

Mini-Comment

It's a matter of practically that election candidates tend to follow their national leaders and spend most of their time campaigning in the areas of their riding which are most densely populated and therefore represent the highest number of potential votes. Unfortunate victims of this almost necessary procedure are residents of outlying areas who sometimes never see the men and women who are vying to represent them. Although it's been three weeks since the federal election was called, the Free Press received a call Thursday from a Nassagaweya enumerator who was still unaware who the candidates are in the riding of Halton-Wentworth. Halton-Wentworth is one of those peculiar ridings in which a majority of the voters reside in one municipality, namely Burlington. For the benefit of our faithful readers in Nassagaweya the Halton-Wentworth candidates and their party affiliations are Liberal - Norm McGuiness, a marketing manager from Burlington, Progressive Conservative - Bill Kemping, a Dundas businessman and NDP - Dickson Bailey, a McMaster University graduate student from Dundas. Folks, if you haven't seen them yet, you likely will once they read this. The three candidates are trying for the seat formerly held by the controversial John Morison. McGuiness dumped the M.P. at an exciting Liberal nominating convention in March.

In Wellington County, suggestions are being made that there are too many fairs. The county warden Allan Snow said he'd rather have two or three really good fairs, when he opened Fergus fair the same day as Acton's. From enjoying Acton fair, we think Mr. Snow missed the point.

At a time when the shabby old Acton arena is undergoing minimal repairs and folks are wondering when ice will be installed, it's interesting to note what other communities of comparable size faced with similar problems are doing. A recent edition of the Ridgetown Dominion reports work has begun on the construction of an \$80,000 addition to the East Kent Memorial Agricultural Centre. Ridgetown has a population slightly over half that of Acton's. The Arnprior Guide has taken an editorial shot at that town's recreation department for announcing that ice will not be available until October 15. "October 15 is early by traditional standards," says the Guide editorial "but it is still not early enough. The recreation department should reflect the wishes of hockey enthusiasts and have the rink ready to go by October 1. True it will be an additional expense, but the arena sits around unused long enough as it is." Here in Acton, hockey players and skater would probably accept the October 15 date if they could be sure of it!

Free Press Editorial Page

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JUDGE OF the Free Press photography contest found children particularly appealing subject. First place photograph (above) was taken by H. Haslett. The boy and dog which won

honorably mention (below) are photographed by Sheila Smith. The judge expressed appreciation of pictures in which the camera is not an intruder.

Election Act changes

A new municipal election act came into being in Ontario this year and it means some important changes in the method of nominating and electing the local council plus trustees for boards of education.

Most dramatic change is the abolishment of the old fashioned town or township nomination meeting. Nominations will now be spread over a five-day period, starting Thursday, Nov. 9 and ending at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13. The old "town meeting" or "township meeting" where incumbents presented a report on the work they have accomplished and the challengers gave their election speeches to the voters interested enough to show up, is no longer an official nomination function.

Another significant change is the establishment of one general election day for the whole province, and the invoking of a standard two year term for all elected offices. In the past municipalities have had a free reign and were able to set election dates whenever they pleased—that's all changed now and Monday, Dec. 4 is officially election day across Ontario.

Vote 11 to 8

Even the hours that each polling booth remains open have been standardized. Dec. 4 you can vote between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. only.

The revised elections act includes many more changes affecting voters and candidates for municipal council and school board seats. It also devotes a lengthy section to describing how conflicts of interest can be ascertained.

But candidates and members of the general public which votes them into (or out of) office will be more interested in learning how the changes in the act affect them. Hence, this short summary translated from official legal jargon into words the ordinary voter can understand.

First, let's look at the nomination of a candidate. To get yourself in the running for a seat on the local council, the Halton County Board of Education or Halton Separate School Board, you first check to make sure you are

eligible. Generally you're able to hold such an office if you're a Canadian citizen, or British subject, an owner or tenant in the municipality, and 18 years of age. You can NOT run for a council or school board seat if you hold any contract with the Municipality or the school board, but the legislation here is pretty tricky—contact your municipal clerk if there is any doubt in your mind and let him sort out the legalities for you.

