

Leave home tonight ...

The importance of Acton's annual nomination meeting is stressed here year after year, and attendance remains about the same. Maybe this year, with our representatives to be elected for a two-year term, attendance will be more representative of the continuing interest in town affairs. This is the time to ask questions and to learn about anything that bothers you.

Reports are given as a matter of course. They have been prepared in advance with care by council, hydro, school boards and other bodies. They are factual and comprehensive.

The atmosphere is informal enough that no one would mind asking a question, and you may be sure you would be answered with our municipal officials' usual courtesy.

You see the usual people who are interested in the town there, year after year. And to look at the group, you'd think women around here hadn't been granted the vote yet.

The library, the hydro building, the stop lights, the amalgamation of parks board and recreation committee, M. Z. Bennett school addition.

These are a few of the things that our elected representatives have had to make important decisions about this past year, on our behalf. Back them up by attending the meeting after nominations.

Show your interest by considering carefully who can best continue the fine work of the past, and take part in the nomination meeting which precedes.

It's tonight, Thursday, at the Robert Little School.

Free Press Editorial Page

Politics and politicians ...

The growing disillusionment with politics and politicians was surely increased during the past week by the events at the Progressive Conservative annual meeting in Ottawa.

The picture of a leader, snubbed by many of his supposed supporters, publicly lashing out at those who disagree with his leadership, is hardly one to stimulate confidence in those who would govern this great, broad country. It is hardly the kind of picture that would lead young people to dedicate their lives as politicians.

The party system of government has endured many tests during Canada's first hundred years but displays of the infighting and survival tactics necessary in politics are not stimulating, they are sickening.

We are among those who have felt

that John Diefenbaker has outlived his ability to lead a party effectively and dynamically although we have great admiration for his oratorical skill. We have a soft spot too, for his determination and doggedness.

Ideally, of course, he would resign and permit the now-dissipated party to rebuild and unify. He is not one to resign without a fight, however, and the extent to which he will go to satisfy what appears to be personal ambition is yet to be seen.

The situation is one which will have its effects on all Canadians since the leader of the opposition has a key role to play in the Parliament of our country. How effectively he can play that role, knowing of the divided support he has within his own party, will be open to question. Not only will the party suffer but Canada suffers, too.

No delay warranted ...

As the time approaches for municipal groups to submit their comments on the Peel-Halton Local Government review it is not surprising that there should be some agitation for an extension of the deadline. We feel the provincial government should, however, resist the temptation to permit the local legislators to procrastinate.

The report, detailed, radical and controversial, was presented to the municipalities on September 20. The deadline set at that time was the end of the year — three months away.

Initially there may have been considerable conjecture on whether the report was actually real. It had been in the making for a year and perhaps most had been inclined to consider it still off in the future. Realism has perhaps been slow in coming but it is now generally accepted the report is not some intangible day dreaming. It is here, now and must be dealt with.

A meeting of school officials from the two-county area has urged a two month extension in the date for the submission of the comments to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The County Council hedged its request for an extension with the suggestion it be permitted only so 1967 councillors, perhaps newly elected, would have the opportunity to comment. The council maintained, however, the 1966 councils should not be permitted an extension for their comments. Three of Halton's seven municipalities are on two year terms for council and this is not an election year.

Municipal councillors are no different from the average individual. They will procrastinate if the deadline is extended, just as individual organizations who are studying the report would. Those charged with the responsibility of municipal office during 1966 when the

report was largely prepared are in the best position to offer constructive comments and suggestions. New councillors, learning the intricacies of municipal administration, would be hard pressed in the first two months of a term of office, to deal realistically with the proposals of Mr. Plunkett.

Municipal officials should be able to reach some decisions on the advantages and disadvantages of the Plunkett proposals, then outline them comprehensively in time to meet the deadline.

The pall of uncertainty that hangs over municipal government in Halton and Peel is not a healthy thing. Lengthening this period of limbo will not contribute to the benefit of taxpayers. The uncertainty frustrates the making of responsible decisions on growth and development. It may lead to unwise decisions that are perfectly logical under present patterns of government.

If the municipalities are to be granted extensions in the time for their consideration, the province cannot be expected to do other than take its own sweet time, too.

