

## All Should be Caretakers

It's been several years since we visited Belfountain Park but it is indeed encouraging to see that the Credit Valley Conservation Authority has purchased it, subject to the Minister's approval.

It would indeed be unfortunate if such a park should ever be lost to the public or awarded to strictly commercial interests where it might be unmercifully treated.

The famous 22 acre forested retreat in the valley atop the mountain that towers over the Forks of the Credit has been made attractive with a miniature lake created by a dam spanning the gorge. There is a lodge, stone dam, grotto cave beneath the falls, suspension bridge, nature trails and other points of interest.

The area was developed after the turn of the century by the late C. W. Mack, Toronto manufacturer, and has attracted thousands of visitors from all over the world. It has been particularly popular with picnic-

ers and sightseers in this area and the areas surrounding it.

It is important that areas such as this be conserved for the public and to a degree from the public. All too often the opening of such areas can lead to abuse by the public and the original purpose is lost.

When the late Mr. Mack opened the park to the public he made his visitors feel at home, asking only that they respect and take care of his trees and well-kept lawns. The ownership of the area by a public authority should not be constructed as a license to abuse that same privilege.

If you have not visited Belfountain for some time, like us, perhaps this summer will afford an opportunity to picnic there and enjoy the beauty of the area. Please remember to treat it with respect like the other areas being developed across the province. We should all be caretakers of the natural resources in this beautiful country.

## Uses and Abuses

Increases that require payment of more money to any fund are seldom welcomed by those who must pay.

Recent announcements that unemployment insurance payments would be increased by some 30 per cent, have little encouragement for the steadily employed.

Truly unemployment insurance has been a great thing during the time recently referred to as a recession and more locally during the disastrous Malton shutdown. The return to the unemployed of the dollars contributed during employment has done much to stabilize and level out the economy of the town and district.

The regrettable thing about the unemployment insurance is the number of abuses it is subject to. It is unfortunate that such a fund, designed to assist in a time of need, should be looked on, in some cases, as a way to have an extended vacation.

The abuses are extremely difficult to trace and practically impossible to rectify

until employers notify the National Employment Service of jobs available. Then the job may be offered and an employee located if available.

Almost regularly there seem to be stories passed along in conversation of those who aren't anxious to locate a new job top quickly since they are receiving something in unemployment insurance benefits.

This is regrettable since it can undoubtedly draw the fund into disrepute that makes it obnoxious. There are those who have travelled long, looked hard and been agreeable to almost any type of employment to get working again.

To those who are steadily employed the increase in unemployment insurance payments sometimes looks like a penalty for not being out of work and the constant circulation of stories about those "enjoying" the benefits is discouraging in the light of increased taxes. We can only hope the stories have no foundation.

## Monday Empire Day

In the early hours of June 20, 1837, William IV died and Victoria became Queen of England, continuing to wear the crown for 63 years. Her birthday on May 24 was celebrated throughout her reign and today it continues on the first Monday prior to the 24th.

This weekend, citizens will be making the first of the summer holidays with treks to cottages, picnics and gardening. But in actual fact the Monday holiday is now Empire Day marking the birthday of Victoria. Born at Kensington Place on May 24, 1819, she became Queen on June 20, 1837 at the age of 19 with her coronation a year later on June 28, 1838. She died January 22, 1901 at Osborne Palace.

One chronicler of her life wrote "She received a crown tarnished by ineptitude and vice, wore it 63 years and made it a

symbol of private virtue and public honor." After celebrating her birthday for over 60 years, people continued after her death. It was then that the Empire Day celebration became merged with the Queen's birthday. In 1904 May 24 was set apart for special services by school children of Canada in honor of Great Britain and her heroes.

By legislation passed in 1952 Victoria Day is celebrated on the first Monday preceding the 24th.

One of the prayers gleaned from her writings might bring more sharply into focus the magnitude of her responsibilities and her determination to shoulder them capably.

