

Historic old Eden Mills United church celebrates 115th anniversary Sunday

By Norm Marshall
Historic old Eden Mills United Church will celebrate its 115th anniversary this Sunday, September 20, with services in both the morning and evening.

Rev. R. Finley, minister of the church, which has roots going back into the early pioneer days, will speak at both services. The church sits in picturesque valley beside the Eramosa River among large shade trees so sedately it has been referred to as the "Church in the Wildwood."

First records 1856
The first record of this congregation is dated April 5th, A.D. 1856. It was connected with the Ebenezer Wesleyan Methodist Church, the minister being the Reverend John Walker.

Those whose names were on the original membership roll were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hortop, John and Elizabeth Williams, Mary Meadows, Joseph and Elizabeth Langdale, Harriet Calvin, Isaac and Jane Wilkerson, William and Mary Rouse, David Fielding, John and Mary Millard, David Bardwell, Sarah Meshack Bardwell, Sarah Barwell, Thomas and Anna Morris, John and Elizabeth Fisk and Henrietta Barker.

In 1858 the congregation was transferred from the Ebenezer charge in Nassagaweya and connected with the Rockwood circuit.

Erect church 1861
The present church building was erected in 1861, and the congregation was again put back into the Nassagaweya circuit.

Twenty-two years later Eden Mills congregation was again transferred to the Rockwood circuit, and remained there until 1925. In 1883, the congregation numbered 100 members. Reverend W. J. Freeman was minister.

In 1886, T. B. Coulson was superintendent of the Sunday School, and Mrs. Coulson was church organist and choir leader. The Wilson and Boles choir of that time was quite famous throughout the district. The church in those days held an annual garden party on the grounds of the Rudd farm, now owned by William MacDonald.

Dedicated Christian
Following Mr. Coulson as Sunday School superintendent,

was Robert Tuck. It should be noted that Mr. Tuck was one of the most sincere and dedicated Christian gentlemen that ever lived.

Shortly before Church Union in 1925, the congregation fell away and eventually the Church was closed and the building sold to A. D. Burrows. After Church Union in 1925, the congregation was reorganized and again was put into the Nassagaweya circuit along with Ebenezer and Arkell churches. First minister of this new charge was the Reverend A. F. Marsh and the Sunday School was under the direction of Mr. Fraser Auld. The church building was purchased back from Mr. Burrows and was rededicated early in 1926.

List of ministers.
Ministers who have served this congregation following Mr. Marsh are Rev. M. C. Gandier, Rev. R. H. Somerville, Rev. W. D. Clark, Rev. Mr. Kippin, Rev. Mr. Pickersgill, Rev. Wm. Sinn, Rev. Ken Griffiths, Rev. Robert Hadcock, Rev. W. Leeman and present minister Rev. R. Finley. The Sunday School has been led since Mr. Auld's time by L. W. Flood, Henry Leslie, Alec McIntosh, N. S. Marshall, John McIntosh, Fred Gardiner, Mrs. Dorothy Townsend, Mrs. Mabel Parker and Mrs. Freda Thompson.

Eleven years ago the congregation installed a Franklin-Legg Pipe Organ in the sanctuary, which is played by the very competent and talented organist, Edwin Watson. It is claimed the Eden Mills Church is the smallest church in Canada to be equipped with a pipe organ. The pews in use at the present

