

Brakes on development ...

Esquering Council's recent amendment to the land separation by-law making it mandatory for owners to have legal title to land for five years before they can separate, has a two pronged objective.

First of all it is an attempt to put the brakes on land speculation which has sparked unparalleled expansion in the township over the past few years.

Second objective of the by-law is to try and preserve the rural character of the township which has become increasingly urban in areas where new housing is being erected at an unprecedented rate.

Council does not necessarily take the view that expansion is something to be avoided. However, the rapid rise of the public school mill rate this year made them realize that the assessment ratio could be better. The township could use more industrial assessment to balance the large residential and farm percentage of the tax roll.

There is some justification for the reeve's and councillor Patterson's gloomy prediction that any industrial assessment the township does get will be speedily swallowed up by municipalities in the township. Milton, for instance, just annexed two new industries located in Esquering and it wasn't many years ago that Acton took the assessment from Beardmore and Co. which had been in the township.

Industry, of course, is anxious to locate close to towns and villages so the labor pool will be handy even if they don't need the service.

Perhaps the answer to the township's dilemma would be the establishment of an industrial park in an area of Esquering where industry would be well-out of reach. If services were supplied and uncluttered sites available it could be very attractive for industry to locate in Esquering.

Prefer houses to caves ...

Statistics from the Canadian Builder indicate Canada is rapidly becoming a society of cliff dwellers.

Although it may not be as apparent in Acton and district as it is in larger centres, the percentage of single detached dwellings in Canada decreased from 65 to 62 per cent of all occupied dwellings in the five year period from 1961 to 1966. The same set of figures supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics showed apartments or flats increasing from 25 to 29 per cent.

Cities of over 500,000 population accounted for much of the change. In Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver apartments or flats make up 48 per cent of occupied dwellings while single detached dwellings are 42 per cent.

Probably many of the people who reside in the apartments would rather have their own house, especially those with young families. Economic and geographical factors prohibit them from presently owning or renting homes. Often, too, a young family is forced to live in an apartment because of a shortage of housing in the area where the bread winner is employed.

There are others, of course, who prefer living in apartments. Houses for the apartment-lovers are only a drag, the upkeep of which empties their purses of money they would rather spend on something else.

But it seems to me the great majority of Canadians would prefer to own and live in a detached house with ample space for a lawn and small flower garden. Perhaps it is an anachronism for anyone to cherish this hope in an age when everything points in the opposite direction.

As land is swallowed up, the dream of owning a house in heavily developed areas recedes past the realm of possibility. Unless you are well-heeled it is almost like asking for the moon. But this "own little plot with your own little castle" on it theory dies hard.

In Acton we are afflicted both ways. We have neither housing nor apartments available for would-be residents. The situation is serious. We personally know of families and individuals who have been searching for a place to live for several months without any success.

Housing being built here is beyond the reach of the average wage earner. Apartments are very rarely vacated. When they are, someone snaps them up quickly.

What this area could use right now is decent housing which the average person can afford, apartments at reasonable cost for those who want them.

Until they are available the town and district will not develop along lines designed to do the maximum good for the greatest number of people.

Punch card generation ...

Among other things, ours is the punch-card generation.

Those admonitions about not folding, mutilating or destroying really mean what they say, as the holder of one gasoline credit card recently discovered.

Her damaged card was returned to

head office by the local service station for replacement with the notation "badly bent". In due course the replacement was duly received by the lady — in the name of "Mrs. Badley Bent".

It doesn't do to get on the wrong side of those computers ...

Editorial notes ...

A veteran politician is one that can juggle a hot potato until it cools off.

Behind every successful man stands a surprised mother-in-law.



THERE'S NOTHING LIKE a cold shower after a hard day on the track. Peggy McDonald (right) and Kathy Brown only wanted a drink, but neither complained about the surprise bath in the high-powered drinking fountain at Georgetown park. The two Limehouse girls competed in the Esquering township field day last Wednesday. (Staff Photo)

Free Press Editorial Page

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



Sometimes the world seems a pretty rotten place to live, and one of them was during the period of shock and horror following the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy.

