



ACTON'S NEWEST SUBDIVISION ACTON MEADOW, is filling in the gap between Warren Grove and the remainder of town in this recent photo of the area. M. Z. Bennett School and the High School are at the extreme left while the tracks and Wallace street are at right. (Photo by J. Jennings)

## Eden Mills sets the pace

The ambitious project residents of Eden Mills have labelled "Project Over-Hall" is indicative of the community spirit which thrives in the small hamlet which clusters around the Eramosa River.

The co-operative village project to renovate the community centre with the aid of a \$20,000 Local Initiative Grant puts many larger centres to shame. It is a good example of the power of co-operation and enthusiasm which is generated when a few people put their heads together with high minded objectives in view.

Unfortunately this type of spirit is

restricted to only a few areas, as Eramosa reeve Warren Parkinson pointed out at a recent council meeting.

Council discussing another part of the township with a view to establishing a community centre such as Eden Mills has now, reviewed the case. One councillor felt the matter should be handled just as the Eden Mills matter had been. But the reeve pointed out that it was the tremendous spirit in Eden Mills that had generated and kept alive projects such as the enlargement and renovation of the community centre. No such spirit was evident in the area discussed.

We commend Eden Mills villagers for their drive and initiative in embellishing their community centre. They have planned the building so it would correspond to their wishes, preserving the essential character of the building at the same time.

We hope some of their enthusiasm rubs off on similar efforts in Acton and Rockwood where community centres are being discussed and campaigns will soon be leaving the launching pad to raise the necessary funds.

As of now Eden Mills is setting the pace.

## Free Press Editorial Page

4 The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, February 14, 1973

## We've lost Mr. Kerr's ear

We were very interested in the opinions of the Hon. George Kerr on regional government as expressed to a meeting of the Upper Burlington Citizens Forum last week. Mr. Kerr came out strongly for Milton as a central Milton borough which will "mean Milton will now have the opportunity to grow and become a main cog in the county."

Asked if there was antagonism against a proposed central Halton unit centred by Milton, Mr. Kerr is reported to have said there has been a bit of a rumble but indicated that opponents of a Milton-centred borough wouldn't get too far.

"I can see the reason for it," he said. "Milton is the shire town of the county, there is a large population there and it seems to be growing."

It is worthy of note that Mr. Kerr is the Member of the Provincial Parliament for Halton West, which includes Acton and Nassagaweya. Milton is not in his riding. Obviously he feels the interests of Milton are of more importance than that of his constituents to the north, where there is some genuine concern about the implications of a fourth borough and the make-up of the North Halton unit.

Mr. Kerr is also reported to have said "The latest information I have is that the county council is generally receptive to the fourth borough."

We were not just sure where Mr. Kerr is getting his information but it certainly runs counter to any this newspaper has received. Curious, we checked with Tom Hill, reeve of

Esquesing, generally acknowledged as one of those opposed to the four borough scheme. Mr. Hill made it plain there is no change in thinking in the north.

"Ask George Kerr how he knows what county council is doing?" said Hill. "If we had accepted it, why in the world would we be meeting with A. K. Meen on Tuesday night?"

The reeve said only four of the 14 county council members supported a fourth Halton borough.

We wonder if Mr. Kerr is whistling past a graveyard with his remarks. He can't be serious when he says there is only token opposition to a fourth borough but he certainly made it plain that the Government wasn't going to

entertain any other suggestions, constructive or otherwise, in spite of what Mr. Meen said about Queen's Park listening ability.

If Mr. Kerr had not given the whole of Halton such strong representation in the past we would not have been disturbed by his remarks but it is becoming increasingly apparent that parts of North Halton are an embarrassment to him or have become meaningless when stacked against a high Burlington vote.

Perhaps arduous duties as a cabinet minister and infrequent appearances in the north, have both contributed, since it is apparent we have lost Mr. Kerr's ear.

