



WICKLEBERRY MUMM DAY Friday for the children attending the playground program, proved interesting and amusing. Three of the youngsters dressed in their togs keep a wary eye on a live baby bird picked up during a scavenger hunt in the park. Left to right are Patricia Sampson, Ralph Landsborough and Sharon Mellon.

The Flag Issue...

A news item relays the rather surprising report that in the last six months a million signatures have been obtained for petitions urging members of Parliament to "save the Canadian ensign" as Canada's official flag. This is surprising because it has always seemed that most of those who are really very interested in the flag controversy are persons who want a change to something new. However, even if the red ensign has never seemed to be widely displayed, it has had semi-official status and limited use for so many years that perhaps it should not be surprising that a great many persons want to keep it. It was in 1892 that merchant ships of Canadian registry were authorized to fly a flag with the Union Jack in the upper quarter, next to the staff, with the badge of the Canadian coat of arms in the flag on a red background. In 1924 Parliament approved the flag for use on any Canadian building abroad, and an Order in Council dated September 5, 1945, states that it is appropriate to fly the red ensign to mark any significant Canadian occasion. A similar flag, but with a blue background, is flown by ships in the public service and by all man-of-war.

In point of fact, the badge of the coat of arms that is incorporated in both the red and blue ensigns is not as old as those flags. This badge — a shield displaying the arms

of England, Scotland, Ireland and France, with a sprig of maple leaves below — came into use only in 1921. Originally the badge showed the arms of six provinces surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves. However, as the number of provinces increased to nine this design became cluttered and difficult of recognition and it was changed when the present arms of Canada were proclaimed in 1921.

The present government apparently believes it can find a new flag design that will be universally acceptable to Canadians. This may be a lot easier said than done, particularly if a million or more persons hold a sufficiently strong opinion about the red ensign to petition Parliament for its retention. To date no one other design seems to have more than individual support, although something like 6,000 different designs have been submitted to Ottawa since 1946.

And if the government does come up with a new flag that gains the approval of at least a majority of the members of Parliament, that would be no guarantee that it would also gain the approval of a majority of the citizens. It is likely that those who have an affection for the red ensign would go on flying it even if some other design had official approval.

Two Year Term?...

Acton Council at a regularly scheduled meeting this week failed to muster the quorum necessary to conduct a meeting. It was unfortunate circumstances and the vacation period that caused the shortage of members. Undoubtedly there was business that should have been transacted or the meeting would not have been scheduled in the first place. Situations such as this can be expected during the vacation period.

We feel that when council does get back to meeting again one item on the agenda should be the consideration of a two-year term for council members. If it is necessary to have the subject put to a vote of the ratepayers we feel this should be held at the municipal elections this year. The procedure to put the question to the ratepayers should be started now. The two-year term would serve the ratepayers to a better degree than the present system. We would recommend that the council be elected for a straight two year term with no staggered expiry of terms of office. We can not see where a staggered system of expiry of the terms of office would be any improvement over the present system.

at the present term is exceptionally busy with committee and special meetings until the budget is set in April. From April to the end of June proceedings run smoothly but from July to the end of August vacation time interferes. In September Council has time to clean up the business of the summer and by then there always appears to be a slackening of interest in the proceedings and a reluctance, and in some cases, legislation which prevents the introduction of new projects.

Under the present system we feel that the work initiated until the end of June is the work of the year and that from July to December council acts as a caretaker administration.

We feel that the major advantage of the two year term would be that out of a period of 24 months we would get a minimum of 18 months of active administration rather than the 12 of the 24 months we now have.

Under the two year term the council could and would have the power to start in September to plan and organize the work for the coming year. Perhaps most important the budget could be considered in the

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 29, 1943.

Intermediate and graduation certificates for pupils of Acton Continuation School have been received this week by secretary W. G. Middleton from the Department of Education and will be given later to the pupils. Graduation diplomas for the general four-year course in Secondary Schools were awarded to six pupils, Evelyn Bradis, Dorothy Clayton, Shirley Duval, Isabel McLeod, Mary Ritchie and Margaret Smith.

