

Free Press Editorial Page

Acton as a dump site?

The people at Ashgrove are banding together to prepare a firm protest against a possible regional dump right on their rural doorsteps.

But if the proposal goes "back to the drawing board", that board shows two other proposed sites just north of Acton, one on each side of Highway No. 25. This map of suggested locations appeared in the Free Press Oct. 2.

Attending the Ashgrove citizens' meeting were three councillors representing the rural area, Dick Howitt, Russ Miller and Len Coxe.

"No place in Esquesing is a good place for it," Len Coxe said then.

Let's hope he also had in mind these other sites, right on our doorstep here.

A regional dump here would bring garbage from the south of the county trucked right up through Acton's main street, presumably. And there are watercourses up there that run south and north which could become polluted.

When the next public meeting is called on the Ashgrove dump site, people from Acton should be there.

How about it, Chamber of Commerce?

Snow will be snowing

Snow has reminded everyone winter's coming... and reminded Halton Hills council they need uniform snowmobiling regulations.

Acton has had the stiffest regulations in the past. Here, snowmobiles were only allowed on town streets on their way from or to home after snowmobiling in the countryside. Operating the machines around the school grounds, for instance, was not permitted although it certainly happened sometimes.

Both Georgetown and Acton snowmobile clubs have worked out agreements with willing country landowners so they could build trails there.

Members of both clubs have assured council they want to abide by regulations and in fact they will try to assist police in preventing breaking of the law and property damage by trespassers.

The machines give lots of pleasure and fresh air to their fans, but regulations must be carefully prepared.

Of this and that

Now Halton, Halton Hills and Milton all have coats of arms designed by Esquesing artist Dorothy Stone. Her new enthusiasm for heraldry even caused her to miss the annual show of the Georgetown Arts and Crafts Association. People were looking for her exhibits of beautiful

paintings in vain. She was at the annual meeting of the heraldry association.

Miss Stone has had no problem with council and the general public admiring her striking designs. Her main problem is trying to convince them these designs are coats of arms — not, never, NOT "crests".

UNICEF as benefit

When the subject of amalgamating Hallowe'en and UNICEF collections in Acton first arose, years ago, many objected. They felt diverting the children's attention from the fun of the occasion to collecting for the poor would

spoil their evening.

It certainly hasn't worked out that way. Surely the youngsters, even at their age, realize they are helping others as well as themselves with their boxes of pennies.



A FAMILIAR SIGHT at Ballinafad becomes a portrait in weathered grey and white for photographer Peter McCusker. He was pursuing the walkathon

participants Saturday when the weathered old buildings and fences and tangled weeds caught his attention.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

I'd planned to write a column about Thanksgiving Day this year but the days went shooting by and suddenly it was past.

However, I was undaunted. As the preachers and writers tell us every Christmas, there is no reason that peace on earth and goodwill toward men should be confined to a single day. Nor is there any reason that we should give thanks only on the second Monday in October. So here goes.

Did you stop and give thanks on that day? Or did you just enjoy the long weekend, stuff yourself with turkey, and slump in front of the box to watch football? I hope you did better than that: at least went for a drive and gorged yourself on the fall panorama of color, reason enough in itself for a deep and fervent thanks.

I started to think of all the things we Canadians have to be thankful for, and the list seemed to be endless.

First of all, we should be grateful to be living in Canada, no matter how we squawk at income tax time, and gripe about the weather. Without getting misty-eyed or waving a flag about it, this is a grand country.

Our society is far from perfect, and there are injustices, and we are often badly served by our leaders, and, yes, the Americans own too much of us. But these things are more than offset when we start piling things on the other side of the scale.

What are some of the goodies? Well, first, there are the intangibles. There are very few places in this country where a person is afraid to walk alone, even at night. We have lots of air, some of it hot, some of it polluted, but most of it clear and clean. Nobody is literally starving in this country, though the old-age pensioners would give you an argument there. Nobody lives in fear of the boots on the door, the secret police. Our only secret police are the mounties, and every time they try something secret, the papers find out, and spread it all over the front pages, chortling.

To continue the list, we have equality of speech. Even the Prime Minister can swear in a public place, such as the House of Commons, and get away with it.

We have equality of welfare benefits. The old lady with \$600,000 salted away in bonds gets the same old-age pension as the old lady who has two herrings salted away. What could be more equal than that?

We have equality before the law. What's that you say? There's one law for the rich and one for the poor? Nonsense. It's the same law. The only difference is in the amount you steal, and the lawyers you can afford. If you steal big, and can afford a battery of lawyers, you get a light sentence. If you steal small, and try to defend yourself, you get the works.

We have equality of opportunity. Ask any of our native people. Just ask a Metis or an Eskimo if he doesn't have the same

opportunity as the white boy who has to fight his way through Upper Canada College, Trinity College, and Osgoode Hall law school. He'll tell you. Just be sure he doesn't have a beer bottle in his hand when you ask him.

