

Assurance of better service

We are assured by the interview with former Acton works superintendent Alf Doby in last week's Free Press that services in Acton will improve as the amalgamation of three work forces is smoothed out in the new town of Halton Hills.

"Things will work themselves out," Mr. Doby promised. It is an assurance most of us have been waiting for. We have been fortunate in the past in having excellent garbage collection service and rapid snow plowing most of us took for granted. If the new town of

Halton Hills can provide the same service there will be few complaints.

Some residents of Acton were upset to discover the roads were not plowed in the first big snowstorm as soon as they would have been under the old set-up. It turned out to be a mix-up in communications that caused the delay. We are assured it will not happen again. There also have been changes in the collection of garbage, which have broken the habits of years. We will just have to adjust.

The changes necessary to operate a larger community will not necessarily mean we will enjoy the convenience and service which were part of the Acton set-up. Perhaps we will be more appreciative than ever of the fine service of local men in the past.

Meanwhile, we must all be patient until many of the problems sort themselves out. Let's give the men in charge every opportunity to devise a scheme which will deal out equal benefits to all parts of Halton Hills.



B2 The Acton Free Press, Wed., Jan. 23, 1974

Lloyd Lang fine choice

The selection of Erin township reeve Lloyd Lang as the 1974 Warden of Wellington County was certainly a decision that will work in the best interests of Wellington County Council.

The red-headed Mr. Lang is an unassuming person with some strong ideas about planning with which he has more than a passing interest during the nine years he has served on the township council. Those who have mistaken his friendliness for lack of determination have soon discovered he's a man who knows what he wants and the best way to get it.

It is not surprising Lloyd Lang should have an interest in politics. The family he springs from were pioneers in Erin township and Wellington County with a long record of community service. He is the third warden from his family, the first, Robert Lang, was elected in 1897 and he was related to John Gregson who served as warden in 1918.

It is not surprising Mr. Lang received most of his formal education at a rural public school where some of the country's best men were educated. He never had the opportunity to attend high

school but his education never stopped when he passed from the school house. Through the years he has gained the respect and admiration of his peers both at the township and county levels with a reasoned attitude towards problems which have plagued people at the municipal council level over the past decade.

We congratulate the county councillors of Wellington in the astuteness of their choice and wish Mr. Lang every success in 1974 and any subsequent political ventures on which he embarks.

Rename Victoria Day?

The Toronto Star makes a case for renaming the Victoria Day holiday on May 24th as Dollard Day in honor of Adam Dollard des Ormeaux, who died in May, 1660, in an heroic stand against the marauding Iroquois Indians probably saving the infant settlement of Montreal and perhaps all of New France.

The Star notes that May 24 is a national holiday observed across Canada but bears different names

in Quebec than the rest of the country. In the English-speaking provinces Victoria Day commemorates Queen Victoria's birthday. In Quebec it is already Dollard Day.

Probably few Canadians now know much about Queen Victoria and the suggestion to Canadianize the holiday has some merit but the Star is certainly grinding an axe when it suggests Victoria was a foreign queen in Canada's colonial

period. Victoria was also Queen of Canada during her reign no matter how the Star interprets it.

Why antagonize those people who are both staunch royalists and suspicious of French influence in Canada. If the name must be changed why not call it something like Maple Leaf Day and commemorate those Canadians of all nationalities who laid the groundwork for the country, including Adam Dollard?

OUR READERS WRITE:

Elizabeth Dr. sidewalk disgrace

The Mayor of Halton Hills, 571 Main St., Glen Williams.

Dear Sir:

We would like to bring to your attention the matter of the sidewalk along Elizabeth Drive. Although we do not pay taxes other people do - our parents!

The condition of this sidewalk is an utter disgrace to the Town of Acton. It is paved down with snow and with the mild weather the snow has melted. When the weather got cold, naturally it froze.

We find that this sidewalk on Elizabeth Drive is of great importance because it is the main road that goes into Lakeview subdivision.

Parents complain about children running all over the road, but that is the only really safe place to walk unless of course they like to slip, slide, fall and half kill themselves.

We feel that the sidewalk could be sanded, shovelled or cleaned by a small tractor or snowplow.

If something could be done about this

ridiculous situation we're sure that this would be very much appreciated by everyone.

Yours sincerely,
Lynda Shadbolt and
Eunice Gibb,
Grade 8 students of
Robert Little School

Copies to:
The Acton Free Press
Councillor G. W. McKenzie

Ern Hyde defends council decision

To The Editor:

I feel letters to the editor are generally a good thing, but not when they come from disgruntled council members. However, no matter how wrong I feel it is for a member of council to use this

method to pressure views, I feel I must defend myself and other members of council from the attacks of Councillor Morrow.

The choice of a fire chief for Halton Hills was made in a democratic manner. Council has always considered the privacy of individuals when discussing personnel and in keeping with this policy, meetings were held in camera and their qualifications were carefully considered. No one can say that both of the persons mentioned in the press are anything but very highly qualified and knowledgeable. When these two persons were interviewed there was one very important question asked: "Do you feel you can carry on the fire protection in this new town with volunteer fire fighters?" The answers were completely

opposite and Mr. Holmes said "YES!"

