

Free Press Editorial Page

A backward look...

After a year full of innovations, Acton's public schools are out this week. For a change, let's look backward instead of forward in the field of local education.

There is so much talk about education and teachers' salaries, the cost of instruction and new concepts in teaching methods it's interesting to look back to 1923 and see just what teaching conditions were then.

In 1923, we read, the pay for an unmarried teacher in an elementary school was about \$75 a month.

Someone turned up a typical agreement drawn up by a trustee board of that era that included the following clauses:

"The contract become null and void immediately if the teacher marries.

"Not to keep company with men.

"To be at home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless she is in attendance at a school function.

"Not to loiter downtown in ice cream parlors.

"Not to smoke cigarettes. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found smoking.

"Not to leave town at any time without the permission of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

"Not to drink beer, wine or whisky. This contract becomes null and void immediately if the teacher is found drinking beer, wine or whisky.

"Not to ride in a carriage or automobile with any man except her brothers or father.

"Not to dress in bright colors.

"Not to dye her hair.

"To wear at least two petticoats.

"Not to wear dresses more than two inches above the ankle."

Negotiating committees of current day trustees would undoubtedly find it difficult to delve into the areas that have been covered in this early agreement. Can't you just imagine trustees and teacher debating the length of skirt teachers must wear, or the company they keep (other than their brother and father)? And woebetide the board that fired all its married teachers!

Times have changed in the last 46 years.

Anyone care for a return of the "good old days"?

Some objectives necessary...

The absence of an over-all objective was never more clear in events of the county than it was at a recent meeting of the County Council.

On the one hand the county councillors were moving for an expansion of the county council structure, through the addition of mayors to the group, while on the other there was a foot-dragging approach to whether leadership should be taken in appointing a single plumbing inspector for at least some of the municipalities.

The county has agreed it prefers a regional government made up of Halton as a single unit rather than through a merger with Peel. This point established, we would think there would be some effort to co-ordinate and co-relate any necessary services at the county level if at all possible.

But when the County Health Unit announced earlier this year that it would no longer carry out the plumbing inspection service, the county threw the responsibility to the local councils. When a move developed to have the county consider hiring a single plumbing inspector, at least for the northern municipalities, there were protests that municipalities should be allowed to run their own business.

Confusing the issue was an objection to the North Halton Urban Board having any interest in the matter. The Board technically has no authority, and this is recognized, but it is made up of members from the councils of Georgetown, Acton and Milton. It would seem some interest in a joint inspector developed in discussions there. But at the County Council table even a representative of one of those municipalities laid accusations that someone was trying to run their show.

Much of this could have been overcome, we suggest, if the county council had shown some leadership in the kind of investigation they finally approved on Tuesday. They will inquire of the local municipalities their interest in hiring a joint inspector, as they do now for construction safety. But in the meantime Esqueping Township has agreed to hire its own inspector and is seeking applications.

County involvement is thus diminished another degree while all the time the county councillors are purporting to support a regional government unit, centred around the present Halton boundaries.

The depth of thinking seems rather shallow and we suspect it stems from the absence of a clearly defined overall objective. Time is growing short and we fear Halton's role in the future may well be dictated by default, unless there is a renewal of concern and the development of necessary statistics and information for hard bargaining on regional government.

Editorial notes

Whether health or wealth is the greater blessing depends on which you don't have.

The nice thing about a dull party is that you get to bed at a decent hour.

Our thanks to former area superintendent W. L. McNeill, who, at the opening of the M. Z. Bennett school, publicly expressed his appreciation for the coverage to school board matters given in the Acton and Milton papers. He cites our reports as consistently "fair and honest."

Photos from the past



MISS M. Z. BENNETT in 1957 officially opened the school named in her honor. Left to right, are board members Bill Mattocks and Cliff Bradley, principal Elmer Smith, board member Wes Wolfe, Miss Bennett, board member Tom Watson, secretary-treasurer Bill Middleton, and board member Murray Smith. The addition to the school was opened last week.



FLAMING RED poppies are a sure reminder that summer is here at last. Harmonizing with peonies and delicate shades of iris, the colorful flower brightens up gardens all over town.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Don't talk to me about a bear with a sore head. He'd back down the trail like a bunny if he met a teacher, in June, with a sore tooth. Right now I'm willing to take on anything, up to and including, a grizzly.

