

Free Press Editorial Page

Hats off to the Lions

Our hats are off to the Lions! And our coats, shirts, skirts, socks, shoes, etc. And on with the bathing suits!

If it hadn't been for the initiative of this club, Acton wouldn't have its swimming pool open this week.

The club conceived the idea but staged a campaign at a very inopportune time, with a new regional government.

They strode on, anyway, to get contributions, and apparently have reached about \$50,000, their goal in the first place.

The rest of the cost is assumed by public bodies, with grants and winter works program. Meaning it comes from our taxes.

Admission charges, of course, will defray the operating costs.

For the past while Acton has counted up its list of losses. One of them, ironically enough, also started out as a Lions club project.

The old station was bought by the club whose members hoped to move it to the park, or somewhere else suitable. With costs prohibitive, they sold it for scrap. (Milton's old station is up on skids and ready to be moved this week.)

Other losses range from the loss of our own council and boards and works staff to our loss of Thursday garbage collection.

Include the staff gone from the town office, the fact there's no one in our former works yard.

Council questioning our band, our type of remembrance day observance . . . our fire chief. Senior citizens housing denied us.

When a water line breaks, equipment must come up from Georgetown. Permits, taxes, cemetery plots — all the paper work is gone from here.

Anyway, now we have our new Legion hall and swimming pool to be proud of!

Dogs and school yards

The thoughtlessness of some dog owners has concerned public school principal Gary Dawkins. Where from 500 to 600 children play on the grounds of the M. Z. Bennett school, dogs play, too — and leave their marks.

"It's just thoughtlessness," Mr. Dawkins thinks.

However, he has a clipping from a newspaper that causes him a lot of concern. A noted scientist, according to the article, thinks that dog litter on streets and in parks has caused blindness and other disabling, even fatal, diseases among children.

Dogs in Acton should not be running at large in the first place. However, they do, sometimes.

And it must be the responsibility of the owner to see that the animal doesn't make a nuisance of itself in a public place.

Pet owners surely don't have the right to foul our schoolyards, parks and streets.

If some animals cannot be trained to realize the only place to litter is in their own back yard at home, the owner should be considerate.

No reason the person walking the dog couldn't carry along a plastic bag and one of the handy slotted spoons on sale in hardware stores and grocery stores — nicknamed the "super duper pooper scooper."

Clean up after your pet.

Acton's ways defended

Remembrance Day service in Acton has always been a community event. The parade and morning service at the cenotaph are followed by a church service.

In Georgetown, the Legion has regularly been in charge of the November 11 observances, which apparently includes a service at the cenotaph only. It's to be next Sunday.

The differences caused Halton Hills councillors last week to question the usual grant given by Acton council to pay for printed programs. The Legion had looked after all costs in Georgetown.

Councillor Pat McKenzie stoutly

defended Acton ways, and finally council agreed to pay for the printing of programs for both towns.

Mr. McKenzie estimated the cost involved would be \$150.

But for the record, Free Press printing manager John McNabb says the 300 Acton programs cost \$35 and tax — something over \$40.

Consideration had been given to holding the Remembrance Day service in the new Legion hall. Then there would be room for people of all denominations. Maybe this will be given some more thought.

Of this and that

The Oakville Journal-Record wrote a couple of sentences this week about us folks way up here.

