

## An Envious Record

"Chamber of Commerce Week" is to be observed throughout Canada, April 12th to 18th. In these seven days, the purpose will be to acquaint the people of Canada more fully with the role of a Chamber of Commerce, and the great value of such a group to the local community, the province and the nation.

The Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade is a fact-finding, deliberative organization, designed to build better communities. It performs specific functions, primary of which is to unite the citizens in activities for the advancement and welfare of its home community. It works to promote the tourist industry.

It is concerned with local business affairs, shopping hours, the availability of facilities to the touring public. The Chamber is concerned with industrial development, the availability of sites that are accessible to railroads and highways, sewer and water, electricity and natural gas. It is interested in recreational facilities for potential industries, making this one of their first inquiries, in schools, churches, hospital facilities, in audit-

oriums for public meetings, band concerts, and the like. The active Chamber seeks the location of new industries for they mean more people drawing wage and salary cheques, who have to be led and clothed, amused and kept healthy and happy. Increased population means more people sharing the local tax burden and a broader basis for the tax levy.

The progressive and developing community is invariably found to be one that has an active Chamber or Board, with its citizens working together for community welfare, studying its problems and co-operatively seeking a solution. The willingness to co-operate and work together exists for the reason that there are no political, racial or religious divisions in the Chamber of Commerce movement. It is democratic in nature and in operation and free enterprise in its approach to all matters.

Acton is fortunate in having an active Chamber of Commerce with an enviable list of achievements. Familiarize yourself with their work and help where you can. It's everybody's Chamber.

## Improvement Welcome

Maintaining buildings is not always the simplest task but recent improvements in the Y.M.C.A. interior are quite commendable.

Recently members of the Y's Men's Club completed improvements in the gymnasium by applying a new coat of paint that has considerably brightened the room. Also included in the clean-up program is the painting in the banquet room and other sections of the building.

The kitchen area has been improved by the addition of cupboards making additional space available for those preparing banquets. Presently we understand plans are being formulated for alterations to the office section by removing a section and altering the present arrangements.

Acton's Y is looked on with envy in many other towns. It is one of the facilities in which Acton has led the county and also the country. We seldom hear many expressions of pride from local citizens in its very attractive addition to the main street. It is regrettable that more boasting is not apparent since it is one of the town's biggest assets. Assets are never without problems but still the handsome main street structure is quite an important part of the town's business section.

It is encouraging that the interior rooms are being kept attractive and useful for in this way will the building have its greatest advantages. Little use can be found for shoddy quarters and proper maintenance can avoid this problem.

## Reading Record Poor

Less than one Canadian in every three was reading a book at the time of the last survey by the Gallup organization.

This is not a situation of which we can be proud; nor is the fact that only 61 per cent. of our citizens have ready access to public library service, according to the most recent government survey.

Our reading record, by almost any yardstick, seems to be about the worst among western nations, save for the United States. Whatever the reasons for this dismal picture, we are fortunate that a move is underway to change it. Our first Canadian Library Week is to be observed from April 12 to 18. The Week is actually the finishing touch to a two-month, nationwide, "Wake Up and Read" campaign to encourage more reading of all kinds by Canadians.

It is good to see public-spirited men and women from many fields tackling this problem in a practical way. For the question of reading should not be left entirely to librarians and educators. It is something with which every one of us should be concerned.

The key to our democratic method of government is an informed public. Such a state will remain but a dream if only 15 per cent. of Canadians over six years borrow books from their public library (another government survey finding.)

This is not nearly good enough for a country that is more than 95 per cent literate, has more leisure time and a larger national income than ever before.

The Canadian Library Week program should remind us of the relationship between reading and knowledge and our traditions of freedom. It should help rekindle an interest in those of us who have lost touch with books; to open the way to new, worthwhile experience for others who have neglected the reading habit.

Canadian Library Week is drawing support from leading citizens in business and industry, libraries and publishing houses, newspapers, radio-TV, the educational and other fields.

But it deserves and needs the full support and active interest of all of us.

## 22,000 Dead

22,000 dead. That kind of headline would undoubtedly carry with it a tremendous element of shock, yet that is the number of Canadians who will die this year from cancer. On the average about 60 Canadians die of cancer each day, more than two Canadians every hour of the day and night.

Cancer kills more children between the ages of 5 and 14 and more women between the ages of 24 and 54 than any other disease.

Actually more people are cured of cancer now than ever before. This is due to better diagnostic and treatment facilities and the fact that more people are reporting for treatment while cancers are in an early stage of development.

It seems natural that there should be an organized effort directed at combating this disease. The Canadian Cancer Society was incorporated in 1938 and in recent years the North Halton Unit of the Society was organized to direct the educational, service and research phases of the program locally.

The success of the North Halton Unit may be noted from the fact that in 1958 the ladies' service group prepared 2,600 cancer dressings, 850 of which were distributed free of charge to patients of the district. They also prepared 108 bed pads, and 600 gauze squares.

