# Free Press Editorial Page

## How does Acton rate?

Scrutinizing your own community can sometimes be quite revealing. So often we get so close to it that its faults and advantages get lost in the fog of routine.

Students of community development say that if a community can honestly answer "yes" to 24 or more of these items, then citizens can take pride in it. And it will make progress and continue to be a good place to live and work.

But if there are more "no's" that "yes's", there is little hope for the community unless someone starts working.

You may have seen this list before. But if you haven't checked your own community against this list now is a good time to do it.

- Most high school and college graduates stay in town.
- The local paper pushes civic improvements.
- \* There's a place to swim within easy reach.

  \* Your counter have little
- Youn couples have little trouble finding a place to live.
- The head of the town's government is a "get-things-done" man.
- Teachers' salaries are better than the provincial average.
  There's a library with a good
- collection of new books.

  Service clubs and women's
- A modern hospital is within
- There's a hotel or motel you would enjoy, if you were a visitor.

Japan, which has been held up as

other overpopulated nations in the

Far East, has suddenly been caught

in an abortion backlash, according to

increasingly critical of the nation's

liberal abortion laws. The reason is

not so much morality, but the fear

that Japan is literally on the way to

extinction if the present

the Ministry of Public Health and

Welfare points out that Japan's

natural increase rate was as high as

21.6 per 1,000 in 1948, dropped

steadily to 10.4 in 1955 and for the

past five years (1964-68) to 9.3 per

passed, Japan was considered

overpopulated. The reverse is true

today. Industrially, affluent Japan is

actually labor-shy. Workers are

needed for the nation's shipyards,

ethics-and anxiety-to protest the

Economics has joined hands with

looms, etc.

At the time the abortion law was

demographic trend persists.

Japanese officialdom is becoming

a recent report in The Medical Post.

- a model for population control to

Japanese vanish . . .?

A recent White Paper issued by shelve the law.

\* It's easy to find a parking space in the business section.

\* Prompt, reasonable priced

ambulance service is available.

Streets throughout the community are well-lighted.

local às in federal elections.

There's as much interest in local às in federal elections.

There's an active

parent-teacher organization.

Citzens have a positive outlook and attitude about ther town.

Firemen must take regular training courses.

There's an annual clean-up,

paint-up, fix-up week.

More than half the church congregations are under 40 years of

fines as out-of-towners.

Newcomers quickly feel

they're a part of the town.

Schools have plenty of room

for students.

\* All streets are paved and sidewalks are in good condition.

• At least one restaurant serves outstanding meals.

any worthwhile project.

There's a live-wire Chamber of

There's a live-wire Chamber of
 Commerce.
 There's at least one doctor for

each 800 people.

• Well-stocked stores keep

shoppers in the town.

There's an ample supply of

good drinking water.
 The sewer extension programs
 keep pace with new housing.

Good zoning keeps commercial firms away from residential areas.