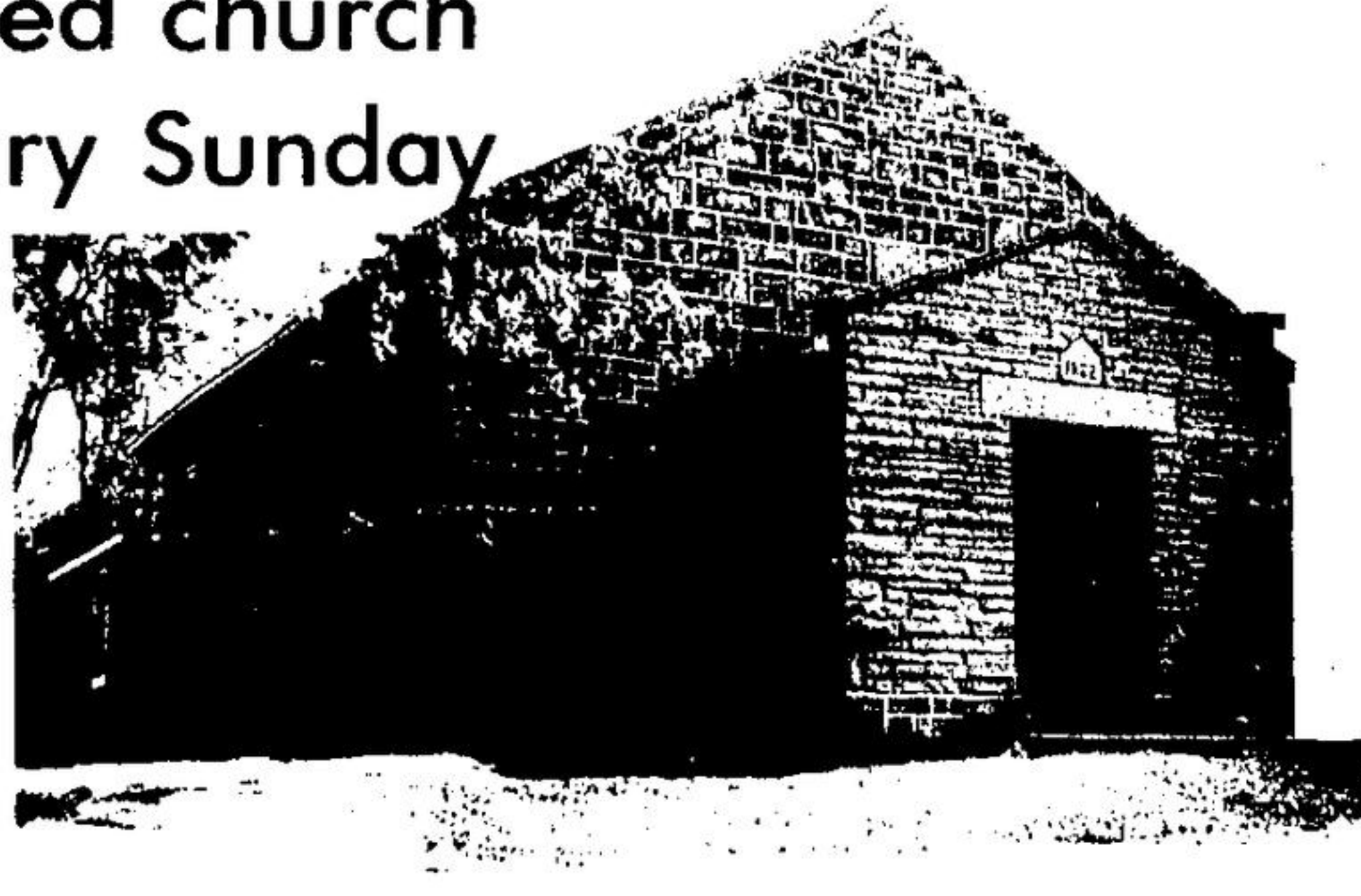
time were the gift of the Binky United Church in Hamilton when they built a new church.

Add stone porch
In 1962, a new stone porch was added to the front of the church, replacing the old wooden one which had served for 101 years. This summer, after 109 years of service, the ceiling plaster began to loosen and a new ceiling had to be installed.

