

Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, December 19, 1946.

F. J. McCutcheon was elected by a 54-3 majority as 1947 Reeve at Acton elections Monday. Councillors are J. H. Crighton, C. L. Cook, William Coon and R. M. Aylworth. School board members elected were L. Lovell, Allan Kirkness and T. Jones; and for public utilities commission, Robert MacArthur.

The election of officers for the W.M.S. of Knox church resulted as follows: president, Mrs. F. Elow; first vice-president, Mrs. E. J. Hassard; second vice-president, Mrs. George Murray; secretary, Mrs. H. Mainprize; treasurer, Mrs. R. M. McDonald. Others on the executive are Mrs. N. McEachern, Mrs. Spielvogel, Mrs. C. Hansen, Mrs. McLellan, Mrs. F. Anderson, Mrs. A. E. McLean, Mrs. W. Masales, Mrs. F. Wright, Miss A. Stalker, Mrs. Cordier, Mrs. R. P. Watson, Mrs. A. Robinson, Miss H. Wallace and Mrs. H. Allison.

The Christmas concert of the Acton Boys' and Girls' Band in the town hall was a fine musical night. Mr. H. W. Baxter led in the singing of Christmas carols and got fine co-operation from the audience. Mrs. William Gowdy was at the piano. Chairman for the occasion was Mr. Monty Root. Bandmaster Charles Mason was in charge of the band.

Born: Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Holmes are happy to announce the birth of a son at St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.

Died: Cook, Suddenly at St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, on Sunday, December 15, 1946, Marion F. Hume, beloved wife of Gordon Cook, and daughter of Minnie and William Hume of Arkell, in her 29th year.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, December 28, 1916.

Messrs. Beardmore and Co. have the matter of the annual Christmas treat and presentation of toys etc. to the children of the employees down to a science. The result is happiness for all and no disappointments.

The town hall was nicely decorated with bunting, flags, evergreens and Christmas favors. A big electrically illuminated Christmas tree graced the centre of the stage. Santa Claus reigned with his helpers grouped around him.

In the afternoon, 152 children were in attendance and in the evening, 154. Mr. A. O. T. Beardmore read the names of the children, who were presented with a sleigh, a book, a box of mecano sections, a toy or a doll and bag of candies.

It was the intention of Messrs. Beardmore and Co. to present sweaters and sweater coats as usual, but they found it impossible to secure these, owing to the scarcity of yarns.

The children then sat down to a dainty tea, at which sandwiches, cakes, ice cream, coffee and milk were served. At each plate was a Christmas cracker containing fancy head wear, masks etc. Mr. and Mrs. Torrance Beardmore, Mr. Alfred Beardmore, Mrs. C. H. E. Smith, Mrs. John Clark and others assisted to give the little folk a really good time.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, December 24, 1891.

Acton loses a citizen this week who has been a resident since early boyhood and who enjoys the very highest esteem of all who knew him. We refer to Mr. T. James Moore, whose appointment to the principalship of St. George's public school in Guelph necessitates his removal to that city. Mr. Thomas T. Moore has occupied the position of principal of Acton public school for 13 years.

The first of the Christmas entertainments for the pleasure of the children of the Sabbath Schools in town was inaugurated on Monday evening with the cantata "King Winter" by St. Alban's school.

An additional 100 miles of the Great North-West Central line will be built next year.

It is said the British government will insist on Newfoundland joining the Canadian Confederation.

Toy trunks, perfumed sachets and beautiful Christmas cards are given away with every purchase of \$1.00 and up from now until Christmas at the leading Boot and Shoe Store in Guelph.

At Christmas, both the turkey and the stocking hang high.

Wanted: A few cords of sound, clean ash, tamarac or hemlock wood, at the Free Press office.

We are now offering educational advantages and tuition rates, such as have not hitherto been offered the Canadian people. The scope and thoroughness of our commercial course is strikingly shown by the fact that several of our students during the past year have been offered situations as book-keepers, on condition that they took the commercial course at the Guelph Business College.

