

# Editorial Page

## That Distinctive Odor

There's been so much talk in the past three weeks about the tannery having a distinctive odor that the resultant publicity the town has been gaining must have carried the knowledge well abroad by now. In fact there has been so much talk we were beginning to wonder if there was a mistaken impression this was a recent discovery.

We were trying to get our balances right on whether Acton was really such an abominable place to live, because of this odor, so we started to try and balance out what advantages there were to living here.

Just in case we are accused of not having the faculty to smell we hasten to admit that we have noticed the odor from the tannery. In fact we've noticed it off and on and all during our boyhood days in Acton from the time we used to hike out the old railway tracks down the filter beds or "fills" as we referred to them.

Having been with the smell for so long we sympathize with council when they get a demand to prepare a by-law in two weeks that will eliminate the odor. Perhaps we might suggest it will have to be a strong by-law to overcome what research has so far found difficult to eliminate.

But just as we started to balance out Acton and look for some of the good points that usually gain little publicity we came up with some of the following:

Acton has a seven acre park, Prospect Park by name, that is surrounded by a lake which provides swimming facilities, the envy of many neighboring centres.

All of Acton's streets are paved with the exception of the town's newest subdivision. Beautiful tennis courts and the bowling

green are ideally located on Mill St. They are an important part of the town's recreational facilities.

Located on Mill St. in one of the town's most beautiful buildings is a Y.M.C.A. that gives Acton the world's record of being the smallest town with such a facility.

Then too Acton residents haven't been bothered with any lawn watering restrictions this year. That's quite an advantage in maintaining the freedom to water your lawn or wash your car when you want to.

These were just a few that come to mind in a hurry. We really tried to do the balancing since we planned to be here for a long time and wanted to re-sell ourselves on the community. It's something like the man who bought a used car and two weeks later went back to the salesman with a tale of woe asking to be re-sold on the car so he wouldn't think there had been any problems.

Quite seriously there has been some strong odor from the tannery and it would seem to have been more extensive this year than in former years. It must be cleaned up but passing by-laws before research makes the cleaning up possible is little short of ridiculous. It's something like cancer. We've got to beat it but a by-law won't do it.

Ridiculous and irresponsible suggestions that Beardmore's can close up and leave town should be given no credence.

Debate, discussion and arguments are all good signs in a town and Acton can do with all the community interest and activity possible. But when we get wound up on a subject like this let's not forget the town and the town's industries have some advantageous features too. Let's not blast the town black in headlines across the country.

## Labor Day 1959

On Labor Day the nation pauses to pay tribute to its working people, to consider not only the many wonderful things they help produce but also the part they play in creating that free society that is Canada.

The Canadian House of Commons made the Labor Day holiday official in 1893 and the first Labor Day was celebrated in 1894. This was the first official recognition that the labor movement in Canada was important to the healthy development of our society.

Since their inception in the 1820's Canadian unions have promoted the welfare of the workers in industries and business establishments. A product of the modern industrial economy, the unions have brought dignity and prosperity to the working men and women.

In his Labor Day message Larry Sefton, Director of District 6 United Steelworkers of America, has this to say:

"The public is told unions have grown too powerful, their leaders arrogant and irresponsible. In the same breath they insist

admit that at one time industry was too strong and paid scant attention to employee needs. However, the tale continues, employers have reformed, labor is now the villain. The pendulum has swung too far to labor's advantage. The theme of the story is: pull the clock back - arrest labour progress - stabilize labour-management relations on employer terms.

"I am not one who claims unions are beyond constructive criticism. Made up as they all are subject to weaknesses that beset people. I do claim that unions are good for Canada. Any attempt to weaken or retard their growth is a disservice to the nation and its people.

"We in the house of labour make no apology for our existence. We are a product of our modern industrial society. It is organized labour, patiently and with tremendous sacrifice by its members that pioneered social legislation which benefits all Canadians."

Monday is Labor Day and Canada's day for honoring labor and its achievements.

## The Back-to-School Trek

Almost 23 per cent of Halton's population will be on the back-to-school trail Tuesday after the usual summer vacation.