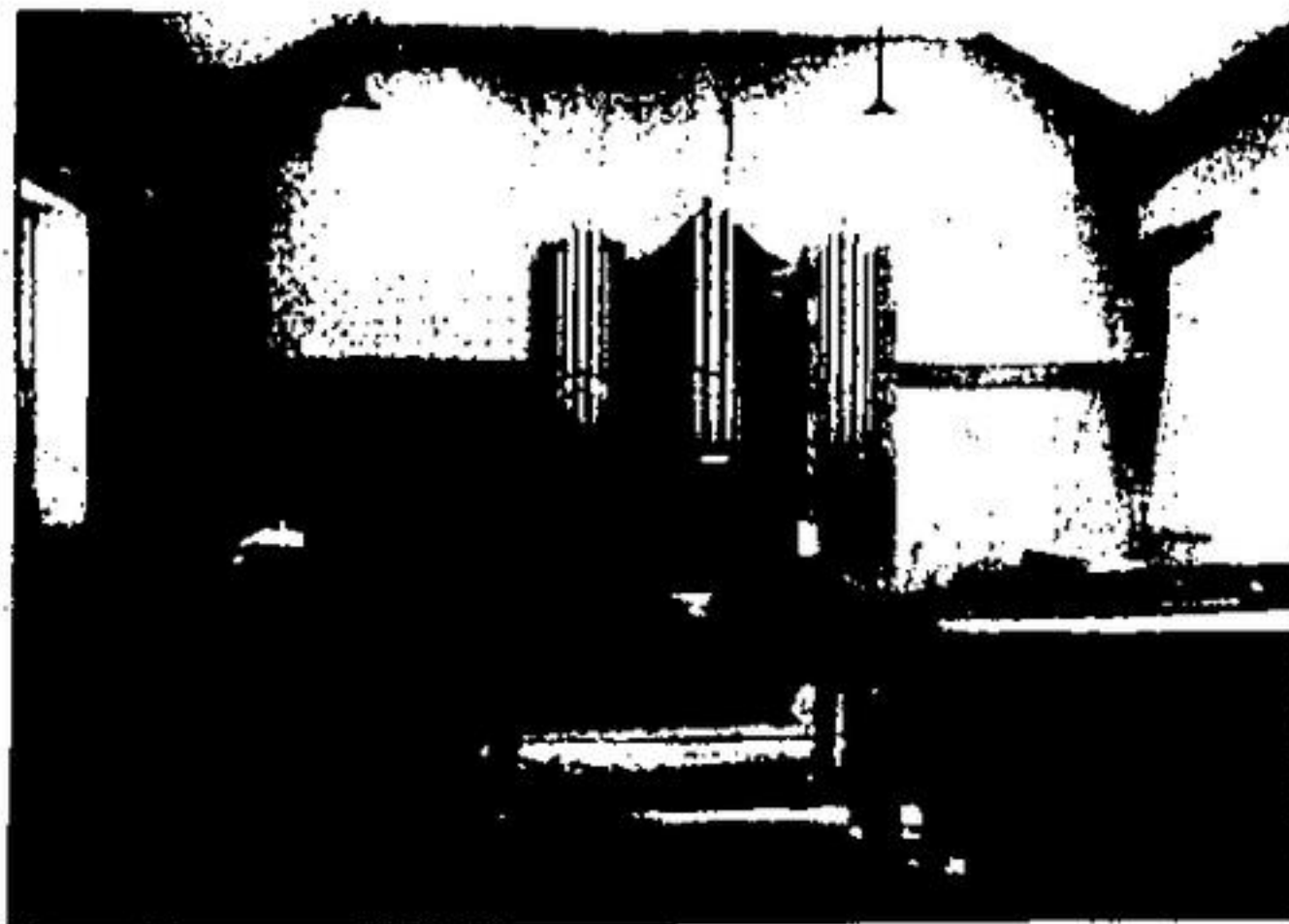
In the last 15 years the church has tripled in attendance and also in its financial givings.

All renovations in the church have been done by the members themselves, a fact which gives them a great deal of pride in the church and its achievements.

Sunday's services will be held at 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Old friends and new friends are invited to attend. They will be heartily welcomed.