But there's always something to redeem us from bitterness and hopelessness. For me, it was the magnificent display of courage and dignity presented by the Kennedy family.

The Irish are often presented as overdramatic and over-sentimental in the presence of death. This family, with its Irish roots, gave the lie to that picture. No tears, no hysteria, but an almost classical acceptance of tragedy, down to the littlest ones.

There seems little evidence that the appalling record of violence in the United States will be halted or even slowed down by the recent assassinations of Kennedy and King.

The foolawr about the sale of guns is merely locking the door after the beast is loose. There are so many guns floating around in the States that it would take 10 years and the co-operation of the entire populace to round them up and get rid of them. And you'd still have an underground market for the nuts.

Americans claim they are a peace-loving people. And they mean it. But the tradition of violence as a means of solving things is woven deeply into the fabric of their history, and it's going to be hard to pluck out.

They fought the British in 1776 and again in 1812. They fought each other in a civil war of unparalleled ferocity. They fought the Spanish and Mexicans and took Texas.

They attacked Spain again on flimsy grounds and wound up with a number of colonies.

They killed passenger pigeons and buffalo and Indians to the point of extinction. Pile on top of that two massive world wars, the Korean war and the present undeclared war in Vietnam, and it's a pretty impressive record for a peace-loving people.

I'm not being sardonic. I believe the Americans are a great people, and basically a peace-loving people. They don't want to rule the world, as other great nations have done and still do. But the evidence of violence as a means to an end is unavoidable.

Politically, there is a history of assassination and attempts at it that would make a Balkan state green with envy.

American folk-heroes were men of violence: Billy the Kid, Jesse James, murderers both. Gangsters have ruled cities like kings. There was a deep fascination

with the careers of murderers like Pretty Boy Floyd and John Dillinger.

And what's the latest craze, in everything from fashions to advertising? A sick movie about a couple of sick killers, Bonnie and Clyde.

And what's ahead? More of the same. The American negro, after a century of subservience, has caught the sickness, and he's going to get what he wants, by violence if necessary.

Vandalism, hoodlumism, beatings, knifings are part of daily life in big cities. Student Power and Black Power vie for headlines, and get them.

The vast body of Americans, the good people, the decent people, must be sick at heart and bewildered. The American Dream is turning into a nightmare.

But you cannot indict a nation on the performance of a lunatic fringe. Americans are a people of goodwill, of boldness, and of great ingenuity. Surely they will find a way to purge the sickness.

We have nothing to be smug about. There is a growing lawlessness and violence creeping into our Canadian society. The only reason it's comparatively mild is that we have a small population in a big country.

We can only wish our good neighbors our sympathy and the fervent hope that solutions will be found, and soon, to the problems that beset them.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago
Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 24, 1948.

The Highway Department sends out many safety bulletins for motorists and we get reports of material urging that mechanical defects be corrected. We don't recall, however, seeing any items urging a correction of defects in the human frailties and that drivers should not patronize government liquor outlets for safety sake. It is almost remarkable how the treasury and the highway departments stay clear of each other.

Mrs. C. E. Davenport was hostess for the June meeting of the Bees W.L. Mrs. McLean, the president was in charge.

Messrs. Warren Wood and Fred Hill, who have spent the past ten months in Australia returned home during the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Malprise who have been visiting the past six weeks in Western Canada and at Vancouver, B.C. returned home this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lochie McKersie motored to Detroit on Saturday to attend the wedding of Mr. Ken McKersie.

Misses Eleanor Cook, Limehouse, Jean Lindsay and Joyce Smith of Georgetown graduated from the Guelph General Hospital School of Nursing at the Annual Graduation Exercises at Memorial Hall, O.A.C. Guelph on June 18.

