



ONE OF THE FAMOUS and lovely hostels in this area, well known for the quality of its cuisine and the beauty of its gardens, is the Terra Cotta Inn, picturesquely situated beside the fast flowing Credit River. The inn is becoming increasingly popular with blue bloods from the city while the village, always a pretty hamlet, is donning an artist's smock as various craftsmen set up shop to attract art lovers and connoisseurs.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

Ah, this is a grand time of the year, entirely. Once the heat wave is over, you couldn't find a more wonderful place in the world to live.

The sun is like a bronze hammer. But at night you need a blanket. The swimmers are swimming, the sailors are sailing, the golfers are golfing, and the drinkers are drinking.

True, the workers are working, but they're just back from their two-weeks-with-pay, peeling gloriously and bragging about the sensational place they found, with hot and cold running rats, or they're looking forward to their two weeks at Camp Missetvating.

So everybody is happy. The children are delightful, graceful, brown little things, with ice cream smeared around their mouths.

The mothers are strutting around in garments for which they'd have been thrown in the penitentiary 20 years ago. And loving it. (I personally think some of them should still be incarcerated, but personal opinions have no place in an objective column).

The dads, the lucky ones who are able to

be on holidays with their families, are bubbling with joy. You can tell by the way they affectionately cuff their kids, roll their eyes until the whites show (sheer ecstasy), when their wives hand them a one-foot shopping list, and stroll trance-like through the supermarket, knocking down little old ladies.

The other dads, the unlucky ones who have to stay in the city and work while the family is at the cottage, are pretty sad. You can tell by the way they act after work. Of them, just the odd one or two, haven't even the heart to go home to that silent, lonely house. They know they'd burst into tears. So they just head, with a miserable, bereft gleam in their eye, to the nearest air-conditioned bar. Poor devils. No one to talk to except go-go girls.

Some of the better adjusted unlucky dads, of course, don't do that. They go straight home from work and straight to the refrigerator. Then they tear off their shirts and shoes. Then they look at the kitchen sink, almost throw up, shrug manfully, and turn on the television. Waking with a start at 10 p.m., they phone and order some Chinese food. Then they turn on the lawn sprinkler. This is the only known positive method to make sure it rains all night.

Then there are the happy, irrepressible

teenagers. You can spot them, regardless of sex, by their hump. They have all been told, all through their lives, to keep their shoulders back and heads up. As a result, they walk with their heads on their chests and shoulders humped. That, not clothes or hair, is the main reason you can't differentiate between the sexes. How can you tell it's a girl if she isn't sticking her chest out?

And of course, in summer in Canada, and everywhere I guess, we have the summer animals. Raccoon are cute, but a pain in the arm to campers. Bears are sweet, too, but a menace in the provincial parks. Tip to the campers: if you want to stroke a bear, make sure you do it with your artificial arm.

But we can cope with these animals. What concerns me is the ones that walk upright. They come in all sizes and intensities.

There is the mild little man who powers mows his lawn every night, whether it needs it or not. He's probably just trying to get away from his wife's incessant babble.

Then there's the power-boat baby. He can be any age from eight to eighty. But with fifty horses behind him, he's Kirk Douglas, or Burt Lancaster or John Wayne or somebody. He's trying to prove something.

And, naturally, summer spawns the motorcycle gang. This is the wolverine of the two-legged animal. It destroys for pleasure and leaves its stink everywhere.

But it's a pretty good world. Have a happy summer.

We're no better, no worse . . .

We have purposefully avoided mention of drugs and the Acton youth centre in these columns for two reasons. One, we did not want to give the narcotics trade any more publicity than they already receive from more flamboyant circles. Two, we wanted to see the youth centre have every opportunity to succeed despite the pessimism of some.

Now we feel it is time to set the record straight on some aspects of a situation which has developed over bad publicity which paints this community with a very black brush, indeed.

Despite unsupported statements in a Toronto daily paper that Acton has the highest delinquency rate of any town its size in Ontario, residents here need not become unduly alarmed. The situation has not changed overnight. Acton is no better or no worse than other communities of the same size all statements to the contrary.

However, we feel residents of Acton have no reason to be complacent about very real problems flowing over from nearby cities. We have drug problems in addition to the usual alcohol problems. They could swell if nothing constructive is done about them.

We see the youth centre and the efforts to provide recreation as a

positive step to combat youthful restlessness, which is neither unique or confined to Acton. Methods used are not our department but we are confident those in charge of the program have looked into the matter before advocating the type of centre operated at the YMCA.

