

Need looked after...

Acton Council's decision to proceed with the Ontario Housing Corporation geared-to-income rental housing project is the first step in providing badly needed accommodation for families and senior citizens in town. Although there are homes for sale in Acton, most are well beyond the pocketbook of the average wage earner.

It is unfortunate that the senior citizen units could not be located closer to the town centre. The unavailability of suitable land was a problem OHC officials could not overcome.

Ontario Housing Corporation officials made a survey of the need for low rental housing in Acton during 1967 and presented a report in November that year to council. It recommended 12 family and six senior citizen units be built. Since then, the need for additional senior citizen units became apparent. The number was increased to 12.

The experience of other municipalities where OHC housing has been erected has been good. OHC looks after the houses well. The presence of a project tends to raise rather than lower the value of houses around it. Perimeter fencing is

erected which, in our opinion, tends to create a ghetto but perhaps adds to the attractiveness of the project.

Although it is generally referred to as low income, it would be more correct to call it geared-to-income housing. You pay according to income.

OHC development officer Sidney Kaye said man making \$5,000 a year would pay approximately \$108 a month rent. That's hardly low rent. It can take a pretty fair chunk of the pay cheque. However, for that amount you get a new house with full basement and at least 1,040 square feet. Compared to private accommodation available, the price is certainly modest.

Each senior citizen unit is self contained with one bedroom and the building is equipped with other amenities designed to help those in the golden years.

If this type of accommodation proves a success in Acton, there is no reason why the town shouldn't have enough to meet the demand. Especially since the province this week announced it has agreed to see bigger tax revenue goes to municipalities for senior citizens units. Family units pay their own way taxwise.

Free Press Editorial Page

The north does exist...

Like the Milton Canadian Champion, we are a little perturbed that the new Halton County Board of Education has seen fit to schedule their meetings for the south end of the county.

The initial meetings were held in the county administration building at Milton, geographical centre as well as being the capital of Halton. Trustees found, however, that the county council chambers, because of its nature, made meetings more formal, than they should be. The director of education also wished to have access to maps and other paraphernalia which would enable the board to expedite business more efficiently.

These, of course, are valid reasons for setting up shop at Oakville where facilities are available as well as being closer for the majority of trustees. However, we also feel like one of the trustees who expressed themselves at the last meeting, that people in the north end of the county will identify education as being a window with only southern exposure.

If the board wishes to establish a rapport with the northern part of the county, we would suggest that the rotation of meetings at the various centres would tend to discourage this attitude. We would think that trustees are aware that a ratepayer in Acton, Esquesing, Nassagaweya or Georgetown is just as important as one from the more congested south.

We don't want a patronizing attitude to develop. We would like to feel the new board of education represents our wishes as well as those of the more numerous ratepayers from Oakville and Burlington.

Perhaps the southern trustees will have to excuse us at times when we appear shocked at the large salaries some of the professional county educators are receiving. As The Canadian Champion commented editorially, there are no empires in the north end of the county.

It will take us some time to get used to the idea that education as it is being administered in its present form is no longer a strictly local concern.



BRIGHT SUNLIGHT on a frozen lake creates a shimmering, mystical illusion on a crisp winter day.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

You know those people who have been going around for the past 20 years complaining, "Remember the good old days, when we used to have real winters, with lots of snow?"

I'd like to catch the next person who says it, and stick him, upside down, anywhere in our backyard. All you'd see would be two feet tying to semaphore "S.O.S." And you wouldn't even see that unless he were six feet tall or more.

Quite a winter. In our town, you can park the car in front of the house, and you wouldn't know it was there, except for the radio aerial.

Because of the flu, and my bad back, and all those warnings about heart attacks, and bone laziness, I've been hiring boys to shovel our front and back sidewalks, about 90 yards of them.

(Remember the good old days, when you offered to shovel somebody's walk and worked like a little beaver for two hours, knocked at the door when you were finished, hoping for a dime, or maybe even a quarter, and some gentle, little old lady would say, "Thank you, little boy", and give you a cookie?)