I feel, and a majority of council feel that our fire protection in the past has been second to none. I also feel that anything other than a volunteer brigade or brigades will cost at the very least a million dollars more each year.

Weighting all qualifications, the decision to hire Mr. Holmes was by a majority of Council-Elect.

Ric has since seen fit to act very childishly because he was not one of the majority and in his defeat no one's feelings have been spared, many persons have been needlessly hurt.

During the year, hundreds of motions are passed and are handled in what we hope is an honest and democratic manner. We can only hope

in the future when Ric loses his stand on an issue that he does not retaliate at the expense of the privacy of the individuals involved.

Council is no place for juveniles and Ric is proving himself to be just that, and I suppose I feel sorry for him in a way. Because of his immaturity he is having trouble adapting his thinking and coping with this new, larger municipal government set-up.

I regret I have had to resort to this measure. I do not intend to become involved in name calling and mud-slinging in the press. This is my first letter to the editor and as long as I serve you on council, I hope it is the last.

I also regret that our fire department has been the pawns.

Ern Hyde

Constructing creative playground

Gentlemen:

Attached to many of our schools in Halton Hills are vast wastelands called playgrounds that are extremely valuable in terms of real estate, but do almost nothing to help the growth of a child. They fail to reflect the excitement and concern for children that exists within the classrooms and are useless to the rest of the community.

With this rationale in mind, the Pineview school community is planning to build a

creative playground in a way that we think is unique and newsworthy. Creative playgrounds have been built in Toronto at phenomenal cost, planned by architects and built by contractors. At Pineview, the children, parents and teachers are planning, collecting the materials, and constructing our own creative playground. The cost will be minimal and the benefit to the community immeasurable.

Although, Channel 19 is

planning to give a presentation on our school's project, we would like the surrounding community to be aware of the project. Additional parent reaction can be obtained from the following people: Bill Gage 877-9451, Len Whaling 878-4285, Mrs. Geraldine Kunica 878-3787, Merv Livingston 878-3421, Bill Schreiber 878-3701, Bob Affleck 877-1550, and also committee chairman Herb Piles, Pineview School 877-4363.



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Frosty freeze tops the trees

—Wendy Thomson Photo

Bill SMILEY



Yes, you may call me Grampa. The kid arrived three days too late to be any use as a tax deduction. But we can't all be perfect.

Aside from that, he is. Perfect. According to the ladies. He's a dandy little fellow, with rosy cheeks, his mother's auburn hair, his father's eyes, and his grandfather's sweet little rosebud mouth. He's very peaceful and sleeps a lot, so he doesn't seem to have anything of his maternal grandmother in him.

There are certain occasions in our lives that are peaks, even though most of the time we seem to be down in the valleys.

These are the times when something special happens. They don't have to be milestones, like graduations and weddings. In fact, these are often so formalized, they can be excruciatingly dull.

No, I mean those rare events that are crystal clear, even with the passing of years.

I don't remember a thing about my birth, for example, and that was supposed to be something important.

But I remember vividly the day in public school when I was sick, sick, sick, was too proud or too shy to ask to leave, and vomited on the classroom floor and all the way down the hall to the lavatory, with my best girl watching the whole sordid thing. I was nine, and that was my first affair. It died in the bud.

I remember a baseball game, in my teens. I was at bat. Bases loaded, two men out, the count three and two. The next pitch was obviously low. I dropped my bat and started to jog to first base, forcing in the winning run. "Stee-rike three!" bellowed the umpire. Game over. Instant ignominy.

I'll never forget my first real job. Arrived at the docks about midnight, thrilled beyond reason. I was going to be a sailor. Found a bunk. Couldn't sleep, with the excitement of it all. My heart resembled a drumming partridge. Had a big breakfast and prepared to enter manhood. I was 17. My boss took me in tow, gave me some brass and a rag, led me into a men's urinal, pointed at the brass foot-plate and said, "Clean it."

Another big day was the one on which I passed my wings test. I had flunked one two days before because the intercom was almost useless. The instructor would tell me to do a steep bank to port and I'd do a slow roll or a loop. He took a dim view. It looked like washout and back to manning pool to wash dishes for the duration. But I got a second chance, flew like Jonathan Livingstone Seagull and walked on air for weeks.

Another time that is etched in my mind is my first visit to London. As the train neared the great city, I was trembling so violently I couldn't light a cigarette. It was probably the thought that I, a small-town,

small-time boy, was actually about to enter the setting of a thousand stories, the homes of kings and queens, the fertile spawner of a vast empire, I didn't stop shaking until I'd downed two pints of bitter.

You'd think a chap's first operational flight against the enemy would be a high-light. Mine wasn't. I was too busy or ignorant to be even scared. All those red and green things zipping past the cockpit might as well have been Christmas tree lights, instead of tracer bullets.

