

# Forget dumps—incinerate

Halton may have a mess of garbage unless the region can find more sanitary land-fill sites in the near future.

The shortage of dumps stems from the closure of Milton and Esquesing dumps and the imminent closure of the former Nassagaweya dump. Additional pressure on the Acton "sanitary landfill site" will shorten its life span (until the end of the year) while Oakville's dump isn't expected to last much longer.

That leaves only two sites for the region's garbage—one at Georgetown, already the target for environmental darts—and another

at Burlington.

It won't take long to fill these two sites either if all the region's garbage is dumped in them.

Is there an alternative?

There is.

Halton should be considering a central incineration plant where all the garbage in the region can be burned—except that suitable for recycling. Then why not use the heat to drive a steam turbine that would generate electricity that would take some of the sting out of the so-called energy crisis Ontario hydro foresees?

Temporary dump sites may be necessary until such time as a

proper incineration system could be planned and built. But Halton should not be thinking about permanent dump sites.

In Europe it is not uncommon for as many as five municipalities to share a single incinerator. In spite of the vast spread of Halton one large incinerator could surely service four municipalities.

Halton is often looked at as being in the vanguard of progress. Here's another opportunity for the region to show other parts of the province what could be done to improve a situation which has already eroded to the point where it is considered serious.

## Free Press Editorial Page

B2 The Acton Free Press, Wed., May 6, 1974

# Capital budget slashes good...but

The surprising disclosure last week that Halton Hills council could cut back on the proposed capital budget by over 50 per cent and still come up with a credible document was very good news indeed.

The biggest surprise was probably the proposal which council adopted suggesting the new Georgetown arena be financed from reserves and surplus from the former town of Georgetown, and still allow \$800,000 to be spent.

Most of the further capital budget expenses are for Georgetown, too—\$1,500,000 for a sewage plant addition, \$430,000 for a swimming pool, \$250,000 for an addition on the library, hydro expenditures of \$100,000 and water at \$85,000.

Most of Acton's expenses would

come out of uncommitted reserves accumulated from the sale of town-owned land.

The preponderance of the capital budget devoted to Georgetown projects arouses suspicions in the minds of taxpayers here that this community is getting the short end of the stick but it is difficult to pin figures down in the welter of projects. What does seem apparent is Acton will pay for its arena roof, \$65,000 for the swimming pool, \$11,500 for tennis courts and \$15,000 for the arena roof out of its own reserves.

It is not considered polite to ask why in the heck there are not more items in the capital budget for Acton. It is parochial thinking, perhaps, but we think people in Acton and Esquesing are entitled to know how much of the Georgetown

projects they are going to have to pay for—part of them—or the same as the benefitting taxpayers in Georgetown.

Acton has paid its own way all these years—a new library was built, the swimming pool project is being primarily financed by the community as well as a new arena roof, tennis courts and street improvements. Taxpayers here want to know how much they are expected to fork out for similar projects in Georgetown.

Hopefully council will give us a detailed picture when the budget is presented so those who pay the freight can see how much they have benefitted financially by merging three municipalities into one.

Residents of all three municipalities are entitled to know.

## Mini-Comment

The Ontario government, hit by a number of conflict-of-interest scandals in recent years, has been manoeuvring recently to present a well-scrubbed image to the voters before it calls an election. The Financial Post reports. Now maybe that wasn't quite what it had in mind when it brought down its budget. But following the removal of consumer goods, there should be a general cleanup all round: the 7 per cent tax came off detergents, polishes, waxes and toilet-bowl cleaners, as well as toothpaste, tooth powders, shaving soaps and creams, dental floss, and deodorants. If nothing else, it should make Ontarians a little nicer to be around.

Hopefully, despite delays, construction will soon be started on the proposed Acton tennis courts. The Tennis club certainly has done all the spade work but a change of location is necessary because the suggested site beside the scout hall

was found to be unsatisfactory. We suggest council expedite further work into finding a new location by the recreation and engineering departments so tennis can get going this year.

It seems ironic the amalgamation of Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing should result in formation of a separate Lorne Scots cadet corps in Acton but it is a welcome addition to the community. It is also a source of excellent training for boys interested in a military career.

Congratulations are certainly in order to the Erin-Eramosa choir for their success at the Cork International Choral and Folk Dance Festival in Ireland. Many young people from this district took part and acted as probably the best international ambassadors a nation could have. In addition to their skill as singers the group's initiative in planning and raising

funds for the trip was an exercise in co-operation which should be incentive for similar groups.

Stories prior to the introduction of regional government about doing away with three bodies and lumping them into one don't bear scrutiny in the recreation department of Halton Hills. The once defunct Acton recreation committee has been resurrected as a recreation advisory committee with most of their powers gone. Some way to pass more power to the community.

It is pointless to complain that crime and sin receive more publicity than exemplary behavior. It is, on the contrary, a matter of some satisfaction that evil is still regarded as news. It will be a sad day if integrity and goodness become so rare as to be featured in the papers."—John C. Heenan, Through the Year with Cardinal Heenan.

## Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 6, 1954.

