

Looking back at 1972

The editor asked Dave Pink, a University of Western Ontario student journalism student to pick out the highlights of 1972 from stories in the Free Press. Here's the top stories of the year as he sees them:

Jan. 5 - Acton firefighters were called to Highway Garage, Main St. N. after flames broke out while a youth was filling a tractor with gasoline. Quick action on the part of the firefighters averted what could have been a more serious blaze. Damage to building and contents was estimated at \$18,500.

Jan. 12 - The first delegation before the 1972 Acton Council was the Acton Centennial Commission. Included in the Commission are Jack Carpenter, Mayor Les Doby, Councillor Bill Coats, Ted Tyler Jr., Don McDonald, Paul Nielsen, John Shadbolt, Harold Townsley and Hartley Coles. Centennial symbols were introduced and council gave its overwhelming approval.

Jan. 15 - Over 100 attended the Centennial Commission's Sportsmen's night at the legion. Special guests included Hamilton Tiger Cats Garney Henley, Bill Danyehuk, John Hohman and John Manel, Toronto Argonaut quarterback Greg Barton, University of Guelph basketball star Wayne Morgan, satirist Ben Wicks and the famous "Treble Makers" barbershop quartet.

Jan. 26 - A large number of nurses are resigning from the North Halton County Health Unit because of the great work loads. North Halton needs to fill seven positions with trained nurses.

Feb. 9 - Eden Mills has decided that it wants to be part of Wellington County rather than Halton if regional government is imposed. Village trustee Norman Marshall told Nassagaweya township council, from which part of the community would secede, that instituting regional government in Halton would split Eden Mills.

Feb. 9 - CP Air has announced it will provide free air transport to Montreal for four members of the Acton Centennial Commission when they meet with Canadian Football League executive February 11 to discuss the 1974 Grey Cup site. CP Air made the concession provided they be known as Acton's official centennial airline.

Feb. 11 - CFL president Jake Gaudaur has refused Acton's bid to host the 1974 Grey Cup game because of an attempt to black-out Crewson's Corners.

March 15 - Limehouse residents have asked the county roads committee not to build the proposed Road 20 by-pass because it would disturb the village environment. The village citizens asked instead that the fourth and fifth lines running from Road 20 be improved to accommodate quarry trucks.

March 15 - Acton Council has authorized R. V. Anderson Engineers to proceed with drawings for the reconstruction of Bower Ave.

March 22 - Terry O'Connor was chosen as a candidate by the Progressive Conservative party at Oakville. He will contest the Halton County riding with incumbent Rud Whiting and an unnamed NDP candidate.

March 29 - Acton A-B Novices battles their way to the championship of the Port Colborne tournament for the second year in a row.

April 5 - Acton A-B Novices won the town's first Waterloo-Wellington hockey championship, beating New Hamburg.

April 12 - Free Press publisher David R. Dills was named Acton Citizen of the Year by a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

May 6 - Harry Hibbs and the Shrimp Cocktail packed the Community centre for the Acton Lion's Club spring frolic.

May 10-19 - Acton students will be employed this summer in two Opportunities for Youth projects including the establishment of a Country Market in Acton Saturday mornings and a clean-up of the school creek.

June 14 - York University student Adele Hurley has been given an Opportunities for Youth grant to operate a coffee house in Acton this summer.

July 26 - Oref Industries have proposed to build an oil recycling plant in Acton's Industrial park.

July 26 - Acton residents were shocked to hear of the death of O.P.P. Corporal Ray Mason in Toronto General Hospital, July 24.

July 26 - Progressive Conservative leader Robert Stanfield will visit Acton Aug. 1 for breakfast in the Curling Club.

August 16 - Representatives from Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Nassagaweya and Esqueping cannot agree on regional government boundaries set down in the TECO report.

August 23 - A flash fire at the Acton Bowling Lanes Aug. 18 claimed the life of 32 year old Denis Maurice and caused \$10,000 dollars damage to the lanes. Fire was caused by the lanes being sanded.

August 30 - Bob Arbour will be Acton's OPP Corporal, replacing the late Ray Mason.

August 30 - 1,000 bushels of grain were lost Aug. 24 when a silo at the Acton Flour Mills broke open spilling wheat across the mill yard.

Sept. 13 - TECO report ruled that Halton was to be split into a three tier form of regional government. Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Nassagaweya and Esqueping will be lumped into one tier. Burlington and Oakville will form the other two.

Sept. 13 - Acton's Fall Fair drew record crowds to the park Sept. 8 and 9. Valerie Mitchell, a grade 11 student of Acton High School, was chosen Miss Acton Fall Fair.

