

Gerontologists believe your full intellectual potential may be reached only in the sixth or seventh decade of life. Studies have shown that the older person excels at problem-solving, moving through a chain of events as opposed to merely exercising memory.

Worried about drug abuse or its effect on someone you like. The federal Department of Health and Welfare has issued a new booklet entitled, "A Parents Guide to Drug Abuse," which is available free of charge by writing the Non-Medical Use of Drugs Directorate, Place Vanier, 333 River Rd., Ottawa.

This part of the globe may not always have ideal weather but we are indeed fortunate that many of the natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes visit us only infrequently, and then with just a touch of the savagery with which they afflict more pleasant climates.

We would like to see walk signs for pedestrians at the Mill-Main corner as was suggested recently at Acton council. It can be confusing when the intersection is busy—both for pedestrians and motorists.

School is out this week and this means drivers must take extra precautions with lively youngsters on the streets at all hours of the day. Drive carefully in built-up areas.

Summer and sun tans are synonymous, but one four-year-old with a bad sunburn observing it in the mirror rebelled. "Only four years old," his mother heard him murmur, "and I am beginning to wear out already."

Occasionally, in the desert of wars and deaths and fires and strikes in the newspapers, one comes across something that is like a cool drink of water.

I had that experience this very morning. The story concerned Gene MacLellan. The name won't be familiar to most of my square old readers, but will be to my younger ones, if I have any.

MacLellan is a Canadian song-writer who has made it big in the music world. One of his songs, Snowbird, became a million-record seller for singer Anne Murray. That led to a wave of song successes, which in turn led to an avalanche of royalty cheques.

Well, dear reader, and you'd better take a deep breath at this point. MacLellan is quitting. No, he hasn't broken his guitar arm. He hasn't had a heart attack. He hasn't had a shattering emotional experience. He is dropping out because he is making too much money and does not want the pressure of responsibilities it caused.

He is giving up his interest in a company set up to handle his affairs, and has asked that the royalties be used in part to help young performers.

He has abandoned the farm he bought in P.E.I., and given away most of his possessions. He and his wife left with no definite plans, "probably" to hitchhike through Europe.

Canadian Press quotes MacLellan: "I don't know what I'll do. I don't know when or if I'll come back."

Isn't that a refreshing little story? I envy him, and many others caught in the material treadmill will too, I'm sure.

Of course, I'm not naive enough to compare him to Diogenes, who lived in a barrel and owned nothing but a drinking bowl. Some of those royalties will still find their way into MacLellan's pocket, and he won't be begging in the streets.



RECOGNIZE YOUR PLACE? Free Press photographer Jim Jennings took these shots of Acton while cruising around in a plane piloted by Peter Puchyr, recently. Top is the Indusmin Quarries between the Third and Fourth Line, Esquimes. Middle left, in the foreground is the Building Products plant on Main St. N. while the industrial park is centre and the north end of Acton beyond. Middle right is a look at Acton coming in along the M. Z. Bennett school while Warren Grove juts out immediately ahead, and the Glenlea subdivision stretches into the distance. Bottom is overlooking Churchhill Road South and the Beardmore plant while the countryside extends from Esquimes into Nassagaweya.



Bill Smiley

Friends of ours have a son, Mike. His parents despaired of him. He had a fantastic I.Q., but kept flunking in high school because he was bored silly. Never did finish school. Burned around, worked quite a bit, quit. Then he became a Bahai. He is at present pioneering the faith, as they call it, at Baker Lake in the North-west Territories, among the Eskimos.

He's happy, working hard, and wants to get some more schooling so that he can go back and teach Eskimo children. His parents are proud of him.

Here was a lad, charming, witty, handsome. He had every opportunity to go to university, and would have made a mark in society. He chose otherwise, but may be making a bigger mark, in the long run.

Our own son has done pretty much the same sort of thing. He too, if you'll pardon it, is charming, witty and handsome. He has a great musical talent. He is highly intelligent. After a couple of goes at university, he quit. He had his wild times and bad times. Now he too is a Bahai. He doesn't have a degree, but he can talk rings around most university professors, in French or English.

He works at a tough job, second chef in a restaurant, to support himself. He had a chance to be a bar-tender for more money, but serving liquor is against his principles. He planned to go to Frohisher to pioneer the faith. Then he thought there were enough "missionaries" there and made a deliberate decision to attempt to spread the faith in the east end of Montreal.

