



ACTON PRESENTS a black and white etching when viewed from the hill above the Breezes, one of the few promontories where your view is not

impeded. Snow wraps Fairy Lake and the town in a generous white blanket and it extends to the high point at Churchill before fading. (Staff Photo)

We're watching ...

Selection of a new leader for the Liberal party is creating much interest among people of all political persuasions. Part of the reason is the new Liberal standard bearer will likely be prime minister for a time. The one selected could also determine the direction Canada will take in the next decade.

Will he be young and vibrant with ideas, short on experience? Maybe he will be a cautious middle-of-the-road candidate for the job with a yen for caretaking. Perhaps he'll lean more to the right than the party has under Mr. Pearson.

We were very interested in the comments Bill Coats had to make on his impressions of the various candidates at the Ontario convention. His first hand appraisal gave us an opportunity to gain an insight few of us will be able to make personally.

We'll admit to being perturbed at some of the bolder statements attributed to those candidates who lean more to the left, particularly Mr. Trudeau. On the other hand some of the more cautious candidates sound like they belong in the Conservative party.

We are among those who feel the Canadian public has never appreciated Mr. Pearson in the prime minister's role. We don't doubt he'll be accorded more respect in retrospect but he gave the impression of being weak on issues which required a great deal of firmness.

The country is looking for someone to lead out of the wilderness of separatism, provincialism and monetary control from abroad.

If the Liberals can't find the man to do it then there's no doubt the Conservatives have a very strong candidate for the job in Mr. Stanfield.



Sugar and Spice

By Bill Smiley

Voices of alarm were heard in the land recently. Amid the excitement of the constitutional conference and the quickening Liberal leadership race, Canadians were told that the country could be in for serious trouble in 1968.

The voices were not of the wilderness, nor did they cry without being heard. They were neither voices of crackpots or unknowns, and they told us that "economically, Canada is in the dumps" and that the U. S. and Canada face a stock market crash which will make 1929 look like a small ripple on the seas of distress.

There it was, stark and simple: "Canada is in the dumps." The words were those of Quebec promoter Daniel Johnson, and it was evident when he spoke that there was little or no political motivation to his words.

The other warning, about the stock market, came from the noted (and controversial) American economist and writer, Elliot Janeway. This is the man who was until recently one of the chief advisors to President Johnson. He now says the U.S. is under such severe economic attack that there is serious doubt whether it will be able to avoid devaluing its currency. And when that happens, the plug is out for every other currency around the globe, says Janeway.

The Quebec premier's assessment of Canadian conditions comes at a time when the nation stands at the peak of an all-time prosperity, but seems incapable of solving the problems of galloping inflation, a worsening housing crisis, and growing unemployment.

Little or no progress has been made in the struggle to bring the Atlantic provinces and parts of the West up to Ontario's living standard.

needs like sidewalks. But it just isn't possible. We're in the midst of expansion whether we like it or not.

The town sat on its fanny for many years content to bask in low taxes. When expansion struck it created a sudden demand for services which had been overlooked, partly as the result of the depression and fear of a repetition.

The best we can ask in this era of expansion is wise leadership, a realization on the part of elected representatives there is a bottom to the tax bag.

The burden on the taxpayer now is heavy but if he can see tangible results from the spending he'll be content to confine protests to polite grumbling.

While big governments gather over more tax revenue to themselves - Ottawa alone will spend 10 billion dollars in the next fiscal year - the little governments such as the municipalities find their tax sources actually drying up.

While Canada's growth rates show signs of stagnation, many nations appear to be retreating into ever more narrow orbits.

Instead of the industrial nations expanding their trade by progressively cutting away tariff restrictions - as was envisioned by President Kennedy in the trade negotiations since known as the Kennedy Round - the countries of the world show signs of repeating the economic nationalism which followed World War I, and bogged World War II.

This, at least, is the thesis of Mr. Janeway who says the U. S. will face a grave economic crisis this spring. To protect the dollar, drained off by the war in Vietnam and U. S. business investment abroad, the American government will have to slash trade, hike interest rates and possibly devalue the U. S. dollar itself.

Janeway says the nations of the world are repeating all the same mistakes of 30 and 40 years ago, and that the economic tightfisting now going on can lead only to business collapse, followed by a fighting war.

