

# Editorial Page

## Indeed a Milestone

Completion of the installation of artificial ice in Acton's arena is indeed a milestone. The early completion of the community centre can now be awaited with eager expectation and some big community night planned for the official opening of the project that is truly a community project.

With a hockey team and an interesting hockey league shaping up; a predictable ice season ahead; interest in curling developing; and an enthusiasm unmatched for some years the centre is bound to be a busy spot.

The effect of the work bees has been beneficial in improving and refurbishing the arena interior. From the beginning the project has been a community one. It was just six months ago, after several months of intensive work, that the \$60,000 objective was reached.

The activity since then of building an ice machine building, of consolidating plans, of

cutting corners to get the best possible construction price, of building the community centre building, of laying 37,500 feet of plastic pipe, of installing the ice-making equipment and countless other details, many unanticipated, has reached a climax with the first sheet of artificial ice.

If the enthusiasm that initiated, campaigned and constructed the Community Centre can be nourished and fostered there will need to be no particular concern for the continued growth of the town's Community Centre. This, however, is a tall order and it can only be hoped that those who contributed will continue to keep an interest in the project that all helped to build.

If it is to continue as a true community centre the arena and centre building will find many varied uses and thus be an important stimulant for the growth of the community spirit that built it.

## A Pledge to Freedom

"I am a Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship God in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind."

Perhaps it's a little idealistic but that is part of the Canadian Bill of Rights, signed by the Prime Minister of Canada not too long ago. We'd like to see it repeated in school rooms across the country because it is a little idealistic and it does provide a challenge even though we may think this heritage of freedom isn't in jeopardy at any current given moment.

The statement of freedom has two particular points that are applicable now. It says we are free to stand for what we think is right. So often what we think is right is somehow rationalized with what others think is right without the benefit of sound reasoning. We must not be afraid to stand for what we think is right.

The second statement with which we are concerned now is that freedom to choose those who shall govern the country. Perhaps we don't attach the significance to municipal elections that we do to provincial and federal elections, but we should. Every election is important, indeed vital. Every time an eligible voter decides, the issues are not important enough to wade through a snow bank or brave a breeze to cast a ballot, democracy is losing.

There are examples that an electorate can be roused. In Nassagaweya voters recently set a shining example by getting about 80 per cent to the polls to vote on liquor questions there.

Surely it is essential to get an equal amount of interest in the elections where stewards or representatives are to be chosen for a full year of municipal administration.

If we are to pledge to uphold our freedoms for ourselves and all mankind, let us set an example at the polls that will be worthy of a democracy.

## "Little" Accidents

Each year, "little" accidents which seldom make the headlines, cost Canadians more than \$4,000,000, it is estimated.

Many of these accidents occur during the winter, and most could be avoided through care and attention.

These recommendations for winter safety around the home are offered as a reminder:

- (1) Keep sidewalks shoveled and clear of ice and snow at all times.
- (2) Check exterior stairways and entrances for loose boards, nails and other disrepair which might cause injury.

(3) Clear large icicles from the eaves. They can cause serious injury when they fall.

(4) Make sure that snow shovels, garden rakes, children's toys and similar items are kept clear of walks and not hidden under a deceptive layer of snow.

(5) Cover accessible steam and hot water pipes which might cause burns to the unwary.

(6) Keep children away from portable heaters, stoves and fireplaces.

(7) Keep hot ashes in a metal container—never in cardboard or wooden boxes.

(8) Don't let children play hockey or other winter games on or near the street.

## Ability to Pay

When the average person comes to buy insurance—on his life, his house, his car as a safeguard against possible illness or accident; to provide for his children's education; or to save for his own retirement—he doesn't use as yardstick what someone else is doing. The individual has to weigh what he personally needs against what he personally can afford. If he doesn't, he can end up in trouble. Strangely, while that is perfectly obvious to the individual when he is acting on his own, it is much less obvious when he acts with his fellows as a member of the public—that is, when he permits a government to act for him.

That was one of the points made in a recent talk to the Canadian Conference by Reinhard Hohaüs, a New York insurance expert and chief actuary of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Governments, said Mr. Hohaüs, should take into account the fact that one country's welfare plans that work well in that country may be unsuitable for another; and governments should be farsighted enough to make sure that the cost of social insurance programs they start does not exceed the ability of the public to pay for them.

