

Editorial Page

Who is Running the Town?

We're beginning to wonder who is running the town.

On Thursday evening of last week Mayor Cook publicly outlined to members of the Public Utilities Commission plans to operate the water, sewer, and wood crews next year under an administrator responsible to council. This would naturally follow the dissolution of the Commission, sanctioned by Acton electors at the municipal election last December.

But the request to the Commission was to allow a three month trial period so the problems might be ironed out prior to officially inaugurating the plan in January, 1960. The Commission accepted the idea requiring an understanding that they still administer the sewers and water until the end of 1959.

In the meantime no such plan for an administrator has been discussed in open council, under whose jurisdiction such an appointee would operate. We question the approach of soliciting support from an outside organization before the plan has received the authority of council sanction.

In the meantime, the three month trial period must conceivably be under way if it is to conclude at the end of the year and no names have been named and no appointments made. Who then is running the town?

We have expressed concern before that time is rapidly running out and that no plan has been unveiled to follow the dissolution of the Public Utilities Commission in December. It would seem the plan has been unveiled but it has not received the necessary approval from the nine men who shoulder council responsibility.

It is quite possible that councillors will begin to wonder who is running the town too. If the administrative committee of council has been developing the plan for presentation to council, their deliberations have not to our knowledge been reported to council along with the other committee reports.

There seems to be a definite autumn haze over what is going on. There appears to be some concern that the taxpayers might know too much. The picture now is so obscure that it has prompted us to ask the question, Who is running the town?

By-Products of Fire

It's fire prevention week but attending a fire the other night we wondered just how conscious people are of the dangers that are by-products of the fire itself. One of the biggest pile up of cars surrounded the scene that we have ever witnessed.

It really doesn't matter where the fire was, the fact remains that the same situation develops all too often. Despite continuing appeals from firemen, interested spectators shove their car in high gear and burn up the road to reach the fire. Then they casually look, and watch and wait and wait.

But this race to the scene of the fire, the resulting traffic jam and the great crowd that gathers are all additional hazards.

Supposing, there was a fire on a narrow country road. Supposing all the cars descended on the scene on the fire. Supposing firemen discovered injured occupants. Supposing they tried to rush them to medical aid. Supposing your car blocked the way. Supposing

precious life-saving minutes were lost because your car blocked the way. Suppose you could sleep well?

It would have been virtually impossible for any injured to be taken from the fire the other night. Cars plugged the line and one car, unfortunately enough to be going the opposite direction, cleared the scene only after some oaths and horn honking.

It would also have been impossible for additional fire fighting equipment to get to the fire too and how firemen, often traveling in private cars, are expected to arrive early at the scene remains a mystery.

Undoubtedly the wail of the siren prompts one to immediate action but if your presence at the fire is not important, for goodness sake, stay clear of the country roads that are so easily blocked by a few careless motorists.

It's fire prevention week but it's also important that citizens know how to act in times when fire does break out.

Offensive Annoyances

Even those of the most even disposition find enough to annoy them in this modern, hustling, complex and complicated life but they ought not to have to be annoyed by nuisances which the law rules must not exist at all. Two such nuisances come to mind constantly on city streets: one is the noisy, smart aleck "hollywood" exhaust, and the other the stinking, sooty fumes from motor vehicles whose engines are badly in need of adjustment or repair.

It is some time now, since the "hollywood" exhaust was outlawed by an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act. Yet this absurd and

offensive device, by which the extrovert owners of some sports cars seek to impress others by the volume of noise an otherwise quiet engine can produce, is still offered for sale and is still to be heard all too often on streets, adding more tormenting decibels to an already excessive level of noise.

Quite an offensive, and perhaps a greater menace to public health, is the unnecessary smoke from motor vehicles. Diesel trucks are seen all too frequently belching great clouds of brown smoke into the street, and far too many passenger cars leave a wake of choking blue fumes.

Let Us Give Thanks

Monday has been set apart as a day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed.

It is a celebration observed by Canadians since 1879, and one that has surely grown more significant over the years that have passed.

It has been observed at varying times. First it was observed on November 6, 1879. Both later and earlier dates have been applied. For many years preceding the end of World War I it was on the third Monday in October. After the war it was proclaimed for the Monday of the week in which Armistice Day occurred. In 1921 Armistice Day and Thanksgiving were merged but in 1931 the two were made separate days again.

We like to think that Thanksgiving Day is annually a day when Canadians publicly give thanks but that giving thanks is really a private daily matter. There are many items for which Canadians can be thankful and no matter how black or busy the day, there are

items in each person's personal life for which to be thankful.

Perhaps these words we noticed recently can best sum up the idea we're trying to express.