I can't see much future in trying to convert to Bahai any substantial number of French-Canadian Catholics. But Hugh has a peace and serenity and a simplicity of life that one can only envy. He doesn't want any "things", just enough to keep alive and keep covered. I wish I were twenty years younger.

The O.M.B. has spoken . . .

By concluding that septic tanks in Rockwood are not operating properly and suggesting phosphorus may be reaching the Eramosa River through the soil, the Ontario Municipal Board has decided that the village and the river would best be served over the long run by the introduction of a municipal sewage and water treatment system.

The decision will never be fully accepted but unless costs are far more than estimated, it is likely Rockwood will soon be digging up streets to handle the twin systems.

It is dangerous to compare situations in different municipalities but residents of Rockwood, will be in no worse a position than residents of Acton or Guelph, who also have such systems. In Acton's case the quality of the stream was improved when a tertiary system, such as is proposed for Rockwood, was introduced.

In spite of the objections, we think the engineers of the OWRC knew what they were talking about and defended it

adequately at the long OMB hearings. At the same time we were glad to see them challenged by other engineers and laymen who questioned their methods—and motives. It is this method of interrogation and thought provoking questions that keep Government departments on their toes.

Residents of Eden Mills also were fully within their rights to challenge Rockwood's proposals to put effluent into the river they consider almost pollution-free. Who wants to swim in other peoples' sewage? The thought would stop all aquatic activity.

The Board has decided that quite likely there are already pollutants in the stream and the treatment plant will improve it over the long run by looking after future troubles.

Right or wrong—the die is cast. Cost is now the factor which could cause officials embarrassment.

Rockwood is built on almost solid limestone, meaning many of the sewer

and water lines will have to be blasted through the rock. Some competent contractors have said the cost of the twin projects could escalate far beyond the estimated cost, which would mean that the Ontario Municipal Board approval would not be valid.

In the event costs are in line, Rockwood residents will have the option, for while at least, to choose whether they want to install water and sewers.

Because of the rocky nature of the soil installing laterals could be very expensive but it is consoling to know once they are hooked into the system, water and sewer problems will be over.

It has been a long and arduous experience both for those who supported and opposed the sewage and water projects. Now the participants can sit back knowing they have done their best to uphold or oppose.

Only events in the future will show whether the O.M.B.'s decision was right or wrong.

Budget criticism is valid . . .

A majority of Acton council has decided that a nine man budget committee of full council would be awkward and hamstringing the setting of the town's annual budget.

All five members of council who voted against extending the membership of the committee are on the present committee, which, of course, makes it sound like a closed shop. They obviously feel other councillors were supplied with sufficient information or had access to it, to vote on money matters when the town's budget comes up each year.

In theory, councillors not on the committee can ask members for their information on any item—and theoretically they would be supplied with the answers.

But theory is not necessarily fact. Councillors who did not sit on the finance committee were not equipped to vote intelligently on some individual budgets this year—and they were right

in challenging the procedure.

For instance, the deputy reeve objected to being asked to vote on the recreation committee and Citizens' Band budgets until he knew what was in them and had a chance to peruse them thoroughly. Copies of the budget were promised over the weekend prior to the budget meeting but pressures of time and other business intervened. They were never supplied. Consequently, the first time non-budget members of council saw these budgets was the night they were expected to vote on them.

This is poor business procedure—and we think all members of council are aware of the bad impression it creates. Members of the finance committee were in effect asking the four other councillors to accept their recommendations, almost on faith. It is like being asked to sign a contract without reading the fine print.

All members of council were elected

to represent the people of Acton. All are expected to participate fully in budget information.

But the same token those who prefer the present procedure are defending the traditional way of setting the budget. They are not setting up some new system which flagrantly disregards rights of others on council.

We think council would have been better to set up a compromise than to settle for the status-quo, which events this year proved could be abused.

Since they opted for the old system whereby the committee receives the individual budgets and make recommendations, the budget committee should also ensure that all members of council in future have equal access to budget figures in time to study them thoroughly before being expected to vote on whether they are acceptable.

To do otherwise would be to invite much more criticism.

Back Issues of The Free Press

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 3, 1952.

Officials expect nearly 10,000 Halton citizens will visit the newly-constructed Halton Centennial Manor on Sunday, July 6. The five winged building will be open for inspection. The opening of the new building brings to a close an agreement between Halton and Peel counties that has been in existence since 1909 when Halton purchased a half share of the Home in Brampton. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Clarke are superintendent and matron for the Manor. Mr. Clarke is a former Major in the Salvation Army.