SILVERWOOD

Christmas party for Institute

Silverwood Women's Institute celebrated their Christmas party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Ironside on December 8. Turkey and all the trimmings was enjoyed by 25 members and guests.

Mrs. Harris of Harris Floral demonstrated floral arrangements which were later auctioned off and brought a nice sum to help the funds of the Institute.

Many homes in the Silverwood district are beautifully lighted to celebrate the Christmas season.

During the past week 2 accidents brought property damage to several cars on number 7 Highway.

CHURCHILL

S.S. concert, Christmas visitors wedding, bus trip are reported

Mrs. Alfred Winter visited with their daughter Mr. and Mrs. Harry Angus and family of Wyoming, Michigan, spending about a week with them.

The Churchill Sunday School held their Christmas Concert on December 22 with a large attendance of children and adults. It was a Christmas program when each class, kindergarten, primary and junior gave a part on the program. Mr. Frank Freeman acted as chairman in the absence of the superintendent Mr. Robert Kerr.

Santa arrived in time when each child received a gift and a treat. Doughnuts and coffee were served at the close to all.

A delightful Christmas dinner was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Leitch and Beverley. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Leith, Mr. and Mrs. Mac Sprowl, Diane and Marie, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Denny and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Saunders, Norman and Stephen.

Mr. and Mrs. John Near, Glen and Earl, spent Christmas with Mrs. Near's mother Mrs. Mabel Hattle in Shelburne and on Monday they were with Mr. Near's sister and husband Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bessey, Hillburgh.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

This is the time of year — between Christmas and New Year — when some people wish they were Moslems or Buddhists. Yes, that Christmas caper is getting rougher and rougher. Worse than the Feast of Ramadan.

The main bout, Christmas itself, went off smoothly enough. It's the preliminaries that almost murdered us.

One of the first, and the worst, of them, was Christmas Card Night. The kitchen table was a melange of cards, stamps, envelopes and lists.

About half the cards are no trouble at all. You merely sign your name. But you're working with some left-over cards from last year, some new ones. There's the haunting fear that you sent exactly the same card, with the same message, to the same person last Christmas. This doesn't bother me, but my wife, knowing what women are like about these things, gets the trembles over it.

It's the remainder of the cards, however, that turns the whole thing into a bit of a nightmare. These are the cards to old friends. Each requires a cute, or sentimental, or witty note.

Try writing 50 such notes of an evening, and it takes more out of you than a day in the salt mines.

Such inanities. Such garbage. Such coyness. Such insincerity. You don't believe it? A sample:

To a couple you met on a trip six years ago, who live 1,200 miles away: "We still remember the wonderful times we had. Why can't we get together for a weekend? Does Jim still do his famous trick? Our kids are certainly growing up. How about yours?"

You know perfectly well they were dull as porridge, that you would take off like the Canada goose if you even dreamed they were coming to visit, that Jim was stoned and made a mess of his trick. You know your kids have grown up, but you're not even sure they have any kids. And you have to look up their last name in your Christmas register.

It would be a lot more fun sending brief, pungent notes to political leaders and such, with messages like this: "Holi-day greeting. Why don't you drop dead?"

Another of the preliminaries which grabs you where it hurts is Christmas Tree Night. This is the annual event which makes me destroy, with my family, the image which I have built up, so carefully, during the preceding 12 months.

This event drives me into a frenzy which neither psychology, science nor faith can explain. It's not exactly a religious frenzy, though I must admit the Lord's name comes up with awesome frequency.

I've tried them all. Iron stands, aluminum stands, wooden stands, buckets of coal. And the darn thing invariably winds up with the same list as a sailor on the sixth day of a seven-day leave.

The last, and not the least of the preliminaries is Gift-Wrapping Night. You wander around having a drink and giving the Christmas tree the odd quiet kick, while your wife gets the paper and the presents out.

