

More than lip service

It is popular to suggest that because county government developed in the horse and buggy age it should be scrapped for the glittering new regional government concept.

It is argued the county system has not been updated, has not been expanded into new and logical areas of service that would complement the local municipal government.

The plea from some of the politicians is for something bigger that would cover thousands more acres and reduce the friction of boundaries.

We are among those who feel that logical services, that could be handled efficiently over the larger county area, have not been developed. But the problem is not with the county government. It is with the local municipalities who have formed extensive departments to cover specific services and seem unwilling to part with them. How the formation of a huge regional system of government will convince the local governments to cut down on their local empires is difficult to imagine.

A county welfare system, replacing the part-time efforts of local clerks and the well-organized departments of the larger municipalities has been proposed. In the smaller municipalities there has been a generally ready acceptance of the proposal but the opposition has been felt from the large southern municipalities.

A county planning board was once proposed. One of the arguments for regional governments is the possibility of integrated planning that would spread beyond today's limiting boundaries. What resulted was the watered down formation of a Planning Association that serves as a forum for discussion and exchange of views with no power.

There was the proposal this year for a County Board of Education, made after an exhaustive study by knowledgeable men; and it was rejected. Yet the Plunkett view of regional government calls for such a super board of education over a much larger area.

Currently there are discussions on the introduction of a County Assessment Commissioner system. It would involve a single department at the county level that would insure equality of assessment throughout the county. The proposal calls for branches in the local municipalities.

There have been new services in the county recently such as the Family Counselling Service but the addition of fields of common interest to all municipalities seems to be more resisted than invited and chiefly at the large local government level.

In the meantime the province is encouraging, through its carrot-on-a-stick grant structures, a definite drift to what is currently understood as regional government. One example, now well established, is the construction of the Regional Detention Centre to be built in the Hornby direction by Peel and Halton counties with financial encouragement from the province.

Then there was the recent encouragement offered to the Halton Health Unit to study a merger with the Peel Unit because the province was willing to pick up a bigger part of the cost of operation if the two could form a more "economical" unit.

It appears to us that the desired end of regional government by providing larger areas for a common service, could be met through existing county government if local officials, chiefly in the larger municipalities, would pay more than lip service to the broader concept of administration.

Free Press Editorial Page

Potpourri...

A tip of the editorial hat to parks manager Harold Townsley and his staff for the attractive appearance of Prospect park. Although Mr. Townsley cites abundant rains as a contributing factor there's been a lot of hard work involved as well. The softball diamond in particular, has never looked better.

Barnacles on the dredge at Fairy Lake bring to mind a story about biologists at the University of Akron. They're raising a crop in an aquarium in hopes of discovering the secret of the adhesive and eventually synthesizing it. Any sailor who has ever chipped a hull will attest the little marine organisms manufacture what might be the best glue on earth.

Weeds around some places of business detract from the neat appearance of streets and give the impression the businessman isn't concerned about it.

