



WINNING FIRST PLACE in the Acton Free Press photography competition at the fall fair was this portrait taken at last year's fair by Tony Vos of Eden Mills. His camera captured a young player with the visiting George Harvey high school band. The judge admired the sharpness as well as the circular concept resulting from artistic trimming of the original picture to include only its vital elements.

We need good representation

Approximately 21,000 voters have the opportunity to ensure they have a voice in the new municipality of North Halton on elections on October 1.

A four man race for mayor is of major interest involving Esquesing reeve Tom Hill, Georgetown mayor Bill Smith and colleagues councillors Phil Siddall and Bill Hunter.

In Ward One (Acton) there is also an interesting race between reeve G.H. (Pat) McKenzie and deputy-reeve Peter Marks for the regional councillor's seat as well as five candidates contesting the two seats on the North Halton council. These include mayor Les Doby, former clerk Joe Hurst, former councillor Bob Drinkwater and councillors Orv Chapman and Barry Insoce.

In Ward Two (Esquesing) deputy reeve Len Cox has nailed the regional councillor's seat down by acclamation while three are entered in the race for two North Halton council seats. These are councillors Dick Howitt and George Maltby and ex-deputy-reeve Russell Miller.

The ballot on election day will also include a referendum to select a name for the area municipality of North Halton from three names selected by Councils of three municipalities of North Halton—Esquesing, North Halton or Halton Hills.

For those who are confused by events of the past months it must be noted the present councils of Acton, Esquesing and Georgetown are finished on December 31 of this year when the new regional form of government takes over. The new regional form of government is similar to the county system in that it is two tier—the county council will be replaced by a 24 person regional council plus the chairman who has been appointed by the province. This, of course, is Allan Masson of Oakville.

The regional council is made up of the regional councillors from each of the wards in the four Halton municipalities of North Halton, Central Halton, Oakville and Burlington, North Halton, for instance will have five representatives on the 24 man council—one from each of the four wards and the mayor.

In Acton's case this means the present nine man council has been replaced by three representatives—two of which will serve only on the North Halton council while the regional councillor will serve on both the North Halton and Halton region Council. In other words, the regional councillors are similar to the present reeve or deputy-reeve.

The area municipality of North Halton will have a 13 man council composed of three representatives from each of the wards. North Halton is divided in four wards—Acton, Esquesing and two from Georgetown with the mayor elected from all four.

Now what is the big difference between the old system and the new? Doesn't look so much different does it?—except for the reduction from seven municipalities to four, a larger county council and smaller representation for towns like Acton?

The difference lies in the distribution of power.

Local councils such as North Halton will be mainly responsible for local planning, streets and sidewalks, local water and sewers, garbage collection, fire protection, bus service, parks and recreation, libraries, building inspection and tax collection.

The regional council is mainly responsible for overall planning, water supply and distribution, sewage collection and treatment, police, main roads, traffic lights and controls, garbage disposal,

health and welfare, regional library system, borrowing for capital expenditures and conservation.

It is really not so different, is it? But the distribution of power has changed. More responsibility has been given to what was formerly the county, but which will be the regional level.

For instance it was formerly up to each of the seven Halton municipalities to provide police protection. Acton had a detachment of the O.P.P., Georgetown and Milton each had their own police force. Now it will be up to the Halton region to provide police protection for Halton.

It is likely the O.P.P. will continue for at least six months as the official guardians of law and order in Acton and the former townships of Esquesing and Nassagaweya, but they will eventually be replaced by detachments of regional police.

Where will you pay the taxes, water bills, etc.?

That's not settled yet but quite likely there will be side offices in Acton and Georgetown for residents to pay for municipal services. These points will likely be decided between the election and December 31 by the North Halton Council.

The important thing now is to get all voters out on election day to select the best men for the job of inaugurating regional government into Halton.

Wise men have said we only get the government we deserve. If voters don't go out and pick those they consider most suitable for the job of governing them they will have to be content with the choices selected for them by other people.

Think about it. Do something about it. Vote on October 1. It is for three years—and we are going to need darn good people to represent all the four municipalities of the new Halton region.

Stopping at stand . . . signal!

The smell of Fall is in the air. Leaves will soon be turning the Ontario countryside into a riot of brilliant colour. And cooler evenings make for pleasant driving.

The addition of roadside fruit and vegetable stands can make a pleasant country drive a profitable one for the budget-conscious shopper. Fresh cut flowers are still available and soon apples will be in abundance. Frequently, the stands

are located close to the paved roadway. Often, they are nothing more than flatbed trucks pulled onto the shoulder of the road. In some cases, the driver will come upon a roadside stand unexpectedly.

By all means, take advantage of the fresh produce offered, but keep in mind highway safety, says the Ontario Safety League.

Never brake suddenly in front of an unexpected stand. Brake slowly,

indicate your intentions to other drivers and pull onto the shoulder.