Japanese officials have widely

The Ministry of Public Health

encouraged birth control. The result

is that planned parenthood has taken

solid hold, certainly in urban areas

and Welfare takes the gloomy

position that unless this trend is

reversed, the Japanese nation will

vanish from the face of the earth in

the fight to amend or revise, if not

Women Diet members spearhead

To regain your health spend the

If you want to be successful as a

Government bureau: Where the

same amount of time, money and

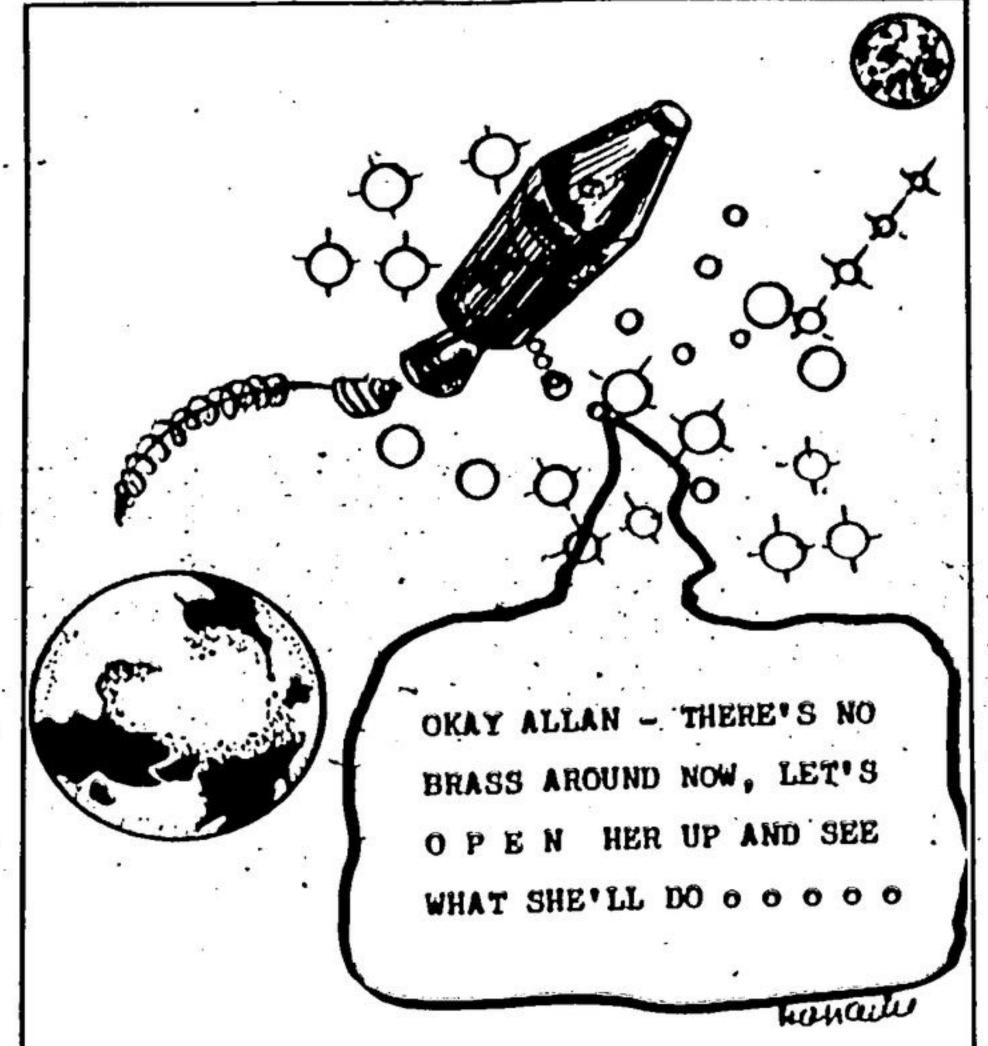
self-made man, don't leave out the

effort that you did in losing it.

and increasingly in rural areas.

400-500 years.

working parts.



# Sugar and Spice

TAKE TIME TO GIVE THANKS

There's quite a backlash these days
from the middle-class against practically
everything: welfare, subsidies, inflation,
taxes, and anything else that hurts where it

The squawkers, and I join them once in a while, feel that there is a conspiracy among the government, the poor, the farmers, the skilled tradesmen, and almost everyone except the middle-class to grind the latter exceedingly small.

I'm about as middle-class as they come. Middle age, middle income, mortgage, kids to educate. And like all the other middles, I pay far too much in taxes.

But once in a while, I take stock and, despite the grinding, find plenty to be thankful for.

This week, I met a lady who is living on welfare. Her husband, from whom she is separated, contributes nothing. She has six kids to feed and clothe. There is no car, no treats, no frills, no little extras. Every month she is almost frantic with worry trying to make ends meet, just before her cheque arrives.

