

Editorial Page

A Tuesday Opportunity

It's a big job to operate a town. That's something of the message we got from the annual nomination meeting on Thursday of last week.

Probably one of the most frustrating features of all the work the town officials pour into the job though, is the lack of interest expressed in terms of attendance at the annual "town meeting".

There weren't many out this year. Mayor John Goy gave an effective report on the operation of the town over the past year as he reviewed the committee reports. His familiarity with all the phases of the municipal work made for a capable presentation.

There is much important work ahead for the municipal council, school board and hydro commission. Many of the issues and problems will develop during the course of a year and cannot be anticipated. That's why nomination and election decisions are important.

Acton voters have already been relieved of some decisions. The minority present at the nomination meeting, has already, by virtue of acclamations, filled several spots.

With about 75 present and 1,700 missing you can arrive at our conclusions on the minority.

It is difficult to understand just why an adult citizen can remain apathetic about the vital services rendered by his municipal government, for these are mainly concerned with the things that make modern urban living tolerable. Without such services as water, sewage disposal, parks, playgrounds, schools, roads, streets, police and fire protection, urban life would indeed be difficult.

It would appear that from the point of self-interest alone, the municipal resident would be interested in those who will administer the community's business—sufficient at least to exercise his right to help choose them.

On Tuesday, Acton voters will have the privilege of choosing the members of the council. The other decisions have already been taken care of in acclamations. As a citizen don't relegate these last choices to the minority again. Surely at least 50 per cent will vote. Will you be one of them?

Revealing Study

The International Labor Office recently completed a study of hours worked per year in six industrial countries. The results are both revealing and of more than passing interest to Canadians.

The countries concerned were Switzerland, West Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and — Canada. Normal hours worked per year at regular rates of pay was the standard used by the I.L.O. Overtime and lay-offs were consequently not included in the calculation.

Which of the six countries studied works the most, and the least, number of hours annually? And how big is the spread between them?

These are questions best answered by reproducing the I.L.O.'s own table, as under:

	Worked Annually
	Normal Hours
Switzerland	2,416
West Germany	2,296
Sweden	2,212
United Kingdom	2,192
United States	1,984
Canada	1,928

That North Americans earn more and have greater purchasing power than their European counterparts is generally acknowledged, but the principal point that emerges from this study would seem to be one much less widely realized; namely, that these higher earnings are received for a work week shorter by anything from five to ten hours.

In other words, the North American standard of living should be measured not only in terms of greater purchasing power but of more leisure.

Apathy ... The Greatest Obstacle

Aimed at breaking down public apathy towards the toll of human life on Canada's highways, Safe-Driving Week will be sponsored across Canada by the Canadian Highway Safety Council between December 1 and 7, inclusive. With active participation by provincial and industrial safety groups, women's organizations, the clergy, police, governments, service clubs and other bodies, and individuals, Safe-Driving Week will begin at midnight, November 30, and end at midnight, December 7.

There will be a dual target—the apathy of the general public towards the slaughter on the highways, and the apathy of the motorist and pedestrian towards their responsibilities, as individuals, to reducing the accidents, injuries, deaths and economic loss in traffic. The Council reports that, while December has gone slightly down the scale

among months showing traffic deaths and injuries, it remains the worst month for highway accidents.

Safe-Driving Week, a campaign to stress the dire need for safe driving and safe walking, will serve to lead-off the national month long campaign against Holiday Hazards conducted by police forces from coast to coast.

Canadians are paying a heavy cost for their transportation above operating costs of road signs, road markings, traffic control enforcement and vehicles.

Nine people die in traffic every day in Canada.

Ten people are injured every hour in Canadian traffic.

A traffic accident happens every 80 seconds.

If you drive you can't afford to be uninterested. You may be one of the statistics.

Signpost of the Future

Speaking before a group of municipal officials recently, James S. Band, deputy minister of welfare for the province of Ontario, expressed some thoughts about the administration of welfare which might well be a signpost for the future.

Mr. Band suggested that the counties of Ontario might do well to appoint properly-trained welfare administrators to handle such problems for the entire county, rather than dealing with these problems at the municipal level. These remarks were not in the nature of a directive of any kind merely the deputy minister's considered opinion about the trends which should be followed for the best possible development of welfare services.