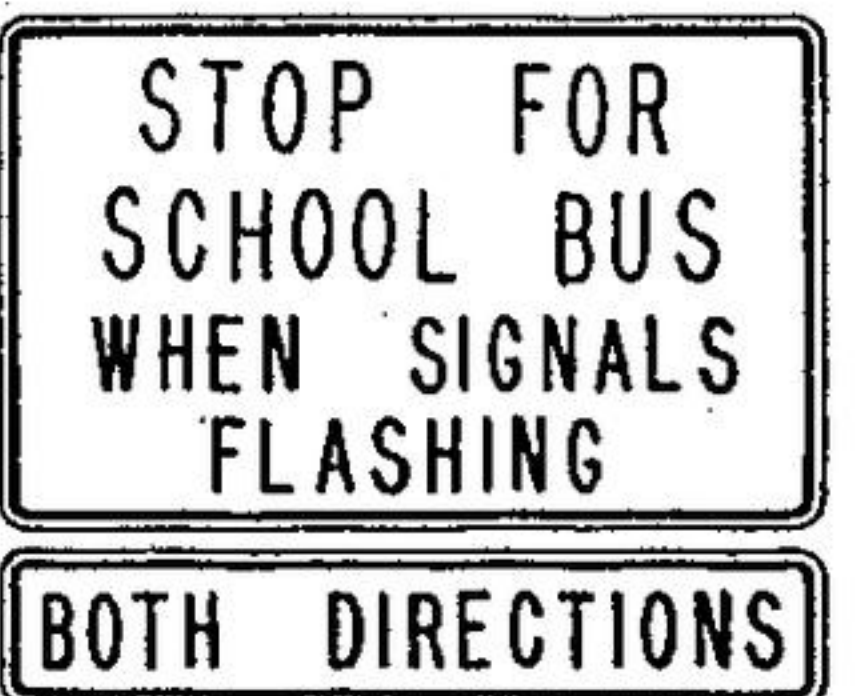
"There's an up country feud brewing in Halton Hills. Some folks in Acton don't like the way folks from Georgetown are dismissing the traditions of the former North Halton town. Here's one shotgun regional marriage a la Queen's Park that really hit the rocks."

Wa..a..ll... you fellers in the south sure are perceptive.

One of the problems in hiring crossing guards is the fact that the pay — \$2.80 an hour — is in conflict with the supplementary pensions some of the older applicants receive. Surely legislation should be changed to avoid this kind of situation. Crossing guard is a good part-time position for many retired people and they enjoy it. They shouldn't be penalized for their efforts and contribution.

New highway warnings

Special signs are now being erected all over Ontario on all types of four-lane divided highways, to remind motorists of the necessity of stopping for school buses. Here's the sign:



The fact that many motorists do not stop for school buses was brought to a head last week by driver Mrs. Shirley Kleine Deters. Her story was quickly corroborated by the Speyside principal, police and parents.

Let's hope plenty of these signs go up, in areas like ours.

Letters welcome

Yes, your letters are welcome on topics of general interest. Please keep them short and be sure to sign your name. Pen names are acceptable for publication, provided the editor knows the identity of the writer, but they are not recommended.



November is the cruellest month



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

A bits and pieces column. First item shows a malicious delight in "catching someone out" as the phrase goes. It is one of the less pleasant aspects of the human character, but at the same time has given a great deal of pleasure, over the centuries, to the human race.

There is nothing people enjoy more than somebody else's feet of clay. How we all secretly rejoice, if not openly, when a cabinet minister is caught with a blonde who is not his wife, or a prominent judge is nailed on an impaired driving charge, or a teacher is discovered nurturing marijuana in his/her window boxes.

Disgusting, and definitely not Christian, but it's fun. I've been a victim myself. Sent out a questionnaire to elementary school teachers of English last year. There was one spelling error in it, and I didn't do it, a secretary did. But about 50 per cent of the questionnaires returned had the mistake circled, and some gleeful little remark attached.

Now, it's my turn. I have before me a list of novels and plays sent out by the Educational Communications Authority, a fairly sacred cow with the Ministry of Education.

The Authority wants English department heads to tick off a list of the books most used by students in our high schools, with a view to buying the movie rights to the 20 most popular, so that they can be video-taped and made available on a wide basis. A laudable plan.

It was when I started to scan the list that I thought it must be a put-on. I re-checked the accompanying letter. No, it was real, it was official.

I looked over the list, a fairly comprehensive one of most of the obvious ones: Macbeth, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Death of a Salesman, Huck Finn, The Great Gatsby. Everything in order.

Then I turned to Page 2 of the list and nearly fell off my chair. I came to two conclusions. Either the chap who had dictated the list had failed to proof-read it, or the secretary who had done the typing had finished Page 1 and gone out and had a large liquid lunch before tackling Page 2.

Don Quixote came out as Don Quiote. This must be an animal story about a coyote called Don. Emily Bronte must be twirling in her grave on the moors, to see her magnificent Wuthering Heights described as Withering Heights.