Nothing fits. The expensive gold paper bought to wrap Aunt Flo's present isn't big enough, and you wind up wrapping it in that cheap junk from Woolworths. Oh well, there goes a \$5,000 legacy.

Then there's the pre-Christmas party. We've had one for the past six years. Ask me why, and I'll explain to you why I'm not in a mental home. But high on the list for admittance.

You'll notice I haven't even mentioned Christmas shopping, which is a form of self-destructive exercise, better than any yet invented. Nor Christmas "music", which is neither music nor Christmas. Nor Christmas lights on the cruddy cedar on your front lawn.

Oh, well, the heck with it. It's all over now. But that doesn't prevent me from doing something pleasant, in the midst of all these pains in the posterior.

I'd rather shake hands, or kiss you, depending on your sex. But I can't. To all my readers, from Newfoundland to the Yukon, and down to B.C., and then across the prairies, and through the old provinces and down as far as Shelburne, N.S., permit me to say, "God bless and good heart."

Turkey dinner, Yule program Saturday at Baptist church

Members of the congregation of Acton Baptist Church enjoyed a turkey dinner and program together Saturday evening, December 17. The ladies of the church served the meal. Lloyd Bulmer, Ferguson, a former Sunday School superintendent, told a Christmas story prior to the program. The pastor, the Rev. Stanley Gammon, welcomed the congregation and opened and closed the program with prayer.

After a show song, a film strip was shown by superintendent Collin Bailie.

R.N.A.O. grey-lists Peel Health Unit

Peel County Board of Health has joined Halton and the United Counties of Stormont, Glengarry and Dundas Health Units in being grey-listed by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

The R.N.A.O. issued the grey-list when collective bargaining negotiations broke down between Peel nurses and the Peel Unit. Nurses have been asked not to take jobs with the three health units. The Peel nurses have been certified as a collective bargaining unit by the Ontario Labor Relations Board, but failed to gain a contract.

Halton nurses are still at a standstill in their talks with the Halton County Council special Warden's committee on the nursing problem. The committee urged the nurses to gain certification before a contract can be negotiated.

Scout hall swingin' spot

About 90 students of grades seven and eight from Acton and Speyside thoroughly enjoyed the loud music and the excitement of a dance planned especially for them by the Scout and Guide Mothers' Auxiliary. It was held in the scout hall Friday evening, Dec. 16 and Don Price brought the kind of records the group likes best.

Chaperones were Mrs. E. Browne, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hodgson and Mr. and Mrs. Wilf McEachern.

Chips and pop were the perfect refreshments for the youngsters.

Door prizes were won by Larry Deforest and Garry Masters, and spot dance prizes went to Keith Smallwood and Doris Black, Laureen Rennick and Barry Breen, Barb Brantford and Garry Hurgott.

THE END IS NEAR START 1967 WITH A GOOD USED CAR from LOU'S USED CARS MAIN ST. - ROCKWOOD 856-4235

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- to truly appreciate our fine customers
- to help our community every way we can
- to wish you and yours "Happy New Year."

NEW YEAR GREETINGS



We're making lots of plans for the New Year, including special ones that will help us show our loyal patrons how much we appreciate them.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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THURS.-FRI.-SAT. DEC. 29-30-31 "THAT DARN CAT" — in color (Disney Production) HAYLEY MILLS "JOHNNY-APPEASED" Matinee Saturday at 2 p.m.

SUN.-MON.-TUES.-WED. JAN. 1-2-3-4 "WALK DON'T RUN" — in color CARY GRANT SAMANTHA EGGAR "MAN AND HIS WORLD" Cartoon — "Woody's Check-up"

THURS.-FRI.-SAT. JAN. 5-6-7 "MONSTER GO HOME" in color FRED GWYNNE YVONNE DE CARLO "HOTTEST 500" Cartoon — "Real Gone Woody"

SHOW TIMES — WEEKDAYS SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY — 8 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 7 AND 9 P.M.

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a very Happy New Year



A year filled with promise is headed your way, with all our best wishes... and thanks for your patronage.

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