

**OUR READERS WRITE:**

**Chamber will eat crow 365 days a year**

June 15, 1970

Editor,  
Acton Free Press

Dear Sir:

We note a remark by Mr. E. Tyler Jr. reported in the Acton Free Press last week. Mr. Tyler was reported as saying: "I wish the people who were here at the last meeting complaining that the council was not doing its job, could be here tonight to eat crow".

The executive of the Acton Chamber of Commerce, which is the group Mr. Tyler would like to eat crow, would like to go on record as being prepared to eat crow 365 days a year if it will provide the Town of Acton with full employment. One of the Chamber's prime objectives is to encourage industry, as Mr. Tyler well knows.

Let's take a look at the record:  
1. The Industrial land was purchased approximately seven years ago.

2. For approximately six years nothing tangible was done. The land just laid there, costing the town money.

3. For more than a year, Acton Wood Products Ltd. and Frank Heller and Co. Ltd. tried to locate in Acton's Industrial Park with no success.

4. Approximately eight months ago, the Chamber was approached by Acton Wood Products Ltd. and presented a brief to council via Carl Watzek.

5. Within a week or so the council decided to develop the land and finally negotiation with Acton Wood Products proceeded.

6. From that time until the Chamber's last brief a month ago no more land was sold.

7. Almost immediately after our second brief, three industries were authorized to locate in Acton Industrial Park.

Now, Mr. Tyler, if two small briefs have been in any way responsible for the location of four industries it seems that the Chamber will have to appear more regularly before council, otherwise we may not obtain another industry for another five years.

The executive of the Chamber has acted according to the facts as they arise. If this is not a proper base upon which to work, we like Mr. Tyler to inform us otherwise. The Chamber has asked for a Chamber representative on the Industrial Development Commission and council informed the Chamber that the Commission had its full complement of members but that another joint meeting with the Development Commission and Chamber would be arranged soon. This has not been done, and the only way the Chamber can officially inform council of its opinions is by a brief.

Council is an elected body of representatives and it is the right of any resident of our town to air their views in an appropriate manner before council. If the Chamber, in presenting their briefs has in any manner violated democratic procedures they will be ready to apologize at any time.

Yours Sincerely,  
John Shadbolt, President.

**Says remark injustice to Lakeview**

Dear Sir:

Re: Grading of Fairy Lake.  
In this week's edition of the Free Press, I was astonished to see, in black and white, a remark by Mayor Doby to a Lakeview resident that he "sensed the life lost was being used as a lever to get things done for your subdivision."

At first, I was inclined to dismiss this statement as a misquote, but the nagging doubt remained suppose he were quoted correctly. At very least, a breach of good taste, and a great injustice to Lakeview residents.

Debbie's death was a profound shock to every parent in Lakeview, and rather than a "lever", was a spur to right a very definite wrong. We have the equivalent of a disused, waterfilled quarry on our doorstep a beauty spot that allows no mistakes. Well, let us take a hint from your recently published poem let us build the fence instead of buying an ambulance or in other words let us by grading the areas, give any youngster, whether from Lakeview or Timbuctoo, the chance to make a mistake and gain from the experience. It may not be foolproof, but at least we'll have tried.

As far as Lakeview residents are concerned, I have personal knowledge of fellow residents going out on a limb for

various improvements in Acton they attend drug-abuse meetings, when they have primary grade children; they work actively for better facilities for the retarded and they have no retarded family members; they see the need for a drop-in centre and they have no teenagers; and they have tried to develop the Industrial Park to bring extra revenue to the town and have been abused for their trouble. All to improve the town and make it the pleasant place it could be.

Now, they have the tragic confirmation of the urgent need to correct a condition that should never have existed in the first place, and they are prepared to put their money where their mouths are.

Don't let us make the mistake of allowing petty bickering from one part of town to another to be an obstacle to progress. With good planning and co-operation, everyone benefits.

Acton may be a small town, but small-mindedness has no part in any community and most especially on an administrative level.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. Beryl M. Bennett  
196 Elmore Drive,  
Acton, Ont.

**Contributions to make lake safer**

Dear Sir:

I have been watching the events of the past week, regarding the "Acton Development Fund" with keen interest and have been greatly impressed with the immediate response of the residents in their endeavor to help Council and the town in making the North shore of Fairy Lake a safer place for children.

Personally, I felt when approached for this project, that in view of our already high taxes, the responsibility for this task of making the area reasonably safe, should be accepted by the Council. However like most people I have small children and I gave most willingly in the hope that some action would quickly be taken.

I was, however, shocked and insulted when I read last week's Free Press report on this subject, where Mr. Doby stated, "I sense the life lost is being used as a lever to get things for your subdivision."

The Deputy-reeve said "Their pocket books are tied to their hearts," and the remarks by Reeve Oakes, Deputy-reeve Tyler and Mr. Doby regarding the number of friends already lost to Fairy Lake; remarks, which I feel were unnecessary, but since they were made, do nothing more than emphasize the urgent need for all of this lake to be made safer.

A start has to be made somewhere, and surely this much used and travelled section by children to and from school, is an obvious choice.

Shortage of money is a fact which the majority of this town are very familiar with and even if Council are in a state of financial embarrassment, it does not excuse the abrupt dismissal and remarks that were made to the delegates suggestion.

