

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### School fosters knowledge of God

October 31, 1970,  
R. R. 4, Acton

Dear sir;

In reply to the letter in last week's Free Press in the column "Our Readers Write"; I mean the one signed "concerned ratepayer". First, let me get off my chest that he seems concerned not only with the rates he has to pay, but also he seems concerned about his good name. Why else did he not sign his name to such a letter?

Secondly, he sees the beginning of another separatist movement in Acton as well as all over Ontario. The Christian School is not meant as such. Not only for the Dutch-Canadian, as the concerned ratepayer thinks, but open to every child whose parents wish to send them there.

Then why are there only a few Canadian children found in these schools? For the simple reason that it is very expensive to send your children to these Christian schools. Most people either cannot or will not sacrifice to the tune of approximately \$700 a year.

We all know that in very few public schools is there any actual Christian education given. We are not trying to bring up our children separately from other Canadians. We are simply trying to bring up our children to have knowledge of God and make them realize that God is not meant to be just honored on Sunday by going to church, but that God is a part of our daily life, no matter whether we go to school or to work in a factory or do the dishes and the vacuuming in the house.

Sure, we want help from the government. The money we pay out for education is money which could be well used otherwise. Canada is a democratic country and yet it is one of the few democratic countries that has only one schooling system. Eighty-five countries and three Canadian provinces have a public and a Christian school system, so parents can send their children to the school of their choice.

The concerned ratepayer thinks the taxes for schools will go up if we should receive governmental support. Most likely taxes would go up some but he might do well to remember that had these children been going to public schools all along, his taxes would in all probability have been higher all along and longer ago.

The government counts on a certain amount of money to educate each child. All we wish for is to channel that amount to the school of the parents choice, public or Christian.

Yes, we are happy we have come to this country, but we, like anyone else, are not getting anything for nothing. We work for every penny we get. In that I consider ourselves to be good Canadians and not separatists.

A Christian school is not our way of preserving our cultural or religious heritage but it is our way of trying to raise children who will love and know about God so that when they grow up they will not be separatists, but Christian Canadians.

Yours sincerely,  
An also concerned ratepayer,  
Mrs. John Looyenga

### Does anyone really care?

I have lived around here for 15 years, so feel entitled to speak as I see it. I have two teenagers myself, but lay claim to no other distinction, than trying to show right from wrong, which, gets harder every day when they see what the majority of people are really like.

What has happened to us as human beings? The young people seem to take second place with most parents, who are so busy grubbing and paying and trying to get ahead of the next one, they don't have time to even care what their children are doing, as long as they don't bother them. What is in our town for the young ones who are our future generation?

It has been an uphill fight for me all my adult life but what I was taught by my parents has stood by me.

I was a rebel too, but could always talk everything over with them and have tried to do the same for my children. But how can they come to you if you push them away?

What do we have in our town to keep them interested and off the streets? What else is there for them except riding around in cars (some their parents) and looking to see what they can do next to show off to the other fellow their disregard for right and wrong.

The community as a whole has fallen short somewhere! Even our Churches have changed, or have they just given up? Why are the parents to-day not getting any respect or love? Their fault?

You have to earn it to receive it and live it to teach it. Like a lot of small communities, a few people seem to take over here, and the rest sit back and do nothing but complain and find fault. Why? Are you too busy, lazy or indifferent to care?

Why don't you do something before it is too late? Granted it is much easier to drift with the tide than fight, but the tide goes out sometime, then what?

We as parents, were given a trust. When you are asked by the "One" who gave it to us, what did you accomplish with the "Life" given to your care, what will your answer be?

Sorry! I really don't know. I was too busy with other things.

Wake up!! we are almost at the end of the slide and no one is there to catch us.

The most precious thing "Life" we were given, we didn't have to buy it. What have you done with your gift?

Or does anyone really care?

Mother of Four

### Catholics ask "equal opportunity"

Walkerton, Ont.  
October 31, 1970.

Dear Sir:

In a letter appearing in the Free Press on Wednesday, October 28, a concerned ratepayer very strongly opposes tax support for Dutch schools. However, in doing so, he very unjustly attacked the efforts of Roman Catholic parents and their children throughout Ontario who are seeking financial assistance for our schools to the end of Grade 13. This writer remarked that our Separate Schools are "hoping to achieve through persistence and harassment what reasons and logic would deny them."

This could not be farther from the truth. What the Catholic people of Ontario are asking for is "Equal educational opportunity" which Premier Robarts himself declared to be one of the aims of his government in this province.

