

The Acton Free Press

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Locomotive huffs and puffs through Acton

An hour of excitement hit Acton about 9.30 Saturday morning, as everyone within ear shot of the whistle made a mad dash for the nearest railway crossing to catch a glimpse of 6218, the last genuine steam-breathing iron horse in operation.

Pulling a number of passenger cars and a baggage car, 6218 puffed past the station, then backed up towards Georgetown for a slower approach to give camera enthusiasts a second chance.

The coaches carried 550 members of the Upper Canada Railroad Society, who chartered the train on a return trip north from Toronto's Union Station to Palmerston.

On hand to greet an old friend was retired Acton engineer, John Lovell, who operated 6218 in his days on the railroad.

6218 is a sister locomotive to 6167 which stands as a permanent landmark at the Guelph station.

The tour was such a success that Society members are enthusiastic about making it an annual event.



REV. GORDON TURNER delivers the sermon in Decoration Day services at Fairview cemetery, Sunday afternoon on a dais set up in front of a memorial to Color Sgt. Moore. The day, was blessed with lovely weather after a week of rain and clouds. (Staff Photo)

Rain holds off for 14th annual Decoration Day service at Fairview

The Decoration Day program has always boasted fine weather through its past 13 years. Despite a few drops of rain, this year's parade and outdoor service on Sunday afternoon brought the mildest weather experienced so far in a wet and chilly spring.

The parade, speckled by a short-lived rainfall, marched through the town to Fairview cemetery. Once the service began there was no more rain, although sludding black clouds brought sudden gusts of wind whistling through the tops of the tall evergreens. The sun burst through periodically.

The threatening weather hadn't deterred attendance. The usual large crowd gathered in the cemetery for the 14th annual decoration of graves.

For the first time, the platform was set up in the shade rather than on the sunny meadow just inside the cemetery gates.

The many inattendants brought folding chairs, sat on the damp grass or stood among the grave markers to hear the speakers. After the Citizens' Band played several selections Mayor Les Dube welcomed everyone.

Rev. Gordon Turner gave the address this year pointing out the essential meaning of Decoration Day goes beyond ritual. Our actions prove the continuity of life.

Expecting many of the flowers were placed on the graves of loving parents, he asked, Is what they taught you still alive in your hearts? Have we adequately built on the cornerstone they laid for us?

Have you held high the torch in home, life and community? he challenged, assuring his listeners they could sow seeds of peace.

call to worship, invocation and prayer; Rev. Samuel Thoman read Scripture and Rev. H. J. Dawson pronounced the benediction.

Programs were distributed by cubs and scouts and the group joined in singing Unto the Hills. Legion members, Legion Ladies, firefighters and L.O.L.E. members picked up the bright geraniums massed at the platform and started off through the cemetery, planting the blooms on the graves of deceased members. Many families had planted flowers or placed cut bouquets before the service and more placed their floral tributes afterward. The band played for some time before the parade returned to the Legion hall where a lunch was prepared.

The parade, led by marshall William Nicolak, included Acton Citizens' Band and the Guelph Pipe Band and representatives of the various participating organizations. His Worship the Mayor and members of the Council of the Corporation of Acton; Acton Legion, Branch 197; Ladies' Auxiliary to Acton Legion; Lakeside Chapter, L.O.L.E.; Women's Institutes of Acton and Dublin; Acton Fire Department; Acton

Citizens' Band; Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 467; Lions Club of Acton; Rotary Club of Acton; Acton Ministerial Association and the Y's Men's Club of Acton. Scouts, Cubs and Guides marched with their leaders. The St. John Ambulance ended the parade.

A color party included the flags of several groups. David Hunter was chairman of the Decoration Day committee this year with Mrs. J. C. Jocque

the secretary and Mrs. George Hargrave treasurer.

Quite a few from out-of-town returned for the annual service. Probably the oldest there was C.K. Browne, Acton's active nonagenarian who observed his 98th birthday Tuesday.

Flags marked graves at St. Joseph's and Fairview cemeteries where geraniums were planted. Lions club members planted the blooms at St. Joseph's cemetery.



"HARD WORK, GOOD LIVIN', and smokin' a cigar is my secret to long life," claims C. K. Browne who celebrated his 98th birthday on Tuesday. Mr. Browne was recently made Honorary Past Grand Master of Western Ontario, one of many top honors he holds in the Orange Lodge. He continues to work behind the counter of his variety store on Main Street north. (Staff Photo)

Churchill church future unsettled

The future of Churchill United Church is still unsettled following a meeting of the congregation Tuesday, May 28.

Called to decide the future of the building, a historic landmark, the meeting revealed a split in the congregation over the Presbytery's decision to close the church.

The four trustees Harold Griffin, Archie Kerr, Wallace Swackhamer and Clarence Denny issued a statement to The Free Press this week which reads:

"As of the end of June, we of the Churchill United Church have by a majority vote of a duly called congregational meeting, on May 28, 1968, decided to continue the work of this church, and that there will be no amalgamation or closing of Churchill United Church.

