

Free Press Editorial Page

Brickbats and bouquets ...

The fact that Acton almost held the mill rate for 1968 in the face of rising costs should be the cause of much rejoicing in the taxpayer camp.

Some of the items budgeted for and then chopped by Council will still be around next year to pay.

If costs continue to rise and they give every indication of it, then the taxpayer winds up paying more when there's a delay on improvements and repairs.

Council is sensitive to public opinion when it comes to raising the mill rate - and who can blame them.

Unlike the large metropolitan centres where Joe Bloo hesitates to accost his alderman or councillor, the small town councillor knows he'll meet a knowledgeable ratpayer on the street.

about voicing their opinion about local matters to their elected representatives. No matter how we as individuals feel about the mill rate - perhaps some thought it should go down - there should be no doubt about the sincerity of the entire council to strike a realistic budget within the means of people in Acton.

We'd like to toss a bouquet in their direction while they recuperate from the late nights, endless meetings and special brands of headache which go with budget time.

At one point in the proceedings it looked like everyone from the mayor down was going to refuse to accept the extra remuneration they had set for themselves because of all the work involved in a growing town. It is our opinion they are entitled to it.

It would take a much larger amount to compensate for all the extras involved in municipal work these days.



PICK YOUR BICYCLE from this parking lot at one local school? No problem for the children whose instincts guide them unerringly to the right cycle.

The lesson here is obvious. In a few years the cycle will be replaced by a car which young adults will be forced to pick out of huge parking lots. (Staff Photo)

Friction not unique ...

Disturbed by the friction between council and school board over the rising cost of education?

Don't be. It's not unique or confined to Acton.

Milton, Georgetown and Fergus are also feeling the pinch. Milton council sent both the high school and public school budgets back to the respective boards with requests for them to chop off \$35,000 and \$10,000.

Fergus council sent a request from the Centre Wellington District High School for a 14.1 mill increase back to the board, requesting it be cut considerably.

Georgetown public school board, meanwhile, is attaching a large share of the blame for delay in construction cost on their own council.

Here in Acton, of course, council asked the public school board to cut \$30,000 off their budget, but it was refused. The board said it had already trimmed the requisition down to a size smaller than their actual needs.

In order to save the taxpayer money and in line with the policy of the Ontario Municipal Board, council here cut their own general purpose budget. They've actually only got control of 30 mills of the budget, struck at 78.

The thing to remember is school boards are caught in the same squeeze as council. They're concerned, too.

What's the answer to keeping educational standards high and costs down? It's a problem which needs much thought and certainly no slick solution exists. Until it is worked out there'll continue to be friction between the new county school boards and town councils.

Tractors highway hazard ...

Farm tractors were involved in 246 accidents with motor vehicles in 1967, according to statistics released by the Ontario Department of Transport.

Hal Wright, Provincial Farm Safety Specialist with the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, notes that many of these accidents might have been prevented if the triangular Slow Moving Vehicle signs had been used by the farm tractor operators.

The statistics show that seven farm tractor operators were killed and 48 were injured while three persons in motor vehicles were killed and 90 were injured.

Total property damages was more than \$210,000.

Most of the accidents were apparently caused by carelessness or lack of courtesy on the part of the farm tractor operators, since two-thirds of all the charges laid by investigating police officers were made against the tractor operators.

As these statistics indicate, farmers should exercise extra care when on the road with farm equipment. Mixing with faster moving car traffic creates a hazard which farmers can minimize by taking adequate precautions and using Slow Moving Vehicle signs.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Everything that could possibly have been written about the Liberal leadership convention has already been written. But it's Spring, almost, and we have a new prime minister, almost. They're both pretty green, but Summer usually follows.

No, I didn't bet against Trudeau. But I can't see a guy called Winters ever winning an election in this country. We get enough of that nonsense about eight months of the year.

As an English teacher, I always look at names for symbolic suggestions. Winters has already been dealt with. Hellyor sounds slightly like "Hell with yer, I'll do as I please."

Paul Martin. I think a martin is a small bird. And he sure got it from the eagles and falcons. But he was a game bird, despite the fact, and deserves a salute for dignity and courage.

(I met Martin years ago encumbered by a couple of plastered Liberals from the sticks, and he had the same dignity then. These are the people who let him down, after he'd made gruelling trips to Hayfork Centre to speak for some local jerk.)

Turner didn't live up to his name. Tough. No turning. Watch out for him in future. He wants it all or nothing.

MacEachen was a disappointment. He's a man of intelligence and integrity. But he ran his campaign as though he were running for Reeve of Juniper Junction, and even made a bollix of withdrawing from the race. A pity.

Joe Greene is Joe Greene. I've seen him in action before. A dangerous orator of the old school: emotional, convincing, but a pretty fair Minister of Agriculture when you penetrate the vergage.

Sharp was sharp, and always has been. He made the right move at the right time, and he's famous for this. Despite a couple of abysmal lapses during the economic crisis.

Kierans made a great fight, but who really feels sorry for a millionaire who's going to wind up in the Cabinet, and didn't have a ghost of a chance in the first place. Stout chap though.