Miss Elizabeth Emily Harrison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Harrison, now of Toronto, will be in the graduating class at the University of Toronto tomorrow and receive her M.D. degree.

Rev. C. I. Poole of Moffat, a former beloved pastor, occupied the United church pulpit Sunday morning during the vacation of Rev. W. Foxbury. Mrs. Poole also contributed a solo, which was much appreciated.

Delegates from about 30 communities from all parts of Ontario will be in town Saturday for the 42nd convention of the Ontario Firemen's Association.

Next Wednesday, Ontario electors will go to the polls to choose a government. Thomas A. Blakelock is the Liberal candidate for Halton, John Wilkinson, the C.C.F. candidate and Stan Hall, the Conservative candidate. Show our Canadianism! Get out and vote.

To meet wartime conditions, Acton Fair first night performance will be curtailed.

There will be a Liberal rally in the Gregory theatre tonight and tomorrow a C.C.F. meeting will be held in the town hall.

Lovell Bros. ad-meat coupons 4, 5, 6 and 7 and butter coupons 17, 18 and 19 expire July 31.

Gregory Theatre — "Hello, Hello," Alice Faye, John Payne, "Ice Capades Revue," Jerry Colonna, Vera Vague; then "Random Harvest," Greer Garson, Ronald Coleman.

The Wool Combing picnic will be held next week.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 31, 1913.

This has been a great year of success for Acton High and Public Schools. At the Lower School departmental examinations, all the candidates but one passed and took top honors. At the High School entrance examinations, all the candidates but one passed and seven took honors. Yesterday, the daily papers published the cheering news that all Acton candidates for second class certificates and entrance to Normal School had passed and all but one obtained honors, as follows: Margaret J. MacDonald (honors); Mantie C. Masales (honors); Dorothy A. Nelson (honors) and Nellie A. Williams. No other schools in Halton have such a record as Acton.

An excellent game of cricket was witnessed on Saturday last when the Acton Cricket Club overcame a Brampton Eleven at the park. It is evident there is going to be a revival of this good, clean game. Playing for Acton were J. Wood, captain, J. Precious, C. Virdland, R. Hall, H. Wilkinson, W. Perrie, H. Sinden, T. Alger, G. Cooper, F. B. Roddie, T. Morris.

Rev. S. Howarth, the new minister of the Baptist church, was greeted with large congregations when he began his ministry here. Rev. and Mrs. Howarth have three children.

A boy was killed by a train at Guelph Junction and Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Donovan were killed by a train at Moffat within a few feet of their home.

August 1 — Emancipation Day. Acton Livery and Bus Lines — Well equipped and stylish rigs can always be secured at the stables. A bus meets all trains. John Williams proprietor.

Canadian National Exhibition will feature the "Irish Guards' Band" — magnificent — art exhibit, cadet review, Japanese fireworks, the musical ride, circus and hippodrome, 12 band concerts daily. The Wreck of the Airship, and Nero and The Burning of Rome. The voters' lists have been posted by the clerk.

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL BAILEY

What a difference a generation or so has wrought in the onerous art of summer cottaging! About 30 years ago, it was a sort of gypsy existence, based on the idea that people should enjoy life. Today, it is a combination of status-seeking, nerve wracking and organized horror, like most of the other facets of society in the Sixties.

In those days, the cottage was a cottage, not a palatial "summer home". Today, the same structure would be called a shack and they'd run you right out of the subdivision (which could be the best thing that ever happened to you).

Can you imagine one of these young married couples going with their children to a place away out of nowhere, with coal oil lamps and a two-holer out back and no supermarket within 50 miles.

Can you imagine Mummy going all summer without even one single car? Can you imagine Dad with just one lousy little rowboat? Can you imagine children who could possibly exist without water skis and transistor radios? It's pretty appalling, isn't it?

And yet, summer cottaging was, within memory, a simple, almost pioneer existence, with its own very special pleasures; its deep delights, its subtle joys. It was a wonderful, golden two months each year in the lives of many youngsters, a time they still remember with savage regret for what they have become.

