

Need for low cost houses...

A great deal of criticism has been directed at government and its agencies for the serious housing shortage which has developed in the past few years. Accommodation is extremely hard to find and this has created many problems for families who must relocate, newlyweds starting up house-keeping and new industry looking for a labor market.

The problem is compounded by the high price of available housing. Prices have spiralled to the point where families with average incomes can no longer afford to buy a home. Rental units are non-existent.

Handicaps imposed by the housing shortage and its attendant high prices are most acute in metropolitan Toronto and the larger cities but they exist in the smaller centres as well.

In Acton it is almost impossible to rent a home. The high cost of buying a home has put them well beyond the reach of the average wage earner. Think of the economics of trying to buy a new home on a wage of \$80 to \$90 a week when prices start at \$16,000 and continue upwards.

Many families who would prefer to live in town have moved to the country where a limited amount of cheaper accommodation was available. Others have bought lots and had houses erected on them. Those handy with tools saved money by building themselves, solving the problems by personal initiative.

The bulk of the unhouseed, however, still lack the skills and the time to construct their own dwellings.

For those looking for better or even some form of housing it is useless to speculate on why houses are scarce and prices beyond their reach. The tight money policy is blamed in one quarter; the sales tax on building products is assailed in another. Another source pinpoints high mortgage interest rates for the lag.

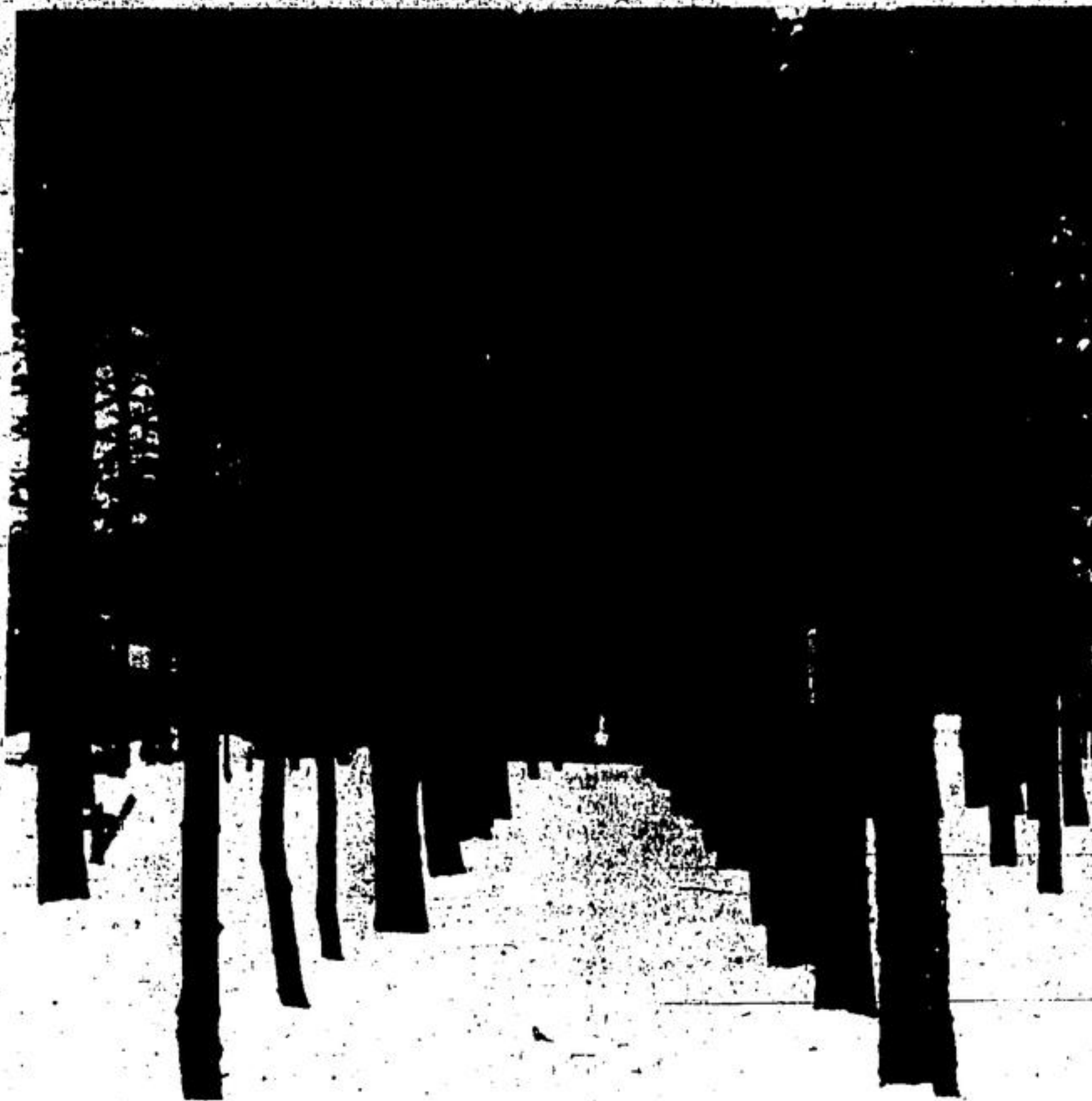
What is being done?