The right of the Roman Catholic Separate School System to be in existence is guaranteed by the British North America Act, because Catholic schools were part of the common school system in existence at the time of Confederation. This right is not questioned by our government. However, financial support for our Catholic high schools is limited to elementary grants in Grades 11, 12 and 13. Also, no municipal tax dollars are available to Catholic high schools. All secondary school taxes support only the public high schools. The financial burden on our Catholic people increases year after year. We are asking the government to recognize our rights as found in law in the Province of Ontario. We are not asking the unreasonable or the illogical.

We have today 450,000 students in our separate school system in Ontario, more than one-third of the Ontario student body. Is it not reasonable that the

education of these students be completed in the same system in which it began?

By "harassment" of the government, I wonder if the author of this statement refers to something like the Rally held on October 25 at Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, in which over 20,000 Catholic young people united in showing their concern for the future of Catholic education in this province. They didn't demonstrate with physical violence or property damage. They were young adults, convinced of the importance of their cause, enthused by the experience they had shared through their years spent in our Catholic schools.

We are persistent, yes, because we feel our separate school system is forming young men and women, concerned with their responsibilities as citizens of Canada and also as committed Christians. And is this going to have a divisive effect in our society? Will it separate our Catholic people from other peoples? I think not! It will prepare them, we hope, to make the greatest contribution possible to church and country.

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees at the request of the government, have devised a workable solution to this problem without adding extra burdens to the tax-payer. We await the government response to this solution.

I sympathize with the concern of the Dutch people and with many other parents who feel that religion should not be excluded from the school. However, our situation is different, in that minority groups which had no rights and privileges in 1867 would require special legislation. We have those rights by law. We ask that they be respected.

Yours sincerely,  
Rev. Mike Bennett,  
Walkerton, Ont.

### Acton-only folks the same

The Editor,  
The Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir:

On a recent visit to Acton, my old home town, I was quite taken back for a little while to find the old post office gone. Although we get the Free Press every week (we have lived in Galt for 20 years) and knew from the paper that the old building was to come down, it was a bit of a shock to see what a change it has made to the main street from every angle.

We all look forward to progress, no matter where we live, but somehow when we live some other place for a while and come back to visit, we naturally look for the old landmarks we knew and loved so well for many years. With this in mind, the following lines describe those feelings:

#### ONLY THE FOLKS ARE JUST THE SAME.

The old town clock is gone for good.  
No one every thought it would.  
I looked and looked, I turned my head.  
There's just a bank now there instead.

A new new school to learn the Rule.  
Skill Golden altho' they changed the school.  
Reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic have changed a bit.

It's mathematics now with all the flares.  
Old timers figure just the same but Grand kids work it out with airs.

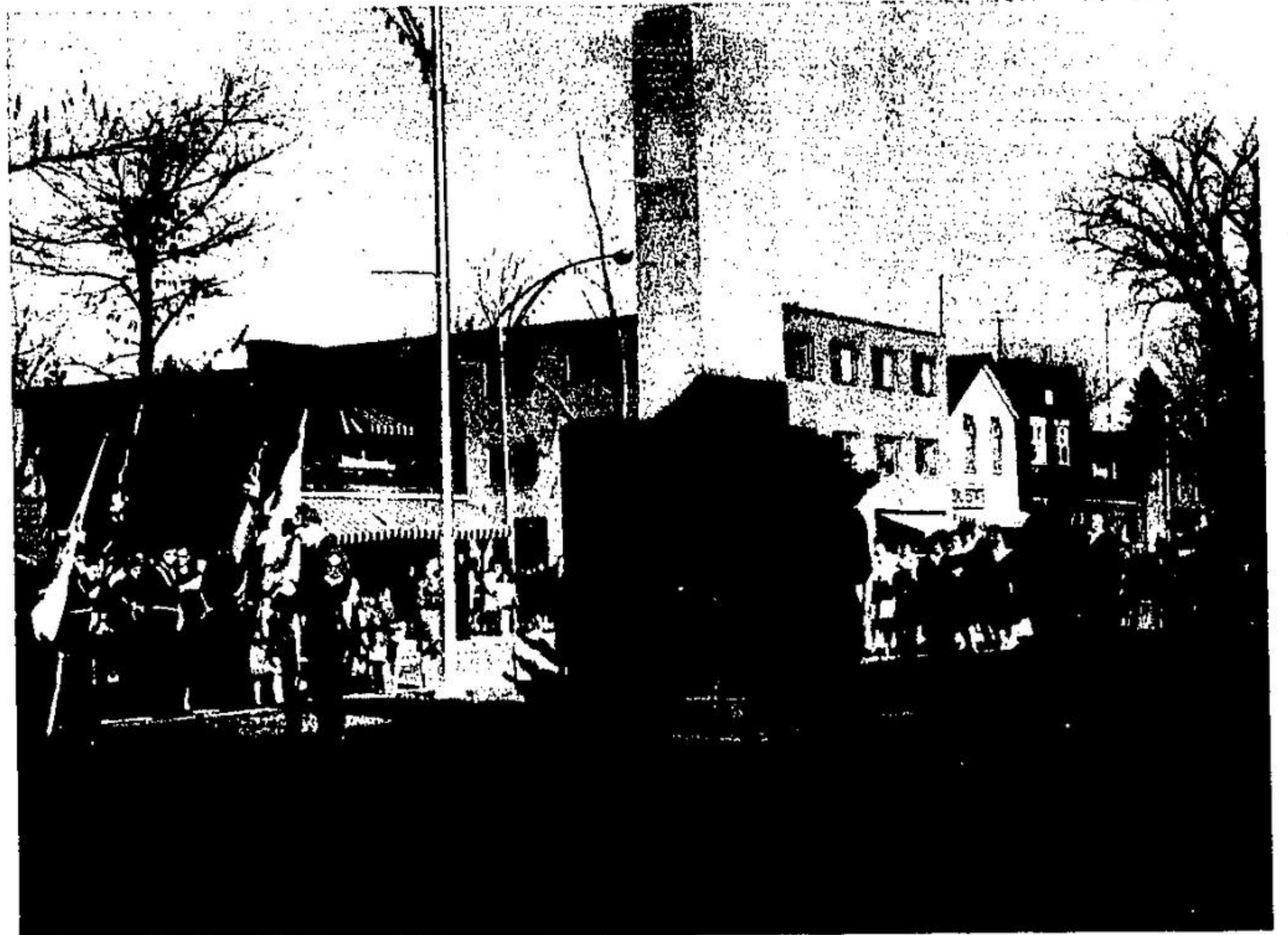
The old home church to quite a few,  
Where we gathered the sheaves and sang for you,  
Has long since gone but in its place,  
We have a brand new home of Grace.