It was in July 1965 that Mr. Spooner told Mr. Plunkett to begin his study after outlining the terms of reference. The December 1966 deadline for local comments on the report takes the matter to the 18 month mark. Granting the provincial government six months to take some action would put the period of uncertainty to a full two years.

While we realize that the month of December is a busy one, local legislators have a responsibility to meet a deadline on a matter as important as the Plunkett proposals. We sincerely hope there will be no procrastination, locally or provincially, in lifting the state of limbo in which the two counties have been placed.

Editorial Notes...

We're glad to see Santa Claus is coming to town again for a pre-Christmas appearance. He'll be at the post office. Anything that directs attention to our town during the Christmas shopping season is most valuable, and the Chamber of Commerce has recognized the fact.

The typical weather of past weeks

brought back to mind the travesty of an old verse:

Dirty days hath September,
April, June and November.
From January up to May
It's sure to snow or rain each day.
All the rest have thirty-one
Without much chance of any sun,
And if one of them had two-and-thirty,
They'd be just as cold and twice as dirty.

Sugar and Spice

—by Bill Smiley

My heart aches for the parents of young children. All the parents of all young children. They are like soldiers who have done their basic training, but have never heard a shot fired in anger. The real war lies ahead.

I know there are some young mothers with several children who think they are going through a rough time right now. But this is merely purgatory. Hell comes later, and is hotter.

Little kids are lovable. As babies, they are soft and warm, and they changed frequently, smell good. They grin, they creep, they gurgle, and they cheep, and every day, in every way, they grow smarter and smarter.

Life is full of landmarks: the first tooth, the first step, the first word, the first fist-fight with the little girl next door, the first day of school, the first big crush on a member of the opposite sex.

They're very funny and they're very sweet. And there's always a big occasion not far away. There are Halloween costumes to make, and the thrill of that first time out in the eerie October night, one hand clutching a huge paper bag, the other clutching firmly the hand of the bigger girl from next door, as the rounds are made.

There's Christmas coming, and the growing excitement of carols and the part in the Sunday School pageant, and rustle papers in closets, and in the hair-raising help they give in decorating the tree.

And there's Valentine's Day, with the great social decisions to be made, about who gets the five-cent one and who gets the 10-cent one. And there's Firecracker Day, when they have to stand in a circle and watch their father burn his fingers and watch their father burning his fingers shows them how careful they must be.

All in all, little kids are about the greatest single blessing we can find in this vale of tears. They're a laugh a day. They can make you feel big, and strong, and capable, and honest and whole.

There's only one thing wrong with little kids. Inevitably, inexorably, relentlessly, they become big kids. And as they

grow, their parents shrink. Physically, mentally, spiritually. And financially.

The tendons of the family-body begin to stretch, under constant pressure. The family joints begin to creak, under constant strain. Not to labor the analogy, let's just say that your cherubs have become teenagers.

Momma's tolerance thins with the same rapidity as Dad's hair. Daughter's hipness increases at the same rate as son's surliness.

What was once merely an exercise in exhaustion — getting them to bed — becomes a superhuman effort — staying up till they get in.

But this is just the home life, something to be borne, like ingrown toe-nails, or varicose veins. What really grabs you is the influence of the outside world.

Everybody, from the prime minister to the local plumber, tells your kids they have to stay in school. It doesn't matter whether they have the brains of a louse. A dropout, these days, is practically a felon. In fact, don't be surprised if all drop-outs are sent to the moon, as soon as we have established a colony there.

Similarly your daughter has an irresistible attraction toward hoods. Vainly, you nudge her in the direction of some clean-cut, honor-student, son of a wealthy WASP doctor. Her reaction? "That fink!"

And she makes a date with some long-haired, Yamaha-riding character who is in his fourth year in the two-year technical course, makes \$25 a week in his part-time job at the supermarket, probably drinks and will be rich by the time he's 25.

And your son? Same, only more so. He looks on LSD with the same interest with which you looked on Literary, Social and Debating clubs when you were his age. He helps himself to a beer with the same nonchalance with which he used to take a banana.

