

Acton post office bee hive of activity

by Helen Leavell
Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor hail, the mail must go through — the saying is a little inaccurate, but it all conveys the same message. Post Offices across North America will get the mail through under almost any circumstances.

And the Acton post office is no exception. Postmaster Gord McKeown and his staff see to it that the mailing system is run with organization and speed. The mail is not abused in any way and everything is run aboveboard.



LLOYD Smallwood sorts mail for his walk route in south-eastern Acton.

Any mail received by the post office before five o'clock is on its way to its destination that evening. Trucks are used for most points. However, the boundary lines for trucks is Sudbury to the north and Ottawa to the east. Any points past these places, including the two cities, receive their mail by air.

Incoming mail
Mail coming into Acton is sorted and placed in letter slots for the letter carriers. The mail which is not in the regular routes is placed in the receivers' own boxes, i.e. large companies or stores.

The letter carrier gets the mail for his route and sorts it into street order. Some of the mail is sent ahead to green boxes on the streets. When the carrier reaches the box he takes what mail is there. In this way he is not too loaded down at any one time.

All carriers whose starting point for his deliveries is further than 500 yards from the post office get their transportation provided. There are also some rules they must follow.

Carriers must walk facing the traffic. They are not allowed to criss-cross the street and are not allowed to make a delivery to the back of a house where they are out of view from the street. This latter rule is in case they slip and fall and are hurt, or any other similar incident.

Their walks are judged by time not miles. The walks are set up so it takes them 475

minutes to cover their designated areas. This is five minutes less than eight hours. It is figured in such a way that long driveways take more time to walk than short ones and lots are bigger, thus more walking between deliveries.

However, only about 70 per cent of the homes receive mail each day, thus making the routes shorter on some days.

Letter carriers do not carry parcels which are over 150 cubic inches in size and two pounds in weight. Any parcel bigger than this is delivered by Urban Contractors.

The rural mail carriers sort their mail in the basement, much in the same way the town carriers do.

The biggest problem of the post office is incorrectly addressed mail. In spite of all the connections between towns and the organizations with the office, this one problem can slow down the process by up to a day's time.

Early in 1976, Burlington is getting a postal machine. This machine can process 120,000 letters an hour, providing postal codes are on the address. Although it is not definite at the present time, Fallon Hills could be served by this machine. If this is the case, the Acton letters can be sorted in a few seconds.

However, in spite of technological advancements, there are some people and some jobs which can never be replaced by machines.



MRS. DON HOLMES puts mail through the cancelling machine at the post office. This machine stamps the envelope with the date, time and post office name.



INDUSTRIAL HUB of Limehouse shows the lime kilns, railroad siding, station and rock cut. Many of the ruins still remain, mute testimony to the hamlet's industrial age.

Gowdy family . . .

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but is restricted by budgets set by the provincial government.

The old "three seater" out-house from the Gowdy farm is now a controversial item at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto.

The Gowdy family will long

be associated with the history of the Limehouse area as many of the descendants of former employees of the Gowdy Works are now citizens of the community.

Other aspects of the interesting history of the Limehouse area are forthcoming in this series.



Old barrel top



LIMEHOUSE MILL POND about the turn of the century shows the sawmill and cement factory which made the hamlet a bustling industrial centre.

OUR READERS WRITE:

A plug for Acton passed on

Bramford.

The Acton Free Press: I noticed in your paper a request for letters in regard to arrival of your paper to subscribers.

For a while after you started putting it in a bag there was some improvement. When it lapsed and one week I did not get my paper at all I wrote to the post master here. For three weeks after that I received it on Friday and one week got the missing one along with that week's. Then it started to slip again getting worse each week until it was nine days for some weeks getting here after mailing. Then for three weeks it was marked by way of Kilchener and I got it on Friday. It was by way of London another time and came by Friday. Then it stopped

being marked like that and it has come Monday or Tuesday of the following weeks. I was attending a funeral in Woodbridge yesterday and received some complimentary remarks from the nephew of the deceased who lives in Brampton. He hailed me by saying "You are my aunt's friend who used to live in Acton?" He says he travelled up through there very often and last Christmas time Acton had the best decorations of any place he passed through. He said it was very beautiful and I could be quite proud of my home town. I thought that was a real plug for Acton and I would pass it on!

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Margaret Terry

There are other freeloaders

Jan. 12, 1975

Dear Editor: As an old Actonian I scan the Free Press carefully, and as you know nothing of any value misses my eye.

Unlike Peter McCusker, biologist Dennis and Esther Taylor most know I am not, and never was, a journalist nor a reporter, but I can read and write and I think I do it well. It is a pleasure for me to not only support but to congratulate Esther Taylor on her well-put article. Esther and I are old friends and while all our views were not the same, she has my support on the so-called "Hybrid or Free Loader" affair at Fairy Lake. As for Dennis, whom I do not know, and Townsley, an old friend of mine, I do not support either of their views.

