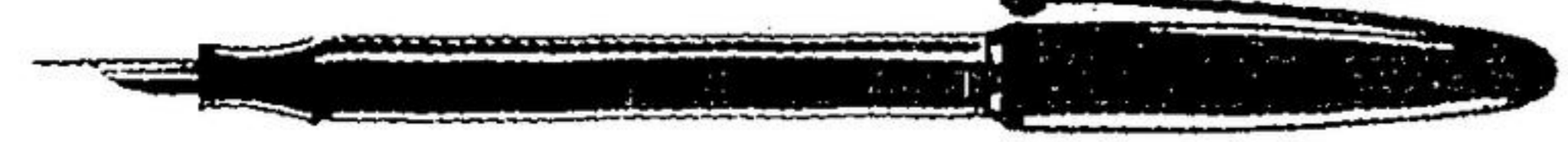


OUR READERS WRITE:



Need a new centre for our lives

Dear Sir:
In the Acton paper of June 7, I read the poem, "Changes for the Sake of Change," which was beautiful.

Why is it that people want a change all the time? We adults are like children, always enthusiastic about anything which is new—a new tie, a new piece of wallpaper, a new minister.

Do you remember when you were a child—raising your finger—teacher my book is full? You got a new one, carefully opened it and wrote on the first page more beautifully than on the last? We have not changed too much. We have an extra friendly face when we wear a new shirt or dress.

There are some who long for something new so much that they emigrate to new surroundings of a new job. It is the style now even to look for a new wife and new children. We long for something as if we were a bridegroom going to marriage—the new day that awaits us with work, the flowers, and the people, as if the day had just taken a bath and smelled fresh. But it is not like that. We long for something new but we do not know what.

We long for a new life—and there are those who claim to have it—but it is just like new bus regulations. There is a difference of a

couple of minutes in the summer and winter schedules, but sometimes not too many changes. So it is with that new life. A new title, a new book but inside it only differs a little.

Your first and second job, first and second wife, times you went to church or didn't go, just a couple of minutes difference, not too much. But from the throne in heaven comes the most important news—Look, I make everything new.

Is it possible therefore that for us everything remains the same because we want to make it new ourselves? What we make new stays old. We can turn a little but remain in the same old circle because we always have the same centre—ourselves.

If we want new surroundings we need a new centre first.

Everything can become new but then we have to make place at the centre for Jesus of Nazareth, who was so new that even the sea stiffened under His feet. Do we put Him in the middle—or ourselves in the middle?

This is not the difference of a couple of minutes. This is the difference between day and night, life and death.

John Kamminga.

Mosquitos - hundred million strong

Out here in Nassagaweya
Among the rocks and stones,
Where mosquitos bite, both day and night,
And gnaw upon our bones,

We now are plagued with creatures,
A hundred million strong,
They measure out an inch about,
And travel right along.

They don't pay any taxes,
We think the creatures should,
They adorn my "shack", both front and back,
And cover up the wood.

They're the hardest working creatures,
With their long haired curling backs,
So "debonnaire" without a care,

They fill up all the cracks.

Our township council loves 'em,
They keep them in their drawers,
They tease them and they squeeze them,
Upon the council floors.

You can find them in their "washrooms",
They park on toilet seats,
They're round clocks, in the Lunch Box,
They keep them with their eats.

They'd never think of spraying them,
Around the countryside,
They'd give me hell, if I should sell,
Their meat or tan their hides.

Victor Smith,
R.R. 2 Rockwood.

Agrees with views of Dunc McPhedran

Editor,
Free Press:

Reading the paper this week I see Duncan McPhedran said a few things I hold with about the planning that is done by the Grand River Conservation Authority.

There is too much land taken for parks and man-made lakes that should be left for farming and to grow food to eat.

I knew Dunc's father 75 years ago in the

days when 75c a day were laboring wages, from seven o'clock till six at night, and when a farmer's wife received 15c for a pound of butter and 12c for a dozen eggs. But people always had a lot to eat on the table and not hard-to-mouth as lots are today.

Now Dunc comes up with a sensible idea and any head of a planning board would do well to listen to him.

Thanks,

Percy Woods.

Let's all get behind Centennial project

Sir:

According to an item in THE FREE PRESS, it is apparent there is of great deal of discord among Acton Citizens over our Centennial Project. Could it be possible that, even before it gets under way, we shall tire of all these arguments, lose interest and perhaps fail to support it?

Perhaps what we need is some worthwhile publicity. Let's really advertise where and when the meeting will actually occur. The project deserves a maximum effort—Beginning with really informative advertising.

What's more, we need an idea for the project that will give everyone the fullest benefit. A Centennial Centre which everyone could use and enjoy to the maximum would be both appealing and, in our view, very worthwhile.