Largest brown trout reported to the Free Press was caught near Ospringe last Sunday by George Bayliss, Crescent St.

Representatives from the councils of Acton, Milton and Georgetown this week agreed to advertise for a municipal engineer capable of handling all engineering work excluding hydro in the three municipalities. The nine representatives gathered in Georgetown, Acton council, following discussion of the engineering triumvirate idea, was of the majority opinion that the town has not sufficient work immediately to justify its participation.

Mischief and recklessness by some youths and adolescents in town was given the critical attention of Acton council when reports of wild speeding, unlawful fishing tactics, dangerous "toys", "childish" conduct and illegal patronage of the local pool room were made public by several members. Councillor Irwin reported bee-gee guns and bows and arrows and councillor Lindsay said some young fishermen are shooting at fish with rifles. Councillor Footitt told of vandalism at the park and the burning of tables and benches. Councillor Hargrave watched 19 to 21-year old children set off firecrackers in front of the pool room.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 8, 1924.

Mr. Lewis, one of Acton's prominent soloists, won second prize in Class B as a tenor soloist at the Musical Festival held in Massey Hall, Toronto, last week. Over 7,000 musicians took part. Mr. Salt accompanied Mr. Lewis at the piano.

Acton Oddfellows will observe Decoration Day on Sunday. They will parade from their lodge room to Fairview Cemetery accompanied by Acton Citizens' Band.

Mr. Henry Bauer left on Monday with the intention of making his home in Detroit. It is 38 years since Mr. Bauer came to Acton with his parents.

A very pleasant and enjoyable time was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Coles, Church St., Wednesday, the occasion being to celebrate the birthdays of Miss Grace Howard and Mr. Ernest Coles. The evening's programme commenced with 15 minutes devoted to music after which games, both old and new, were enjoyed by all. A most amusing feature was a court-martial by which all persons were tried who had misbehaved during the evening. At 12 o'clock a fish and chip supper was served.

Dr. and Mrs. Farmer are home from Asuncion, Paraguay, South America, where their son-in-law, Hon. Digby Wilson is consul.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 11, 1899.

The Building Committee for the Baptist Church has decided to employ the services of Mr. J. Francis Brown, Architect, Toronto. Plans for the new edifice will shortly be submitted and it is expected the work of excavation at the corner of Mill and Elgin St. will commence within a few weeks.

Contractor Williams commenced his season's work of sprinkling the streets early Monday morning with a fine new sprinkling outfit. When coming up the Mill St. at Clark's mill, with the second load, the rear axle broke and the weight of water in the tank crowded the sprinkling apparatus into the ground. Both the tank and the sprinklers were broken and it took a couple of days to make the necessary repairs.

The seventh annual Dublin picnic will be held in Duncan McDougall's grove on Queen's Birthday. The programme will include tripping the light fantastic, games and sports and a picnic tea. Acton Jubilee Orchestra will discourse music.

A Lawn Tennis Club is the latest organization to secure quarters in the Public Park. The new court is likely to attract numerous lovers of this gentlemanly sport this summer.

Georgetown band has been voted \$45 by the Council.



First day of fishing

—Wendy Thomson Photo

# Bill SMILEY



Well, here's your Innocent Abroad again. This week me and me brudder are blasting up the autobahn to Ramstein.

Blasting is the word. As I mentioned, Germany is probably the only country in the world with no speed limit on its autobahns, the superhighways.

During the fuel shortage, the government applied a limit. The death toll on the roads dropped drastically. But the government caved in to an angry lobby from auto-makers and racing clubs and lifted the speed limit.

The result is somewhat like a combination of the Indianapolis speedway and low flying over mountains, that is guaranteed to stand your hair on end, if not turn it white.

My brother is a good driver, and he was only idling along about 90. But I was slightly unnerved by his habit of pointing out scenery with one hand and whistling past a 20-ton truck with the other.

Even more hair-raising was the traffic from behind. Those mad Teutons zoom up to within inches of your rear bumper, hang there, then, as soon as there's a chance, flash past you as though you were standing still.

Personally, I wouldn't drive on a German autobahn in anything but a fifty-ton tank.

Arrived at the halfway mark so weak and shaky I couldn't even get a beer down, in the officers' mess. And that's pretty shaky.

This was Baden-Soellingen, home of the Fourth Canadian Mobile Brigade Group. There are three squadrons of CF 104's, a token force, but a highly efficient one. This is down from 12 squadrons in 1954.

Those remaining are 426, Red Indian, 439, Tiger, and 441, Silver Fox. They received their colours last June from Prince Philip, in an impressive ceremony. My brother claims, seriously, that the Canadian squadrons have the best pilots in Europe.

Zoom. Off again to Ramstein where I was plunged into a gay round of parties that would make a debutante green with envy. But not before I crashed out for a few hours at the kid brother's apartment. I had to gird my loins for the big dinner and party that night.

Like a number of officers, he lives off the base, in a small village. He pays a little over \$200 for a two-bedroom unfurnished apartment. This is subsidized to some extent by the service. But rents have soared in Germany.

On the base, a Canadian, Major George Taylor, told me he pays only \$120 for a two-bedroom job.

