

# Free Press Editorial Page

## 'Tis season to be Christians

Christmas is one of the seasons of the year that unites all Christians. But in Acton, as everywhere else, they're united - but in their own separate eight town churches, not to mention the rural congregations.

Talks of union between the Anglican and United churches drag on, the participants expressing plenty of apprehension.

To come up to date, the Remembrance Day service was again held in one church, despite a suggestion of a community service in the Legion hall. (In Rockwood, the whole community gathered in the school for a church service.)

"The Clergy Speaks Out", a column instituted a couple of years ago with high hopes, has foundered

again. Only one of the town's clergy has met his Free Press publication deadline this season.

The Clergy Association meets occasionally - but what do they do? What comes of it?

Surely Christmas is the time to think of how the Christians of the eight churches could have contact with each other.

Why not a community service? The last one was in 1967 - centennial year - and it drew a huge crowd to the community centre.

Why not pulpit exchanges? Inter-congregational visits? A float in the Santa Claus parade showing the real meaning of Christmas?

The Free Press would like to hear views on this subject.



ICE CREEPS out to surround the many birds on Fairy Lake these days. They break it open with their wings as long as they can, but they'll soon need the help of the Beardmore bubbler. Canada Geese are still here adding to the numbers of wildfowl greatly this season. This week the swans, so clumsy out of

water, are led in at the far end of the lake away from the other birds and feed. Hundreds of pounds of corn and bread are fed to the birds by Esther Taylor and other interested bird watchers. They are concerned this week about the encroaching ice and apparent lack of shelter.

## More driving, more danger

It's Safe Driving Week. And while another week to promote some cause isn't anything new, there are good reasons for this one.

Canadians are driving greater distances every year - four times as many miles as 30 years ago.

There are three times as many drivers on the road, and three times as many vehicles. More than

half of working Canadians drive alone to work.

The problem of alerting the public to the seriousness of the alarming traffic accident problems is one that is escalating in importance with each season.

Everyone is urged to follow the rules of road. Drivers know them, but don't always heed them.

## Our readers write

### Writer concerned about grain costs

Dear Sir,

In response to the article written by Jennifer Barr in the Acton Free Press Wednesday November, 1974 on the topic of high price of feed grains for livestock, I feel that not all reasons for these price increases were presented.

The years 1968 through to mid 1972 were years of abundance for grain suppliers in North America and Europe. Thus the over production forced down prices to below cost in many cases.

Many cash crop farmers were forced out of business due to low prices. Much of the land became idle or went to non-food producing uses such as recreation, horse farms, industrial and residential development etc. At the same time Agribusiness was feeling the pinch from over production and lack of sales of their products. Many fertilizer plants and chemical companies folded.

In the fall of 1973 disastrous rains struck the U.S. midwest preventing the harvest of thousands of acres of corn, soybeans, and grains etc., thus forcing feed prices to come up slightly. The cold, wet spring of 1973 again prevented an adequate acreage being planted and at the same time due to summer drought in the U.S. and Canada yields were down. We were then unable to build up an adequate reserve for ourselves and the rest of the world.

The year of 1974 has again been disastrous for crop production. The Canadian west and American midwest had an inadequate snowfall to build up moisture levels early in the winter. When spring did arrive and planting was to begin, the U.S. midwest had too much rain resulting in widespread flooding of prime agricultural land. It was also a cold spring delaying planting by approximately a month.

After the crops were planted in wet, cold conditions, the summer turned hot and dry burning up the crops in the hard baked ground. As if this wasn't enough the Canadian west, Ontario and the U.S. had killing frosts in September destroying a crop

that wasn't fully matured. The result is one of the lowest yields in North America since the 1830's. This coupled with crop failures in Europe, Asia, and the southern hemisphere has left the world with a precarious food shortage.

Unlike a few years ago when there was lots of grain, we now have the livestock competing for grain that meant for human consumption, thus forcing the price up and driving livestock farmers out of business.

One would be led to believe by the above information that the cash crop farmer is going to make a killing, but this isn't so. It is true that grain and corn prices have doubled or more in some cases. Also, though, dry fertilizer has increased in cost by over 200 per cent from \$72. per ton to over \$165. per ton in two years.