If one reads the news a prominent U.S. scientist would also kill children in lieu of feeding them. Perhaps he feels the children are free loaders?

I say people with these ideas should be classed as free loaders and exterminated, and I would not hesitate to head such a detail!

Older good people of Acton can remember we had free loaders in Acton long before the swans and ducks came, and some of them are still there. No names, no punishment, and no offense intended, one could pay during depression in Acton many of us were free loaders and a hand out was fine and welcome. Let no one destroy not even a sparrow.

Flo and Trimmer Coleman
Toronto

The Lady with the Lamp

I was laid in bed just musing,
'Twas the Cinderella hour,
My thoughts were so confusing,
About the Divine power.

I heard the devil calling,
He was reaching for my soul,
He had an energy crisis,
And needed some more coal.

I decided then I'd change my ways,
And do the best I can,
God give me strength, throughout the length,
To help my fellowman.

It must have been this fever,
That made my brow so damp,
It was then I saw an Angel,
"The Lady with the Lamp".

All dressed in white, with subdued light,
She floated round the room,
With a light to cope and bring us hope,
And chase away the gloom.

She gave me such a friendly smile
As I saw her black striped cap,
I swear it was a Halo,
When she touched me with a tap.

Her voice was of the sweetest tone
As she straightened out my sheet,
Then I floated up to Heaven
As she covered up my feet.

But I left the place to tell my tale,
About this Heavenly champ,
That Godly ghost, I'll forever toast
"The Lady with the Lamp".

Victor Smith,
R.R. 2, Rockwood

Works to draw up snowmobile law

Hilton Hills works committee decided Monday night to take one hour out of each of the next two committee meetings to work on a snowmobile by-law for all of Hilton Hills.

They will take into account briefs from both the Georgetown and Acton snowmobile clubs along with the contents of the old by-laws in Georgetown and Acton.

Councillor Ern Hyde said that while briefs suggested an 11 p.m. curfew for snowmobiles in the urban areas they wanted no curfew in the rural areas.

"I think it should be 11 p.m. throughout the town and no difference between rural and urban regulations," he said.

Councillor Len Cox agreed with Hyde and added the Georgetown club's brief

made some good points but the Acton club didn't make much sense in their brief since they wanted carter-blancher to run their snowmobiles anywhere, anytime.

Hyde said he doesn't think the town should get involved in designating congregating areas for snowmobiles as one brief, suggested.

Coxe predicted there will come a time when snowmobiles will be restricted to recreation areas designed just for that activity.

Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested the committee keep at the by-law until they finish it and try to have it completed for enactment by the fall of this year.

Appointees list asked by Duby

Councillor Les Duby wants to know who sits on all boards and committees, and wants council to set a definite policy on appointments. He particularly wants the policy known to the public.

Using the library board as an example he pointed an Acton representative is not on

that board any longer, simply because he failed to see the advertisement deadline in time to apply.

He stressed that letters of appreciation should be sent to board members when their term expires, and they should be asked if they wish to serve again.

Councillor Dick Howitt, chairman of the administration committee, agreed the letter of thanks should be sent.

Taking up the theme, Councillor Ric Morrow said the Clerk-Administrator should be asked to prepare a report

listing all citizens who serve on board and commissions, with the expiry date of their terms included.

Duby suggested the same be done with town staff. He claimed the administration committee has the least contact with the staff, and sometimes don't even know them. "How can you have rapport with a staff you don't know", he asked.

The committee recommended the Clerk-Administrator prepare both reports.

Agree to ask for more reps

Leaflets which go out in hydro bills are returning to the hydro office in good numbers. The staff estimates returns possibly as high as 80 per cent.

Not all bills including the questionnaires are out yet. The leaflet refers to the 13 places on the new Ontario hydro board, with only two of them to the local hydro commissioners.

The Ontario Municipal Electric Association in the leaflet says "We don't believe you want us to surrender the system into government hands. We are prepared to fight for you."

To the question "I support your stand for adequate commission representation on the hydro board"

Theft of gas

Theft of gas from Toff Contracting, Hufnagel St., was reported to the police. A small amount of gas was taken from a 250-gallon tank. The theft was reported on Jan. 19 but had probably occurred previously, according to police.

The theft of gas from Tyler Transport school buses was also reported on Jan. 20. Between 30 and 35 gallons were recorded as missing.

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Assistant planner hired

Planner Mario Venditti will have help starting February. The town hired Ron Burnett, as assistant planner at a salary of \$12,605 this week. Mr. Burnett, 30, will come here from Ottawa, where he

has been employed with the consultant firm of Halgish-McNabb Associates Ltd. As a consultant he worked for various municipalities and the Ottawa-Carleton Region.

He graduated from Loyola College, Montreal, with a Bachelor of Commerce in business administration in 1971, and is working on his Masters degree in Environmental Studies at York