Emergency measures have been introduced by the government of Ontario which will alleviate the housing shortage in the cities and larger towns but most smaller centres will probably find H.O.M.E., unattractive. Easing of tight money restrictions is certain to promote more building. Lower interest rates will lower prices. But the average wage earner in this area will still not be able to afford a new home.

When a similar situation prevailed in Ontario during and after the war, the Wartime Housing Corporation stepped into the breach. There was nothing fancy about the so-called wartime house but it provided decent living accommodation at a price most could afford to pay.

That's exactly the type of program needed now. A decent, basic house within the reach of a working man's pocketbook.

Critics of basic housing usually predict this type of housing will turn into slums. The experience in Acton has been exactly the opposite. Pride of ownership is reflected in the well-kept section of Acton known as Warren Grove.



Regiment of Pines

Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley



O.K. I know. Enough is enough. This is positively the last in a series of columns on education. Let me repeat that I'm no expert, just a parent, taxpayer and teacher, and equally concerned in each role.

I've been critical. In some quarters, no doubt my remarks have been considered rank heresy. But there is a positive side. Let's look at it.

Most cheering is the tremendous interest in educational improvement both from within and without the system. Departments of education are spending large amounts of time, thought and money in an attempt to scramble into the twentieth century.

New universities are springing up like mushrooms, with fresh and invigorating ideas, vital young teachers.

Men and women in all walks of life are taking a hard look at what they are getting for their money, and what they want for their children. As a result of these things, much of the old rigidity and inflexibility are crumbling under heavy fire.

Changes are coming. It's not been any easier to get them started than to make a team of oxen break into a gallop. But they're coming, even though they might gallop right through the fence.

Thomas Aquinas hasn't much to say to the swingers of today, with the New Morality on one side of them, and nuclear annihilation on the other. In fact, a punning colleague suggested: "Should Old Aquinas be forgot?"

Egerton Ryerson is not exactly haunting the halls of Ryerson Institute. It's more likely he's holding his heavenly head in his hands with horror as he sees the students of that establishment putting away more ale per capita than their prototypes of Oxford and Cambridge in the days of Elizabeth I.

However, we drift: Here are some of the improvements. Some may flop. But at least the ponderous pachyderm is pulling its feet out of the mud at last. With a resultant, resounding squelch.

Testing machines, television, computers will take over 90 per cent of the dissemination of knowledge. They're a fact now. The kids of today's students

Editorial Notes

Lighted Smiles — The latest from the dentifrice makers is a toothpaste that glows in the dark. The Financial Post reports. It could be a real boon to pedestrians. If you happen to be walking along the road at night and a car approaches, all you have to do is give a wide smile and the motorist can see you glowing in the dark.

—Financial Post

The Free Press extends congratulations to Mrs. D. G. Robertson on being selected as the top rural correspondent of the year for the province of Ontario. Her well-written columns contribute much to the content of this newspaper each week.

will have to listen to boring tales from their parents about the "good old days when there was a teacher in every class room."