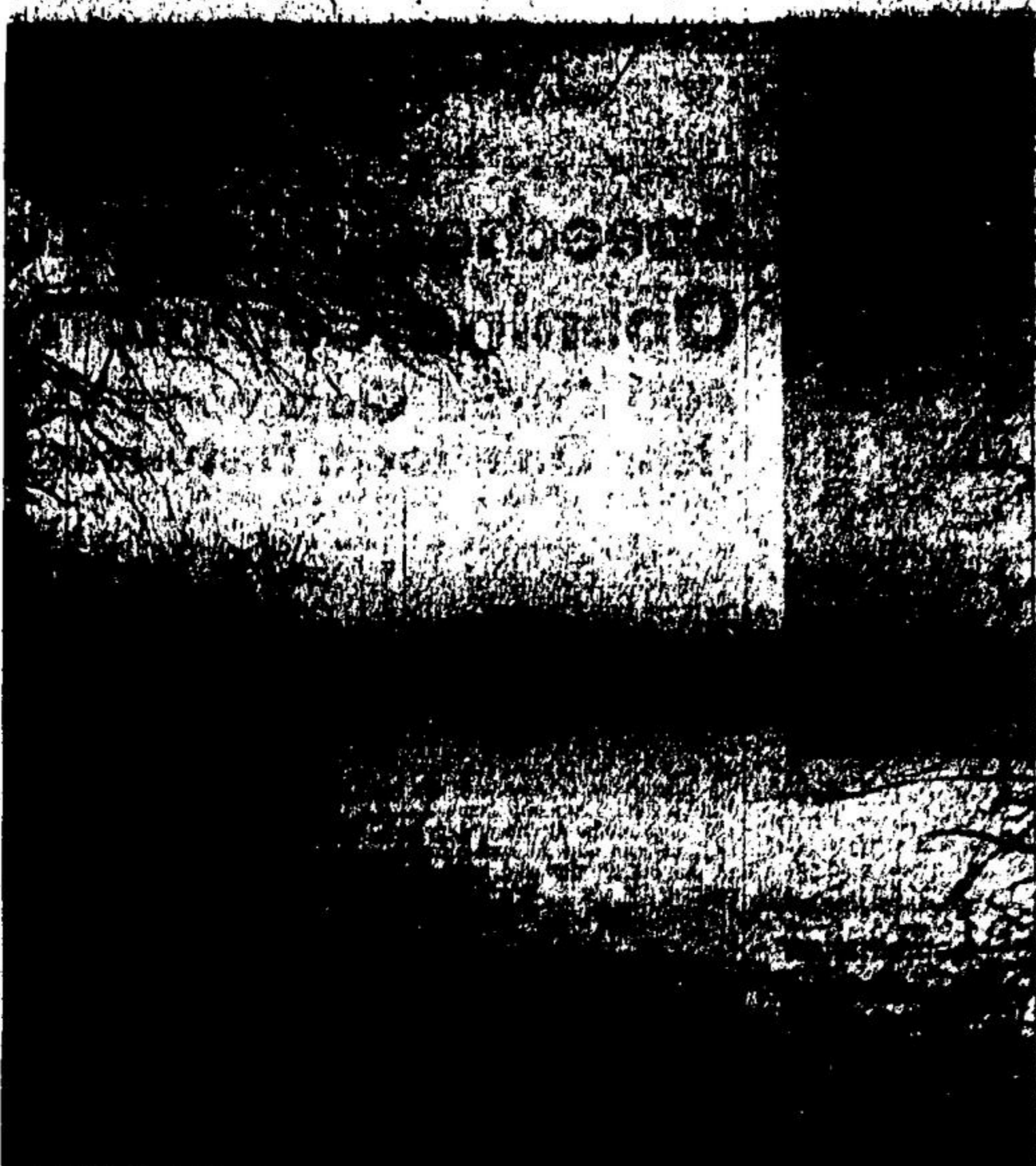
Some weeks ago Acton council asked the county to give some study to the possibility of engaging a county welfare officer. This is being done and it may well be that in the

new year such a position will be created.

The county health unit was the first such service to be commonly used, in which county officers and staff took over problems which were vexing in the extreme when they had to be handled by separate towns, villages and townships. In the years to come there may be considerably more of this sort of regrouping to achieve maximum efficiency without surrender of all forms of local control.

Brief Comment

Amid the gloomy reflections induced by day-to-day following of international news one cheerful thought emerges. It is: What would be the position of the free world if the United States had not bought Alaska from Russia in 1867?



"Autumn Fantasy"

—Photo by Esther Taylor

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

There's a shocking waste of time, money and energy, not to mention the nervous strain, going into education these days, according to the ratepayers. And I agree.

Vast, factory-like plants of brick and steel and glass are springing up across the land. Thousands of buses pour hundreds of thousands of children into these structures every morning, and haul them away in the afternoon. Millions, if not billions, of dollars are being spent on teachers' salaries. And all for what, as they used to say at The Gate Hangs High, a very fine pub in Yorkville.

There's nothing new about this, of course. It's been going on for generations. But the full realization of the appalling waste didn't hit me until recently, when I attempted, on several occasions, to help my son with his homework. I've been helping him for years, and I might say that he has always appreciated the fact that I had received an excellent education and could work out perimeters, and number of pecks in a bushel, and that sort of thing.

