



THE END OF SUMMER. Picnic tables are stacked in the wading pool at the park and leaves begin to fill the pool where just a month ago toddlers

were cooling off in refreshing waters. The summer was one of the best in history for fine weather in the Acton area. (D. Gibbons photo)

# Police proposals need study

Like our sister paper, the Milton Champion, we are concerned about the recommendations which have originated from the Halton Police steering committee.

The committee recommends the old and established committee of Acton and Milton be introduced to law by telephone, a new experience for people who have been accustomed to the reassuring presence of local policemen at points where they can be seen and appreciated, both by those who act within and without the law.

Under the proposals which will go to the police commissioners from the steering committee, temporary regional headquarters will be located in Oakville with district offices in Georgetown and Burlington and possibly a staff office in Milton.

All calls will go directly to police headquarters in Oakville and will be despatched from there to the

appropriate branch office for action.

The one temporary outstanding feature is that the present Ontario Provincial Police has agreed to continue patrolling the areas over which it generally has jurisdiction until such time as the Halton Police Commission is in a position to assume the responsibility. These include detachments at Acton and one at Milton, which patrol the townships of Esquimaux and Nassagaweya.

We are concerned not only because Acton will lose a detachment which has established a good reputation over the years but also because the recommendations suggest we will lose all detachments. Acton and the surrounding area will eventually be serviced by cruisers from Georgetown in a manner hardly conducive to creating a better police image. The personalized policeman is on his way out in Acton if the recommendations are accepted.

We are not suggesting we should go back to the days when the village constable patrolled the main street and his presence was enough to stem the tide of disorder. But we are suggesting that this personal ingredient is an important part of police work in smaller communities.

As we see it the recommendations from the police steering committee will eliminate the human touch from those communities where detachments have been stationed in the past, replacing them with law by telephone, an unsatisfactory substitute. We doubt very much it could be more efficient.

These proposals need careful study before they are accepted by police commissioners in Halton especially as they concern Acton and Milton.

# The Nassagaweya warrior

The Milton Champion last week carried an editorial called Irony of Politics, which commented on the election of Mrs. Anne MacArthur as mayor of the central Halton region.

Politics is studded with ironies. Monday, electors of the "new" Milton elected as their mayor Anne MacArthur who at one time was the strongest opponent to creation of the Central Halton government she will head for the next three years.

Electors defeated the present mayor Brian Best who spearheaded the battle to preserve Milton as a unit in the provincially-sponsored regional government.

It was not this issue, of course, which played such a major part in the election. The undercurrent which has been growing, over Mayor Best's involvement in real estate while at the same time heading the council, was converted to important votes. There is no

question though, that Mrs. MacArthur and her supporters waged one of the most extensive mayoralty campaigns ever mounted in Milton. She indeed proved to be a hardy campaigner.

The voter rejection of Mayor Best, on the basis of his real estate involvement, adds further irony. No one ever proved a conflict of interest on his part, yet his experience was often used to the town's advantage in negotiating with developers for concessions on behalf of the town.

History reflects a further irony in Monday's election outcome. Not many years ago every candidate at every nomination meeting, it seemed, stressed the importance of obtaining new industry and housing, of seeking a conclusion to the then-dragged-out annexation proceedings that would provide the required land for expansion.

Ironically more industry has located here, more houses have been built, annexation has been

completed and a further land extension achieved in regional government during Mayor Best's term than in any similar period of the town's history.

Having accomplished this, though, the ironies of politics prevailed and there is now a growing mood for slower growth and preservation of the small town atmosphere.

We commend Mrs. MacArthur on a well-fought campaign and we wish her well in the mayor's chair in 1974-75-76. She has proven herself a formidable warrior in regional government, in her prolonged battles with quarries and in obtaining a diversion of part of the proposed hydro line north of Milton. The enlarged area over which she will preside, including provincially imposed green belts and escarpment regulations, will undoubtedly provide challenging scope for her worthy representations.

# What others say . . .

Ridgetown Dominion Education Minister Thomas Wells says that Grade 13 is dying and won't need a legislative kick to end its days in Ontario schools.

We agree with that statement, but we disagree with the next one he made, that it is foolish and archaic and unnecessarily restrictive to force every high school student to take certain diploma courses. His reason for this statement was that he believed that "those who say we should have a list of compulsory subjects for all high school students don't show enough confidence in the maturity or judgement of our young people today."