On January 1, 1878 Queen Victoria wrote "May this year bring peace and may I be able to maintain strongly and stoutly the honor and dignity of my dear country... God help me on in this most arduous task."

## An Awareness Needed

Businessmen of Ontario have been urged to stamp out "deceptive selling schemes", in a resolution submitted by the Sarnia Chamber of Commerce to the Ontario Chamber's 47th annual meeting.

J. M. Norwood, introducing the resolution, is reported as saying that newspapers should be given "all the credit possible for their monumental efforts to stamp out deceptive schemes."

It was pointed out that in the past few years deceptive selling schemes had become so widespread that they discredited business generally.

Weekly newspapers like dailies, radio and television stations are plagued by these deceptive selling schemes that seek advertising in their columns. Over the past months we have refused to carry the advertising messages of many firms that have mailed addresses in some of the larger cities or United States.

It's a difficult problem because one

doesn't want to discourage the legitimate small business that is getting a start any more than we want readers to be swindled because of messages in our advertising columns. It is physically impossible to check all these offers of fabulous return for next to no investment. Rather than run the risk of deluding readers such messages, often accompanied by cheques, are deposited in the wastebasket.

Our system of detection is not foolproof though and the get-rich-quick appeal is almost universal. It is unfortunate that deceptive selling schemes are so plentiful but the old suggestion to investigate before you invest has saved many a hard earned dollar. Don't rush into anything that can't first be checked.

It is encouraging that the Ontario Chamber representatives are aware of the dangers of the deceptive schemes. If John Public develops a similar awareness and caution they will soon disappear.

## The Acton Free Press

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The only paper ever published in Acton  
G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief  
David R. Dills, Managing Editor

BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE PHONE 600, ACTON



## "Spring Lambs"

### Sugar and Spice....

BY BILL SMILEY

May is one of the months in the year when I would give a great deal to be able to relax and live the full life. It is one of those rare transition months in Canada, like October, that are exhilarating and enticing. May can turn on the heat until you're on the point of prostration, then, next day, when you've doffed the long underwear, come up with a bone-chilling wind that can curdle your blood.

It's a month of unfulfilled promises. The trout season opens and your mouth waters over the prospect of a pan full of speckled trout, fried in butter. But the streams are too high, or too low, it's too cold or too hot, too windy or too calm, and you're glad the Old Lady remembered to order some hamburger.

In May the golfer has his finest hour. He doesn't expect much, his first time out, because he hasn't swung a club in six months. But he tees up and hits that first ball about three miles. Twenty minutes later, he's slinging, hooking, whiffing and missing 12-inch putts, but that first stroke did it, and he's hooked for another season.

It's the month when the shirker who has been going to fix up his place for the last four years takes a grip on himself. And that's about all he takes. He doesn't take the ashes out of his cellar, the junk out of the back yard, or the storm windows off. But he does take a firm grip on himself, and threatens all manner of dire renovations before succumbing to a fishing rod, a golf bag, or a cold beer.

May is a month that leaves me really frustrated. I've finally lost

that mean, miserable look I've been living around since February. Life beckons. My blood doesn't exactly boil over with the ecstasy of spring, but it does emit a gentle burp or two. I'm ready to stroll a stream, gaze at a golf course, grouch around the garden, or at least look at the lawn.

So what happens? I'm plunged willy-nilly into the annual music festival. For about two weeks, while the trout are all caught by others, the golfers get a big start on me, and the lawn and garden return to the jungle. I must play dress-up, second, family psychiatrist, sniffling wall, all philosopher and maid-of-all-work, in the temperamental quansions in the family, and their coach.

Just because I don't know a cadenzza from a cockroach, an allegro from an alligator, I am looked upon as poor white trash around our place, at festival time. Despite this I am useful, therefore tolerated.

