



Winter mobility on Fairy Lake by blades and machines

## Bill SMILEY



This week I've been batching it, and I must say that I miss my wife. It's not that I can't cook and wash dishes and make the bed and do all those other silly things that our poor wives have to do day after day, year after year.

No, there's no problem there. It's the danged cats. They're driving me out of the remnants of what was once a fine mind.

I'd rather live with a herd of goats than with two cats. I've concluded.

Take one elderly she-cat who has been spayed. She was quite content with life. She is beautiful and very, very distant, except when she's hungry.

There isn't a bone in her body that is friendly. She just wants you to keep your distance, feed her well, and let her bask on a sunny stair-tread. In return, she will guarantee not to make a mess in the house. I had just begun to tolerate her, if not like her, after about six years.

Now, add a boisterous young tom cat. He's as agile as an orang-utan, has an appetite like a polar bear, has the manners of a pig, and is sickeningly friendly.

He has completely disrupted what was a fairly quiet, peaceful household.

He is driving the old cat out of her nut. He follows her around, licking and kissing her, until she spits, takes a swipe at him and makes him back off long enough for her to skedaddle to one of her hideouts. He looks hurt.

All you have to do is settle down with a newspaper and a cup of tea, and he's quite likely to come flying through the air, sending the paper one way and the tea the other, as he seeks solace for his yearning heart.

Given any encouragement whatever, he'll climb all over you, digging his claws into your shoulders because he doesn't know any better, smooching your face and neck in a wet, disgusting fashion, before

thumping himself down for a rest on your stomach or chest or any other part of you that suits his convenience.

Two minutes later, he hears the old cat sneaking around, digs his claws into your knee and takes a flying leap, off to court her some more.

There's absolutely no sex involved. He just wants to be loved by a second mother, but she is a happy, childless widow, and wants to stay that way.

You can't even feed them together. She is a dainty eater. He eats like a wolf who has just broken a long fast. Put down two bowls. He gulps his while she is sniffing hers, then shoulders her aside and gets into her grub, while she bats him ineffectually, then retreats in disgust to sulk under a bed.

She is a bed sneaker-under, since he arrived. And if there's anything more difficult than getting a determined old cat out from under a bed, I'd like to see it.

The only way to do it is to go under the bed after her, with a broom or mop. You wind up, puffing, stuck under the bed, while she has darted off and is under one of the beds in one of the other rooms. She's as slippery as an eel and a heck of a lot more cunning.

Meanwhile, during the half hour you chase the old cat, trying to grab any of her extremities so that you can throw her out, where she should have been long ago, his arrogant young ribs is having the run of the kitchen.

He's not a bed sneaker-under. He's a counter-walker. And a cupboard-door-opener. One leap and he's up on the kitchen counters, strolling, sniffing, licking. Don't leave the butter out. He'll down a quarter-pound, straight.

Give him three minutes alone and he's somehow opened the cupboard door below the sink and is gally into the garbage.

He'll eat anything: baked potato skins, left-over soup, stale lettuce, fried eggs.

The only time I have seen him a bit non-plussed was on New Year's Day. Maybe he had a hangover. I was half-drowsing in a chair, and watching him out of a corner of my eye, in case he took a flying leap and threw his arms around my neck to kiss me, which I abhor.

He'd caught a mouse, it seemed, though we've never had mice in this house. He would slam his paw on it, pick it up in his teeth, chew it and swallow it. A tiny mouse.

Thank goodness he's good for something. Then he'd throw up the mouse, and go through the whole business again. I got a bit alarmed that he'd throw up more than the mouse one of these times, onto the rug. I investigated.

He was trying to digest one of those wide elastic bands. Every time he hit it, it would jump, so he thought it was alive and chewed it and swallowed it, but couldn't keep it down.

That's the kind of stupid cat he is. But he's getting smart very quickly. When I try to grab him and throw him out in the snow after a feeding, he goes by me like a cheetah going by a rhinoceros.

Sure wish my wife would get home. It takes two of us to handle the two of them.

J. Newton, M.P.E.  
Weston, Ontario.

### ANTI-SMOKING

Dear Sir: No doubt you are aware that the week Jan. 11-18 is National Education Week on Smoking.