A short walk back to the stand is better than becoming a hazard to other drivers.

If you are intent on shopping, watch for the farmers signs indicating a roadside stand and slow down before pulling off the highway in front of the produce. Remember, always indicate your intentions...other drivers cannot read your mind.

One last column about impressions of England, and if you're already sick of them, turn to the classified ads.

Cost. A holiday in England used to be relatively inexpensive, what with lower wages and food costs. Not any more. Costs have soared all over Europe and Britain is no exception.

You can still have a cheap holiday there, if you want to squeeze every penny, just as you can in Canada. But that's no fun, on holidays.

In the lovely old town of Chester, we paid about \$15 for a room without bath. But breakfast was included. Good seats in London theatres cost from \$8 to \$10. Meals in a posh restaurant are about the same prices as in Canada—preposterous. Best place to eat is in the pubs, where, at reasonable cost, you can get a hunk of french bread and a good cheese, or a plate of bangers (sausage), a slice of veal and ham pie, or a hot steak and kidney pie.

Ice. If you are accustomed to ice in your drinks in hot weather, either forget it, or be prepared to fight for it.

Order a dry martini and sit back waiting for something ice-cold and uplifting. What you'll get is a glass of lukewarm vermouth, a concoction designed to send you screaming into the arms of the local W.C.T.U.

We arrived in Edinburgh, hot, tired and dusty after a seven-hour train ride. Struggled with luggage, cab and got to our hotel room, after riding up in the littlest elevator in the world. (No more than four persons or 600 pounds). I was intrigued by the thought of what would happen if four 200-pounders got on.

Anyway, when the porter arrived with our bags, we were stretched out, dying for a cold drink. I asked him to bring some ice. "Ice? Oh, yes, ice. Yesir." Ten minutes later he returned, totting a huge silver tray, bedecked with a sparkling white napkin. The piece de resistance rested in the centre of the tray—a wine goblet with four tiny ice cubes in it. He roared. He was bewildered. We'd ordered ice, hadn't we? He'd brought ice.

Courtesy. Canadians and Americans are friendly souls, on the whole, but our manners are not always equally polished. We were struck by the courtesy and friendliness of the Brits.

At bus stops, for example, there is no elbow-punching of old ladies, no sly kicks on the ankles, no every-man-for-himself attitude. There is a politeness, which, though pained at times, is very evident.

There's an old tradition, fostered by movies and novels, that the English are extremely reticent, to the point of stuffiness, on trains. They're supposed to retire behind their papers, indicating each other's presence by no more than the occasional grunt or dirty look.

Why, it's just the opposite. They'll go on and on and on, explaining things, being

Bill Smiley



kindly and helpful until, sometimes when you're exhausted and don't feel like gabbing, you wish the old, grumpy stereotype were true.

Only once did I have a slight unpleasantness, and it was my fault. We were catching a train, and were late. Sweating under the luggage, and with our carriage

MINI COMMENT

Did you hear the true story about a Colorado telephone customer who was being charged for a phone call every time she flushed her toilet? Apparently when her service was installed, a grounding wire had been incorrectly attached to a plumbing pipe. The repairman jokingly said he couldn't understand why the toilet didn't ring!

The Automobile Association of Toronto claims that the new impact bumpers are too heavy for one man to carry and may cause hernias to laborers. In future, two men will be required to carry or remove such bumpers. The Ontario Safety League warns repairmen of an added hazard when two cars become locked together during a collision. A sudden release of the bumpers may be violent and dangerous.

The employees in this establishment have a little sign hung up to goad them into action. It reads "The objective of all dedicated company personnel should be to thoroughly analyze all situations, anticipate all problems prior to their occurrence, have answers for these problems and to more swiftly solve these problems when called upon to do so. However, the sign adds, "when you are up to your rear end in alligators, it is difficult to remind yourself that the initial objective was to drain the swamp."

what looked like a quarter of a mile away, I looked wildly around for a porter.

The only one I could see was helping an elderly, crippled lady out of a wheelchair, to get on the train. I dropped my bags, gave the porter a hand at helping her up, then slung my luggage into the wheelchair and went beetling down the platform, pushing it.

We arrived, and I started to unload my luggage from the wheelchair, to put it on the train. A rather stern railway official looked at my wife, who'd been galloping along behind me, looked back down the platform and spoke, "No, no. That'll have to go in the baggage van."

I didn't know why, as it hadn't happened before, but with two minutes to go I didn't care. We put the bags in the van, and he started to fold the wheelchair and put it in. I said, "Oh, no. That belongs here." He turned purple.

He had been looking over my shoulder for the invalid, probably expecting an old soul on a stretcher. It was the wheelchair that had to go into the baggage van, not the bags.

He had been completely baffled by this example of Canadian enterprise, was embarrassed by his error, and therefore grew a bit black in the countenance. I apologized, with a very sincere look, and offered to run the chair back down the platform. But he witted something about the train leaving and another phrase or two I didn't quite catch, but which definitely contained the word, "bloody."

