



Never mind the picture - help me out!

COW WITH a bark... too much, in fact. This cow on Wallace Swackhamer's farm on the third line was MOO'ed to distraction when it got its head caught between two trees, with lots of bark and no room to bite. It took three men quite a while to maneuver the cow out. —(Photo by Bill Stuckey)

Bill Smiley



Early autumn, when the weather behaves itself, is a time when no Canadian in his right mind would care to live anywhere else.

This fall, after a moody summer, has been as close to perfection as anything this side of heaven. Golden days to sit around and listen to the acorns fall.

Weeks of frostless nights when it was sheer delight to be out and breathing that ineffable scent of fall.

Golf course almost deserted and offering magnificent vistas of golden trees and lush fairways and off in the distance, vivid blue water of the bay.

And speaking of water, I can scarcely believe it, but we swam at the beach until well into the first week of October. And that's no heated swimming pool, dear reader, but the water of one of the greatest inland lakes in the world.

The beach in October is something. No howling kids who've stubbed their toe on a rock. No mothers screaming at kids who have gone out too far. No beach boys horsing around with a football. No distracting bikinis. No fat old ladies with varicose veins staggering through the sand carrying more beach junk — towels, umbrellas, lawn chairs — than you could load on a mule. No transistor radios blating the latest rock. No teenagers lying around smoking dear knows what.

Nothing. Just miles of clean sand with the odd piece of driftwood. The sun is warm, gentle, not scorching, abrasive. The water is, uh, refreshing, but so clear you can stand up to your belly-button, look down, and tell whether your toenails need cutting.

My wife and I and another couple swam all through September and set our eyes on breaking the October swim barrier. Usually, by October 1st, the water would freeze the brains of a brass monkey.

On the first Saturday in October, we swam and drowsed and talked and read and argued for seven hours. Good company is just the little frill to such a day, when even the gulls seem to co-operate by sitting quietly on the water, bobbing gently, rather than screaming around looking for potato chips and ends of hot dogs, which they do all summer.

Our friends have children and many of the same problems with them that we have had. She is Scottish, with a lot of good sense and a good sense of humour and a refreshing indifference toward owning things and keeping up with the Joneses, and what the neighbors think.

He is a German, and we have a lot in common. He was captured in North Africa and spent most of the war in a prison camp in the States. I was a prisoner in Germany. We compare notes. He is a Doctor of Philosophy, teaching high school mathematics. I needle him by calling him

Herr Doktor, and occasionally click my heels. He just plain needles me.

We walked down the deserted beach. He's a great walker. He's about six feet two and I have to take one and a half strides to his one. He talks while I puff.

"What is it with these teenagers?" he asks. "They talk all the time about how they love nature and how they want to get away from it all, and there's not one in sight on such a beautiful day." I puffed back that the boys were in the poolroom and the girls were strolling the main street, in hot pants, trying to get the boys out of the poolroom. Perfectly normal.

Then I was betrayed. We rounded a spit and there was a male, definitely young, because his moustache was just a glimmer of hope, lying back against a driftwood log, reading. I couldn't resist. Asked him what he was reading. C. S. Lewis, of all things, a brilliant English writer and theologian. Once again my faith that young people are complete hedonists was shattered. Lewis is tough reading, as the lad admitted.

This has been a very inconsequential column. But when I think of the way in which nature can recharge our run-down batteries, all I can say is, "Thanks, God. You're a pretty decent sort after all."

From the editor's desk . . .

Guest column by Jack Carpenter

Every candidate in the Ontario election is asking you to vote, and they have a reason. They want you to vote for them in particular. Soliciting votes is electioneering that's the name of the game.

However, many voices repeat themselves over the years asking you to vote, not so much who you vote for, but asking that you exercise your right to vote. Remember?

It's democracy. Everyone of legal age has a vote, use it. This provincial election now upon us in Ontario has more candidates, more women among them and for the first time in the province's history more eligible voters. Many thousands have been added with the lowering of the voting age. Now the 20's, 19's and 18's, swell the numbers.

It would appear that more people will cast a vote, but will the percentage remain the same?

Election history shows that among the Federal, Provincial, City and municipal elections men have been returned to office with only about a third of the electorate going to the polls.

What makes people vote? A sense of duty, desire, fear, usually some motivation other than the democratic right.

Apathy will account for most of the non-voters. More apparent than ever before, the "my vote won't matter", "one party is as bad as the other", "I can't be bothered", "It's a waste of time", "this election isn't going to

change things", disillusioned public will be apparent by their absence.

With the estimated 400,000 new voters there will be many who will have novelty as an incentive to vote. We will have to wait to see how many join the ranks of the apathetic.

How can you get everyone to vote? Maybe look to Australia where voting is compulsory. This applies to everyone twenty years of age and over.

In many ways the two countries are the same, both of the commonwealth breed, divided into provinces or states, with the same levels of government. Even a great similarity in creating a capital city. The industrial and economic development are alike. Canada is ahead in population, the difference is they do not all vote.