For what shall a man give thanks? For the simple blessings of the day. For the golden laughter of a child. For grass and trees and water and sunshine, the soft tumult of the leaves, and the friendly bar of a dog.

For neighbors and friends and strangers, who pause in a teeming, turbulent highway to bestow acts of kindness.

For the black of the night and a star-filled sky to light the dark way. For the warm fireplaces and chill shadows. For the smile of a stranger, to remind us to smile again.

For the scientist's impenetrable mysteries for all who mobilize for human need and happiness.

For all these, and the countless good, let us give thanks.



"Be Thankful Son There's Always Somebody Worse Off Than You"

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

Once a week, whether I need it or not, I take a bath. And once a year, without fail, I sit down and count my blessings. Every Thanksgiving, I make a point of it. I suggest you try this excellent custom, which induces an unaccustomed humility in the most hardened of us. Each year, when I do it, I feel all pure and holy for an hour or two.

The daily scramble can become such an accumulation of small irritations, minute frictions, and petty miseries that life seems to be nothing but a great big pain in the arm. But just sit back and take off all the good things you have, and you'll feel like that rarest of creatures, a happy, well-adjusted millionaire.

One thing for which I'm deeply thankful is reasonably good health. These are tooth missing, I can't smell, and some of the old joints are giving me hell, but on the whole, I'm a doctor's despair. In ten years, I've spent three days in bed and \$3,000, and that with all the good things you have, and you'll feel like that rarest of creatures, a happy, well-adjusted millionaire.

I'm thankful for my three-squares a day. I tried living on four squares a day one time, for a couple of weeks. The squares were sheets of bread, one-quarter inch thick. That experience has left me to this day with a perverse urge to secrete bits of cheese, crusts of bread and hunkies of meat about my person, so I'll never go hungry.

Another thing I'm grateful for is the sprang-filled mattress and the wool blankets and the Old Girl beside me glowing away like a box stove. About 15 years ago, I spent six weeks at this time of year sleeping in box-cars, barns and

ditches, my sleeping partner a skinny Canadian corporal (male) who exuded about as much heat as a garter snake.

I'm happy to have a few close friends. Most of us have many acquaintances, few true friends. I have several friends to whom I could go for anything, in time of need. They'll give me the shirt off their backs, their last crust of bread, their wives, anything. Except money, of course.

It's wonderful to have happy, healthy children who only require new shoes every three months. I'm afraid I subscribe to the pagan view that in our children lies our immortality. And in that thought I find deep satisfaction. It means that my kids will probably have to take as much lip from their parents as I do from them, while I'm happily maddening in Bayview cemetery.

I am deeply thankful to have a gentle, tolerant, patient, understanding wife. I'd be even more thankful if she used some of those qualities when dealing with me, but at least it's nice to know she has them.

I'm thankful to have a job. I like where else, except in the weekly editor's chair, can a man who is completely unfitted for anything useful, find himself not only making a living, but able to sound off like a preacher?

I'm thankful, every Thanksgiving, that I'm a Canadian. Three months from now, as I plot through the slush, I'll be cursing the country with the best of them, but in the fall, there's no other place so close to what paradise should be like.

Finally, I'm humbly thankful that I'm alive. Millions are not. Life is a superb gift, made even more delicious by the fact that you must surrender it. It is full of

madness and magic, of melancholy and merriment, of a thousand good things, each a delight to treasure.

So you're alive, aren't you? Be thankful.

Dog Had His Day Prohibition Start

Another old picture has been sent to the Free Press to add to our "Gallery" of old historical prints. This one came from Miss Em Hawthorne, and was printed on a post card.

This is a picture taken in front of the town hall when the drinks were done away with," she explains.

In the shot, a group of men in trim Edwardian suits with bowler hats are watching with surprisingly blank expressions as one gentleman, with a shaker over his suit, splits open the barrels of the newly outlawed brew. It was the beginning of Prohibition in Acton.

Miss Hawthorne was there, she says, standing on the opposite side of the street. She identified some of the men in the picture as Milton Henderson, William Hawthorne, John Brown, Reuben McNabb, Bill Smith, Sandy Bell, C. T. Brown, Tom Henderson and Frank Gamble. None is living now.

While the men were absolutely sober about the whole business, it was quite another matter among the street Thugs, recalls Miss Hawthorne, a dog took an experimental lick at the liquid in the ditch and liked it fine. He lapped his way down the road for a foot or two, until the strength of the stuff hit him. His four-pawed stagger took him to the side of a house where he lay down with a hunch.

Tips on Touring

By Carol Lane
Women's Travel Authority

Swimming and sunning are synonymous with summer fun, and usually easy to reach in the family car. Whether you are eight or 80 you will find the familiar words, "Come on in the water line" an invitation to relaxation and enjoyment.