Sept. 13 - Local Liberals gave their support to incumbent Rud Whiting to contest the Halton riding. N.D.P. candidate will be Erin teacher Carolynne Holstein.

Sept. 27 - Gordon Adamson of 114 Longfield Rd. was arrested and charged with arson after he admitted setting fire to a garage owned by Roy McFadden, Orville Rd. and the home of Mrs. Ann Mowatt, Fredrick St.

Oct. 18 - G. W. McKenzie, principal of Robert Little School since 1939, has announced he will retire next year. Elmer Smith, principal of the M. Z. Bennett school, made a similar announcement the following week.

Nov. 1 - Terry O'Connor won the Halton riding in the federal election Oct. 30; 2,000 votes over incumbent Rud Whiting.

Nov. 15 - Bill Yundt, Earl Masales, Barry Inscow, Norm Elliott, Bob Drinkwater, John Coniglio, Orval Chapman and Bill Coats will contest Acton's six council seats in the municipal elections Dec. 4. Mayor Les Doby, Reeve G. W. McKenzie, Deputy Peter Marks and Hydro Commissioners Orville Brown, Bob MacArthur, Wilf McEachern and E. G. Tyler won their seats by acclamation.

Nov. 22 - Acton Centennial Commission will meet to discuss Acton's three phase centennial project. Phase one will be the construction of a new entrance to the community centre, phase two will be a general reconditioning of the arena and phase three will be the construction of a new auditorium, theatre and exhibition hall.

Dec. 6 - Norm Elliott, Bill Coats, Barry Inscow, Bill Yundt, Orval Chapman and Earl Masales won Acton's six council seats Dec. 4.

Dec. 13 - Bus service will be provided through the Acton Chamber of Commerce by Tyler Transport Ltd. for Christmas shoppers in Acton.

Six permits

It was a slow month for building construction in Nassagaweya Township during November. Only six permits were issued and the value of construction was \$56,500 reports assistant building inspector Terry Gallamore. Permits were issued for four agricultural buildings, one residential addition and one garage.

Mr. Pratt is serving the unexpired term of former chairman Hugh Patterson.

Mail halt

There was a three day halt in mail - Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Parks board to get two new members

Acton Parks and Recreation Committee will have at least two new members in 1973. Committee member Ian McGillivray has announced his intention not to serve in the new year, because of other pressures. Vice-Chairman Barry Inscow was elected to town council in the December 4 election.

Chances are Mayor Doby may reappoint Mr. Inscow to the committee, but it is likely either Deputy-reeve-elect Peter Marks or Councillor Orval Chapman will not be reappointed. Chapman was chairman of the committee in 1973.

The remaining members of the committee, Diane Spielvogel, Gil Malcolm and Ted Pratt have all

OUR READERS WRITE:

Santa Claus has been dropped before

R.R.2, Rockwood, Ont.,
20th, Dec. 1972

The Editor
The Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir:
I want to draw your attention to your article of Santa Claus parachuting into the Roma-Italo Christmas party at Milton. This was not the first time Santa has parachuted into a Christmas party. I

dropped Santa Claus (Jim Laucks of St. Thomas) into the Aylmer Fairgrounds on December of 1965 for the Aylmer Santa Claus parade.

Santa had a helper with us in the aircraft so there would be no problems. Oh, by the way he landed right on the spot and there was a whole town full of happy youngsters (and relieved parents).

Yours truly,
Tom Martindale



Santa Claus descends by chute at Roma-Italo Christmas party at Milton.

Life can be different

The Editor
Acton Free Press

Dear Sir:

There is an old saying that if you ask a silly question you can expect a silly answer. Not all the questions put by the "Brethren of Messiah", whoever or whatever they may be, are silly: some are simply irrelevant and others admit of an obvious answer.

Naturally we don't know the exact date Jesus was born: they were not too particular about vital statistics in those days. So a date was agreed on and Christians proceeded to celebrate his birth by gathering around that date all the joyful ceremonies and traditions of mankind. And why not? Surely "it was meet that we should make merry and be glad"? (Luke 15:32)

Of course some people make any celebration an excuse for over-indulgence; others don't need an excuse. And the spirit does not last. Nor do the good resolutions of January 1. Nothing human does. But once a year people get the idea that something wonderful happened and life could be different, is indeed different.

Yours etc.,
W.G. Onions

The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, December 27, 1972

Welcome the New Year

May the New Year enter your home in the same kind fashion we have enjoyed the past season. Heartfelt thanks to everyone for your sincere kindness to our residents.

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Peace in the World this Year

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Christmas Tree PICK-UP
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Wednesday, January 10th
STARTING AT 9 A.M.

Due to the new Air Pollution Control, there will be no Christmas Tree Burning this year.

J. T. HURST,
Clerk-Administrator

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