If the older children can't get summer jobs, they can't go back to high school, because they won't have any clothes. One boy has been repremanded by his principal for wearing jeans to school. They're the only pants he has, and they're clean.

The total income of this family is less than many middle-class people pay in income tax. The lady is not well. Even if she could go to work, it would mean deductions from her welfare cheque. She's struggling desperately, but cheerfully, to keep her family together and give them an education. And she's doing it, but walking the thin edge of real poverty.

Why shouldn't the wheat farmer be subsidized? Many of our fatter industries are, through tariffs and special tax deals. The farmer works harder and longer for less money than anybody in the country.

Why shouldn't a skilled worker make ten thousand-a year? He's going to pay

# Congested lakes

This is an age of unprecedented affluence for a great many people. They have more money and leisure time than ever before. But this affluence also brings problems.

Our lakes are rapidly becoming as congested as our highways. The callous disregard for other people by reckless drivers on the water is causing untold suffering.

Last year, 361 people drowned as a result of boating accidents, many of which occurred because of ignorance or carelessness. Some of the accidents were caused by overloading a boat with passengers or baggage . . . the failure to wear life jackets . . . lack of attention to weather warnings.

The annual drowning toll can be substantially reduced if Canadians will learn and practice the basic rules of water safety.

plenty of it in taxes. How can the government control inflation when the people demand more and more and more, while at the same time everybody is trying to get his snout into the trough.

Why shouldn't Indians get help so that they can lift themselves out of the degradation and squalor that has been forced on them? Frustrated by poverty and lack of education, they either cling to the communal life of the reserve, or venture into the world, get a punch of discrimination right on the nose, and escape to drink. (Lots of them do on the reserve, too, but what else is there to do? Weave baskets?)

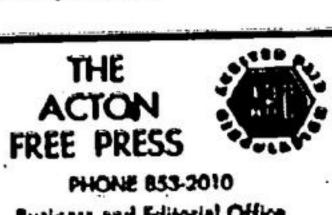
There's another group that I feel for, a large one. These are the elderly and the disabled. Sure, they get a pension. Try living on it, you middle-class cry-babies.

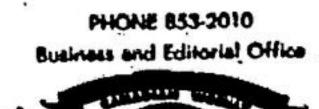
Happiest of these are the born bums, who've always lived in a shack, never paid taxes, insurance, and seldom rent. They're in clover, proportionately. But they're poor.

Perhaps the saddest portion of the group is the elderly couples who worked hard, never asked anyone for anything and saved for their old age. They may have a small pension from the job, or even some

And now, ready to spend a few golden years, their pensions and bonds are halved in value, their living costs tripled. They can't pay the taxes and have to sell the home they've sweated for and move into a couple of rooms. The reward for 30-40 years of honest toil. It's enough to make one join the hippies.

It's a great country. But next time you start whining because you can't quite afford a second car, think of the farmer whose wheat can't be sold, the plumber who cleans your stinking drains, the Indian who fought in the war and can't get a job, the doughty woman battling for her family, or the little old lady sitting alone in a furnished room, living on bread and tea until her cheque comes.





Founded in 1976 and published every Westerday of the Willer St., Actor, Controls Mancher of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the Child and Child.

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#### Free Press

## back

#### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, July 21, 1949

Acton Women's Institute held their picnic in the pask with members, children and grandchildren present. Winners in children's contests were Betty Lambert, Norma Wilds, Mary Hunter, David Hunter, Marie Lambert, Donald Wilds, Jean Anderson, and in the ladies' contests Mrs. J. Wilds, Mrs. R. L. Davidson, Mrs. Lantx, Mrs. F. Hunter, Mr. Hollowsy, Mrs. Maddox, Mrs. Evans, Miss A. Hume. In charge were Mrs. Earl Lambert, Mrs. Fred Anderson, and Mrs. Wm. Denny.

