

Need your help ...

One of the complaints newcomers to Acton have to make about living here is the lack of variety in stores. Many, used to conveniences of city living, say Acton businessmen do not offer either the variety of goods or prices to which they are accustomed.

On the other side of the coin, local business people complain about the number of people who shop outside town when the same articles can be bought here at a competitive price.

There are points to be made by both sides in this perennial wrangle. It has seemed to us a fit subject for the Chamber of Commerce to debate, among other things, that affect the well-being of Acton.

The Chamber was involved in the commercial and social life of the town and district, it is evident from their annual report elsewhere in this issue. We would expect merchants and businessmen would stand four-square behind it, give it all the support they could muster.

Judging by the small attendance at the annual meeting last week which featured a buffalo dinner to help draw support, there are only the same few people interested enough to get out

and work for measures which could only help to improve community life here.

Either the business people here are (a) satisfied with matters as they are; (b) feel the C. of C. can do little to improve the situation; (c) are indifferent to the situation.

Last year the local chamber was involved in selecting a citizen of the year, sponsoring Old Fashioned Days, presented a brief on parking to council, ran a sportsman's show, the first one of its type in Canada, a meet the candidates' night, an industrial dinner, twelfth night tree burning and displayed some organized opposition to the proposed closing of the C.N.R. station among other things.

This year the Chamber of Commerce intends to delve into Councillor Ted Tyler's proposal for a Mill St. shopping mall, a measure sure to engender many pros and cons. They are hoping to sponsor an outdoor Sportsman's show of magnitude which can't help but attract many people to Acton.

The Chamber needs your ideas, your energy and the benefit of your experience.

Who will benefit? All of us.

Free Press Editorial Page

Thoughts of spring ...

We're at about that time of the winter season when thoughts of Spring start to come of their own volition.

Even the most ardent winter boosters admit when the zero weather of January gives way to the more moderate temperatures of February, enthusiasm for the season wanes.

There's nothing like a sunny January day; the snow crunching underfoot, people's conversation punctuated by clouds of frosty breath, a glittering landscape shining under a thin blue sky.

Days gradually lengthen and nature points rosy red sunsets behind the stark outlines of the Canadian bush. Smoke from countless chimneys ascends straight to the heavens without benefit of a lift by a breeze.

February creeps in, the shortest month of the year, on moccasins of sleet and wet snow. There are still ideal winter days when the car grumbles before it starts and the mercury plunges. But the sun's getting warmer now although there are few days when it can break through clouds.

This is the time of year when we'd like to have enough money and time to spend a week in Florida or Bermuda. We'd admit to being a little envious of the people who have.

But we'd like to be back to Canada for March when crows come out of hiding, fussies appear out of the willows and nature prepares for the coming of Spring.



IT'S NOT CLEAR whether this gentleman is a remnant of the big storm which clogged this district last week or simply someone who stayed out doors too long. It's on the front lawn of the Frizzell home on Cobble Hill road. (Staff Photo)



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

There are heartening signs that a revolution, bloodless, but sweeping is taking place in education.

There are indications that the oppressed people have passed the muzzling stage, have attacked the Bastille, will free the prisoners and in the process over-run the Swiss Guards, defenders of the ancient regime. And all will be wine and dancing in the streets. And chaos.

But out of chaos eventually emerges order. Look what God made out of a heap of chaos. And out of the chaos of the French Revolution emerged a completely new concept of freedom and equality that had a tremendous impact on the world.

Perhaps the revolution in education will produce a similar freeing of the spirit of man, allowing him to cope with the great and relentless pressures of this age and those to come.

Education in this century, the century of the common man, has been a failure on a grand scale. It has failed entirely to come to grips with a society that has been turned upside down and inside out by two global wars, mass communication, a tremendous spurt of technological advance and a close, hard look at traditions.

Educators, with a few notable exceptions, have been timid, shying from anything that might upset the system. The public at large has ignored education, except to bleat about the cost.

As a result education has been a generation behind the times. It has become a monolith of repression, rigidity and conformity. It has been an elephant waltzing with a gnat.

But fresh winds are blowing through the concrete boxes in which young minds are supposed to be exhilarated, excited and liberated. And with many another, I cry a loud, sincere, "Halleluia!"

Go into an elementary school today. You may be shocked to death. Instead of sitting in neat rows, facing a teacher, and putting up their hands so they can spout some meaningless information which has been memorized, you're apt to find the children wandering all about the room, doing things, looking up information, actually talking to each other, which, of course, is pure heresy.

It looks like anarchy, but it isn't. The teacher is teaching, not just talking. The kids are learning, not just being taught. No longer are they little sponges, each in his own compartment. There is a flowing of ideas, a joy in finding out for oneself.

Off the cuff ...

Sale of new license plates is slow this year and officials predict a big rush in the last few days.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 29, 1948.

