

"Average" Canuck better off

Last week in these columns we discussed trading stamps and whether they were instrumental in raising food prices. This week there's more encouraging news from a farm conference at the University of Manitoba.

According to Dr. A. Wood, an agricultural economist, the cost of food has fallen substantially relative to income in the last 12 month period.

Food prices and wages have changed in such a way that the same food can be purchased with a 20 per cent smaller proportion of the wages received by Canadians. In absolute terms, the price for all foods combined has increased by approximately nine per cent during the past 24 months and about 17 per cent from 1955-64.

Comparative figures from five other countries show that food prices over the 1955-64 period had risen least in the U.S. (13 per cent), followed by Canada (17 per cent), Australia (20 per cent), Germany (21 per cent), Japan (35 per cent) and Sweden (49 per cent). When food prices are combined with the general price index for each country it was shown that the relative increase was less for Canada than for the other five.

A comparison between food price increases and national per capita income increases shows that in Canada, United States, Australia and Sweden the trends are similar. Consumers in

these countries are now spending about 20 percent less of their incomes for the same amount of food relative to 1955.

Dr. Wood also pointed out that price changes alone are not enough to assess the impact of change on consumer welfare nor do they explain why prices change as they do. The analysis does point out, however, that food price increases have not put the average Canadian consumer in a worse position.

In terms of current dollar values the purchasing power of increased Canadian incomes has more than offset food price increases. Today, compared to two years ago, the income to food cost ratio or the amount of work required to "bring home the bacon" has declined by five percent.

The weakness of this entire argument, however, lies in the word "average" when applied to the Canadian consumer. Unfortunately many people have fixed incomes which do not qualify for raises in salaries and wages. For them a rise in food prices means what it says.

There are others living on the subsistence level, who will need increased assistance to "keep body and soul alive". They are very much affected by spiralling costs.

The economic gap between the "average" Canadian and his poorer brother widens every time prices rise.



Lovely restoration

THE LOVELY OLD Harris home, situated on Falls St. overlooking Rockwood conservation area, has been restored and renovated by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Hill. Mr. Wm. Harris and his son Edgar, owners of the woolen mill in the valley lived there until the father died and Edgar continued to live alone. The house is still in the family as Mr. Hill is a first cousin of the late Mr. Harris.

(Staff Photo)



Free Press back issues

20 years ago

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

Ernest West, 16, Acton, winner of the Lions Club oratorical contest for zone six again carried off the honors in the public-speaking contest held in the auditorium of the high school at Oakville. Competitors included secondary school students from Acton, Dundas, Ancaster, Brampton, and Oakville. Bill Davis, Brampton, was second and Betty Fleming, Oakville, came third.

Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Morrison who reside a few miles east of Acton marked the 60th anniversary of their wedding on Saturday when members of their family were all home.

The annual meeting of the Halton Junior Farmers was held in Milton on Saturday evening, March 1. The election of officers for the ensuing 12 months resulted as follows: Past President, George S. Atkins, Bronte; President, Edna Atkins, Acton; 1st Vice-President, Cameron Wilson, Milton; 2nd Vice-President, Ismay Kean, Georgetown; Secretary, Gordon Leslie, Acton; Treasurer, J. E. Whitlock, Milton.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, March 8, 1917.

Mr. Percy Howarth, who has occupied a position on the staff of the Merchants Bank here for the past three years has been promoted to the Hamilton office. Mr. Howarth is a bright young man and will make a name for himself in business circles. His many friends wish him every success in his new position.

Mr. John Barber died at his residence at Georgetown on Saturday morning, after a prolonged illness. In 1880 he succeeded his father as proprietor of the Georgetown Paper Mills, which he successfully conducted until he retired from business a few years ago. He was also President of the Barber and Ellis Co. of Toronto and the Toronto Paper Co., of Cornwall.

Pte. M. Kaley of the 164 Battalion of Hamilton was home for Sunday. Pte. Perry Watson of the 164 Batt., who has been ill with pneumonia for some time, is able to be about again.

Kingston City Council may tax cats, counting on raising \$1,000 revenue that way.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, March 10, 1922.