Need 10 nominators

Once you decide you'd like to be a councillor or school trustee, you need to fill out a nomination paper. To be officially nominated your paper has to be signed by at least 10 electors whose names are on the polling lists as eligible voters. The nomination paper must state your name, occupation and address plus the name and address of each elector signing as your nominator.

If you're running for a seat on the county board of education your nominators should be public school supporters (that is, their education taxes are directed toward supporting the elementary public schools of the county) and if you want a seat on the separate school board your nominators should be separate school supporters.

Get your nomination paper to the clerk of the municipality where you reside. It's his responsibility to post the list of those legally nominated in a public place. Warning—5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 13 is the final time your nomination can be filed with the clerk. But you can file it as early as Thursday, Nov. 9.

You'll also have to sign a paper called a qualification declaration—it's really just a consent in writing that you will accept the office, if elected or acclaimed.

Likely a meeting

Now you're nominated—what about the nomination meeting? It isn't necessary under the act, but you can be assured there will be meetings in every municipality to enable the voters to meet the prospective candidates. Local ratepayer groups, Chambers of Commerce, and even municipal councils will be planning some form of public

forum where voters can meet and hear the hopefuls.

What if you decided, after 5 p.m. on Nov. 13, that you don't want the office? And what if you find yourself nominated for two offices? You simply go see the clerk before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14 and sign a form withdrawing from the office or one of the offices. If you get nominated for two positions, and don't sign a declaration, the clerk has authority to post your name for election to the office to which you were FIRST nominated.

Next comes election day, Monday, Dec. 4. Each municipality must hold two advance polls, one Monday, Nov. 27 and one Saturday, Dec. 2 for those not able to attend the regular poll on Dec. 4.

Proxy votes allowed

Students attending an educational institution and disabled voters can obtain a proxy vote and have someone else cast their ballot for them. But a person acting as a proxy cannot vote for more than one other person unless it is an immediate member of the family.

Police village trustee boards and public utility and hydro commissions are covered under the same new legislation.

The new act also introduces a uniform assessment of eligible voters. The enumeration started right after labor day weekend by enumerators from the Peel-Halton Regional Assessment Commission Office and that office must file an up-to-date list of eligible electors with the local clerk by Oct. 10. The clerk is empowered to add names of anyone missed by the enumerators up to and including election day.

This year the voting franchise has been extended to all tenants, with the exception of money by-laws. You no longer have to OWN property to vote for your councillors, school trustees, village trustees or public utility commissioners.

Provision is also made in the new act to allow by-elections. And fines of up to \$1,000 and jail terms of up to six months are also provided for bribery, improper voting and stuffing ballot boxes with illegal ballots.

When I tottered downstairs last Sunday morning, and my wife greeted me cheerily, and told me to sit down, and brought me in a big glass of orange juice with a stiff belt of something in it, I was as wary as a groundhog.

I sniffed the air, wiggled my ears and peered about to see from what direction the danger was coming. It's not that I'm suspicious by nature. Basically, I am a naive and trusting person. But this was too much. Something was up.

While she sat down across from me, smiling in an uncanny fashion, I took a quick slug and let my mind flicker over the possibilities. She was going to divorce me. No, I just got a raise. She was going to buy a third piano. No. No place to put it, except in the wood-bin down cellar. She was going to have a baby. No, she's had a hysterectomy. Kim is going to have a baby and I'm going to be a grandfather and old. That seemed the most logical.

"Do you know what day this is?" gently but firmly. My mind raced over birthdays, graduations and such, slipped a few cogs and finally ground to a halt. I knew. It was our anniversary.

How could I have forgotten it, even though I'd forgotten it every year for twenty-five?

Easy. The bride isn't any better. Every year, about two weeks after the date, one or other of us says, "Hey, we forgot our anniversary again." And look at each other and laugh.

Some people make a tremendous fuss over wedding anniversaries. It's as though they were trying to recapture something lost forever.

