

# Editorial Page

## Community Boosters

Reception of last week's special section chronicling Acton's Decade of Development, has been quite good according to the many favorable comments being received. The comments would seem to justify the time and effort that so many invested in it and they do make it all seem worthwhile.

If we all know Acton a little better and if we all realize that the town has been making impressive steps in achieving its present position, we will all be better salesmen of the town.

Being too close to achievements often clouds their significance and there is the

danger that citizens of a town may feel local efforts are not as impressive as those in other communities.

There is a danger in this attitude, a danger that our attitude in conversation with visitors from other centres may not be as optimistic as it could be. Since optimism breeds optimism it is best to know something of the optimistic facts of the town we live in. Don't talk down your town, there are already enough people doing this. Look at the brighter side and talk it up.

Every community needs its boosters. Are you one?

## Prosperity Shared

Between 1949 and 1958 workers in Canadian manufacturing industry shared in no small way in Canada's growing prosperity. In fact, in this short space of time their living standards underwent an improvement so remarkable as to evoke wonderment. Anyone inclined to doubt it (and our memories are notoriously fickle in such matters) should consider the following facts, based on recently-issued reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

In 1949, the average hourly-rated employee worked 42 hours a week for a wage of just over \$41.00. By the end of 1957 the work week was down to 40 hours. And the average weekly wage? It was better than \$65.00, having shot up more than 60 percent!

Of course, it will immediately be objected that living costs, too, have risen, as we know only too well. (This is the stock alibi of all of us for our higher earnings: we vaguely assume that the one cancels out the other.) But note this: the Consumer Price Index over this same period has increased by something less than 25 percent.

In other words, the worker who earned

\$41.00 or so a week nine years ago would need to be making \$100.00 more today to have as much purchasing power as he had then. He is in fact making not \$10.00, but an additional \$24.00 a week. Not \$520.00 a year but \$1,280.00, a net gain in annual income of more than \$700.00. And this takes no account of the significant increase in both size and variety of fringe benefits.

Three things have made possible this magnificent wage hike. Firstly, improved productivity (meaning more efficient production.) Secondly, the growth of the Canadian market, making for higher sales. Thirdly, higher prices. This last factor represents the extent to which rising labour costs have not been absorbed by the first two.

Whatever else emerges from a study of these figures, one conclusion is inescapable: the worker in manufacturing industry has done a whole lot more than hold his own in the last nine years. Which suggests that, so far as the immediate future is concerned at any rate, greater wisdom may lie in not reaching out for still more.

## Quietly Meeting a Need

It happens quite quietly but almost every day there are groups meeting that, over the years, have done more to stir imagination and mold good citizens than most people would realize.

We're referring to the all-age encompassing Cub, Brownie, Scout, Guide, Rover, Ranger groups along with the mothers' auxiliaries, the leaders and the Group Committee members.

By our calculations there are approximately 352 people involved in the training that the Scout-Guide movements offer in Acton. Of that number 300 are group members plus at least 26 leaders, one auxiliary and the Group Committee that directs activities in the administrative capacity.

There are two Cub packs, two Scout troops, three Brownie packs and one Guide troop, plus a Rover Crew for those who are beyond the Scout ages. That's nine groups.

Some notes on Boy Scouts possibly indicate the size of the typical organization. It is the largest, uniformed; youth training movement not only in Canada but in the

free world where there are some 8,500,000 Scouts in 139 countries and territories.

While we have a great appreciation of this type of training we can't help be similarly impressed at the number of leaders in all groups who give an untold number of hours to the training of the Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, Rangers and Rovers.

Probably one of the basics expressed by Lord Baden-Powell, that indicates what is behind these movements, is a quotation that indicates too why the training stands the test of time. The Boy Scout founder put it this way "So education should not be content merely to show a young man how to avoid falling into traps or how to make a living, but what is of far greater importance, how to live. How to appreciate the wonders of the world in which we live; by carrying the precept of goodwill and co-operation, he can help to develop prosperity and happiness for the country, and peace and understanding in the world; and he will then find himself a partaker of the happiness which beyond all riches or power or position is success."