We understand the attitude of adults who think youth are whiners complaining about having nothing to do, but at the same time making no effort to provide recreation and entertainment for themselves. Most adults over the age of 30 grew up in an era where they had to make their own recreation and entertainment without much encouragement from their elders.

At the same time many of us forget that times and conditions have changed. Temptations are more varied and accessible. There are those who encourage erratic behavior and it is not uncommon for their opinions to be disseminated with impunity. Most of us were raised when under more sheltered circumstances.

Consequently, we feel every effort should be made to assist youth and those interested in assisting them. At the same time, we don't intend to discard objective judgment about

youth's own contribution to their plight. We take issue with statements from some, for instance, about lack of things for teens to do in Acton.

Acton has one of the most complete recreation and sports programs of any community in the county or maybe even the province. We have a beautiful small lake ideal for swimming, boating, fishing and dozens of other aquatic interests. We are close to many major centres where more exotic entertainment is available.

It is true the town could use a movie theatre but it is not long ago one closed for lack of business. We'd like to see more dances for the teenagers but it was bad actors among some of the teens which scared many actively interested adults from promoting more of them.

The activity coin, you see, is not the one-sided piece of silver some teens pretend it is.

Perhaps it is time now the entire issue has been raised, for both adults and youth to reappraise their respective prejudices and unite in a program that will benefit all, from cradle to the grave. Then we would be protected from itinerant reporters hunting for superficial impressions.

Free Press Editorial Page

End public haggling . . .

We suspect the public is about as sick of the public flaying between secondary school teachers and the Board of Education as we are.

One week the teachers reject a settlement endorsed by their negotiating committee and turn on the Board for what they term injustices. The next week the Board, having had time to prepare its carefully couched observations, attacks the weaknesses in the teachers' argument.

Each side is clearly playing with figures and the negotiations are non-existent while each attempts to gain public sentiment. It's a typical management-employee hassle and each side naturally thinks they're right, but Joe Public who has his hand on the cheque book is caught in the confusion being generated.

For instance take the percentage of increase the teachers are seeking. The Board says it's one figure and the

teachers say another (lower). The teachers don't calculate in their figure the annual increment they would have received on the basis of their previous agreement. The Board says the annual increment is still an increase in pay and is thus reflected in the percentage increase being sought.

Let's face it. For the taxpayer every cent over last year's salary is an increase despite the intricacies of where it was in last year's contract or this year's.

We hope the rounds of attack will not continue indefinitely but it is a little surprising to find the teachers don't expect to resume negotiations until after the two month summer holiday. The teachers maintain summer studies have scattered their negotiating committee and argue that if negotiations had been scheduled by the board so they could have been continued through meetings of suf-

ficient length, greater progress would have been made. They object to meetings from which the board representatives must excuse themselves after a limited time to attend other scheduled meetings.

Presumably the issue will be settled in the fall and the "fullness of time" but it disturbs us that the annual haggling goes on and takes its toll on the respect we've sensed for education in general. It disturbs us too that as part of the press we're being "used" as messengers between Board and Teachers for attacks between the key partners in Education.

And we think that taxpayers are not quite as confused as some might think. The cost of operating schools is not declining and no matter how you cut the cake, more than 70 per cent of the costs are related to instruction. That's why Joe Public is still going to have an anxious eye on the final settlements.

—The Canadian Champion

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 9, 1951.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brown received about 125 guests at their home at the corner of Mill and John St. when they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mr. Brown operated a drug store on Mill St. for half a century. Both have been very active in the United church and he was Sunday School superintendent for 30 years.

Mayor Tyler hoisted the cornerstone into place and chairman Oakes spread the mortar as school board officials watched the cornerstone laying on the site of the \$227,000 addition to Acton Public School.

Nine Scouts from the First Acton troop with the scoutmaster Dave Dills and his assistant Hartley Coles spent last week at Beausoleil Island — David Cooke, Bill Bruce, Hewitt Sirrs, Ron Sinclair, Bob Coon, John Creasey, Jack Davidson, Peter Hurst and John Hutnagel.

Limehouse W. I. has decided to build shelves in the Memorial Hall in which to keep the library books.

The hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson on the third line was opened twice this week. About 35 friends of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mason gathered at a surprise party to honor them on their recent marriage. Knox Ladies' Aid with their children, grandchildren and friends held a picnic there.

George Mason was presented with his past president's pin at Rotary last week. A new phone booth has just been placed north of the Dominion Hotel. This makes four in town with the others in Wartime Housing, at Baintline's Garage, and outside the Bell Telephone office.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 4, 1921.