Husbands who either snarl at or ignore their wives for 364 days of the year arrive home with an expensive present, or at least a bundle of flowers, on that sacred day. Reminded by their secretaries.

Wives who spend the whole day in suspense, thinking "The rotten louse. He hasn't even called. He's forgotten.", smile, false-toothed, through their tears, and crack open a bottle of vintage 1971 Canadian champagne.

Many of these couples, who haven't exchanged a civil word for weeks, actually go out to dinner, and even thrash around the dance floor in their inimitable 1930's, 40's or 50's style, a threat of life and limb to all near them.

A few of them actually have the stamina to press on from the ridiculous to the absurd, and make love.

Next day, the glow gone, slightly hung, they become acutely aware again of such mundane things as heartburn, constipation, pot bellies, wattles, bald heads and crows' feet. And real life begins again.

I'm not knocking anniversary celebrations as such. They're quite beautiful if the love and tenderness are still there. But if those elements are missing, the anniversary



Bill Smiley

waltz is an ugly charade.

Thank goodness we forget ours until it's too late to do anything but recall our wedding day and laugh hilariously as we reminisce.

Nowadays it's not unusual to have two or three hundred people at a wedding reception, with a bar, dinner and orchestra for dancing. The bride has had eight showers before the wedding and the couple has amassed about two thousand dollars' worth of gadgets and cash.

We had about twenty at our wedding. A scattering of my wife's aunts and things. Nobody from my side, except a few old buddies to whom I'd issued the invitation. "Hey, I'm getting married Saturday at Hart House chapel. Why don't you drop around?"

No reception. No bar. No orchestra. Music supplied by an old friend who played organ in a downtown bar. Dinner we had after the wedding at a crummy hotel in a small town. Alone.

We drove about two hundred miles in a borrowed car. We had eighty dollars. No presents. It was raining all the way. We talked about highway conditions.

But I wouldn't trade it, even though my wife wore flannelette pyjamas on our wedding night. At least we didn't have to smile and smile and smile at a host of people we scarcely knew.

And here we were, some years later, Sunday morning. My wife had remembered our anniversary. She had bought each of us a present, and she handed me a piece of paper on which she has summed up the war. Her words:

To Us

"May we continue until death the battle which has raged for twenty-six years.

"Always attacking, never retreating, shall we glorify in our victories, deny our losses.

"Let us be constant in making our skirmishes as violent in intent as our One Big War, for we might lose courage, weaken in moments of apathy, flounder in surrender.

"May we never be tortured by thoughts of love and peace, for these might lead the way to a glimpse of hope and glory.

"Let us remain steadfast in the face of our single purpose.

"We have fought a good fight..."

Hey, she's talking about our life together. She's being ironic, and that's my field. What's going on here?

Then she handed me another piece of paper. Her words:

"Along came Bill
An ordinary guy
You'd meet him on the street
And never notice him
No, that's not the part I mean.
"I love him
Because he's wonderful
Because he's just my Bill.

Size."

Mini-Comment

The Conservatives have had their "launch", the Liberals and the NDP have had their nominations and now presumably the Federal election in Halton is firmly underway. The average voter has yet to indicate much beyond a mild yawn about the exercise but perhaps when the much more exciting Canada-Russia hockey series has ended, voters will stir themselves to look at the candidates and the leaders. No one seems to have agreed on issues yet, although there's a valiant effort to make it unemployment. Crowded "help wanted" columns in this area keep getting in the road and confusing that view, however.

Our Readers write

Garbage to Acton

R.R. 2 Rockwood
Ontario

Dear Sir
I think it is awfully big of Metro Toronto's executive committee to invite CN and CP rail to submit proposals to dump 400,000 tons of garbage annually in the Acton area. CN has offered to haul this for \$35c per ton. In the National press the actual site was not pin-pointed, but it was specified as "near Acton". In my opinion this is a prime municipal election issue. Politicians worth their salt should be digging to find out where this site is. People in Acton, and the Acton area should be asking themselves "Are we now to suffer the stench of decomposing garbage, soil and water pollution as well as the obnoxious odours from the Tannery?" Those people who have to wait at railroad crossings for the seemingly endless lines of railroad cars will have their frustrations compounded when the CN or CP start their garbage run from Toronto to Acton.
William A. Johnson

Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 9, 1952.