June is the month in which nothing is so rare as a day, according to Browning, or somebody. And for school teachers, it's a month in which every day is a hard night's work.

The teacher is plagued by paper work which could be done by a 15-year-old moron, an administration which is twice as stupid as he thought it was, and students who are bored from the belly-button both ways - by school.

Throw in a throbbing tooth and you've got yourself a mean critter. The month started off fittingly, with everybody forgetting my birthday, on the 2nd. The only card I received was from my insurance company, a card which annually infuriates me.

Next day, one of those nicotine-tanned stumps which my dentist laughingly calls teeth began to kick up. And it's been kicking up, down and sideways ever since.

If I had any guts I'd tie a string around it, fasten the string to a doorknob and slam the door. However, I have about as many guts as I have teeth, so I go on trying to save this one.

I can't even bite a marshmallow without going into orbit, so I've practically been on a liquid diet for weeks. This has its disadvantages. Which is worse every morning, a toothache or a hangover? And how would you like both?

As is our custom, my wife and I went to the annual Leacock Medal Award Dinner recently. I've been a judge in the competition for several years and enjoy meeting a few big shots and finding their feet are made of the same type of clay as my own.

Despite the snide comments of some writers from the big dailies, it's a good party in a good cause - keeping alive and fresh the works and memory of Canada's - and one of the world's - greatest comic writers.

This year's winner was Stuart Trueman, whose book, "You're Only As Old As You Act," is good entertainment. Mr. Trueman, a Maritimer, was salty. The chairman, Richard Doyle, editor of the Globe and Mail, was even wittier, and should write a book. The venerable, if not blessed, Harry Boyle, a witty writer and editor under his farm-boy facade, was there, and was witty.

In fact, the whole thing was excruciatingly funny for many, painful for me. My wife galloped through a huge and excellent dinner, darting her eyes at my

plate, where nothing was missing except of few of the inevitable green peas, which I had managed to mumble.

Just as dinner began, I had a terrible attack of leaping bicuspid and couldn't eat a bite. I decided the only thing to do was to paralyze the tooth. I tried, but it refused to play.

All I succeeded in doing was paralyzing the rest of me, meanwhile carrying on about my tooth (bravely, of course) to such an extent that my wife remarked later it was like having a crying baby in Church.

However, it all worked out fine. We went to a small gathering after the dinner, and incredible numbers of young, pretty college girls hovered about me, fetching me aspirin, gin and other medications.

Meanwhile, my old lady spent an hour or so straightening out the editor of the Globe and Mail. I fully expected to find this column on the front page on Monday morning. But there it was, the same old Globe melange of world crises and murders and stale speeches of Cabinet Ministers.

Not content with my physical suffering, young Kim hit me in June with another wallop. She wanted a loan toward an electric piano. After a sufficient number of things, like "Fie on thee, wench!" and "You're going to have to pay interest, you know," I buckled, and am now subsidizing one of those rotten groups to the tune of \$200.

All that was needed to make it a ring-dinger of a month were the headlines about electricians getting \$6.50 an hour, and the interest rates soaring daily. A great month, June. For blackflies.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, June 30, 1949

J. Clifford Sutton of Sherbrooke, Que. has been named general secretary of the Y.M.C.A.

Acton Rotary Club second annual Fair made a very appropriate holiday celebration last Friday. The program was packed into afternoon and evening. In the calithumpian parade were the clown band led by Amos Mason, decorated bicycles, tricycles and doll buggies. The softball tournament was won by Everton. A personality contest drew nine entries and included singing and instrumental. The winners were Miss Betty Gibson and Mr. Chas. Landborough. Geo. Muscile was the master of ceremonies. Las Duby, George Fountain and Geo. Mason gave ballads and music from the big transport platform and there were many gantes of chance.

Keen interest centred on the prize drawing. Mrs. Robert Cross won the combination radio and record player. Morgan Madill won the child's tricycle; Jack Fairclough, Toronto; John Moore, Acton, a pressure cooker; Gordon James, Acton, a Rotary lawn chair; Jack Robertson, electric iron.

Kenneth Cox and his wife of R.R. 1, Campbellville, were drowned in the Eramosa river near Rockwood when their small flat-bottomed boat capsized.

Miss Helen Holmes graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.

It's not often a second coat of calcium is necessary for Acton streets but the dry weather made it necessary this year.

