

Where do we go from here? ...

The story's the same all around the province.

Taxes, much like the American space project, are heading for the skies.

Tax bills show councillors and school trustees around the province have again been unable to work miracles.

In metropolitan Toronto the increase for the owner of an "average" house with three or four bedrooms assessed for \$5,000 will be \$50. Hamilton will pay \$20, London \$45, Kingston \$60, Brantford \$50, Oshawa \$40, Ottawa \$37 and Chatham \$32.

In virtually every case the increase is mainly because of school costs. London, a prosperous, bustling city is curtailing capital building, a stopgap measure, even though taxes have increased 4.5 mills.

The same situation exists in Acton. The proposed building program at the M. Z. Bennett school was deferred this year even though both council and school board recognize the need.

The town has other problems which must be attended to — like a dump or possibly an incinerator — which have been budgetted for. You could take the view that this isn't necessary but a look at the town dump will do more

convincing than 10,000 words. It's almost full — life expectancy no more than two or three months.

Temporary measures are not going to solve the problems. Something concrete had to be done. The folly of waiting for solutions and for costs to go down has been impressed on councillors by the amount of work they've got to do now. Some of it could have been done years before.

Where's it all going to end? Some say it won't until the provincial government uses its wider taxing base to provide more aid to local school boards and councils. Others advocate basing education taxation on income rather than on real estate. This would provide some relief to people with incomes which are pegged.

The best way for taxpayers to get relief is to take a more active interest in the affairs of the community. When there's an election cast your ballot for men and women who have the best interests of the community at heart.

It is going to take steady heads and an outlook which goes beyond immediate needs to retain control of spiralling costs.

Acton has much of that element on its municipal council now.

Dipping lines



FIRST BALMY SPRING DAY brought fishermen out along Valley Road in Rockwood where the Eramosa River stretches into quiet water after the plunge through the mill dam and water falls. In two more weeks the river banks will be well travelled as the trout season opens and the real action starts.

(Staff Photo)

Free Press Editorial Page

Economic pincers ...

Taxpayers shouldn't really be surprised at the rise in the mill rate in Acton.

Council in Acton is caught in a squeeze which it can do little about.

The item which eats up most of your tax dollar is education. Before you belabor the school boards for their contribution to the dollar hike, remember there's not much they can do about it either.

They are caught in an economic vise between teachers' salary demands and rising costs of construction and maintenance.

People want good teachers, they want fine buildings. The penalty is higher cost.

Frills in education are much condemned but a trip to another town where these "frills" are enjoyed invariably creates a demand for the same item in your own community.

It's true, however, that demands of the teachers for higher and higher salaries are creating much consternation among boards from every level of government. Main objection seems to be that many of the teachers are not worth what they are getting.

There is no real complaint about good teachers.

A rising tide of indignation is sweeping the province, typical of which is this editorial from The Stratford Times:

Says The Times in part: "The biggest union in the province puts the squeeze on taxpayers and we don't have a chance."

"Teachers, bonded by an association, union, or whatever you want to call it, are laughing."

"They'll laugh all the way to the

bank with their \$1,000 raises next year, which amounts to an additional 180,000 tax dollars which have to be found somewhere. (This figure applies to Stratford.)

"What irks us is that year after year, the various teacher associations go after more and more money — and get it. Of course, with the raised club that teachers everywhere hold over school trustees' heads, it's little wonder they succeed.

"The Times is aware of the short supply of good teachers. We're also aware of the fierce competition between school boards to get the best available.

"Some time back, a group of boards tried to take matters on themselves and freeze wages at a reasonable level. Stratford, invited to join, declined.

"We wonder if it isn't time to fight fire with fire. A strong group of school boards, not ignoring teacher threats, but backing one another to a reasonable compromise, might be the answer ..."

That's one paper's answer to the cost problem but it is a drastic one. It could lead back to the time when teachers were badly underpaid and the profession attracted only dedicated individuals or those who didn't fit in anywhere else. Unfortunately, sometimes the latter outnumbered the former.

The answer in this field lies with the teachers themselves.

Like any other group they have amongst them some who will reach for the moon in the way of salary demands. We don't doubt many in the profession feel they are getting adequate compensation for what they are doing. It is time they spoke out and told the irresponsible in their midst to lay off.