Due to lack of processing plants and new materials, Anhydrous Ammonia (nitrogen) has increased 235 per cent from \$100. to \$235 per ton due to an inadequate supply. Seeds have increased as much as 350 per cent due to crop failures and lack of suitable quality seed.

Machinery and parts are up as much as 50 per cent (if available) due to increased demand to meet a food shortage. Competent labour if available cost 50 per cent or more to hire and land costs have risen dramatically due to the demand for non-agricultural uses. To top the rising cost of materials, equipment, fuel, and labour to produce a crop, the yield has fallen in many cases by 50 per cent due to weather conditions.

The dramatic price increases are bad for everyone, farmers and consumers. When the price of certain products goes up there is a tendency to over produce on that product, then causing the price to go so low that the

farmers are forced into bankruptcy or they just get discouraged and quit. In the meantime the product that they were formerly producing then leaps up in price due to shortage.

A further cost of production is created when farmers have to rearrange their operation to meet the new demand.

In many other forms of business a person knows before he starts how many units of production he will have. In agriculture and particularly in crops we have a peak production mark that we are shooting for, always a high one because the only profit is inefficiency.

Unfortunately though we are subject to the climate sometimes causing production to fall short of what is required and to even break even financially. Crop insurance has helped but it still doesn't take the full brunt of the loss.

Both a world food bank and possibly a Canadian food bank would probably help to keep the prices at a more stable level. This then would help the farmer maintain a living and at the same time, keep the cost of food reasonable for the world. As we all are only too aware food costs at the supermarket have risen dramatically with many consumers pointing the finger of blame at the farmer. There are many things between the farm gate and the store shelf, that have forced food prices up (Labour, transportation, services etc.)

But I can assure you that the farmer, cash crop or livestock man is not looking for your last penny, just enough to pay his expenses and have a livable income.

Yours truly  
Frank Anthony  
R.R. 1 Limehouse,  
Ontario.

## Give work a try

Three fathers in Ontario are protesting that there is discrimination in giving support through the Family Benefits Act for a mother to stay home and look after her children, but not the father.

Perhaps there is a reason for discrimination. A man can usually

get a better paying job than a woman.

This provides extra income for baby-sitting or day care.

Many working mothers do their jobs during the day, and return home to another full-time job with housework, cooking, washing and child care. Maybe some more men should try that.

## Preventive medicine best

It's hoped there will be a good turnout when the Health Unit holds a senior citizens health screening clinic here for the first time, Dec. 12. It sounds as if it's a splendid way to detect small problems, and do something about them before they become more serious.

People who are feeling well are encouraged to go, as well as those with any problems. The nurses will not rush them, and will take time to talk.


If attendance is good, perhaps these clinics could be held regularly.

## Of this and that

The problem of dogs has been carried a little further with the story in last week's Free Press, which records Milton administration committee's decision to recommend new dog legislation there. It would be illegal for a dog

to soil other than its owner's property. There have been complaints there, as well as here.

Many a good newspaper story has been ruined by oververification.



### Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

meal. Chops and sausage, bacon and eggs are child's play, along with steak. I can turn out a creditable turkey, ham, roast of beef. I can make stuffing, bake a fish.

So, when I'm alone, I don't go hungry. Oh, not that I roast a beef, or turn out a golden brown turkey. That's a big much for one average appetite.

But I don't settle for the baked potato, fried pork chop and canned corn routine, either. That's for workaday cooks and workaday appetites and workaday marriages.

Nor am I one of those fancy-dans who fool around covering the essential blandness of their cooking with a lot of spices and sauces.

I'm more apt to turn out a nice mixed grill: bacon, a small fresh lamb chop, a sausage or two, a bit of liver, and a gram or two of kidney. If they're not on hand, I get the latter two items out of a can of cat food. It has a distinct, unique flavour.

When all is sizzling a la perfection, as we say, I carefully put the meat on a paper towel, and fry two large slices of golden-brown bread in the drippings. I top these with tomatoes and melting cheese. By this time my stomach can scarcely stand the aromas mingling.

