

What did you think about the Maritime proposal refusing to sell land to fellow Canadians from Upper Canada? The Americans, maybe in certain cases, but it hardly seems likely that any law which denied fellow Canadians land would be constitutional. We can understand the concern of provincial authorities who have found that non-residents of Prince Edward Island were buying up land at the rate of 700 acres a month and sending prices soaring beyond the reach of average maritimers, but there must be other ways of preserving the land other than strictures on their own countrymen. Soon we may need a passport to go beyond Cornwall.

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Those who pick the midnight hours to raise hellery in Georgetown may soon be on the paying end of a \$300 fine, if the town council of our neighbor has anything to say about it. They passed legislation allowing the police to charge offenders who cause disturbing noises between 11 o'clock at night and 6 o'clock in the morning. Purpose of the new by-law is to give the police department authority to try to stop disturbances not covered by present law.

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Two gentlemen responsible in a large measure for success of the Highland Games in Fergus last week, Dr. R. D. Chiarandini and Eugen Landoni, have two well known Scottish names if we have ever heard them. Over 18,000 attended the event, blessed with fine weather after a muggy morning.

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The wet, damp summer may have dampened the enthusiasms of people but flowers around the district have never looked better. Their enthusiasm for the type of weather is exemplified by a profusion of blooms in almost every hue and color. The many green thumbs in the towns and villages of this district can take a bow.

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Sometimes we run across someone who claims it doesn't pay to advertise and it brings to mind this little ditty, which appeared in the Free Press 50 years ago:

A WARNING

Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
"My trade of late is getting bad,
I'll try another ten-inch ad."
If such there go mark him well,
For him no bank account shall swell;
No angel watch the golden stair,
To welcome home a millionaire.
The man who never asks for trade
By local line or ad displayed,
Cares more for rest than worldly gain,
And patronage but gives him pain.
Tread lightly, friends, let no rude sound
Disturb his solitude profound;
Here let him live in calm repose
Unthought except by men he owes,
And when he dies go plant him deep
That naught may break his dreamless sleep;
Wherein no clamour may dispel
The quiet that he loved so well;
And that the world may know its loss
Place on his grave a wreath of moss;
And on stone above, "Here lies
A chump who wouldn't advertise."

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What gives Canada's world-famous cheddar cheese its aroma and flavor? No one knows but the scientists are working on the question to give the dairy industry a clue for better control of it cheese making processes.



THE EDITOR ASKED reporter-photographer Denis Gibbons to get some scenic shots of the district for this week's editorial page picture montage. It is obvious Denis' ideas about the most scenic things in the district differ some from the editor's, but who can dispute his choice of subjects? Top is Adele Hurley from Acton, via Oakville, at the Rockwood Conservation Area, Centre, Karen Hillman from 17 Sideroad, Esqueving, admires one of the kittens at the Country Market Saturday morning. Bottom, Judy Ustig of Springfield, Ohio, U.S.A., takes "30" at Lakeview side of Fairy Lake. She's visiting in Acton with relatives.

Spare the maples, remove dead elms

Although we were reluctant to see any trees come down, Acton council's changes in Bower Ave. reconstruction plans so that only three need be cut down, were welcome.

The original plans called for 13 of the street's trees to be cut down to make way for improvements, which will include underground wiring, road widening, pavings, curbs and sidewalks. However, insistence that the sturdy maples which make Bower one of Acton's most attractive streets be kept, will help also preserve its shady appearance and character.

There have been instances in other municipalities where people have refused to allow trees to be cut down. They have climbed into the branches and dared the public works department or the tree surgeons to remove the tree

while they were harbored in its branches. This kind of action may be extreme but it certainly gets the point across that trees are one of our most priceless assets.

That is why it is so distressing to see the death of elm trees all over the province and the derelict skeletons of once beautiful elms littering the countryside. Dutch Elm disease, the culprit, was first discovered in North America about 44 years ago. It became noticeable in Canada about 1944. Since then it has been killing elm trees at an estimated rate of a million trees a year.

The figures can easily be believed from the incidence of the dead trees in this area of the province, where the elm was once a primary shade tree, along with the maple.

During the past years there have

been many attempts to treat or arrest the disease but so far without too much success. Forestry Service scientists have had some success by injecting chemicals into roots of trees in various stages of the disease. The chemical prevents the disease fungus from dividing and spreading.