This revolution, in turn, will eliminate the lock-step progress of the present, where the swift are held back, and the slow are scrambling, because courses are aimed at the average. The kids will move at their own speed. Learning will be satisfying and exciting.

There will be strong opposition to this. There'll be dark whispers that it is undemocratic, that it will produce an elite. They'll say it's bad for the bright child because he won't be emotionally mature if, let's say, he's ready for university at 13.

Baloney. Education isn't democratic now. Not when one kid has to slug groceries after school to buy decent clothes, and a class-mate is out skiing. Not when the first kid hasn't a chance to go on because he must help support his family, while the second kid goes off to university to find a husband. Better an elite of the mind than an elite of middle-class money and morality.

As for the emotionally mature bit, that too, is poppycock. Some people are emotionally mature at 10, others never.

Another big change will be the curricula. Kids will be taught less facts, more about life. That is, instead of square roots and dangling participles and the Peloponnesian Wars, they'll learn about themselves and other people, about beauty and economics, about leisure and love.

Annual examinations, which have about as much to do with education as I have to do with Sophia Loren, will vanish.

Schools will have shorter terms, more frequent holidays, but will likely operate year-round.

Teaching will improve, because it will become a dynamic, creative profession, attracting the dynamic, creative people.

I hate to spoil this vision of educational Utopia, but I have one more prediction. The whole thing is going to cost more and more and more. That's the only prophecy I will unconditionally guarantee.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, February 13, 1947.

Acton Branch 197 of the Canadian Legion held their annual business meeting and banquet in the Legion Hall last week. Arthur Padbury was installed as president of the Branch with Ed Footitt vice-president and Les Doby second vice-president; treasurer George Musselle; secretary Albert Mills.

The Council has sent out 229 of the rings presented by the municipality of Acton to the servicemen and next of kin of the war of 1939-45. Fifteen compacts, suitably engraved, have been mailed at the same time to women from Acton who were on active service. There were in the group of presentations 12 rings which were rejected by the committee and have been sent back to the manufacturer to have the defects remedied.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, February 6, 1917.

Mr. George Roszell has purchased from Dr. A. L. Hore of Markham the residence on Willow Street in rear of the Merchants' Bank which he has occupied the past two years.

At a meeting of the Library Board on Tuesday, Miss Lettie Scott, who has been assisting the Librarian on Saturday evenings, was engaged to assist each evening the library is open.

Mr. N. H. Garden, has sold his residence to Mr. Nelson Lambert. Mr. Garden will remove to the new brick residence at the corner of Mill and Frederick Street as soon as it is completed.

Public School Honor Roll — Sr. IV: Maxwell Bell, Vida Anderson, Hazel MacDonald, Elmer Henderson, Willie Stewart, Agnes Doble, Jr. IV: David Henderson, Helen Anderson, Annie Crawford, Esther Starkman, Margaret McNabb-May Wildgust, M. Z. Bennett, teacher. Sr. III: Isabel McNiven, Marie Mowat, Martha Orr, Jean Kennedy, Jordan Lawson, Ruby Joyce. Jr. III: Lloyd Forbes, George Jiggins, Myrtle Carnochan, Donald Kennedy, Jean Barber, Robert Stewart. Sr. II: Willie Goldstein, Earl Cooper, Russell Ross, Jessie McNabb, Teddie Tyler, Laird McDonald, Jr. II: Wallace Lasby, Ralph Henderson, Walter Bauer, Norman Wilds, Arlie White, Eugene Macpherson. Sr. I: Harry Goldstein, Joseph Hurst, Willrose Reid, Matthew Tyler, Jim Backwell, Norman DeForest, Leslie Gregory.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, February 11, 1893.

The Board of Education has at last come to a definite point on the matter. It was decided to retain the rooms at present occupied by the first and second departments; tear away the front room, and erect a new two-story front of four rooms. The building will be of brick, of neat and appropriate architecture and will be built with a view to securing comfort and good health to pupils and teachers. Architect Cameron was instructed to prepare the plans and specifications.