Patients were also transported by volunteer local drivers to the clinics at Hamilton and Toronto and gifts distributed from the gift cupboard. On the research side of the problem the North Halton Unit, that includes everything in the county north of the Dundas highway, donated \$4,500 to the continuing study of the disease.

To increase the awareness to the problem the educational committee has distributed literature extensively and shown films to district groups.



"Spring Double-Take"

—Photo by Esther Taylor

## Sugar and Spice....

BY BILL SMILEY

We all know what a young man's fancy lightly turns to in the spring. But when you get right down to it, young men are vastly uninteresting, except to themselves, recruiting officers and young women.

They lack the appeal of a youngster, the sensitivity of an adolescent, the sophistication of maturity and the dignity and wisdom of old age. In fact, aside from a certain bullock energy and a strong dash of animal good spirits, they have little to recommend them. Except to young women.

So we shall ignore the fancy of young men this spring. Especially since it is lightly turned to the same sort of thoughts during the other three seasons, too. Let us examine the springtime fancies of some of the more interesting age groups.

Sole fancy of very small males, in the spring, seems to be the mud. Mud has for them the same fascination it has for small pigs. They like to "walk" in it. Kneel in it, lie down in it, eat it, push small girls down in it, and bring as much of it as possible home with them. Small girls are exactly the same, and this is the only time in their lives the sexes are in complete accord on anything.

Slightly older boys have a fancy, in the spring, for anything that is dangerous, foolish or irritating. On the first day the temperature is about 40, they want to go hatless and barefoot. They build fires and sink they dig graves in the sides of crumbling sandpits. They cross swollen streams on slippery logs, they walk railroad tracks. They fall in holes. Or they come home red hot from books.

When he doesn't show up for supper, the father really buckled down and goes down the stairs, feeling warm and forgiving, to call him to the table. And there he is, peached on the remnants of the coal pile, with his

The mature, or married, man is stunned by spring. A few weeks ago, his home was quite attractive with that nice, white snow covering everything. Suddenly, it's nothing but a big, fat eyesore. Paint peeling, eaves-troughs dripping, cellar windows broken and a potato sack stuffed in it. Front lawn littered with: tricycle, grapefruit rinds dropped in February while putting out garbage; four empty wine bottles contributed by passer-by; the rake and a pile of mouldy leaves from November; and the whole thing torn into trenches worthy of Flanders Fields by the visits of the coal truck.

Aghast, he does the only sensible thing in the circumstances. He sits down with pencil and paper and lays out a program of painting, cleaning up and general improvements. He reads it triumphantly to his wife. He's so eager to get it that she's really impressed. She's proud of him. A new leaf. First job he'll tackle is the front lawn. Then the cellar.

Half an hour later, she discovers the new leaf is just the other side of the same one he turned over last year about this time. She catches him cleaning up the front lawn by chipping grapefruit skins into the coal track crates with his No. 9 iron. They have words. She does her fatherly best and assaults the lawn, banishing him to the cellar with threats.

He told me "Didn't think I'd make it, back there in January. Flat on my back and getting weaker every day. The old lady practically had the insurance collected and off to Florida. But," with an evil chuckle, "she got fooled. Caught the cold and I buried her 'at the end of February. Have a short nap whenever I feel like it." Say, son, when do their four's start to arrive? Emphatic to spend the whole summer watching them girls in their shorts. Figure it don't do them any harm and should do me a lot of good."

## Tips on Touring

By Carol Lane

Women's Travel Authority

If you are a passenger in a car, you can help the driver and have a more enjoyable trip yourself if you follow these rules:

1. Don't open the rear window. It creates a draft on the back of the neck of those on the front seat.

2. Don't lean forward and breathe down the neck of the driver. Just sit back and stick your head out to be heard clearly in front.

3. Keep kiddies still. Don't let small children climb over you from the front seat. From standing behind the driver, clinging at the back of the seat and blocking his rear view.

4. Don't turn on the overhead light at night unless the driver's stopped. Don't open the driver's door.

5. Back-seat driver. Don't do anything that distracts the driver's attention. Don't drink or eat. Don't talk to passengers or make the driver nervous. Take his eyes off the road.

6. If you're the navigator, avoid directions that are too vague. "Go on a mile" is not enough. "Go on a mile" is not enough. "Go on a mile" is not enough. "Go on a mile" is not enough.

7. If you're going to use your back seat, don't push on or stop. When you're a passenger, remember that it's the driver of the car who is the boss.

Cancer research is supported by donations to the Canadian Cancer Society campaign.

Cancer is caused by the unruly growth of body cells. Often this growth can be completely stopped if caught in time.

The most intensive medical search in history is going on for a drug that will cure cancer. Although no "wonder drug" has yet been found, there are a number of chemicals that assist in the treatment of cancer.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### Back in 1909

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 15, 1909.