"We will, under God's guidance, find some way to keep our doors open.

The four trustees of Churchill Church, Harold Griffin, Archie Kerr, Wallace Swackhamer, Clarence Denny."

Clerk of the Session Frank Freeman, who is also Recording Steward, and chairman of the Stewards Ralph Denny, said, however, that the motion presented opposing amalgamation with Trinity United in Acton or closing, was never carried.

They said the congregation voted in favor of amalgamation by ballot but it was never recorded.

Both Mr. Freeman and Mr. Denny dispute a claim by the trustees that the deed of the church building was never ceded to the United after the Church Union. The congregation voted 10-3 in favor of Church Union in 1924, they said, and an Act of Parliament in 1926 confirmed the transfer of property to the United Church.

The minutes record a meeting at the church in 1926 where Art Swackhamer explained church union but nothing was said about keeping the church, both Mr. Freeman and Mr. R. Denny told The Free Press.

Meanwhile, the United Church Presbytery has a meeting set in the immediate future to decide the official action of the church in the matter.

Esqueuing taxes up from 12 to 18 mills

Minor changes were made but all three sectors of Esqueping Township ratepayers—Acton, Georgetown and Milton areas—will find a substantial increase in the mill rate this year.

Esqueping council set the rate at a long meeting Monday night which will up taxes in the Acton area by 12.13 mills, add 15.05 mills in the Georgetown area and chalk on another 17.80 mills in the Milton area.

The 1968 rates for the Acton area is 63.01 mills. Milton area is set at 65.18 mills and the Georgetown area is tops with 71.08 mills. Additional mills are added in Norval, Glen Williams and Stewarttown for street lighting of 2.58, 1.59 and 3.4 respectively.

Council decided to take a chance and knock one mill off the public school requisition, banking on the board over-budgeting. There is also a railway bonus of one mill for everyone living in the area bounded by Lots one to 15 and Concessions one to seven, known as the "in group."

The county rate has been set at 6.63 mills. The general rate is 8.78 for farm and residential and 12.28 for commercial and industrial.

The public school rate has been set at 30.86 residential and 34.39 for commercial and industrial.

High school rate for the Georgetown area is 23.05 and 25.61; Acton area, 14.74 and 16.38; Milton area, 17.33 and 19.25.

Fire area rates were set at 2 mills for the Acton area, 2.3 mills on the building assessment in the Georgetown area and 1.58 mills for Milton Fire Area.

Milton separate school area supporters will pay 30.86 mills on farm and residential and 34.39 commercial and industrial.

Georgetown separate school supporters will pay 26 and 28 mills respectively.

Following is a breakdown of the residential tax rate for the three areas:

RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE

	Acton	George.	Milton
High School	14.74	23.05	17.33
General	8.78	8.78	8.78
County	6.63	6.63	6.63
Public Schools	30.86	30.86	30.86
Fire	2.00	2.30	1.58
1968 Rate	63.01	71.08	65.18
1967 Rate	50.88	56.03	47.38
Increase	12.13	15.05	17.80

ITEMS AFFECTING GENERAL RATE

	1967 Actual	1968 Proposed
Overestimate Previous Years	\$ 174.90	\$ ----
Interest	2,534.26	3,500.00
Discount	4,460.66	5,000.00
Roads	143,618.00	230,300.00
Relief	26,109.61	28,000.00
Sheep	596.00	1,000.00
Salaries	37,232.16	38,100.00
Printing	2,416.56	2,500.00
Legal	281.00	1,000.00
Audit	1,150.00	1,250.00
Exchange	468.43	500.00
Election	1,456.60	1,500.00
Grants	1,718.01	1,700.00
Ball Park	684.28	700.00
Training School	247.05	250.00
Insurance and Care of Building	4,411.51	4,500.00
Group Insurance	1,396.14	1,700.00
Telephone	413.87	500.00
Miscellaneous	2,440.47	2,500.00
Conservation	8,811.54	9,245.00
Garbage	2,709.85	3,000.00
Charity	388.87	400.00
Taxes Written Off	687.81	500.00
Unemployment Insurance Stamps	294.48	300.00

REVENUE

	\$ 9,895.00	\$12,477.00
Old Surplus	114.29	100.00
Grants in Lieu	6,628.14	8,700.00
Penalties	1,878.22	1,900.00
Dog Tax	35,875.50	35,800.00
Ontario Unconditional	27,182.28	130,700.00
Ontario Road Subsidy	3,490.00	3,500.00
Licenses	767.60	800.00
Plumbing Permits	3,194.00	3,200.00
Building Permits	20,193.38	22,400.00
Relief Recovered	1,334.50	1,000.00
Rents & Miscellaneous	220.13	----
Closing Road		



Norman Smith continues study M. Sc. degree

Norman B. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Elmer Smith, R. R. 3, graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) degree in the four year honors Chemistry course. The Acton high school graduate has returned to the University of Guelph for post-graduate studies in Bio-Chemistry for his M. Sc. degree.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith attended convocation in War Memorial Hall, Guelph, May 24.



