



What the weeklies say

FIRE WHISTLE MANIA

Huron Expositor (Rearforth)

There is a certain fascination about a fire whistle that attracts people who ordinarily ignore anything of a disturbing nature.

They jump in their cars and rush to the fire hall to see where the action is. Not content with this information they crowd behind and around the fire trucks seemingly to gain an advantage in a race to the fire.

Perhaps it's all good clean fun — an interesting diversion on an otherwise quiet day. But when the clutter of cars delays the fire fighting equipment from reaching the fire the practice no longer is a game but becomes a menace that will result in unnecessary loss.

The few minutes in which firemen are delayed by heedless motorists may make the difference between a blaze extinguished and a complete write-off. At a recent fire it wasn't enough to follow along but the more venturesome passed and re-passed each other playing a game of leap frog.

Perhaps there is no solution. In the excitement of the moment almost any behavior may seem to be acceptable.

On the other hand perhaps the potential hazards to otherwise innocent motorists and loss of property which are involved would justify a new look at traffic regulations with a more stringent enforcement.

THE WOODSHED

Kerfus—Elnora News Express

An important element in rural architecture now has become obsolete. The old woodshed, once affixed to every farm home, has lost its original utility. Only three per cent of households in all Canada still are heated by coal or wood. The woodshed was an essential in early Ontario. It was difficult enough to keep the house warm in winter and an ever-present supply of dry wood, preferably hard maple and beech, was required.

The family depended on this fuel for warmth. Equally important it relied on it for food. The bread and other pastries were baked in the oven of the old wood-burning stove; the meats cooked on it; the soups, porridges and vegetables boiled on it, and the pickles and preserves made on it.

It was an indifferent farmer who did not see to it that the woodshed was filled annually with dry wood, and with large piles of freshly cut wood still out in the bush becoming conditioned for use.

The old woodsheds had an aroma all of their own—and a pleasant one it was. It was a composite of the smells of old chips, of the newly split wood, of the cedar ready for the kindling, etc. It was a musty, mouldy but pleasant odor, and lingers on in those old woodsheds which still have a few blocks of wood in them and the accumulations of the dusty debris of the decades.—John Marshall.

BILINGUALISM SHOULD BE CULTIVATED

Ormsby Independent

A queer quirk in the collective Canadian personality is that bilingualism, our possession of two official languages, is widely considered a liability, instead of a major national asset and cause for pride.

All Canadians are not compelled to know both their country's languages and many Canadians speak neither correctly—but the advantages of some knowledge of both are enormous.

Some of these advantages are practical: the ability to reply in the same language in which one is asked a question; to read *La Presse* and the *Free Press* with equal ease; to present two ways of articulating any idea, with the option of using the one which says it best.

Culturally, knowledge of English and French lay open the treasures of the two greatest literatures of the modern world.

It is perhaps Canada's two-language status its most valuable when a bilingual Canadian travels. For he can go anywhere without finding someone who can understand him. In the majority of the new nations of Africa, English or French is almost certain to be one of the official languages. The same is true in the nations of the former British and French empires on the other continents.

Bilingualism is our unperceived asset. We should be enjoying our two languages instead of squabbling over them. Rather than threatening anyone's job for not knowing one of them, we should be devising an educational system through which every Canadian child will learn and love both the tongues which are his inheritance.

Corridor ideal along 401 Highway

Residents of this area who have been studying routes for the 500 KV Hydro transmission corridor in detail, have come up with an excellent suggestion at the public meeting in Acton recently.

Spokesman John Schneider of R.R. 2, Acton, outlined a route which would follow 401 Highway from the proposed Halton substation to a point near Guelph, thus avoiding the north end of Halton and the townships of Erin and Eramosa completely. Of course, the suggestion is dependent on the Soland Commission advising Hydro to use the shortest route for the transmission corridor.

Although there are environmental factors to consider besides distance it should be noted that response to questionnaires has established the interested public would like to see the towers follow existing corridors such as expressways even though they would be visible to motorists. The Schneider suggestion fits in with this consensus and has opened an entirely new avenue for the study.

Mr. Howlett, who has been more than fair in meetings with the public has publicly acknowledged that his group did not consider running along 401 Highway as an alternative. Hydro spokesmen at the Acton meeting acknowledged the route was feasible also and could be considered as an alternative.

If the suggestion was based purely on means of rerouting the hydro corridor out of this area without a tangible alternative we would dismiss it as another ploy to have others contend with the 810 foot swath of towers and substations. However, the alternative along 401 highway is credible and meets most of the requisites outlined by Hydro. It deserves recognition.

