

Free Press Editorial Page

Women's Year observed

Enthusiasm is running high for International Women's Year in Georgetown. The local Council of Women called a meeting and more than 25 women's organizations were represented. They divided into groups and discussed why they were interested in International Women's Year. Consensus was that the year could be a focal point for reaching out to women who are unaware of their potential. They emphasized growth should not stop with marriage, and a sense of self and independence should be developed before marriage.

Emerging from the discussion was a determination to work for more women in politics, and to prepare a list of women thought qualified to run for public office.

In Milton a special program was held at the library under the auspices of the National Film Board. Main conclusion there was the need for more day care centres. The films and discussions pointed out that society has assumed that the men have the responsibilities and women have someone to care for them. But facts prove very much otherwise.

The failure of institutions to accommodate women's increased participation outside the home has led to tremendous pressures, especially on working women with children.

In Acton, only the Women's Institute appears to have considered anything special yet.

Get on with it

Dates can be set now for meetings of Acton recreation advisory committee, since council has finally approved its full membership. Applications turned into a small-scale fiasco that will surely never happen again, as people get used to the different workings of regional government.

Certainly the committee has a useful role to fill and is needed.

A joint meeting of Acton and Georgetown recreation advisory committees will soon be held now, too, since our committee is up to full strength again.

Milton has just enjoyed a terrific winter carnival weekend, arranged through the town's recreation department. Maybe that's one thing Acton can look forward to, with an assistant recreation director based here.

Talk with councillors

Acton and Esquering residents have their chance to talk over any concerns with Halton Hills council tonight (Wednesday, Feb. 12) at the golf course. The sponsoring Chamber of Commerce is hoping for a good turnout of interested people for their important forum.

Two weeks ago the Free Press asked opinions on a vote on regional government. Just one letter appeared last week, another lonesome letter this week on the subject.

Much more vocal and active response is expected tonight.

Of this and that

Milton scouts have had to abandon both their paper and glass collections. Here, the high school band made a good start Saturday and they hope to continue long with their new enterprise.

A happy occasion Sunday was

the Scout and Guide church parade to St. Alban's church. The clergymen of various churches participated and hope to have the service in a different church each year.

It is the beginning of a fine new tradition.



ROBERT LITTLE SCHOOL held its public speaking contest on Monday for students in grades five to eight. Deborah Ruppert won first place for her speech on famine and will advance on to the area finals on February 19 at Robert Little School. Left to right are Kevin Houser, Pat

McKenzie, judge; Sharon Cook, Connie McCristall, Deborah Ruppert, Ian Downey, judge presenting Deborah with the school trophy, Patricia Henry, Heather Thatcher, and Patti Tufford. Behind the girls on the right are the Rev. Nelson, judge, and Jim Saxon.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

This, apparently, is Women's Liberation Year, or something of the sort. So be it.

Aren't you getting a little sick of it all? I mean you, and I don't care whether you're a man or a woman or a hermaphrodite.

Don't worry chaps; I am not afraid. I have a northern hideout, an old atom bomb shelter, with three women laid on: one to bathe me, one to dress me, and one to cook for me. So I'm going to say exactly what I want to, and let the chippies fall where they may.

First, I take a look at my own family, to see which women need liberating. Answer? Zero.

My wife needs liberating like I need a kick in the groin. Ever since I met her, she has been, not removing her chains, but applying mine. I clank when I walk.

She doesn't need to be liberated. She needs to be tied up. She has made it quite clear that she is: smarter than I about everything from making out the income tax return to screwing in a light bulb; better looking than I (and all we have to do is look in a mirror); more artistic than I (she's always friggling with the color thing on the television while I bellow "I don't care if it's all purple, shut up and watch the program"); and in better shape than I. I always concede the last named without a

fight. I invariably say, "Boy, I could never scrub the kitchen in half an hour, like you, dear. It would probably take me half the afternoon." So there's no conflict of interest there.

She also has a joint account, the house is in her name, the car is in her name, and if I dropped dead tomorrow, she'd have so much insurance she could give Jackie O'Connell a run for her money. Liberation my armpit!

My daughter is in the same boat, or category. She alternately bullies and wheedles her father and her husband. She takes nothin' offa nobody, especially male cops. She is in a career course, and she is using, or kicking out of the way, every male who stands in her path. With one exception. She is being used and pushed around by the only male who could do it, her year-old, walking son, Pokey. And there is the only hope I see for the future of the male.

Looking further afield, I remember two dames who were so liberated you wondered who was wearing the pants in the family, in both cases.

One was my mother. She called the shots in our family from the time she put on her wedding ring. She decided which of the kids would be licked, and she did the licking. She decided what speed my dad should drive at. She pulled us through the Depression. My

dad was a sweet, gentle chap like myself and always sat in the rumble seat on each new family enterprise.