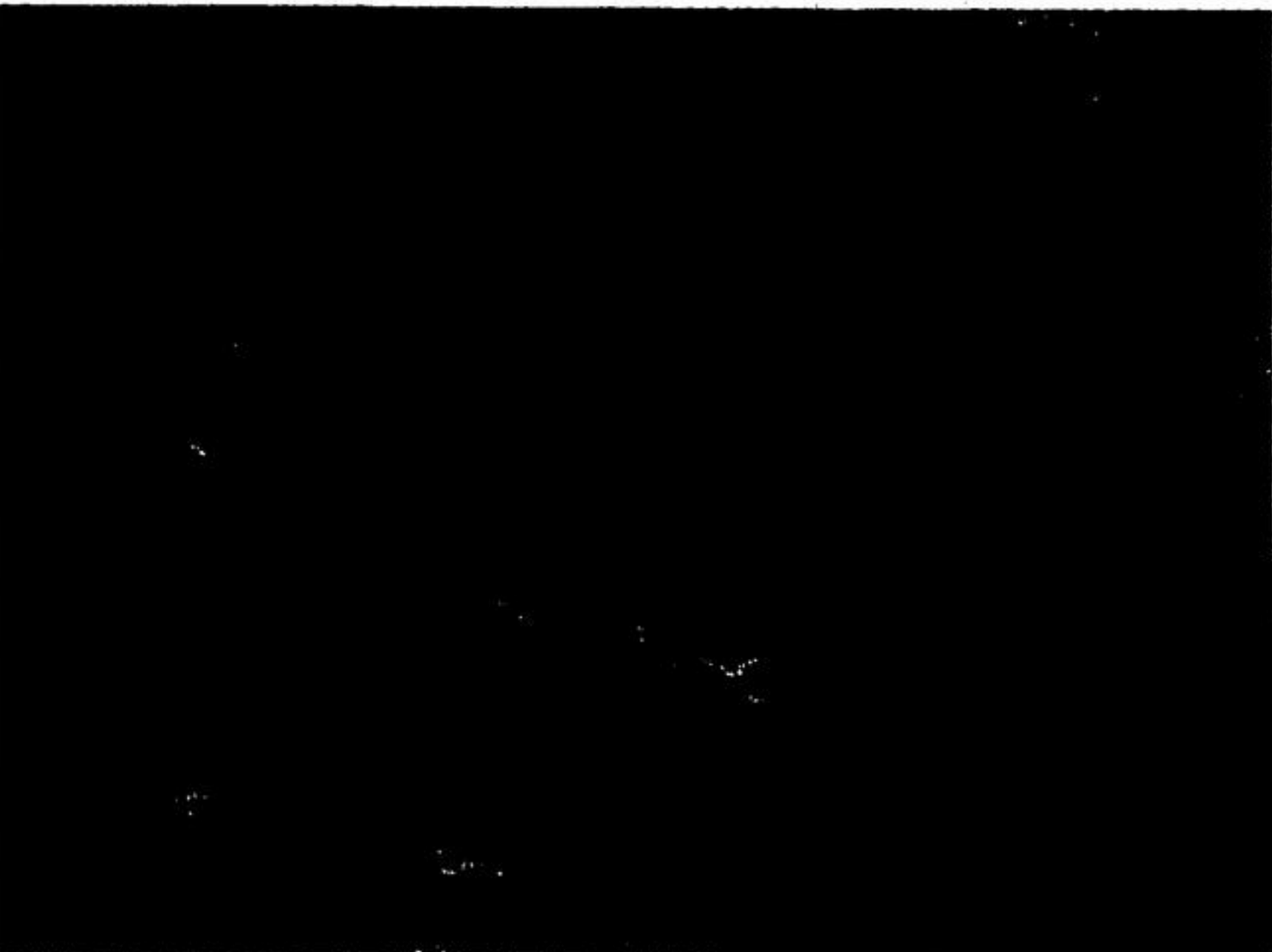
Maybe a few attractive looking garbage containers placed in convenient locations would discourage litterbugs around town. Some communities have partly solved the problem this way.

A tourist leaflet on the Northwest Territories recommends that your guide build an igloo for your overnight lodging. However, says the leaflet, "this type of accommodation is limited to winter and early spring because igloos become very damp in warm weather."

Copious amounts of rain this year bring out the irony in the over-all weather picture in Canada. While farmers east of the lakehead have had more rain than they know what to do with, the western provinces have had below normal precipitation. For the past two years when rainfall has been good in the west, crops in parts of Ontario have been parched.



Centennial Picture Gallery



MASON FAMILY is pictured in this facing photograph lent by Mr. and Mrs. Ramsden, Buffalo, New York. It was taken about 75 years ago. In the front row are the twins, Lottie and Hazel Mason; in the second row Mrs. Isabel Mason, Mrs. Agnew, Mrs. Frank Mc-

Intosh, William Mason; back row Frank Mason (who died at the age of 122), Charles Mason, Bert Mason and Amos Mason. The family has played a prominent part in Acton affairs for many years.



Tunnel of Trees

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



With summer on the wane — and boy, how it waned around here — I've made a discovery. With the minimum of encouragement, I could spend the rest of my life as a beach bum.

Never was much of a hound for the beach life before. As a boy, I swam in rivers and lakes, but not at beaches. Anyway, kids are too busy swimming and diving and horsing around to be bothered lying on a beach.

As I grew older, beaches still had little attraction. I just didn't like sitting in the sun. I don't tan. I just sort of turn a burnt orange. Beaches were for women little kids and old people. I preferred golf or fishing.

Well, I'm not a woman or a little kid, so I must be turning into an old people. Someone will think unkindly, no doubt, that it's the advent of the bikini that has prematurely aged me. This is merely a half-truth. I'm not particularly addicted to the sight of navel, though some of the other stuff displayed is mildly interesting.

No, it's the other sights and sounds that fascinate me. Now, I don't like the huge, crowded, commercialized beach. It inspires in me, with its noise and clutter and bawling transistors and screaming humanity, nothing but nausea.

But the beach we go to, almost every day the sun shines, is not like that. It is clean sand and cool, blue water and friendly, relaxed people. There are no loud-speakers bellowing the latest beat. There isn't a hot-dog stand or a motorcycle or a beer can in sight.