Actually the 33 credits required for an honors diploma which will admit him to University can hardly be crammed into four years with eight credits a year. Then too students in spite of Mr. Wells says, have proved that many of them are willing to settle for courses demanding the least work and find themselves at the end of four years of high school without the credits to enter university.

While we do not go along with those who say Latin has no value for a student, we will agree that it may not be as necessary as French in Canada, yet enrollments in both subjects are decreasing. How can a

Canadian be a good citizen without a background of English and History yet both are fading dwindling enrollments.

We find University professors appalled at the lack of spelling and grammar indicated in essays submitted. While some professors still require essays, others have opted for the simpler method of multiple choice, or no examinations whatever.

Granted that all high school students are not heading to University, nor should they be required to take certain core subjects such as English, History, Mathematics before receiving a high school diploma. Such a core of required subjects could be enriched by a variety of optional subjects.

In most other provinces students can qualify for entrance to university at the end of 12 years education. Ontario could do the same, and save money on education at the same time, if the necessary credits were compressed into four years and some of the easy, useless subjects being taught abandoned.

With colleges admitting students from Grade 12, it was obvious that the enrollment at high school and university would suffer. The universities are fighting back by admitting students from Grade 12. Brock, and Waterloo Lutheran for example. With enrollment decreasing the universities will probably make further concessions to get the students for the grants that come with them. The high schools want to keep them for the same reasons. The taxpayers pay the bills.

# OUR READERS WRITE:

## Sings praises of Acton

Town of Acton—superbly located access to all points by CNR, Gray Coach. Fine homes and schools, churches, banks and stores. OK for tourist trade—Fairy Lake, bathing, recreation, and sport fishing. Annual fair deserves much praise.

Fine newspaper equal to any anywhere. Excellent industry, also good as any centre. Acton is a conservative town but good, too flashy but sturdy. Highway access fine, police and fire protection. Water finest anywhere and an ample sewage system. Nearly 5,000 people all faiths, creeds, sex and color. Fine old Canadian-born and naturalized citizens, and also graced with fine new Canadians. Our lawmen, citizens, businessmen and industrialists rank with the best anywhere. Our reeve, mayor, council and other servants deserve the finest accolades.

Same fine people served Acton earlier, in the past, and rest assured those of today will do the same. This fine old girl will be 100 in 1974 and come what may I hope she reaches 100 or more.

Other events threatened her, but God bless her. She's yours and mine, too. She weathered many a storm and came out on top—Her Fighting men from Africa to 1939-45, First War 1914-18, ranked among the best anywhere; even in Korea they were tops. Acton clergymen have ranked among the finest in the world. No centre large or small ever made it lying down. Acton was no exception. But let's face it, she made it, and will never die.

God preserve every one in Acton whether old or new. She's my town, too, and I am never ashamed to say I was born in Acton. Trimmer Coleman, Toronto.

## Doctor comments on article

October 2, 1973 Acton Free Press, Acton, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Editor: Recently an article appeared in your paper concerning an unfortunate accident which injured Mr. Hilton Batchelor at Indusmin Limited Sept. 20, 73. In your article you state that doctors from both Medical Clinics were called and both doctors refused to respond to the emergency call.

physicians available in the office, either of whom would have gladly made the emergency visit to Indusmin had we been called. Personally I feel that the Acton Free Press should make every effort to verify information before printing such untruths which could conceivably give rise to a contentious issue in the public mind.

Yours Truly, J. C. Hutchison, M.D. Glenlea Clinic.

Editor's note: The paragraph in the Free Press reads as follows:

"As he lay unconscious, Indusmin employees were unable to obtain the services of a doctor in Acton after calling both medical centres. The ambulance from Guelph took the injured man to hospital."

# Back Issues of The Free Press

## 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 8, 1953

Sunday was a red letter day for Mr. and Mrs. William Gamble, 21 Park Ave., when they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Bob MacArthur has resigned from the Public Utilities Commission on which he has served for a number of years. He leaves his position with the Free Press after 27 years to become a member of the staff of the Manitoulin Expositor in Little Current.