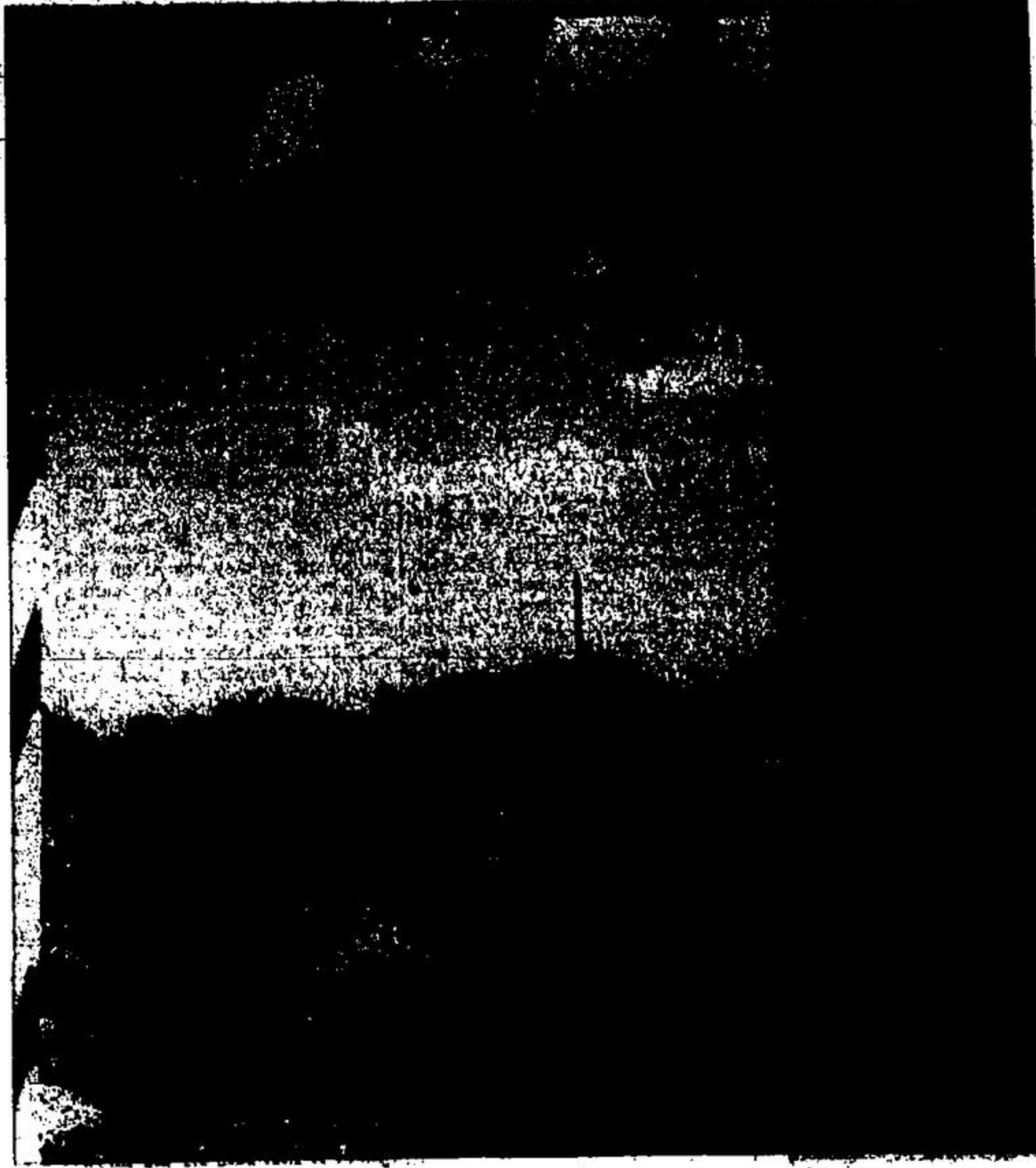
An estimated 22,000 elementary and high school students will be returning to classrooms, some new and some old, throughout this rapidly developing county. That phrase "rapidly-developing" is not a platitude either for Halton, we're told, has the largest assessment in Ontario excluding those with a city or separated town. The county's assessment has now reached \$184,059,889, with a population of approximately 97,000.

