

A source of pride ...

We were pleased, we are sure a great number of citizens were pleased with last week's action of Council in accepting the lowest tender for the Centennial Library.

It seems about once every decade we can undertake some municipal project that will provide just a little extra in our lives. Most of our projects the last few years have been things we have to have. The sewer and water installation and the school additions are all very essential, but the library is something we can all not only use but also see. With the awarding of the construction contract, council has also attempted to foresee all the other additions, the sodding, the sidewalks, bridge, the shelving and furniture necessary to produce a completed building.

It is our feeling that while council has attempted to produce this "completed" building there are many areas in

which individuals and organizations may participate in the Centennial Library Project. It would seem the library board will be able to provide the books necessary with the help of the South Central Regional Library Co-op.

Possible projects for local groups could be the beautification of the school creek in front of the new library; a bridge over the creek; additional furniture for specific areas; start of a record and tape library and the lighting in the library ground. Perhaps another organization might like to place outdoor furniture in the park-like setting of the library.

Whatever the local groups may decide to do, or not to do, we think the new library will form the nucleus for centennial projects and programs by which we in Acton may participate in the overall Canadian festivities.

North growth slim ...

Early indications for the Plunkett Report on local government are that the dice will be pretty well loaded against development in the northern sections of the county. That's the way we read preliminary pronouncements on the subject made to some county council representatives recently.

Changes there will be. The Boards and municipalities that make up the two counties under study acknowledge that and even invite it. Of the more than 100 briefs received in the year-long study the majority proposed changes in the present government set-up. Only four of the briefs argued for a continuation of the present conditions and organization. Apparently 20 favored some kind of government reorganization and 12 other briefs presented during the study said they had no real objection to change.

Mr. Plunkett has told the county representatives there will not be much development in the northern halves of Peel and Halton, despite projected population growth for Halton to 313,000 and Peel to 310,000. Each county now has less than 150,000. The main deterrent to growth in the northern sections of the counties would be what the Commissioner feels would be the high cost of servicing land. Sewage would have to undergo extensive treatment or be piped to the lake and given regular treatment, either of which is expensive.

Mr. Plunkett's report is to be in the hands of the Minister of Municipal Affairs by September and its release will be eagerly awaited. The very existence

of such a study has already clouded municipal issues and stalled or hastened projects by its imminence and anticipated major recommendations on municipal structure.

We hope in his final report Mr. Plunkett will use more specific terms than the northern section of the counties and the southern sections. These terms are already confusing local politics. To some, the north of the county starts at the Dundas highway, while others regard the division at the point of the Base Line Road between Oakville-Burlington and Nassagaweya-Esquesing.

We hope, too, that Mr. Plunkett will recommend permission for development of municipalities within their proven capacities for meeting service requirements. Engineering studies can provide accurate information on water supplies and the ability of streams to cope with treated effluent. These are the logical guidelines on which to project and permit development and growth. The provincial government already has ample authority to insist on adherence to such guidelines.

It seems inevitable there will be change in the structure of local government, and about the only change that would seem a certainty is the abolition of a good many boards and committees with their power and responsibility returned to a council.

Where the structure will place the local or county levels of government is still fair game for conjecture — at least until the in-fighting starts after filing of the Plunkett Report in September.

Harley to Halton

by Harry Harley M.P.



Interest in the problems of older people has been quickened in the past several months by the publication and discussion of the report of the Special Senate Committee on Aging particularly in the last few days while debating the Canada Assistance Plan.

The recommendation of this Committee is simply this—that all Canadians 65 and over be assured of a guaranteed minimum income. As a start, single persons would have an annual income of \$1260. (\$105 a month) and married couples would have \$2220 a year (\$185 a month). The Federal Government would fill the gap between existing incomes and this proposed minimum annual income. This guaranteed income, the Senate Committee concludes, would best serve the purpose of enabling older citizens to "live with dignity" while still continuing to make a worthwhile contribution to their communities.

The Senate Committee's proposal has several points in its favour. The Senate recommendation would provide additional payments for those with incomes below the proposed minimum and no payments would be made to those over the guaranteed annual minimum income.