## Death of Heroes

Whether it is because Canada has a relatively short history, and that mainly peaceful, or because of the country's colonial heritage, there is a dearth of Canadian heroes. The Americans celebrate the birthdays of Lincoln and Washington. How many Canadians could give the dates of MacDonald's or Laurier's birthdays without recourse to a book of reference?

There are plenty of anecdotes about Canadian historical figures, but it is difficult to think of one that would be generally known. Yet the apocryphal legend of George Washington and the cherry tree, with the moral that it is better to tell the truth than to be the winner on a television quiz program, is part of Canadian folklore as much as it is of American.

There does not seem to be much reason for one birthday still recognized here, although it is now a movable feast, namely that of Queen Victoria. One would not ad-

vocate abolishing the celebration, for May is a good time for a holiday. But Queen Victoria really had very little interest in Canada. There would be more logic in remembering the birthday of King Charles II, whose grant of the Hudson's Bay Company's charter to his cousin, Prince Rupert, had a direct bearing on Canadian history. King Henry VII, who authorized the voyages of John and Sebastian Cabot, is another British ruler who deserves Canadian remembrance as much as Queen Victoria. King Charles I might merit some passing mention for his money-raising manoeuvre of creating baronets of Nova Scotia.

There have been Canadians, some still living, who would be recognized as great men in any country. If they have been taken for granted in their own, the fault is not theirs, but arises from a temperamental disinclination of their countrymen for hero-worship.



Photo by Esther Taylor

## "Spring Preview"

### Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

There is quite a goofawrow these days about fluoridation. All the experts—federal Department of Health, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Dental Association, and others—are just busting to get some sodium fluoride into our drinking water.

They want to cut down on the holes in the teeth in the heads of our children, bless them. They are supported by many members of the press, weekly contemporaries. In Ontario, the government is being berated for being backward about fluoridation.

Most violent and emotional of fluoridation advocates is a Toronto newspaper columnist, who insists that all who oppose it are violently emotional, irrational, fanatical, dimwitted and crackpots.

All I can say is, move over crackpots and make room for one more. I'll line up with the crackpots against the experts every time. That will help the balance a trifle. Nowadays there are too many experts and not enough crackpots.

Experts are: people who give you weather reports that are about 400 per cent. wrong; people who predict election re-

sults 200 per cent. wrong; generals who tell you how wars should have been fought, after they're over; politicians, whose party is not in power; and hordes of people who know a little bit about one thing, and sweet beggar all about anything else.

Crackpots are: people like Christopher Columbus, Galileo, Thomas Edison, Alfred Einstein, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Albert Schweitzer; people who are too stubborn, fanatical and narrow-minded to make an honest effort to get along with the experts.

In between the experts and the crackpots lies the great stumbling, lumbering body of humanity, even as you and me. We are bullied by the experts, ignored by the crackpots. All we want to do is grow up, get married, have children, make money, live in peace, die at a ripe old age, and go straight to heaven. It isn't much to ask. But the experts won't let us do it.

Right now, the expert politicians have us teetering on the verge of total annihilation; the expert scientists are creating the ways and means; the expert warriors have their fingers ready to push the buttons; and the expert news analysts tell us with one shallow breath that

atomic war will wipe out humanity, with the next, that we can escape the effects of radiation by building a shelter.

Sorry, I drift, as I do every time I muse on that self-satisfied justification known as the expert. We were talking about fluoridation. I am opposed to it for several reasons. Not because I think it's going to poison me, or because it's too expensive, or because if God had wanted sodium fluoride in our drinking water He'd have put it there, or because it's going to kill all the frogs in the town reservoir.

First of all, I'm again it because I don't like people fluorinating my drinks. Oh, I don't mind a little chlorine to kill the bugs. But the principle is wrong. This year they fluoridate our water. Thirty years from now, with the wrong people in power, they'll be putting a sedative in it, so everybody will relax and be happy no matter what's going on.

