

Back in 1943

**Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 22, 1943.**  
**Mr. W. Lewis**, one of the most loyal and untiring directors and who has served on the board for years, was the unanimous choice as president of the Fair Board for 1943. Retiring president George Somerville congratulated secretary C. B. Swackhamer on this year's work. Whether to hold the fair on a Saturday or Wednesday was discussed.  
 To accommodate a large number of employees who live out of town, Beaumont and Co. have arranged for a special bus service between Acton and Guelph. The problem arose with no living quarters here and gas rationing.  
**Pte. Frank Jones** writes back he was asked for a match during an English blackout and recognized the voice — that of Pat Kenney from the home town. A delightful evening was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gordon when a goodly number of "Churchill friends" and neighbors braved cold weather and snow filled roads to attend a presentation party given in honor of Ward Graff and Richard Johnson, two of our soldier boys.  
 An Active Service List—"Those who fight to keep the flag of Freedom Flying"—is published and alphabetically contains about 300 names, beginning with those killed, Wing Commander Morris, Sgt. Pilot Turner and A. Anderson. Prisons of "war" are Pte. Turner and C.S.M. Irwin.  
 A few days of sunshine would help wonderfully in conserving electric power.  
 The reduced tax rate will be appreciated by every taxpayer.  
 With a vast of over 40, the minstrel show being planned for March will be one of the biggest local events of the season.  
 The War Service League needs knitters. Apply to Mrs. Bracken, Miss M. Z. Bennett or Mrs. J. E. Gable.  
 So many English girls are marrying Canadian soldiers, associations of them are being formed.

Back in 1913

**Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 22, 1913.**  
 Action Fire Brigade is perfecting a plan for a members' benefit fund.  
**Morgan Crewson** has bought a machine for drilling for oil.  
**Mr. W. J. Stuckey**, foreman of the wood working department in the machine shop at Acton Tanning Company, has moved his family from Grand Valley to Acton. They are held in high esteem in Grand Valley.  
 Two of the young people skating on the pond were so unfortunate as to skate into an unprotected area where ice has been removed by ice harvesters. They were promptly rescued by companions. These places should be protected by fences.  
 Compulsory vaccinations will be rigidly enforced in Waterloo to stamp out the smallpox outbreak.  
**Misses Hazel Mason** and **Bertie Smith** visited friends in Medouville this week.  
**Mr. Oscar Brown** is home from Vancouver, B.C.  
 At council, the duties of municipal officer Harvey were discussed. He collects taxes, digs graves, oils and shoves "arrests" and keeps the town books. "It is not just a matter of ten hours a day," said Reeve Hynds. "The officer is on duty day and night."  
**Councillor Smith** said, "The poor people of Acton think \$650 is a big salary."  
**Mr. W. A. Coxen** has opened a meat business.  
**Mr. W. Leishman** has bought the fruit and confectionery business of Mr. E. K. Cook.  
 The scholars, teachers and officers of St. Alban's Church assembled in the town hall for the annual tea and entertainment. Light views were thrown on the canvas by the Rev. Wilkinson.  
 The water table of Education Lane makes an excellent coasting ground. The sleds are run clear across the road, almost as far as the blacksmith's barn. The lads have signal men who warn as to approaching horses.  
 How dear to our hearts is the subscriber who pays in advance.



Time for Another Look . . .

When Acton Planning Board held its 1963 inaugural meeting last Thursday it marked the start, also, of the sixth year of operation under the by-law passed in January 1958.  
 In 1958 the passing of the by-law was generally considered to be a progressive step forward. True there were individuals who had some misgivings about the restrictions placed on individual's freedom. Some felt a "man's home is his castle", and he should be able to do what he wants to do with his own land. However there was no organized opposition to the by-law and, following various Municipal Board manoeuvres, Acton acquired By-law 1128, "a by-law to regulate the use of land and the character, location, use, bulk, height, spacing and other matters relating to building and structures and use of land within the Town of Acton."  
 One of the sections of the by-law provides that the "by-law shall be reviewed at regular 5 year periods and may be amended following such review." In this year's agenda we feel the Planning Board must take steps to revise this by-law. Since its passing in 1958 there have been numerous amendments to the by-law. There have been variances granted by the Committee of Adjustment and there have been many problems arise from its application and interpretation.  
 Perhaps the most glaring examples of its weakness were the difficulties and problems

encountered by numerous home owners who wished to build private garages.  
 The other area in which the by-law may be too restrictive is in the commercial and industrial restrictions. While this may not have affected a great number of taxpayers the result may have been to retard the commercial and industrial growth of the town.  
 The planning board is apparently thinking of engaging a planning consultant. This may or may not be a wise move. We are inclined to feel the Planning Board should adopt a little more positive attitude toward Acton's future development. We think they should emphasize the planning aspects of their duties and leave the legal application and interpretation of the by-law to the lawyers and courts.  
 We do not suggest the by-law should be changed to satisfy property owners' every whim but we do feel the Planning Board could sit down with any land owner and work out a program or application of the by-law which would be of benefit both to the land owner and the Town today as well as into the future.  
 We cannot accept the attitude expressed at last Thursday's meeting after a request for rezoning had been refused. "That's all they've asked for — why should we make any recommendations?"