Church Entrance Dedicated Sunday, Sept. 16th, 1962



The Church Sanctuary

A letter from Eden Mills

This week the Free Press starts something different in the way of a column. Miss V. K. Barrow, who has lived at Eden Mills for the past five years, found it a delightful place to live. She told the editor she would like to pay some sort of tribute to a community where there was an abundance of good will, a friendly feeling for neighbors as well as being picturesque. So Miss Barrow has composed a series of letters describing life in Eden Mills which the Free Press will publish. This is the first episode.

Eden Mills, Ont.
9 June, 1965

Dear May:

I have just bought a 130-year old house! I told you I was going to move down here, didn't I? Well, this afternoon there was an ad in the paper for this house, and it was in a lovely little village I'd driven through in the morning, so I phoned the agent, and we went out to see it.

Isn't it exciting!
It's a cottage - that is, it's all on one floor - the grey limestone walls are at least 18 inches thick. It has a sun porch, kitchen, living-room and three bedrooms.

The house is rectangular, about 25 feet by 40 feet overall dimensions, I should say. The kitchen is about 14 feet square, and a bathroom has been made out of the old pantry just off it. What a funny little window it is in the bathroom. Then the living-room is 17 feet by 19 feet, and two of the bedrooms run along the back wall.

Actually, at one time there were three rooms there, but a wall was knocked down to make a bigger room. I hear that years ago there were seven children in one of the families which lived here. The builder seems to have had trouble with the molding in the bedroom, because there is a slice out, as if with a broad axe, so the door will shut.

At the far end of the living-room from the kitchen is a huge front door, and beyond that again, a lovely big bedroom, 12 feet by 14

feet - the 12-foot pine board floor looks to be in good condition. And then in the far back corner is a room about 12 feet square which, I suppose, was a dressing room.

At the moment you can walk right through to the long bedroom - but I think I'll have cupboards built in there eventually, because, of course in these old houses there are few built-in cupboards.

One of the things which sold me on the place was the windowsills - 18 inches wide - and then the twelve-pane windows, and view. The house is quite high on a hill, and looks right down the main street, from which it is separated by a cedar hedge. And down at the bottom is the old mill, still operating on water power - they make celery crates and flats. And of course, the mill pond.

All very pretty - tho' not quite as magnificent as our beloved Gatineau. But the lot is quite large and gives a feeling of freedom.

The pump was overhauled last year, and they say a tile has been replaced in the septic tank drainage area - so I hope it is o.k.

This is really a lovely part of the country - rolling hills with lots of trees and several good woodlots. Some of the fields are fairly small, and in places it reminds one of England, and also parts of Kentucky. There is a surprising amount of swamp-land, caused, I suppose, by the limestone formations.

The river bank is lined with old cedars and there is a tremendous line of very old and tall spruce trees lining the road for a good eighth of a mile on the way into the village. One sees lots of these spruce around here used for windbreaks. And I guess they make excellent ones because the lower branches spread wide and reach down to the ground.

Well, my dear, you'll be hearing a lot about this place. We get possession on the 30th. After that date my address will be as above - that is all that is needed.

I do hope things go well with you.
With love,
Val.

Eden Mills

Wilson-Bruce wedding area pollution in news

By Mrs. R. Wright
Eden Mills United Church was the scene of a pretty wedding recently when Carol Bruce, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruce, Eder Mills, was united in marriage to Bradley Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wilson, Rockwood.

Rev. Russell Finley performed the ceremony. The bride was attended by her sister Elsa Bruce and the best man was Bob Doyle. The reception was held for 60 guests at the German Canadian Club in Guelph.

The happy couple will reside in Guelph.

The ladies of the United Church U.C.W. held a bake sale and rummage sale in the church education room Wednesday evening. Various articles were on sale for the many buyers.

The monthly meeting of Eden Mills district Community Club was held Wednesday evening in the hall. Minutes of last meeting

were read and approved and the treasurer's report was very gratifying after the recent Fun Fair and Ball tournament. A dance at the Rod and Gun Club is to be held in October with Committee for same selected.