Second of all, the experts, as usual, are on the wrong track. If they are so concerned about the teeth of our children, why don't they start at the base of the trouble? Why don't they raise a hue and cry against the sale of soft drinks and candy? Why don't they decree that "enriched" bread we have to eat these days, that tastes like wet kienex when fresh, like bleached sawdust when stale? Or is all that stuff we learned about diet and teeth just so much expert malarky?

Third of all, I'm again it because I don't like people fluorinating my drinks. Oh, I don't mind a little chlorine to kill the bugs. But the principle is wrong. This year they fluoridate our water. Thirty years from now, with the wrong people in power, they'll be putting a sedative in it, so everybody will relax and be happy no matter what's going on.

Then what's the use of putting that stuff in the water? she started. Kids never drink water. All they drink is orange juice and pop. My case tests, however, indicate I'm saving my good points for the next round.

## New Well

Tony Seynuck has landed another gas well. This one came in last week on the Lloyd Marchmont farm south of Highway 401, east of Hornby. Estimated flow is 250,000 cubic feet a day, and it was drilled to a depth of 1,700 feet.

Mr. Seynuck, president of Anthony Gas and Oil Explorations Co. of Acton, has leased 5,000 acres in Trafalgar and Esquewaug and hopes to bring in more wells. Recently another well was opened on the farm of MPP Stan-Hall.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### BACK IN 1940

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Feb. 22, 1940.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Skating Club packed the Acton arena with spectators last night when they performed during the carnival. The event was one of the best ever presented in Acton and the Legion, Duke of Devonshire and Lakeside Chapters of the I.O.G.E. spared no effort to make it a success, as they had the arena decorated with colored streamers, bunting and flags.

Acton Juniors lost their first game of the hockey playoffs to Bolton last Tuesday night in the Acton arena when the visitors scored seven times to the local boys' one. In spite of the score the Acton team played a steady game and Holmes in the net was really brilliant and was the backbone of his team. Acton held the Bolton team scoreless for the first 20 minutes but in the second period, the visitors got away to a good start and the local lads had a hard time stopping them.

Acton Tanners finished on top of the league when they defeated the Elora Rocks on Friday 8-2 before one of the largest crowds to jam the arena. The Tanners were masters of all they surveyed and from the first foot of the whistle they carried the play into Elora's end of the arena.

But for Walter in the net for the visitors, the score might have been a lot bigger. He played a standard game, turning away shot after shot and rush after rush as the Acton team stormed past the defense. Word has been received that Acton will meet Paris in the finals and the first game will probably be in Acton.

The third shipment of goods left the Acton branch of the Red Cross on Tuesday and the members of the organization and private individuals are to be commended for the excellent work they are doing to aid the unfortunate in distressed countries.

The Bannockburn Literary Society held an enjoyable evening when crokinole and chess checkers were played. The prizes for the crokinole were won by Mrs. Frances Wilds and William McDonald and chess checkers winner was Ada Finlay. Lunch was served and the remainder of the evening spent in dancing.

### BACK IN 1910

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Feb. 24, 1910.

Promptly upon receipt of notification from the Department of Agriculture, Reeve Hynds called a special meeting of council on Monday night, when a string-out by law to prevent dogs running at large within the municipality, without being properly muzzled, was passed.


The by-law provides that no dog shall be permitted to run at large, either accompanied by its owner without being properly muzzled with a metallic muzzle. The by-law comes into effect on Saturday and any dogs found at large after that date, for whom no owner can be found, are to be taken by the Sanitary Inspector and destroyed. The penalty for any infraction to the by-law is not less than \$5 and not more than \$50.

The carnival on Monday night was quite successful. Although there was not a large number in costume, it was quite evident from the large crowd of spectators that interest was not lacking. The costumes were quite varied and representative and included those of little folk as well as the bigger ones. Prizes were awarded for best costumes and novelty faces. Mr. W. J. Patterson, the manager of the rink, hopes to hold another carnival in the future.

During the regular council meeting Tuesday evening, members were informed that W. E. Sampson, a manufacturer of furnaces, was desirous of finding a location for a branch office and foundry in Canada. Councilor Brown interviewed Mr. Sampson in Toronto. His firm desires a loan of \$20,000, repayable at the rate of \$1,000 annually.