The use of income tax forms as the basis for an income test would in the Senate Committee's view be simpler and more acceptable to older people than any of the various other methods proposed or used for determining who is and who isn't eligible for additional payments.

The plan would be less burdensome on the public treasury and on the taxpayer; in fact payments could be expected to drop steadily as the Canada Pension Plan starts paying full benefits. (It matures to full payment in ten years). We already expend over one million dollars a year under the Old Age Security Programme as it now stands and this amount will rise to \$1.6 billion by 1970 primarily because of the lowering of the eligibility age to 65 years. In addition we have committed ourselves to heavy additional ex-

penditures over the next few years in the fields of university education, medical insurance and health resources, to name three examples.

It is difficult to estimate the precise cost of the guaranteed minimum income proposal if applied to older persons; the Senate Committee itself declined to give any estimate but its Chairman, Senator David Cruik, suggested the cost would be approximately \$100 million a year initially. The Government feels it would be higher than this figure, perhaps three times as high, but certainly it would still be lower than the payment of an additional \$25 per month to everyone in receipt of Old Age Security. Another potential problem with the Senate proposal is that it might require recipients to estimate a year in advance what they think their annual income will be. Say, for example, a person estimated that his income will be \$1100 for the year; he would be eligible for additional payments of \$133 a month, to bring him up to the guaranteed income of \$1260 for a single person.

The Senate committee's recommendation is now undergoing careful study as, indeed, the Committee itself suggested it should. The Prime Minister has already announced that careful, immediate and expert attention is being given to the Senate report and, in fact, a committee within the Federal Department of Health and Welfare is already at work assessing its recommendations and findings. In this connection I would also bring to your attention remarks by the Prime Minister, speaking in the Throne Speech Debate last January: "It is important that we do all that we can to meet the needs of older people, which must remain the concern of this and other government in Canada. The Government is taking important steps now to expand its support in these fields through Canada Assistance Plan and the Medicare Programme which it hopes will soon be in effect, especially the latter because it is the older groups which are most vulnerable to the high costs and uncertainty which relate to medical care."

Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley

In about the last three decades, the face of a Canadian summer has changed almost beyond recognition.

Think back to your summers as a child. The sights and the sounds and the smells have all changed. You'd scarcely know you were in the same country.

Summer itself has not changed. As a nation half-frozen after a long, weary winter and a cold, wet spring, we still greet it with rapture and incredulity. It is the celebration of the season that has been transformed.

Thirty years ago summer was a quiet time. The pace was leisurely. The mood was one of peace. Today it's just the opposite. It is the noisiest time of the year, the pace is frantic, and the mood is jazzy.

In those days, summer pleasures, for the working staff, were simple. And for a couple of good reasons: He worked nine or 10 hours a day; and he didn't have any money.

When he got home, he was whacked. After supper he might water the lawn, or do a little weeding or just sit on the front porch until dark. Occasionally, he'd take in a ball game, or maybe drive the family around for a while, and buy everybody an ice-cream cone.

When his holidays rolled around, he didn't do much. Pattered around, painting the trim on the house, or worked in the garden. Maybe took the family to visit relatives for a few days.

In those days, summer cottages, and power boats, and resort hotels and golf were for the wealthy.

What a difference today! The working stiff gets home, and his day has just begun. He has a golf date. Or the kids demand he drive them for a swim. Or his wife has asked somebody over for drinks and a barbecue and he must don the apron and get to work.

When his holidays come around the pace triples. No putting about the house for him. No sitting in the back yard, under a shade tree, and restoring himself.

It doesn't matter what has been planned for his holidays. Whether it's a mad motor trip of 3,000 miles, or a cottage at

Crud Lake, or a tenting excursion, he's going to have to be a human dynamo for about 18 hours a day.

What's happened in three decades? Cars, affluence, desire for status, and women!

Cars, and the subsequent highways to accommodate them, have opened up the hinterland. Beach areas that used to be quiet, little summer settlements at the end of a rugged gravel road are now roaring, raucous neon jungles by night, flesh strips and screaming motors by day.

Virgin lakes, not long ago accessible only by canoe and portage, are now laid bare by developers, and the bulldozers are at work, and everybody wants to own his own plot, though prices have skyrocketed.