Britain devalues the pound to give it an edge in foreign trade. France seeks to undercut the U. S. international financial position by selling its American dollars so as to reduce confidence in the U. S. economy. Japan appears poised for a huge devaluation of its money in order to put its exports back on a more competitive footing.

Meanwhile, every economic signpost which springs up in the U. S. stands out in ever bolder type in Canada. When the U. S. ship of state rocks, the Canadian rowboat is swamped. Three percent unemployment there produces a jobless rate of six percent here. A hike of four percent in prices there pushes up the cost of living eight percent here. The prime interest rate surges up half a percent there, a full percentage point here.

And at the bottom of it all lurks the U. S. military involvement in Asia. At a cost so great that the richest nation in the world is unable to meet the burden abroad and achieve its social goals at home, America is trying to carry out Britain's old role of the empire maker east of Suez. But the days of empires are gone.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 10, 1948.

Steps for the organization of the Rotary club were taken Feb. 11 by a group of 19 business and professional men. Those present at the organizational meeting elected the following officers: president Amos Mason; first vice-president W. J. Beatty; directors Dr. B. A. Garrett, Dr. F. G. Gibbs, secretary E. M. Aylesworth, treasurer A. W. Hayden. Others present were John M. Anderson, Roy E. Arnold, Harold W. Baxter, Edwin Jennings, David Lindsay, Alfred Long, Leonard Long, Lester McSwain, Arthur Padbury, Victor Rumley, Dr. George Siers, Fred Wright.

There is real activity and progress being made in the interior of the new Odson Theatre being erected in Acton.

Acton Junior Farmers met with Kerwin McPhail in the chair. Mac Sprawl was chairman for a splendid program given by Ray Eversdell, Harry Stewart, Betty Britton, song and tap dance by Margaret Early, Dorven Ferguson.

Acton Juveniles won the group championship when they sank the Georgetown, entry 10-5.

Mr. Grant Campbell of Moffat is away in Scotland purchasing purebred stock. Limehouse school had a holiday while the furnace pipes were cleaned Monday.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 23, 1893.

The former school law requiring that children must attend school 100 days in the year has been repealed. The present law states that children must attend regularly for the full term. Parents should bear this in mind and save themselves trouble.

"Ma," said a newspaper man's son, "I know why editors call themselves 'we'. 'Why?' 'So's the man who doesn't like the article will think there are too many people for him to tackle."

The argument against the crinolines most likely to appeal to the younger ladies is that statistics are said to show fewer marriages occurred during the last crinolines craze than when reasonable costumes were worn.

The death of Mr. George L. Beardmore who has been known and highly esteemed in Acton for some twenty-eight years, occurred last Friday.

Mr. Alfred G. Easton of Chicago, formerly of the Free Press, was in town about a week ago with his newly-wedded wife, a young Chicago lady. He made but a short visit.

Two old women in a remote district of Russia were detected in the act of stealing a child, and subsequently confessed to having killed and eaten a number of children whom they had kidnapped. The two female cannibals were burned to death by a mob of peasants.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 28, 1918.

The bakeries are now supplying the new war bread ordered by the Food Controller. That made by M. Edwards and Co. is light sweet and nutritious with the coarser flour.

The authorities of the Toronto Suburban Railway evidently consider Acton is well worth cultivating for business for the line. A station master is to be placed here within the next few days who will give his whole time to the sale of tickets, shipping, delivering express and other matters.

Capt. W. G. C. Konay is in hospital in Alexandria, Egypt, suffering from fever. Auctioneer Kerr lost a fine driver this week. While driving home from Mr. Talbot's sale he met Mr. J. E. Pearson with a load of chop on the second line near Mr. Balloy's. He drove off the road to the load pass and the horse broke its leg in the deep snow. He was drawn on a stone boat into Mr. Lynn's stable and it was thought for a day or two the animal might be saved but while Mr. Kerr was attending a sale at Hillstburgh hope was abandoned by the veterinary and the poor horse was shot.

Amateur gardeners must raise more food this year. The farm is the main thing, but not the only thing. The back yard should do its utmost.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, February 20, 1868.

Town council met at the usual hour, members all present. A petition of Thomas Bradley and 25 others was referred to Streets and Sidewalks Committee. The License Committee reported that all five taverns had the necessary accommodations and recommended that they should obtain licenses, the report not adopted. Mr. Bastedo moved that B. Jones be appointed assessor. After a prolonged discussion on the license report, which was reconsidered, the council adjourned for want of a quorum.