The council met on Monday evening and a short session sufficed for the business which came before members. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The committee on finance presented their fourth report recommending payment of the following accounts: Dominion Lamp Co., 24 lamps, globes and fixtures, \$99.38; Clerk registration fees, \$3.10; total \$104.48. Moved by A. O. Best-mans, seconded by Alex. Scord that the report be adopted. Carried. Council adjourned at 8.30 p.m.

The brethren of Walker Lodge A.F. and A.M. had an oyster supper at the Dominion Hotel on Monday evening.

The Educational Committee of Toronto City Council expressed their gratification at the action of Attorney-General Mowat in introducing a bill before the Local Legislature to prohibit cigarette smoking and also the sale of tobacco to persons under 18 years of age.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, March 7, 1867.

We had the pleasure of being one of the examiners of Nassagaweya competitive examination Saturday. The town hall was crowded with parents and friends of the pupils, and the Warden and the rest of the Council and Reverend Little, Superintendent, were present and took a deep interest in the proceedings. Mr. McLaren of Puslinch and Mr. Campbell of Milton, were examiners. The pupils passed very good examinations and displayed increased proficiency in History, Chronology and other branches. We have not yet received the list of those taking prizes, but hope to receive it next week.

Captain Bastedo, commanding No. 6 or Milton Company of the 20th Battalion, received orders last Saturday, to serve out to each man of his company 60 rounds of ball cartridges at once. Most of the members have been supplied, and are anxious to get a taste of frontier service, which at present they seem likely to get. We believe the other companies of the Battalion have received similar orders.

Free Press Editorial Page

Inconsiderate parking..

One of the most annoying things to contend with at an event in the community centre is inconsiderate parking.

Often during the current season vehicles have blocked others from leaving. In one instance a car had to be towed away when the driver failed to respond to a plea to move on the public address system.

It was most annoying for the driver of the blocked-in car; he arrived late for an important appointment.

Another instance at a hockey game involved a shift worker who had to leave early for his job. Someone carelessly parked directly behind his car so he couldn't move it one way or the

other. After repeated pleas over the P.A., for the offender to move his car it was done, but not before the man was late for his job.

Officials at the community centre were most lenient. In both cases they could have merely phoned a tow truck operator and told him to tow the offender away.

They considerably figured it could have been merely thoughtlessness on the driver's part, which is quite possible.

But it isn't only at the community centre people are inconsiderate of others when they park. It seems to be common no matter where you go.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



My daughter had a birthday this week; her sixteenth. That's quite a milestone in a woman's life. Rather like the fortieth milestone, except in reverse. Life is beckoning, not waving.

I'd give my right arm for that girl, even though it's ready to drop off from bursitis, and I've already offered it to the highest medical - research bidder. And she'd take it. I can still write cheques with it, and it still works well enough to reach for my wallet.

Ah, I shouldn't be cynical about my baby. She's the only one I have. Thank God.

She's been causing me painful pleasure since the day she was born. Any normal kid, as you know, is born at 4 a.m. Kim popped, literally popped, into the world at noon. And my wife has never forgiven me.

The Old Girl began to grunt and groan about 4 a.m., but didn't want to disturb the doctor's sleep, and told me it would be about 24 hours before anything happened. She knew all about it, having already had a son who took about 36 hours getting out of the nest. I knew from nothing.

So we drove sedately to the hospital about 9 a.m. and booked in. She suggested I go to work, as there was no point hanging around hang-doggedly. I said, fearfully, but with the utmost relief, "You're sure you don't need me?" She retorted (bitterly, I learned later), "Don't be silly. It'll be hours." This was about 10 a.m.

I phoned the hospital at noon to ask if it was OK to drop in on my wife and hold her hand. The nurse chorled, "Congratulations! You have a fine baby girl." And the kid has been getting me in dutch ever since.

There's nothing basically wrong with Kim. Except that she's too much like her mother, as far as I'm concerned. And too much like her father, as far as her mother is concerned. Aside from this she's a perfectly normal, infuriating teenager.

That is, she inhabits the bathroom only about five hours a day. She hates school, but her whole social life is centered there. She loves privacy, with some infernal machine blating beat-noise. She thinks her parents are the square root of two, the only concession she will make to mathematics.

She doesn't like liver, oysters, mushrooms, vegetables, salad, onions or curry which makes for a bland diet at our place. She likes steak, imported cheese and any fruit that is out of season, which makes for an expensive grocery bill.