There was a factory on the Bower.  
It gave a living hour by hour.  
Mitts and gloves to warm our hands.  
Now we mail our letters at a brand new stand.

It boasts traffic lights to direct your way.  
The cars drive fast, too fast for me.  
But watch your step, you'll stub your toe.  
The sidewalks are in a h—of a hole.

Only the folks are just the same.  
Old friends always pleased to call your name.  
The old town spirit and happy smiles.  
Still greet you, no matter how far you travel the miles.

Yours very truly,  
Kitty (Savage) Currie  
(Mrs. J. C.)



AN HONOR GUARD from the Lorne Scots Regiment stands reverently before the Mill St. cenotaph during Sunday's ceremonies to honor those who paid the

supreme sacrifice in two wars. Sunday's brilliant sunshine made perfect weather for the annual observance.—(Staff Photo)



### Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

I have just got home from something as rare and delightful as a personally conducted tour of Buckingham Palace — a teachers' staff meeting that lasted only half an hour. This is equivalent to building the Pyramids in three weeks.

Meetings, as such, are a particular annex in hell for anyone who has been in the newspaper business and attended at least one, and sometimes two, every working day of the year.

Ninety-five per cent of meetings are unnecessary, unenlightening, and unproductive. They are the refuge of bores of both sexes, who take out their personal frustrations by frustrating everyone else. These people have their little dinkies: Raising points of order; moving amendments to the motion; and haggling for interminable times over items that could be solved in eight seconds by a three-year-old with two hands.

Occasionally, a meeting produces sparks, a clash, a conflict of personalities or ideas that light the Stygian gloom. I will remember one town council meeting. One of the councillors, somewhat the worse for something or other, called one of the other councillors, "a gibbering old baboon." A nice thrust.

He wasn't too far off the mark, but was in

no condition himself to hurl such charges. The offended party promptly started peeling off his jacket, and offered to thrash the other "within an inch of your life". The other councillors, and even the mayor, quailed. Chiefly, because both councillors were well into the seventies, I might add that the only blood shed was verbal. But that was a meeting.

Staff meetings are not quite that bad, but they inevitably produce in me a headache so fierce that only a great dollop of some sedative beverage can allay it.

I've seen adults haggling bitterly for half an hour over the chewing of gum. Where it could be chewed, when it should be chewed, and how it should be chewed (open mouth or closed). The only result was that the kids went on blithely chewing gum, wherever, whenever and however they could get away with it.

Deep moral, social and psychological issues are involved in a problem of this magnitude. Is gum bad for the teeth? What do you do if you send a kid to the office, he removes his gum on the way, and swears angrily that it was the teacher's imagination, that he was really chewing his cud out of sheer nervousness? Is it better for the student to chew gum than to chew his fingernails down to the blood?

"Jesus wore long hair and a beard, didn't he?" How do you counter this one (a favorite, by the way, among male students)? Do you say, "Uh, well, uh, Jesus, uh, THROW THAT GUM IN THE BASKET!" Or would you say, "O.K. Buster, turn that blackboard into an ouija board."

