

Mini-Comment

According to figures divulged in the Ontario Legislature in a June session the new GO train service between Georgetown and Toronto will likely pick up a projected 1,142 passengers in Georgetown. The figure will reach 2,389 by the time it leaves Brampton, 2,936 when it leaves Bramalea, 3,482 when it leaves Milton, 3,682 leaving Weston, based on 1969 figures. However, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications estimates the figure will now be 4,500 passengers a day. According to projections the new trains will be working at capacity as soon as they start going.

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Owners of lots or tracts of land adjacent to the Credit, Humber Rivers and tributaries are sometimes shocked to find large areas of their land classified as "flood plain", resulting in lower land values. Land which might have been worth \$10,000 to \$30,000 per acre may now be valued at about \$2,000 an acre and classified as suitable only for parks and golf courses. It is all the result of studies done after Hurricane Hazel ripped through Ontario killing 81 and causing 24.8 million dollars damage. No one objects to the Conservation authorities rejecting residential development on this "flood plain" land but the study made is sometime unrealistic as land owners in this area can vouch. Hurricane Hazel did not vent its full fury on this area perhaps but it would take a hurricane or similar storm of three times Hazel's might to reach some of the areas classified "flood plain".

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Now that the provincial assessment department is working on enumeration, we can expect federal election enumerators to be along in their wake. Wouldn't it be nice if the two branches of Government—federal and provincial—would get together and have just some form of census or enumeration that each could use. Wouldn't it just be a matter of combining the questions?

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Since the spotlight has been on Acton's main street we have been very interested in news from other areas where facelifting has been proposed or done. In Petrolia, for instance, the main street is getting the facelift from eight young men with a \$7,000 federal Opportunities for Youth grant. Old brick shops along the main street are being done over in hues of blue, lime, yellow and brown—all color co-ordinated to accentuate the unique architectural features of the buildings which include such rarities as stained glass windows, fluted concrete columns and ornate ironwork. They are rejuvenating the face of the town which was once the oil capital of Canada and a thriving community of 10,000 at the turn of the century. Population now is about 4,000. Main street rejuvenation is not a new issue there. It has been talked about for almost six years. Paint and some equipment has been donated by merchants. Ian Smith, the project leader, was quoted as saying, "I've lived in Petrolia all my life, but I never really noticed these buildings before...but now I can see that architecturally they are really beautiful."

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The hydro strike has affected some people in this area especially where new services are required but one district woman was delighted with the response the family got when they requested new services into their newly built home. At first she had difficulty contacting anyone but a call to Ontario Hydro in Toronto straightened that out. From there it was smooth sailing and the service was in a week after the request was made in spite of difficulties with the strike. They could easily have ignored me pleading strike difficulties, she said, but instead chose to do all in their power to see we were accommodated. A tip of the editorial hat to Ontario Hydro and a hope the strike is soon settled.

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Reporter Dave Pink, working at the Free Press this summer, prior to entering the University of Western Ontario in the Journalism course, was amazed at the amount of stories and articles other nearby papers clip from the Free Press and use a week later. He counted two of his own stories and noticed two others in one nearby paper, without any credit to the source. Weeklies, of course, are welcome to use each other's stories, but he thinks the source should be recognized since he did most of the work.

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The Passport to Halton project got off the ground at a special luncheon and presentation at the county building in Milton, which this writer attended. We think it is a splendid idea to make people aware of their own county with little risk of becoming too parochial. Acton's Jack Carpenter was retained by the county to promote the project and Warden Jim Swanborough gives much of the credit to Jack for his initiative and promotional ideas. It is the first function we ever attended where someone took pictures of the news media people in attendance. Usually we are at the other end of the camera.

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Halton M.P. Rud Whiting will defend his seat for the Liberals in the October 30 federal election has hinted Prime Minister Trudeau will visit this riding during the campaign. However, Rud was reluctant to respond to a suggestion made by an Acton supporter on the weekend that it might be nice to have the P.M. in the northern end of the county this time. The prime minister gained nationwide press coverage when he donned a bathing suit and performed some daring dives from the board of Holiday Inn pool in Oakville during the 1968 campaign. Conservative leader Robert Stanfield has already visited Acton. He attended a community breakfast at the Acton Curling Club during a tour of Southern Ontario in early August. Rud, of course, is a constant "visitor" to this area, in and out of election time.

Free Press Editorial Page

B2 The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, September 13, 1972



(J. Jennings Photo)

His Nibs nibbles the niblets

That darn cat of Jim Jennings' is addicted to corn and a camera only interrupts his nibbling momentarily (middle) before he attacks the cob again.



Bill Smiley

That great big "Who-o-o-sh" of air that is still reverberating across the nation, from coast to coast, is not caused by hurricane, typhoon or cyclone. It is the expulsion of breath from hundreds of thousands of mothers after their sign of relief because school has started again.

There are many emotional reactions to the annual re-opening of school. Let's look at a few of them.