Acton Girls Ball team played in Omagh Monday and won 16-7. Pitching were Vivian Hill and Jean Palmer with Berle Jordan catching.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, June 26, 1919

Although the temperature was nearly 90 citizens crowded the town hall to welcome home 14 more veterans, and Dr. McNiven made the presentation of gold watches to Capt. T. D. Henderson, Reg. Q.M. Sergt. E. G. Maddock, Sergt. S. H. Perry, Sergt. James Holloway, Corp. Harold Savill, Pte. Ernest Brown, Pte. F. Turner, Pte. Earl Brown, Pte. George Ballard, Pte. James Gibb, Pte. Elmer Stewart, Pte. J. D. Smith, Pte. Ernest Barr,

Pte. Arthur Watson and Sapper Harold Nicklin.

The piano recital of the pupils of Miss Lauretta Gray in Knox church school room was greatly enjoyed. Taking part in the lengthy program were Jeannie Orr, Olga

Moore, Findlay and Calvin Wilson, Ralph Henderson, Frances Beardmore, Laird MacDonald, Ray Gamble, Doris Goldham, G. Russell, Jimmie Ross, Margaret Wilson, Jean Kennedy, Genevieve Clarridge, Frances Hurst, Jessie Mann, Jean Stalker, Irene Mulholland, Olive Cooper, Willie Stewart, Helen MacDonald, Marguerite Ryder, Edna Henderson, Betty Lowrie, Nellie Hall, Duff Wilson, May Wildgast.

The provincial government has passed an order-in-council for \$30,000 for the Acton Housing Commission. Now watch Acton grow!

When a garden party or parlor social is announced to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Stalker, Third line, success is always assured. This was the case with the I.O.B.E. garden party and towel shower last Thursday evening. On the program were the Methodist orchestra, Mr. William Crowdy, solo; Misses Robertson and Alderson, duets; Mr. D. Robertson and Misses Gray and Stalker in musical numbers.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, June 28, 1894

It is some years since Acton arranged a general popular excursion for civic holiday. This year the matter has been taken in hand with energy by a number of local societies, Sons of Scotland, Independent Foresters, United Workmen, Home Circle and Acton Temperance Union, and success is assured. The point selected is Orillia and the very low rates of \$1.10 for adults and 50 cents for children has been secured. The special train will leave at 7 a.m. Thursday, August 2, leaving Orillia at 6 p.m. Orillia is a pretty town on the beautiful Kempenfelt Bay and affords many attractions to excursionists.

The excitement of the general provincial elections is over and Sir Oliver Mowat's administration remains in power. However the Patrons of Industry figured with considerable prominence. In Halton Col. Hearn again defeated Mr. Husband. Now electors, shake hands and be friends again.

Father Haley complains that some parties have the presumption to pasture their horses in St. Joseph's church yard. His desires the practice discontinued.

The matter of dismissing the Georgetown postmaster, because he was in the lunatic asylum, was discussed in Parliament. The government had already waited 12 months to see if he would recover.

Mr. N. F. Lindsay's fine new bank barn was raised yesterday.

The high school entrance examinations commence today. A number of candidates from Acton will write at Georgetown High School.

Free Press

Church Notices

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Churchill Road North
Minister: Mr. Robert G. W. Hyde, B.A.
Phone 853-2299

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 1969
10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship and Sunday School.
All are Welcome at the Church on the Hill

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 1969
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
"Test of Reality."
No Evening Services during June, July and August.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—The Study Hour.
In charge, Deacons.
Thursday—Choir at 8:00.
"Feed the flock of God which is among you."
1 Peter 5: 2.
All Welcome

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 1969
10:00 a.m.—English Service.
11:10 a.m.—Sunday School.
4:00 p.m.—English Service.
Everyone Welcome

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
Minister: The Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
Director of Music: Dr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SEVENTH SEASON — COMBINED SUMMER SERVICES
IN TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
Preacher, Rev. Gordon B. Turner.
SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1969
10:00 a.m.—Divine Worship.

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 1969
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, 8:00 p.m.—Christ's Ambassadors.
John 10: 9 — I am the door; by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 1969
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.
Georgetown 877-6665

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 1969
Trinity IV
10:00 a.m.—Mattins.
1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays
Matthews
2nd and 4th Sundays
Saints' Holy Eucharist as announced.

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

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