Inter-school champions were decided at the field meet in Erin with Erin, Georgetown, Milton and Acton competing. Among the trophy winners were Peter Hurst, junior champion; Emmerson Baxter, bantam champion; Don Dawkins, senior champion; Wayne Arbie, intermediate champion. Acton won the school trophy.

A crowd of well over 300 overflowed the seats in St. Alban's parish hall Sunday evening when the inter-congregational Bible Society presented a fine display of musical numbers and a film. M. M. Coles presided. Musical numbers were given by Mrs. B. Veidhuis, Miss Dorothy Simmons, Les Dudy and Vic Bristol.

30 young tots registered for Nursery School Monday. They sat around tables in the Y lounge, banging on table tops in rhythm with Mrs. Dick Schmall. Working on different days are Mrs. F. Mooney, Mrs. J. Jany, Mrs. Cairns, Mrs. Paul and Mrs. Gervais.

The third annual Y's Men's auction was held Saturday with over 500 items sold. Volunteer auctioneers were Roy Hindley and Jack Elliott. Very little was left in the arena at the end of the day.

The turkey supper at Rockwood Presbyterian church was attended by well over 100.

A surprise party was held at Everton house to welcome the minister, Mr. Ford and family.

Newest pastime among young Actonians is making bracelets and other articles of plastic thong. Micro Plastics has been rushed with sales.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 11, 1923

Acton has been fortunate indeed in the factories which have been established from time to time within her borders. Until now our manufactures have been confined to the work of producing wearing materials or the products required in the manufacture of the materials. Messrs. Beardmore and Co., The Acton Tanning Company, Messrs. W. H. Storey and Son, Ryder and Mowat, Halton Glove Works, Messrs. Hewetson and Co., the Mason Knitting Works, the Lindsay Electric Flour and Chopping Mill, the Acton Machine Shop, J. B. Mackenzie's planing mill.

The latest addition to the splendid list of manufacturing plants is the Thomson Motor Supplies Limited. Mr. A. B. Eve, the mechanical superintendent of the new factory has been engaged for several weeks in the installation of equipment. Mr. Roy Thomson (now Lord Thomson), the managing director of the company, is greatly pleased with the factory building erected for the business by Councillor Bell. It is conveniently located on a five-lot section of Maplehurst, near the railway station within two blocks of Mill St.

The editor of the Free Press had the pleasure of setting the machinery in motion last Wednesday afternoon and under the instructions of the superintendent put through the first commutator and brushes.

\$10,000 of Thomson Motor supplies bonds covering the construction of the new factory, the property and the machinery, which are guaranteed by the town of Acton, are already in demand by local investors. They are considered a gilt-edged investment. The number of employees, while low

at the outset, will be increased as the volume of production increases. The people of Acton will wish the enterprise every success.

## 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 6, 1898

The first national prohibition battle ever fought at the polls took place last Thursday. The result shows that the electors of our fair dominion are in favor of the annihilation of the liquor traffic, so far as the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicants for beverage purposes is concerned. Every province gave a majority for prohibition except Quebec. Majorities were largely in the rural regions while the cities voted against it.

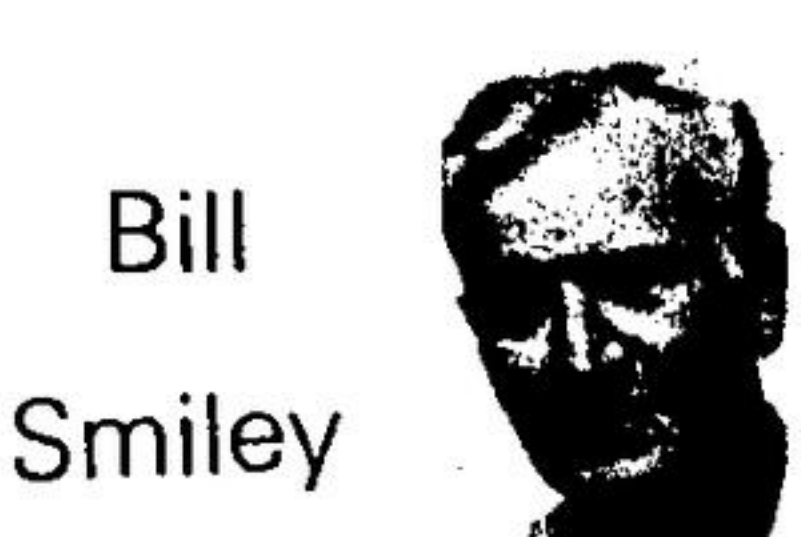
In Acton no complaint could be made regarding the size of the vote polled. Here 245 votes were cast at the town hall and Speight's Shop. This was nine more than in the plebiscite vote in 1894 when 21 women cast their votes. The majority in favor of prohibition was 22. In Esquimaux the majority was 30, in Nassagaweya 145. Halton county's reputation was sustained.