As the back-to-school trek begins teachers will be taking their places in rooms from kindergartens to upper school and parents all over the county and province will find education playing an increasingly important part in the day to day conversations.

When it comes to real national security, all the guided missiles, DFW lines and atomic submarines we can build in the next ten years aren't worth a fraction of the value of one classroom full of clear-thinking well trained minds. But clear thinking minds are one defence material that can't be mass produced in time of crisis.

The only way to ensure a good supply of this precious commodity is to keep our schools and universities adequate. Parents and friends can do this by urging young people to work and pursue their abilities for higher education. It's in everyone's interest to increase greatly the number of young Canadians who seek higher education.

The back-to-school trek is a sign of the times. It's important that 22,000 young Haltonians will be filling schools from border to border. Education will be more important than ever for the decades ahead.



"Summer's Last Stand"

## Sugar and Spice . . .

During my holidays I wouldn't write a column about them when I got home and bore everybody. And here I am, back at the kitchen table and the typewriter, the clock showing well past midnight, and nothing to write about. But I'll be adamant. I won't write a word about my holidays.

I WON'T write a word about them. I won't write a word about that? You want to hear the whole story? Thank you, mother. You may go to bed now. Maybe I'll just write one word, if my assistants will lock the doors quickly, so nobody can get away, and give everyone a benzadrine pill. I wouldn't want anyone to miss a word. It's so exciting.

Well, as threatened, we took this cottage at the beach, see? No, no, I didn't say we could see the beach. There could be a grocery store, three roads and some other cottages.

In fact, the first day we were home from the cottage, I was sitting in the nice cool kitchen of our house, having a nice cool beverage, when I chanced to look out the window, drank in the nice cool view of our bay, and realized it was the first time I'd seen water for a week, without having to get in the car and drive to it.

Not that we didn't like the cottage. We did. It was a dandy and very well equipped. Too well, in fact. When I was a kid, and we were at the cottage, my mother kept five of us busy hauling pails of water from the lake, going to the farm for eggs and milk, getting ice from the icehouse, and

collecting fire wood in the bush. But at this cottage, everything was electric, automatic, refrigerated and indoors. There were no chores for the kids, and they hung around the cottage like coons around a garbage can, just sat around and read. But I found that these recreations, taken together for any length of time, make the eyes bloodshot.

So, at the end of ten hours of teeming rain, I decided to get out of the slump by sitting in front of the fireplace. This, however, tended to become desolate after a few hours, as a fireplace, normally a cheery spot, isn't much without a fire, and I had forgotten to bring some wood in before the rains came.

The fourth day dawned fine and clear, though, and I was all set to start some healthy outdoor recreation, like sitting in a deck chair with a book and a beverage. So my wife says we have to go to town and wash. We haven't a clean shirt left among the bunch of us. I spent most of the day in my own kitchen in town, putting stuff through the wringer.

But after that, we settled right in to enjoy cottage life. Oh, we did slip into town Wednesday night to see a movie we didn't want to miss. And we had to come to town Thursday to turn

in the empties and pick up the mail. And Friday we were in town for a few hours getting supplies and shopping in the AM, and just like the real tourists. And of course, Saturday was sort of interrupted because we had to drive to town to see if they'd heard anything of my partner, who had been missing in an open boat in Georgian Bay for two days. Rather a nuisance, that.

As for this, however, we really pitched in and became beach-combers. The kids were delighted with cottage life, of course, because for once they had me at their mercy. I'll bet I played 74 games of cards with them, and went in swimming with them, one dragging on each arm, at least twice a day. The Old Girl was happy. She'd brought her ironing board with her, to catch up on her ironing. Every day she'd pull out some pile of clothes, she'd dampen it, on last February, look at it, put it away and come swimming. And I was happy because, for once everybody else was

Even Playboy, the pup, was happy because he learned to swim properly. When we had first taken him to the water, early in the summer, we expected him to plunge in and dart about like an otter, because he was a swimmer. He didn't. He'd put one foot in then the other, then ran about the beach looking for somebody to travel to puddle on.