But cheer up, parents. There's one satisfaction. If you can hold out physically, you're going to be able to sit around and laugh yourself silly when your kids are bringing up their kids.

History of Fad store continues

The second instalment of the account of the store at Ballinafad is published today. Writer is Miss Bea Hills of Ballinafad.

My first story about Ballinafad store to the Acton Free Press ended after Mr. Frank Betts had a new two-storey built in 1905 and remained there till he sold to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hewins in April 1910. Their family was two young lads, Bryon and Elmer.

My brother Will drove the stage all one winter and did chores around the place. Mr. John McKechnie of Ballinafad did the same work the rest of the time Mr. Hewin was there. Miss Edna Sayers also helped there.

Mr. Hewins sold to Messrs. Ab Farnell and Gardner around 1913. A few years later they dissolved partnership.

Mr. and Mrs. Ab Farnell continued. Their son, Graham, was born while they were in the Fad and later attended Blue Mountain school. Mr. John McKechnie drove the team to town for them.

Mr. and Mrs. James Kirkwood bought the store around 1928. Their family — Jim, then a missionary, who became a minister, and Shirley. Many good games of checkers were played in Mr. Kirkwood's store in the evenings. Jim used gas lamps in the store for a time, then had electric power put in.

Mr. and Mrs. Mirriam bought from Mr. Kirkwood in October 1936. Their family was Grant and Grey.

The furnace was still in the middle of the store with a cook stove up stairs so they decided to modernize. Coal or wood had to be carried up two flights of stairs and ashes carried down one. Hard work also had to be carried up. Others before them had to do the same.

As the heating system was not very satisfactory, they had a new furnace put in the basement with a new hot water heating system.

Later they enlarged the cistern by chiselling out rock as it was too near the building to do any blasting.

Later they had a bath room put in by the same plumbing firm. Then there was hot and cold water in taps upstairs, also soft water. What a saving of time and energy!

A new meat counter was placed in the store, then a variety of meats could be kept.

When parties were held in the old hall that store was a convenient place to get material for sandwiches, cake and ice cream, etc.

Around 1951 they decided to give up the store and sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. They had one boy, Brock. After being there five years they decided to sell as she could not be on her feet so much on go up and down stairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Smith of Bellwood heard this store was for sale so came to see it and decided to buy, so on Nov. 10 1956 they moved in.

grow, their parents shrink. Physically, mentally, spiritually. And financially.

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Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 21, 1946.

The meeting of the Public Utilities Commission was held Thursday evening, Chairman C. M. Hansen presided and Reeve, C. L. Kirkness and J. R. McArthur were present.

Beardmore and Co. were to be supplied with an itemized statement covering the share of the installation of services on Guelph Street at the new subdivision. This was necessitated by the rear of property installation desired by the company.

A letter from E. Rogvaldson submitted his resignation from the commission staff at the end of November.

Six Halton Junior Farmers commented in the Public Speaking Competition staged in the Milton High School Friday, November 8. President George S. Atkins was in charge of the program. Norval was represented by Jean Chester and John Lyons, Acton by Donald Switzer and Eric West, Milton by Cedric Harrop and Palermo by Erla Windover. Two entries in entertainment were Miss Blanche McKinnon, soprano soloist, Acton and a six piece orchestra from Milton. The winners in public speaking were, girls, Jean Chester, Norval; boys, Ernest West of Acton.

Changes in the election act this year affect more than the date of municipal election. One of the new changes affects nominations specifically and states that a person cannot be nominated for two or more elective offices and then wait until just before the nominations close the following evening to decide which he wishes to contest. A candidate must make his or her decision immediately after the nominations, otherwise the first nomination received will only be accepted by the clerk.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 7, 1916.

The Winter Fair now in progress in Guelph eclipses in many respects all previous fairs.

St. Alban's Church Bazaar will be held in the Parish Hall on Friday and Saturday of next week. On account of the war, all things for sale are being marked down to the lowest possible figures and many bargains will be obtainable by early purchasers.

The regular meeting of the Acton High School Literary Society was held on Friday afternoon. Current events were read by Miss Gladys McLaughlin and Miss Stewart. Brief speeches were made by Adam Orr and Miss Annie Snyder. A reading was given by Miss Isabel Elliott, followed by an interesting recitation by Miss Annie Martin. Miss Bennett then favored the meeting with a very interesting address on Alexander School Toronto.

