

HEADLINE: OAKVILLE PROPOSED AS SITE FOR NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS...



HELLO OPERATOR? I'D LIKE TO MAKE A LONG-DISTANCE CALL TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN OAKVILLE!... MY NUMBER? I CAN'T REALLY READ IT... IT'S SORT OF SCRATCHED OUT. LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO COMPLETE A CALL WITHOUT THE CALLER'S NUMBER, BUT...

HOLD ON, OPERATOR... YOU'D BETTER CANCEL THAT CALL! I JUST REMEMBERED... I HAVEN'T GOT ANY MORE CHANGE WITH ME!

My daughter Kim and her husband are having a tough time these days. He's starting a post-graduate course at university, and she's well into an undergraduate course in advanced pregnancy.

But that's not what's tough. Those things are normal, exciting, and even joyful.

It's the eternal problem for students, and for most of the rest of us, of money, scarcity of.

At first, I was inclined to scoff. "Ah! You kids! You don't know what it's like to be hard up. You get all those grants and loans. Why, when your mother and I... blah blah blah."

Not that they're going to starve. They do get just enough to get by. But when you're young and impatient and have been spoiled in a middle-class home with most of the amenities, you get a little sick of "getting by."

You'd like to buy an occasional roast, instead of trying to think of another method of making a delicious hamburger dish. In fact, at today's prices, you can't even afford hamburger too often.

You'd like to go to a show once in a while, or have a party, or have the clothes to go to someone else's party. But there just isn't anything in the budget for these fairly simple pleasures.

You'd like to have a car, like most normal people, and be able to drive into the country or visit friends, or go home for a weekend and have some decent food from the old folks' grocery board. Can't afford it.

You'd like to have color TV, or even black and white, but there are no funds. You'd like some new, warm winter clothes, but you have to make do with last year's five-year-old shabby duffelcoat, and last year's leaking boots.



Bill Smiley

If you're pregnant, you'd like to start making a nest, fixing up a home. But on the rent you can afford, you wind up in a crummy flat where you share the bathroom and the stove doesn't work and the decorating is in puke colour and the thermometer never goes higher than 65.

It can all be pretty depressing unless you have plenty of physical and mental fortitude.

There's love, of course, to fall back on. But from what I've seen in my day, love flourishes a lot better when there's some bread on the table and some bread in your wallet.

My wife and I went through the whole bit, but I can't help feeling more pity for today's young couples than I ever felt for us.

First of all, we were products of the depression, and didn't expect much. When we did get a little windfall, we counted our blessings and promptly went out and spent them.

I remember the time one of my uncles died intestate. By the time the estate had been cut up among the numerous nieces and nephews, we got something like \$102.50. It was manna from heaven.

We went straight out and bought a radio, a case of beer, a bunch of stuff at the delicatessen, and had a party. To heck with tomorrow or next week.

But I must admit that life was a lot simpler then, and a great deal cheaper. We had a child, and we got more pleasure out of him than we would have from color TV, a penthouse apartment, and a Cadillac.

We had a furnished flat in one of the grimmer sections of the city. Shared the bathroom. Furniture was Salvation Army specials. But my wife redecorated the place, and it had two entrances and a backyard with real trees and grass. It cost \$15 a week. Furnished.

Today you can scarcely rent one room for that. We had a total income of about \$130 a month. That covered rent, food, clothes, transportation. About once a month we'd have a real blowout. Baby-sitter (75c); movies (75c each); half a dozen cokes (36c) and a bag of peanuts (15c). Wow! That's living.

We weren't bored, or desperate. We talked, read, studied, listened to the radio, gloated over our child.

Holidays, I worked in the post office or in a factory, to pick up a few extra bucks. Smokes were roll-your-owns.

It wasn't bad, but I used to get mighty sick of never having a dollar that didn't have a slot waiting to gulp it.

I've never been sorry that my plans for post-graduate work and three or four more years of poverty went up in flames and I was tossed by accident into the hurly-burly of the newspaper business.

Today's students work hard at dull summer jobs, save every nickel, get grants, but have to scrape on the edge of poverty and shabbiness. I pity them.