Finally he was thrown in, and he swam clumsily to shore, using, of all things, the dog-paddle, and holding his face out of the water like a model trying to save her make-up. After a few days at the cottage however, he was swimming like a loon, and acting like one.

We were all sick at the cottage, of course. Hugh, who is never ill was down and out for two days. The Old Lady had what she claimed was an advance case of polio. I had dysentery all the time we were there. Kim wanted until the day we got home then ran a high fever for four days.

But I guess we had a wonderful holiday, on the whole. And that's where I spent most of it trying to give up my annual attack of dysentery.

## Calvin Aitken Tops in Oats

Winners of the Oat Competition sponsored by Acton Agricultural Society judged recently were Calvin Aitken who placed first on a field of Garry Oats, S.E. Griffin, second on Garry and Walter Lingham third on Garry. Duncan McPherson sixth on Shird, Geo. W. Lee seventh, Garry Harvey eighth on Garry, Charles Thompson ninth, Rufus Gordon tenth on Garry.

There were 23 contestants entered and fields were scored by J. M. Cockburn, Guelph. Points are tabulated for purity of variety, freedom from weeds and disease, complete finish, cleaning of fence rows, headlands, etc. and yield per acre.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### Back in 1909

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, September 9, 1909.

Last Wednesday evening, about 40 members of the Epworth League and their friends enjoyed a corn roast in the pretty grove in front of Mr. Robert Bilton's residence on the first line. Two large fires were built and the corn laid on the coals and roasted. After all had been satisfied, a number of games were played in an adjoining field. Roast corn was a new delicacy to many in the party. All declared it was the best they had ever eaten.

There are a number of vacant lots and some alleys streets where weeds and thistles are allowed to grow in profusion all summer. This ought not to be. There is a law against it.

During the council meeting on Tuesday evening a petition presented by G. A. Black, N. Patterson and 32 other citizens asked council for their consideration in macadamizing the portion of the street from Main Street to Park Avenue. It was requested to have this work completed before the annual Fair Council granted a donation of \$25 to the Esquimaux Agricultural Society.

Mr. H. S. Holmes, representing the Acton Amusement Company, waited on the council to request a reconsideration of the flat rate of 80 cent per night for their moving picture show. Councillor Hynes suggested that a meter be put in.

Mr. Malcolm McDougall brought the Free Press very fine samples of new swede turnips last week. They averaged four and a quarter pounds each. Pretty good for September.

The near approach of the close of the bowling season is evidently spurring the most enthusiastic bowlers to put in full time on the green these days and this week two rinks journeyed to Georgetown and came home with a tie in games as each took one rink apiece. On Friday two rinks from the H-mewood played a return match in this town and the locals gave the out-of-town players quite a drubbing with a 31 to 30 score. The O.A.C. bowlers turned the tables on the Acton bowlers as well this week when they won 44-23.

Messrs Johnson and Company are doing some very fine window dressing. This week the most attractive model parlor is shown last week an ideal kitchen was the attraction.

### Back in 1939

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, September 7, 1939.

In view of the war threat, Acton council Tuesday evening during a special meeting decided to place armed guards at the spring and pumphouse properties in order to prevent any possible sabotage. A guard will also be placed at the hydro sub-station. The properties will all be floodlighted at night.

The guards will be sworn in as special constables and be under the supervision of the chief of police. Signs will be posted warning people to stay away from these properties and the guards will be maintained as long as it is deemed necessary.

Acton Tanners dropped the first game in the Intermediate "B" playoffs to the Galt Peacocks in the Galt park last Saturday but the 3-0 score is no indication the Tanners are on the way out. Ryder on the mound for the Tanners held the Galt team to three scattered hits and allowed only five hits. The Acton batters had an off day and the fine pitching by Charlton had the local batsmen swinging in thin air as he had 10 strikeouts. The Galt team had nine players left on base and Acton only six but six errors on the part of the locals accounted for two of the three runs.