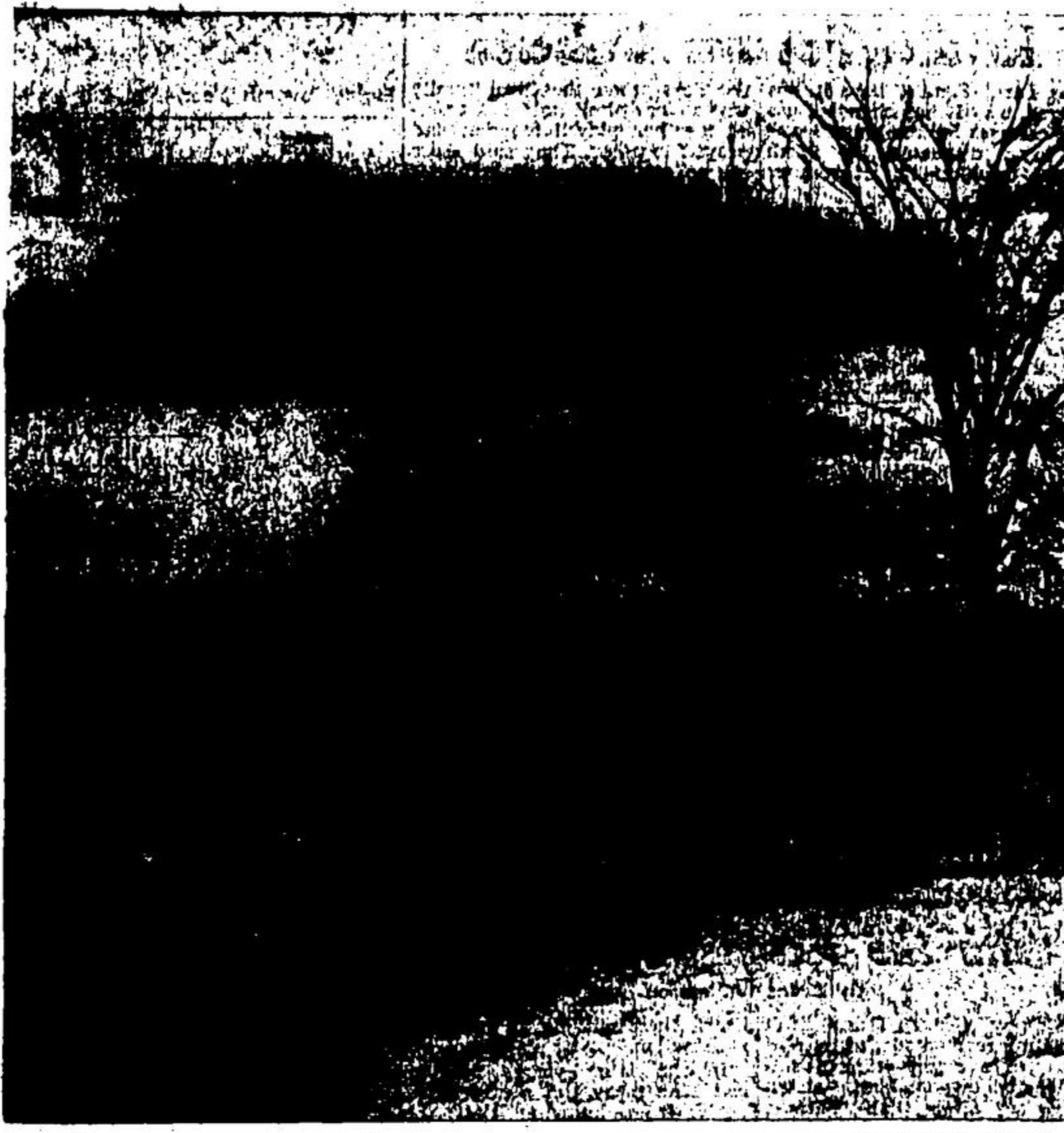
Regarding government pensions for the

aged, Mr. Hohaüs made the pertinent observation that the financial condition of the aged changes, sometimes from generation to generation, because of social and economic conditions that existed in their youth. Those persons now in seventies and eighties, he pointed out, went through a depression late in their working life and had little to save; then they went through a period of inflation that eroded what little savings they had. In contrast, persons now approaching retirement age have spent their late productive years in a period of prosperity and have had an opportunity to save.

"We in the field of private insurance," said Mr. Hohaüs, "have learned that it is highly undesirable, from the viewpoint of the company no less than the insured, to expand insurance programs for individuals beyond their ability to afford them." Because the individual realizes that he can end up insurance poor, he takes into account changing conditions, measures his present and future ability to pay, and contracts for a proposition that suits his own and not someone else's circumstances.

He must realize that governments, too, can make him insurance poor.

## "Bleak Outlook"



—Photo by Esther Taylor

## Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL SMILEY

What in the name of all that's hysterical is going on in Canada these days? You can't pick up a paper or a magazine without the word FALLOUT hitting like a big black bludgeon.

After years of virtual indifference to the threat of nuclear war, suddenly the whole of North America has gone bonkers for shelters, is avidly devouring every bit of garbage published about radioactivity, and is hotly arguing such questions as whether there'll be 75 per cent or 85 per cent of our population wiped out in a missile attack.