Bob Redfern, 29, of Toronto, begins duties this week as general secretary of the Acton Y.M.C.A. He is married and has two children. An open house is planned to meet him.

At the junior band practice last week there was a record turnout with six new majorettes.

A century-old house that has stood on the corner of Mill and John Sts. is being moved to a site on No. 7 Highway. The movers say the big barn timbers are still in good condition. The lot was in the original Adams subdivision. Angus Kennedy bought the lot in 1852 and built the house. The last tenants were life-long Acton residents Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brown. The present owner of the property is Doug Manning who plans to erect a business property. The house was purchased by Jack Fields.

Public Utilities commissioners J. R. MacArthur and C. Wood requested council to take over the operation of the sewers and plant, when they addressed council in regular session.

A meeting was held to organize a Women's Institute at Ballinacred and Mrs. T. Gibson was elected president.

Priming for inter-school competitions Acton High School staged its annual field day. Champions were Cheryl Morton, Gary Dawkins, Janice Baker, Wayne Arbie, Annamarie Spitzer, Don Dawkins and Fred Gordon.

The anniversary supper of Rockwood Presbyterian church was interrupted by a storm which put out the lights. However with the help of flashlights, lamps and gasoline lanterns the ladies managed to continue serving the guests.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 5, 1922.

Acton fall fair has for years enjoyed a growing reputation for excellence. The fair of 1922 was on Tuesday and Wednesday, a record-breaker, notably in the unusually large attendance and the competition in the horse classes. The exhibits in the ball set records in all categories except boxed

apples. The exhibits of electrical articles by Norman H. Speight of Georgetown and Acton Hydro Shop were most interesting. The display of shoes showing the advantages of chrome sole leather tanned by Beardmore and Co. was most commendable.

There were more cars and motor vehicles in town than ever before in the history of the automobile. The midway was quite a feature and "Brass Buttons" kept the barker straight. Plainclothes detectives headed off the pickpocket gang left over from Milton fair.

The two busiest men at the fair were president Sandy McLean and secretary George Hynds.

Did you observe how the thousands of visitors quickly and quietly got away last night from the fair? Two things account for

it: 1, automobiles; 2, no booze.

The aeroplane that let loose of flutter of radio literature caused quite a flutter as it circled low over the grounds. The parade of School children was led by Acton Citizens' Band under bandmaster Mason, which had about 25 members playing. Ford, Dodge Bros. and Studebaker tractors and cars were quite an attraction. The merry-go-round worked to capacity all day but the absence of a hand organ was most noticeable and the phonograph used was hardly able to make music of sufficient volume to fill the bill.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 30, 1897.

Just as the hour of three was striking on Monday morning the fire alarm sounded and hundreds of citizens were roused from their slumbers. The bright light which illuminated the town at once indicated the fire was at Harris bakery but it was far advanced before being discovered. The fire brigade had two lines of hose laid in the shortest time since organization. Owing to the continued dry weather a small quantity of water was coming down stream to the tank on Main St. where the engine was stationed but the flour mill gate was open and in a few minutes the supply was ample. The house and bakery were engulfed in flames and the houses on either side, Adam Stewart's and Thos. Easton's were in jeopardy. When Mr. Harris was awakened by his dog he let his daughter down to the ground through the window by means of a bedsheet. The neighbor then rescued Mr. Harris with a ladder. The rest of the family was saved. Not even a suit of clothes was saved. The insurance was \$400 on the house and \$1,100 for the oven, bakery fixtures, furniture, organ, clothing and other belongings.

This is the first fire which has taken place in Cook's survey and the value of the brigade to the residents there was amply demonstrated.

Mr. W. H. Storey broke the record last week in the matter of dispatch on an important business trip. He left Acton at 2.25 on Thursday afternoon for Gloversville, N.Y., transacted his business and returned home on Saturday afternoon, reaching here at 2.25.

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