But for the sake of safety and freedom from frets, follow these important "do's":

1. Pick a beach free from underbrush.
2. Stay within the limits patrolled by the lifeguard.
3. If the beach is not patrolled, always swim with a companion or a group of other bathers.
4. Avoid alcohol and anything else that is panning hands with the others and walking slowly in the water to prevent the swimming cap.
5. Ascertain how deep the water is before you attempt diving.

When Boating

1. Be sure non-swimmers are equipped with life jackets or preservers.
2. Avoid windy days.
3. Allow plenty of time to get back to shore before nightfall.
4. If the boat should overturn, stay with it. Even though submerged, some boats will support as many as six people.

When Sunbathing

1. Stay in the sun only 15 or 20 minutes the first time.
2. Increase your sunning time as you become accustomed to the ultraviolet rays and exposure.
3. Beware of overcast days when the rays of the sun may be more penetrating than you think.
4. Apply a good sunburn lotion to the exposed areas of the skin.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1939

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

Results have just been announced in the province-wide contest that was conducted this year for the improvement of farm homes and surroundings. This was sponsored by the Farmers Magazine. Under the direction of Acton Fair, a very successful unit was sponsored. The first prize winner locally was the fourth prize winner in the provincial event. Mr. H. L. Davidson was the winner of this award which brings him a two-tone ivory enameled coil and wood range. Over 1,000 farm homes were entered.

The annual meeting of the Intermediate Hockey Club was held on Thursday, Mr. W. H. Clayton was nominated secretary for the evening. Following is a list of officers for the 1939-40 season: president, W. J. Beatty, first vice-president, W. H. Clayton, second vice-president, Ed Masters, treasurer, W. K. Graham, secretary, J. Craghton, executive, V. H. Humbley, F. Terry and W. D. Talbot.

At a public meeting held in the town hall last evening, it was unanimously decided to organize a branch of the Red Cross to have charge and direct the activities in connection with war work for this part of the county. Officers include: Hon. F. J. McCreath, Ex-Warrior; A. Mason, Mrs. R. M. McDonald, Mrs. Wm. Arnold, Mr. Wm. Middleton and Mr. W. K. Graham. Council on Tuesday evening received a cheque for \$25 from the Duke of Devonshire Chapter. The Red Cross will be holding a beach for supper on the beach for the benefit of the Red Cross. The letter pointed out that owing to the demands of war work, the chapter might not be able to continue their support.

Thanksgiving was rather quiet in Acton but saw many homecomings and reunions which were enjoyed. Voluntary registrations of women in Red Cross activities are very much on the front line locally this week. The organization will be active in preparing dresses and articles of clothing to be shipped to the front lines in Europe.

The whole offerings of horses offered by auction at the park here on Saturday were disposed of. There was a good crowd but it took some time to get them wanted up to bidding. A two-year-old brought \$300 and a yearling, \$14. Auctioneer R. J. Key was in charge.

Back in 1909

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 14, 1909.

The Board of Education met in the council chamber Monday evening. The chairman and one of two members said they had been interviewed by several teachers and parents who stated that since the water growth of the town in recent years, the younger scholars who resided at the east end of Young Street, Beathorne Crescent and at the south end of Main Street, found it almost impossible to get home for dinner and back to school again in an hour and a quarter. Several men alleged that the hurry necessary was prejudicial to health. It was resolved that the next hour be extended from 1:15 to 1:30, to take effect Monday.

The Fall Night concert is always a feature at the Fall Fair and a fitting climax to the numerous attractions to the fair. Concert committee is to be congratulated on this occasion for the excellence of the talents secured. Never had this popular concert at night been favored with a finer galaxy of entertainment.

About two o'clock on Friday afternoon last, the slaughter house of Mr. William Scott, butcher, was totally destroyed by fire, also the contents, a carcass of beef, six hogs and a number of other things were insured and Mr. Scott will be considerably out of pocket.

Make a note in your diary that the first flurry of snow this fall came on Tuesday, October 1. It was a wee one, however, and soon had passed.

On Tuesday afternoon an automobile passing through town met Miss Jennie Given of Elm driving into town at the corner of Young and Queen Streets. Neither driver had seen the other and the auto coming so suddenly frightened the young animal. Miss Given was driving. He jumped sideways and the buggy was partially crushed and she was thrown out. The horse ran away but was caught on Mill Street by Mr. Henry Arnold. Miss Given was attended by the fall and received painful bruises but no fractures. After an hour's rest at the home of Mr. T. Statham, Church St., she was able to drive home.

