



IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SCHOOL CREEK and public library were possible by a joint effort by Acton council and the Halton County Board of Education and once again the creek is a beauty spot. Banks were sodded and the placid water reflects surrounding trees when Jack Carpenter caught the serenity with the Free Press camera early one recent morning. The town hopes to install a series of small dams at different levels to give the creek more appeal.

Bill Smiley



September is bass weather, and last Saturday I had one of the most interesting bass-fishing jaunts I've ever enjoyed.

My old Russian billiards partner, Captain Dalt Hudson, called about noon and asked me if I'd like to go out for a little fish.

The situation was a little tricky, as it was my wedding anniversary and I thought maybe I should stick around. But the Old Battleaxe and I had had a big fight the night before, and she had told me not to come sucking around with a bunch of roses or anything else to mark the occasion, or she'd throw them in my face.

Even so, I had the decency to tell her that Cap. wanted me to go fishing. "Go ahead!" she snarled, and burst into tears.

Many a man would have been unwrapping, but I steered my heart, tip-toed around gathering my gear, and prepared to make a dash for the back door.

She was weeping silently now, trying to make me feel like a heel. She failed. I hadn't been fishing all summer.

"And don't bother coming back!" she fired at me as I snuck out. Picked up the skipper who had a basket full of worms, and down to the dock.

He has a fine boat. Cabin, inboard motor that runs like a Cadillac, and seaworthy as the most frightened old maid could wish.

It was a beautiful, sunny September Day, and I was in good hands, those of a retired captain who had sailed fresh water and salt for about fifty years.

We had a pleasant run up the bay about ten miles, and arrived. "See that little reef," he said. "We'll anchor about 150 yards south-west." I slung in the anchor, doubting, as I always do when I go out with someone who knows the "spots", that there would be a bass within five miles.

We had a quarter bet on who'd catch the first fish. Dalt was telling me how to tie my line and fiddling around filling and lighting his pipe. I tossed my bait overside the whacko, before he'd got the pipe lit, I had a dandy, about 2 1/2 pounds.

It was one of those days you remember. We sat in the sun and bartered lies about the days when we sailed the lakes. His lies were much more picturesque than mine. He told of strikes and storms and colorful characters. I told about scrubbing out lavatories.

Finally, we had our limit and it was time to go. The Cap'n turned the key to start the engine. Total silence. Dead battery.

I wish I had a movie of the various expressions of the Captain's face. There couldn't be a sound track with it, though because he was blistering the paint right off the deck.

We were only about 500 yards offshore, so we started to paddle. It was like paddling the Queen Mary. Two feet ahead and the wind would push us three feet back.

We were lucky. We could have sat there all night, anchored, because the place was rife with reefs. But there was one boat in sight, fishing just offshore. The only sign of human life in that vast bay.

The skipper made a megaphone out of a chart and hollered at them. They waved. We beckoned them. They waved back, friendly as you could want.

The rest of the story is anti-climatic. They finally realized we were in trouble. The chap in the other boat went to his cottage for a booster battery. It didn't boost. He towed us, ignominiously, to his dock, a 14-foot skiff towing a 30-foot queen. Cap muttered all the way in. The shame was almost unbearable.

We got home about 10 p.m., and I thought my wife would be out of her mind with worry.

She wasn't. She was just out, visiting friends. I tracked her down and craftily brought a big plastic bag with twelve bass in it, offered all they wanted to the housewife, and she cleaned the whole lot.

It was a grand day, but the moral is: never go fishing with an expert.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

50 years ago

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, October 11, 1951

Lorne Scots band and the county unit have been chosen for duty in Toronto on Saturday morning on the occasion of the visit to that city of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. This is quite an honor as they are the only band outside Toronto that will take part in the parade in the city.

High school notes—By Carolyn Oakes. Thursday morning the cheer leaders held an assembly in Room 1. The student body practiced cheers and then Mimi Perry sang a solo accompanied by Mr. Hansen. Mr. Heron introduced each rugby player: Fred Gordon, Ron Rolston, Richard Mason, Rod Forc, Bill Somerville, John Cressy, Wayne Arbie, Desmond O'Rourke, Jack Davidson, Don Dawkins, Frank Benton, Ross Morton, David McVey, Frank Lawson, Joe Jany, Jerry White. We boarded two buses for Milton in the afternoon. The Milton boys came on the field first and a few eyes popped at the size of their team. Then our team came out and we all cheered. They practiced for a few minutes and Bill Somerville was carried off the field before the game even started. Our boys couldn't keep up the pace the Milton boys set. The final score was 37-0. We must consider that only two of our players had ever played rugby before.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, October 6, 1921

Last Saturday the commissions of three issuers of marriage licenses in town terminated when the new act came into effect placing the issuing of marriage licenses in the hand of municipal clerks. James Matthews issued licenses for over half a century and George Hynds and H. P. Moore for over 30 years. These three could relate many strange tales growing out of their experiences. All three have had the request "Please take the license back as my girl has gone back on me."