Thomas Hardy will be having a celestial seizure when he realizes that his great Tess of the D'Urbervilles has a new title: Tess of the D'Umbervilles. D'Umbur, what?

A science fiction novel, The Chrysalids, has a new life as The Chryssalids. The Luck of Ginger Coffey has been transformed to Lack of Ginger Coffey. Probably some sort of rationing.

A fine western novel, The Ox Bow Incident, has changed shape. It is now the Ox Box Incident, a rather square title, if I may say so.

A grade 11 standard, To Kill a Mockingbird, has become To Kill a Mocking Bird. Can't you see that bird, just sitting around mocking the old lady who owns it?

But perhaps the greatest blow to Canadian literature, and certainly the one that nearly bust a gut in a number of English teachers, was the updating of that fine, old novel about French Canada, Maria Chapdelaine. It is now called Marve Chapdelaine.

That is an obvious backlash by some male chauvinist pig to the entire Women's Lib movement. But I'd certainly like to read the new version. I can just see Marve up there, in the Quebec backwoods, bringing in the kindling, worrying about wolves, and having babies under primitive conditions. Poor Marve. It was OK for Marie. She had guts. But Marve doesn't sound as though he could hack it, with a name like that. I imagine he'll die in childbirth, or be eaten alive by mosquitoes, or drop a pot of scalding soup aux pois on his foot, or something like that.

Now I know this entire column is completely unfair to the poor guy who made up the list. But I got so much pleasure from it, purely malicious pleasure, that I couldn't refrain from passing it on.

And the sheer joy of it is that it comes from an Educational Authority. In capitals. It would be no fun at all if it came from an illiterate bookseller.

It's interesting to learn that your neighbor is going to have a baby, after 15 years of sterility, or that your Uncle George had an affair in Singapore when he was in the merchant navy, and before he became a church elder.

But it's sheer glee when you discover that someone away above you in the hierarchy has committed a monstrous boob.

We all have clay feet, but most of us keep our shoes tightly laced, or at least our socks on.

Our Readers write

Crossing guards in Ward 1

Acton, Ontario, Nov. 11, 1974.

Dear Mrs. Dills: Crossing Guards in Ward 1 Area

If Mr. D. Pritchard was correctly quoted in your newspaper last week he was not quoting council's policy regarding crossing guards. Never have we even hinted that Ward 1 should operate without three guards at the established crossings on No. Seven Highway.

When school opened we had three capable crossing guards for Acton. Unfortunately we have had two resignations in two

months with some delay in obtaining replacements. When advertisements in the local newspaper did not readily give us replacements I went out into the community and found people willing to serve. We now have three qualified guards and two spares for illness or replacements.

Naturally we regret the fact that one cross walk was not supervised every school day but positive action has been and will be taken in the future to safeguard our children.

Yours very truly,
Garnet W. McKenzie
Regional Councillor Ward I

Cars, trucks pass school bus

R.R. 4, Acton, Ontario, November 7, 1974

The Editor Acton Free Press Dear Sir:

As a parent of a kindergarten child attending Speyside Public School, I would like to endorse one hundred percent, statements made by school bus driver, Mrs. Kleine Deters, in last week's issue (November 6, 1974) of the Acton Free Press, regarding cars and trucks not stopping for school buses.

Almost daily, as I wait to escort my son safely across Highway No. 25, I witness

cars and trucks not stopping for the school bus, even though the bus lights are flashing and children are alighting from the bus. How can one get a license number and description of a driver when he or she is travelling sixty to seventy miles an hour when passing the school bus?

My thanks to Mrs. Kleine Deters for the excellent job she is doing and for bringing this very serious situation to the attention of the public. Thanks also, to Mr. Norm Howell, Principal of Speyside Public School, and school bus drivers for their time and effort in trying to do all that is possible to ensure the safety of our children.

Yours truly,
June Lewis

Time for carrot pudding

We're making carrot pudding. From an "old-time" recipe. If you want a treat, that's good to eat, just drop a line to me.

My grandma always made some. To bless the Christmas treat. On the little plum she poured the rum, 'help digest the turkey meat.