Women's role often questioned

For those who feel questioning women's role in the world is a new experience, it is refreshing to read the following article which appeared in the Grimsby Independent recently, and which originally was published in the Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, Weekly Monitor at the time Queen Victoria was on the throne of the British Empire:

"Upon the whole, it is dreadful bother to be a woman, and to do the business up in good shape.

"In the first place you've got to look well, or else you're nobody. A man may be homely, and still be popular. Whiskers cover up the most of his face, and if he has got a large mouth, nobody mistrusts it; and, if he wrinkles bad on his forehead, his friends

speak of his many cares, and of this thoughtful disposition, and tell each other that his wrinkles are lines of thought. Lines thought, indeed! When, in all probability, his forehead is wrinkled by the habit he has got of scowling at his wife when the coffee isn't strong enough.

"A woman must always be in good order throughout. Her hair must be frizzled and banged as fashion demands, and she must powder, if she has a shining skin; and she must manage to look sweet, no matter how sour she may feel; she must hang just so, and her laces must be always spotless, and her boot buttons all in place, and finger nails clean, and she mustn't whistle nor climb fences, nor stone cats, nor swear when she is mad.

"She can't go out alone, because ladies must be protected. She can't go anywhere when it rains, because her hair won't stay crimped, and she'll get mud on her petticoats and things. She can't be a Freemason, because she would tell their secrets, and everybody would know and that gridiron. She can't smoke, because it wouldn't be feminine. She can't go courting, because it is unwomanly. But she must get married before she is 25 or everybody will feel wronged. People will sigh over her, and wonder why it is that the men 'don't seem to take,' and all the old maids and widows will smile significantly—and keep quiet.

"Oh, these smiles, and these significant looks! They are ten times worse than open slander!"

Back Issues of The Free Press

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 22, 1953

Edward Ryan and Fergus Quee battled a blaze in a brand-new storage shed at the A. P. Green Fire brick company with plant fire fighting equipment late Friday evening. Town firemen poured water on the flames in piles of loose excelsior.

His 94th birthday was marked on Monday by John Smith, a former Acton resident who now lives in Kitchener.

Altogether 95, the largest attendance to date, gathered in the parish hall last Friday for an evening of old-time dancing held by the Square Dance club.

Dr. Moore of the Psychological Services Centre, Toronto, addressed the Home and School Association. It was announced new playground equipment purchased by the Home and School had arrived. Peggy and Frances Oakes sang duets accompanied by their mother. Mrs. Alger's class had the most parents present.

Altogether \$510 worth of Christmas cards have been sold by the public school pupils with Shirley Mason of grade six and Merle Russell of grade eight topping the school for individual sales. Books and a duplicator will be purchased with the profits this year.

Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.E. held a penny sale, euchre and draw Friday.

When Jimmy Robertson, who lives at the Station Hotel, was believed to be missing, a search was organized. Dr. Garrett informed the searchers Mr. Robertson was in hospital, and the town bell was rung to call back the firemen, boy scouts and others.

The high school rugby team made a wonderful start and defeated Georgetown 15-7.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 18, 1953

New tennis courts are being constructed on the grounds of the Acton Athletic Association. The large trees surrounding the existing courts have been cut down and the new courts will occupy the area there on the south side of Mill St.

Miss Mamie Masales is transforming the appearance of her homestead at the corner of Mill and Elgin Sts. with very desirable improvements. This is the home where her father brought her mother way back in the eighties.

National Fish Day, October 31, is set aside to focus our attention on our natural resources.

At the Brougham W.I. Exhibition first prize for the finest baby went to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Perryman's babe. These happy parents are Acton young folks.

Mr. William Landsborough's fine new residence on Lake Ave. is nearing completion. Good progress is being made with Miss Moore's pretty bungalow on Knox Ave. Mr. Stephen Cordiner's new two-storey brick house at the corner of Bower and Wilbur will soon be ready. The two new brick bungalows on the Joseph Lasby property on Bower Ave. are about completed. The carpenters are putting the finishing touches of Mr. Alex Crippa's new two-storey brick house on Frederick St. The new cottage of Mr. Henry McLeod on Church St. will soon be completed. Mr. John Worden's new house in the rear of the Ryder and Mowat works is finished. Mr. Charles Holmes has transferred the barn on the Henry Sayers property on Education Lane into a very comfortable house.