I had noticed the rapid build-up of panic in our publications, but hadn't paid too much attention to it. One becomes a bit cynical about the constant state of apoplexy of our daily press.

This week, however, my kids at school were delivering their annual oral compositions — "Those who didn't have enough nerve to skip school that day. Did you know what their favorite topic was? Fallout shelters!"

This was too much. When cute little girls of 16, who should be discussing such subjects as dances and hairdos, stand up there in front of the class and say, "Mr. Smiley, fellow students, the topic I have chosen to speak on today is What Will You Do When the Bomb Falls?" it's time somebody called a halt to the hysteria.

That's bad enough. But these panic purveyors have even got my wife interested. That's what worries me. Things must be serious. For years, I've been trying to get her interested in world affairs.

Some of these attempts have almost driven me straight up the wall, across the ceiling, and down the other side.

"Do you realize we're facing total annihilation?" I would ask her. "Yes," she would answer, "but when are you going to stop smoking so much?"

She never knew the president of Ghana from the president of the local Rotary Club. Her idea of a big international crisis was when Princess Margaret married Tony, or when Liz Taylor bagged a new husband.

Now, she's talking fallout shelter. Not that she's changed her mind about what's important in the world. She still thinks nuclear fission is something vaguely uncomfortable, like trout fishin', only more so. She is firmly convinced that war is a lot of ridiculous nonsense, indulged in by men every so often to bolster their egos.

No, she hasn't become in-

ternationally-minded. It's just that she doesn't like to be out of style, and these days fallout is the fashion. She still thinks radiation is something to do with where you put water in a car, but she's not going to miss the show.

Big worry, at the moment, is where we're going to put the piano in the shelter. She doesn't want it to get damp. Affects the tone. She's also a little troubled about the exact shade of the drapes. There won't be any windows in the thing, of course, but lack of windows never stopped a woman from fretting over curtains.

The kids are getting organized, too. They're quite practical about the whole thing. Told they might bring their most cherished possession, Kim voted for Piper, the cat, and Hugh-for Playboy, the pup. I agreed, as we might have to eat them. There won't be room for much food.

You see, my wife needs her sewing machine, her steam iron, her hair dryer, and of course, the vacuum cleaner, to keep the place tidy. She insists we put in the hi-fi, so we can rot to Rachmaninoff. We're not

going to eat like pigs, she claims, so the dining room table must go in. And she doesn't want any dirty-booted rescue workers tromping around on her good rug, so that has to go inside. Along with all the good china, silver and glassware.

We're not going to try to get the car inside, because it's insured. But I'll be hanged if I leave the lawnmower out. It's a second-hand power mower I bought this fall for \$20, and I never was able to get the motor started, so I'm not going to just let that go up in smoke, without getting some use out of it.

Kim isn't any trouble. Except that she says she won't go into the thing unless we take the television set. Hugh is bound—his bike is not going to be left out in all that radioactive dust, though it doesn't seem to bother him that it's been sitting out in the snow for the past two weeks.

It's taken a lot of planning, but I think I've found the solution. It will be a lot cheaper to hire a fleet of bulldozers to cover our house with earth than it will be to build a shelter big enough to hold everything my family insists is essential to survival.

## Jean Britton Gives Account Of Trip to Dublin Institute

Mrs. Alex Near, Fifth Line, Nassagaweya, was hostess to the Dublin Women's Institute for the Thursday evening for their monthly meeting. The Institute Ode was sung, followed by the reading of the Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer.

Mrs. Calvin McIntyre, the president, presided for the business. The roll call was answered by "A preparation I have made for winter" and was called by Mrs. C. Britton, the secretary.

Members were reminded of Summary Day, which will be held in the United Church Hall, Milton, on December 7 at 2 p.m. As the result of a cheque party held recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Moffat, \$15 will be forwarded for the work of the retarded children in Halton.

Mrs. William McIntyre and Mrs. C. W. McInnes will attend the Cancer Clinic on December 14 in Acton. Mrs. Edna Nellis reported on arrangements being made for a cheque and penny sale to be held in Acton on January 6. Mention was made of the next regular meeting being held on December 14 and will be in the form of a Christmas party at the home of Mrs. H. Blyth.

She also mentioned that there were 107 Homes for the Aged in the province and there were 96 Women's Auxiliaries working with the boards of management. Mrs. Pearl Kennedy and Mrs. George Robertson offered their assistance if an auxiliary was formed.

TB clinics will be held in Brookville and Campbellville this month and representatives of the branch will assist.