The terrific gale which prevailed on Wednesday of last week did no serious damage in this section. Fruit and shade trees were blown down, fences were levelled in many sections and shingles were blown off some roofs, but the damage was light.

A portion of the roof of Mr. Ed Cleaves' barn near the brick church, also the roof of the barn on the Chisholm property, were blown off. A number of windmills were put out of commission but this locality escaped the serious damage which befell other points.

Reeve Swackhamer tells an interesting story at the expense of certain opponents of the County Good Roads System, resident in Nassagawey. They were going to Milton on Tuesday, he says, to protest against the county council's plans for good roads and their payment.

That morning they found the roads from Nassagawey so bad they decided to drive to Acton and take the train to Milton and in due course added their protests to good roads to those of the other opponents foregathered there.

During the gale last Wednesday evening, a good deal of consternation was caused by the report that little Winnie Pearson, daughter of Mr. Walter Pearson, Wellington St., had not reached home after the Sunday School banquet in the Methodist Church. It had been thought perhaps the little girl had been blown with force against a fence or perhaps a car at the G.T.R. crossing and had been stunned or so injured she could not proceed to her home.

Acton Fire Brigade had decided to hold another big demonstration on Dominion Day. The last demonstration put on by the local brigade drew so much interest that they intend to enlarge on the program this time.

The gale put the street lighting service largely out of commission for several nights. In fact a number of lights have not been in use since. It is very apparent that the street lighting system has been allowed to fall into a very inefficient condition.

### Back in 1939

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 13, 1939.

Five hundred miles out of Halifax, Ronnie Davies, 18-year-old Lamehouse boy, put a note in a bottle and threw it overboard. Last week he got a reply from Lower Rose Bay, in Nova Scotia. Ronnie wrote the message on March 10 on his return voyage from England with his parents and put it in a partly empty bottle to throw into the Atlantic. P. A. Stone of New York found the bottle on April 1st while on a walk at Rose Bay.

The heavy snow storm on Monday made highway travel hazardous and this district had its share of accidents. Fortunately there were no injuries to persons involved but damage to cars was sustained in many instances.

One of the many vehicles involved in accidents was a Grey Coach bus which slid into the ditch about a mile west of Acton with 15 passengers aboard. Heavy snow and smoke from a passenger train were assumed to be the cause of the accident when the bus driver's vision became obscured.

None of the passengers were hurt and they were transferred to another bus on the road. The bus remained in the ditch overnight until a large derrick could be brought up from Toronto.

Acton Tanners romped all over the Whistly Argos last Tuesday night and emerged from the game with a 10-0 score. Most Acton fans had the Whistly club picked to win the series but after the Whistly team were checked up on for tough stuff they didn't have anything else to like it place and Acton clubbed them. Herb Woods in the Acton net deserved the shut-out as he kicked out shot after shot.

Another record for this year—the Acton Tanners held a practice on natural ice here in the arena on April 8, and reported the ice to be in good condition.

After the 3-2 beating Acton took earlier in the week on Owen Sound it might appear as though the other night's score was a fluke, but it was far from it. The team played remarkable hockey and took advantage of all the breaks by making the score almost at every turn they made.

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## THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE</b> 33 Church St. East P.A.O.C. Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor 77 Cook St. phone 691 W.	<b>UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA</b> Acton, Ontario Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D. Minister Mr. George Elmer Organist and Choral Leader SUNDAY APRIL 12th 1959 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m. Junior Church and Church School 11:15 a.m. Morning Worship
<b>THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN</b> Rev. The Rev. H. B. Siskel L. Th. S.T.B. 153 Jeffrey St. phone 263	<b>BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON</b> Pastor Rev. Gordon McMillan, B.A. B.D. 113 Bow Ave.
<b>SUNDAY APRIL 12th 1959</b> 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 7:30 p.m. Evangelistic Tuesday 8 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study Thursday 8 p.m. Christ Ambassador Christ is Your Answer A Friendly Welcome to All	<b>SUNDAY APRIL 12th 1959</b> 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Communion Service The Spirit of Christ 7:00 p.m. A Men's Service, non- denominational, with the Rev. Mr. R. H. Stanton, Toronto, as a guest speaker. Everyone is an- nounced to attend. Wednesday 8 p.m. The mid week Service for Bible Study, Writ- ness and Prayer. All are Welcome
<b>SUNDAY APRIL 12th 1959</b> THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Corporate Communion of the P.A.C. and men of the parish Breakfast afterwards 9:45 a.m. Church School 11:00 a.m. — Beginners' Class 11:00 a.m. — Mattins All Are Welcome	<b>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA</b> KNOX CHURCH, ACTON Rev. Andrew H. McKinnon B.A. B.D. SUNDAY APRIL 12th 1959 9:45 a.m. Church School 11:00 a.m. — Morning Worship

## The Acton Free Press



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