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA)

Founded in 1975 and published every Wednesday at 59 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the CCNA and the CMAA. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$4.00 in Canada, \$9.00 in all countries other than Canada. Single copies 15 cents. Second class mail Registration Number 0515. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space or copy by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for the signature, will be charged for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

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Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

50 years ago

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 1, 1953.

"The decision will depend on what the Ontario Lacrosse Association decides from our report of the game." That's all referees Lou Vipond and Mickey McDonald had to say when queried as to who won the second game of the O.L.A. intermediate lacrosse finals here on Tuesday night between Acton and Bradford. The two officials called a halt to the game with less than five minutes to play when a full-scale donnybrook broke out in the last quarter and both Acton and Bradford players forgot all about the game and tried to settle differences with their fists. Even spectators were involved in the fracas that sent one Bradford player to the doctor's office badly beaten up and had the crowd of 600 fans in an uproar. Lights in the arena were doused in an effort to effect a truce.

Acton won the first game in Bradford and Tuesday night's win would have given them a two game lead. Acton had a comfortable 12-8 lead with only four and a half minutes left to play. Jack Mann was the pace setter for the Rams with four goals while Lloyd Smith got three.

Over 1,000 personal calls to homes resulted in 999 cards of pertinent information in the hands of the four ministers of Protestant congregations. The cards indicate Knox 344 families, United 292 families, St. Alban's 265 families and Baptist 47 families. Catholic families were not tabulated. There were 35 who indicated other denominations included three Christian Reformed, one Jehovah's Witness, six Pentecostal, one Salvation Army, one Quaker, two Disciples, and others.

Elmer the Safety Elephant flag was raised and safety rules were recited by Gwen Bean, Michael Churchill, Pat Dennis, Catherine Higgins, John Kirkwood and Keith Dunk.

Dennis Papillon takes over the presidency of the student council with Janice Baker vice-president.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 27, 1923.

The Thomson Motor Supply building is now ready and council will go to the factory in a body, and value the property and machinery to ascertain if everything is in accordance with the agreement. The mortgage to the corporation has been scrutinized and found to be satisfactory.

Churchill anniversary tea meeting on Monday evening was a most enjoyable event. The church sheds were cleaned out and decorated and the tables spread there. After the excellent tea, for which the Churchill ladies have been long noted, a very enjoyable programme was given in the church. The principal feature was the generous selection of literary numbers rendered by Rev. Mr. Morley. A quartette composed of Messrs. Harry Gibbons, Archie Mann, James Smith and Alex Mann sang several numbers which all enjoyed. An interesting event was the presence of David Ryder, the most venerable person of the community, whose birthplace was the Ryder homestead at the Hill, and who is now in his 92nd year. Mr. Ryder was a lad of seven when Uncle Hiram Denny, the first pastor, laid the corner stone of the corner stone of the church.

Oh, you hunters. Don't be so hard on those poor ducks who rest from time to time on Fairy Lake.

This is an off year for beechnuts. The children of the town have a great deal to learn about the dangers of getting in the way of automobiles. Playing ball on the public highway should be forbidden.

A piano has been secured for the high school. This will enhance the musical features of the curriculum.

Mrs. W. Gowdy passed away at Limehouse. She was born in Nassagaweya in 1875.

Acton's well-lit streets are remarked upon by all visitors to our town.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 22, 1898.

Is Acton to have a rink? Considerable interest is being taken in this question around town and it is rumored that reliable parties are taking hold of it and that a syndicate is being formed to build and operate a rink here. The site proposed is that of Storey's lot on Mill St. where the planing mill was recently burned. Acton is surely large and progressive enough to support a good rink and all the young people hope the scheme will materialize.

It is reported at Ottawa that the Mounted Policemen who went in by Edmonton a year ago have now reached Dawson City.

The particulars in the election trials give spicy details to the reading public.

A couple of weeks ago Asa Hall Esq., our oldest citizen, was visiting friends in Stouffville, who reside in a house, the foundation of which was built by Mr. Thos. Perryman Sr., 54 years ago, two years after he arrived in Canada from England, for Mr. Philip Wideman. It is still in good condition.

A good deal of interest and enthusiasm was manifested at a meeting in favor of prohibition in Rockwood town hall. Electors were present from Everton and Eden Mills so the township of Eramosa was fairly well represented. Discussion was invited but no opposition was offered.

Mr. Charles McMillan, a pioneer of Erin township, died. He came to Erin in 1831. He was reeve of the township for 15 years.

The frame for the new double tenement of Messrs. Robertson Bros. on Maria St. is up and being enclosed. The house will be commodious and will improve the locality.

Mr. S. Laird's tenement on Young St. is just about completed. The equinoctial gales the past week have been pretty breezy.