Otherwise, the spectre of big government reaching in and taking over could become a reality.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



We have just gone through the most relentless winter I can remember. Deep snow and deep cold, day after day, month after month. I don't know about you, but it took more out of me than four years of World War II did.

But there are signs that the annual two-day phenomenon known in this country as Spring, is almost upon us, and it with considerable satisfaction that I look back and sneer at the blizzard on March 21st, laughingly known as the First Day of Spring, and those 15-below temperatures just before Easter. I've made it again.

Like many Canadians, I am in a state of suicidal depression by the middle of March. But those good old signs of Spring catch me just before I plummet into the pit, and there I am, forced to give it another whirl.

The signs of Spring in these parts are not quite what they are in some parts of the world, but they're just as welcome. No larks sing, but is there anything sweeter than the first raucous call of a crow? The flowers don't exactly come popping out but those hardy annuals, the picnic tables, rear their brave heads through the snow in the yard.

And there's color everywhere. Brown mud, yellow grass, green wine bottles on your front lawn, tossed there by some poor soul fighting mid-winter madness. And the lovely off-white of about three tons of sand and salt thrown onto said lawn by the snowplow.

But you'll hear no complaints from me. In fact, I feel so good when I kick off the old galoshes and hang up the overcoat for the last time that I might just burst into song. Here are the words. It might go to the tune of "There's a Tear in My Eye".

There's a hole in my boot,
In my best rubber boot,
But I don't give a hoot
'Cause it's spring.

There's a smell in the air
Like an old she-wolf's lair,
But I don't really care
'Cause it's spring.

There's a squealing of tires,
And the smell of grass fires,
And the poets are liars,
But it's spring.

There are masses of mud,
And my cellar's in flood
But I know in my blood
That it's spring.

There's romance in the air;
All the boys have long hair,
And the girls have a flair
In the spring.

There are gamboling lambs
And fat Easter hams
And beautiful games
In the spring.

It's no wonder a guy,
Even an oldie like I,
Gets a look in his eye
In the spring.

A remarkable thing
That you feel like a king
When you get in the swing
Of the spring.

And that will be quite enough of that doggerel, thank you. But it's all true, and I hope the longer days, warmer sun and softer winds have cheered you up. Even though that old, cold Receiver-General is lurking just around the corner.

One can't help feeling that the natives' sanity is saved by the signs of spring, such as they are. Three people smiled at me this week, for no reason. Today a fellow motorist, who would have driven straight at me, snarling, a month ago, stopped and waved me through an intersection, when he had the right of way.

It's not all roses. There's a lot of hard hacking ahead to clean up the estate, which I didn't quite manage last fall. The Old Lady has that wild spring decorating gleam in her eye and my daughter flunked her Physics exam.

But when I drive past a black, burbling trout stream, and long for Opening Day, or when I see the flags go up at the golf course, I realize that there's still a little steam in the old boiler, and that spring has done it again.

Pot pourri...

Dusty town streets are a source of irritation to housewives but copious amounts of rain have kept dust to a minimum.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1967
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Matins.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1967
10:00 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship. "The Time Between."
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service cancelled for Bible Society Service at Trinity United at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 26, 8:00 p.m.—Quarterly Business Meeting.
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.—Explorers.
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.—Choir Practice.
Friday, 7:00 p.m.—B.H.F.
Text: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
Romans 14:12

Published by the Acton Free Press Co., Ltd.
David E. Ditt, Publisher
Helen Olin, Editor
Don Byler, Adm. Manager
Copyright 1967 Acton Free Press

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, April 17, 1947.

The old Baptist church building on Elgin St. used for many years as a storehouse is being torn down.

Yesterday's snowstorm was pretty heavy for April and the six inch blanket brought out plows and cleaning equipment again.

The Agricultural Society "At Home" held in Milton Town Hall last week was a splendid success. Every table was used for cards and after lunch a very enjoyable dance was held. Mr. and Mrs. Somerville and Mr. and Mrs. J. Stewart were guests from Acton.