The Great War Veterans Association provided our citizens with a series of high-class entertainment last winter which were greatly enjoyed. There was not much remuneration for the veterans for their entertainment. Nevertheless they have contracted for another series for the coming winter which will embrace five of the best entertainments of the Chautauquus Lyceum Bureau.

Ten of the members of the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the Daughters of the Empire entertained at an enjoyable sociable at the home of Mrs. Joseph Holmes. Misses Jeanie Orr and Olla Armstrong gave musical numbers. Little Miss Ivy Precious was awarded the I.O.D.E. scholarship for the year. Mrs. L. B. Shorey, the regent, graciously made the presentation.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, October 9, 1896

The tenth annual exhibition of Acton's Union Society last Thursday and Friday was favored with Queen's weather. From the serene heavens the sun shot down his benignant rays in the completest of autumnal splendor.

The inside exhibits never looked more handsome. Chinese lanterns and other illuminations were brought into service in the evening. Between 60 and 70 entries of butter were shown with the greatest number of points to Mrs. S. J. Locker and Mrs. Annie Morrison. There were over 100 entries of apples, winners including Geo. Graham, L. G. Matthews, A. Waldie, Fyfe Somerville, John Gordon, Benj. Watkins, Thos. Wilson, James Black, George Leslie. Two exhibits which attracted general attention were the piano and organ exhibits of C. W. Kelly, Guelph and John Moffat, Acton. Their pianists were always the centre of appreciative audiences.

The big entertainment in the town hall was crowded to the doors and there was consequently more or less of confusion through the entire proceedings. The Shaw Entertainment Company proved themselves chaste, varied and creditable. President Duff and secretary T. H. Harding were in ecstasy at the success of the entertainment.

Checkerboarding not uncommon

In the furor produced by a Toronto newspaper about the operations of Whitlock Estates and the titles of its buyers, the Fergus News-Record mentions that the media have paid little attention to the fact that Reference Plans and the so-called checkerboard system of allotting deeds has been general throughout Ontario, certainly in most of the townships of Wellington County. If the deeds of Whitlock purchasers are invalid, so, probably, are thousands of others throughout the province, the News-Record says.

The devices have been used quite frankly to avoid the delay, expense and uncertainty of getting entangled with Ontario's Planning Act and its rapid fluctuations. The Act was re-enacted in 1960 and amended in the years 1962-63, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1968-69, re-enacted in 1970 and amended in 1971.

In 1960 municipalities were authorized to pass by-laws restricting the sale of land (sub-division control) exempting sales of ten acres or more provided the vendor retained at least ten acres. In 1960 the ten acre exemption was removed and any severance (that is sale of a piece of land while the owner retained adjoining lands) had to be approved either by a Town committee of Adjustment (if one existed) or by the Department of Municipal Affairs. This left a great many people stuck with ten-acre parcels, too small for farming, too big for landscaping.

It also left a considerable number of areas where the local council had not enacted any subdivision control by-laws and in 1970 Queen's Park tried of waiting and placed the whole Province under subdivision control to take effect June 27. On June 25 and 26, registry

offices across Ontario were humming registering transactions that would get under the wire in those areas. A high percentage of these would come into the class on which legal opinions now seem to be at loggerheads.

Latest word is that the provincial planning authorities are breathing down the necks of the local committees of adjustment and will in future supervise their decisions.

While Planning (with a capital P) is now right up there with motherhood as a Good Thing, it would help if we were all clear as to its aims and policies. To the uninitiated it looks as if we are trying to discourage developers while at the same time moving steadily toward a situation where only big developers with financial reserves are able to do any amount of building.

Free Press Editorial Page

Unemployed teachers multiply

When school opened this month there were several thousand qualified teachers outside the classroom looking in. There weren't enough jobs to go around.

Only a few years ago teachers were in short supply. Now there is a surplus, most of them recent graduates of teachers' colleges.

According to The Financial Post the culprit in the teacher unemployment picture is the slumping Canadian birthrate. It dropped from 28.5 to 17.6 per thousand in the period 1954-1968 before levelling off.

Canada's 270,000 teachers are the nation's largest professional group and one of the best organized. Still this has not prevented massive unemployment lists which are highest among high school and women elementary teachers. Male public school teachers are still comparatively few, and in demand as potential principals.

Figures across Canada listing unemployed teachers are estimates rather than accurate. They say in British Columbia alone 1,500 teachers are looking for jobs. In June, 1,900 primary and 350 secondary school teachers were without jobs in Ontario. Quebec has an estimated 4,000 teachers who will not get positions this year. Nova Scotia expects as many as 50 per

cent of the new teacher graduates will not get a position.

Although there is much discussion and philosophizing about the improvement in teaching standards because boards can afford to be choosier about whom they hire to instruct, it does little for the teachers who are unable to practice the profession they chose.

It must be a great disappointment for certified teachers when they are forced to go into other work or some other profession for which they may not be suited. We know of three or four young ladies in this area who in our estimation would have made sincere, dedicated teachers, who are unable to find positions. They were forced by economics to accept other positions.

The Teachers' Federation has been aware for some years of the trend to smaller families and the fact fewer jobs would be open. They have also been tremendously aware that surplus teachers could also mean increased competition for the jobs available.