Dr. Archie Bull has been appointed Medical Officer of Health for Halton succeeding Dr. James Mather.

Bannockburn school held its annual picnic on Friday evening when over 100 gathered at the school to spend a social evening with Mrs. Pearl Kennedy who has resigned.

R.F. Bean was elected president of the Y.M.C.A. board of directors. Others on the board are C. Wood, K. Allen, G. Oder, L. Garner, C. Sutton, J. Hurst, F. Lawrence, S. Eisen, G. Beatty, E. Bilton, M. Nellis.

The Y's Men cleared \$750 at their annual auction.

It was 25 years ago on Tuesday that George Mann began the task of caretaker of Acton schools.

Ted Rachlin obtained first class honors in his first year at the University of Toronto.

Many from here attended the Waterloo band festival Saturday.

Stonework at the side of the post office steps is being repaired.

B-Hives lacrosse team had their sixth straight win.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 29, 1922

A meeting of the Free Library Board was held in the town hall on Monday afternoon. H.P. Moore, chairman, presided. Mr. H.N. Farmer, secretary, was given three months leave of absence to permit him to take his proposed European tour. Miss Ethel Starkman was appointed secretary-treasurer pro tem. Miss Laura Scott was appointed assistant librarian to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Isabel Elliott. (now chief librarian Mrs. Isabel Watson).

Mrs. Frank Mooney has received papers from Portage la Prairie, Man. giving details of the devastation from cyclone and fire in the town last Friday.

The picnic excursions of former days appear to have been discontinued with the advent of the war. Organizations and Sunday Schools used to charter trains, engage bands and run excursions to Toronto, Burlington Beach, Niagara Falls, the O.A.C., Guelph, Kitchener and other points. Since the war they have not been revived.

An unusual number of our teachers are engaged as presiding examiners at the entrance and departmental examinations. Miss Knapp has been at Toronto; Miss Bennett at Georgetown; Miss Bennet, Miss Folster and Miss McDonald at Acton.

Acton Farmers Club held a monster garden party at the home of R.N. Brown. A huge crowd assembled. Harold Wiles, who managed the Acton Pickups ball team, was unable to down the Bannockburn Drury Nine. Little Miss Helen Ostrander gave quaint recitations and Miss June Frank sang. The band played.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 28, 1897.

The thirtieth anniversary of the Dominion was favored with typical Canadian summer weather. A very large proportion of the population was out of town. Those who remained here spent the day in the viewing the case ball matches, attending private picnics, boating, driving or wheeling, and the evening was generally spent by attending St. Alban's lawn social at the home of Mr. W.T. Smyth. Altogether the day was a success. People of all ranks of life had an enjoyable outing and having derived benefit therefrom returned to work again refreshed in mind and body.

R. Holmes, drover, shipped the finest car of cattle from here Monday which has been seen in Acton for years. It comprised 22 head of three-year-old steers, all fed in one stable by James Gibbons Jr. The lot brought their fortunate owner nearly \$1300.

Rev. H.A. McPherson broke the record of short services last Sunday evening. The entire service occupied but 33 minutes. Owing to the humidity of the atmosphere the congregation appreciated the brevity.

The romantic and picturesque hamlet of Limehouse was invaded on Dominion Day by half a hundred jolly picnickers from Guelph, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Moore. The afternoon was spent in viewing the many points of interest in the locality vocal and instrumental music, fishing, gathering wild strawberries, mosses and other curiosities which so profusely abound here.

School examinations were given in reading, writing, drawing, grammar, spelling, history, composition, arithmetic, literature, physiology and geography.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS PHONE 853-2010 Business and Editorial Office. Includes logo for the Canadian Newspaper Association (CNA) and contact information for David R. Dill, Publisher, and Hartley Cole, Editor.

OUR READERS WRITE: We're just a village, voters are few. There is a funny building, On top of sandy hill, The "interlect" or "architect" Was feeling awful ill. He had a dream they needed, A place in which to hide, So he built it like a "washroom," No windows in the side. A gift from our own government From taxes that they dug, There is no useful basement, In this awfully ugly mug. The folks around the village, Are so ashamed, they're crying, To think they spent such money, On a place that horrifying. If they had built this little place, For folks to come and drink, Or praise their government's virtue Or even come to think. They might have liked it better, Than what it's supposed to be, A place to post a letter, Or pay a government "fee". So, we have to take what we can get, This place for all to view, We're just a little village, Our voters are but few. Victor Smith