Indeed, we've had some of our most intimate moments,

real Dad-and-Son times, as I have carefully explained that Champagne was a great French explorer, in history, and that it is hotter in summer than it is in Florida, in science, and that his mother would help him with his fractions, in arithmetic.

Those friendly evenings are now but a nostalgic memory. No longer do we spend a half-hour, heads together, trying to figure out pistils and stamens. Gone are the pleasant times when we solved together the intricacies of the farmer who had ten acres of hay in a 40-acre field, and traded it for seven tons of coal at 50 cents a bag.

He's in high school now. And they're teaching him all sorts of nonsense like why Henry VIII married six women, and sheep-raising in Australia, and x plus two (—2x) equals dear knows what, and concrete nouns, and the chemical formula for buttermilk, and a whole lot of crazy stuff, like that, that he'll never be able to use.

Believe me, I know. I've been going to school, in one way or another, for about 25 out of the last 40 years, and I could write

everything I learned in school down in a five-cent scribbler and have enough paper left to write an autobiography.

I have no quarrel with what we learn in elementary school. There they teach us to spell, write, read and figure, all useful things. It's in high school that the rot sets in. Go up to any middle-aged man, go ahead, the first one you see, and ask him the formula for hydrogen sulphide. If he smiles sheepishly, ask him for the square root of 37, and when he begins to get annoyed, demand that he tell you the capitals of the provinces of Canada. He might get three of them.

This reveals the tremendous waste of our educational system, and if you're not convinced, side up to a woman the next time you're at a party. Act puzzled. Ask her, gently, who fought in the War of 1812. If she looks around and giggles, demand a definition of a dangling participle. If she slaps your face, you know that she's a normal, well-adjusted Canadian woman with a perfectly good high school diploma.

Personally, I have a deep feeling of resentment that I spent so long learning so little. I put in no less than nine years learning French, had an affair with a French girl, and as far as I'm concerned, la plume de ma tante is still dans le jardin. In the Air Force, they taught us all about meteorology. And as sure as I look at the sky and proclaim three days of perfect weather, because there is cirrostratus cloud, I walk out into a real snaker of a rain.

It's not until our formal education stops that we begin to learn. Men learn how to swear at the fellow who won't dim his lights. They recognize, after a few painful experiences, that a full house isn't much good when jacks are wild. In a matter of a few years, they find out that hell hath no fury like a woman. It's only a matter of time before they realize that a friend in need is a friend to be avoided like the plague.

A woman, very quickly, learns that she can get her own way by crying or raising hell. Early, she recognizes that she'd have been far better to have married that fellow who almost asked her for a dance one night, and who went into medicine. It's only a short while until she discovers that two wrongs make a right, if you raise enough fuss about it. And in no time at all, she has found out that old Baldy isn't quite the charmer he was when he had that head of thick, wavy hair and didn't wear long underwear.

It's sad to think about the gap between what we are taught in school, and what we know. It leads one to suggest that we might just as well spend the years between 13 and 23 sitting around contemplating our navels. It would certainly be cheaper.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1910

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 1, 1910.

Mr. W. H. Coleman is expected home next week after eight months' sailing on the Great Lakes with the Pittsburgh Steamship Co. of Chicago.

Mr. George J. Wallace expects to get into his fine new clothing store for the Christmas trade and in order to reduce his stock to give room for the large Christmas shipments, he is offering a drastic reduction on the sale of goods presently in his old building.

A pleasant evening was spent at the Scouts' drill hall on Saturday when a social tea was given by assistant scoutmaster Figg as a birthday celebration. About 25 sat down to tea after which Reverend Mr. Kelleman proposed the health of the King and many happy returns of the day to Mr. Figg. The remainder of the evening was spent in games and singing.

Mr. R. I. Gregory and family have moved to their pretty little brick bungalow on Church St. Mr. Gregory has proven himself as a worthwhile citizen and is beginning to show promise as a community businessman.

The members of the Epworth League are dressing dolls and providing toys for the Dearness Home Christmas tree on Tuesday evening. The ladies have been busy making things ready for the party.

The curfew by law is still under consideration by the town council and in spite of the clerk's neglect to pay their mortgages to discuss the matter Tuesday evening, no doubt the voters will catch up with them if council fails to act. Election day is coming up soon.

Mr. John M. Warren, well known to Acton residents, has purchased 120 acres of very fine building property within the city of Red Deer, Alberta. Naturally he was obliged to pay a handsome price for the valuable block of city property but he intends to have it subdivided into lots and it will be known as "College View".

Back in 1940

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 3, 1940.