That doesn't mean it's as quiet as a church. The gulls wail, the mamas holler at their children, the kids scream and fight and cry. But when you stretch out on the sand after a dip, and the sun bores into you, taking away the aches and the tensions, it's as though you were hearing it all through cotton wool.

For some reason, "our" beach has become a mecca for newcomers to Canada. Foreigners as we used to call them in the old, unenlightened days. You can lie there all day and scarcely hear a word of English. And what a pleasant change that is. You could be at Odessa, on the Black Sea. My Hungarian and Polish and German have improved tremendously.

But they're great people. They love the sun, mind their own business, and pick up their junk when they leave, which is more than can be said of a good many tenth generation Canadians.

It's fun to watch and listen. Over here are a couple of Italian grandmothers, in black dresses, both built about five by five yattering away eighty miles an hour. Just over there is a majestic young woman with Slavic features, a baby, a bikini so sparse you couldn't blow your nose in it, and a bust that would knock your eyes out. Maybe both of them.

Back up on the sand a bit is the teenage crowd. They too have discovered our beach this summer. About sixteen of them sprawled in a loose circle, heads together, indulging in harmless sex-play, laughing, punching, smoking and making their intricate plans for the evening. But they're decent youngsters, who apologize when they hit you on the head with their football. No hippies, thank the powers.

Here comes an elderly German gentleman who must have drunk half the beer west of the Berlin Wall to produce that magnificent pot. There's a young Jewish father, spilling his kids rotten. There's a Hungarian couple, tanned the colour of tar, with two beautiful blonde urchins. And speaking of urchins, this is the real fun of the beach. They are through, over and around the prone bodies. They build castles and dams and forts. They hurl themselves into the water, shrieking with delight. And they're all so brown and firm and smooth you could eat them.

Why do all those darling, chubby five-year-old girls have to turn into bored, neurotic, harassed women? Why do all those careless, sturdy, happy little devils of boys have to turn into hard, suspicious, ulcerated men?

A good question. But I still haven't told you why I like the beach so much. I've discovered that it's the only place in the world where my wife will shut her mouth for two or three hours at a stretch.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Canadian Champlain, Milton, August 15, 1867.

It is our painful duty to record the loss by fire of the house situated in the east end of town owned by Mr. Farley. The fire took place about three o'clock this morning and notwithstanding the great endeavours of our townfolk, it was impossible to check the conflagration. It was with great difficulty that Mr. and Mrs. Farley were saved, but they were got out and kindly taken care of by Mr. McGuffin. The building was occupied by several tenants and was, we believe, uninsured.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 59 Willow St. Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the C.W.N.A. and O.W.N.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscription payable in advance. \$4.00 in Canada, \$7.00 in all countries other than Canada. Single copies 10¢. 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 will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell and will be withdrawn at any time.

Dale Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.
David R. Dill, Publisher
Harley Coles Editor Don Byder Adm. Manager
Copyright 1967

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 14, 1947.

Results of Upper School examinations for Acton High School were released this week by the Department of Education. Certificates are being mailed to John Agar, Raymond Arlic, Aldo Braide, Armand Braide, George Elliott, Joan Somerville and Ernest West.

In these sweltering days when the swimming facilities at Fairy Lake are out of bounds, the arrangements made by Acton Y.M.C.A. to have a day in the big tank at West End Camp at Norval are certainly to be commended. Through the courtesy of Beardmore and Co. arrangements were possible to take a load of children each Thursday. They are in charge of Johnny Gray.

"The Shareholder", the trade magazine of Drug Trading Company, features in its store planning department Cooper's drug store, Acton. "Very few towns of 2500 can boast a store such as Cooper's Drug Store," the article says.

Two years ago today V-J day was celebrated. The citizens of Rockwood received a shock when it was learned Mr. Cyril C. Anderson, 43, had passed away. Since his return from overseas he had been section foreman of the CNR.

On Saturday Rev. H. Watt, who had been in declining health, passed away at his home in Rockwood.

Prof. W.D. Tolton of the O.A.C. was special speaker at Brookville hall when a large crowd attended the Nassagawya Federation of Agriculture annual field day. The game of horseshoes was won by James Simpson and Henry MacLeod. Race winners were Marjory Elliott, Wayne Easterbrook, Teddy Britton, Bruce Richardson, Judy Eisley, Audrey Howie, Katherine Elliott, Joan Archibald, Martin Davenport, Ralph Barber, Aubrey Richardson, Kenneth Eisley, Freddie Archibald, Ivan MacLeod and Elwyn Service. Mr. C.E. Davenport was master of ceremonies.