You can't make much of Trudeau's name, symbolically. However, I think he's just possibly a better choice than that chap called Laframboise from Northern Ontario. I have a vague idea Laframboise means "The Strawberry." And where would we be then, internationally? Eaten with sugar and cream, that's where.

All I hope is that Canadians won't go sour on Trudeau when the Gallic shrug, the quirked eyebrow and the chimpanzee's grin disappear after a couple of months of dealing with all the garbage a prime minister must put out.

To the constant disgust of my wife and daughter, I knocked J. F. Kennedy constantly after his election. I kept saying, "Sure, he's cute. Sure he has a beautiful grin. Sure, he's witty. Sure, everybody loves him, except 49 percent of the U.S. voters. But he's a ruthless politician. When is he going to do something besides charm people?"

I feel the same way about our new prime minister. He's clever, charming, rich. He's a bachelor, which probably accounts for the rich and charming.

I wish him well. I hope he breathes into Canadian politics that fresh new breeze everyone is predicting. But I wouldn't count on it. Most of the boys in the press gallery tout him as the salvation of Canada were saying the same about Dief ten years ago. And they'll be the first to start cutting strips off him when he fails to produce immediate miracles.

Good luck, Pierre Elliott Trudeau. I think you might just do it. And, finally, goodbye Lester Pearson. I think you were a dandy despite your faults, and I think history will record you as such.

Photos from the past



ENTIRE STAFF of the Acton Free Press was photographed in 1927 - Miss Clara Moore, Earl Vincent, G. A. Dillis, Bob MacArthur, Cam Currie and H. P. Moore. Four of them have died, including Mr. Moore, his successor as editor Mr. Dillis,

Miss Moore and Mr. Vincent. Mr. Currie works in Galt. Bob MacArthur is still here, with the staff grown from six to over 20 full-time. Miss Emma Robinson lent the picture.

Land of plenty

How many people realize they are living in the richest province in Canada?

Ontario accounts for 78 per cent of Canada's fully manufactured exports, a survey by the province's Department of Economics and Development has revealed.

Fully manufactured exports from the province totalled \$1,803,038,000 in 1966, the year of the latest complete tabulations, while the Canadian total was \$2,300,803,000.

Of Canada's total exports of \$10,325,320,000 in the same year, Ontario accounted for \$3,762,722,000. This included 28 per cent of live animal exports, 16 per cent of the food, beverages and tobacco category, 24 per cent of crude materials, 28 per cent of fabricated materials, 41 per cent of special trade transactions, as well as 78 per cent of fully manufactured exports.

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Free Press back issues

20 years ago

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 23, 1948.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 27, 1893.

About 2,000 fans who jammed Hespeler's new arena saw colorful Bucko McDonald and his Sandridge Beavers down Acton Tahners 11-5 to clinch the Ontario Int. B. title. Minor occurrences erupted from the stands and someone threw a bottle at burly old Bucko.

Mr. William Williams, boot and shoe dealer, has purchased from Robert Creech of Woodstock the store on Mill St. which he has occupied for a number of years.

At the social night arranged by the Acton Fall Fair, the certificate of Agricultural Services was presented to Duncan Walde, by president Edwood Johnston.

Right Rev. Charles Hamilton, Bishop of the diocese, made his first visit to St. Alban's on a Sunday, and to St. John's Rockwood.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 2, 1918.

At the annual meeting of the Farmers' Club, whose headquarters are at Hill's store, the officers for the year were elected: President Robert Kerr; First Vice-President R. N. Brown; Second Vice-President Blake Vannatter; Secretary-Treasurer W. L. Mullin; Executive Duncan McDougall, John McGregor, Thomas Kennedy, Bert McKeown, and C. M. Beswick.

During Thursday's terrific storm, a traveller at Dublin reported telephone wires were so thick on the roads they wound around the necks of the wheels.

Esqueing horse fair at Georgetown today. Pedlars and tramps are unusually numerous now.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, April 23, 1868.

On Tuesday last the members of the Established Church of Scotland, Milton, gave a call to the Rev. Peter Ferguson, for many years minister of the same congregation. The Rev. Robert Burnet of Hamilton, delivered an eloquent discourse from the first verse of the 12th Chapter of Romans.

Free Press Church Notices

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN. Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive. SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 1968. Easter II.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 1968. 10:00 a.m. - English Service. 11:10 a.m. - Sunday School. 2:30 p.m. - Alternating Dutch and English Service.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 1968. 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School. 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship. 7:00 p.m. - Evangelistic Service. Monday, 8 p.m. - Rev. John Spillenaar, flying missionary of the North Land Mission.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 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.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 1968. 10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship (Nursery provided). "The Padre of the Pubs" the Rev. Gordon Winch, B.A., B.D., will preach "Outside the Stained Glass."

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. Res., 144 Tidey Ave., Phone 853-1615.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 1968. 9:45 a.m. - Church School and Adult Bible Class. 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship. No Evening Service. Wednesday, 7:30 - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.

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 28th, 1968. 9:45 a.m. - Church School for ages 3 to 15 years. 9:45 a.m. - Minister's Church Membership Class for Teen-agers. 11:00 a.m. (D.S.T.) - Divine Worship. 8:00 p.m. - A Choral Evening in which Acton Church choirs and the Legion Choralists present an inspiring program of sacred music.

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