Despite blocked roads and a blustery winter day, 473 voters went to the polls in Acton Monday and exercised their franchise. This was approximately 42 per cent of the vote. At the Y.M.C.A. 238 voters attended and at the Town Hall, 235.

J. B. Chalmers was returned by acclamation as well as council during the nomination meeting last week and ratepayers cast their ballots on Monday for the school board. V. B. Ramsey, J. H. Boyd and F. S. Blow were the successful candidates in this race.

Last Friday evening the Woodside Literary Society played host to the Bannockburn group and during the varied program, the visitors won a contest. Several musical numbers were given after which lunch was served to conclude the evening.

Residents in the Luncheonette area who work in town had a holiday Monday when roads were blocked and transportation was at a standstill. The county soon arrived to relieve the situation.

Mr. H. MacIntyre has purchased the brick store and residence he once occupied at the corner of John and Main Streets, the Perryman estate.

The Acton school board held their 12th meeting for the year Tuesday night and would up the current year's business. Present for the meeting were trustees V. B. Ramsey, J. H. Boyd, F. S. Blow and A. J. Buchanan. A. J. Buchanan presiding. Several items of business were dealt with and a report of the meeting chairman, Buchanan, was read. The members for their splendid cooperation and wished all success for next year's success.

The Acton bowling team finished its second place finish last night in the Acton-Centennial Bowling League when they defeated the "Master" Centennial by a score of 74. The win this time within two points of the league leaders.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

MEDICAL	FEDERAL DIRECTORIES
DR. W. G. C. KENNEY Physician and Surgeon Office: 215 Main St. E., Acton Office Phone 250 Residence: 115 Chalmers St. E. Phone 150	Rumley Shoemaker Phone 447 night in key Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.
DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance: River St. Acton, Ont. Phone 238	E. L. BUCHANAN, D.O. Ophthalmic Surgeon Hearing Aids 48 Main St. E., Acton In Acton: Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For appointments, phone 115
DR. ROBERT D. BUCHNER Physician and Surgeon 39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont. Phone 679 Office Hours 9-4 p.m. Afternoons by Appointment	ROBERT R. HAMILTON Ophthalmic Surgeon Eye Examined Glasses Fitted 67 Main St. N., Georgetown, Ont. Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mon. to Fri. Evenings by appointment Closed Saturday For appointments, please phone: TR 1-3671
REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE	AUDITING - ACCOUNTING
F. L. WRIGHT 20 Wilber St. Acton, Ontario Phone 85 Appraiser, Real Estate and Insurance	LEVER & HOSKIN Chartered Accountants 51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W. Brampton Toronto 1 Phones: GL 1-424 EM 4-9131
DENTAL	FOOTWEAR
DR. H. LEIB Dental Surgeon Office—Corner Mill and Frederick Street Office Hours by Appointment TELEPHONE 19	EDMUND G. MORGAN, D.S.C. 14 Green St. Guelph, Ont. Phone TA 2-2740 Monday—Wednesday, Friday By Appointment
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN Dental Surgeon Office—5A Mill Street Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday afternoon Telephone 148	TRAVELLERS' GUIDE
C. F. LEATHERLAND, O.C. 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	GRAY COACH LINES COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time Eastbound 6:35 a.m. (Daily, except Sun. and Hol.); 8:58 a.m.; 11:33 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:06 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 11:33 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.) Westbound 10:27 a.m.; 12:59 p.m.; 2:57 p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.; 9:12 p.m.; 11:22 p.m.; 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Hol.)
A. BRAIDA, B.A. Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public 173 Main St. E., Acton, Ont. Phone 376 Office Hours: 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. 1 p.m. — 9 p.m. Saturdays 15 Cork St. E., Guelph TA 2-2848 Office Hours: 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. — 12 a.m.	CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
HASTINGS & PAYNE Barristers and Solicitors Notaries Public 121 Mill St., Acton Phone 376 For appointments call 301	Standard Time Eastbound Daily except Sunday 6:44 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 9:12 a.m. (flagstop); Daily except Sat. and Sun. 7:14 p.m.; Sat. only 6:04 p.m.; Sunday only 6:04 p.m.; Daily except Sunday, Flyer at Georgetown 6:27 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:00 p.m. Westbound Daily 12:28 a.m.; Daily except Sunday, 4:50 p.m.; Sat. only 9:12 a.m.; 2:28 p.m.; Sunday only 9:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Georgetown 7:49 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 1:00 a.m.; 6:31 p.m.
LEGAL	CHIROPRACTOR
W. ROY RIDDELL, D.C. Palmer Specific Chiropractor 17 Mill Street - Phone 40 Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. — 2 p.m. — 6 p.m. Sat. — 10 a.m. — 1 p.m.	

The Acton Free Press

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 59 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations of 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