The new air conditioning system is being installed in the Roxy Theatre this week.

50 years ago
Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 27, 1918.

When King Alfred the Great was reigning over England, a thousand years ago, school children pondered over problems in arithmetic much as our boys and girls do now. Here is a problem taken word for word from the lesson book of that day:

"An old man met a child, 'Good day, my son,' he said. 'May you live as long as you have lived and as much more and twice as much as all this; and if God give you one year in addition to the others, you will be a century old.' What was the boy's age?" Monday will be Dominion Day - Canada's natal day.

A broken main shaft caused part of the works of the Acton Tanning Co. to be shut down for a couple of days last week.

Our merchants and shopkeepers are unable to get out of their places of business before 12 o'clock on Saturday evenings so great is the throng of customers - Milton Reformer. Busy Milton! What were these crowds of customers doing all evening?

Mr. Readhead's proposed wide tire by-law was rejected at last week's meeting of County Council. It appears that there was strong opposition from farmers and others on account of the expense of the substitution of their old narrow tires with new broad ones. Mr. Readhead said he would not give up the wide tire idea and hoped to see Halton in line with other counties in the matter sooner or later.

75 years ago
Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 29, 1893.

After July 1st the new Criminal Code comes into force. Under it an accused person may be compelled to convict himself - or commit perjury. The experiment of making a defendant a compellable witness was tried under the Scott Act and in many instances proved of value in securing convictions. The British Commons have several times voted to make the change, but the Lords have always killed the Bill. A Bill is now being put through the Commons, however, which is likely to be accepted by the Lords. The experiment will be watched with interest in Canada by the bar and bench.

Mr. John Warren, Deputy Reeve of Esquering is moving into his new residence on Mill St.

A couple of portly foreigners with a grizzly beard did the town on Tuesday. Their profits were meagre.

The new two-foot-four sidewalk from Young St. eastward has already been christened "The Lovers' Walk".

The new building at the tannery of the Canada Glove Works is up and enclosed. When completed it will give nearly double the capacity of the present building.

Moncton, N.B., June 26, 1893 - There is an old gentleman living at Amherst Shore who has 25 children. The eldest is 55 years of age and the youngest three months.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cameron returned from their bridal tour last Wednesday evening.

100 years ago
Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champlain, June 25, 1868.

We understand that the government will organize a savings bank in Milton on the 1st of July next. We trust that it will be extensively patronized. Let young men instead of spending their quarters at the bar, deposit them with Mr. Loque, and they will be surprised how in a very short time they will have accumulated to a considerable amount.

"Allow me through your columns to expose the stupidity of our Township Council and also the contrariness of some of our neighbors. You are doubtless aware of the parties that have set Nassagaweya on fire about the lines between Lots 10 and 11 in the First Concession. The only difficulty seems to be where the bearing line should be taken from, and to satisfy some of the parties that Council had the liberality to hand seven dollars from the public funds to get legal advice on the matter. Now the Council must have known they were doing wrong when they handed public money to private parties, and the road is in a worse state than ever, as stump fences are being built close to the wagon track, so that ladies cannot travel without tearing their dresses on the fence, and the road instead of 66 feet is only 20 feet wide in some places."

Free Press Church Notices

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. H. J. Dawson, B.A., B.Th.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, 1968
Trinity III
9:00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Mattins.

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, 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

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, 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.
John 3: 3 — "Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.'"

TRINITY CHURCH (THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA)
Minister: Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
Director of Music: Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SIXTH SEASON — COMBINED SUMMER SERVICES IN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Preacher, Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie.
SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, 1968
10:00 a.m. — Divine Worship.
Sermon theme: "Striving for the Unattainable."

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, 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.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Choir Practice.

"He that hath the Son, hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5: 12.

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, 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

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

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

Photos from the past



AT THE WHEEL of one of Toronto's earliest cars is C. K. Browne. The picture was taken in 1898.