But I don't suppose I'll ever forget the day I was shot down. One minute there was the snarl of engines, the whack of cannon shells, the crump of flak and the dirty black spots in the sky, as shells burst. Motes all around me.

Next minute there was total silence. No engine. No mates. No flak. Just the blue sky above, the dun earth below coming up swiftly but dreamily and me thinking, "Well, there goes that date with Tita in Antwerp tonight."

There are lots of other peaks. The day I decided I was in love with a girl, once and for all, and took the plunge, after deciding that I wouldn't marry until I was 40 and had explored every means of escape.

And the day my son was born. Hugging the knowledge that I was a father and had a son, even though I was in hospital 150 miles away when he was birthed.

And the day my daughter was born, slipping into the world as easily as she has slipped in and out of equally ridiculous situations ever since.

Anyway, the birth of my grandson was one of the peaks. I can tell. You can't fool an old peak man like me.

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, January 21, 1954.

A member of county council and Acton councillor for the past four years, John Joseph Stewart was unanimously chosen warden of Halton County for 1954. No other candidate's name was proposed after clerk Wm. Deans called for nominations.

Some of our readers who haven't visited Acton in many years are having difficulty in finding the location of the new high school. Perhaps if we say it is the old Quantic farm just further east on Mill St. past where the Ryder family used to live, it may clarify the site.

January meeting of the Home and School Association was held in the public school auditorium Monday with 115 members present to hear O.A.C. chaplain Rev. W. A. Young, J. W. Wolfe presided.

Executive for Acton Citizens Band for 1954 is president Bing Ramsden, vice president Charles Mason, treasurer E. Tyler, secretary Elmer Smith, committee T. Ware, J. Zajac, L. Wieck. Bandmaster is Alfred Perrott and assistant R. Spielvogel.

Two new members Bob Rumley and Herman Eckert were introduced to the Y's Men's club.

Acton Minor Sports has 10 teams operating in the town league this year in three divisions. Ice time is donated through the town fathers. Vic Masters is president, Mike Bennett vice-president, sec.ress. Bob Cunningham, executive Bob Rumley, Ernie Marks, Gord Cunningham, Bill Holloway, Jack Denny, Scotty McCristall, Jim Fleming and George Hollinger.

Churchill United church is in the process of extensive renovations including the addition of a cellar and construction of an extension at the rear of the church auditorium. The whole building was raised 42 inches. The driving shed was dismantled. Its history dates back to 1838.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 23, 1921.

The annual meeting of Acton Fall Fair was held in the Council Chamber, A. H. McLean, president, in the chair. Wallace Lasby was elected president, Cranmer Woodhall 1st. vice-president and Clinton Swackhamer 2nd vice-president. In view of his increased duties as secretary-treasurer George Hynds salary was increased to \$100. Entrance fee to the fair was fixed at 35c. Erin has already increased to 35c.

Messrs. J. W. Kennedy and Son, Main St., have disposed of their hardware business to William Talbot who takes possession March 1. Mr. Talbot has been with the firm the past year or so and should do well.

There is no anxiety concerning the ice crop this year. The icemen are busy storing supplies in the private ice houses in town. It is sincerely hoped someone will have the enterprise to store ice in large quantities for delivery during the summer. Acton has most of the accommodations enjoyed by city residents and will gladly welcome the iceman. There is very reasonable profit in such an enterprise.

There was a stormy time at the annual meeting of Esqueing Agricultural Society. One member was told he would be wound up in court. There has been considerable dissatisfaction with the way the finances have been handled and this resulted in two directors resigning.

Sleights and cutters are using the new three-mile section of the highway from Acton to Crewson's Corners.

A lot of girls wish now they could unbob, as easily as they bobbed.

Sleighing parties are quite in vogue these fine moonlight nights.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 19, 1899.

The entire cost of fitting and furnishing the new room for the fifth department was \$170.38, a very reasonable expenditure for securing so fine a room.

During the past two months there have been several cases of illness and one death in Erin township and there is now no doubt that these cases are due to diphtheria.

Concerts were given in the town hall last Friday and Saturday evenings by combined companies, the chief attraction of which was the exhibition of moving pictures by the cinematograph and Verescope. The concerts consisted of animated picture exhibitions, gramophone selections, songs, musical combinations etc. The concerts presented a degree of sameness. The pictures, however, were very good, especially "The Pillow Fight", "Family Trouble" and the Span-American war scenes.

At the annual meeting of Acton Fire Brigade Mr. John Harvey was elected Chief for 1899. As the business of the late Chief McQueen took him out of town so much during the day he felt it was desirable to have the office filled by a citizen who would always be within call.

The question "When will the electric light plant start?" is a timely one. Nearly all the business places in town are wired and private residences are gradually coming into line. The plant will start with a much larger number of lights than was deemed at all likely a month ago. In all probability the plant will be in operation in two or three days. Inspections of homes have removed any doubt whatever as to the absolute safety of electric wiring.