Then I put the whole works into the cat's dish, open the refrigerator, take out a frozen chicken pie, heat it, and eat it, garnished with a sprig of cabbage. The cat and I are both happy.

By this time, it's 11.30 p.m., so I watch a late movie or two, with no one saying, "Isn't it time for bed?" I climb into bed at 3.30, read for an hour, and sleep until 7 a.m.

Every time my wife comes home and I've been batching it, she is appalled by my appearance. "Your eyes look like two burned holes in a blanket." They do, but I've enjoyed every burn.

Then the inevitable question: "Did you miss me?" Hah! Miss her my foot. I didn't miss her any more than I would my teeth, or my right arm.

One of my real pleasures in life is "batching it." I've just been through ten days of it, and have another stretch coming up. I look back on the one with nostalgia, and forward to the other with anticipation.

There are a lot of men who go around with a long face when their wife is going to be away for a spell, and they'll have to look after themselves. Some of them would literally starve to death if there were no restaurants. Others actually "miss" their wives' constant babble.

And there are a lot of women who are convinced that their poor weaklings of husbands will be hard done by if they leave them to fend for themselves for a few days. There are also a lot of women who are convinced that their husbands are going to miss their presence dreadfully. Both convictions are erroneous, in my case.

I love my wife, but oh, you happy, carefree days of batching it. I feel the way I used to, about nine years old, when school is letting out in June.

For one thing, there's no teacher at me all the time, trying to make me behave, clean up after me and learn something new, all at once. This is hard work, and I'm lazy.

Nope, when I put the old battleaxe on the bus, or see the car drive off, I try to look mournful, and wave a fervent goodbye, then I give a great sigh of relief, and feel like a fellow who has just walked out the jailhouse gates.

## Regionalize all services

To the Editor,

R.R. 2, Rockwood, Ont. Nov. 29, 1974

Dear Sir:

It seems to me that if we are to have Regionalism it should be implemented with no half measures. Fire protection, Police, Finances, Solid waste, Sewage disposal, Hydro, Roads, Education, Planning etc., even the telephone system should conform to regional boundaries.

The local calling areas within the region should be toll free. Each of the above services should come under one Department Head who should be responsible to a Commission consisting of our elected representatives, who in turn should advise Queens Park.

Today we are in a sorry mess. Bureaucrats have much more say in our affairs than our elected representatives. Police and Fire Protection are needlessly duplicated.

Bell Telephone is in utter confusion; Acton is a toll free area to Georgetown, but

not listed in the Georgetown book, the Campbellville exchange has only what can be described as Smoke Signal service. Surely the only logical way to run a region is for all services to be regional services.

Today, for instance I tried to phone the Ministry of the Environment, a Zenith toll free number clearly listed as for Milton and Campbellville callers, only to be told that the toll free did not apply to Campbellville. Eventually a supervisor made the call, after I registered my complaint. It was accepted as a collect call by the Ministry.

It is inequities such as this that frustrate people.

It has been announced that in early 1975, Acton, Milton and Guelph will be in an extended toll free area. An enquiry to the Bell I find that Campbellville will not enjoy this service. Are we not now the Town of Milton? I realize that boundaries have to be set, I maintain these should be regional boundaries, and each region should be toll free.

William A. Johnson

## What happened to ratepayers?

Dear Sir,

Whatever happened to the Nassagawey Ratepayers Association? Did it wither and die after the Hydro Line controversy? It seems to me that the initial meeting elected a steering committee to run things for a few

months and then elections were to be held. There are many issues affecting Nassagaweya. Housing developments (and their services), Non-conforming uses of land and residences, Bell telephone service, Roads, etc., etc., etc.

I think another meeting is long overdue.

William A. Johnson.

## Save Christmas stamps

The Editor:

Want to get the real benefit of the season of Good Will?

Please try this method; give a little of your time.

Soon the first Christmas cards will be coming in. This year don't throw that envelope!

Get out scissors instead. No! Don't cut it up.

Just cut out the stamps; put them in a new envelope on which you've put one of the addresses below.

Why? The stamps are sold by weight to provide wages for an overseas worker, or to

buy equipment for the lepers. Really do someone a good turn!