There is also some merit in the suggestion that the towers should be a close

to the major users as possible. Again the alternate proposed by Schneider meets the requirements Hydro has outlined.

It would be foolish for anyone to dispute Ontario Hydro's contention that additional power is needed in the province to meet the demand. It would be equally foolish for the general public to oppose Hydro's proposals without some alternative which is at least as good as already proposed.

We think the suggestion from the Acton meeting has found the key which could construct the most economical corridor over the shortest distance and yet have the least environmental impact on the agricultural land the province is eager to preserve.

"In theory, the best route should have the shortest distance, the least number of lines in the corridor, the fewest substations, the least environmental impact and highest public acceptance."



Mini-Comment

According to a West German medical magazine reporting the results of life insurance studies, the husband who kisses his wife every morning before he leaves for work will probably last five years longer, earn 20 per cent to 30 per cent more, lose up to 50 per cent less time because of illness, and be involved in fewer automobile accidents than the husband who doesn't. The study doesn't say anything about the wife who kisses her husband every morning before she leaves for work. We'd be interested in that analysis too.

cents a gallon (including jug deposit). Acton's water sells for \$0c for 1,000 gallons. A bargain, eh?

Not everyone liked Dave Waddell's cartoon concerning the Queen's visit to Acton in last week's Free Press, although this corner has always felt a laugh at one, own's expense is good for the soul. Head Beardmore chemist John Griefeneder, who is responsible for pollution efforts at Acton's largest industry, feels the paper might have been hitting below the belt because the company has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars cleaning up and constructing a unique sewage plant. He says the efforts have been rewarded but complete success takes time. We hope to do an article on it soon. In the meantime it is obvious what is good for the soul might not be so for the sole (leather).

Last spring they came out in leaf, but by mid-summer they were dead of the Dutch elm plague which has blighted my part of the country.

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Want to make a fortune? Then find a spring and bottle the water for ale. Canada Dry is doing it. The company launched White Mountain Spring Water on the Canadian market and soon plans to export the product to the parched and polluted United States. Canada Dry president N.L. Bosworth says the taste will be the seller. "It's pure, sparkling clear, refreshing taste brings to its user a unique sense-awakening experience that is difficult to find these days." Source of the nectar is a spring in the Caledon Hills, not far from here. Canada Dry will retail the water for 99

Where was the telephone invented—Brantford or Boston? The first long distance call was made from the Alexander Graham Bell homestead in Brantford, Ontario, to Paris, Ontario, eight miles. And the inventor has substantiated this with an address to the Canadian Club of Ottawa in June, 1909. Said Bell: "..... Brantford has an indisputable claim to this distinction and is rightfully named the 'Telephone City.'" Bell Canada is commemorating Alex Bell's invention on telephone directories this year since 1874 is the date of the invention in Brantford. A working model was first built in the U.S. however, and a U.S. patent obtained in 1876.

All the industrial news from our neighboring community of Milton has been good lately. Latest is a \$3 million expansion to the Rockwell plant, formerly known as Ontario Steel. Almost 500 are employed at the Milton plant and they'll soon be joined by more from Oshawa where the company is closing another plant down to consolidate operations in Milton. Many from this town and district are employed there.

I was going to have them taken down this summer, anyway, but my plans were spurned a bit when a small limb fell off and conked my neighbor on the head, and then a large limb came down and fell on my neighbour's house. They're good neighbors, but that's carrying things a bit far.

I'd heard all sorts of horror stories about the fantastic prices people charged to remove trees. I was assured that it would cost me a couple of hundred dollars per tree.

This was nonsense, as horror stories so often are. I located a tree surgeon who works for the hydro. His estimate was \$65.

"Each?" my wife queried, and I kicked her sharply on the ankle.

She is always worried about any deals I make. She thinks I have no business sense and will be diddled at every turn. She is right about the first premise, but I have never yet been diddled, because I trust people. She doesn't, and has been diddled several times.

Anyway, that was a firm price for both trees, and I didn't shop around because I

husky assistants. Instead of taking the trees down in pieces, he was going to fell them in the back yard, toward the house.

It's a pleasure to see an expert at work. He sized up the trees by eye and reckoned they wouldn't hit the house. I had to take his word for it. If he'd misjudged, one tree would have slammed through the French doors and right into our living-room.

He went up the tree like a monkey and fastened ropes around it. The other ends of the ropes were snubbed around trees near the house and the boys stood by, ready to pull.

Snari went the chain saw. Heave went the boys. WHAM! Down came number one, right where he'd lined 'er up. A few minutes later, down came number two, almost missing the peony bed.

Then they went to work like so many beavers, some wielding chain saws, the others piling brush. In three hours from go, the trees were down, sawed into fire-pile length, and everything cleaned up.