What-Work Boys . . .

An interesting study has been published in Sweden of what the average factory worker's pay represents in terms of consumer goods in five countries. The list of 15 commodities includes: food, clothing, some household appliances and a passenger automobile. The five countries covered in the survey are The Soviet Union, the United States, Sweden, West Germany and Finland. By equating the output and living standards of Canadian workers as being equal to 70 per cent of the U.S. average, the comparison can be extended to take in this country.  
 As might be expected, the Soviet worker pays most in terms of work for everything on the list. With the exception of sugar, where the Swedish worker has the advantage, the U.S. worker pays the least. The Finnish and West German workers are better off than their Russian counterparts, but not as well off as the Swedes, and the Canadian does very well indeed.  
 The study was based on recent department store prices for commodities of equal value. For a pair of shoes the U.S. worker works three hours and 20 minutes, the Canadian four hours and a half, the Swede eight hours, and the Russian 75 hours. For a 100-pound bag of potatoes the U.S. worker works two hours and a quarter, the Canadian three hours and 20 minutes, the Swede about a quarter of an hour longer than the Canadian,

and the Russian 11 hours and 20 minutes.  
 For a one-pound loaf of bread the U.S. worker works five minutes, the Swede and the Canadian about six minutes and the Russian over seven minutes. For a pound of beef, presumably hamburger steak, the U.S. worker works 15 minutes, the Canadian 20 minutes, the Swede about 27 minutes, and the Russian about two hours and a quarter. To pay for a man's watch the U.S. worker works just over seven hours, and the Canadian just over 10 hours; the Swede works 22 hours to buy one, but the Russian works over 60 hours for his.  
 For a man's suit the U.S. worker works nearly 16 hours, the Canadian just over 22 hours, the Swede nearly 30 hours, and the Russian 100 hours. For a sewing machine the comparison is 26 hours of work for the U.S. man, nearly 40 hours for the Canadian, nearly 160 hours for the Swede, and 225 hours for the Russian. For a television set the U.S. worker works 66 hours and the Canadian 100 hours, while the Swede works 150 hours and the Russian 700 hours. Finally, to buy a new car the U.S. worker puts in 775 hours on his job, the Canadian 1,090 hours, the Swede 1,330 hours — but for the Russian worker the price of a car is the equivalent of 6,300 hours of employment.  
 As the Swedish publisher says, "Those are the facts. Draw your own conclusions."

National Y.M.C.A. Week Shows Church Connection

National Y.M.C.A. Week is being observed throughout Canada and the United States during the week of January 20-27, 1963. This week is set aside to bring public recognition to the unique character and many works of the Y.M.C.A. Our Acton Y.M.C.A. is, once again, joining with other associations across Canada in this event to support the timely projects — of Canadian youth work.  
 All Acton churches observed January 20 as Y.M.C.A. Sunday and thus marked the beginning of Y.M.C.A. Week. As in previous years all the local churches were supplied with special Y.M.C.A. Sunday bulletins which drew attention to the role of the Y.M.C.A. in our community.  
**Partnership With Church**  
 The Y.M.C.A. has been in partnership with the church for over 100 years. The church teaches young people the glory of God and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and the Y.M.C.A. helps them to translate these lessons into vigorous, healthy lives.  
 On the seal of the Y.M.C.A. there is a Bible. It is open to the Gospel of John. The passage indicated is John 17:21 — that all may be one.  
 It is the highest ideal of the Y.M.C.A. For it means that — people of all races, all creeds and all nationalities can find their oneness in the teachings of Jesus through the Young Men's Christian Association. Within the Y.M.C.A. movement, Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish join together in the service of youth. And all across the world, members of many other religions find in unity with their fellow men in the Young Men's Christian Association.  
 Today, "that all may be one" takes on a broader meaning for many Y.M.C.A.s. Once an organization for young men only, the Y.M.C.A. now embraces the whole family: boys and girls, young men and young women, and their fathers and mothers. Thus the Y.M.C.A. continues its historic role as an arm of the church in strengthening family ties as well as religious conviction.