All it involves is: getting all the meals and doing all the dishes; taking half-days off at the office; and working like a fiend to make it up; conforting the losers. Mother and child, when they get hooked, suffering the agonies of Prometheus during the performances; trying to keep the performers from falling off the giddy heights of triumph, when we win; and generally leading a life that would try the temper of a tartle.

But I'm not kidding too much. In the midst of life there is death, in the midst of pain, pleasure, and so on. And in the midst of playing midway to the music festival types

around our house, I learned some things, received some thrills, and enjoyed an unexpected stroke of good fortune.

I learned that kids can take their lumps with as much composure, or more, than adults. Kim blew up, high, wide and handsome in her first festival piece this year. All the way home, she and her mother shot looks of hatred at each other, each ready to burst into tears, while I remarked on the weather, pointed out good fishing spots, and generally tried to keep things in the cold war stage. I thought the child would be through with festivals forever. But next day, back she went, played like a trooper, redeeming herself and restoring the status quo in the family.

Then there was Hugh's first performance. Playing a Bach prelude he has stumbled and fumbled with for the past month, he pulled all the tattered ends into place and turned in a nearly flawless performance, probably the first and last time he'll ever play that piece without a boob. Only festival parents know what a lift that can give you.

Then came the final piece of luck. It was Nature's way of compensating, I guess. The other night, in spite of the exigencies of my position as temporary hired help, I managed to slip away for a few minutes' fishing, just before dark. I knew it was hopeless, but I just wanted to get away long enough to preserve the remnants of my self-respect and sanity.

Went to my favorite hole. Sure enough, somebody was there ahead of me. I moved up the stream, brooding and harried the worm into a place I knew was a blank. I could get it down, light a cigarette, and let the line drift to nervous-sounding peace. I tried into a tangle, but he shouldn't have been there. I shouldn't have been there. Maybe he was trying to get away from his family too, poor devil.



"Before I could read, I was no better than a beehive, said a woman in an Egyptian village. 'Now I can sing and I can read the words in my Bible.' I know the steps the minister tells in his sermons. I am part of this service. I am a person."

The increase in literacy throughout the world challenges the people of the more literate countries to help to supply books without funding books are so precious to the new literates that the woman above keeps her Bible in the breadbox so that it will never be away.

Scripture readings Sunday, 1 Corinthians 2: 1-16, Monday, 1 Kings 9: 15-28, Tuesday, 1 Kings 10: 1-22, Wednesday, 1 Kings 11: 9-25, Thursday, 1 Kings 11: 26-43, Saturday, 1 Kings 12: 1-15

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### Back in 1939

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, May 11, 1939.

The marriage of Miss Thelma Lovell, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lovell and Mr. Cecil Gibbons, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Gibbons, all of Acton took place quietly in St. Alban's Anglican Church, Acton, on Saturday afternoon with Rev. E. Arnold Brooks officiating.

In a Mother's Day service in Naaagaweya Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, May 14, the following children were baptized by Rev. Frank Lawson: Donna Marie McMillan, Lavorn Blacklock, Marien Grace Blacklock, Elmer Lila McChivray, Douglas Holmes Dredge and John Thomas Allan.

William McKee, a resident of Acton for the past two years and Robert Myles of Hamilton were killed just after midnight on Saturday when the automobile driven by McKee, left the road at a curve about six miles east of Acton, and crumpled to pieces when it struck a tree at the roadside.

A call from St. Catharines police revealed that the licence plates on the Watson-Winton dairy car did not correspond with the licence issued for this machine, and led police to believe they had been changed by someone out of town.

On Thursday, May 11th, in Rockwood, the Rockwood High School avenged their five straight setbacks handed to them by the Acton High School hockey team in the winter months by trimming the Acton nine 11-9 in a football game. The young Rockwood students proved to the Acton team that they were not hampered by lack of practice in the summer sport as they perhaps are with hockey.