My mother-in-law was the same. With a combination of tempers, tirades and tears, she made my father-in-law walk on eggs until he didn't feel comfortable unless he had an egg underfoot.

Ditto with my sisters and sisters-in-law. They bully and needle and haggle their men unmercifully. They continually make them feel that they (the women) had poor luck in the draw, and make veiled and usually imaginary references to the great changes they had to marry someone worthwhile, who turned out to be somebody.

And this phenomenon is not something new, something of the 20th century. Queen Boadicea, if anyone remembers her, had a great time smashing up Roman legions until she died of an overdose of woad.

Lady McBeth was no shrinking, unliberated violet. She was more of a shrieking, liberated violet.

Queen Elizabeth I diddled her would-be lovers for years and ran a growing empire with an iron fist in a velvet glove.

Madame de Pampadour literally ran the French empire in the days of the 15th Louis, and she wasn't even married.

Nobody is weeping over Jackie whatever, who bounced from a U.S. president to a Greek billionaire. Nor are many tears shed over the way poor little, helpless Liz Taylor has been mistreated by five or six or seven husbands.

Of course, all these women had charm, and drive, or both, and weren't too much concerned about the cost of hamburger. That's what the Women's Lib is going to hit me with, among other things.

One last example. I know a lot of women teachers. You think they need liberation? Like hell. They smoke and drink and swear like sailors and swagger around in comfortable pant suits while the men struggle in shirts and ties. And the real clincher is that they make as much money as men, and frequently more. Top administrative jobs are open to them. They don't want them.

Why? Not because they can't handle them. Most of them would do a better job than the dim-witted males who now inhabit these posts. No. It's because they don't want to give up their feminine perks: staying home for two days with a sniffle; shooting off to the hair-dresser once a week; breaking into tears when everything becomes Too Much For Me.

I have always treated a woman as a woman first and a person second. I have used the same treatment with old men and little kids.

If I have to start treating women as people first and women second, I know who is going to complain the loudest. The women. And the second loudest complaint will be from yours truly. It will destroy all mystery and glamour and excitement which are the only things that make life worthwhile.

Men, rally around. For years, both sexes have been equal, but women have been more equal than men. Now, all they want to do is widen the gap.

Some of my best friends have been women, but how would you like your son to marry one?

I once started a national campaign for PORK (Parents of Rotten Kids). It was fairly successful.

Once more I appeal. Last time most of the joiners were women. This time, I want the men of Canada to stand up and be counted as members of my new organization. Don't nobody be scared.

It will be called: Men! Attack Female Independence. Anonymously. In short, MAFIA!

Something for everyone

If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people like to look for mistakes.

H.P. Lawson responsible for Georgetown's first hydro power

When one researches the early history of any community in the Southern Ontario area he would find that either a tannery, grind mill or saw mill was one of the first industrial undertakings and is probably the basis of what is now the present town or village.

The Halton Region is certainly no exception to this basic premise as mills of this type thrived in the area especially during the late 1800s. This was certainly true of the saw mills in Esquering township where a tremendous amount of pine was available.

The earliest entrepreneur in the local lumber business was Henry Pratt Lawson better known as "H.P.". He was born in Fyfehire, Scotland in 1840 and came to Canada in 1852 settling with his family

near Stewarttown. H.P. Lawson was one of the most enterprising men of his time in the Georgetown-Acton area. He became an extensive landholder in Esquering township and subsequently had a number of sawmills and lumbering operations under his control.

It was H.P. Lawson's power plant, which he took over from Joseph Williams and is now the Apple Products in the Glen, that provided Georgetown with its first hydro-electric power. Many people mistakenly attribute the first such power to be from the Barber Brothers dynamo which was in fact only used for their industrial paper site on the Credit.

From this Lawson mill, the power was generated from a dynamo which used the po-

tential energy of the Credit from a dam built in Glen Williams. The power plant later converted to a steam boiler to generate its power because of the silt that accumulated at the dam which reduced the water pressure.

The power was then transmitted from what is now the Apple Products to Georgetown. Some sources relate the line ran along Confederation Street and Mountainview Road into town while others state that the transmission wires ran across the McMaster farm and up and over the fields and hills through the present site of Smith and Stone into the town transformers. The transformers were located at the old town hall that sat overlooking the downtown area from Cross and Back Streets.

So, it was H.P. Lawson's mill in the Glen that introduced Georgetown to its hydro-electric power. A daughter of H.P., Mrs. Arnott Early, who now resides in Toronto, can remember Sir Adam Beck coming to her father's home for dinner and to negotiate a deal for the Ontario Hydro take-over of the power company.

Those were times when you paid your hydro bill at the town hall to Katie Ryan. (Ryan Road is named after her sister Annie a school teacher and principal here for many years). The lights were on only until mid-evening but if you were having a gathering at the house the power time could be extended for a small fee.