Things have changed. The kids now work for a straight dollar an hour, if you

Inflation: When nobody has enough money because everyone has too much.

In the old days there were careless drivers too, but the horses had more sense.

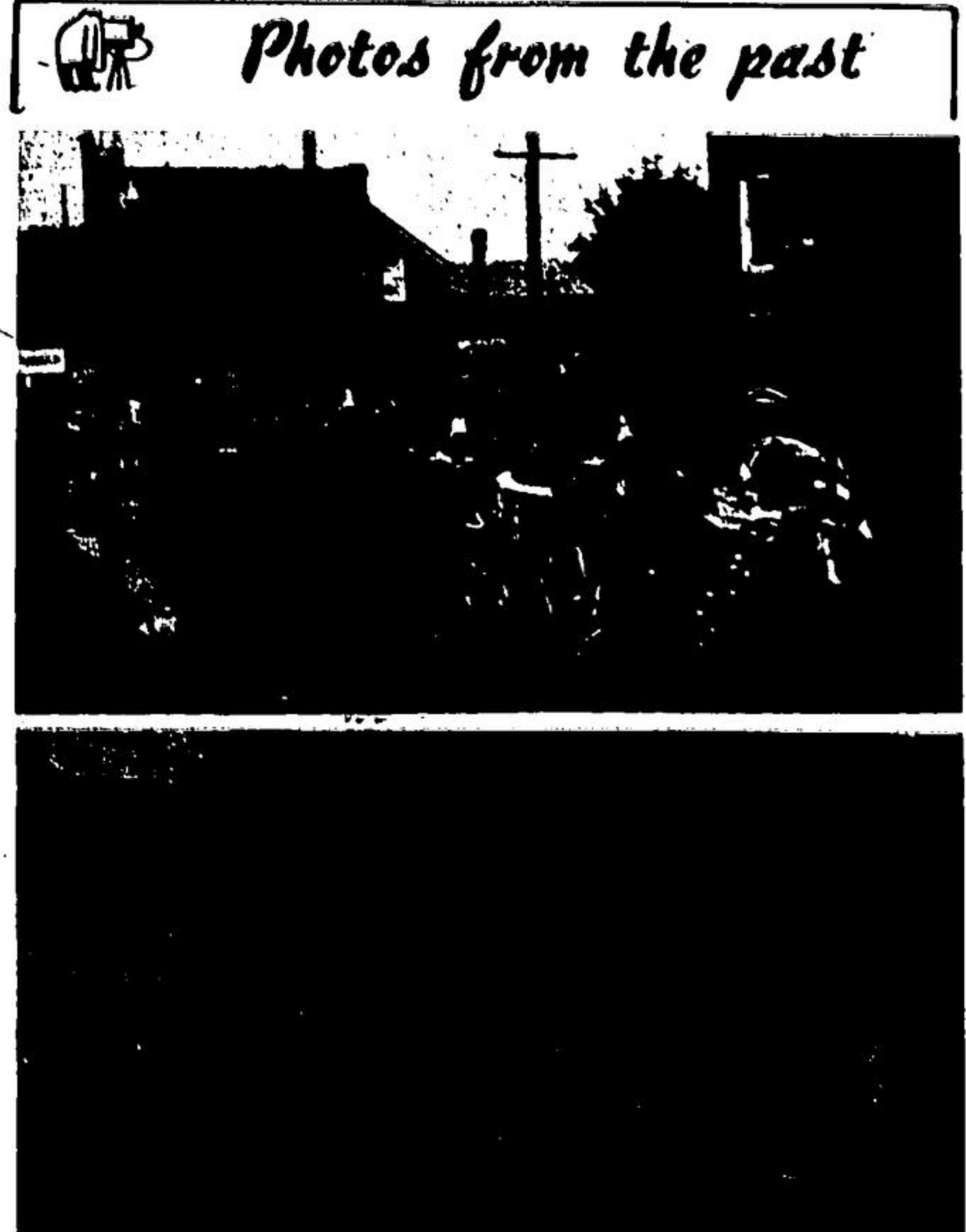
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FIRE BRIGADES from the district gathered in Acton for a colorful parade in 1908. These two pictures of the parade, now owned by Roy Brown, Bower Ave., were probably taken by amateur photographer A. T. Brown. In both pictures, the parade moves west along Mill between John and Willow. In the top picture, Donald McGregor drives the decorated Acton team. Acton band parades past, in the lower photo.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 27, 1949.