Monthly Honor Roll High School Department — Form 3 class 1 Lettie Scott, Olive Mowat, Marguerite Stewart; class 2, Roy Brown; class 3, George Anderson, George Agnew, highest in Ancient History Lettie Scott, in Algebra Lettie Scott, Form 2, class 2, Adam Orr, Ethel Stark.

Free Press Church Notices

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.
Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk. Phone 853-1585

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1966
10.00 a.m.—English Service.
2.30 p.m.—Dutch Service.
3.45 p.m.—Sunday School.

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1966

CHURCH SCHOOL
Church School—Juniors (up to Gr. 4) at 10 a.m.

Seniors (Gr. 5 - Gr. 8) at 11.15 a.m.
DIVINE SERVICES
10.00 a.m.—Trinity Church (Nursery service provided.)

11.15 a.m.—Churchill (Churchill Rd. N.)
Sermon Title: "Family Connections."
Sunday, 8 p.m. — Classes for adults for church membership or learning about:

—Biblical Interpretation
—Church History
—Denominationalism
—Doctrine
—Morality
All Welcome

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tidey Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1966
9.45 a.m.—Church School Adult Class.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Rev. Cameron Orr of Mission to Sailors will be with us.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Service. "Preparation for Worship (5th in a series)."
Tuesday — Finance Committee meets at 8.00 p.m.

Wednesday — Prayer and Bible Study 7.30.
Friday — B.H.F. 7.00.

All visitors welcome to our services. Doctrines we preach and believe: The Virgin Birth, The Deity of Christ, His Bodily Resurrection, The Second Coming.

man, Annie Snyder, Mabel Robinson, Violet Smith; class 3, Stella McLam, Annie Martin, Willie Ross, Gladys McLaughlin, Laura McDonald, Harold Kennedy, Alice Johnstone, Luena Campbell, Ida Crawford, Deleine Gibbons, Herbie Ritchie; highest in arithmetic, Mabel Robinson, Ethel Sparkman; spelling, Adam Orr.

Form 1, class 1, Kenneth Henderson, Elsie Stewart, Betty Lowrie, Clara Lantz, Isabel Elliott, Jack Waldie; class 2, Margaret Britton, Bessie Woodhall, Florence Robertson, Gladys Huffman, Duff Wilson, Alice Stewart, Neil Gibbons; class 3, Edna Johnstone, Jessie Mowat, Mae Moffat, Mary McEvoy, Ray Agnew, Lloyd Kenney, Lucy Edwards, Lizzie Moffat, Laurence Gibbons, Hugh Williams; highest in grammar, Jessie Mowat; in history, Duff Wilson; in arithmetic, Kenneth Henderson, Elsie Stewart.

W. H. Stewart, principal; Pearl Z. Baker, assistant.

The first anniversary of the opening of Ebenezer's fine new church last Sunday and Monday was an occasion of great interest.

The silver anniversary of the Acton Auxiliary of the Methodist Women's Missionary Society was held Thursday evening last in the schoolroom of the church. The charter members present were Mrs. Thomas Easton, Guelph; Mrs. James Moore, Mrs. A. McNabb, Mrs. H. P. Moore, Mrs. A. Stephenson and Mrs. G. H. Brown, Acton. The first president was Mrs. Thomas Easton, followed by Mrs. C. C. Speight, Mrs. Hamlin, Mrs. R. G. Brown, Mrs. William Brown and Mrs. Brown.

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Free Press Church Notices

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.

Advent—Sunday
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1966
9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10.30 a.m.—Church School.
10.30 a.m.—Advent Carol Service.
Tuesday, November 29 — Ember Day.
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist.
Wednesday, November 30 — St. Andrews.
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

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
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1966
9.45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.
9.45 a.m.—Teenage Church Membership Class.
11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship. Sermon Theme: "Obstacles that the Gospel Overcomes."
Everyone most welcome.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 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 877-6665

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1966
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday, 8 p.m. — C.A. Service.
Friday, 6.45 p.m.—Crusaders.