First, the mothers who have had three or four school-age kids on their hands for two of the longest, most dreary summer months in decades. During the past summer, the sun has been as elusive as medals are for the Canadian Olympic team. Rain, over-cast, drizzle, downpour, humidity. You name it, we've had it.

So, mothers. You've had your brood underfoot most of the summer. Kids getting up at all hours, eating at all hours, whining. There's nothing to do. You've been making peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches until you gag at the sight of a peanut. You've bandaged cuts and scrapes, invented planned picnics which had to be held at

home, rained-out, and been driven to the point where the kids call you "Old Snarly."

For you, school opening was euphoria. Sure, you love your children, but love, like most things, should be taken with moderation. Admit it. When you got them all off that first day, you made coffee, sat down, put feet up, lit a cigarette, sucked in your breath and let it out with a "Who-o-o-sh." You felt a deep love for teachers, however momentary. You secretly thought you wouldn't care if they doubled your education taxes.

Well, that's one reaction. What about your kids? Their obvious reaction is one of disgust and despair. "A-a-h, school! Who needs it? Back to jail." But how do they feel behind the complaining that is second nature to kids?

Secretly, they're delighted and excited. They are bored to the point of depression, whether they're in elementary or high school. They are sick of "Old Snarly". They've had enough of working, if they worked, or burning, if they burned.

Despite the constant criticisms of the "unreal" life at school, in my opinion many young people have far more "real" life there than they do at home.

Opening day means seeing old friends, making new ones, exchanging lies about what they did all summer and sizing up, with a hard, cold stare, the new teachers for the year.

For high-school students, despite their attempt to be blasé, it means the end of that heart-breaking summer romance. But look!

(Continued on Page B2)

All out of step but Milton

The joint brief on regional government for Halton County as submitted by the towns of Acton and Georgetown and the townships of Esquering and Nassagaweya is too important and pertinent a document to comment on without a careful study. However, we would be remiss if we did not conclude that these sessions—the first on record at which elected representatives from these municipalities met jointly to discuss common concerns—have opened many new doors for what has been called the inevitable imposition of regional government.

It is not surprising that the Town of Milton has not gone along with the proposals.

Milton has always felt it held a privileged position in the county and the representatives of the county town intend to oppose any form of government in which they would lose influence.

Recently through a series of astute political moves by incumbent mayor Brian Best, the town was moved from the slow growth commutershed of the Toronto Centred regional plan to faster paced Zone 1, where restrictions were fewer and actual growth encourage-

ment supposedly is made by Queens Park.

After several years when little assessment was added to the town the year 1972 dawned bright and glorious for Milton—plans for new industrial plants and many houses were made. As the year went on they were acted upon. The future looked bright and vigorous for the county town.

First suggestions from the TECO committee about the form regional government should take in Halton were greeted with derision by Milton officials, as they were by Acton, but there was still no loss of identity. But Saturday's proposals advanced by the rest of North Halton towns and townships threatens the identity of the town. It just did not fit in with plans.

The first impression one would get from this is the Milton attitude is one of "Everybody is out of step but our John" but it goes deeper than that. Milton wants to play it alone, believing that the unbelievable good fortune which granted them many county and provincial plums would also introduce largesse on a larger scale.

You can't blame them for that, but it is darn difficult for the other municipalities in the north to swallow.

They also have local pride, and pretensions to grandeur which may never be achieved but would certainly be appreciated. If we are going to have regional government then everyone is going to have to bury some of their parochial feelings and start thinking on a broader basis than the boundaries of their own home community.

Instead of grabbing an industry or business for Acton, Georgetown or Milton or an enterprise in Esquering or Nassagaweya, we must adjust our minds to thinking about North Halton as the new community of which we are an integral part. What is good for one part is also good for another.

In today's world of quick transit and easy communication that is not such an enormous task.

The only other alternative is to forget about regional government and continue with an improved form of the present system which would allow everyone to keep local loyalties unattained by wider thoughts and loyalties.

We are not convinced that this would not be the best method but by the same token recognize the province will regionalize if Halton doesn't move and it will be on their terms, not ours, if decisions are made at Queens Park.

Disgruntled fans poor sports

We can't let the occasion of the current Canada-Russia hockey series pass by without a reference to the poor attitude some so-called Canadian fans are exhibiting towards those wearing Canadian livery, however wierd it may be.

If the same NHL players were winning instead of losing the series to the USSR we are sure the boos would change to cheers from the disgruntled

fans. Apparently we must win if there is to be any cheer from the bleachers. Losing is not tolerated.

We think the first part of the series was lost in the committee room when the negotiators set it up with the Russians, before they were aware of how strong the USSR teams were. It didn't take much hockey knowledge to see the Soviet athletes were in much better shape physically than the

Canadians—and used it to advantage.

Certainly the first four games showed that Russia will one day equal or surpass Canada in the production of first class hockey players, but don't believe that propaganda about them being superior beings from a Communist paradise. It is a lot of bunk. They still have two arms, two legs and two eyes the same as anyone else and no ideology can change that.