Acton Fall Fair Board have completed their plans for the big two-day fair this year and all advertising and posters have been sent. This year is expected to be one of the biggest in the town's history and Rus. Creighton and his Canadian Mountaineers have been engaged for the program.

The big white building "Spot", belonging to Mr. Harry Holmes Jr., was so badly injured on the highway Saturday morning that he had to be destroyed. "Spot" had gone out on the highway and failed to notice a motorcycle and ran directly into its path. He was so badly injured it was deemed necessary to put him out of his suffering.

Miss Ruth Gibson, bride-to-be and employee of the Mason Knitting Company, was honored at a closing time at the plant in Acton by her fellow employees prior to her leaving the company to be married.

Born - Misses: In Acton on Sunday, September 2, 1939, to Mr. and Mrs. G. Muselle, a son, John Neville.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

MEDICAL	FUNERAL DIRECTORS
<b>DR. W. G. C. KENNEY</b> Physician and Surgeon Office in Symon Block 43A Mill St. E. Acton Office Phone 75 Residence 115 Church St. E. Phone 150	<b>Bumley Hoemaker</b> Phone 699 night or day Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.
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<b>DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER</b> Physician and Surgeon 39 Wellington St. Acton, Ont. Phone 67 Hours 8-8:30 p.m. Afternoons by Appointment	<b>OPTICAL AND HEARING AIDS</b> <b>E. I. BUCHNER, R.O.</b> Optometrist and Hearing Aid Consultant - Acton, Ontario 48 Mill St. E. Phone 115 Office Hours Wednesdays only 1:30-4:00 p.m. Evenings by appointment House calls by appointment
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<b>DR. A. J. BUCHANAN</b> Dental Surgeon Office - 3A Mill Street Office Hours - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday afternoon Telephone 148	<b>TRAVELLERS' GUIDE</b> <b>GRAY COACH LINES</b> COACHES LEAVE ACTON Daylight Time Eastbound 6:33 a.m. Daily except Sun and Holi. 8:58 a.m. 11:33 a.m. 2:08 p.m. 3:08 p.m. 6:33 p.m. 8:33 p.m. 10:08 p.m. (Sun and Holi.) Westbound 10:27 a.m. 12:37 p.m. 2:57 p.m.; 5:27 p.m. 7:27 p.m. 9:12 p.m.; 11:32 p.m. 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Holi.)
<b>C. F. LEATHERLAND, Q.C.</b> Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturdays by appointment only Office 22 - Phone Res 151 ACTON	<b>CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS</b> Standard Time Eastbound Daily 5:40 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 9:12 a.m. (flagstop); 7:14 p.m.; Sunday only 6:01 p.m.; Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 8:21 a.m.; 6:27 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 p.m. Westbound Daily 11:44 a.m.; Daily except Sunday, 8:30 a.m.; 6:53 p.m.; Sunday only 1:12 p.m.; Sunday only 6:59 a.m. (flagstop); Sun- day only Flyer at Guelph 7:06 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 8:31 p.m.
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## THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA</b> Acton, Ontario Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., D.D. Minister Mr. George Elliott Organist and Choir Leader SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6th 1959 9:45 a.m. Church School - 15 - 25 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 7:30 p.m. Evangelistic Children cared for at Manse during service	<b>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA</b> <b>KNOX CHURCH, ACTON</b> Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, P.A. D.D. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1959 9:45 a.m. Church School - 15 - 25 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship 7:30 p.m. Evangelistic Children cared for at Manse during service
<b>THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR</b> ANGLICAN Rector: The Rev. H. B. Stokreef, L. Th. S.T.B. 125 Jeffrey St. phone 268 The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6th, 1959 8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist 11:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist During the absence of the Rector for the next 10 days, the clergy of St. George's Church, Guelph, will look after emergencies (Tel. TA 2-1361)	<b>BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON</b> Pastor: Rev. Gordon M. Holmes, B.A. B.Th. 115 Bower Avenue SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6th, 1959 9:45 a.m. Church School 11:00 a.m. Public Worship The Lord's Supper 7:00 p.m. - Gospel Service

## The Acton Free Press

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 David R. Dills, Managing Editor

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