The Council met Tuesday evening with Councillors C. Cook, J. H. Creighton, Wm. Coon and R. M. Aylsworth attending and Reeve F. J. McCutcheon presiding. They made plans for Waterworks Extensions to serve new sections of Acton being built up, for repairs to the arena roof, and the Wartime Housing site to be chosen.

A new plan for the section at the rear of Baxter Laboratories, which was a former pond, was submitted with a letter from the Department of Planning. To have this land properly conveyed from Mr. Amos Mason to Baxter Laboratories, this plan submitted must be approved. Council gave the approval and supplied the Department of Planning with the information required.

50 years ago

taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, April 12, 1917.

Maple syrup is coming in, selling for \$1.50 per imperial gallon.

The Ontario Government will receive a large delegation of supporters of the central route of the proposed new Provincial highway from Toronto to Windsor.

Sergt. Swackhamer, Sergt. Stuckey and Corp. Perry did not leave for overseas with the 164th last Thursday. They were specially drafted as instructors and will probably go to Camp Borden for the summer.

Previous to his departure to join his battalion at Gall, and the removal of his family to Rockwood, Pte. Frank Day was presented with a wrist watch and Mrs. Day with a handsome rocker as a mark of esteem and regret, by the people of Crewson's Corners, at their removal.

A very pretty Easter wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Johnstone, Mill St., on Saturday afternoon, when their daughter, Gertrude Jean, became the bride of Mr. Frederick McLean of Watford, son of Mr. Donald McLean, Windsor.

The wedding march was played by Mrs. Leslie Cockburn of Wyandotte, Mich. Miss Wilma Johnstone, sister of the bride, and Miss Myrtle Fritz of Guelph attended the bride. Mr. D. T. McGuire of Niagara Falls acted as groomsmen. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. C. Wilson, B.A. During the signing of the register, Mr. Leslie Cockburn sang "Love's Coronation". On return from their wedding trip, they will reside in Watford, Ont., where Mr. McLean is manager of the Merchants' Bank.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, April 18, 1892.

It may be of interest to teachers of rural schools to know that the law granting the vacation at Easter does not apply to them.

The Acton Free Press, published by H. P. Moore, president of the Canadian Press Association, will adopt the strictly cash in advance system at the end of the year.

Married: Payne - Storey.— At Chicago, on the 31st March, by the Rev. W. Werner, Dr. Jesse D. Payne of Richmond, Iowa, to Edith Pearl, youngest daughter of W. H. Storey Esq., Acton, Ont.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, April 18, 1867.

The Spring Show, for the exhibition of Entire horses will be held at Milton April 25. Prizes include \$8, \$5, and \$3 for first, second and third best draught horse; and the same scale for the best roadster or carriage horse and best general purpose horse.

As for the objections being made by farmers and others using the Milton weigh scales, we can certify as to their correctness. As a proof of this we saw a gentleman ask the clerk to put on his weight, and on going on the scales it balanced exactly. Another gentleman whose weight was known, stepped on and the scales balanced at their combined weight exactly.

It is our melancholy duty this week to record the passing away of four of the old landmarks of the county, those whose lives stretched back to the Revolutionary war, and the close of the eighteenth century. As old as the United States are some of the names in our death list. The names of Miller, Biggar and Deforest will long survive as among the loyal and hardy pioneers of Old Halton.

Editorial notes

Acton Firefighters are to be commended for the speed and despatch with which they put out what could have developed into a serious fire at the Dominion Hotel last Friday night. Their training was never more evident. The lack of confusion and co-ordinated efforts impressed onlookers.

Council in general and sanitation chairman Ted Tyler Jr. in particular must be congratulated for the improved condition of the town dump. It has had a complete facilitating and appointment of a supervisor will go a long way in keeping it that way.

Free Press Church Notices

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister: Mr. John May (Interim Supply)
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 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.)
7:00 p.m.—Annual meeting of Acton Branch Canadian Bible Society.
All 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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1967
Easter IV
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Matins.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1967
10:00 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship. "The Time Between."
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service cancelled for Bible Society Service at Trinity United at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 26, 8:00 p.m.—Quarterly Business Meeting.
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.—Explorers.
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.—Choir Practice.
Friday, 7:00 p.m.—B.H.F.
Text: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
Romans 14:12

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1967
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
Friday, 6:45 p.m.—Crusaders.