Several members of the Rockwood and area ratepayers association attended the meeting with John Clark as guest speaker. He enlightened the Community Club members on the situation in regards to water pollution in our

area. An open meeting is to be held in Eden Mills Hall Monday the 21st.

Mrs. Violet Williams of Danville, Illinois, U.S.A. was a visitor for ten days with Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Neville.

"Neither do I," responded the husband, "but she's great with the kids."

Health Unit rules on new subdivision draw council's ire

Health Unit requirements for Eden Park Subdivision proposed at Eden Mills drew the ire of Councillor Alan Ackman at Nassagaweya Township Council meeting Monday.

"Virtually the entire village of Eden Mills is on rock. If six feet of soil is required over the rock nothing would have been built there", he declared.

System "archaic"
"Why do we restrict our thinking to archaic systems. There are systems which eliminate sewage. Why aren't these being considered?"

The councillor was commenting on a letter from the Halton County Health Unit to Harold Williams regarding a

proposed village subdivision. The Unit required a communal water supply approved by the OWRC and the township engineer which would be taken over by the township on completion of the subdivision.

It was also pointed out on rock areas or rock outcroppings in field tile beds six feet of soil would be required. Preparation of an area which would permit later doubling of the size of the tile bed would also be a requirement of the subdivision, the Health Unit noted.

Pretty expensive
Reeve A. MacArthur suggested it looked like the subdivision was going to be expensive for the township. "If there's a gravel pit in the area it should be used for a sanitary land fill site and forget the subdivision", she observed.

At the suggestion of Councillor A. Gibson, Councillor Ackman will discuss the requirements with Health Unit officials.

H. S. HOLDEN
OPTOMETRIST
34 Cork St. East
GUELPH
Phone TA 2-7150

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Night School Course ADULT PROGRAMME

As part of its service to the Community, the Acton Citizens' Band is prepared to offer a Night School Course in Instrumental Music for interested adults.

For further information contact George Elliott at 853-0365 between the hours of 6 and 7 p.m. any evening before October 2.

Nassagaweya Council Briefs

STUDY CURVES

Highways Minister George Gomme told Nassagaweya Council in a letter this week his department was investigating complaints about an unusual accident toll on a part of Highway 401. The investigation is to cover possible need of shoulder stabilization, further shoulder maintenance, curve warning signs and the banking of the curves.

STEELES AVE.

Nassagaweya Council indicated to Milton Council Monday it had no objection to the suggestion the Base Line Rd. be called Steeles Ave. across the width of the county. Milton Council noted some confusion on the naming of the road and sought the township's views.

INDUSTRIAL APPOINTMENT

Former Clerk J. C. McIntyre submitted his resignation as township representative to the Halton County Industrial Committee Monday. The resignation was accepted and the township's appreciation for his services recorded. A new representative is to be named at the next meeting. Clerk Campbell Thompson asked members to consider naming someone other than himself.

PLAN OPPOSITION

Nassagaweya Council went behind closed doors Monday to prepare its case against the current application of Cloverleaf Quarries to rezone its land from Quarry Holding to Quarry. The O.M.B. hearing is scheduled for September 22 and may last for three days. It is expected ratepayer objections may be heard on September 23, according to the township solicitors.

Street lights for Ballinafad

At Monday night's meeting of Esqueasing council clerk-treasurer Delmar French reported he attended a meeting with Ontario Hydro officials at Ballinafad last Thursday night concerning street lights for the village.

Eight lights are to be installed on the Erin township side of the village and five on the Esqueasing side, Mr. French told council.

Silverwood

Ben Case, W. I. in news

By Mrs. H. Scott

"Ben Case Day"

That was what the sign said and it proved to be right: A large crowd of friends and neighbors gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Ironside on Sunday at 2 p.m. to show their esteem for Mr. Ben Case, a good neighbor and sincere friend to all in the community and also in the larger community outside Silverwood.

The Silverwood Women's Institute decided to honor Mr. Case and no better time than the present so a picnic on the spacious grounds at the Ironsides seemed the best way since his friends are numerous. The weatherman co-operated and it was perfect.