To insult and cast aspersions as they did is in my opinion high handed and not fitting to men in public office.

Since there is no official opposition in local government as both a check and stimulus the council should welcome any interested citizen or groups of citizens who take the time and trouble to appear before council or comment in the press. Even though the criticism may not always be favorable, Council has the "Right" to make decisions affecting the people of the town, but it also follows they have a "duty" to listen to the needs and desires of these people who put them in office.

I would think that any man in a position of trust would be proud to know that his people were so interested and concerned about their town that they were willing to assist in any way and to confirm this by digging into their pocket books to help finance a project such as this.

I feel that I speak for a great many people in Lakeview when I say that the alterations which we contributed towards were solely to make this much used area a safer place for children.

Elizabeth K. Eastwood

**Sally Ann says thank you**

June 12, 1970

Acton Free Press,  
Acton, Ontario

Dear Sirs:

Our thanks to you for keeping the public informed of The Salvation Army activities and bringing to their attention

our Red Shield Appeal for funds during the month of May.

A very gratifying total of \$1,071.59 was realized and we take this opportunity through your good offices, to convey our thanks to the canvassers and subscribers for a task well done.

Sincerely yours,  
Ivan McNeilly  
Major

**Fairy lake concern of all citizens**

To the Citizens of Acton:

In view of recent publicity given the newly formed Acton Parks Development Association we would like to take this opportunity to inform the people of Acton of our aims and objectives.

Contrary to the remarks expressed by our mayor in last week's Free Press, where he sensed that the people in Lakeview were using the drowning tragedy as a lever to "get things done for your subdivision" we would like to emphasize that this is not so. Also some councillors seem to imply we are asking for assistance only for our area, in that certain members want to be exonerated from favouring certain areas of town.

A general fear of some child drowning on the north side of the lake has prevailed among the residents of this area ever since the dredging operations were completed, and not just since the recent drowning. It has left the north shore with an immediate drop off of 10-15 feet, only a step or two

from shore. With this in mind, and knowing that children from all parts of town are using the area we feel that we have just cause to be concerned.

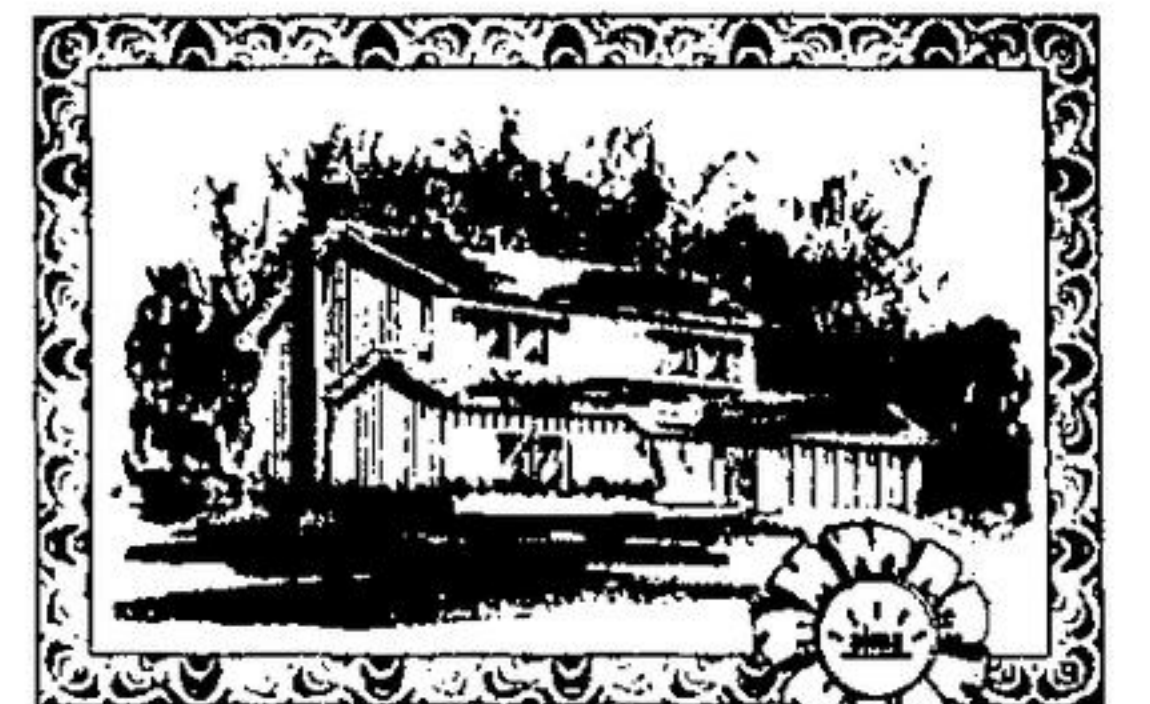
It is the aim of this organization to ask the people of Acton, not just Lakeview, to assist in raising funds, which can be forwarded to the Parks Board so that they can undertake the necessary work required to make the shoreline of Fairy Lake a safer place for children.

A start had to be made somewhere and the people of Lakeview have been very generous in giving to this cause and we sincerely hope all of Acton will feel the need that something should be done about their lake and that eventually we will have a piece of water and park land which we can all be proud of and enjoy.

The Acton Parks Development Ass'n.,  
H. E. Ruppert, President  
D. F. Lindsay, Treasurer.

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