School children in Acton will have a ringside seat to view the Royal Couple when they arrive in Guelph. Arrangements have been made to have a section near the C.N.R. tracks roped off for the Acton children and it is hoped that all will get a perfect view of their Majesties.

About three o'clock Wednesday morning thieves gained entrance to the ladies' and gents' furnishings store owned by B. D. Raehlin, in Acton, and looted the stock, carrying away in men's clothing between \$500 and \$800 worth of merchandise. The money in the cash register was not taken and a case of jewellery was not disturbed.

### Back in 1909

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, May 28, 1909.

The 140 foot chimney at the sole leather tannery of Messrs. Beardmore and Company, built, about three years ago, has lately shown signs of disintegration, owing to inferior brick. C. H. Dando, of Galt, the expert chimney builder, who crept the stack, was brought to town on Monday to inspect and repair the defective one at the tannery. He found it was seriously cracked for some thirty feet from the top. The top is now being taken down and will be rebuilt by Mr. Dando. In the meantime the works are being supplied with steam from the Acton Tanning Co.'s boilers.

It is a somewhat peculiar coincidence that on the night of the mass meeting of the citizens of Georgetown to discuss local option, an incipient fire occurred and the fire bell rang out a fierce alarm, and on Monday night when the local option meeting was in progress in Acton the electric current went out of commission and left the hall in darkness just after the meeting had just begun.

Mr. W. Algie, proprietor of the Alton Woollen Mills, which were destroyed by fire last fall, is busily engaged preparing to rebuild. The material is on the ground and work headway is being made with the foundation work. The new mills will be larger than the old and better equipped in every respect.

Last Saturday saw the first semi-annual field day under the auspices of the public and high schools. Although the weather was not as favorable, the attendance was not as large as had been hoped for, the games were good and the meet was a first rate success. At the conclusion of the match when the points were tallied it was found that both schools were evenly matched for first rate athletes.

On Monday night of this week the town hall was packed to capacity during a mass meeting to discuss local option and the citizens present were almost unanimous in voting to take action to abolish the bars presently situated in Acton. Each minister in turn spoke on the situation and the response to their suggestions was almost 100 per cent.

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## THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

**ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE**  
33 Churchhill Road  
P.A.O.C.  
Rev. Kenneth J. Reed, Pastor  
75 Cook St., phone 649-W

**SUNDAY MAY 17th, 1959**  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
7:30 p.m. Evangelistic

Rev. H. G. Adams of Stouffville, Ont., will be speaking at both services. Mr. Adams - founder and director of Evangelical Mission of Converted Monks and Priests - a former Roman Catholic Priest, converted after 12 years of monastic life. Tuesday thru Friday at 8 p.m. - Revival Services with two of Canada's outstanding Lady Evangelists, Mrs. Phyllis Mason and Miss Ella Parmeter - A Friendly Welcome to All

**BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON**  
Pastor: Rev. Gordon M. Holmes, B.A. B.Th. 115 Bower Avenue

**SUNDAY MAY 17th, 1959**  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - The Spirit and the Scholar  
7:00 p.m. - Congregational singing, "His Good Willcome"  
Wednesday, 8 p.m. - The mid-week Service for Bible Study, Witness and Prayer.  
All are Welcome

**UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario**  
Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D. Minister  
Mr. George Elliott Organist and Choir Leader

**SUNDAY MAY 17th, 1959**  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
10:00 a.m. Junior Church and Church School  
11:15 a.m. Morning Worship

**THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN**  
Rev. The Rev. H. H. St. John, R. T. S.T.P. 125 Jeffrey St. phone 267

**WHIT SUNDAY**  
Ember Week  
17 May, 1959  
8:30 a.m. B.A.C. Corporate Communion  
9:45 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Beginners' Class  
11:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist  
Monday 18 May, 1959, Whit Monday, 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

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

**SUNDAY MAY 17th, 1959**  
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship Sermon theme, "The Women of Bethany" - Children three years and under cared for during service at manse