Summoned by bell
Mr. Charles Fogal, neighbor, was capable M.C. - an old school bell called the group to order.

Mr. Gordon Smith was the first to speak. He is an old friend of Ben's. He gave an amusing biographical sketch along with anecdotes of Ben's life up to the present.

Various speakers
Mr. Doug Cole, president, Horticultural Society, spoke next, then Mrs. Keith Barber, Museum board; Mr. George Currie, Esqueasing Council; Mrs. George

Henderson, County President W.I.; Mrs. H. Marchington, Branch President W.I., also asst. curator Silverwood's history. Dr. Muchmore, an old family friend, was in the crowd and came to the platform to congratulate Ben and wish him well.

Mrs. John Flynn spoke for friends and presented Ben with a beautiful scroll, the work of artist Dorothy Stone. Silverwood Women's Institute presented Ben with a guest book signed by the guests.

Mr. Stewart Scott said a few words and presented the Ironsides with a patio planter filled with gold and yellow flowers, Institute colors.

Thanks everyone
Mr. Case then came to the mike and thanked all for their kindness and good will.

Mr. Case has just recently finished his history of Halton county and it is appearing in the Acton Free Press.

Now was coffee, tea, sandwich and cookie time served by Silverwood W.I. and a social hour of visiting old friends and neighbors was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Ethel Hay, sister of Mr. Case, visited with him on Sunday, Sept. 6.

Joint meeting

Silverwood Women's Institute and Limehouse Women's In-

stitute combined efforts and held their joint September meeting Thursday evening, September 3 in the hall at Limehouse. The meeting opened with the Ode and singing of The more we get together the happier we'll be.

Mrs. Brown, president of Limehouse W.I., welcomed Silverwood ladies and Mrs. Marchington replied we were all happy to be there. It was a public relations and resolutions meeting.

Mrs. Brown, public relations for the country, explained many aspects of this part of Institute work.

Mrs. H. Scott, branch P.R. officer, read a paper on creating public image by each and every member.

Resolutions by Mrs. Anderson, Limehouse were then explained: how, why, and the way to draft a resolution with much serious thinking beforehand.

Meeting closed with the Queen and a social half hour was enjoyed by all.

Hazardous driving

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bailey, Susan and Kim enjoyed a weekend at their Parry Sound cottage.

Work is progressing on the highway and the driving is hazardous. That lone dead elm is still standing north of Casselman's oil tanks.

We're putting all the hard facts about drug abuse in free pamphlets at the drugstore.

The only people who could end up paying are the ones who don't take them home.

There's a lot to know about drug abuse. And most of us haven't got a clue where to start.