At one time a surplus of teachers meant school boards would start tightening screws on salaries and reducing favorable working conditions. Fortunately this is no longer feasible. The teachers consolidated their position while demand was strong so

that despite the surplus, they still have a strong voice in salary negotiations and working conditions.

So long as teachers are reasonable we can see little wrong with the situation, but if they continue to outstrip other segments of the economy on monetary measures, there will be vociferous dissent from those who pay the shot. The public purse is not a bottomless pit some choose to believe. Many taxpayers are taking a second look at the fact that instruction consumes the greater part of the educational budget.

In sports there are separate bodies which some choose to call "outlaw leagues" because they elect to leave the main body and start up something on their own. They gobble up all the available players and compete with the professionals.

It is conceivable unemployed teachers might well band together and form a federation of their own if numbers increase.

Could two federations compete for recognition with one offering to work for less than the other?

It doesn't sound workable or possible but could be an alternative if teachers and taxes continue to multiply.

From the editor's desk . . .

One of the ironies of being 18, able to vote and drink beer at your favorite watering spot, is that you still have to get dear old Mom and Dad to sign your report card. Students now at the age of majority must rankle at the thought but it is a concession no one has granted.

We suppose some over-18's will consider it a relic of the feudal age because the hands that fed, clothed, spanked and washed them must still sign their name to a report card. But we really can't get excited about the injustice of it all. After all, dear old Mom and Dad still take an interest in Johnny and Betty, and how they are coming along with the books. If they don't get a look at the report card it hardly seems fair after the effort they've put into educating the kids while they were under 18.

Is it too much to expect that the kids in turn will reciprocate for the time they have left in high school?

Sign in a church—if your knees are knocking—kneel on them.

That inquiry into charges of information leaks regarding sale of 506 acres of land at nearby Forks of the Credit to the Government has exonerated directors of Caledon Mountain Estates Limited.

The Commissioner charged with the inquiry has found that the directors of Caledon Mountain Estates Limited had no knowledge at any time of the contents of the Confidential Gettier Report which recommended the Government buy the land. "There was no unusual or improper influence or pressure exerted, political or otherwise, by any director of the Caledon Mountain Estates Limited, or on behalf of the company on any civil servant or member of the Cabinet or of the Legislature in connection with any aspect of the purchase of the 506 acres by the province," the report stated.

However, the commissioner's findings determined there was laxness and negligence in the handling of the report by many people in the civil service and security measures taken to protect the confidentiality of the report were haphazard and seriously inadequate. He also thought the province paid too high a price for the land. As a result of the Inquiry Premier Davis says that a separate and independent land

value appraisal will be obtained in future transactions to avoid the same mistakes. The government intends to proceed in acquiring more land for recreational and related uses along the Niagara Escarpment and elsewhere.

A press release from McQuinn-McBroom advertising came across this desk last week warning or informing us that there is an impending invasion by the Jesus People movement into Guelph and area. They're coming with rock music, spontaneous street-corner revivals, long-haired evangelists and an army of jean-clad youth for three days—from October 1-3. Who are the Jesus People? Apparently the movement got off to a running start simultaneously in Seattle and California, an outgrowth of anti-war sentiment or the flower people, and from there spread northwards and eastward. Don't knock them. Their anti-drug, anti-

hate theology is believed and lived. And apparently they have an astonishingly large group of converts eager to share their life and beliefs. They've got an established ritual, says the release—just young people telling young people about their beliefs—brotherly love and the conviction that Jesus is Lord.

Speareading the Guelph and area "Revolution" is Rev. Ian Schafter, a young evangelist-minister from Morrison United Church. He tells of the Jesus People's wild-fire sweep of Toronto, picking up and converting drug users and "straights" alike from street corners and high schools.

California is well known as the home of "nut" religions but this new fad has had some real influence on young people which has perplexed people from the traditional churches. A Sheridan journalism student, for instance, who spent six weeks with British Columbia's Jesus People has an interesting story to tell in this week's issue of the Sheridan Sun. He's convinced the movement is no passing fad.

In an article by Chris Zelkovich, O'Reilly says he was attracted to the Jesus People by their friendliness and honesty. "The idea that a bunch of former drug addicts could be converted to Christ really interested me," he testified. He joined a group of 30 near Abbotsford, B.C. and was baptized in a lake.

O'Reilly says the Jesus People believe that Russia will launch an attack on Israel but a powerful leader will rise in defense of the Jewish nation and defeat Russia. This leader will then take over the world and force everyone to have the numbers "666" inscribed on their foreheads. Those who refuse will be tortured or executed. At the same time an anti-Christ will appear and perform miracles, subverting many people. Three years after the prophesied Russian invasion, the true Christ will appear and the world will end.

O'Reilly left the retreat feeling the main influence the Jesus People had on him was that he now has an established belief in God. "I now believe God is the only way," he told the reporter.

The most significant comment on the movement, in our opinion, was by the Rev. Andrew M. Greeley, a sociologist. He said: "Last year we had astrology and before that Zen. This year we have the Jesus People. It may be a flash in the pan or it may be real. But the primary significance is that it reflects man's abiding hunger of something to live by."

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