field than by the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects, which in 1955 was appointed to investigate and report on the probable economic development of Canada and the problems to which such development appears likely to give rise.

The 509 page report reveals such highlights as population growth, its special problems and labor force expansion in relation to it, immigration, agriculture, resource industries, energy consumption, secondary manufacturing, productivity, output in 1980, regional problems, changes in foreign trade tariff policy, dependence on foreign capital, foreign control of Canadian industry, and the role of government.

The answers to all these questions provide a sketch of the Canada of tomorrow. The Commission travelled back and forth across the country, conducted public hearings in 14 cities and received over 330 submissions from organizations and individuals. In addition, 33 separate studies on various aspects of the Canadian economy were prepared at its request. The importance of the work would appear to have been well established and it now can only be hoped it doesn't collect a share of dust in some dismal pigeon hole.

Crime Count

The National Association for Better Radio and Television, an American organization whose name explains its objects somewhat better than most, conducted in the United States a survey of evening programs on TV during one week in May. Its findings were more depressing than surprising.

The total crime count for the seven evenings was murders, 161, "justifiable" homicides, 60, attempted murders, 192, suicides, two, robberies, 83, kidnappings, 15, attempted lynchings, seven, dynamitings, six, cases of arson and torture, two each.

It is not easy to assess the total effect of this form of mental attrition on young people. It would be superficial to believe that these orgies of murder and violence could, in themselves make criminals of children, unless the basic character or enviroment defects were already present. But they must provide enticements to undisciplined behavior and give young minds the impression that criminality is more widespread than it actually is.

There is no doubt that children to-day know much more about the modus operandi of criminals and weapons of violence than did the children of ten years ago before television was so general. The most depressing aspect of it all is that the most precious years of life, when the human mind enjoys its highest powers of absorption, should be filled with such degrading rubbish.

It will be something more than a coincidence that during the last few years we have become so much concerned about education, and that a class of young people is growing up with a contempt for the finer things of the mind. Our loudly expressed concern for these fallings must be tinctured with hypocrisy so long as we submit, with either pleasure or boredom, to these orgies of criminal violence that invade, with consent, our living rooms.—Hamilton Spectator.

Photo by J. Dick Taylor

"After the Shearing"

G.A.D. About...

Former Actonians in the News

I have decided this week to devote my column to items in the news about former Actonians recently.

Sunday was Father's Day and from New Liskeard comes the story about the man who was chosen to represent the Fathers of Ontario kindly send me by my friend Cecil Bond editor of the New Liskeard Speaker. The Johnston family were on television on Friday evening.

A Sutton Bay family of five generations who were formerly residents of Acton were chosen to represent the fathers of Canada by the Father's Day organization, for the day set aside last Sunday.

Five generations in each case the first child of the parents is something unique in Canadian history. William Johnston, aged 84, and his son, and on down the line to fifteen month old Tony were in Toronto last week for the celebrations. They stayed at the Westbury Hotel and each member was fitted out with a new suit of clothes and expenses with the compliments of the Father's Day organization.

William Johnston, the grand old patriarch of the family was born in Methlick, Scotland 94 years ago. He first started his working life as a harness maker, and then became a policeman for the city of Glasgow until 1905 when he emigrated to Canada with his wife and four children, three girls and one son.

Lived in Acton

Settling in Acton, Ontario, he worked for a time in Beardmore and Co. plant. In 1910 he moved to the Sutton Bay section of Temiskaming, eight miles east of New Liskeard, where he farmed and was postmaster for the little community for 28 years.

In the big fire of 1922 the family lost everything but undeterred, Mr. Johnston rebuilt. Ten years ago his wife died. At the present time Mr. Johnston is making his home with a daughter, Mrs. James Dunn of Lakeland Lake.

Married Acton Girl

Second eldest of the five generations, William Bruce Johnston, 69 who was born in Auchindoir, Scotland, coming to Canada with them. He married Ethel Burr of Acton and the couple had six children, 4 boys and 2 girls, five of them still living. Leaving Temiskaming after the 1922 fire he resided for a year in Acton then returning to Sutton Bay to farm where he and his wife still reside.

Third Generation

Bruce Johnston, eldest son of William is the third generation. He married Gertrude Marriott in 1929 and has three children, two boys and a girl. They are living on his grandfather's farm. In 1952 he broke his back in an accident and has been unable to work since that time. He is however, able to get around on crutches to some extent, his legs being partially paralyzed.

Fourth Generation

Bruce Johnston's son Kenneth is the fourth generation of the family. In 1956 he married Shirley Valley and the couple have two children, one boy and one girl. They are living with his father on the old homestead but he has turned miner, working at a nearby silver and cobalt property.

Little Tony Johnston, age 15 months rounds out the five generations. He was born at New Liskeard.

All the male descendants of William Johnston are the first born in each instance.

During the week-end, the Johnstons visited Acton relatives and friends and were about town revisiting the scenes of earlier days in Acton.

★ ★

From the Eagle Review, published at Edmonton, Alberta I learn that Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Steyart of Edmonton were honored at a farewell banquet and dance at the Andrew community centre. Mr. Steyart was for 25 years the retiring superintendent of the Alberta Pacific Grain Company and recently retired. Prior to this service he was for 16 years grain buyer.

Elmer Steyart as we know him in his boyhood days here, is a son of the late Mrs. Margaret Steyart who resided on Brock Street and went west over 40 years ago. Seems all our friend are getting to the retirement age but it's nice to hear of them.