Jack and Don Davidson, Ree Hutt and Dave Dills are attending the First Canadian Boy Scout jamboree in Ottawa representing the local troop. The boys all have King Scout rank.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant McDonald moved early this week to Orangeville where Mr. McDonald has a coal business. They have been in residence for four and a half years here living with Mrs. McDonald's father, Mr. Thomas Watson, Mill St. Prior to leaving the choir of the United Church presented Mrs. McDonald with a silver rose bowl at a social evening at Mrs. W. Beatty's.

Douglas M. Gowdy, son of the late Wm. Gowdy has been appointed director of MacLean Hunter Publications.

New postal boxes are soon to be located

in various places in town for posting mail.

Ernest West was successful in passing his first year examinations at Osgoode Hall.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday July 17, 1919

from overseas unexpectedly Saturday evening. He spent a day or so here and then went to Niagara Falls to see his mother and sister there. Sergt. Watson "made good" in the army. His aptitude in handling horses soon won for him the important position of Transport Sergeant and kept him on duty longer than the most of our Acton men.

Sergt. J. Victor Coleman reached Toronto last Friday evening after a fine trip on the Olympic. He came to Acton Saturday with Mr. C.A.G. Matthews and was given a rousing welcome.

was given a rousing welcome.

The sad news reached Acton of the death in the General Military Hospital,

Toronto, of Pte. Francis James Masters, son of Mrs. Masters, Church St. General sympathy will be felt for the bereft mother whose two bright young daughters passed away last spring.

With a view to securing funds for permanent quarters Acton Great War Veterans will make a house-to-house canvass. The captains of the four wards are Pie. J.J. Cooney, Sergt. H. S. Harwood, Sergt. W. Coles and Pte. George Lantz.

Misses Jean Wilson and Marguerite Stewart are taking a five week course at the Normal School in kindergarten Primary work, thus making themselves better qualified for their chosen life work of teaching.

#### 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, July 19, 1894

(Account of the reunion of students of Robert Little continues.)

At eight o'clock the old pupils now accompanied by many friends gathered in the town hall. Mr. Secord took his place as chairman and the first number was a piano solo by Jennie Storey. Rev. G. B. Cooke followed with prayer. Austin Yubby read a historical sketch of the life of Robert Little.

John Douglas gave an able address on "Character Developed in his Pupils through the Efforts and Example of Robert Little." Lottie Lemstreet, Bella Hill, A. E. Nicklin and Will Williams sang a quartette "Come Where the Lilies Bloom" with good effect.

H. P. Moore, secretary of the committee, called the roll when 59 of the pupils of from 23 to 30 years ago answered. Mrs. Robert Little of Toronto was also present. (Among all those listed, those still living in Acton were Robert Brown, Thomas Cameron, Samuel Clark, Chas. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Matthews, Lizzie Grant, Bella Graham, John Hill, George Hynds, Mrs. Henry Grindell, Maggie Kennedy, W. R. Kenney, L. G. Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Moore, Mrs. James Moore, Mr. and Mrs. James McLam, John McRae, Albert Nicklin, Mrs. I. Francis, William Perryman, Lottie Speight, Jos. Speight, Mrs. Alex Secord. Mrs. Thomas Brunt, George Wilds, Samuel Worden, Alonzo Worden, John Worden.)

Many feelings of sadness were aroused when it was realized how the ranks were decimated by the angel of death. Alice Henderson and Bella Hill then sang the heart-touching duet "Home from a Foreign Shore." Many letters and telegrams of regret were read.

## Salt and Pepper



hartley coles

Back at the desk after three weeks' vacation in England is like starting life over

After a modest English heat wave where the weather hit an astonishing 70-75 degrees for over a week, Canadian weather makes you think of Equatorial Africa.

Yes, the better half and I skipped over the briny in one of those fancy jets, landing smack in the centre of old 'Blighty' with everything intact except our stomachs which we left somewhere over Ireland or Wales about 25 or 30,000 feet up.