Elwood Johnston was elected president of Acton fair for 1948 with A. Robinson first vice-president and Walter Linham second vice-president. Total prize money paid was \$2,013.45 and the year's deficit was \$100. The board was faced with a problem when secretary C. B. Swackhamer tendered his resignation. He had been secretary for a number of years and during the difficult war years when Acton fair was badly handicapped without a hall or arena show. The board instructed that the position be advertised.

A round table conference was called to decide on the disposition of Acton Continuation School in the forming of a new North Halton High School District. It was decided the school will remain the property of the Public School Board but all furnishings and equipment will be the property of the North Halton High School District Board. When the new high school building is ready for occupancy it is the intention of the Public School Board to use the high school for extra rooms.

At the conference were Reeve McCutcheon, deputy-rev. Coon, members of council and school board, Inspector Skuce, district trustees Carbert, secretary A. Sproat, Acton secretary W. Middleton and C.F. Leatherland.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 31, 1918.

With a view to conserving coal the Presbyterians and Methodists will meet tonight to consider union services.

Lieut. Col. John McCrae of Guelph, author of In Flanders Fields, died suddenly at Boulogne of pneumonia.

From the proceeds of the patriotic dance in the town hall the committee purchased 30 pairs of socks and 25 boxes of cigarettes and posted them to the Acton boys overseas.

We have meatless days, wheatless days, oatless days and heatless days. Now if someone would only invent frostless days. A hundred wood cutters could get employment in this section at once.

Motor cars are completely out of commission these days. The snow banks have effectively subdued them.

The most disastrous fire in the history of Guelph occurred on Sunday morning when the splendid store of G. B. Ryan and Co. was destroyed.

J. B. MacKenzie has opened a coal business in Acton beside his planing mill and council granted him permission to erect a weigh scale at the street. Council was relieved that another dealer shows excellent promise of being able to alleviate the coal shortage situation.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 2, 1893.

Things worth knowing - rub lamp chimneys with dry salt; throw chloride of lime in rat holes; beat carpets on the wrong side first; cover apple barrels with newspaper; keep everything clean around the well; boiled vinegar and myrrh are good odorizers; use whiskey instead of water for making liquid glass; sponge rough skin with kerosene and rose water; wagon grease will take off warts and moles.

The following County Constables were named: James McLean, Oarings; Donald McLean, Ballislaw; Aquila Fowry; Coningsby; W. Soper, Rockwood; Jonathan Toivell, Everton.

Miss Kelly, head milliner for Ryan's, Guelph, has gone to London and Paris to select stock.

The Misses Swackhamer, McLean and Balde of Oarings have won golden opinions for their music at various entertainments this winter.

At the meeting of the Board of Education the property committee was instructed to supply each department with pails and cups for drinking water.

The government of Hawaii has fallen. Canada is opposing any attempts of the United States to take it over as the Island is needed as a landing station for Vancouver and Australian cable.

An assembly is talked of at an early date.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, January 30, 1868.

Mr. A. J. Campbell, formerly of Halton, met the other evening with a very agreeable surprise. Mr. Campbell, who is prosecuting his studies for the Medical Profession, employed his time Sundays for the last nine months in preaching to the Presbyterians of Inlington and neighborhood, a short distance from Toronto, and that, as it appears, with much acceptance. Last Thursday evening, as usual, the young people in connection with the congregation met at Mr. William Jardine's house to practice singing, at the close of which Mr. Mather, of Inlington, presented Mr. Campbell on behalf of the members and adherents of the congregation, with a purse containing \$50 accompanied by an excellent address. This purse is a very handsome one, and has the recipient's name engraved thereon. Mr. Campbell made a suitable reply, returning them his sincere thanks for this tangible manifestation of their regard for him, and their appreciation of his labors among them.

The contest in the North Ward proved to be an exciting one, with the result of a majority of seven for Mr. Eli Van Allen.

Free Press

Church Notices

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, FEBRUARY 4th, 1968
Epiphany V
9:00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Minister - Rev. P. Brouwer
Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1968
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 a.m.
Everyone Welcome

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
81 Maple Ave. Georgetown
Pastor: Rev. Robert C. Lohnes

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1968
Here is our sincere invitation to the whole family to attend church.
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School. All ages.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Evangel.
7:45 p.m.—Wednesday prayer meeting.
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6665

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

REMEMBER! Evangelist E. Johnson ministering nightly this week, Tuesday, January 30 through Friday, February 2, at 8 p.m. - also -

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1968
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Rev. Johnson speaking at these services.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer service and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
Friday, 7 p.m.—Cruaders.

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1968
10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship (Nursery provided).
"Brother Andrew."
Mr. Fawcett Eaton will conduct the service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).
11:15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Rev. 144 Tudey Ave. Phone 853-1615.