In connection with this, the Halton County TB and RD Association would advise the public that literature required regarding smoking education is available to them by contacting the office at 184 Balsam Drive, Oakville, 845-0458.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs. M. E. Lunau,  
Executive Secretary.

## Acton brigade has enviable record

To The Editor:

The recent controversy concerning the Halton Hills service to the protection of life and property has in the writer's opinion been unjustified and signifies the capability of some members of the local government from which the controversy began. Through ignorance of proper management it was allowed to continue. (No person should be called ignorant until they have shown their unwillingness to learn.)

Acton does have an enviable record relative to the protection of persons and property. Municipal Administration etc., with many achievements only by the efforts of volunteers. The Acton Fire Department has actively participated through the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs from Halifax to Vancouver, are chartered members of Halton County Mutual Aid, a Canada First.

The Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau and their efforts have exceeded in the provision of service beyond that of many so-called professional supervised and manned departments now serving many localities. The Acton area Annual Fire Loss and Insurance Rates are emblematic of the quality of organization and effort of the Acton Administration.

Volunteer Fire Department membership includes a good cross section of tradesmen

supervisors, managers etc., many of which man the essential services of the municipality: Hydro, Works Department etc., as well as being taxpayers. They do not have to belong.

Animosity is something that should not be tolerated from self styled politicians who have done nothing to improve the new integration of services for Halton Hills, but propose increase costs to the residents who will pay the taxes creating poor public relations throughout.

J. Newton, M.P.E.  
Weston, Ontario.

## An early divisive issue

Halton Hills council stumbled in its early existence on one of the most divisive issues possible and it will have to do some "fence mending" if that division is not to be simply the first of many.

The appointment of a fire chief, the protests that bubbled through and the final resolution of the situation has been a bad example for the members in their first weeks in office.

The town now has two district chiefs with a chief yet to be considered for Halton Hills.

The stormy discussion took on municipal boundary lines and despite the fact there must have been a majority in favor of the first

appointment, public reaction changed the minds of council sufficiently to reach a compromise.

The issue has left a bad taste in two towns. The compromise may have smoothed away some of the difficulty but if Halton Hills is ever to be a harmonious community elected officials will have to weigh the issues more carefully.

We have never been in favor of closed meetings and it is possible that the decision of Halton Hills council to meet in closed sessions until January 1 was not entirely wise. The full impact of closed sessions doesn't seem to have penetrated yet, however, and the council, we understand, will take a

leaf from the Board of Education book and meet in camera for the first hour of each meeting.

It took another closed session last week for the members to agree that they would approve a vote of confidence in the local fire departments. That will certainly leave the fire departments wondering about the issues that had to be discussed.

Closed meetings enable every councillor to tell the story the way he wants it told and the absence of impartial observers puts them beyond correction.

Divisive issues and secrecy will be two heavy opponents to a harmonious Halton Hills.

## Free Press Editorial Page

4 The Acton Free Press, Wed., Jan. 16, 1974

## Money that skips borders

Wellington County M.P. Alf Hales has long been fond of pointing the finger at some of the waste of taxpayers' money in Ottawa.

Mr. Hales is chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee and this puts him in a good position to uncover some of the worst examples of irresponsible use of public money. But does the Government listen?

One of the latest examples of flagrant mishandling of the public purse is recorded in the 144 page report of the Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons.

It shows that during the year ending March 31, 1973, 1,193 taxpayers left the country owing \$5.2 million in taxes. The incredible

part is that \$4.2 million of that sum is owed by six taxpayers.

Apparently they are getting away with it.

The report says "the continuing problem of collecting income tax from non-residents is aggravated by the fact that a person emigrating from Canada is not required to obtain a tax clearance before departing, and by the lack of agreements with other countries for the collection of taxes on a reciprocal basis."

The public accounts committee pointed out that something should be done about the situation four years ago but it appears the Government is not unduly alarmed by the tax drain, presumably

because there is plenty more of it around for them to spend.

The answer surely is as simple as making sure no one emigrates until their taxes are paid in full, or some provision made to make sure collection will be done.