And we have peace in our land. Oh, there's the odd little fluster. Like the Mackenzie rebellion in Ontario and the Papineau rebellion in Quebec and the Riel rebellion in the west and some kook trying to put a half-nelson on the Russian head of state in Ottawa and a rabble of native people attacking the mounties in the same place. But these are just trouble-makers. Right?

There's no question about it. In this glorious nation of ours, everybody is equal. The only rub is that, as George Orwell put it, some are more equal than others.

Well, those are just a few of the things for which we should give thanks. Then there are all the more tangible things. We have more oil and gas than we need, but by George, we've made sure the price is right, and those energy-squandering Yanks can go cold and use candles.

We have two of the longest railroads in the world. How about that? Even though both of them despise would-be travellers by rail, we have two of the longest railroads in the world.

We have some of the finest wheat in the world coming out of our ears, even though we don't seem to be able to get it into the boxcars and onto the ships to feed the hungry of the Third World.

And how many nations in the world can brag that they have the second-best hockey team in the world? That's part of our national heritage and I think we should all give thanks for it.

There's only one rub in this glowing picture. Our inflation rate, believe it or not, isn't soaring quite as rapidly as some of the other countries in the west. But don't worry about it. Among them, our politicians, business leaders and union bosses will soon have that sorted out, and we'll be up there with the best of them.

Be honest now. Where would you rather live? In Europe, with all those people and pollution and culture and stuff? In the U.S., where the Great Exorcism is not taking place? In Australia, full of Australians?

Just sit back and give thanks that you are a Canadian, living in the best of all possible worlds.

Our Readers write

Facts behind council decision

Further to our telephone conversation since I am fully aware of your desire to report the facts on council matters, I wish to correct a report which appeared in your paper on October 16th entitled "Council to be Planning Body."

The information recorded may reflect committee meetings but I am referring to what actually happened at Council meetings.

1. Earlier this year Councillor Sykes and myself introduced a motion to have council constitute the Planning Board. It was defeated.

2. About six weeks ago I proceeded to introduce a similar motion but was asked by the Acting Mayor if I would withdraw it since there was a notice of motion before Council to change our committee structure and it had not been duly considered. The motion was withdrawn.

3. On Tuesday, October 8th, after a frustrating day on Regional Planning matters Councillor Coxe and myself introduced another motion to have council act as our Planning Board. After considerable discussion which brought out the reasons for such a recommendation the motion was passed.

When the vote was taken the two councillors to whom you give the credit for introducing the change, the record will show that one was absent and the other councillor voted against the motion.

Yours very truly,
Garnet W. McKenzie

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press, October 14, 1954.

Police investigated four auto accidents in this district Sunday, involving nearly \$2,000 property damage and three others before and after the Thanksgiving weekend. No serious injuries were reported.

Results of the Acton Crop Competition, held in conjunction with Acton fair, are: C. W. Swackhamer, 90 points; S. E. Griffin and Son 89; Clayton Davis, 88; George Wallace 87; Calvin Aitken 86; G. R. Somerville 85; C. A. McNabb 84; Melvin McCullough 83; Ralph Denny 80; and E. R. Pasmore 79. There were 15 entries.

It was men versus mud—and even women versus mud—when the Mayors' contest began at the 41st annual International Plowing Match at Breslau on Tuesday. Among the ranks of the 28 mayors plowing all together was Acton's mayor Ted Tyler. "It was mud up to your ears."

Seven of the 12 night school courses offered in Acton will be held, it was decided at a meeting of the Halton night school management committee Tuesday evening in Milton high school. Of the total of 33 applications received in Acton, Milton and Georgetown, 109 were for classes in Acton.

Clayton Fryer, a R.C.M.P. constable who is visiting his home in Acton, spoke to the members of Acton Rotary club at their regular supper meeting Tuesday. He told of long patrols, hunting, his work and Eskimo life to an attentive group and showed colored slides of the north. He was introduced by Fred Wright and thanked by Bill Mattocks.

50 years ago

Taken from an issue of the Free Press, October 23, 1924.

A moonshine camp in the hush in the rear of the McKinnon farm, Nassagaweya, which has been leased for a number of years by John D. McDonald, was the scene of two official visits during the week. Officers of the law had been given a hint that a visit to this more or less secluded place might bring some results. Accordingly last Saturday afternoon Inspector Reveley and Chief McPherson started on a reconnoitering expedition.

J. Lockie Wilson, the energetic Managing Director of the International Plowing Match and demonstration of Tractor and Farm Machinery, held at Brampton last week, is one of the happiest men associated with agricultural pursuits in Ontario just now. The big plowing he arranged to be held on Mr. Bull's fine farm at Brampton, was the biggest thing of the kind ever held in the country. The autumn weather was ideal: the farm of widespread acres was in prime condition; the plowmen from all over the country were present and the machinery men realized that they had an opportunity for exploiting their modern manufactures for agricultural purposes, not often duplicated anywhere.

