

Remember...our country's architect

Today is the birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald and after 100 years someone thought we should celebrate that birthday, since he was our first prime minister and is recognized as the chief architect of the nation.

But of course, we have been somewhat slow in recognizing the event that has come and passed quite unnoticed each of those 100 years. And in typical Canadian restraint we're going to have a bash at recognizing it this year with a half day school holiday. Not a general holiday, mind you, because that might be considered going overboard. And we don't want to get carried away either, so our parliamentarians have decided to make the recognition a "this-year-only" event.

Now we've heard a lot about George Washington, probably a lot more than we'll ever hear about Sir John A. And can you imagine the Americans celebrating his birthday once every 100 years? And for that matter, can you imagine them proclaiming a day of recognition and having schools mark it with a half day holiday?

We're so cautious and careful in this country, so unwilling to call out the brass bands and parade and make a noise about our nationality, that some day we'll trip over ourselves.

It's about time we enshrined some of our national founders and gave them "hero" recognition. They weren't perfect but our history is loaded with individuals that deserve far more respect and honor than some of the American heroes we import with such gay abandon, via television, comic books and comic strips. It's time we dusted off some of the laborious accounts of history and made it live for those of the current and future generations who like to know there were some Canadian heroes around too, while the Americans were conquering the west.

We're glad to tip our hat to Sir John A's birthday. We're sorry it hasn't come until 100 years after confederation and hasn't been in more dramatic form, but it is a start.



SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, Canada's first Prime Minister, is popular with school students this week. Today (Wednesday) public and high school students are recognizing his achievements with a half holiday. A figure, donated to the Robert Little School about four years ago,

has been refurbished and placed in the entranceway at the school, to commemorate Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday. Admiring the figure are grade seven pupils Dennis Harnden and Janet Gidman with industrial arts teacher Arthur Urchuk.



As 1967 begins...

The beginning of a new year always appears to be an opportune time to reflect on the events of the preceding twelve months as well as to do a little crystal ball gazing into what the future holds. It is especially important this year as the Centennial of Confederation to look a little further back as well as a little further into the future.

There are very few of us who can remember back to Canada's first birthday but all of us can reflect on the changes, for better or worse, the events and our own participation in the evolution of Canada we have witnessed. That we have witnessed and taken part in these changes that have occurred more rapidly as the tempo of our development seems to ever increase, is now a matter of historical record.

It is this seemingly constant increase in tempo, growth, and development that will govern our way of life as we enter Canada's second one hundred years. That there will be changes in the terms of Confederation appears to us inevitable. The distance the "politicians" in Ottawa may be prepared to move in producing an "accommodation" to placate a regional group may not please us as another "region" but it will be accomplished unless we know what we want and lobby, opt out or threaten to withdraw from Confederation to get it. If we think those mythical "they's" are going to look after our interests and wishes, we are only accepting another grand delusion.

In the province of opportunity we may be certain the provincial government will continue to enact legislation and lead us to the promised land with legislation long overdue and after the reports of a multitude of inquiries, and Royal Commissions.

It will be interesting to watch, in Canada's second one hundred years, the progress of the Province's Centennial project, the Museum of Science and Technology. The progress on the project inevitably brings to mind the race between the hare and the tortoise. Perhaps the Centennial sweepstakes are not over but it might be interesting to have another committee examine the tortoise to be sure it hasn't expired.

The action of the provincial government on the Plunkett Report has its hare-like aspects. The report itself was perhaps only a few months late in publication. The minister in a spurt to catch up, requested the municipalities' comments by December 31, 1966. Naturally, extension of time was requested by some municipalities. It would seem likely the government can now take a little rest before deciding the next study is required.

It is safe to assume that in the next 100 years some form of regional government will be established in North Halton. We can only hope the "stand

pat, ask for another report", provincial government doesn't stifle the normal and anticipated growth. We would like to think north Halton will continue to enjoy growth and prosperity because of and not in spite of, action of the province.

In Acton we can look forward with pride to the new library facilities and office accommodation of the Hydro Commission. Both these projects were started in 1966 and will be officially opened during Centennial year. The facilities of the new music centre provide, through the efforts of the citizens' band, a welcome addition to the community life. In the years ahead we look forward to an enlargement of the municipal offices by incorporating the former library quarters.

Perhaps the greatest deterrent in the development of the town is the critical housing shortage. With serviced building lots available, and purchasers of homes waiting, the minimum number of mortgages available through C.M.H.C. is accomplishing what Plunkett recommends, maintenance of the area as a rural community. Council is fully aware of the housing shortage and doing everything in its power to alleviate the situation. There is no single greater limiting factor on Acton's growth than this housing shortage.

An addition to the M. Z. Bennett school which would include an auditorium will give the pupils of that school and citizens of the eastern area a facility they have suffered without much too long.

The announced program of works at Fairy Lake will provide additional recreational and tourist potential which could be a great economic asset to the town.