Very general regret will be felt at the removal of Mr. and Mrs. John Clarke and family from Acton this week after 34 years

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 13, 1956

The Epworth League Forward Movement was inaugurated last Sunday in the Methodist church with an appropriate sermon by the pastor and the League and congregation joined in reading the gospel of St. John consecutively during the remaining days of the month. Sunday 23rd inst. will be observed as Young People's Sunday. The services will include a sunrise prayer meeting at 7.30 a.m., appropriate sermons and a mass meeting with suitable addresses and singing after the Sunday School service. Evangelistic services will be held each evening during the week following.

An interesting church wedding was consummated in the church of St. Mary Magdalen, Lloydtown, yesterday afternoon, in which the son of one of our best families was one of the principals. The rites of holy matrimony sealed the vows of Rev. Frederick Goodeve MA., rector of Hornings Mills, and son of C. F. Goodeve, Esq., merchant, Acton, and Miss Emma Hand of Lloydtown. After the wedding dejeuner the couple amidst the best wishes of all departed by the evening train for their home at the parsonage, Hornings Mills.

Milton is now waking up to the benefits of permanent pavement and the council's inquiring into the cost.

Thrashing and the local fairs are all the rage now. At Ballinfad all the people say they are going to Erin fair next Friday.

Joe Shorill of Ballinfad had several of his fingers badly cut out in the far west.

A number of young fellows are charged with ungentlemanly and disorderly conduct at the entertainment at Leask's school last Friday. They created such an uproar the proceedings were brought to a close.

Disappointing but realistic decision

It was disappointing indeed when Acton council decided last week to accept the recommendation of the newly formed centennial committee to scrap any plans for a town centennial project in favor of lending weight to Acton Lions Club own centennial project—a swimming pool. But we don't see how council could have taken any other course.

Two attempts to spearhead a drive to renovate the Acton community centre as a centennial project have failed and the Lions seem to know where they are going and what they are doing in their efforts to supply Acton with a year-round swim pool at the high school. The only reasonable alternative is to throw the weight of the community behind the Lions and their project.

It is unfortunate that the people

of the community have failed to rally behind a single centennial project but there were a number of factors which have plagued efforts both by the original centennial commission and its successor, the centennial committee, to organize a successful campaign. One has been the reluctance of many citizens to get involved in a financial drive. Another has been the division of opinion on what the project should be, without mentioning petty jealousies and hickering which have hampered the work of the commission and the committee.

There has also been a noticeable lack of enthusiasm from all but a few. As a result the initiative has been stamped out.

Now, of course, there is an additional problem of dispensing the money collected for the original

project at the community centre. There is no alternative but to return it to those who made the donations since they were intended for a specific project. We understand this is what the now defunct centennial commission intends to do with the funds.

The donors could also have the option of donating their funds to the Lions in their efforts to raise money for a pool but that is something they must decide for themselves.

The one really disappointing feature of all the efforts to organize for an all-out campaign is that Acton will now really have no community monument to mark the 100 years as a municipality and it is coming just as we are absorbed into the new municipality of Halton Hills.

Free Press Editorial Page

4 The Acton Free Press, Wed., October 17, 1973

Help untangle Hydro wires

Residents of this area should be concerned with the latest series of meetings initiated by Ontario Hydro to find a suitable corridor for Hydro lines originating at the Bruce power station that will eventually hook into the 500 KV east-west corridor from Middleport to Pickering.

It is difficult to untangle Hydro's plans for the province unless you are an engineer or understand complicated electrical systems, but one thing remains clear—present indications seem to indicate Hydro system planners would prefer to send that north-south corridor through this area.

A group of property owners in North Halton and Wellington County believe they have found a solution that will provide fewer environmental hang-ups for Hydro than a line from Bradley Junction towards Orangeville to the Acton area. This would take the line from Bruce to Essa and make use of the "R" alternative system which Hydro eliminated because of security reasons.

However, spokesman John Schneider, claims the "R" system which was preferred by most people in the southern sector would provide better protection than the "Q" or modified "Q" plan. They figure only 19 miles of line would go unprotected using "R" system, if

the Bruce to Essa corridor was accepted.