## Indusmin proposals need scrutiny

We would hope both local and provincial government officials view new Indusmin proposals to establish a huge sanitary waste disposal site in the 115 acre quarry, near Acton with caution.

Although the company has worked out what appears to be a program which would suit ecologists and reduce odors by shredding, compacting and baling the Toronto garbage, there are still questions which have not been answered in full.

Indusmin proposes to restore the huge pit, with bales of the dried refuse, from which materials such as cardboard, newspapers, tires, glass and metal have been extracted. It is proposed to recycle paper products. Other materials would be sold to the Toronto area.

We are led to believe this would mean no increase in truck traffic since only those trucks returning to the quarry would be carrying the dried garbage and the economics of the package include this provision.

The Minister of the Environment James Auld has stated the accompanying Anglo Recycling proposal is a step in the right direction of a full solution to the waste problem. The company hopes to begin construction of the recycling plant and have it in operation before the end of the year.

Indusmin's proposal to Esquesing indicated that investigations to date have shown the dried and shredded garbage bales are innocuous and relatively inert, which makes the proposal more attractive. Not only would Toronto have a place to get rid of one million tons of the dried garbage

each year but the Indusmin operation would eventually rehabilitate the quarry, restoring the land to original contours.

However we do have reservations about the proposal. We don't like the idea of this area becoming a big Metro Toronto dump. If the dried refuse is innocuous and inert as the companies allege, then Metro Toronto could likely find many uses for the refuse inside its own borders rather than shipping it out to the surrounding country.

Will the dried bales create a pollution of the water table if they get wet? Evidence presented at the Rockwood O.M.B. hearing on sewers and water showed limestone rock has fissures which can carry contaminated water into nearby streams in a manner which defies analysis. Downhill from the Indusmin quarry is the Black Creek, a tributary of the Credit River, a showplace of the Departmental efforts to clean up Ontario waterways.

Would the pit encourage the growth of vermin-rats and other rodents which inhabit dumps? Would the land designation as a dump site encourage further dumping operations?

These are a few of the questions which should be answered in full before any decision is made about the suitability of the Indusmin quarry as a site for refuse.

It is interesting to note Pollution Probe, the body that rides herd on many of the environmental issues of the province, has endorsed the recycling plant proposals and using dried bales for landfill. But the University of Toronto organization has also suggested more of the waste could

be put to more productive use, such as compost, declaring they do not regard landfill as an acceptable long-term method of handling garbage.

Pollution Probe has recommended: (1) That details of cost and feasibility must be available for public scrutiny and policy decisions cannot be the prerogative of civil servants.

(2) Full information on the proposal to establish landfill sites outside Toronto must be available to the general public in the areas being considered, something both companies involved have made attempts to do.

Probe says people have good reason to be suspicious of big cities and big companies, and full consultation with them is essential.

We give full marks to Indusmin and Anglo-Recycling for their efforts at informing the public about their intentions. They have researched the project thoroughly.

Indusmin maintains the operations would be both clean and odorless and have agreed to work with various government agencies to monitor the environment, both before starting the fill program and continuing thereafter. We can't ask any more than that although we would prefer to see an independent body fully conversant with environmental concerns doing the monitoring.

Certainly the company deserves a full and impartial hearing from the public about their proposals. We still feel very strongly that public opinion in this area should play a large part in the decision of whether they do or don't dump Toronto refuse here.



Bill Smiley

As many a sage has remarked, man is a curious animal. He is the only species that will kill others of his own type in either hot or cold blood. And he is the only animal, including the much-maligned hog, that will eat anything and drink practically anything.

Carnivores eat meat. Herbivores eat herbs. A few species like to vary the diet with some rice, ripe carrion. But man will eat anything that grows, walks, swims or flies, including himself, if he's hungry enough.

Thus we have a proliferation of such delicacies as seal flipper, cod's tongue, canned mink, fried grasshoppers, frogs' legs, bees and ants in chocolate. What other species could stomach birds' nest soup or year-old eggs? Not to mention baggins.