Like all teenage girls, she gets along beautifully with her mother. They agree on everything. Except just about anything you can name.

Like all teenage girls, she is not temperamental. You can rely on her moods. Either furious or radiant.

She claims her parents won't even try to "communicate". This invariably occurs just at bedtime. She'd love an extra hour of communication. Pronounced gossip.

Her choice of apparel is putting her mother over the brink. Rather than wear the nice matching sweater and skirt she got for Christmas, she'll haul out an old turtle-neck I got from the Red Cross when I was overseas; navy blue, match it with pink mesh stockings and an ancient mustard suede jacket that even her brother threw out, and sally to school.

Nothing: warnings, threats and appeals to deity, stop her from waltzing around the house in her bare feet.

But she still has an endearing quality from her childhood; if she reaches for the salt, she spills her milk; if she makes a batch of cookies, it takes three days to clean up the kitchen.

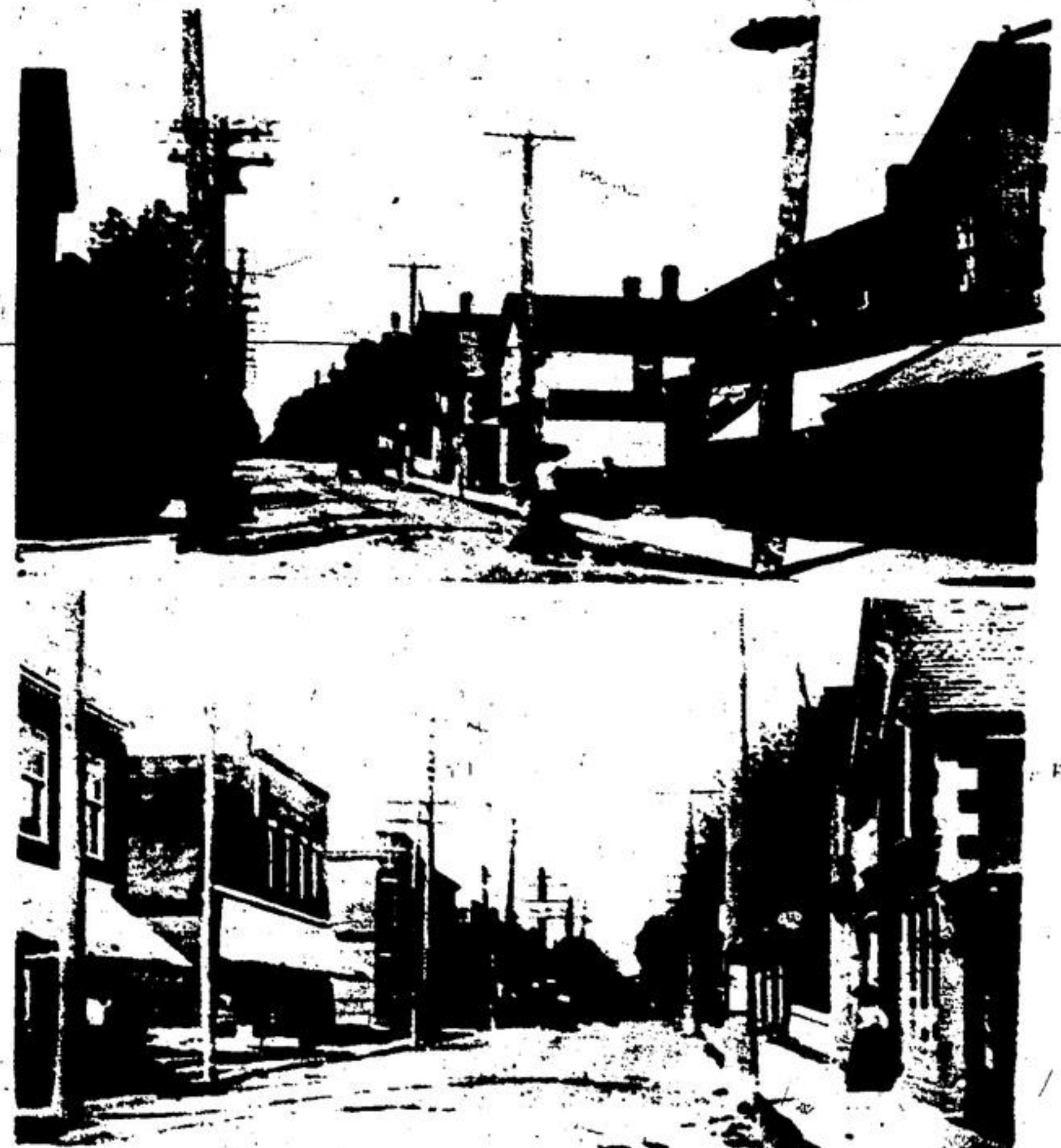
What does she want to be? A nurse? Agh! A teacher? Yeuch! I think her secret ambition is to be a long-haired shouting singer with a Group.