★ ★

Then this week we got one of those nice letters that come to an editors desk in renewing a subscription to the Free Press from one who has likes to reminisce. I will close my column for this week by printing it.

Belfountain, Ont.
June 13, 1958

Acton Free Press
To the Editor
Dear Sir,

In renewing the subscription of my late father, John Jennings, I would like to say how I enjoy receiving the paper, reading the local events and happenings in general.

Although it is about 20 years since I left Acton, I follow with great interest your column, G.A.D. Many of the things you write about bring back memories. Like items about H. P. Moore, as he was a neighbor of ours when we lived in the house occupied now by John Lambert.

We used to slough ride down (known then as) Havill's Hill and skate on the pond at the bottom of the hill. Many a candy I bought at John Hill's store. I still have my photo taken in the shop that was next to Hill's.

How we used to run to A. T. Brown's to listen to Santa Claus on his watches. He would fill the store with children, he was so kind and patient. My mother and father got their first radio too from Mr. Dobbie.

I also follow the items on one of my favorite teachers, Miss Bennett, whose wonderful teachings have helped many on the road of life.

When I visit the graves of my parents in Fairview cemetery, I often stroll its peaceful paths and upon reading the stones, recall with pleasure and sadness, many happenings in the past. To me "Acton" will always be "Home".

In closing I wish your paper every success.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Frank Wale,
Belfountain, Ontario
(nee Ruth Jennings)

MOSTLY TULLIBEE

EDMONTON (CP)—Annual fish production in northern Alberta has been estimated at 6,000,000 pounds. It includes whitefish, pike and pickerel but tullibee, used as feed for fur farms, makes up the largest species.

MORE CEDAR

CRANBROOK, B.C. (CP)—Sawlog lumbering in the east and west Kootenay districts measured 33,152,000 board feet in March, about the same as in March last year. Footage included 3,000,000 board feet of cedar, nearly four times as much as in February.

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
St. Alban's Church, Acton, Ont.

Saturday, June 21. Annual Church Sunday School picnic

SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1958
3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
11.00 a.m. Mattins

BAPTIST CHURCH
ACTON
Interim Pastor, Rev. Harold Slater
Guelph, Ont.
SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1958

9.45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.

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

Saturday, June 21, 1.30 p.m. — Church picnic at Waterfalls Playground.
SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1958

9.45 a.m.—Church School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship and Sacrament of Baptism.

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, JUNE 22nd, 1958

9.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer
10.00 a.m. Junior Church and Church School.
11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship.

ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
33 Churchill Road
P.A.O.C.
Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor
75 Cork St., phone 649-W

SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd, 1958

10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7.30 p.m.—Evangelistic Service—
Subject, "How God Came to Our House" or "Why I Left the World of Hockey."
Rev. Shrier will be speaking at all services.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer and Bible Study.
Friday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1908

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 18, 1908

While Mrs. T. P. Martin (Church Street) was washing on Friday, Leslie, the little three-year-old son, got the forefinger of her right hand in the rearing of the washing machine and it was crushed off at the first joint.

Rev. J. C. Wilson, B.A. operated his right [illegible] at the garden party Monday evening. [illegible] job to be about, however.

Last week principal W. H. Shearer was notified by the Deputy Minister of Education that he had been appointed an examiner for 1908.

George Agnew, J. [illegible] and W. Kenney Jr. went to camp [illegible] here of the Regimental Band on Tuesday.

Quite a number of citizens took their children to Guelph by the [illegible] day to show them the sights. Of course they didn't [illegible] themselves not a little bit. [illegible] just to please the boy.

The football game played on the Halton Park [illegible] on the park on Saturday when Acton nobbled the county town boys from Milton, 14-4.

Line-up for Acton was: Halves—Schneider, Webb, Bailey; 2s, Taylor; Anthes; 3s, Mabee; H. Williams; and Hewitt. [illegible]

Rev. Joseph Gott, who preached in the Baptist Church here a couple of weeks ago, has been given a call to the congregations of Acton and Georgetown. Rev. M. Gott has been in Canada about six weeks, coming from England on a trip for his health.

The solid Presbyterians people out of town are attracting many of the young folk per force.

Tuesday evening we met night at the meeting of the Epworth League and provided a very enjoyable time for all present.

The cool weather on Monday night did not deter a large crowd from at the garden party on the beautiful grounds of Robert Clingan, Bell Line, Fairy Lake. The demand for ice cream was not as large as it would have been on a warmer night, but everything else was much in demand.

John Doble and Lester Rice have gone to Toronto. Mr. Doble to take position there and will likely be moving their furniture soon.

BACK IN 1938

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 23, 1938

Churchill United Church marked its Centennial this week when special services were held in the 100 year old structure.

Rev. Dr. T. A. Moore was the guest speaker and told the large congregation of the progress of the Methodist church, now in Acton and of its relationship with Churchill.

[illegible] Mayor Earl [illegible] in Acton. A [illegible] Lake and school [illegible] Lake [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. Malcolm [illegible] Acton High School. For the [illegible] Acton [illegible] Lake [illegible]

[illegible] Acton [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Acton [illegible] Lake [illegible]

[illegible] Acton [illegible] Lake [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. [illegible] Lake [illegible]

[illegible] Lake [illegible] Acton [illegible]

[illegible] Lake [illegible] Acton [illegible]

[illegible] Lake [illegible] Acton