Affluence, combined with the never-neverland of the finance company, has made its inroads. Today the working man owns his own cottage, or cruiser and belongs to the golf club. The big resorts have been taken over by the moderately well-to-do. The rich, in disgust, fly to Europe.

The eternal pursuit of status in our society has played its part. If that crumb next door can afford a cottage for two weeks, Joe can afford a flight to the West Coast. If he has a 50-horse motor, Joe needs a 75-horse. If his kids are going to camp for two weeks, Joe's are going for the whole of August.

And women? Ah, how they have helped change the face of Canada's summer! They used to be content to stay home, look after their gardens and put up preserves in the summer. They used to be happy with a family picnic on Sundays. They used to enjoy making a pitcher of cold lemonade on a hot summer evening, and bringing it out to the porch.

Now they want a cottage for two months, or a new and bigger boat, or a second car, plus a membership at the golf club, plus a new patio, plus a couple of weeks at a swank resort.

It's no wonder poor Joe is a whimpering shell at the end of the summer, exhausted, broke and frazzled.

Respect for the law ...

Open defiance of a court order normally results in a confrontation between the court and the offender. When a penalty is invoked for that defiance it is regarded as the upholding of law and order in a society.

But recently when some were inspired to disobey a court injunction and exceeded the number of pickets permitted, they were punished and immediately a host of officials were ready to attack the judge responsible, the courts, the government and the premier.

Really the subject under attack was a specific law, the law that permits injunctions on the number of pickets or on picketing during labor-management disputes.

Within the same week the news develops that a wild-cat strike delayed the unloading of 17 ships because police charged one man with an illegal act. Apparently 150 more walked out in sym-

pathy and a further 450 joined in. At this point they had refused to return to work until the police responsible for the charges and an alleged assault had been dismissed or apologized.

Farmers have found it necessary in some areas to technically break the law by impeding traffic on highways in support of their case for higher milk prices.

It causes one to reflect on where the breakdown in a society comes, when all respect for law and order has been trampled. Not all laws are good laws. But while a law is in force the courts are compelled to uphold it. When one is broken, it is not the quality of the law that is measured, but the violation.

Just how long can we continue to cast the law in disrespect and still expect it to be a force? Or are we really building a whole new power structure with authority vested other than in elected officials and judicial courts?



RETIRING CAN BE ENJOYABLE especially when an elegant smorgasbord luncheon is served. Thursday of last week five Beardmore employees were feasted on retirement and catered from Parkview Motel in Guelph provided the tasty morsels of food. Left to right are two employees of the catering firm, general manager Norman Braidia handing out serviettes and cutlery as Al Connelly, Les Dubs, Percy Evans and Al Villenaire help themselves to the food.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, July 4, 1946.

All Acton pupils were successful in their high school entrance examinations. (Names of all students promoted were listed.) Those with perfect attendance were Russell Arbie, Wayne Arbie, Emerson Baxter, Adele Chew, Leslie Cripps, Fred Euringer, Doreen Fryer, Helen Keelan, Fred Keintner, Helen Moore, Kathleen McChrystal, Isabelle Ritchie, Helen Somerville, Betty Wilds.

Acton Boys' Band went by special bus to Waterloo and took part in the Music Festival. This was the boys' first time in competition and while they did not win any awards, we are proud of the boys and of the work of their conductor, Mr. Chas. Mason. They can win if they continue to progress and improve.

A crowd of between 400 and 500 gathered at Lorne School on Monday to join in a presentation and do honor to the members of the Acton U.F.Y.O. and Junior Farmers who served in the last world war. The afternoon was spent in races and games and Acton Boys' Band played. George Somerville was the winner in horse-shoe pitching. George Mason entertained with feats of magic.

Past leaders speaking were Messrs. Chas. McKeown, R. N. Brown and J. J. Stewart. Master of ceremonies and a leader always in the group was Mr. R. L. Davidson. Present group leader is Mr. Elwood Johnston. Those who paid the supreme sacrifice were E. A. Anderson, Jas. McIntyre and Howard Webster. Fifty-two former members of the group saw active service. On their behalf Jack Van Gozen expressed thanks.