Prince Hamlet said: "What a piece of work is man! how infinite in faculties! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals!"

What a piece of work indeed! Man will eat anything from guts to nuts.

For many, there's nothing tastier than fried liver, baked stuffed heart, kidney pie and — almost unbelievable — tripe, that exotic dish made from the lining of a cow's

stomach. It's not hard to figure out where the expression "That's a lot of tripe" came from.

Those are just a few categories in the guts department. At the other end of the scale, among the nuts, are such things as hickory, hazel, chest, wal, pea and sweetbreads.

No self-respecting goat would eat and drink some of the things the "paragon of animals" stuffs into his quivering, reluctant stomach. Dill pickles, kippered herring, cold tongue, hot curry. Never mind the juice of fermented grapes, and cheese crawling with maggots. No wonder we smell peculiar to other animals. Ever noticed how dogs and cats sniff us and walk away with a disgusted look?

How cavalierly we treat those long-suffering stomachs, of which we are issued only one for the duration.

Breakfast. What a way to start a day! A glass of icy orange juice, followed by scalding coffee. Then some cereal, the rougher the better. Then a few slices off a pig's bum, accompanied by a couple of hens' children. Toss in a couple of vitamin pills, with dear-only-knows what poisons in them, and we're ready to face the world. No wonder the world looks pretty grim.

When I was in prison camp, there were rats about. The Germans kept quite a few cats around to control the rat population. One day the camp commander, who had a sense of humor, posted a notice in each barracks: "Anybody caught eating long-tailed rabbits will be severely punished." Yep. The boys were eating the cats.

The French have horsemeat butcher shops. Some Asians consider there's nothing sweeter than boiled, baked or fried dog. Some Arabian tribes cook a whole sheep,

and the most succulent part of the meal is sucking out the eyes. An Eastern version of oysters on the half-shell.

Of course, Canadians would never touch such things. We confine ourselves to such treats as shepherd's pie, consisting of ground-up, used up shepherds, toe nails and all. At least they seem like toe nails when you crunch down on one.

This may all seem irrelevant to the great issues of the day, and it is. But it's a lot deeper than it seems at first glance.

I began thinking of man as guts when somebody told me a chap had spent 32 days or something in a cabin up north and had survived by eating mice. It was an intriguing thought.

Can't you see him sitting there, drooling, as he turned a mouse on a spit? Can you understand him deciding to have a cold lunch of haunch of mouse, with a salad of pine needles and cedar buds, served on birch bark?

Can you see him munching a mouse drumstick for a bed-time snack?

Or worrying, like any perplexed housewife, about whether to have a rump roast of mouse, or a standing rib roast, or hot sliced mouse tongue?

And deciding the hell with it, he was going to splurge tonight and have filet of mouse! It boggles the mind.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Could Bill write his obituary?

The day's a total loss to me,  
When I can't find a smile,  
A little grin above my chin,  
Makes inches out of miles.

This road of life, so full of strife,  
Sometimes has me beat,  
But in my stride, the funny side,  
Keeps blisters from my feet  
In my "Free Press" news, Bill Smiley's  
views,  
Give me quite a chuckle.

With all his woes, as he daily goes,  
"Anang ye Human Muckle."

But from his skit, I pick some wit,  
With his "One" plus "Two" to carry,  
If I should die, could I hire this guy,  
To write my obituary?

To Bill,  
Most sincerely,  
Victor Smith  
R.R. 2 Rockwood.

## Back Issues of The Free Press

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 19, 1953

No action was taken to continue rent controls in Acton according to a resolution passed by one vote at council meeting. The decision followed a lengthy discussion.