My brother had to install everything: stove, fridge, even cupboards, in his flat.

Parks? Yes, there are some. Liquor is \$4.00 for 40 ounces of the best. Cigarettes, for those afflicted, are \$2.00 a carton. Food and drink at the mess are relatively cheap. But nothing much else is. The halcyon days when our troops on the continent were living high as lords are gone, thanks to German inflation and the devaluing of the dollar.

Change the shirt, shave the whiskers, and off to the mess. It was a special occasion, and he didn't want me to miss it. A farewell dinner for a German Colonel, moving to another post. German? Yes, it felt rather odd to be drinking a toast to a chap who might have been shooting at me some years ago. But this is NATO remember? There were three other colonels of the German Air Force at the dinner.

Most of the others at the party were Americans, and I was welcomed with all the warmth and hospitality for which Americans are well known. Mrs. Martha Heaton said, "The Canadians here are the funnest and nicest Canadians we've ever met." Brig.-Gen. Dick Merklein, USAF, our host, stuck me at the head table and introduced me after the food. I graciously murmured that the food was better than last time I was in Germany.

And wasn't it just. A steak so big and tender it made one to drool. Wine flowing freely. Choice dessert. And a lot of beautiful women, for eye-feasting.

Lowest ranking officer there was a major, and there was only one of these. It's a good thing I look so distinguished or they'd have turned livid at the thought of a little old miserable Flight Lieutenant sitting at the head table.

Then it was back to his shack with the brother, and a long evening of reminiscing about such things as how I used to diddle him out of his paper-route money, and the girls we had tried to steal from each other, and old days in the REAL air force, and exhausted to bed. One more column on my trip, if you can stand it.

As for us, we're looking forward to going on Sunday, primarily because of our interest in horses. Our club is pleased to be working with the Fair Board to provide an interesting and lively afternoon of good horsemanship. We get tired of trailering our horses to Georgetown, Erin and Brampton and never getting the chance to do our stuff "at home".

I have only the highest aspirations for my children and I don't think a few afternoons at a fair will have a detrimental influence on their young lives. Good honest living is a seven day a week deal.

And as for me personally, I hope I'll be forgiven one selfish, self-centred thought. I'm praying that I have the best darned Appaloosa at the fair.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Pat Gamsyager  
Halton Hills Riding Club

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## Our readers write

### Looking forward to Sunday fair

Dear Sir: I was sorry to read in this week's paper, criticisms of the Fair Board's decision to open on Sunday. Being personally in favour of the motion, I think someone should speak up for it.

With all due respect to those letter writers, they have failed to allow that people are free to make up their own minds with what to do on Sunday. There are some religions that do not hold Sunday as their Sabbath. Some people must work on Saturday and therefore have only Sunday free to spend with the family. But the most important thing to people mindful of the religious aspect, is that the fair grounds will not be open until 12:30 Sunday. That gives everyone time to make the morning church service and have lunch too before coming to the fair.

And if you think about it, wouldn't you rather have a family at the fair on a Sunday afternoon - together and enjoying some good clean fun, rather than have the ol' man parked on the lawn having a can of beer and the kids off playing somewhere - anywhere? And wouldn't you prefer our teenagers to be at the fair rather than in someone's recreation room getting into liquor or drugs?

If you don't believe in having beer on the fairgrounds by all means, don't buy it. If the concession loses money or has a lot of beer left over, the Board will decide it

wasn't a very successful venture and not have it next year. If you don't believe amusements should be partaken of on Sunday, don't ride them, but don't frown on others who could be just as profoundly religious as you, but see no threat to their morality involved.

Finally, I think the Fair Directors are sincerely trying to provide something for everybody. They were criticized last year for having a very restrictive horse programme. This year they are trying to improve it and from the way it's shaping up, it's going to be terrific.

It was impossible to incorporate the Western Horse Show into Saturday's activities because the ring has to be regulation size - 120' x 240', and the size of the grounds just can't accommodate that additional required space. And besides, how many things can one person see and do in a day?

Our population is increasing and more people are getting involved in the various fair activities and competitions. This takes up time and space. Be glad we have a chance and place to show off the fruits of our labours. I get a nice warm feeling of belonging when I can recognize a lot of the names of the contestants. I'd rather take my family to the Acton Fall Fair than the C.N.E. in Toronto. The fair is there for all of us, if you want it, just as are all the good things and bad things in life.

more vacation than any other group of people I know. After their strike we can't call them a group of professionals. What other group gets paid to update themselves. The rest of us take courses on our own time. If the only effect of the renaissance committee is to get the teachers to pay more attention to the kids and less to their labor union it will have accomplished something.

I know you need my name but just sign me FED UP.

### Writer "fed up" with teachers

Elmore Drive  
Acton, Ontario  
May 3, 1974

There are only twenty persons out to the recent meeting but it isn't apathy I'm sure. Parents are fed up but just feel helpless to do anything about education.

The teachers are the only people able to make the improvements and most of them are too busy. Too busy agitating for fewer classes, more money and more time off. They already work fewer hours and have