But Dutch Elm disease is stubborn and it will take many experiments of this nature before any effective control is established. In the meantime, the desecration by the disease will continue to bankrupt woodlots.

It was encouraging that many of the dead elms were cut down last winter but we hope the province, counties, townships and urban municipalities will take stronger measures to remove the visual pollution created by the dead trees, in the winter to come.

Long overdue reforms made

For the first time in Ontario, the right to vote in municipal and school board elections has been expanded to include the growing numbers of people who are neither property owners nor long term tenants.

Any Canadian citizen or British subject who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of the municipality between September 5 and October 10 can vote in local elections.

It is a reform long overdue. Previous laws discriminated against those who preferred to rent rather than own property, or could not afford their own homes or businesses.

According to Revenue Minister Allan Grossman, property qualifications have established eligibility for local

electors throughout Ontario's history with a few exceptions.

Mr. Grossman said that an individual will now have only one vote per municipality, regardless of how many properties he or she may own or rent. However, if an individual is resident in one municipality he or she can vote (once) in each municipality and so can that person's spouse.

This means, for instance, that a cottage owner can vote in the municipality where he is usually resident as well as the municipality in which his cottage is located.

Enumeration of Ontario residents will begin September 5 by the assessment division of the Ministry of Revenue so that municipal voters' lists

can be delivered to municipal clerks by October 10, in plenty of time for elections on Monday, December 4. Eighty per cent of Ontario Municipalities will hold elections on that date.

The Minister explained that enumerations are being held in the Fall rather than the Spring to reduce errors and omissions caused by family moves in the summer between school years. However, some will still be missed and these can contact the clerk of town or township to have names added if they have been incorrectly omitted.

The reforms in legislation recognize at last that all people over 18 who qualify as a subject should have a voice in the community in which they reside or own property.

There is a movie called "Suddenly One Summer", something like that. This is more or less the way I feel towards the end of this one.

For one thing, the weather has been generally rotten. My heart has ached for the campers, the tenters, as temperature drops, the winds blow, and I turn up the thermostat on the furnace. As I write, its more like late October than August.

But there is nothing much I can do about that, it's happening to everybody. However, somebody is definitely out to get me. I don't know whether it's the Lord, fate, or the devil. But it's too obvious to be merely coincidental.

It, or they, started with my car. Almost six months ago, a gentleman backed into the front of it. He's a mechanic and promised to have it fixed, rather than pay the almost exorbitant insurance rate. It is still not fixed. Not his fault. We made a date for July 31st and my wife busted her ankle and in the confusion, I forgot. But it's still not fixed.

Next, I was at a public gathering, where there were a lot of cars parked. Somebody, and he was not a gentleman, snuggled up too close to me. The only calling card he left was a deep indentation in my left front door.

Third. And that was my wife's fault, not mine. She was yakking at full steam, somewhat like an organ with all the stops out. It happened at a highway motel where we'd had lunch. I backed up, knowing there were no cars there and hit a light standard that shouldn't have been there. It was solid brick. It made a boomerang of my back bumper. There went another hundred bucks.

Here's where I'll go along with Ralph Nader and company. The bumpers they put on cars today are not bumpers, but junkers.

Bill Smiley



A generation ago, a bumper bumped and didn't give an inch. The thing that was bumped gave. Today, they seem to be a combination of plastic and spaghetti. I'm convinced that if you ran into an adult male hummingbird at 50 miles per hour you'd lose your \$100 deductible on your bumper.

Well to cut a short story long, the car is pretty much of a disaster area. Front grill bashed in. Chrome strips buckled and ripped off. Back bumper a bumper.

Motor still great, but whole vehicle now in classified ad section as a "bodyman's special".

As we all know, accidents come in threes. Well I had my three and thought whoever was out to get me should relax for a while. Not so.

As I mentioned, my wife broke her ankle and a week later I broke my toe. She groans and hobbles around in a walking cast. I groan and hobble around. I never realized before just how important a big toe is in the process of ambulation. Something like a fish trying to swim with his tail cut off.

Oh, it's a jolly, lively place around our house. We should be out at the beach, doing

a fancy crawl stroke, calling cheerfully to each other about how terrific the water is today. Instead, we're stuck in the house, doing a fancy crawl up and down stairs and calling balefully about such cheery things as getting the garbage out, doing the washing, preparing dinner.