The following Acton students were successful in the Upper School and Junior Matriculation examinations: Elmer Henderson, Jessie Mowat, Annie Snyder, John Waldie.

The annual Ontario Quilting championship tournament was held on the quilting rinks of the Acton Athletic Association on Saturday and Monday. The tournament was

in every respect a success. The tournament was opened by H. P. Moore who was introduced by the indefatigable secretary of the Acton Athletic Association, John Wood. The players were delighted with Acton. There were players from Queen City, Milton, London, Sarnia, Bolton and Acton. The visiting quilters on Sunday attended divine service at the Methodist church in a body. Their secretary preached a fervent sermon. The visitors were very impressed by Acton's grounds, provided through the generosity of Messrs. Beardmore and Co.

A former champion, Hugh Cameron of Sarnia, was welcomed. He pointed out the place, within a few yards from the present rinks, where he pitched quoits on the Old Commons 50 years ago.

Representatives of four generations of the Matthews family visited the ancestral home at Elora, founded by the grandfather of Postmaster Matthews 100 years ago. Miss Margaret Bennett leaves today on her trip to England.

Miss Olive Mowat has passed her Normal

School examinations and has been appointed a teacher at Orde St. school in Toronto.

The Women's Institute held one of the most meritorious garden parties of the season in the park, to raise money for a drinking fountain.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 30, 1896.

Between 700 and 800 friends of the Presbyterian churches at Erin and Ospringe picnicked at Stanley Park.

If people enjoy a game of baseball sufficiently to go to the park to see it they should pay their way. Some do not pay but climb the fence at points they think obscure.

H. Ramshaw, the artist, has opened a bicycle livery and will supply wheels by the day or hour.

Looking lightly in brief . . .

Civic Holiday falls on Monday and it seems there is a determined effort to keep it one. The holiday also marks the half-way point for children's school vacation.

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Acton is in an ideal location for visiting conservation areas. Rockwood, Kelso and Terra Cotta Conservation Parks are all within short driving distance. Each one has a distinctive flavor of its own. This is partly because they are operated by three entirely different conservation authorities but also because of the difference in terrain on which they are situated. Rockwood park, one of the prettiest anywhere, is operated by the Grand River Conservation Authority, Kelso Park run by the Halton Region Authority, has some spectacular scenery and a museum while the Credit Valley Conservation Authority operates Terra Cotta Park, noted for its all-round program.

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Science has brought us some really exciting new inventions lately including a perfume that drives women crazy . . . it smells like money; a dog food that tastes like a milkman's leg; cellophane shirts for people who have to watch their waists; and most original, a long knife that can cut four loaves of bread at the same time -- known as a four-loaf cleaver.

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Acton newsman Jack Carpenter, hired to take pictures of the Miss Nude World beauty contest near Freelon last weekend, reports he had a heck of a time getting near enough to contestants to get pictures. There were so many other cameramen there, Jack claims they outnumbered the crowd. Jack's not too sure they all had film in their cameras but he notes that nude beauty contests are just a ho-hum job after you've been exposed to all that skin for several

hours. He was impressed by the high calibre of the program despite the nudity, or because of it. Take your pick. Noting several other newsmen had doffed their clothes to get in the spirit of the occasion, Jack excused himself by saying he had nowhere to put the film in his pockets.

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One for the road
I have always felt
Isn't exactly
A safety belt.



Keep those seat belts on while driving, especially the lap-shoulder combination. The Ontario Safety League reports that of 180 cases in General Motors files where at least one occupant was wearing the lap-shoulder seat belt, 60 per cent of the vehicles had heavy damage of the type often associated with injuries. However, 99 per cent of the lap-shoulder belt users had no injury or only minor injury when involved in a collision.

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When you think of farm vacations the name of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Freeman automatically crops up. Frank and his wife have been very much in the limelight over their participation in the farm vacation schemes. This past week they have appeared in a four column picture in the Toronto Daily Star and Monday afternoon on CKCO-TV Kitchener, interviewed on the Elaine Cole show. Naturally the subject was farm vacations. What better place for frazzled nerves?

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Bilingualism has officially come to Acton last week when post office signs were erected in both English and French. Some applaud. Others just shake their heads. We couldn't care less.

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The Toronto daily newspaper which ran an article claiming Acton has the highest delinquency rate for a town its size in Ontario, adds insult to injury this week by printing the same silhouetted picture taken in Acton with an article on "Birth Control assistance may be available to all." Ye gads, we must be devils here.