Unfortunately, her hair is so curly that if she let it grow long, she'd look like a Zulu warrior. But she sure as hell can shout. Especially when she's in the wrong.

As you've probably gathered, I tore on my daughter. I wouldn't trade her for a brand new Cadillac. I'd have to have somebody offer me a Rolls Royce.

Speaking of cars, I guess I've no kick. She's been 16 for two whole days and still hasn't asked me when she can get her driving license. A real scatter-brain.

Centennial Picture Gallery



TWO VIEWS of Mill St., both looking east, show the changes six decades brought. The top picture is taken from the Mill-Main corner, where W. M. Cooper's tailor store on the left faces Woodhall's store on the right. The picture below was taken further east along the same block showing the corner of Mill and Willow Sts. The post office had not yet been built. The building on the north-west corner was demolished

when the Bank of Montreal was built, but the building on the north-east corner remains, now housing the Cameo Shoppe. Note the buggies approaching. These pictures were originally post cards, and were lent for this series by E. E. Perryman, R.R. 1, Georgetown. He has a good collection of early post cards from the 1904-1910 era, and others will appear here later.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 99 Willow St. Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the C.P.M.A. and the O.N.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$2.00 in Canada, \$7.00 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 advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement charged for as a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell and may be withdrawn at any time.

Billie Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.
 David R. Dills, Publisher
 Dorothy Cole, Editor
 Dan Ryder, Manager
 Copyright 1967 Acton Free Press

Free Press Church News

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1967
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship. The message will be the third in a series of "7 New Things".
7.00 p.m.—Evening Worship. Evangelistic Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
Friday, 6.45 p.m.—Crusaders.

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, MARCH 19, 1967
Palm Sunday
9.45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.
9.45 a.m.—Church Membership Class for Teenagers.
11.00 a.m.—Palm Sunday Worship. Sermon Theme: "A Day for Donkeys."
8.00 p.m.—First of 3 Community Holy Week Services in Trinity United Church. Rev. Dr. D. C. Smith, Guelph, guest preacher.
Everyone Most 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, MARCH 15
7.30 p.m.—Evensong address. "The Life Manifested."
The Wednesday evening services during Lent are being conducted by the Reverend Eric Mills, the new Rector of St. George's Church, Georgetown.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1967
Palm Sunday
(The Beginning of Holy Week)
9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10.30 a.m.—Church School.
10.30 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist with the dramatic reading of the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The distribution of Palms.
8.00 p.m.—Acton Ecumenical Service. Our choir sings at Trinity United Church.
Monday, March 20—7.30 p.m. The Holy Eucharist.
Tuesday, March 21—7.30 p.m. The Holy Eucharist.
Wednesday, March 22—10 a.m. The Holy Eucharist.
7.30 p.m. The Holy Eucharist. Our guest celebrant, The Rev. Kenneth Patterson, Rector of Palermo.

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, MARCH 19, 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: Wheels within Wheels.
8.00 p.m.—First Community Holy Week Service in Trinity United Church. Other Holy Week Services: Tuesday at 8 p.m., Thursday at 8 p.m., Friday at 10.30 a.m.
Monday, 8 p.m.—Adult Class. Subject: "Doctrines of Immortality and Grace."
All Welcome

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, MARCH 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

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, MARCH 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

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1967
Palm Sunday
10.00 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.
11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship. "The Great Procession."
8.00 p.m.—Sunday Evening Service. First of Holy Week Services, United Church. Speaker: Rev. Crawford Smith.

See special notice for all Holy Week Services.
No meeting Wednesday, March 22.
Thursday — Explorers at 6.30.
Text: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
Romans 14:12