I have ceased worrying about the energy crisis in this country. I have enough elm blocks stacked in wood piles all over the yard to see us through until at least the year 2,000, and after that somebody else can worry about it.

There's something snug and homely about a wood pile. Now, instead of looking out and seeing flower beds that need weeding, I can sit and look at my wood piles.

I didn't lift a finger myself, but I feel as smug and satisfied when I look at all that wood as any pioneer ever did when he'd just finished cutting and stacking his wood for the winter.

There's only one cloud on the horizon. It's too good to be true. I'll bet that right now, some beady-eyed bureaucrat in the Department of National Revenue is trying to figure out some way of collecting tax on that wood.

He'd better not succeed or there'll be trouble. He can sales tax me, income tax me, property tax me, but if he tries to tax my wood pile it will be the final straw and there'll be murder done. The weapon will be a two-foot elm block, dropped from the bath-

Ottawa Report

by Terry O'Connor — Halton MP



Marjan Drijber and Christine Sinclair are dead, cold-bloodedly murdered in a spray of machine gun bullets fired by Zambian soldiers. Nothing can be done to rectify this fact. But much more can and should be done by Canadian External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp to clarify the situation and assist the families of the murdered girls.

Most people are familiar with the events. The girls were travellers visiting the popular Victoria Falls tourist attraction on the Rhodesian-Zambian border. They were on the Rhodesian side of the fast-flowing, crocodile-infested Zambezi River. The Zambian soldiers who fired across the river killing and wounding these girls and other sightseers claimed they thought they were saboteurs attempting to blow up a power project.

Canada's immediate response to this flagrant crime against two of her citizens was to send a note of protest. A note of protest! Mitchell Sharp, not wanting to ruffle feathers, forever the smiling diplomat, has failed the families of the girls and the Canadian people by omission and commission.

Discouraged father

First he should have contacted President Kaunda of Zambia directly and demanded a full investigation by neutral, perhaps UN authorities, received

acknowledgement of the total culpability of the Zambian soldiers, if the investigation established same, a public apology from President Kaunda and compensation (although admittedly money is not adequate compensation for loss of life). Instead, after offering Mr. Oscar Drijber, Marjan's father, all the assistance the Canadian government could provide, officials of the External Affairs Department tried to dissuade Mr. Drijber from visiting the site of the shooting to carry out his own investigation because neither Canada nor Zambia would.

And next, Mr. Sharp should not have approved a loan last week for \$1,000,000 to Zambia until the above steps had been taken. That's right, Mr. Sharp made this loan and further, he said, we will continue with our aid program to this country which murders our citizens.

In the process Mr. Sharp expounded an incredible new theory of international law. When questioned by Alf Hales, the Member for Wellington who has vigorously pursued the matter over the past month, he said: "The loan we give is not to the government of Zambia, it is to the people of Zambia..."

"Tripe"

It is a fundamental concept of international law that the government is the people, that it represents, speaks, acts, or fails to speak or act on behalf of the people it represents. The people elected their government for better or for worse. To treat the

people of a country as a separate entity from its government is ludicrous. In any event the loan in question was not made directly to the people of Zambia. How could it be? What people? Who would administer it? It was made to those in the government who were responsible for expending funds to the benefit of the people. It is unworthy of Canada's foreign minister to proffer such tripe.

Mr. Sharp and Canada have badly handled this international incident. We should stop further aid to Zambia until we get to the bottom of the two murders. The families of the girls are suffering unnecessary anguish and Canada is looking like a patsy.

More spent on gum than politics - O'Connor

In a recent speech to the House of Commons on the government's proposed election expenses limitation bill, Halton MP Terry O'Connor attacked lack of public support for political parties and made recommendations concerning disclosure of campaign donations to remedy the problem.

He said, "It is a painful fact of everyday life that parties and candidates are poor," and called the priority Canadians have for financially assisting them "incredibly low."

"It has been noted that Canadians spend more on chewing gum each year than on support of their political party," Mr. O'Connor pointed out.

Private is best

Wary of public subsidies to candidates, the Halton MP said, "Private financing of parties and candidates is still the most desirable method of funding our system. The system should encourage each person to exercise

his choice, by means of a private donation, and it should not tend to relieve him of this choice, by means of overemphasis on public funding. A system of public funding takes the freedom of choice of support away from the individual and requires him to support all parties including those with whose philosophy he may strongly disagree."

To alleviate public suspicion of governmental patronage to donors, Mr. O'Connor says disclosure regulations must be more strict. They should also encourage more public interest — "The disclosure requirements, together with tax incentives to small donors, should achieve the fundamental objective of broadening the base of political support. Disclosure will engender confidence in the public that parties and candidates are not controlled or bought by a few large donors but are in fact supported by many thousands of small and medium sized donors."

Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 23, 1953

Ranging from expert young lads with underwear goggles to timid young ladies unwilling to let go of the edge, Acton youngsters are this week enjoying the new junior pool in the park. Children 10 and under are allowed in the trim new pool. It opened for the first time last Saturday on a hot sticky day between summer showers.

The president of the swimming pool committee Amos Mason presented the key to mayor Dr. F. G. Oakes. The first two youngsters in the pool were Johnny and Heather McGeachie, children of the swimming pool committee secretary Jack McGeachie. Miss Nellie Hall volunteered to supervise the pool for the first week.

Water is supplied from the town system and chlorinated from time to time.

A presentation was held for Mr. and Mrs. John Boufield at Nassagaweya hall. Mrs. Boufield was the former Eileen Allen. Donna McMillan read the address and Horace Blyth, Bruce Barber, Stewart Miller and Douglas Anderson made the presentation of two end-tables and lamps.

Rockwood bowling green is a favorite spot. Last week games were played by teams of Messrs. Geo. Bayne, Geo. Saunders, Geo. Wingate, Geo. Gray and Geo. Perry vs. Bev Diltz, Fred Alton, J.A. Little, Pete Sim and Roy Bacon.

The newly-formed Acton Soccer club travelled to Georgetown and returned on the long end of a 3 to 2 score. Cliff Sutton scored twice and Les Davies, "the old master", once. The play of Jock Calder, Les Davies, Cliff Sutton, Al Spanion, Terry Bottomley and the experience they pass on has done much to bolster the team.

Miss Sybil Bennett, the P.C. candidate, met friends at a tea at the Leatherland home.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 28, 1923.

A big union service in the park will be a feature of Acton's jubilee celebrations August 5. One of the most enthusiastic citizens in making the celebrations a success is Rev. A.C. Stewart. Mr. Stewart not only postponed his vacation for a week but is greatly interested in making the Sunday of the visitors memorable.

41 pupils were successful in subjects in lower school examinations: among them Margaret Young, Matthew Tyler, Jimmy Ross, James Matthews, Stanley Mackie, Harold Swackhamer, Laura Murray, Helen Macdonald, Charlie Landsborough, Joseph Hurst, Addie Hurst, Dora Lambert, Archibald Kerr, Francis Gibbons, Annie Dunn, Johnnie Dunn, Minnie Blair, Beatrice Blair, Alfred Bishop.

The J.W. Hewetson Shoe Factory employees at Acton held their annual picnic July 21. The factory closed down at 11 a.m. and everyone made a rush to get ready for the drive to Burlington Beach. Three truck loads and three automobiles carried the party of 60 excursionists. The refreshment committee under Miss Littlely provided a table groaning with the weight of the good things to eat.

The foundations are being put in for Mr. Landsborough's fine new residence on Lake Ave.

Miss Sabra Nelson was successful in the Normal School examinations.

Fred Ruddell of Georgetown broke his right arm while cranking his car the other day.

Mason's Knitting Mill is working ten hours per day now.

Every motor car and dray in town should be decorated for the jubilee celebrations.

Bannockburn W.I. had a demonstration of aluminum at Mrs. Clarridge's home.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 14, 1888

The new driving sheds at Knox church will be among the finest in the country.

The oldest and possibly the most enthusiastic Orangeman who walked to the G.T.R. depot with Acton L.O.L. on the morning of the Glorious Twelfth, as they went to take the train for Georgetown, was Mr. Robt. Mills, who is also our oldest citizen. He is 94 years of age and joined the lodge in Belfast at the age of 18.

The Pope is rapidly falling. His most ardent wish has been to see peace between Spain and the United States. This week he instructed the papal nuncio at Madrid to urge certain ferry Spanish prelates to refrain from advocating the continuance of the war.

The lawn social at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davidson was a gratifying success to the members of Knox Ladies' Aid. This well-known affair is so convenient to town that hundreds of our citizens esteemed it but a pleasant walk, and the green paths bordered with sweet brier were a pleasant promenade.

If a girl is born beautiful she is as good as born married.

The street sprinkling arrangement is quite a success.

The farmers of Ontario will require more binder twine this season, if crop reports be correct, than in any former year.

There was a slight frost here on Sunday night but not enough to do any crop damage.

Yesterday the cornerstone was laid in Toronto for the new building for the Toronto Telegram, at the corner of Melinda and Bay St.

The greatest event in the history of Georgetown was the 12th of July celebrations. There were 4,000 visitors.