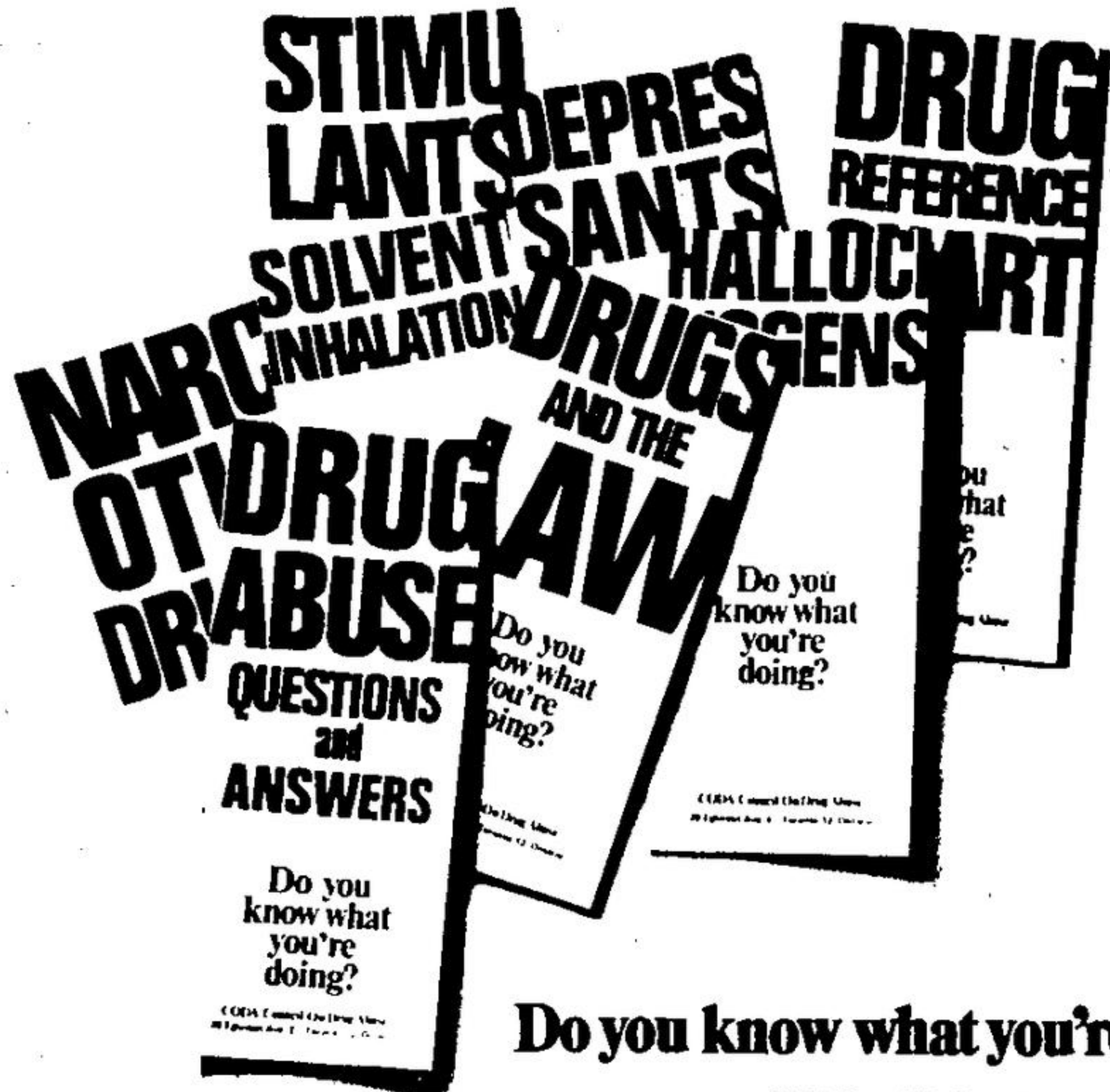
Particularly the people who are taking the drugs. We've got a simple solution. What we've done is created a series of free pamphlets about drugs. Pamphlets that are written in layman's language. Pamphlets that tell you the straight hard facts about the drug. What it does. How high it takes you. How low it lets you down. What it can do to you psychologically. What it can do to you physically. What it can do to your children. What it can do to the world. And, hopefully, pamphlets that give you most of all the information you could possibly want.

We know that preaching and moralizing and speaking from some place on high isn't going to help solve the drug abuse problem at all. We hope,

however, that we can tell you, whether you're on drugs or you're concerned about them, a lot of things you should know. The result? You make your own decision.

That's your concern. Not ours. And we'll do our best to leave it that way.

So remember, the information about any drug that concerns you (LSD, Speed, Hash, and on, and on) is at your drug store. You don't have to buy anything. You don't have to talk to anyone. (You just go and pick up the pamphlets.) Take them home. They're free. And the only ones who'll end up paying will be those of you who don't get them. Because the cost of ignorance is far more than the great value of knowledge.



Do you know what you're doing?

CODA Council On Drug Abuse.

Drop into Acton Pharmacy and procure pamphlets and information on drug abuse. Published in the interest of the community by THE ACTON FREE PRESS and ACTON PHARMACY.