The principal business which came up at the council meeting Monday was the re-appointment of Municipal Officer Graham; the citizens' petition for a platoon and the appointment of a local Board of Health.

The by-law for the appointment of a Municipal Officer to perform the duties of assessor, collector, sanitary inspector, caretaker for public school, town hall, cemetery, park, street lamps, cutting weeds, repairing and building walks, village constable, poundkeeper, and such other duties as may be required by the council.

The Hand Book of Canadian Dates shows St. John to be the oldest incorporated city in Canada, the date of incorporation being May 18 1785.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, February 14, 1867.

Last Tuesday a select number of Conservatives met in the Orange Hall, Milton, and after locking the door proceeded to business. There were about 60 present — Mr. Dempsey occupied the chair and Mr. Watson acted as secretary. Those present included G. K. Chisholm, P. A. MacDougall, John Biggar, W. C. Beatty, L. Hager, Wm. Hager, B. Tuck, T. Chisholm, A. Sprout, W. Joyce, G. Thompson, Simcoe Kerr, G. Aiton, Mr. Lucas, J. McGuffin, T. Hunter of the "Herald", J. Hunter, G. Dempsey, W. Dempsey, Col. Clay, Neil McCallum, P. D. Scott, D. Henderson, J. P. Roper, W. Laidlaw, J. T. Standish and others. The meeting was enthusiastic and sanguine of success. Mr. White was considered very objectionable to them and it was resolved to nominate a man to oppose him. On a vote being taken, Col. G. K. Chisholm was chosen, much to the dissatisfaction of some of the Nelson men who were present, and would have preferred Mr. Kerr as their man. A candidate for the local legislature was not named, under the advice of Mr. Chisholm, as it would keep the numerous aspirants in anxious expectancy.

Free Press

Church News

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tiddy Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1967
10.00 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.
11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship. "This Treasure."
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service. Mr. Briggs Crichton will speak. We hope two Hockey players will witness. An evening for the young and older.
Wednesday—Prayer and Bible Study 7.30
Thursday—Explorers at 6.30.
Thursday—Choir Practice, 7.30.
Friday—B.H.F., at 7.00 p.m.
NOTE: Time Change—Morning Worship 11.15.
Text for the week: "If ye forgive not... neither will your Father forgive."
Matt. 6:15

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, FEBRUARY 19, 1967
9.45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.
9.45 a.m.—Church Membership Class For Teenagers at 6.30.
11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship. Sermon Theme: "Christ Can Make Men Whole."
3.00 p.m.—Centennial Church Parade for Scouts, Guides, etc.
Everyone Most Welcome.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Georgetown)
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1967
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7.00 p.m.—The Work of the P.A.O.C. Women for missions, directed by the Women's Missionary Council.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Christ Ambassadors.
Friday, 6.45 p.m. — Crusaders.

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, FEBRUARY 19, 1967
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.00 a.m.—Junior School (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: Lenten Psalms 2. Slippery Places.
8.00 p.m.—Adult Class postponed to Monday at 8.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Open meeting for St. Alban's and Trinity.
All Welcome

BETH-EL

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1967
10.00 a.m.—English Service.
11.10 a.m.—Sunday School.
2.30 p.m.—Alternating Dutch and English Service.
Saturday — Bible Classes, 10-12.30 a.m.
Everyone Welcome

THE CHURCH OF

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
7.30 p.m.—Evensong. "The Human Mystery of Life and Death."
The Wednesday evening services during Lent are being conducted by the Reverend Eric Mills, the new Rector of St. George's Church, Georgetown.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1967
Last II

9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10.30 a.m.—Church School.
10.30 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
The guest speaker this morning is the Reverend Edwin E. G. Heaven, who visited the parish for the first time a few weeks ago.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
10.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

Centennial Picture Gallery



RECOGNIZE THE LOVELY old Acton home? Acton's first reeve, W. H. Storey, is probably the person standing behind the pump and a drift of snow on the left. If you can't identify the house, turn to page 10 for the answer.