The most central sawmill owned by H.P. Lawson was situated near the present Georgetown Hydro building and can be seen in the accompanying photograph. This mill derived its power from Silver Creek, which ran through the property, and later converted to steam power.

This mill was eventually taken over by the Kentner family. Beaver Lumber was the last company to operate a lumber business on the site. The fire that destroyed Beaver Lumber about 1970 marked the end of this industrial hub that had existed since the town's origin.

H.P. Lawson started a planing business in conjunction with his sawmills in 1887. J.B. Mackenzie bought this portion of Lawson's business interest on James Street in 1909 and J.B.'s son Sam manages the lumber business at the same location to this day.

It was in 1901, at the age of 61, that H.P. Lawson married Margaret Mabel Grant the daughter of Major Lachlan Grant of Georgetown. He raised four children who be-



Henry Pratt Lawson

Halton Sketches

By John MacDonald

came well respected citizens of the area and have since relocated to other parts.

The Lawson family was very active in community affairs. H.P. served on Esquering Council and was deputy reeve in 1893. Mrs. Lawson was an active member of Knox Presbyterian Church and taught Sunday School classes for over 12 years. Mrs. Lawson died December 7, 1926 at the age of 81 and a plaque hangs in the church to her memory.

On April 19, 1922, the dedication service was held at the church for the carillon of eight bells in memory of Henry Pratt Lawson who died

on March 5, 1920.

The lovely Lawson home still stands at the corner of Market and Church Streets, directly across from the library. In 1890 H.P. built the row of homes directly behind his for the "better class" of the time and stand as lovely monuments to a man who was reputed to have financially assisted many local merchants and manufacturers and was always willing to give a fellow citizen a helping hand when buying or erecting a home.

The next installment will deal with the Mackenzie Family who took over the Lawson planing mill.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, February 10, 1955. Current enrolment at Acton public school is 598, principal G. W. McKenzie informed members of the school board at their regular meeting last Thursday evening, when Chairman W. Wolfe presided.

Chamber of Commerce endorsement for groups conducting local canvasses was given tentative approval at a membership meeting Wednesday night when the plan was explained as a means of supplying businessmen and residents with a common reason for acceptance or rejection of appeals for donations.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goodeve of Port Arthur visited Mrs. Grindell on Saturday. Mrs. Newton Hurst Sr. and Mr. John McClure of Acton and Mr. and Mrs. L. Frowe of Bracebridge are holidaying in Florida.

Headed for warmer weather are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baxter. They boarded a ship at New York on Tuesday for a cruise in the Caribbean.

Budget for the Halton County Health Unit should be held up for further study by the Hospital Committee, members of County Council decided at their regular monthly meeting in Milton Tuesday afternoon. This action was taken soon after Dr. Archie F. Hull, Medical Officer of Health, presented an \$82,850 budget for 1955.

A Toronto man was taken to hospital Saturday afternoon after suffering serious injuries when his head crashed through a car windshield in an accident on the Fourth Line of Esquering, south of No. 7 Highway.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, February 12, 1925

Mr. James McIntosh, who has spent forty years at the tanneries, many years of which he was a foreman for Messrs. Henderson & Co. has at last retired from the arduous duties which fell to his lot. Mr. McIntosh came to Acton with his family from Stewarttown in 1885. He had learned the tanning business in the Hood tannery at Stewarttown and his first employer in Acton was the late James Moore.

At the monthly meeting of the Women's Institute held at Mrs. Jas. McMillan's last Friday, it was decided to secure a speaker for the summer meeting in June. The play committee reported all plans ready, but the date not fixed. The evening's programme included instrumental numbers by Miss Marjorie Switzer, reading by Miss Addie Hurst, a paper on "Nature in Poetry", by Mrs. George Somerville, all of which were enjoyed. Miss Hood had charge of a cake contest which brought interesting features. There were more girls present than usual. A lunch and social half hour concluded the proceedings.

The annual meeting of the Halton Protective Association was held in the Court House, Milton on Friday. The following officers were elected for 1925: President, R. E. Harrison, Milton; Vice-president, W. E. McCready, Milton; Secretary-treasurer, J. H. Wilson, Milton; Auditor, W. J. McClenahan, Milton. Directors for the various townships were also appointed.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, February 8, 1900

The meeting of the ladies of Acton in the Baptist Church last Wednesday afternoon for the organization of a branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union was attended by about twenty-five ladies. The meeting was addressed with much interest by Mrs. J. Parsons Smith of Hamilton, organizer for the counties of Wentworth and Halton. A Union was formed with the following officers: President-to-be elected at next meeting; Vice-president, Mrs. James Moore; Secretary, Mrs. Josie Oram; Treasurer, Mrs. H. P. Moore. Meetings will be held each month, the next meeting to be held at "Moorecroft" on Monday evening next.