Mr. Robert Story of Fairview Ave. showed the Free Press a small jar of ripe strawberries on Saturday which he had picked from his strawberry beds that day three months out of season.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

<p>MEDICAL</p> <p>DR. W. G. C. KINNEY Physician and Surgeon Office in Symon Block 41A Mill St. E., Acton Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residence: 115 Church St. E. Phone 150</p> <p>DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance River St. Acton, Ont. Phone 238</p> <p>DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER Physician and Surgeon 39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont. Phone 678 Office Hours: 6-8 p.m. Afternoons by Appointment</p> <p>REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE</p> <p>F. L. WRIGHT 20 Wilbur St. Acton, Ontario Phone 25 Appraiser, Real Estate and Insurance</p>	<p>FUNERAL DIRECTORS</p> <p>Rumley Shoemaker Phone 699 night or day Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.</p> <p>CHIROPRACTOR</p> <p>A. D. MOORE, D.C. Palmer System of Chiropractor 17 Mill Street Phone 40 or 60 Office Hours: Wed. 2-7 Sat. 2-5</p> <p>OPTICAL AND HEARING AIDS</p> <p>E. L. BUCHNER, R.O. Optometrist and Hearing Aid Consultant (Acoustician) 48 Mill St. E. Phone 115 Office Hours: Wednesdays only 1:30-6:00 p.m. Evenings by appointment House calls by appointment</p> <p>ROBERT R. HAMILTON Optometrist Eyes Examined Hearing Aid Service 181 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. For appointment please phone: TR 7-3971</p> <p>AUDITING - ACCOUNTING</p> <p>LEVER & HOSKIN Chartered Accountants 51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W. Brampton, Ontario Phones: GL 1-4824 EM 4-9131</p> <p>TRAVELLERS' GUIDE</p> <p>GRAY COACH LINES COACHES LEAVE ACTON</p> <p>Daylight Time Eastbound 8:33 a.m. Daily except Sun and 1:04 a.m. 11:33 a.m. 2:08 p.m. 3:08 p.m. 6:33 p.m. 8:33 p.m. 10:16 p.m. (Sun and Holy) Westbound 10:27 a.m. 12:57 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 Holy</p> <p>CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS Standard Time Daily 3:40 a.m. Daily except Sundays 9:12 a.m. (flagstop) 7:14 p.m. Sundays only 8:01 p.m. Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9:21 a.m. 6:27 p.m. Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 p.m. Westbound Daily 11:44 p.m. Daily except Sunday 8:30 a.m. 6:53 p.m. Saturday only 1:22 p.m. Sun- day only 9:03 a.m. 8:01 p.m. Sun- day only Flyer at Georgetown 7:05 p.m. Daily except Sat and Sun. 5:31 p.m.</p>
---	---

The Acton Free Press

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Limited
Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 56 Mill St. E. Acton, Ontario. 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. Subscription: payable in advance, \$3.00 in Canada, \$4.00 in the United States. Six months \$17.50, single copies 7c. Authorized as Second Class Mail. Post Office Department, Ottawa.

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

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

<p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.</p> <p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1959 9:45 a.m.—Church School 10:00 a.m.—Bible Class (15-25 years) 11:00 a.m.—Thanksgiving Worship Junior congregation (age 3-7) meets during sermon. Pre-nursery children cared for at the manse during service.</p>	<p>UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D. Mr. George Elliott Organist and Choir Leader</p> <p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1959 9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m.—Junior Church (Grades 4 up) 11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.—Sunday School (up to Grade 3) At both services, children under 5 are cared for in the Nursery.</p>
<p>THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN Rector: The Rev. H. B. Stokroff, Th. S.T.B. 185 Jeffrey St., phone 263</p> <p>The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1959 8:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.—Family Eucharist and Church School, also Confirmation classes, both junior and adult. 11:00 a.m.—Matins</p> <p>MID-WEEK Monday, 12 October, 1959 4:30 p.m.—Junior Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Senior Confirmation Class All Are Welcome</p>	<p>ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE 33 Church St. Road P.A.O.C. Rev. Kenneth J. Red, Pastor 75 Cook St., phone 648-W</p> <p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1959 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship 7:30 p.m.—Evangelistic Tuesday, 12 p.m.—Prayer and Bible study Thursday, 8 p.m.—City Ambassadors Saturday, 8 p.m.—See Coming Events You Are Always Welcome</p>
<p>CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH Rev. J. Nutma, B.A., B.D., Ministry 301 Queen St., Box 46, Phone 608</p> <p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1959 10:00 a.m.—English 2:30 p.m.—Dutch "The Church of the Back to God Hour"</p>	<p>BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON Pastor Rev. Gordon M. Holmes, B.A. B.Th. 115 Beaver Avenue</p> <p>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1959 8:45 a.m.—Church School 11:00 a.m.—Public Worship "When Jesus Gave Thanks" 7:00 p.m.—S.O.S. fifth in the series on "Abraham's Legacy" Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting All Are Welcome</p>