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1967
10:00 a.m.—English School.
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

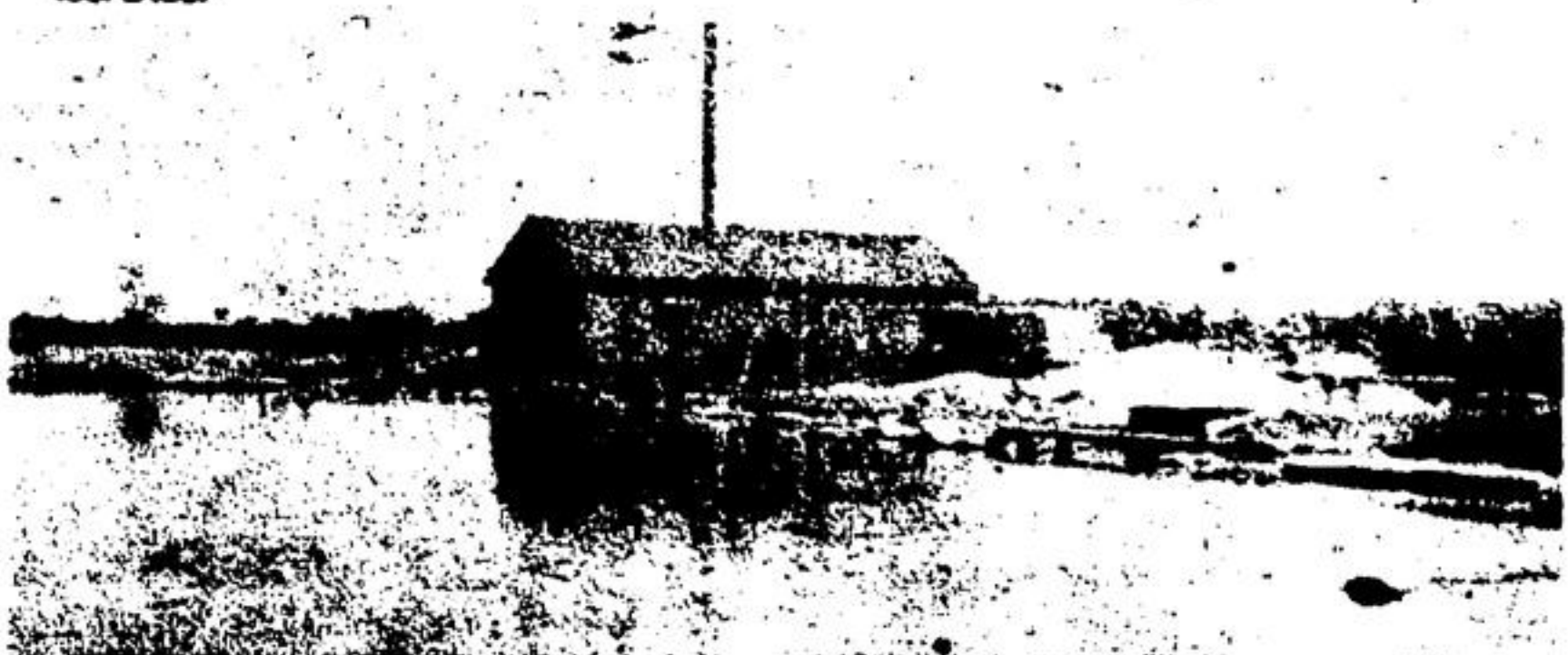
MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 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

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, APRIL 23, 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: "The Error of Biblical Illiteracy."
7:00 p.m.—Acton Community Bible Society Service in Trinity Church.
Everyone Most Welcome.

Centennial Picture Gallery



SAYERS' SAW MILL was built in 1903 after the old one was burned in the fall of 1902. This picture belongs to Mr. J. J. Kennedy of Milton and was taken by him. Sayers' Mill was on lot 17, west half, concession 6 in Nasset-

weya Township. This mill was owned by Mr. Peter Sayers and sons and later was purchased by Mr. Duncan Campbell. It was sold and taken down and moved nearly 50 years ago.