For one thing, Father did not have to thunder up a highway with thousands of other "zombies", each and every one intent on getting there in the shortest possible time and taking nothing off a nobody in the process. Father was a summer bachelor and he loved every minute of it.

When school ended, he loaded

down the old car to the groaning point, piled the kids in the back, took the whole family to the cottage, dumped them, and went sensibly back to town, where all the other sensible fathers spent the summer.

He got a rest from his wife and children and spent the evenings quietly and happily at the bowling green or pottering among the raspberry bushes or running around with the local grass widow.

And what was Mother doing? Don't worry. She was kept busy and therefore happy, taking silvers out of feet, taking the kids swimming twice a day and filling their greedy little stomachs with unpasteurized milk, ungraded eggs and uninspected meat.

Nowadays, my heart aches for cottage parents. The day they arrive, Dad changes "around like a bull moose", hooking up the pressure system, blowing fuses in the hydro system, trying to get his dirty great boot in the water and running in all directions looking vast cans of gas, brutally heavy outboards and back-breaking cases of tinned food.

When everything is operating, he has to dash off to the village to get some indispensables, such as a box of tissues and a bottle of olives. When he gets back, he learns that he is to take the kids for a swim, set up the barbecue for the party they're giving that night, and go back to the village for some cigarettes for Mum.

What are the kids doing on that glorious first day at the cottage? They're sitting around

whining because there's no TV and "nothing to do". And what is Mummy doing? She's switched on her electric stove, flopped some frozen dinners in the oven and is sitting looking at the lake with bored disdain. No olives to take out, no vegetables to prepare, no drinking water to fetch. She's unhappy.

Sunday night, or Monday morning if he's a real nut, Dad hits the highway again and arrives back on the job crestfallen and sorry for himself. But the horrible part of it is that he has to be at the cottage every weekend, plus his three weeks with - pay in August.

At least twice a week, back in town, he gets a phone call from Mum and he'd better be home to take it, not out "roaring around and having yourself a big time". Her call reveals that she's bored, that the kids are giving her a bad time, that the septic tank isn't working and that some people are going to "drop over" on Saturday night.

Sure, they have many things, the old-time cottagers didn't have — lights, water, indoor plumbing. But today's cottager, in his frantic search for electric convenience, has created a Frankenstein monster. He's a slave to all that machinery, and a captive of all that social life, and he hates his wife, who'd be much happier taking out slivers with a needle.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

MILTON — Planners have agreed to relax restrictions on detached garage side lot distances. They decided to allow a side yard of three to six inches, measured from the side of the garage to the lot line. The former ruling called for a distance equal to the height of the garage to the eaves, and was causing a hardship on owners wanting garages on small lots.

BRAMPTON — Brown tap water that smells like boiled eggs is ruining sheets and blankets in her home, an irate Windermere Cr. housewife claims. She says the water "blotches sheets with large brown stains" and leaves rings on her kitchen utensils. Another resident claims tap water used in an outdoor goldfish pond killed several fish and the waterlilies turned yellow.

COOKSVILLE — An "obviously hostile" Toronto Township council turned a deal over to Councillor H. Chappell's vision of the "City of Mississauga" when he presented a notice of motion calling for the Municipal Board to change the township's name and status. Reeve Robert Speck said the plan would cost \$170,000 in lost grants. But, countered councillor Chappell, "Township of Toronto" sounds like "the back 40 of Toronto."

GEORGETOWN — Council plans to disguise its second cruiser as a plain, unmarked car equipped with radar, to stop speeding youths causing a nuisance with cars. One resident complained the youths were using his street as a drag strip since his last complaint to council went unheeded.

Knox Ladies' Groups Have Picnic Meeting

When the welcome rain of Monday came, a picnic party planned for the park had to be changed to the Sunday School room at the church.

The two groups meeting together were the Ladies Aid and the afternoon group of the W.M.S. of the Knox Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. R. E. Davidson, monthly convenor of the Ladies Aid presided and opened the meeting with a favorite hymn and all reciting the Lord's Prayer in unison.

A short business period was dealt with and reports given by both the secretary and treasurer. Mrs. G. Somerville gave a reading of "The Faithful Few."