It is pretty generally conceded that the total majority is so small that the government will not feel warranted in enacting a prohibitory measure.

The town had a good taste of prohibition election day. The hotels were closed up tight and everybody was sober and good-natured.

Contractor Williams has completed the street watering operations for the season. The sprinkling was not only beneficial to those on the streets who contributed to the fund but was of much value to the newly-built roadbed on Mill St. during the dry weather.

Electric street lighting is now pretty well assured for the coming winter. The decision was made at a public meeting of ratepayers Tuesday. Costs were presented by an electrical engineer from Toronto.



Bill Smiley

Last week I was talking of the fun of meeting people when you are travelling. It's not that your friends at home are dull.

They're probably more interesting than some of the types with whom you become bosom buddies on short acquaintance. But the people you meet on holiday are a refreshing affirmation that the earth contains an infinite variety of creatures of the human species.

This week I'd like to finish these thoughts by introducing you to three greatly different people we met in England: a Bob, a Barmaid, and a Brigadier.

Hurling from Edinburgh to Chester on a train, we picked up at the ancient and bloody old city of Carlisle, near the Scottish border, an addition to our compartment.

I didn't mean that Carlisle is bloody in the sense of bloody awful. But it did change hands several times in the bloody border wars. And it was there that William Wallace, the great Scots rebel, was put on public view in a cage, before he was hanged, drawn and quartered, and his parts affixed on various pikepoles about the city, as a lesson to the Scots "rebels" in the fourteenth century.

Anyway, Bob Mitchell proved an agreeable travelling companion. He was interested, interesting and affable. We'd been in the same war, he on corvettes in the navy, I in the air force. We nattered about taxes, housing costs, comparative incomes.

As we rattled through the Lakes District, he went to pains to point out things and sights of interest. He suggested a good restaurant in London. A veritable gentleman, in this age of boors.

He proved this when we stopped to change for Chester. I started wrestling with our luggage and an incipient coronary. Before I could say, "Bob Mitchell", he had whipped the two big suitcases off the overhead rack, nipped out and put them on the platform. You'd have to be a basket case for this to happen to you in Canada.

Then there was the Brigadier. He was another kettle of fish, a horse of a different color, or, rather, of a number of different colors, like a chameleon.

He was either a Scottish lord or the biggest liar in London, and I lean toward the latter.

We had a casual drink together, and he was friendly. I swiftly learned that he was 58 (he looked 42), had been in the Cameron Highlanders, was a retired Brigadier, had been with British intelligence. "But we mustn't talk about that, of course."

That's when I began to suspect. When he told me he spoke Hungarian, Roumanian and Polish without an accent, my suspicions deepened.

When I said, in my blint Canadian way, "How come?", he answered airily, "Part of the job, old boy."

When I asked his name, he said, "Just call me Cameron." It seemed he was the Lord of Lochiel, and he muttered about the Camerons and their feuds with the McDonalds and others.

He had an unnerving habit of drinking six Pernods while I was worrying through two half pints. Then he'd get quite stoned and mumble on and on, "I'm drunk. I say, I'm drunk. I'm as drunk as a lord. But of course I am a lord, so it's all right."

We parted after several encounters, and I asked for his address. He wrote down, "Cameron" and an address in Edinburgh. Then he thought better, and above Cameron" he wrote, "Lord of Lochiel". Then he thought again, and in front of that wrote, "Lt. Hon." Only thing, he couldn't spell Lochiel.

Later that week, in Edinburgh, I was tempted to check at the address he'd given, but decided against. Didn't want to spoil a beautiful myth.

Well, there you are. A Bob, a Barmaid, and a Brigadier.