Exhibition of the pupils of the Deaf and Dumb Institute conducted by Mr. Watson in the Hall last night was a complete success. Eighteen dollars was realized from the sale of tickets, and subscriptions will be taken up by Mrs. Leitch, Miss Bell and Miss Tottor, and the amounts handed in to Rev. Mr. Tremayne for transmission to Hamilton. We trust that the people of Milton will give liberally to this noble institution.

Free Press Editorial Page

Penalty of growth ...

One of the penalties of growth for a town this size is expansion of services. Even orderly, restrained expansion can produce king-sized headaches for those entrusted with care of the municipality.

Acton has not seen the rapid residential expansion of some of our neighboring communities but there has been a steady construction of houses, fluctuating over the past decade. Schools and municipal services have been adequate to meet needs without any large building programs.

We're now at the point, however when schools have reached the saturation point. Classrooms cannot accommodate the numbers waiting to get in without endangering teaching standards.

Hand-in-hand with the growth of the student population is a new emphasis on teaching techniques which requires expensive equipment and a school library. Unless the Ontario Municipal Board turns down the requests there is no reason to doubt the town will get them.

The proposed addition at the M. Z. Bennett school will include four classrooms, a gymnasium and a library. Cost is expected to be \$356,475 on which

grants can be collected on as high as \$300,000. The proposed library at the Robert Little school will cost approximately \$50,000, of which 90 per cent is eligible for grants.

This makes a total cost of \$406,475, a sum which is sure to bring some consternation to taxpayers, especially when added to the \$487,000 the addition to the sewage plant is expected to cost. The figures add up pretty close to the million dollar mark.

It's easy to visualize what some taxpayers, especially those with fixed incomes, are saying with some justification. Taxes will soon be so high there won't be anyone able to afford them.

In spite of all this expansion, however, most of the town council is not unduly perturbed. They don't expect any large increase in taxes.

As the clerk-administrator pointed out at the last meeting of council, there are several factors to be considered. New houses also bring in more taxes. We are also at the point where debenture payments on the original sewage plant end.

It would be nice to be able to sit back at this juncture and spend some of the money which went into debenture payments into other things the town

needs like sidewalks. But it just isn't possible. We're in the midst of expansion whether we like it or not.

The town sat on its fanny for many years content to bask in low taxes. When expansion struck it created a sudden demand for services which had been overlooked, partly as the result of the depression and fear of a repetition.

The best we can ask in this era of expansion is wise leadership, a realization on the part of elected representatives there is a bottom to the tax bag.

The burden on the taxpayer now is heavy but if he can see tangible results from the spending he'll be content to confine protests to polite grumbling.

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 25th, 1968
Quinquagesima
9:00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer.
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
4:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist.
7:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist.

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 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 25th, 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

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 25th, 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.—Divine Worship.
Service commemorating Lord Baden-Powell for Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides.
8:30 p.m.—Adult Study Group, in Mary Ellen Anderson Room.
Everyone Most Welcome

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 25th, 1968
10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship (Nursery provided).
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 Tides Ave. Phone 853-1615.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1968
9:45 a.m.—Church School and Adult Bible Class.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship "Crowned With Many Crowns"
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
"Second Missionary Journey"
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.
Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.—Teachers meet.
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.—Explorers.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Choir practice.
Friday, 7 p.m.—B.H.F.
"Where shall I go from Thy Spirit? or where shall I flee from Thy Presence?"
Psalm 139, 7.

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL-YAMENACHE
PAOC 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1968
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer service and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
Friday, 7 p.m.—Crusaders.

This is an invitation to attend the Church of your choice on Sunday.

Photos from the past



PICTURE OF ACTON West's once-bustling station is part of the E. E. Perryman postcard collection. John Williams' horse-drawn bus looked after the mail and many passengers.

Off the cuff ...

At the Pauline Johnson Collegiate in Brantford, they have apparently beaten the problem of long haired students working in their school shops, by giving students the choice of either getting their hair cut or wearing hair nets. Technical director, P. A. VanNest reports that since the hair nets were distributed the long hair problem has disappeared. To the delight of local barbers a hair cut was preferred by most male students.

"The real substance of conservation lies not in the physical projects of governments but in the mental processes of citizens."
—Aldo Leopold

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