Born Parker — Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Parker announce the birth of a daughter, Linda Shelburn, on June 20 at Guelph General Hospital.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, July 6, 1916.

Another Acton boy, Pte. Alexander Gribben has been killed in action. The sad message was forwarded to his parents, who have moved to Toronto.

Misses Janie O'Brien, Margaret and Christina Henderson and Ethelred White were all successful in passing their normal school examinations. Miss Bella Gole received her third class certificate.

The delightful weather on Dominion Day rendered the union picnic at Rockwood a delight. Acton Epworth League was represented by 65 members and friends under the leadership of Rev. Aivson. They went on the 10.30 a.m. train and had two meals there before returning on the evening train. The Rockwood League were amiable hosts.

Owing to ill health Dr. A. D. Lake has disposed of his practice to Dr. J. A. McNiven who commenced his professional work in Acton this week. Dr. and Mrs. McNiven have leased Sunderland Villa, the home of Mr. W. A. Storey, which is centrally located and admirably adapted for a doctor's office and residence. Dr. McNiven left Comber and Essex county because of the heavy clay roads.

The term of office of Municipal Officer John Harvey has expired and Acton lost one of its most faithful and efficient officers. His multifarious duties always received his closest attention. As assessor and collector he was adept. Only one appeal was made this year and there have rarely been complaints. As tax collector,

every dollar available has always been collected. As collector of Hydro-Electric rates he was termed the best in the province. He deserves a complimentary and substantial testimonial. Mr. W. J. Reid, his successor, comes with strong recommendations.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, July 9, 1891.

The Dominion of Canada was 24 years old on Wednesday. With a strong pulse, lusty wings and grand physique she is in a position to make a name for herself.

Modern inventions have brought so great an increase of luxuries to all classes that now the difficulty is not so much to secure what is useful and necessary as to avoid an intemperate excess.

The corporation officer has the sidewalks pretty well repaired now. Some of the new planks put in would be better if the edges were bevelled down to the thickness of the old planks.

The new building at the G.T.R. station for drying sand for locomotives is about completed. It does not add much to the beauty of the surroundings.

The masons have commenced operations on the new home of D. Henderson, M.P., on Bower Ave.

Mr. J. C. Hill is having the room above his store fitted up for a society hall. The annual Dominion Day celebration was held and, notwithstanding the wet weather of the morning, a fairly large crowd of visitors came in. They were for the most part lovers of horse flesh and as usual the program centred around the race track. There was an exciting football match between Nassagaweya Hi-Fliers and Acton and a lacrosse match. There was a so-called calthumpian procession and the barmen carried by the grotesque juveniles bore legends reciting the eccentricities, virtues and failings of several members of council, which created many a hearty laugh.

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Free Press Church Notices

- TRINITY CHURCH**
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON—
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D., Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A., Organist and Choir Master
- COMBINED SUMMER SERVICES**
At Trinity Church
SUNDAY, JULY 10th, 1966 — at 10 a.m.
Preacher — Rev. Dwight I. Engel
Church School withdrawn at both churches for summer months.
- ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tidey Ave., Ph. 853-1615
- SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1966
9.45 a.m. — Church School Adult Class.
11.00 a.m. — Morning Worship, "What is Salvation."
There will be no evening services during July and August.
Wednesday—Prayer and Bible Study, 7.30.
No Thursday Choir Practice for July.
All visitors welcome to our services.
Doctrines we preach and believe: The Virgin Birth, The Divinity of Christ, His Bodily Resurrection, The Second Coming.
- EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE**
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715
- SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1966
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evangelist Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
- BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**
Acton, Ontario.
Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk, Phone 853-1585
- SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1966
10.00 a.m.—English Service.
2.30 p.m.—Dutch Service.
3.45 p.m.—Sunday School.
- THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR**
ANGLICAN
Corner Willow and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.
- Trinity V
SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1966
10 a.m. under the direction of Mr. Laurence Dubs, B.A.
During July there will be one service, Matins, with sermon and music at 10 a.m. under the direction of Mr. Laurence Dubs, B.A.
- MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**
(Georgetown)
- SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1966
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer meeting.
Acton 853-1956. Georgetown 877-6666