In the business activity of the town we can look forward to a continued steady, but not spectacular, growth in the industrial field. The municipally owned industrial park will prove to be the core for much of the industrial activity. The retail and service business will have a larger potential market as the population increases. Whether the businessmen gain from this growth will be decided by how aggressively the business is pursued. This growing market could easily be lost by default to the shopping centres and aggressive merchants of other towns. Provision of increased parking facilities will be inevitable but parking may be only one of the problems facing businessmen.

During the coming year we look forward to many projects and programs with a Centennial flavor. We hope that every citizen can enter these activities, enjoy themselves, and at the stroke of midnight, December 31, 1967, feel that he has taken part in Canada's biggest birthday celebration with pride, gusto and a sense of accomplishment.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

By the time this appears in print, I expect that I shall have severed an association of 17 years with the weekly newspaper business. And it is not without some sadness that I do so.

Sometimes it seems that our life is governed by accidents, that we have very little control over it.

Had the war lasted a few months longer, had I taken a different course at university, or gone to a different college, I would not have met my wife. And had I not met that particular girl at that particular time, I would never have been in the newspaper business, nor would I be writing this column.

Accident again took a hand. We were in the city. I had enrolled in a post-graduate course in English. University teaching was the objective.

Came the tragic news that my brother-in-law (on my wife's side) had been drowned in a boating accident. He owned a weekly newspaper.

We hastened to the scene, to be of what comfort we could. And I pitched in, as ignorant as Mrs. Murphy's cow, to help keep the paper going for a week or two, until other arrangements could be made. Eleven years later, I was still there.

From the beginning, I was fascinated. This was better than the world of Chaucer and Spenser and the Romantic poets, the whole fleece-lined world of the scholar. This was life.

There was an exciting tempo to it that suited me. Monday was a day of desperation. No news, no editorials written, nobody wanted to buy an advertisement that early in the week. The linotype operator was getting only because you couldn't keep him busy and he knew what was coming.

Tuesday the pace accelerated rapidly. The news began to pour in. You madly dash off two sparkling editorials. You tried to make a sensible story of the donnybrook at last night's council meeting. You hit the street and sold ads, whether it was raining or snowing or blasting hot.



Symbol cites centennial

This centennial symbol — the diagrammed maple leaf — will be used in the Free Press throughout the coming year to mark all articles of historical significance. It's suggested these marked articles be cut out and saved by anyone interested in Acton's history and Canada's past.

The articles on Ballinafad, published the past few months, would be includ-

ed if you have clipped them out already. Watch for the centennial symbol on the front page by the story of Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday and on the editorial page here by the picture and editorial on the great statesman. Your centennial scrapbook can be well underway this week. Large scrapbooks with special centennial covers are available at the stationery store.

Wednesday was even more so. Complaints, callers, classified ads piling in and the inevitable merchant waltzing in, after the deadline, with a big ad you simply hadn't room to print. Proof-reading away behind. People in looking for free publicity. People in just to chat about town affairs, or their grandchildren. And the linotype operator dangerous to the point of being lethal, within 12 feet of his machine. Worked often to midnight, putting his sheet to bed.

Thursday was decision day. Too many ads. Can we leave this one out? Too much country correspondence. Which reporter will be least infuriated if we leave her stuff till next week? Short a column of front page news. Where can we dig it up? The photos haven't arrived. Rush to the bus station; see if there's in.

By about 10.30 a.m., she was on the press, and the comforting thump and rumble of the old machine was reward enough for all the scrambling. There was solid satisfaction in folding, stamping and mailing the finished product. You felt as good as though you'd just wrestled an alligator to a split decision.

At any rate, I was hooked. Formed a partnership with one of the printers, and we bought the thing. We didn't have 40 cents apiece. But we went out like a couple of pirates, hit every friend and relative we knew, scratched up the downpayment, outbid every competitor because we had probably the biggest mortgage on any weekly newspaper on the continent.

They were great fun, those first few years. There wasn't much caviar or champagne. Every spare nickel went into the debts. But we made it, and made a host of good friends among weekly editors on the way.

But I can tell you that running a weekly newspaper is one of the toughest games in town. Holidays are almost unknown. Long hours are the rule. Somebody is always sore at you. And you'll never be rich.

I'll miss it. Some of it. And I'll always have warm memories of it. But I hope to keep in touch through this column, which will continue as usual.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, January 9, 1947.

Capt. Frank Terry has been appointed postmaster at Acton, succeeding the late J. C. Matthews, who died in March 1944. Miss Fern Brown has been acting postmistress until the permanent appointment was made.

At the High School At Home Lower School Intermediate Certificates were presented to Elaine Arbie, Mildred Armstrong, Muriel Burns, Florence Coleman, Bertha Inglis, Marion Keelan, Barbara Lawson, Lorraine Pallant, James Spielvogel, June Watkins and Joan White.