The special feature of this gathering was to pay tribute to Mrs. Annie Stalker, well known in this community and a lifelong member of Knox Church, and interested in both groups of the church.

Mrs. Dougald Kennedy read an appropriate address and Mrs. A. McPherson presented her with a token gift, a polished blue ribbon ring, her birth stone, and Mrs. F. Anderson presented her with a corsage.

Miss Stalker, who was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Rudliff of Toronto, and with whom she will make her home, says she is not going to sever her membership with the Acton church and hopes to return very often. She was assured of a warm welcome whenever she came, and also her sister. Everyone joined heartily to sing "The More We Get Together."

Obituary

Mrs. Hattie Sanders Inferred at Everton

In failing health for 10 months, Mrs. Hattie Sanders passed away in Kitchener - Waterloo Hospital on Sunday, July 13. She was in her 72nd year.

She leaves to mourn, her husband William Sanders of 147 Merner Ave., Kitchener, two sons, William of Hillsburgh and George of Erin; three daughters, Violet (Mrs. Ernest Pearson) of Orangeville; Florence (Mrs. James Savers), R. R. 4, Acton and Gladys, at home; two brothers, Victor McCallum, Streetsville and Daniel McCallum, Milton; two sisters, Nettie (Mrs. A. J. McLean), Victoria, B. C. and Mary (Mrs. Robert Skelton), Chaplin, Sask.; and 13 grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanders were 47 years married last December 22.

Rev. O. P. Hosalie, the family minister from Kitchener, officiated at the funeral service in the Erin United Church on July 16. Mrs. Douglas Pinkney of Brampton and Mrs. Ralph McKeown, Glen Williams, sang a duet, "The Old Rugged Cross." Interment was in Everton Cemetery.

Funeral services were held at the home, 147 Merner Ave., Kitchener, on July 16. Burial was in Everton Cemetery.

Flowers were carried by her nieces and nephew, Mrs. John Pell, Stoney Creek; Mrs. Gordon Gibbins, Acton; Mrs. Norma McLaughlin, Brampton; Mrs. Robert Sanders, Brampton; Hugh M. Callum, Leamington and her oldest grandchildren, Miss Gladys Ann Pearson, Orangeville.

She was the eldest daughter of the late John McCallum and Mary Mitchell. She was a devoted wife and mother and especially kind and helpful to her youngest daughter, Gladys, who went total blind through sickness at the tender age of three. She enjoyed piecing quilts and was a lover of flowers and gardening.

At the close of the meeting everyone was invited downstairs where the table was set with an abundance of food (called pot luck) and consisted of many varieties.

Before departing Miss Isabel Anderson expressed the appreciation to those who had planned and prepared such a pleasant afternoon which was enjoyed by everyone.

Teachers in Eramosa Announced by Board

Members of the teaching staff for Eramosa Township School area for the term 1963-64 are as follows: No. 2 school, Mrs. Florence Hindley, principal; Mrs. Ruth Rutherford, No. 3; Mrs. Irene Hindley, No. 4; Miss Nellie Stickers, No. 5; Mrs. Margaret Walker, No. 6; Mrs. Margaret Gossett, No. 7; Miss Winifred Lynds, No. 8; Grant McRae, principal; Mrs. Mary Nellis, Mrs. Gloria Bruce, Miss Nancy Neff, Mrs. Elizabeth Harwood, Mrs. Kathleen Wyndham, Mrs. Marion Tubman, Mrs. Violet Kramp.

No. 10 school: Mrs. Irene Strutt; No. 11, Mr. Ronald Millson, principal; Mrs. Susanne Meadows, music supervisor, Susanne Lester, priest; remedial, Clifford Hincks.

Plant Takes Holiday Friday, Work Monday

The Free Press plant, to expedite the printing of press papers, takes the Civic Holiday on Friday rather than Monday. But the office staff keeps normal hours and the office will be open Friday and closed Monday. Several newspapers are printed in the Free Press plant (including one in Dutch) and it's very difficult to produce them with a Monday holiday.

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The only paper ever published in Acton
 G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief
 David R. Dills, Managing Editor

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