This particular staff meeting was about girls wearing slacks. Human experience has shown that girls will wear whatever other girls are wearing. And girls, these days, are wearing slacks. They are comfortable, they can look smart, they are warm in our frigid winters, they prevent boys from peeking up the stairs as the girls ascend in mini-skirts, and they have probably contributed more to containing the population explosion than the old-fashioned night-dress.

Anyway, I expected a marathon. About three hours. They can wear slacks, but only once a week. They can wear slacks, but they can't wear blue jeans. Nobody in my class is going to wear slacks: if it's all right for the boys to wear blue jeans, why can't the girls. And so on.

It was fantastic, but the openly, and bluntly expressed feeling of the majority was that girls should be allowed to wear whatever was in style. And that was that.

One commercial teacher, who could have been expected to come down heavily on the side of "no slacks," said she didn't care if they wore fig leaves as long as they were "neat and tidy".

I'd like to hear what you think about long hair, girls wearing slacks, and all the other things that were unacceptable in our day. Drop a line.

### 75 Years Ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press, Thursday October 31, 1895.

A couple of lawsuits of a private nature are disturbing the residents of Rockwood. They have not been settled as yet.

"King" Callaghan, the professional bridge jumper, leaped from the Poughkeepsie bridge into the Hudson river, a distance of 212 feet. He is probably fatally injured.

Limehouse - The usual silly Hallowe'en's pranks were played by youths who are usually very chary about over exerting themselves at any useful employment.

Burglars visited Milton last week. The night watchman didn't catch them. A wolf skin robe was taken from a buggy in the Methodist church shed last Sunday - presumably by mistake.

### Free Press

### back issues

#### 20 Years Ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 16, 1950.

The 30th annual memorial day service was held Saturday morning at the cenotaph. The names of 32 Acton soldiers who gave their lives were read by Legionnaire A. E. Mills. Three members of the Legion Comrades Thos. Mason, Earle Davidson and Kenneth Mackenzie have also passed on since the last Remembrance Day.

The Legion Charge was given by Lieut. R. M. Storey, and wreaths were placed by Mrs. E. Gibbons, Reeve E. Tyler, Ben Bayliss, Mrs. W. J. Wolfe, Mrs. A. Orr, Mrs. F. J. Wilds, Mrs. R. L. Davidson and W. Shepherd.

Norman Braida sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The Boys and Girls band played hymns and Rev. W. G. Luxton pronounced the benediction.

The parade moved on to the Presbyterian church where the service was continued with Rev. R. H. Armstrong, Hon. Capt. Rev. A. E. Currey and Rev. W. G. Luxton taking part. The Legion choir under the direction of Legionnaire George Musselle led the singing. Mr. J. M. MacDonald, who was a president of Acton Legion for nine years, was in town especially for the Remembrance Day service. He is also an ex-Warden and a former Reeve.

Blow's Foundry has two new sections, each 20 feet by 40 feet.

After due consideration, the Public Utilities Commission accepted the application of Mr. W. D. Mason as Hydro Superintendent.

Mr. S. G. Bennett, president and general manager, has announced the appointment of Mr. Wesley J. Beatty as assistant general manager of Beardmore and Co. Mr. Beatty has been with Beardmore's 25 years.

#### 50 Years Ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 18, 1920.

Armistice Day last Thursday dawned with the first bright sunshine November has produced for a week and for the ceremony the day was dry and pleasant. The unveiling ceremonies in connection with the handsome and substantial monument commenced at 2.30 p.m. The 300 or 400 pupils were paraded from the school grounds by Acton Citizens' Band. Before delivering the chairman's address Capt. Torrence Beardmore read letters of regret from Premier Drury and Judge Elliott. On the committee of five which made the arrangements were Dr. Gray, who was absent and recovering from illness, Mrs. George Havill, Mrs. Murray MacDonald, Councillor Arnold and himself.

A large union choir sang Kipling's Recessional Hymn. The important ceremony of unveiling was performed by Col. Boak, chief of staff of the Military District. The monument was enshrined in an immense Union Jack. Representatives of the Masonic, Oddfellows and Sons of England Lodges, the G.W.V.A., Daughters of the Empire, Junior Daughters, John Brown and family, Messrs. Beardmore and Co. and the Acton Tanning Co. silently deposited wreaths of flowers.

Major Rev. Burch, chaplain Soldiers' Civic Re-Establishment, made the dedicatory address.

The relatives of the fallen heroes were seated on the terrace before the monument and a large company of citizens and visitors assembled in the rear.

The Last Post and Reveille were sounded and Rev. I. M. Meyer offered prayer.

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