A complaint has been received to the effect that persons, mostly school children, are skating and playing hockey on the tennis courts and destroying property there. This is not permitted and must cease immediately.

Born Nan and Joe Hurst are happy to announce the birth of a son, Thomas Andrew, at Guelph General Hospital, on January 26.

Born Mr. and Mrs. G. W. McKenzie are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Kathryn, at Guelph General Hospital on January 24.

Never saw so many backyard skating rinks as there are in Acton this year. The boys and girls are having fun on all of them. But yesterday's snow was a reminder that we still have winter months to come.

The Public Utilities Commission has been operating at a deficit since the hydro shortage, it was discovered at a meeting this week. After the monthly bill for hydro has been paid, there is not enough surplus money left to pay the wages of the workers. It is hoped the matter will be cleared up shortly.

With the growth that Acton has experienced the last few years, it is time the postal service was increased for the benefit of citizens. At least half a dozen postal boxes are needed in some sections so that people could mail letters without having to go downtown to the post office.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 25, 1874.

The County Council met for organization Tuesday afternoon. The result of the first ballot gave the position of Warden to John Warren, Deputy Reeve of Esquesing. He has been a respected resident of the township for half a century. He was first elected to council in 1868.

After a quiet chat on the weather and other kindred topics, Acton council met to hear minutes and pass accounts for coal oil, lamp glasses, printing, books, postage and feeding tramps, amounting to \$25.28. Dancers will have to pay for more than the piper. The charge for the town hall, when used for assemblies, was increased to eight dollars from four dollars.

After its first meeting the Board of Education retired to the parlors of Mrs. Adams for an oyster supper. Much satisfaction was expressed with the new school and the successful work of the teachers.

Reeve Pea ran has called a meeting of all interested in the formation of organized companies for protection from fire. St. Joseph's church narrowly escaped destruction by fire. About half an hour after a wedding, two girls found the altar all ablaze. Although the church bell rang no one responded, supposing it to be a send-off for the wedding party. The young ladies with rare courage quenched the flames all alone.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, January 21, 1869.

Several ladies voted at the school trustee elections in Toronto on Wednesday. One prompt and fearless female, who was one of the first at the polls, being asked who she desired to vote for, replied that it was immaterial to her, all she wanted being to record her vote, and thereby assert her rights. Having recorded her vote in this indiscriminate manner, and thereby asserted her rights, the strongminded female retired with the happy consciousness of having won a signal victory over the tyrant, man.

Congress has thrown out the bill providing a Governor, Secretary, Legislature and Judiciary for Alaska. One of its being represented that there were only 50 white men in the territory; that its chief feature is icebergs, and its sole industry the seal fisheries, it was thought advisable not to erect a too expensive government. Seaward's purchase is not likely to prove profitable for some years to come.

The Board of Common School Trustees for Milton met on Monday last. Members present—Messrs. Eager, Smith, Hatton, Willmott, Freeman and Matheson. Mr. Eager was re-elected chairman; Mr. Smith, treasurer; Mr. Dewar, Local Superintendent; and Mr. Jones, Secretary.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 30, 1919.

Applications will be received up to February 10 for the position of Clerk and Treasurer for the Village of Acton. Salary \$400 per annum.