They will employ 30 hands the first year, 50 the second and 75 the third. Wages of the employees will average from 35 to 39 cents per hour. A letter was received later stating the partner in the firm had opened negotiations with another town and while this was going on, it was felt that it would be unfair to continue communications with Acton. Bob Cook, the Orangeville desperado who has been in continual hot water in this area as well as many others, has been sentenced to two years in Kingston penitentiary.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

MEDICAL	FURNERAL DIRECTORS
<b>DR. W. G. C. KENNEY</b> Physician and Surgeon Office in Symon Block 43A Mill St. E., Acton Office Phone 78 Residence: 115 Church St. E. Phone 150	 Phone 699 night or day Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.
<b>DR. D. A. GARRETT</b> Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance River St. Acton, Ont. Phone 238	<b>CHIROPRACTOR</b> - A. D. MOORE, D.C. Palmer Spittle Chiropractor 17 Mill Street Phone 40 or 66 Office Hours Wed 2-7 Sat 2-5
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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 Standard Time Eastbound 6:30 a.m. Daily except Sun and 11:30 a.m. 11:33 a.m. 2:08 p.m. 3:08 p.m. 6:23 a.m. 8:33 p.m. 10:08 p.m. Sun and Holi. Westbound 10:27 a.m. 12:57 p.m. 2:57 p.m. 5:27 p.m. 7:27 p.m. 9:13 p.m. 11:32 p.m. 12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun and Holi.)
<b>LEGAL</b> <b>C. F. LEATHERLAND, O.C.</b> Barrister & Solicitor, Notary 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 8:44 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 9:12 a.m. (flagstop); 7:08 p.m.; Sunday only 8:01 p.m.; Daily except Sunday - Flyer - at George- town 8:27 p.m. Daily Flyer at Georgetown 8:11 p.m. Westbound Daily 11:44 p.m.; Daily except Sunday - 8:30 a.m.; 8:44 a.m.; Saturday only 2:23 p.m.; Sunday only 8:44 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 1:01 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 8:30 p.m.
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## THIS SUNDAY'S Church Calendar

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**  
**KNOX CHURCH, ACTON**  
 Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, P.A.C.  
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 1960  
 9:45 a.m. - Church School  
 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class (15-25 years)  
 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
 Theme: How To Take Care of Deeds  
 6:00 p.m. - Young People's Society Junior congregation (13-17) meets during sermon. Prayers often served for the manse during the service.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
 Acton, Ontario  
 Rev. Reginald Brook, Minister.  
 Mr. Gordon Elliott, Organist and Choir Master  
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 1960  
 Services in the Y.M.C.A.  
 9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer  
 10:00 a.m. - Sunday school for all ages  
 11:15 a.m. - Morning Worship  
 Children under 13 years cared for in the nursery at the 11:15 a.m. service only.

**THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN**  
 Rector: The Rev. H. B. Stokroff, L.Th. S.T.B.  
 186 Jeffrey St., phone 263  
 SENEGESIMA SUNDAY  
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 1960  
 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Church School  
 11:00 a.m. Church of England MIDD-WEEK CELEBRATION - Wednesday, 24 February, 1960. St. Matthew's Day. 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist. All Are Welcome!

**BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON**  
 Pastor: Rev. Gordon M. Holmes, B.A., B.Th.  
 115 Bower Avenue  
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 1960  
 9:45 a.m. - Church School  
 11:00 a.m. - If There Be No Holy Spirit - How Jesus was "formed" - In the sermon. Witness to Jesus by His Enemies - Wednesday, 24th pm. Service for Prayer, Bible Study and Witness. All Are Welcome

**CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
 Rev. J. Nutma, B.A., B.D., Minister  
 301 Queen St., Box 46, Phone 698  
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY, 21st, 1960  
 10:00 a.m. - English  
 2:30 p.m. - Dutch  
 The Church of the Back to God Hour

## The Acton Free Press

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Limited  
 Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 59 Willow St. 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. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$3.00 in Canada; \$4.00 in the United States; six months \$1.75; 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