Let's remember that we have citizens of all types. Some like hockey, some enjoy swimming, others pursue basketball, and all manner of other sports and recreational

activities. They could all be catered to in a Centennial Centre. It could be a place with comfortable facilities, washrooms, and attractive assembly rooms for dances and other evening activities.

So why support other communities, deserving though they may be, when we could be using our recreation funds to satisfy needs here in our own home town? How many sports figures of renown could we have produced in the past if we had taken this step earlier? We don't know. But now we have an opportunity to find out—if we grasp it immediately. Yet unfortunately, we can scarcely favor any group or sport if our people don't exhibit sufficient interest to participate in the project.

Some may say we are trying to shut the stable door after the horse has long departed. But in fact, it's not too late call the animal back and tether him. All we have to do is to inform people, and interest them. They'll do the rest!

Yours truly,
The Lions Club of Acton



MONIKA HEPTNER and Janice Ellerby, 2 pupils of Faye Pink, performed at the Young Artists Recital held at the Heintzman Concert hall in Toronto, on June 3rd. Monika played Etude in F, opus 10 by, E. Burgmiller and Janice played a "Minuet" by Alec Rowley. Both girls have also successfully completed their grade III piano exams of the Trinity College of Music. (R. J. Jennings Photo)

Non-teaching staff wins salary hike

Salary and benefit changes for non-teaching staff with the Halton County Board of Education were approved at a meeting of the board Thursday.

The group includes clerical and secretarial workers, school health attendants, business managers, senior audio visual technicians, bus drivers and school auxiliary personnel such as supervision aides, resource assistants and instructional assistants. A bus driver working nine hours a day for 10 months receives \$5,200 per year under new terms.

Clerical and secretarial workers receive a salary in the range of \$345 to \$630 per month, depending on the function. School health attendants will cost the board \$550 to \$635 a month, depending on experience.

The board's only audio visual technician will see his maximum raised from \$9,000 to \$9,750. Auxiliary people in the school are placed in a wage bracket that runs from \$78.75 to \$113.75 per week. Business managers earn from \$6,000 to \$8,000 now. That maximum is increased by \$600.

Let's talk about HORSES

with Jennifer Barr



In the past years, I have heard many laments, questions, and problems concerning children and pet ponies or horses from the non-horsey parent. Such comments as "My daughter is crazy about horses and wants to learn to ride. We think it would be safer to get a little foal and let them grow up together..." "my child's pony is very naughty and won't let the little boy ride him anymore," etc., etc. All stemming from the fact that the parent, knowing nothing about horses, has presented junior with a dear little equine as a faithful companion, and now has a load of problems.

Would a parent hand his child a loaded gun for a toy? Would he take a child out to the river and dump him in the water saying, "Now—swim!" Would it be a good idea to put a seven-year-old behind the wheel of a car and tell him to have fun?

Why then buy a potentially dangerous heavy, sharp-footed, toothed plaything for that child? Even the sweetest gentlest pony can become frightened and run away dragging a child. The nicest foal becomes spoiled and rough without proper handling.

Many years ago, when I was boarding my horses at an excellent stable in Montreal, a very experienced twelve-year-old was training a gentle Welsh pony for a show. The pony spooked. The child fell, was dragged and killed. All because there was no adult supervision at that particular time.

I have seen people buy an old horse expecting it to teach the child to ride. I've seen bridles put on backwards; saddles far too small; the wrong bits; hooves untrimmed; foals bought, because the buyer thought he was buying saddle-broke ponies; a mother sitting a four-year-old on a new born foal's back "to get them used to each other," men saddle-breaking that yearling by slapping the saddle on the animal and galloping all over the field.

You name it!
The damage is done, a child is hurt or frightened, a pony becomes a discipline problem and the parent finally admits that he really doesn't know enough about the whole thing.

What's the answer?
Properly handled, riding is an excellent sport for a child and a pony can become a valued friend. So what do you do if Jill is dying for a horse and your own experience is limited to six-pay-by-the-hour rides at a dude ranch?

The first step is to send the child to a reputable riding school for good instruction. One or two lessons a week for the better part of a year should make a fair rider out of any child. It will also be a

good way of seeing if the novelty will wear off before a large investment will be made.

When it comes time to buy a horse or pony, ask the advice of the instructor. You can often get a good horse through a riding school. Make friends with a horsey person who can help you choose. Take your time.

The best investment will be a well trained older animal of considerable experience. This will not be cheap but then neither is an accordion or a piano, and you don't get killed by a poorly-trained piano.

Don't buy a foal. It takes a good four years of careful training to produce a reliable mount from a foal. When the child has had several years riding on different horses, he or she may be ready to take on a training job if a knowledgeable adult is on hand for advice.

So please, parents, appreciate horses for what they are, interesting, challenging, and exciting creatures, not sweet cuddly pets. If you just want something to pat, buy a rabbit, it's safer and cheaper.

The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, June 14, 1972 B7

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