The editor picked a boutonniere of panties in bloom in a Moorcroft garden on January 23. Not much "Lady of the Snows" about that.

Reeve Barber and his new council seem more interested in carrying out their pre-election promises than in the conducting of the business of the town. An inordinate length of time was spent on such matters this week.

A most enjoyable evening was spent last Wednesday by the King's Orderlies at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. F. Moore, Main St. Upwards of 30 men were present. A graphic description was given by E. T. Theford of his experiences on a sailing ship from England to Australia.

Mr. William Thompson has purchased from Miss Minnie Mellon her home on Willow St., which she purchased a couple of years ago from Mr. John E. Coleman, who went West.

There has been a suggestion made that no more individual receptions be held for returning soldiers from overseas. This has met with very strong objections.

There are good prospects of considerable building in town this coming season.

Salt and Pepper

by hartley coles



This journal had hardly got out of bed and on the street when I started getting enquiries asking if I hadn't got cod liver and castor oil mixed up in last week's column. Hardly got home and tossed my hat into the closet before my wife, mother-in-law, niece, daughter and son jumped at me with the same accusation.

Before I plead guilty, and say inane things such as I wanted to see how many were reading this column, or that I planted the mistake to get the reaction, let me say it could have been olive oil for all I know. All I'm sure of is my reaction at the time. It's still very vivid!

It could have been Pennsylvania 10/30 because it worked in all kinds of weather. Yes, it could even have been crude oil. Whatever it was, the oil always seemed to have the desired effect.

Now you can see why I'm in the newspaper business instead of being a pharmacist. Do I hear Bill Yundt saying Amen?

Speaking about confusing words in the English language, the World Book Dictionary reports we are in the midst of what might be called a language explosion. The new dictionary contains 14,000 more words than last year's. We'll soon have to be buying a new dictionary each year to keep up with the language.

Poor newspaper serfs like myself, now have to find 14,000 more spaces in a head already crammed with misspelt words.

Where do the words come from? It seems as though coling new words is everybody's business—politicians, scientists, economists, teen-agers and the man on the street. For instance, politicians have come up with the phrase "conspiracy of silence" which means a "conspiring to keep something wrong, damaging, etc., from being divulged."

And how about 'gapsos'? That means "any conspicuous or abnormal gap,

deficiency, etc." When you read about credibility gaps, you'll understand gapsos.

You can depend on the scientists to give us a word like "endoradiosonde"; economists came up with "microeconomics" and the fashion designers, bless them, came up with "minidress" and "miniskirt".

The man on the street? He came up with such gems as "chinfest", which, of course, means sitting down and talking, saying what you mean. Teenagers gave us "fud", "glop" and "glug".

Here's some more, some of which have been around for a long time as slang but have finally made it to the dictionary:

Aerial jeep, Alateen, ballhawk, beat man, beefcake, body check, bram-picking, British English, campy, car jockey, center-left, chicken colonel, cliffhang, Colonel Bogey, cutesy.

Down patrol, daymare, deep six, defang, didact, diploma mill, disadvantaged, dodo ball, ducky, dysphemism, earthshaker, easy money, end-run, Escoffier, eye-popper, familygram, fifth estate, file 13, flab, flappable, freedom walk, funk, ghost surgery, glass cloth, goodie, gramophone, groupthink, gucky.

Head Start, hobbit, in-joke, inner space, instant replay, I-Thou, Jane Q. Public, jet bus, Knuckleballer, lachrymist, lotusland, make-do, Medicaid, megacity, meshuga, Mitty, nebbish, NFL, nudnik, off-hour, old-shoe, ordered pair, plain-Jane.

R and R, read-in, rice Christian, rodeo, schlepp, schlock, sheila, shook-up, ski bum, slanguage, space gun, squaw winter, suitcase farmer, swingback, Synanon, telephonitis, ten-percenter, tin god, tin pants, underground film, video recorder, Vietnik, walling wall, yoo-hoo.

Don't know what some of them mean? Join the club.