In the Christmas examinations at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, J. M. Russell of Froeseham stood at the head of the second year class and took honours in a number of subjects. P. E. Reid, of Georgetown and C. J. Russell, of Ballinacraig, passed the first year examination.

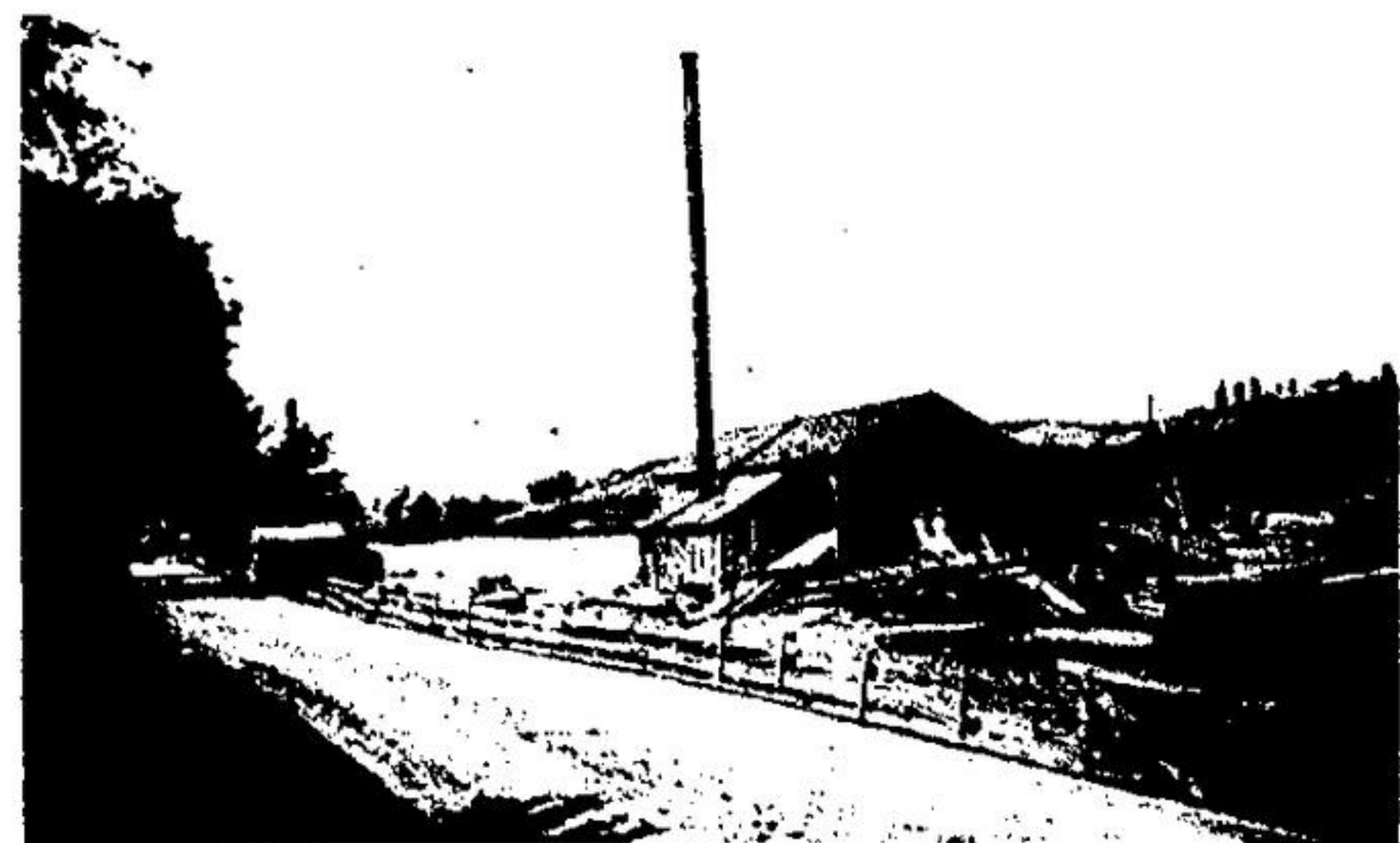
A Parlor Social will be held this evening at the home of Mr. T. Statham, Church Street, in aid of St. Alban's Church. A programme of interest will be provided. Miss Jessie McDonald has been engaged as primary teacher in Markdale Public School and left on Monday morning for that town.

Mr. A. E. Nicklin, who had been in the Maritime Provinces since New Years, was home for two or three days during the week. He left on Monday evening to spend a month in the eastern townships.

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H. P. LAWSON'S OLD SAWMILL in 1912 with Stewarttown pond in the background. Mary Lawson and Ina Clark can be seen in the picture. The small office at the side of the road was locked only with a padlock but was never broken into.