

Bouquet to teenagers ...

Endurance contests have always captured the imagination and Saturday's marathon walk by Acton and district teenagers which included a worthy cause with the objective created much excitement.

It is fashionable to picture today's youth as demoralized, long-haired loungers who couldn't care a rap what's going on around them.

Project Action is an attempt by district youth to change that image. Judging by Saturday's effort they're going

to succeed.

Not only is the cancer society several hundred dollars richer but the teenagers hereabouts have gone up several notches in the estimation of people of town and district.

Congratulations are in order for all who planned and participated in Saturday's event. Special tips of the editorial dept. hat to those who walked the entire distance from Thornhill and the boys who attempted to hike all the way from Toronto city hall

End to confusion ...

Years of surveys, warnings and near-accidents at the Mill-Main corners came to mind when they turned on the new traffic lights Monday.

It is our opinion the lights were long overdue.

Pedestrians and vehicle traffic were often confused on the corners and it was a case of good luck rather than good management that nobody came to grief.

The lights will decide when people will cross the street, when vehicles can stop and go. The previous system made no allowance for human error. Strangers in particular sometimes exhibited extreme caution on the corner.

inching the nose of their car out, causing cars in the right of way to swerve.

Although the Department of Highways take a jaundiced view of stop and go lights because of traffic tie-ups they were not fully cognizant of the facts here until recently.

Merchants were visibly upset because the new lights would interfere with accustomed parking and loading on Mill and Main. However, it's likely the new arrangement will work out better for them in the long run.

Shoppers, especially older ones, will have less fear of this intersection under the new arrangement. Business, therefore, could conceivably pick up.



ETIENNE BRULE at the mouth of the Humber, 1615. He left no written accounts of his journeys in the service of Champlain, and he remains a strange, shadowy, and tragic figure in the history of Canada — yet he was one of its most energetic explorers. Among his discoveries, he was probably the first white man to see all the Great Lakes, including the site of Toronto. Here he is shown in sight of Lake Ontario at the end of the Toronto carrying-place, where the trail dipped down to the Humber River bank. This portage was part of the most direct route from Northern lakes to Lake Ontario. Brule chose to live among the Indians, learned to speak several of their languages, and adopted their habits and customs. Brule helped cement Champlain's alliances with the Hurons against the Iroquois, acting as guide, interpreter

and agent, but his main interest was in exploration. He was probably the first white man to go up the Ottawa River and on to Georgian Bay; he discovered and surveyed at least four and probably five of the Great Lakes; he followed the Susquehanna River to what is now Pennsylvania down to its mouth on Chesapeake Bay. In 1629, when Kirke's British fleet at Tadoussac layd and sank most of a fleet of 18 French supply ships which Brule was supposed to meet there and guide to Quebec, he went over to the British with three other Frenchmen, and piloted Kirke's ships to Quebec instead. Champlain could not conceal the weakness of his defences and was forced to surrender. Brule died in 1662 or 1663, somewhere in Simcoe County's township of Tay, when he was killed and then eaten by the Hurons.

Free Press Editorial Page

Busy as bees ...

Centennial projects across Canada are many and varied. You hear of teas for the ladies, sports celebrations for the men and all kinds of dress-up affairs for beards and long dresses.

The oddest one I've heard about so far, though, has to be the University of Guelph's.

They are developing a new breed of bee there better suited to the Canadian winter. Someone put a bee in their bonnet, the present brand of Canadian bee could stand some improvement.

Researchers found the strains they wanted to work with in Europe. So they

tried importing eggs and larvae in thermos jugs and portable incubators. It didn't work! The eggs and larvae died.

Retired Toronto school teacher John Stein had the solution. He flew to Europe, purchased a new shipment and put them in a specially-made belt around his waist. Thanks to the steady body heat he generated the bees survived.

Consequently the University of Guelph will soon be releasing a new breed of bee as a centennial gift to the nation.

Maybe it will be a bilingual bee — stinging in two languages.

French Anglos ...