The attendance was magnificent, and reached an estimated aggregate of 75,000. On Friday there were about 30,000 present and the crowd kept coming, so that even on Saturday, the closing day, 15,000 people showed up to follow the plowing contests and final awards of the judges through to the finish.

75 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press, October 26, 1899.

The past week has been most eventful in the war of Transvaal. Several important engagements have taken place, in each case the Boers being the aggressors. At two points, Glencoe and Ladysmith, the Boers were routed after fierce and prolonged contests. A most regrettable feature of the campaign up to this point has been the large loss of British officers at each of the engagements. Much regret is felt that General Symons was mortally wounded at his brilliant victory at Glencoe.

Fran Fair is generally favored with fine weather and this year exceptionally fine was enjoyed. This had the effect of weather making the attendance the largest for many years. The show was an unqualified success in every particular. The exhibits in each class were quite up to the mark.

Campbell vs. the Acton Tanning Co.—It is many years since a case has been tried at Guelph which has excited as much general interest as the action brought by Mrs. Kate Campbell, of Speyside and her two infant children, against the Acton Tanning Co., of Acton, and the firm of Beardmore and Co., of Toronto and Acton, in which action Mrs. Campbell and her children claimed damages for the death of Joseph Campbell, the husband of Mrs. Campbell. The action arose under the following circumstances with which Free Press readers are more or less familiar.



C. B. Dayfoot, 1916.

Halton sketches by John McDonald

Dayfoot tannery early industry

It was the year after the Rebellions of 1837 that J. B. Dayfoot and his brother P. W. W. Dayfoot came to Upper Canada from Vermont. They did not come directly to Georgetown but established a tannery business in Hamilton.

J. B. Drayfoot and Co. came into existence in Georgetown in 1843 and consisted of the tannery, near what is now the corner of Mill and John Streets. A small dam was built just south of the Canadian National Railway tunnel where Silvercreek wanders through the resultant water power

was used to drive the machinery in the tannery. Gradually the tanning business branched out into shoemaking. The tannery burned in 1868 and was never re-built.

The firm known as "C. B. Dayfoot & Co." was formed in 1892 after the death of John B. Dayfoot for whom John Street was named. The Dayfoot firm specialized in manufacturing a heavy work boot which was sold to farmers, prospectors, lumber jacks and miners. The Dayfoot label was a popular one in shoe stores throughout Ontario and all the Western provinces. "Solid

Clear Through" was the company's advertising slogan and high regard for quality was always maintained.

The shoe factory employed, at various times, between 50-100 local people, while a small sales force visited lumber camps and mining towns promoting the Dayfoot Shoe line. Skilled machine operators were always in demand as a quantity of intricate machinery was required to carry on successfully and be competitive.

The shoe factory reflects the modernization program an early industrialist had to cope with as the factory was hydro-electrically powered, which replaced a gasoline engine, which replaced a steam system, which in turn replaced the water turbine power used in the old tannery.

The Dayfoot Company was a family business in every aspect. After the death of the two founding brothers, J. B. and P. W. Dayfoot, the new generation utilized various talents in keeping the company active. Charles acted as president, Harry as sales manager, Warner as factory foreman, Philo worked in the factory while sister Gertrude acted as bookkeeper and office manager.

The Dayfoots were always a very community-minded family. Harry Dayfoot was Georgetown Hydro commissioner for a number of years during the 1930's. Michael Dayfoot, father of J.



RESIDENCE OF P. W. DAYFOOT ESQ.

B. was chosen first Deacon of the Georgetown Baptist Church at its inaugural meeting held October 16, 1847 at a home in the village. The "village" at this time contained about a dozen dwellings, whose occupants were either employed at the Barber Brothers mill or Dayfoot's tannery. Michael was the first to carry the name Dayfoot after its change from "Dafoc" at the time of the American Revolution.

In 1866 when a group of Baptists decided to erect the present church building (which stands at the top of Main Street and now houses the Pentecostal Church) two of the principal contributors to the \$8,000 project were J. B. and George Dayfoot.

C. B. Dayfoot and Company was sold in 1944 to a Mr. Ed Johnston who later bought out the Gravlin-Bale Company in Campbellford and con-

solidated the two businesses there. The shoe factory was then sold, in 1947, to the Hedley Shoe Company in Toronto who operated under the name of Georgetown Shoe Company for a number of years.

The shoe factory sat idle for a number of years and was recently used as a warehouse and sales outlet for a boat company before being converted into an attractive apartment complex by Albert Euteneier in 1966.

Not only did the Dayfoot name bring national recognition to Georgetown, with their popular boots and high quality, but the Dayfoot family can truly be regarded as pioneers in the leather and shoe trade in Ontario.

The only remnants of the family name in Georgetown is a result of Victoria Drive being renamed Dayfoot Drive on January 1, 1974.



THE ASSEMBLED DAYFOOT family are Warner Dayfoot, Charles Dayfoot, Philo Dayfoot, Gertrude Dayfoot and Harry Dayfoot.

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