Likely there's nothing to be done when a taxpayer skips the country to find sanctuary in a country unfriendly to Canada but in most cases there must be ample warning that a well-heeled citizen is readying to take off for parts unknown. Most of us who have had brushes with the Government's tax departments know how firm they can be when only a few dollars and cents are concerned.

... But \$5.2 million.

## Why not answer Mr. Kerr?

It is encouraging to read reports attributed to the Hon. George Kerr, the Provincial Secretary for Justice, which suggested that any change in laws governing merchandising on Sundays would tend to be more restrictive rather than more open.

Mr. Kerr, who also happens to be our Member, suggests that the people of the province want to keep Sundays as a day set apart for activities which differ from those indulged in the remainder of the week.

According to the Green Paper issued from Mr. Kerr's office the main issues involved are:

- Is the principle of a common pause day consistent with trends in social attitudes and behaviour?
- Do the people of Ontario wish to reflect, in legislation, the growing secularization of Sunday?
- Do the people of Ontario wish

to support a common day of rest and, if so, should this be Sunday?

-If legislation is changed, which classes of retail outlets will be permitted to open and what items will be sold?

-Are the potential social benefits of regulation likely to outweigh the potential disadvantages?

-How should our laws assist people who wish—and need—to work on Sundays?

-Should province-wide legislation treat all localities the same with respect to Sunday opening?

-How should the government administer and enforce this legislation?

The Government acknowledges there have been major changes in social attitudes and needs since Sunday observance laws were introduced early in the century.

Laws have not kept up and the Attorney General is often faced with making decisions based on concepts of another age.

Mr. Kerr is touring key parts of the province to find out what shoppers and people in general think about Sunday and his recommendations to the Government will be based on the information he picks up.

We have often gone on record in these columns as supporting Sunday as a common day of leisure to punctuate the pressures generated by the workday week and as a day set apart to refresh the spirit but why not let Mr. Kerr know how you feel about it.

Correspondence should be directed to:

Honorable George A. Kerr, Q.C.  
Provincial Secretary for Justice  
Legislative building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario.

## Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 14, 1954.

Following the town's third nomination meeting in the space of a month and a half, Acton council Friday night was supplied with its sixth councillor, R.G. Langford, Arthur St., qualified from the list of six nominees. At the same meeting three citizens were nominated for the position of

Public Utilities Commissioner. Theron Jones and Robert Heeley resigned from the PUC nomination and Dr. Frank Oakes filled the post. Other citizens nominated for the council seat were Lorne Masters, W.H. Peal, Harold Kinross, Frank Crump and James Dills. Eighteen men attended the nomination meeting.

On Monday former mayor Dr. Frank Oakes was elected chairman of the PUC, with E. Hufnagel vice chairman. Mayor E. Tyler is the third member of the commission.

Residents of this district for most of the 50 years of their married life Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kelly celebrated their golden anniversary.

Y Ladies' Auxiliary is having more tables made for banquets.

Fred Davison, who operated a barber shop here for many years, passed away in Halton Manor.

Mac Sprowl, prominent in Junior Farmer activity, Acton Fall Fair president and recent Nuffield scholarship winner, continues to be in the news. Wednesday he was interviewed by the CBC's Don Fairbairn and the January issue of Junior Farmer News carries a page spread on Mr. Sprowl's accomplishments and activities.

Teachers at the public school celebrated caretaker George Mann's 75th birthday with a social time after school. He has been caretaker for 27 years and has seen many changes.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 17, 1924.

One party in Acton, making moonshine for Christmas, was fined \$200 and another \$50 for making beer. In one case the husband ran off leaving the wife to bear the brunt of the charge.

The annual meeting of Acton Horticultural Society was held Wednesday, Hon. Mrs. H. P. Moore, Pres. Frank

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 12, 1899.

Acton council appointed Dr. McKeague Medical Officer of Health for 1899 at a salary of fifteen dollars. Thomas T. Moore was re-appointed Clerk and Treasurer at a salary of one hundred and fifty dollars for the year.

There is a good attendance at the Literary Society held in Peacock school every Thursday evening. A good debate and programme every night.

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