Standing committee reports were given by Mrs. Norman Elliott, visiting; Mrs. Alex Near, quilts and Mrs. P. Kennedy, historical research. Due to absence from the last meeting, Mrs. George Robertson gave a report of the W.I. convention held in Guelph. She had also attended a W.I. convention in Ottawa recently and brought gleanings from there.

Mrs. Edward Wilson introduced the guest speaker, Miss Jean Britton, who was the fortunate winner of a 441 trip to Washington and New York last month. She gave a very interesting resume of her trip, along with about 40 other young people. Mrs. Wilson thanked Jean for her splendid talk.

The annual auction sale was held and a large number of articles were auctioned off by Mrs. George Robertson and the proceeds added to the treasury.

Lunch was served by the hostess, Mrs. Near, assisted by Mrs. Melvin McCullough, Mrs. M. Nellis and Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Willard Britton was courtesy convener.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### BACK IN 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 4, 1941.

Mr. James Ross, who has been with Johnstone-Rumley funeral directors for the past nine years, left Acton last week to join his partner, Mr. R. McLanaghan in Guelph, where they will open the McLanaghan and Ross funeral home. Mr. Luchie McKersie, formerly of the Trull funeral home staff, succeeds Mr. Ross with Johnstone and Rumley here in Acton. He started his duties here this week.

Word was received this week from Detroit telling of the death of a former Actonian, William Ebbage, who lived here a few years ago with his parents. Mr. Ebbage was killed in a street accident in Detroit. He was struck by a D.S.R. bus at an intersection and died shortly afterward in hospital.

Four escapees from the Guelph Reformatory, who were at large for two days, were recaptured in Windsor. Guards were on the lookout here at Acton during the weekend in the event the prisoners might appear.

Plowing has been carried on at district farms right to the present time. The farmers report there has been no frost in the ground so far this year. The snow has not been sufficient to last a day.

"Mickey" Holmes, who is bowling his first season this year with the McCutcheon team, was high man during a game in the Guelph Commercial league with a three game score of 662. The team took over first spot Tuesday when they defeated Federal Wire.

The Y.M.C.A. Badminton Club were hosts to the Dundas club last weekend and like true hosts, allowed the visitors to depart with a victory. A return match has been scheduled for next week and the Acton players are looking forward to evening the score.

### BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Nov. 30, 1911.

On Monday evening, the Acton Junior Hockey Club was organized and the following officers were elected: honorary president, E. J. Hassard; president, A. J. Lehman; manager, J. C. Clark; captain and secretary, C. B. Clark.

On Monday afternoon, the editor of the Acton Free Press met a little girl from the Crescent who was crying. When asked her trouble, she stated she had lost a two dollar bill while on the way to the store to do shopping for her mother. Within an hour, Charlie Goldham, the seven-year-old son of Harry Goldham, Bowler Avenue, brought the lost money to the Free Press and it was returned to the little girl's mother. The honesty of the young lad has brought joy to the loser and admiration for the finder at this office.

Permission was granted Beardmore and Company during Council meeting Monday night, to erect poles on certain streets leading to their property and at their warehouse on Guelph St. as well. In granting the permission to erect electric light poles, council stipulated that where they extend on town property, the poles must be removed upon request.

A scheme for a hospital for Milton is under consideration. A suitable building is available, furnished. If the owner's terms are satisfactory and the financing can be arranged, it can be opened at short notice.

Many of the farmers have been stranded for a day or two following the weekend's heavy snowstorm. Drifts were so high in many places, it was utterly impossible for the teams to drag sleighs and cutters through. Certain sections of the country received this storm, while others seem to have had only a minor snowstorm.

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Phone 150

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Entrance River St.  
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Closed Wednesday afternoon  
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Office 22 Prince St. 151  
ACTON

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TA 4-2842  
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Saturdays 9 a.m. - 12 a.m.

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Mon. and Fri. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

### AUDITING - ACCOUNTING

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Chartered Accountants  
51 Main St. N. 212 King St. W.  
Brantford, Ont.  
Phone: GL 1-4824 EM 4-9131

### TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

#### GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON  
Standard Time  
Eastbound  
6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.); 8:58 a.m.; 11:33 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:08 p.m.; 6:33 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.).  
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.; 1:02 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Hol.).

#### RAILWAYS

CANADIAN NATIONAL  
Eastern Standard Time  
Eastbound  
6:44 a.m. to Toronto Daily except Sunday; 9:33 a.m. to Toronto except Sunday; 7:07 p.m. to Toronto Daily except Sat. and Sun.; 8:01 p.m. to Toronto Sunday Only.  
Westbound  
8:30 a.m. to Stratford daily except Sun.; 6:26 p.m. to Stratford daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:07 p.m. to Stratford daily except Sun.; 12:29 a.m. to Stratford (7 days a week); 2:22 p.m. to Stratford Saturday Only.

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