Do you know what happens to a couple of love birds in a cage who start getting on each other's nerves? One of them pecks the other to death. Then eats him, or her. Well, I'm pretty tender and my wife is very tough, so I'm keeping a close eye on her.

I gave her a big hug the other day. It's her left ankle, my right toe, they collided, we both yelped and there were mutual recriminations. Next time, I'll hug her from behind, or sideways, or something.

But this is all trivia. I await, cringing, the third accident in the second series.

And it will probably be on the phone any minute. I was idiotic enough to lend my car to daughter Kim and her husband. They took off in the poor old battered brute a couple of hours ago, for the city, where they have to apply for student loans, register for college, find a place to live, and all such. They both drive like chimpanzees who've had three lessons.

They might just make it. But if they do, my oak tree will snap in a storm and crash on my neighbour's roof. Or, I'll get a hernia carrying out the empty beverage bottles. Or my wife will slip on her gimpy leg going downstairs and break her other one.

It's not that I'm superstitious. It's just that I have this immutable hunch that Somebody, up there, or down there, is trying to punish me for all my past sins, all at once.

And now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to soak my toe in ice water and sit, shoulders hunched, waiting for the next blow.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press September 4, 1952.

Canada's largest extruders of plastic - Acton's Micro Plastic firm - is planning its second edition in two years officials announced this week. The proposed cement block addition will add about 9,100 square feet of floor space which will be used mainly for warehouse although two machines will be housed in the building.

Officials of the A.P. Green Fire Brick Co. have announced their intention to rebuild and expand the fire razed building that was destroyed in the well remembered fire in the early hours of August 18. The floor area of the Acton industry will be increased by approximately 1,000 square feet over its original size and will house more modern equipment.

The largest enrolment ever - 460 - was registered at the Acton Public School Tuesday morning. The full staff of 13 teachers met their new classes after an assembly in the auditorium in the epic and span addition to the school, which was just completed in time for school opening.

Tuesday morning 132 Acton High School students were welcomed back to their studies by principal Orland Robbins in a general assembly. The six teachers, two of them new to the school this year were introduced and then the pupils went to their home rooms.

Requiem high mass was sung in St. Joseph's Church, Acton on Saturday, September 29 for Thomas W.R. Salmon, who died in Acton on Thursday at the age of 70. In 1951 he was elected mayor of Acton, but retired due to ill health.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press August 31, 1922

Work is progressing on the Provincial Highway between Acton and Crewson's Corners, and other thoroughfares are being improved in several directions.

Twenty-five members of the British House of Lords have already accepted the invitation of the Montreal Board of Trade to be its guests on a trip across Canada in September to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of that organization. Acton accommodation has already been secured for one hundred members of the Board.

A couple of rinks of Milton lady bowlers came to town for a friendly game on the greens of the Acton Athletic Association last Thursday evening. A very enjoyable game was played and the visitors won the honours. The Acton ladies entertained their visitors for tea.

It is reported that new potatoes in Hillsburgh are selling for 40c a bag. Eleven trainloads of harvesters went through Ontario last week.

A new business firm to be known as Acton Produce Merchants, with Mr. Hartley Harrison as manager has been organized here.

You can go to Toronto Fair from Acton by steam cars, electric cars or jitney this year. Perhaps by next year an aeroplane will be added.

Master Max Starkman is very proud of his hen which laid an egg the other day weighing a quarter of a pound, and measuring 6 1/2 x 8 inches in circumference.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press September 2, 1897

Inspector Howe, of the Board of Underwriters, came to town last Thursday morning and turned in an alarm to the Fire Brigade as a test of their alertness. The majority of the members of the Fire Company responded with very creditable dispatch and soon had the steam and hose reels laid out in line. Steam was up and water playing in about ten minutes, and we understand the inspector was quite satisfied with the test.

A friendly contest between the Milton and Acton gun clubs was held in the park here on Monday afternoon. The local team won the match by a considerable number of points. 75 - 48.

The Milton Champion, smarting under the defeat suffered by the Milton baseball club at the hands of the Acton nine, falls back on the old excuse that Acton has been playing outsiders. The facts are, that every player of the Acton team lives within the Corporation of Acton.

Only three on the Milton Ball Club live within the Corporation of Milton and one was imported from Freeton. In the last game Acton played at Milton they had not only beat the players but also a crowd of outside hoodlums who threw stones and apples at the Acton pitcher. In this they were encouraged by the Milton coaches. The Acton team is paying no more attention to any team without a reputation.

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