**HE MAKES 21**  
 Al Jordan, formerly a clerk for two years with the identification bureau of the O.P.P. general headquarters in Toronto, became North Halton O.P.P. detachment's 21st officer recently. The force now numbers a Sergeant, two Corporals, and 11 constables. It serves the whole north end of Halton except in the towns of Georgetown, Acton and Milton.  
**BALLINAPAD**

U.C.W. to Redecorate Church Two Units Raise \$1646

A general meeting of the Ballinapad U.C.W. was held Tuesday evening with Mrs. F. J. Shortill, president, in charge. The Devotional period was taken by Mrs. Tom Given. Mrs. Don Smith gave the topic from the study book, "The Rim of Asia", telling about the people from the "Island of Taiwan".  
 A lengthy business session followed. Mrs. Ray Swindelhurst read the Treasurer's report for the past year, which was most gratifying. \$1,646.66 was raised by the two units.  
 It was decided to start a fund to redecorate the church. Plans to have the annual St. Patrick's Smorgasbord Supper were also discussed with a definite date to be decided later.  
 The afternoon unit served a delicious lunch at the close of the meeting.  
 Mr. Alex Mitchell was able to return home from Georgetown Hospital on Monday.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Alf Himes are enjoying a few weeks in Florida.  
 Mrs. Donald McLean had the misfortune to slip, and fall outside her home, breaking her hip. She is in Guelph General Hospital having a plate put in. She will be home and Mrs. J. Snow.

**Do you battle winter with all the nastiness of your soul? Do you consider that it is fit only for Eskimos and abominable snowmen? Does your spirit shrink into a cold little grey lamp somewhere in the vicinity of your liver, when it snows again? Does your heart grow hard with hatred when the mercury drops?**  
**Do you shriek, lady, at your little ones, when they come in plastered with snow, just seven minutes after you have spent half an hour bundling them up to go out?**  
**Do you take the name of the Lord in vain, sir, every time you go out in the morning and discover that the jumping snowplow has disrupted the daily 10-ton donation into your driveway?**  
**Do you wonder, when you receive your oil bill, if they have got your bill mixed up with that of the Chateau Laurier? Do you develop a deep, seething hostility toward old friends who announce they are off for a holiday in the south?**  
**Do your bones ache, your joints creak, your eyes water these days? Do you resent getting up in what seems to be the middle of the night, to go work?**  
 If the answer to all these questions is a screaming, homicidal "Yes," you may relax, friend and neighbor. You are neither neurotic nor odd, perverse nor peculiar. There's not a thing wrong with you. You are a typical, normal, average, and honest Canadian.

**Chief Justice Opens Assizes**  
 The first Supreme Court of Canada assizes in Halton's new county building were officially opened Tuesday, January 9, by the Hon. Mr. Justice James C. McRuer, Chief Justice of the High Court.  
 The distinguished judge presided over the first week of sittings as the court heard two criminal cases and 21 civil and divorce suits. The criminal cases included one against an Oakville man charged with criminal negligence arising from a motor vehicle accident in which two persons were killed; and a rape case against three Milton men who were involved in an incident with a 16-year-old Georgetown girl in Esqueping Township.  
 There are also seven divorce suits and 14 other civil matters.  
**Court Room Full**  
 As the sessions opened last week, the court room was nearly full of spectators, witnesses in the criminal cases, and petit jurors called up for duty. Clerk G. Madill conducted the proceedings, and Sheriff Andrew W. Frank ushered in His Lordship, garbed in the traditional full dress including lacy collar and cuffs, and carrying the sword of office.  
 His Lordship wasted no time in chastising the County Council for naming the new building the Halton County Administration Building.  
 "This building does credit to the citizens of the community, and it means more than a place for offices," he explained. "It is the symbol of Law in this community — a law that protects the poor and humbles the mighty."  
 He suggested the name pillar at the front of the building told only half the story, and recommended that a second pillar be added to read "County of Halton Court House."

Told Postal Service Has Lengthy History

Twenty-seven were present at the last Y's Men's meeting, including one guest, Herb Grazier of Acton, new accountant at the Bank of Nova Scotia. Frank Ruzic was finest master.  
 Two head table guests were Gord McKewen, Acton postmaster and Mr. Simkiss, public relations officer for the Hamilton district post office.  
 Lorne Duberstein introduced Mr. Simkiss who briefly outlined the beginning of postal service well before the time of Christ when rulers sent messages with information. He stressed correct addressing of mail for quick delivery. A film, Post Mark Canada, reviewed the different processes which mail passes through from the time it enters the post box until it's delivered to the recipient. He was thanked by Bob Currie.  
 Guy Ross gave a project report. \$1,054 of the 1960 goal of the fiscal year has been reached and he stressed co-operation to reach this goal by Spring. It includes peanut and chocolate sales, the bingo, turkey draw and Christmas tree sale. A report was given by Earl Meeles on world outlook. A cheque was sent to UNICEF for \$168.

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**TRAVELLERS' GUIDE**  
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 Standard Time  
 Eastbound  
 6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.); 8:59 a.m.; 11:33 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:08 p.m.; 6:23 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. (Sat. only).

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