A Hydro study has shown that the security of 230 KV lines in the Orangeville axis has been broken nine times in the past 12 years. Broken down they show transmission was broken once by aeroplane, twice by tornado and six times by severe icing in the Georgetown-Kitchener area. The "Q" or modified "Q" system has both lines passing through this area, increasing the hazard.

The Halton-Wellington group believes if the corridor was sent off in another direction to Essa from the Bruce area that would also eliminate much of the opposition from farmers in Wellington County which would be severely affected by the two corridors—one to Kitchener and the other to pass between the fourth and fifth Lines in this district. Farm land in the northern part of the province is less arable than that in this area so there would be less chance of taking the province's better agricultural lands out of service.

However, when the proposal was presented to officials of Ontario Hydro they said it was unacceptable because they had reserved the corridor between Kleinburg and Essa for future use.

The Wellington-Halton group finds this reasoning a trifle hard to

accept, suggesting Hydro could find suitable corridors in years to come. They point out their proposal does not eliminate the possibility of future corridors.

They are also perturbed that Ontario Hydro has scheduled a series of meetings about the proposed corridors all well beyond the Acton-Georgetown-Hillsburgh area. This suggests Hydro is not prepared to listen to the arguments of those who live in this area despite the fact the corridor could run right through Erin, Esquesing and Eramosa townships.

It is a feeling we share with the concerned people of this area.

The nearest point where the residents of this area can present their arguments is a meeting at the public school on the Fergus Road (Dufferin County Road 3) in East Garafraxa township. The school is located on the 14th Concession at Reading Corners and can be reached by following the Seventh Line above Hillsburgh. The meeting is on Tuesday, October 23.

Residents of the area would be well advised to attend this meeting to hear both sides of a subject which affects this province as well as the district. We think you will be impressed with the strength of the arguments the district groups have for taking the corridors elsewhere.

Motorcycle deaths on increase

The number of motorcycle drivers killed in Ontario in 1971-72 shows a marked increase over previous years.

Statistics recently released show that 65 motorcyclists were killed and 2,463 injured during the period September 1971 to August 1972. This compares with 49 killed and 2,440 injured over the same 1970-71 period.

The number of motorcycle passengers killed in Ontario last year stands at 16, with 641 injured, reports the Ontario Safety League.

A study just completed by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center indicates that in most crashes involving a motorcycle and an automobile, the driver of the automobile is at fault. 935 motorcycle crashes were studied and researchers found that about two-thirds of the crashes involved more than one vehicle and almost all of these involved a motorcycle and an automobile.

In 62 percent of the multi-vehicle crashes, the driver was found to be at fault. In most instances, the car was making a left turn in front of the motorcycle when the collision occurred. The car pulling in front of the motorcycle was the second most frequent contributing cause.

The motorcycle driver was at fault in only 29 percent of the multi-vehicle collisions. According to the study, in most of these cases the motorcyclist was "following too close".

In single vehicle crashes involving motorcycles, loss of control while rounding a curve was

the most frequent cause, occurring in one-third of the cases. Loss of control was also caused by pedestrians, animals, or bicycles darting onto the road and by gravel and oil slicks on the road.

Very few instances were found where the motorcycle driver was at fault in a single vehicle crash.

An important factor in motorcycle crashes seemed to be the presence of passengers. Passengers were present in 12 percent of the total number of accidents studied and in 30 percent of those involving fatalities. Researchers also found that passengers were more often present in the single vehicle accidents than in multi-vehicle crashes.

In Ontario, fatalities occurred in 2.2 percent of all motorcycle accidents last year. Less than 7 percent of all passenger car accidents involved fatalities.

The figures show conclusively motorcycle riding is more hazardous than riding in an automobile, a fact well known but never as adequately documented.

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Mini-Comment

A petition from townspeople brought a new station to Acton back in 1905 and we're wondering whether we shouldn't stir the CN a little more about replacing that little glass-enclosed kiosk with something more permanent. It looks like an afterthought. Hardly seems possible the railway considers it is the answer to needs

in smaller places at the same time as they are supposed to be encouraging more customers to use trains instead of highways. We expect the GO service scheduled to start this fall from Toronto to Georgetown will extend as far as Guelph. Many of the passengers will want to board at Acton if the trains stop and the little commuter's rest there now will hardly be adequate for the job.