One sidelight on the Franco-Canadian rhubarb over who snooted whom in making arrangements for ceremonies on the 50th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge sent hollow laughter ringing down Ottawa's East Block corridors, John Bird says in The Financial Post.

A Paris despatch reported President de Gaulle as complaining "C'est toujours la meme chose: les Anglo-Saxons."

Who were these "Anglo-Saxons" particularly involved on the Canadian negotiating team? They were: Roger Joseph Teillet, Minister of Veterans Affairs, and his deputy, Paul Pelletier; Jules Leger, Canadian ambassador to Paris; External Affairs Minister Paul Martin (whose mother was Lumina Marie Choinard) and his deputy minister, Marcel Cadieux.

Not a Sassenach in the carload.

Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley

Sometimes I envy the young. But very often, my heart aches for them. They haven't much in the way of armour, you know, in an adult-dominated world. And that's why they so often rebel and run away from home or get married, or do something which even they know is stupid.

Today's young people are confused and battered by an assault of sights, sounds and ideas they simply can't cope with.

Nothing is easier than to criticize them. They're spoiled rotten. They have too much money. They're bone lazy. They're utterly selfish. They're immoral. They have no sense of responsibility and so on.

There is nothing that rasps me more than that kind of talk. And I'm afraid far too many adults are far too glib with it. Perhaps the worst offenders are old maids of both sexes, but we're all guilty, sooner or later.

Adults generally are envious of young people. From that envy springs a general rancor which comes out as a petulant blanket disapproval of youth in general.

What causes the envy? Mostly, a host of misconceptions. Today's generation of teen-agers has more money, more freedom, more luxury than any in history. It's pretty hard for a man who grew up during the depression — and has worked like a dog all his life — to be anything but sore when he sees a young punk just out of school riding around in a red convertible, with a doll lolling on his shoulder.

But what he doesn't remember is that while the kids have all the "moors" mentioned above, they have some others. They have more work, more decisions, more pressures, more problems, more temptations.

Certainly, some teen-agers are burns. And so are many adults. But when you look behind the facade of fun-and-games, the average high school kid seems to be having, you see a different picture.

First of all, they spend six and a half hours a day in school, where they are supposed to be polite, attentive, industrious and obedient to a welter of rules. That's the meat-and-potatoes. For dessert, they are handed between two and three hours of homework. That's a nine hour day, Mac.

Many of them have after-school and Saturday jobs. Some are expected to do chores or help at home. Others become involved in extra-curricular activities which gobble the time. Very few have any hours to dream or read or just goof around, the hours that are so essential to any human's happiness, and particularly so at this sensitive age.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, April 24, 1947.

Following a four year interval in which the Halton Music Festival was discontinued during the war years, the 16th Festival was held in Knox Presbyterian Church, Milton last Thursday and Friday. G. Roy Fenwick, Toronto, Provincial Supervisor of Music was adjudicator. Betty Mae Fosbury, aged 9, of Acton, won top honors for urban girls vocal solo in the seven to ten year class.

A special meeting of Acton Council and Public Utilities Commission was held. All members of both bodies were present and chairman Hansen presided. After considering the application for the position of Secretary-Treasurer Mr. John McGeachie was chosen for the position at a salary of \$1600. The members of Council passed a by-law appointing Mr. McGeachie as corporation treasurer and tax collector. Miss J. Walker was appointed his deputy by resolution of the Council.

Twenty-five years ago Amos Mason came to Acton and purchased the old power house, a one-storey building. While experienced in the knitted goods business, he launched a new product under a new name in a highly competitive field. The product was good and through the years has established a name for quality and fair dealing so that the one-storey building became two, then three-storey, then had additions added and finally outgrew the premises and moved to new quarters that gave ample room for expansion in what had been the Beardmore Warehouses.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, April 19, 1917.

The girl friends of Miss Ethel Coleman gave her a generous shower of household and other dainty gifts at the home of Mr. John Brown last Friday evening. Miss Coleman will shortly grace a Methodist parsonage in the west as its presiding genius.