The Australians are fined if they fail to vote. Not only that but when voting they must also indicate their alternate or order of preference of all the candidates. The system of preferential voting is considered by most Aussies as desirable in forming a government.

Taking Halton West as an example you would indicate on your voting paper your preference in order of the three candidates. When counted the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes would be eliminated and his votes distributed as second choice among the two remaining candidates. In this way the declared winner would be the one preferred by the majority of the people in the constituency. I would be

very possible in a close vote for the second place candidate in the first count, to win in the final, thus satisfying the majority.

It is obvious that a popular candidate in the first count would in most cases maintain his lead. However consider our elections, it is possible for more people to vote for one party and yet fail to win the election, and form a government. It is interesting to note that Australia has governed successfully for the past 32 years with a coalition government formed by the Liberal and country parties. On the one hand the Liberals would compare to our Conservative party and the Country Party as its name suggests, is a party representative very largely of rural interests although they will be quick to point out that not all farmers support them, but they do all vote.

Predictions have been made as to who will win what and where. Possibly the least desirable prediction, but probably true is that this election will be won by the people who do not vote.

What we need is a compulsion to vote!

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You'd better try to vote early tomorrow if you can. Halton's chief returning officer is predicting a record turn-out at the polls and expects there might be line-ups later on in the day. Polls are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Be smart . . . vote tomorrow

We notice some other weekly newspapers are coming out in favor of one candidate or another. We're not going to do that. During the past few weeks it has been our policy to be an impartial medium through which all our readers could become better informed about the candidates and the issues.

As well as the regular coverage of news, we interviewed candidates in the ridings in this area and they all obligingly answered questions especially for Free Press readers.

Halton West, Halton East and Wellington-Dufferin voters all read the Free Press and we have tried to include all candidates involved in all three ridings.

Advertising was carried which relayed messages through our pages. Taking pictures, we mentally evened out the coverage for each party. No controversial letters to the editor will

be published today, when it's too late for another candidate to reply through our pages.

We think we have done our part. Now we encourage YOU to do yours. Nothing is more important than that.

A free election must reflect the will of all the people. Maybe you'll back the winner... maybe a loser. But the significant thing is that each man and woman of voting age has reached a thoughtful decision. And then made an effort to be part of the running of our province.

The struggle for democracy, the determination that resulted in votes for women, the memory of those who died for our way of government... those are old stories, heard a hundred times.

How about a modern reason to vote, to tell the over 18's?

What new can we say? A quite unsatisfactory reason, albeit a new angle, is this one.

How about getting your money's worth? This election is costing millions and probably the highest election bill ever. Our printing plant has been involved, printing posters, voters lists advertising. The thought of multiplying this by shops and papers involved all over the province makes us groan. And it's being paid for with OUR money. Go and cast your expensive ballot!

Don't let your favorite candidate down, thinking plenty of others will vote for him. They might opt out, just like you. It's not right. It's not smart.

Most people seek doctor's advice on health, a repairman for home or car repairs, dentist for teeth. Make your choice of who is going to be in charge of part of your life for a few years, not just giving advice but passing laws that personally affect you.

Respect our traditions, get your money's worth, be smart. Vote tomorrow.

Free Press Editorial Page

Today's luxury goods . . .

We're all only too aware that most of the things we buy have been reproduced hundreds of times the very same way. Clothing, shoes, wallpaper, cars, magazines, TV dinners and TV, and cans of peas. We're all wearing, eating or enjoying ourselves with the very same products as our neighbors. This is no doubt adds greatly to the

current popularity of crafts. Night school courses in crafts are filled right up with people anxious to create something individual.

Elizabeth Wilkes Hoey's sale attracted the usual crowds to her Nassagaweya farm. This past weekend Actonians were taking part in and enjoying the Georgetown Arts and

Crafts exhibit and sale at Norval. Next weekend a group of four Acton crafts-women are holding a smaller-scale exhibition

For the individual touch, with articles that give pleasure and very personal satisfaction, handcrafts are today's luxury goods.

Editorial notes . . .

The whole town felt the shock of the tragic death of Beardmore president Norm Braida. While most Acton men left town to make themselves successful careers, Norm stayed here to attain the top position in his company. Like his predecessor, he knew the plant employees and their families personally, and was as concerned about them as about business balances. The sympathy of the whole community is with this well-known family.

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How important is your single vote in next Thursday's provincial election? Well it's pretty important if the race in your riding is at all close. In the last provincial election, 16 seats were won by pluralities of less than 500 votes; and four of those winners won a seat at

Queen's Park with a plurality of less than 100 votes. One man had a plurality of 12 votes, another had 21, another 41 and another 52. Now do you see how important your ONE vote can be?

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Since 1900, the Conservatives have formed the government in Ontario for 52 years, the Liberals 15 years and the United Farmers of Ontario movement four years. A Conservative supporter who passed on this information claims that's why Ontario is known as the "banner province" of Canada.