I remember when I was a boy. When Grandma gave me some. She poured on mine, a little wine, 'cause Father stole the rum.

They found him in the cellar. With the bottle by his side,

His face was red, he wasn't dead. He had passed out with the tide.

Mom pumped a pail of water. And poured it on his head. He had to stay all Christmas Day. Stretched out upon the bed.

This Christmas-time tradition. With turkey, pudding, pie. Is rooted deep, we have to keep. Until the day we die.

Victor Smith, R.R. 2, Rockwood.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from issue of the Free Press November 11, 1954

Operation changeover began in Acton this week. A force of over 100 men and 80 vehicles deplored over the town and immediate rural area Wednesday morning to start the nine-day job of converting the locality from a 25 cycle district to 60 cycle frequency.

A large area bounding and south of Queen St. E. was the first to undergo the frequency change. On the same day, Wednesday, crews of Ontario Hydro and Canadian Comstock technicians visited scores of farm homes north and east of here, in Esqueving and Erin township.

The youngest pilot in the Brampton Flying Club and one of the youngest airmen in this district, gained his student pilot's license Saturday after completing eight hours flying time in the air.

He's Martin Marks, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Marks, Hill St. who last spring joined the Brampton club and worked through the summer to pay for most of the expensive instruction time.

An overheated fish and chip grill is believed responsible for a minor fire at the Mayfair Restaurant late Monday afternoon when Acton fire brigade was called to extinguish a flash blaze.

Stinging smoke from the burning grease filled the kitchen of the restaurant and when firemen arrived smoke was billowing out the back door. Slight damage was caused by the smoke.

Hon. W. J. Dunlop, minister of education for the province of Ontario, will officially open Acton's new high school on Monday evening, November 22.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press November 27, 1924

About one o'clock last Saturday morning, Miss Ethel Clarke, daughter of Mr. John Clarke, of Port Credit, formerly of Acton, was awakened by the dense smoke which filled her room. She at once gave the alarm and the family escaped from the burning home in their night clothes.

The loss to Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and family is partially covered by Mr. John R. Kennedy's companies to the amount of \$7,100.

All the women in Acton whose names appear on the voters' list in the Parts 1 and 2 have the right to vote at the municipal elections next Monday. They will naturally show their interest in town affairs by polling their votes. All women who own property are also entitled to vote on the by-laws submitted to the property-owners at the same time as the election for members of the council and school board.

Mrs. T. J. Hill, Glen Williams, had the misfortune to fall and break her wrist when going out to the barn the other evening.

The cold spell last week played havoc with the motor cars whose radiators were neglected. "Did you get the water out of your car before the frost caught it?" is a question asked around town all week. It is surprising how many car owners failed to think of the danger to their radiators when the drop in temperature occurred on Saturday. In the garage men have had a busy time since.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press November 16, 1899

Acton's name is simply "Acton" not "Acton West". It was so christened by a public meeting of citizens away back in 1844 when elevated to the distinction of possessing a post office. "Acton" is the name in all the municipal records, and this is the Government name found in official post office and court lists. "Acton West" was not thought of until long after the Grand Trunk Railway was built through here, and because freight occasionally went east to Acton Vale, Que., for their own convenience the railway people inserted "Acton West" in their time tables, etc. "Acton" is distinctive. There is no other place of the same name in the Dominion and our citizens are jealous for their time honored title.

Notice of appeal has been served by defendants in the case of Campbell vs. Acton Tanning Co., tried at the late assizes at Guelph in which the plaintiff was awarded by the jury \$1,000 and each of her two infant children \$500, together with the costs of suit. The appeal will be heard in January.

Mr. W. A. Storey left last Saturday on a trip to Gloversville and Johnstown N.Y. He was accompanied by Mr. Fred H. Storey.

Mr. John Walter and family have removed to town from their farm and are now comfortably settled in their brick residence on Park Ave.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 39 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the C.C.A. and C.N.A. Advertisers rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$4.00 in Canada, \$9.00 in all countries other than Canada. Single copies 15 cents; carrier delivery in Acton 15 cents per week. Second class mail Registration Number 0515. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is a merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

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