Mr. Ted Hanson has been successful in passing his year at the University of Toronto.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 16, 1917.

On Friday afternoon two aeroplanes flew over town, apparently en route from Camp Borden to Toronto. Their route took them directly over the town and they presented a very graceful appearance. The first flew at an elevation of only a few hundred feet, but the second must have been up a mile or more. The noise of their motors gave ample notice of their approach and hundreds of our citizens went out to view the rather rare spectacle locally.

Mrs. Thos. Marshall, who is getting settled in her new home at the corner of Mill and Wellington Sts. will be at home to callers after October first.

The Board of Education had the important duty at its meeting of preparing and bringing down the estimates of receipts and expenditures for the year. It is fair to the Board to say estimates were pared down to

the last possible dollar. The ruling price of coal has caused an increase in the cost of heating of \$500. The estimates are: receipts: legislative grant high school \$530; county grant high school \$530; legislative grant public school \$220; high school fees \$240; non-resident fees \$148.43; to be raised by taxation \$5,550; total \$7,226.43.

Payments - salaries for 1917 \$6,325; fuel \$800; building, repairs \$100; maps, books and apparatus \$75; insurance \$81; supplies \$75; contingencies \$70.43; total \$7,226.43.

The engagement of Miss Janet McLeod for third book and boys' physical education at \$600 and Miss Beside Elliott for Junior Primary at \$550 were confirmed.

New motor cars continue to come to town. Dr. Cox, agent for the Ford, has sold forty cars this season.

A.J. McKinnon, Wm. McNabb, Chas. Winterbon and Jos. Gibbons have been bowling in the big Dominion tournament in Toronto this week.

The Bell Telephone Co. can hardly feel much pride in the unsightly crooked pole they planted in Mrs. Thos. Ebbage's pretty lawn.

An anti-draft meeting was held in Washington.

75 years ago

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

General sympathy is felt in this section for Mr. John McDuff in his sore affliction in the loss of his wife. The remains were interred in Fairview cemetery in the presence of a very large concourse of friends and neighbours. Mrs. Duff was the daughter of John Stewart, formerly of Esqueving, who took a prominent part in the McKenzie rebellion 1837-38.

The rural schools were re-opened on Monday.

Eighty-four years ago last Saturday the first white baby was born on the spot where the thrifty town of Berlin now stands. (Kitchener-Waterloo). It was the late Isaac Eby who was born one year after his parents came from Pennsylvania with the U.S. Loyalists.

D. Sifton L.D.S. will insert teeth at \$6 and \$8 per set, extraction free. Special care given to filling, Matthews block, Acton.

General contributions from Canada following the disastrous fire in St. John's Newfoundland, cannot fail to have a good effect on the Islanders, and may do away with some of the bad feeling which has existed between the two peoples.

The congregation of Knox church gathered to bid farewell to Dr. Lowry and family. The seating capacity of the church was taxed to the utmost limit. The chairs were arranged in circles throughout the building which tended to make all present more sociable. An address was read by D. Henderson M.P., signed by himself, James W. Rae, moderator of session, and A.T. Mann, chorister. A gold watch, especially purchased in Toronto and a valuable one, was presented to Mrs. Lowry with a gold chain, the gift of a few lady friends in Limehouse.

The Sunday School presented Mrs. Lowry Sr. with an elegant rocking chair finished in old oak, and beautifully upholstered, and when at the urgent request of friends nearby she took her place in it, the building rang into cheers. The undertone of sadness was lost in the contagious kind feeling that swept all before it.

Free Press

Church News

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister:
Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

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, AUGUST 20, 1967
Combined Summer Services in Knox Presbyterian Church. Preacher, Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie.
10.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
11.15 a.m.—Churchill United Church (Churchill Rd. N.) Morning Worship.

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 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

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tidey Ave., Ph. 853-1615
SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1967
10.00 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.
11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship. Speaker, Mr. Ivan Muller, Guelph.
No Evening Service during August.
Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study in charge of Deacons.
Thursday, 7.30 p.m.—Choir Practice.
Thought for the week: "I was glad when they said, let us go unto the house of the Lord." Ps. 122:1

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
81 Maple Ave., Georgetown
Pastor, Robert C. Lohes
SUNDAY AUGUST 20, 1967
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Wednesday, 7.45 p.m.—Prayer meeting.
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-4465

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715
SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 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.

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, AUGUST 20, 1967
Trinity XIII
9.00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
10.00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.