The Tansley bridge in Nelson township lost one of its abutments with the spring freshet. The county council will decide what course is best to pursue. Officers for the Methodist lawn tennis club are as follows: president, Miss Lotie V. Mason; secretary-treasurer, Ernest Brown; green committee, Earl Vincent convener, Marguerite Stewart, Martin Moffat, Orval Johnstone, Ninian Lindsay.

At the annual meeting of the officers of the 20th Battalion Halton Rifles, held at Milton, Lieutenant Noble formally reported that four officers of the Regiment had been killed at the front since last meeting, namely Lieut. J. E. D. Belt, Lieut. C. M. Carbert, Lieut. E. T. Leslie, and Capt. G. O. McNair. The officers in session spoke warm words of appreciation of the standing and character of these four brave men.

Free Press

Church News

**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 30, 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.—Public Worship of God. Sermon Theme: "I Can Leap Over A Wall."
7.30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship.
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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1967
Easter V
9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10.30 a.m.—Church School.
10.30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist
Thursday, May 4 — Feast of the Ascension. 10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1967
10.00 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.
11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship. "Sin In The Church."
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service. "Questions and Answers."
Tuesday, May 2, 7.45 — B.W.M.S. Rally, Preston.
Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.
Thursday, 6.30 p.m.—Explorers.
Thursday, 7.30 p.m.—Choir Practice.
Friday, 7.00 p.m.—B.H.F.
Text: "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, what we sow we shall reap."
Gal. 6:7

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, April 21, 1952.

The Council met with Reeve Lowry, Councillors Harvey, Pearson and Beardmore present.

A communication from R. B. Cook respecting the fence around Fairview Cemetery was referred to the cemetery committee.

The plano petition was dismissed in view of the increased demands for school accommodation and other matters more urgent.

The farmers are busy with their seeding.

A number of our citizens are planting trees on the street, opposite their premises.

Mr. Joseph McClure is about to build a new dwelling on the corner of Church and Wilbur Streets.

Nearly 25,000 acres of Manitoba land were sold by the C.P.R. in Winnipeg last week.

One of the most important works to be undertaken is the extension of the railway from Saskatoon to Saskatchewan River. The extension will open up a most fertile grazing district.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, April 25, 1867.

We regret to announce another fatal accident from a circular saw. Yesterday morning a girl working at Mr. Hadden's was caught in the circular saw at his mill near Kilmbridge by means of her hoops, her leg was instantly severed, and she was thrown back on the head and died in a few minutes, chiefly from the brain injury. Dr. White was in attendance, but of course nothing could be done. Too much attention cannot be exercised by women in passing machinery.

The Mysterious order of beings known as Callithumpians will again astonish the natives on the Queen's birthday, by order of their chief with the jaw-breaking name, Rangtankarode-boomjinging is his title for 1867. The next meeting of Lodge No. 9000000000000019 will meet at their Lodge Room Wednesday May 1, at 8.30 p.m. All members are requested to attend, as business of importance is to be transacted Allah il aliah — Saw my leg off.

Milton Council held a special meeting Monday evening for the purpose of assenting to the moving of the old Market House to the opposite side of the road. Consent was given on the understanding Council were at liberty to use it until the other Hall was ready. Court of Revision day was fixed for Monday, May 6 the Mayor, and Councillors Bestado, Dewar, Matheson and McGuffin were appointed Court of Revision.



Centennial Picture Gallery



PASTOR OF Acton Baptist church from 1856 Rev. R. B. Cook was photographed with his wife by H. Ramshaw, Acton. He came from Cape Rich in the Georgian Bay district where he was a pioneer preacher. When he was ordained in Acton in 1856, he became pastor of the Baptist church here. In 1858, the church was situated on Elgin St. With much interest, though in failing health,

he watched the present church being built and hoped to be spared to see the new building opened and join in the worship service. This but was not granted. On January 5, 1900, he was "called home". Mr. and Mrs. Cook were the grandparents of the former Eva Cook, now Mrs. W. McLaughlin of Guelph, who owns this picture.