First address:  
The Leprosy Mission  
Room 1003,  
67 Yonge St.,  
Toronto 1.

Other address:  
Canadian Bible Society,  
Suite 200,  
1825 Yonge St.,  
Toronto 295

Share the love this year!

Yours truly,  
Mrs. S. Drijber,  
Box 43, Rockwood, Ont.

## The Free Press Back Issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, December 2, 1954.

Criticism against the calling of road work done on Halton's roads, and more particularly those in Nassagaweya, was centred Monday on County Engineer, R. Smith by ratepayers of that township who, after acclaiming Ivese Archie Service for a second term, grew rather heated in their charges.

Birthday congratulations are extended to John Graft, who will be 92 years young on December 7. Mr. Graft has lived in this district for the last 33 years and prior to that lived in and was one of the first settlers in the Powassan area. He is still active and hearty and goes for a walk every day.

Showing for the first time at the Royal Winter Fair, Miss Betty Ann Kerr, of R.R. 2, Acton, placed fourth in ladies' phueon, circling the ring in an old-fashioned carriage. Sons of the ladies in this class wore evening gowns, Miss Kerr wore a blue dress with a matching blue sequined hat.

Monday is polling day in Acton. Voters will be asked to ballot on six council members from a slate of candidates.

The November meeting of the Alert Evening Auxiliaries was held in Knox church parlor, with the president, Mrs. Alex Mann, in charge. A period of silent meditation was observed in tribute to soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice and concluded with a worship service taken by Mrs. George Musselle.

Winners of the lucky draw held in conjunction with the opening of Manning Electric's new store are: Mrs. G. McCutcheon, floor polisher, Mrs. George Gibbons, Toasters, E. Tarzwell, Mrs. Annie Deveau, Mrs. Elsie Lazenby and John Rowles, all of Acton and Mrs. A. McDonald of R.R. 4, Rockwood.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, December 1, 1924

On Tuesday morning fire started in the sunroom of Mrs. Warner's house in Esqueping Township. It was caused by a mouse, matches and a celluloid comb, setting fire to the bedding and mattress. With the assistance of neighbors the burning material was successfully thrown out of the window and the fire quenched.

The action taken by Acton council and the endorsement given by the ratepayers of the town, when the by-law to guarantee the bonds of the Thomson Motor Supplies Limited for \$10,000 for ten years was submitted two years ago, has proven eminently satisfactory. Only two years have elapsed and the whole of the issue of \$10,000 has been called in and liquidated by Thomson Motor Supplies Limited and the Acton Machine Company, which took over their property and contract last year. These debentures were not due for final payment until the year 1932.

The regular meeting of the Women's Institute will be held in the band room on Friday, December 5, at three o'clock. Reports of the convention will be given and a program.

Mr. J. S. Rogerson and family have removed from Glen Williams to their new farm near Meadowdale.

Mr. H. P. Moore gave a brief review of the visit of Mrs. Moore and himself overseas last summer at the meeting of the Young People's League on Monday evening.

### 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, November 30, 1899

The name of County Councillor Wrigglesworth of Esqueping is receiving prominent mention for the Wardenship of the county for 1900. Mr. Wrigglesworth has a splendid record as a municipal officer. A long term in the Township Council, as Councillor and Reeve, and subsequently as a member of the County Council, has specially fitted him to occupy the position of Warden. He will give the office both dignity and the fruits of long municipal experience.

A number of men have been laid off at the Acton Tanning Company's works, business being somewhat slack in one of the departments there.

The Provincial Educational Council has appointed Mr. J. S. Deacon, public school inspector for Halton, as one of the examiners in Normal School examinations for the year 1900. An excellent appointment.

Mr. Humphries, miller, has removed his furniture to Acton and taken up his residence on Church Street, west of Main.

T. P. Smith, eye specialist will be in Acton on Thursday, December 7, one day only, rooms at Agnew's Hotel. If you have any defect in your eyesight it will pay to call and see him. Examinations free. Call early, or you can make appointments at A. T. Brown's Drug Store.


A new addition is being made to the dwelling on Main Street next to the Kennedy stone house.

Faith has its reasons, with them only folly will reason.

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Business and Editorial Office



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