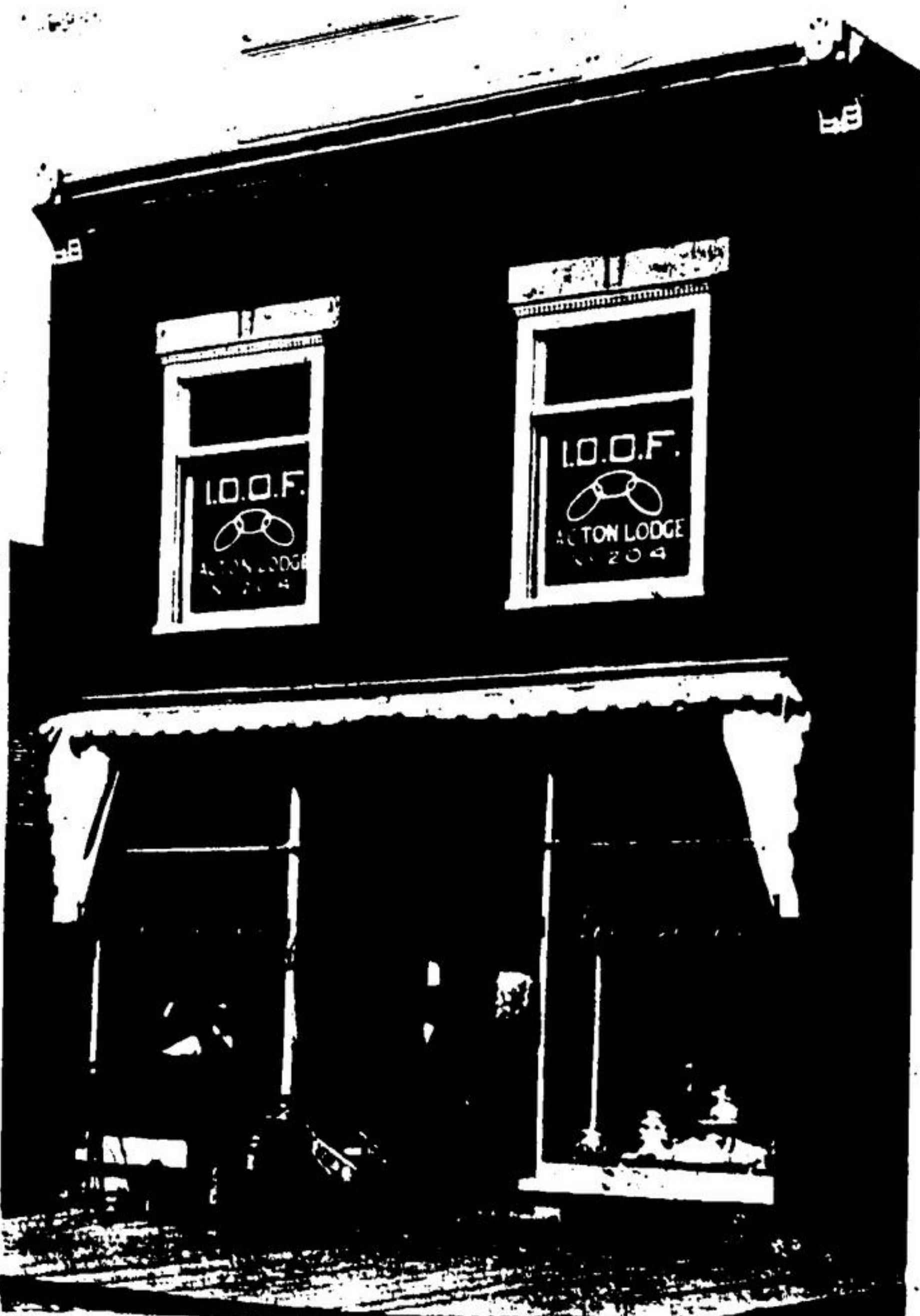
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1968
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School Classes for all ages.
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship.
"The Hiding of God."
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
"Questions on the Second Advent."

Monday, February 5 - Mission Circle
at home of Mrs. Darby, 12 John S.
Tuesday, February 6, 8 p.m. - Deacons' Meeting.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. - Prayer, Bible Study.
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Explorers.
Thursday, 8 p.m. - Choir practice.
Friday, 7 p.m. - B.M.F.
Text: "Oh that I knew where I might find Him." Job 23:3.

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 4th, 1968
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15 years.
9:45 a.m.—Minister's Church Membership Class for Teenagers.
11:00 a.m.—Public Worship of God. Sermon theme, "The Recovery of Man's Lost Identity."
Everyone Most Welcome

Photos from the past



SOPER'S STORE displayed seeds and china sets to attract Acton shoppers years ago. The old picture, located in a carton of discards, had no identifier.

The gingerbread trim at the roof line identifies the present Nixon's store.

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