The Secondary School Graduation Diplomas were received by the following:

Bunny Anderson, Raymond Arbie, Aldo Braida, Wilfred Duval, George Elliott, Joyce Lamb, Elizabeth Masters, Eleanor Ross, Armand Braida, Joan Somerville, Helen Holmes.

J. Chapman was chosen chairman of the School Board for 1947.

Micro Plastics Ltd., Acton's latest industry, has just received another new extruding machine and it is being set up alongside the first machine put in the plant which is now in operation 24 hours a day on orders received by the company for its products. It will be some weeks before the new machine is in full operation. It will double the present capacity of the plant.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, January 4, 1917.

The offer of Germany to discuss peace has excited world-wide attention, and upon our statesmen who have had to give an answer, grave responsibility has rested. All nations of the Entente desire peace but it must be a well-grounded peace with proper guarantees. These guarantees do not appear to us to be forthcoming and so, as we entered the war for a great and worthy purpose, we cannot relinquish the war till our worthy purpose is attained.

At Walker, Lodge, A.F. and A.M., the following officers were installed by Wor. Bro. A. J. MacKinnon, P.M.:

I.P.M., Wor. Bro. T. H. Cook; W.M., Wor. Bro. W. L. Mullin; S.W., Wor. Bro. John Wood; J.W., Bro. H. Wildgust; Chap., Wor. Bro. William Cooper; Treas., Wor. Bro. John Kenney; Sec., Wor. Bro. R. M. McDonald; S.D., Bro. W. J. Reid; J.D., Bro. W. J. L. Hampshires; I.O., Bro. Norman McLeod; D.C. C., Wor. Bro. John Lawson; Stewards, Bro. N. P. McJam and Bro. Alex. Munroe; Tyler, Bro. W. R. Kenney.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, January 7, 1892.

The usual New Year's entertainment of Knox Church Sunday School was held last Friday evening and was a gratifying success.

Rev. J. W. Rae occupied the chair and the numbers were by the scholars, assisted by Miss Wetherald, elocutionist, of Toronto. Chorus by the school, recitations by Elsie Quilter, May Prentice, Maud Rider, Jennie Cameron, Annie Hynds and Jennie Smith, Mabel Rae, Clara Cobban, Nellie Lowrie, May Prentice, Nettie Cobban, May Ryder, Flora Murray, Jennie Smith, Nellie Holmes.

The Maritime press is again discussing the advisability of the annexation of Newfoundland to Canada. The idea receives a qualified support from the St. John "Globe", which goes so far as to say that a great many persons in Canada would like to see Newfoundland become part of the Dominion.

Married: Bell Storey — At the manse on January 4 by the Rev. J. W. Rae. Mr. James Bell, Cleveland, Ohio, to Jennie, daughter of George Storey Esq., Nassagaweya.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010  
Business and Editorial Office

FOUNDED IN 1875 AND PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 59 WILLOW ST., ACTON, ONTARIO. MEMBER OF THE Audit Bureau of Circulation, the C.P.A. and O.P.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance, \$4.00 in Canada, \$5.00 in all countries other than Canada; single copies 10c. Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertisement so occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a lower price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Published by the  
Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.  
David R. Dills, Managing Editor  
Copyright 1967

Free Press Church Notices

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1967**  
9:45 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. "Perils of Prosperity."  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service "Progressive Revelation."  
Wednesday—Prayer and Bible Study 7:30  
Thursday — Choir Practice, 7:30.  
Friday — B.H.F., at 7:00 p.m.  
Text: "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name (but Jesus) whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

**MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(Georgetown)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1967**  
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.O.A.C. 33 Churchill Road  
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1967**  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.  
Rev. Jim Charlwood of Toronto speaking at both services.  
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer and Bible Study.  
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Christ Ambassadors.  
Friday, 6:45 p.m. — Crusaders.

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1967**  
Epiphany II  
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.  
10:30 a.m.—Church School.  
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

**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, JANUARY 15, 1967**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
10:00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).  
11:15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).

**SERVICES**  
10:00 a.m.—Trinity Church Acton. (Nursery provided.)  
11:15 a.m.—Churchill Church (Churchill Rd. N.)  
Sermon Subject: "The Problems of Keeping a Brother."

7:00 p.m.—Adult Class. "Understanding the New Testament."  
8:00 p.m.—The Session presents: "The Detached American". How can 38 people watch a murder and do nothing. Discussion and refreshments.  
All Welcome.

**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, JANUARY 15, 1967**  
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.  
9:45 a.m.—Church Membership Class for Teenagers.  
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship. Sermon Theme: "Are You Fighting Yourself?"  
7:00-9:30 p.m. — Parent and Teacher Christian Education Conference of The Presbytery of Brampton, in Knox Church. All parents and church school teachers invited.  
Everyone Most Welcome.

**BETH-EL**  
**CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
Acton, Ontario.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1967**  
10:00 a.m.—English Service.  
2:30 p.m.—Dutch Service.  
3:45 p.m.—Sunday School.