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Let's hope all those election signs will be taken down soon. Wonder how many people are actually influenced by them?

You can help our ecology and reduce your water bill if you put a brick in your toilet tank. That's one little gem of information from the new Farmers' Almanac. The Almanac explains this raises the water level and lessens the quantity of water needed to complete the cycle.

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Reminder to motorists: studded tires are prohibited again this winter. Extensive tests showed their effectiveness as a winter driving aid was minimal but they caused serious general driving hazards by grinding ruts into pavement and obliterated lane guidelines.

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"Air pollution was so bad, this morning I thought I saw a blue jay. It was a cardinal holding its breath."

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 1, 1951.

Costumes disguised some 350 children at the annual Halloween party held in the arena on Wednesday evening. Starting with a parade led by Acton Citizens' Band the story book characters paraded from the town hall to the arena where they were treated to movies, stunts, games, prizes and a grab bag. In the contests the costume winners were John Kentner, Linda Braida, Philip Sutton, Sandra Cunningham, Robert Parker, Susan Wilson, Don Cook, Ella Jany, Brian Gervais, Elizabeth Jany, Jack McFadden, Elaine Rachlin, Les Hotchen and Mrs. G. Hargrave. Charles Kirkness as master of ceremonies conducted the program. Joe Hurst had a very concealing disguise but in the grand march, while smoking, his wig caught fire and was thrown to the ground in flames by a nearby individual. Three Acton businessmen who assisted in costumes were Doug Manning, Les Hotchen and Gordon Oler.

Halton County has been designated a "support area" by the civil defense organization. The mutual aid scheme was pioneered by Halton firefighters.

Five 50 years members is the boast of Walker Lodge A.F. and A.M., and they range in age from 74 to 90. They are John Kenney, now a resident of Guelph, who has his 60 year jewel; Frank McIntosh, Thurtell Brown, William Cooper and J. B. Chalmers. A Michigan man who smashed a joke box was judged insane. How near to insane many of us have been!

The 90th birthday of Mrs. John Stout was celebrated in Rockwood.

New Highway signs at the entrance to town show the population as 3,040. Some road signs are still not in their proper places following hallowe'en.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 27, 1921.

The Station Hotel at Rockwood was destroyed by fire Monday afternoon. It belonged to M. P. Barry and was occupied as a private dwelling.

The new Hydro Shop for electrical supplies, fixtures and appliances, to be conducted under the supervision of Acton Hydro-Electric Commission, was opened on Saturday with considerable eclat. The busy store attracted a large crowd of visitors and Superintendent Wilson and his helpers were kept constantly engaged in demonstrating and making sales. The members of the I.O.D.E. served tea and hot biscuits. The fixtures were lighted and the electric stoves, washing machines, grills and other appliances in operation. Repairs are also made here.

Tax collectors for Esqueping were appointed, at the salary of \$35 per year. Peter McGibbon, Henry May, George B. Thompson, Malcolm Turner, S. H. Lindsay and Ed Greenwood.

Tuesday night's frost finished all the plants and flowers.

Expeditions in search of apples for winter supply are being made by many citizens these days.

"Poppy Day", now being planned for

Armistice Day all over the Dominion, is one that commands itself as deserving of support.

As Thanksgiving Day approaches it would be better if we got rid of the old idea of getting a gun and going out to kill something on that day.

Wiles' Lunch Parlor, Mill St., has engaged an orchestra to play with meals on Saturday.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 29, 1896.

Ruffled grouse are plentiful in this vicinity. Sportsmen are having success in hunting them. Partridge are also plentiful.

Provincial inspector Murray visited Erin and Woodbridge fairs for the purpose of looking for crooks. He sighted a gang on the train on the way to Erin. They got off at the station but saw the inspector and did not attend the fair. They also gave up their probable intention of going to Woodbridge the next day. Inspector Murray states that he expects to learn of numerous burglaries in the province in the next few months as the country is full of crooks.

The Board of Education met Monday. Of the 130 applications that had been received up to the time for position of teacher, Miss H. F. McNeely M.A. of Kingston was the favored applicant.

Valentine Dyne, the oldest resident in Acton and perhaps in the county, passed quietly away Friday in his 99th year. He was born in Ireland in 1798 and came to Canada about 75 years ago. He lived on the second concession since his marriage in 1826. His 11 sons and daughters are scattered, one in Cuba and others in all parts of America.

A series of heated letters to the Editor is appearing, concerning whether or not there should be bagpipes and Scottish dancing at the fair. One refers to the skirt of the bagpipe "as melodious as the racket of a horse fiddle at a roadside charivari."

Owing to the existing depression in the leather trade a 15 per cent reduction has been made in the wages of all working men of Acton Tanning Company receiving over \$6 a week. It is hoped this is but temporary.

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Harley Coles, Editor

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