The school auditorium was filled for the first performance of Tom Sawyer. Tom was played by Jim Wahlman and Huck Finn was Michael Hurst. Frank Elliott was in charge of the operetta assisted by Jean Kirby. School board chairman Tom Watson was master of ceremonies. Aunt Polly was Dolores Lambert, Becky Thatcher Pat Coles, Injun Joe Robert Ebelman, Joe Harper Peter Lawson, Widow Douglas Helen Landsborough, Amy Teresa Arbie, Sydney John Muselle, Mary Laurie Hiltche with Robert Heatley, George Fountain, Frank Masen, Warren Wagner, Martin Marks, Lynn Mann, Bob Parker, Billy Fisher, Laurie Duly, Johnny Miller, Don Lindsay, Ella Jany recited an introduction. There was a cast of over 100.

Long-time dream of a Women's Institute Luncheon Library was realized this week when the first book was issued to Mrs. A. J. Westhurst, a life member of the Institute, by Mrs. W. H. Mitchell, librarian, and also a life member. There are 700 books in the newly-built Community Hall cupboards. An official opening was held Friday night.

The second annual Mother and Daughter banquet sponsored by the Y Ladies' Auxiliary was attended by about 130 guests. Mrs. Joe Hurst, president, welcomed everyone. Miss Elizabeth Juny proposed a toast to the mothers and Mrs. Fred Hunter replied. Mrs. John Davidson accompanied by Mrs. Ralph Price led a sing song. Sheila Paul gave violin selection and Peggy and Frances Oakes sang duets. Guest speaker was Miss Lenore Schwalbe of the Guelph Y.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 15, 1923.

Mr. Neil McDonald, chairman of the Board of Education, brought before council the necessity for more room at the school. He pointed out the primary room is already overcrowded and about 20 more pupils are expected at Easter. The school board was

granted the use of the council chamber from April 1 to June 30.

Fire chief McDonald requested another man or two be instructed in the operation of the fire pumps, as at present only two men, Mr. Reid and Mr. Wilson, are capable of running these pumps.

The average salary paid to teachers in Acton is \$1,075, higher than Burlington, Oakville and Milton.

Monday morning D. C. Russell's delivery horse took a run down Mill St. that was slightly over the speed limit. The sleigh collided with a hydro pole and remained at the corner of Mill and Elgin and the horse with the front bob and shafts ran through the park and was finally stopped at the Toronto Suburban station. The groceries were badly spilt.

Frances Nickawa, a Cree Indian maiden, will speak at Knox church tomorrow night.

Why couldn't we have earlier of closing of stores on Saturday nights?

Saturday was show factory day at the rink. In the afternoon the Hewitson Shoe Co. of Brampton and the hockeyists of the local factory of the Hewitson Co. played. In the evening the Urson Show company hired a car on the suburban railway to play the local team. Stars were easily Kentner and Gibbons. The Urson players said Acton is "one of the liveliest towns they have struck."

### 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 17, 1900.

The first acetylene gas machine to be installed in Acton is now illuminating the post office. The two small burners in use light up the post office with much satisfaction. The light has greater radiating power than any other light now in use. Mr. Matthews intends lighting his residence and public hall as well with this popular new illuminant.

The promenade concert given by the Cykinoles Club in the town hall on Monday was an event both enjoyable and successful. The committee took special pains to render the hall attractive. Flags and bunting were freely used and dainty screens, piano lamps and other features gave the place a decidedly cost aspect. Acton Cornet Band and the Jubilee Orchestra rendered numerous selections for promenading. Several budding artists also made their debut very creditably. Messrs. Fred Storey, Fred Ross and P. Gibbons and Miss Jessie Nicklin also took part. The piano was kindly loaned to the club by Mr. C. W. Kelly, Guelph, free of charge. It will remain in the hall until the series of entertainment planned are concluded. The treasury for a piano for the town hall is not at one hundred dollars. The club is quite encouraged and intend to continue their efforts until they reach a sufficient sum.

Uncle Tom's Cabin will appear at the town hall Saturday evening. There is impetus to improve the mail service between Great Britain and the colonies.

The world is startled by a fresh outbreak of Bulgarian atrocities. The unspeakable Turk has been at it again.

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