It was the first experience for both of us in the jet set, and also the first time either one of us had gone across the ocean. Naturally we were full of curiosity to see the places which we'd heard so much about. It also gave us a chance to visit relatives and pubs where we'd heard the English really enjoy themselves.

Fortunately we had excellent sunny weather for almost the entire visit. The English we met complimented us for bringing them the fine weather after a fairly cold, wet spring there. We got back Saturday night after three weeks jam-packed with events that we'll try to relay onto you for the next few weeks.

In spite of all the background I'd absorbed from books and the information filed from persons who either came from the old country or had visited there extensively, England wasn't quite what I expected.

I thought the old island would be flat. It was the hilliest place I ever saw.

I kind of thought the people would be jammed shoulder to shoulder with very little space left. I saw hundreds of miles of green farmland, lots of forest and no real crowding except in the large cities.

I knew the English have green thumbs but I never expected to see the scres of flowers, especially roses in almost everyone's front garden. Someone once described Southern England as one large flower garden and that is not very far-fetched.

I was told that renting a car was a huge mistake and that I would probably ditch it the first day and use the trains and buses. The traffic was heavy. Almost everyone in England must drive some sort of conveyance from a bicycle to a Rolls Royce which they ram at full tilt along their narrow roads. But it wasn't long until I became adjusted to driving on the 'wrong' side of the hedge-bordered speedways. I

was just as reckless as the rest of them.

Now I admit it did get a trifle difficult to skim along the roads at night with just your parking light on. But that's the way they travel over there. And once you get used to it you find that your eyes adjust to the darkness. You don't miss those high beams that drivers here shine into your eyes.

Visiting England is living, breathing history. Even many of the roads you drive on have been built by the Romans who left a heritage of places and a network of highways that contributed much to the development of the country.

Shopping? The cities are jammed with shoppers. Every town and village has a large shopping centre with a variety of goods at prices that are drawing tourists from all over the continent, the United States, Canada and Asiatic countries.

Needless to say my wife was delighted. There's only one thing she'd rather do than shop—that's think about it!

The one shopping excursion she dragged me along on was also a rather unique experience. We took Paul Nielsen's advice and went to Petticoat Lane on a Sunday morning. Thousands of people jammed the concourse right down the middle of the street. Hawkers displayed their wares on outdoor stands, traded insults and compliment with the customers, in an English dialect that defies description.

My brother-in-law was the guide. He told us to haggle with the hawkers which turned out to be very good advice. I saw the price of one set of dishes which started out at 12 Pounds (about \$31.20 Canadian) slide to 2 Pounds (\$5.92) a fter a taunt from the sidelines.

At another stall we asked the proprietor, who looked and sounded like Georgie Je mell with an English accent, where his secots came from.

"Our do of know," the retort came back. "When you are fishing do you mk whether it came from the North See or the Irish See? Do you sak the butcher whether is meat came from the north or the south? Do you sak whether your money it printed in Westminster or London?

The one very convention ended with both of us buying this with an mouths open and wallets exactly.

the old country but manufacture its

# Eugenic Protection Law. Photos from the past



ROBERT LITTLE reunion in 1900 followed the first reunion reported in the 75 years ago column above. Names of a few are listed along the mergin of this old picture, leaving many unidentified. Along the bottom border are written the names of Nicklin of the glove shop; Chas. Speight Tinemith; Clara Moore, Al Nicklin and Geo. Hynds jeweller. Written across the top are the names of Lottie Speight, Jo Speight undertaker, Tom Kennady, T. A. Moore, George Havill, H. P. Moore, Mrs. H. P. Moore, Mrs. S. Crane, Mrs. T. Smyth, Miss Hynds, Belle Gordon, teacher, Dr. Lowry, Miss Perryman, John Hill grocer, Lottie Hemstreet, Mrs. MoLam, Geo. Wilds and H. Sweckhamer carpenter. We would appreciate any more information.