Limit signs, by all means

Following close on the heels of an announcement by the Acton Liberal Association that it will not place posters or signs on trees and telephone poles in Acton during the federal election campaign, comes a letter from Progressive Conservative candidate Terry O'Connor proposing that all candidates limit sign and poster use to private property, both residential and commercial.

"Perhaps all I am suggesting," said O'Connor, "is that we agree to adhere strictly to existing municipal by-laws which generally prohibit such defacing of public property."

He notes that scant regard is paid to the by-laws at election time. "I feel that obligation to inform and the

election campaign tactic of demonstrating great public support, can be achieved with less ecological blight than in past elections," the Conservative candidate declares.

We could not agree more both with Liberals and PCs and are sure the NDP candidates will go along with the suggestion as well.

We never did think that forests of signs on lawns and poles and trees did influence voters to change their minds about where they were going to mark their "X". As a matter of fact we have noted that the candidate who sometimes had the most signs also has polled the lowest number of votes.

It is difficult to pin the blame for this performance in the past on the

enthusiasm of an election campaign to generate some strange reactions from generally sensible supporters. Perhaps the presence of a multitude of signs gave them assurance which they lacked about the outcome of the vote.

In any event we think it would be even better if candidates limited signs to one central place in each municipality where all three could hang up huge banners or posters. That would solve many problems, chief among which would be the easy job it required to remove them when the election is over, which has been a sore point with many people in the past not only with federal and provincial but municipal elections as well.

Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 25, 1952

Fair weather rang up record gate receipts for the fair with crowd estimated at 5,000. As an innovation horse jumping was eliminated from the evening performance in the arena and replaced by a series of good vaudeville acts. Bob Parker was master of ceremonies and president George Wallace welcomed the crowd. Mrs. Norm Robertson took the most awards in baking. Prizes for best decorated doll carriage went to Sandra Hargrave; bicycles Nancy Dedels, Ross McKersie, Bob Marshall. Competition in the annual baby show was heavy; winners were Jimmy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McKewen; Gwendolyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Crispin; Diane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Leduc, Georgetown; Joan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gord Gibbons; Larry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilf Robertson.

The cattle exhibit was never larger. The Melody Makers played for the fair night dance.

Cement block is up for the new A. P. Green plant.

The new washroom at the Baptist church has been completed. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Lasby quietly celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary but attended Acton fair as they did 50 years ago.

Mary Hunter, 10, received a cut on the head when one of the midway rides hit a fence, which struck her, requiring four stitches.

Glen Britton, Haltonville, has shot a wolf there.

Peter Dye was killed in an explosion at Port Arthur.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 21, 1922.

War is again in the air. The rebirth of the Turkish military power, followed by the expulsion of the Greeks from Asia Minor, destroys the last hopes of the Armenian people. If war is deemed necessary to stem the atrocities of the terrible Turk Canada

will stand ready to do her full share.

A.M. of Erin township appeared before Magistrate Moore charged by Inspector Floodly with having a stone jug partly filled with liquor in his house. He went into the box in his own behalf and said he had purchased the liquor for a sick cow from a man called "Pete" in Acton. He was fined \$200.

The newly-paved plank driveway over the G.T.R. Mill St. crossing is appreciated by drivers of both horse and motor vehicles.

Sunday was the sixth anniversary of the coming into force of the Ontario Temperance Act. Few indeed are there who would care to go back to the days of the open barroom.

The engineers who are building the provincial highway through Norval have contractors hard at work on Laird's hill to the east of the village making a cutting in preparation for straightening the road, and carrying it to the north of the mill instead of through the hollow and over the river. A fine bridge is planned.

Miss Stella McLarn has returned to town to take a position in the Acton Tanning Co.'s office.

Rockwood has received its new fire engine and a fire alarm has been installed.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 23, 1897.

Friends in town enjoyed a very pleasant visit from Dr. Mary Brown, daughter of Hugh Brown of Esquering, who is a medical missionary in China.

Sorrow visited the home of our esteemed townsman, James Clark Esq. of the Roller Mills, when his second daughter Miss Nellie was suddenly called home. She had been suffering from lung trouble and was attacked with severe hemorrhage.

The authorities in Georgetown are campaigning against lightweight bread. The bylaw says all loaves must be four pounds or two pounds and one local baker was four ounces short.

The death of Miss Maggie Kennedy makes the first break in the ranks of the pupils of the late Robert Little since the reunion in 1894. She was a faithful employee

of the Canada Glove Works and for her, the old homestead on Main N. opposite the Presbyterian church was truly "Home Sweet Home."

The council is to be commended for putting down permanent drains where they are needed to carry off the water from a wide area. The drains will last a lifetime. Gradually this policy of permanence is gaining popularity. A few years ago it was found stone flagging for crossings was superior to pine or oak plank and it was introduced. The next step forward will no doubt be the introduction of permanent walks in the shape of granolithic or asphalt. In fact there is considerable agitation for a few trial blocks.

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