Joan M. Cook honors degree

Miss Joan M. Cook received her B.A. degree with Honors in Political Science at the Convocation held at York University, Friday, May 31.

Joan is a former student of both public schools in Acton, and of Acton District High School. In 1964, she won a scholarship to York University. Joan hopes to go to University of Toronto Law School in September.

She is the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Cook, a former mayor of Acton.

--Now windows are open at night, the dredge motor sounds all over town.

--Someone who saw the crowds at the station Saturday stopped her car and asked excitedly "Is Trudeau coming?" Told it was a steam engine, she drove off briskly in the other direction.

325 stranded at Buffalo zoo cuboree home five hours late

Six busloads of 325 Wolf Cubs, parents, leaders and friends happily headed off to Buffalo zoo Saturday, but returned home - over five hours late - with tales of frustrating problems and complications. Parents expected the boys home between 6 and 6.30 p.m., but they didn't arrive till after midnight.

Anxious parents had phoned leaders' homes, each other, transportation companies (including the wrong one), immigration officials at Buffalo and even the police before the children arrived home.

Phone calls made from the States hadn't reached all the many parents concerned.

The trip to Buffalo was a Georgetown district Cuboree, and the day's events proved how best-laid plans go wrong. Nevertheless, the lads thoroughly enjoyed the special occasion.

The five buses that left Georgetown, picking up boys along the way, were an hour and a half late for the first rendezvous point at Milton Plaza. The 43 Acton boys were picked up at Acton plaza and met the others at Milton. A little late, the buses stopped at Queenston Heights where the boys sat in a reserved area to enjoy their lunches, with coffee and milk provided.

The scenic route took them past the rapids, falls, Fort Erie and over the Peace Bridge, where special border arrangements had been made and the six big buses were expected and cleared with no delays.

At the famed Buffalo zoo the boys excitedly started off in small groups, with leaders, to see all the animals. They bought souveniers and snacks for themselves and the animals - peanuts to feed to monkeys and fish to feed the seals.

Complimentary entrance was

given all the group to the Rotary children's zoo as well.

One Norval lad was hurt in a fall from playground equipment and was treated at a first aid station at the zoo.

Slightly dampened by drizzle, the group met again to board the buses when the zoo closed at 4.30 but their buses had disappeared! Apparently the buses had been notified to go to the department garage for a required mechanical pit inspection which the groups in charge had had no knowledge of. It wasn't until 20 minutes to seven - two and a quarter hours late - that the buses picked up the children at the zoo.

Bus drivers explained minor repairs had been made to some buses on the spot, and the one containing the Acton boys had been "grounded". It was forced to return to Georgetown empty, while the weary boys doubled up in other buses.

No satisfactory explanation had been available to the distressed leaders who made many phone calls during the delay.

It wasn't until Monday that the leaders learned from the chartering transportation company about the standard U.S. requirement for pit inspections.

Five-year-old hit by taxi

Five-year-old Paul Loozer suffered cuts when struck by a taxi driven by Don Grein on Monday. The taxi was pulling into the driveway beside the taxi stand when the boy was hit. He suffered abrasions and cuts to his face.

He was checked by Dr. Hutchinson and taken to Guelph General Hospital.

Look, ma - cavities

The dental division of Halton County Health Unit has been busy inspecting school children's teeth during the past nine months, and presented some figures on its work to the recent Halton Board of Health meeting.

It was noted 45 per cent of those children examined were found to be requiring treatment. The dental hygienists visited 5,085 children in 218 classrooms and found 2,303 needed treatment.

A further 622 children were treated at the half-day topical fluoride clinics.

C.K. Browne new honor

Halton County L.O.L. was well represented at Grand Orange Lodge sessions held in the Crystal Ballroom, Hotel London, on May 24 and 25.

Attending were Wor. Bro. Clifford Ebbs, County Master, L.O.L. 3234; Wor. Bro. Ralph Barlow, Deputy County Master, L.O.L. 467; Wor. Bro. Earl Brown, Past County Master, L.O.L. 2429; Wor. Bro. Joseph Fuller, L.O.L. 3234 and Rt. Wor. Bro. C. K. Browne, who was made an honorary member of Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West.

--A few swimmers braved the waters of Fairy Lake and Rockwood conservation area on Sunday.



ALMOST 46 YEARS in the priesthood for Father V. J. Morgan, right, gave him a few years start on newly ordained Father Michael Bennett, left, who meet over the tea cups at a parish reception in St. Joseph's church hall Sunday evening. Pictures and story inside the paper. (Staff Photo)