

Free Press Editorial Page

Where were you all?

Where were you all last Wednesday, you people who complain about regional government?

Certainly not at the golf club, where seven councillors stood ready and waiting for citizens to come.

Twelve citizens responded in all—some of them not arriving until an hour after the time set for the public forum.

The three Chamber of Commerce members, extremely embarrassed, called off the meeting.

Excuses? How can any be valid for such a terribly depressing response? The snow wasn't that bad. The distance wasn't that far. The publicity was good enough, with news and an advertisement.

Yet Letters to the Editor on the subject of regional government

have increased to a figure which, although small, is far more than usual on any subject.

A poll on regional government in the Free Press had been urged, and now several people have written to agree.

But a vocal poll in a face-to-face confrontation with our friends the councillors would have been even better. Only it failed to come off.

The Free Press reporter, like the Chamber members, could hardly believe the lack of response possible.

A couple of councillors suggested the message is loud and clear, and it's time for Acton and Esquimes people to accept the inevitable, stop grousing and look forward.

Put up or shut up, in other words.

Weeklies are modest

The annual winter convention of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association was held last week at the Royal York in Toronto, and outgoing president Bill Kennedy of Durham told all the weekly people they have fallen badly behind in communicating their achievements to others. We're too modest, he says.

We just don't think to boast about weeklies. Studies presented to the convention showed weeklies are greatly underrated by everyone—especially big advertisers. Most homes get weeklies, while many never get dailies at all.

There are 250 flourishing weeklies in the province, and 350 friendly people attended the

convention. Newly-elected president is Acton native Jim Dills of Milton, who takes over the office exactly 10 years after brother Dave. Father George Arlof Dills was named weekly newspaperman of the year about 20 years ago.

Many weeklies are run by the continuing generations of the same family.

The Milton Canadian Champion placed first in its category of circulation. Acton placed fifth out of 24 in the category. Our advertising, sports and photography were marked especially high. A new member, the Georgetown Independent, also placed fifth in its group.

We don't need gimmicks

It was amazing and laughable to see the convention through the eyes of the TV show 24 Hours, hosted by home town boy Rob Parker, Monday. The reporters set out with an "angle" to prove and we found the TV impression quite distorted

and unreal. It's the kind of thing that makes us agree maybe weeklies are too modest. We have a self-supporting medium that doesn't have to resort to angles, innuendo, or government subsidy and we're glad of it!

OUR READERS WRITE:

Restore common sense

Dear Editor,
I always like to glance over the Acton Free Press and have been doing so since '26. It endeavours to bring back old memories and to acquaint its readers with the history and activities of the surrounding hamlets, along with the outstanding figures who created them. Similarly, all of us from time to time recall our past life experiences and regard them as inspirational.

human suffering than our Communist neighbors.
Therefore, it would take the combined efforts of all creeds and classes, invoking the grace of God, to restore our social structure to a more sensible degree.
Most of us are quite aware of what has caused our worldly problems—selfish injustice that no one can hope to profit from. Our deeds are evil and we have made enemies with God and our neighbors.
This I would say is the sad part of it all, so let our slogan be: "Loyalty and unity, to restore common sense to the world, for the benefit of all, with a glance to God."
Yours sincerely,
George Graham,
R.R. 1, Limehouse.

Situation out of hand

To The Editor,
I have lived in Acton approximately 15 years. It is my opinion that one of the best things that has ever happened in this town during this time was the decision, five years ago to attract ducks, geese etc. to Fairy Lake.
It has been a constant source of pleasure to many people I know and to myself to watch the gradual build up of the wild fowl that have come to regard the Fairy Lake Park as their home.
It is quite an experience to see Esther Taylor walking into the park to be greeted by the swans, geese etc. These birds have come to watch for her and regard her and this town as their friend.
About two months ago, as everyone knows, a note crept into this relationship. It was stated by Mr. Townsley that any Hybrid ducks on the lake had to go, at the insistence of the authorities.
This is completely untrue.
There is no law that says one cannot have Hybrid Ducks mixed in with wild ducks.
It's true that the wild life authorities do not particularly like this situation, but once again I state there is no law.
We were told that five or ten of the Hybrids which were classified as free loaders by Mr. Townsley were to be caught and disposed of.
I am told that there are only about five people in Canada who are qualified to tell if a bird is a hybrid.
I doubt that Mr. Townsley, or anyone else in Acton are one of these people.
All at once the five or ten birds became all of the birds.

What we now have is a situation that was instigated completely by Mr. Townsley getting completely out of hand. Not only have the townspeople and council been misled, but it is now stated "that the birds are polluting the water", although no facts and figures have been released to substantiate this claim.
One might well ask if similar problems were there other years, and if so why it is only now that we are hearing about this problem?
One might well ask, if this is the case why the birds were located very close to the water intake of Beardmores?
Could it be that either this is a deliberate attempt to get rid of these birds, for reasons unknown? Unless of course Mr. Townsley does not want the responsibility.
It is also a very peculiar situation when the townspeople are misled by an employee of the town.
We have heard a lot about the licence that has been issued by the Wild Life Authorities to the town. The only reason this was required in the first place was to enable the town to acquire and transport birds to the lake.
Once those birds (ducks and geese) are free flying that permit is no longer required—unless you are going to sell or buy more birds.
Upon further investigation I am told that the directive to the Wild Life people came from Beardmores, which I cannot understand, since they were in favour of this sanctuary when it was founded.
Yours truly,
John Shadpelt



M. Z. BENNETT PUBLIC speakers on Monday were, front row, Jimmie Reynolds, Shelley Young, the winner, and Brent Vickery. Back row, Mrs. Jean Dunlop, judge; Luciano Depieri, Kathy Ewart, Dorsay Mitchell, and Russ Mac-

Naughton, judge. Shelley advances on to the North Halton championships at Robert Little school today (Wednesday). Absent from the photo is the third judge, Father Smye.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

I think we'll all agree that there is nothing quite so downright miserable and annoying as the person who delights in saying, "I told you so." Certainly, all married men will agree with me.

Most of us know perfectly well that we are poor little lambs who have lost our way, that we have feet of clay and bones of brains. But we hate being reminded of it.

It seems to me that there is nothing more redundant than to wake up with a hangover, mouth full of the bottom of a birdcage, head full of porcupine quills and have a smirking, self-satisfied voice grating, "We", I warned you, but you wouldn't listen to me."

Who needs it? Who needs a post-mortem, when he is still alive, though barely? I speak not from experience, of course, but from hearsay. Not admissible in court.

After that preamble, I have to admit that I told you so. I told the whole nation so. But nobody listened.

It must have been a couple of years ago, when I warned, in no uncertain terms, the rest of us were going to be picking up the tabs for Napoleon Drapeau's belief that he is really a reincarnation of the infamous emporer.

Or maybe it's Caesar he thinks he is. Certainly he is giving us members of the populace bread and circuses, as Caesar did. Mightily light on the bread and heavy on the circuses.

I said it right here, in black and white, that the mayor of Montreal was going to take us for a fast buggy-ride, when he got the Olympic Games. For Canada? Don't be silly. For Montreal.

The handwriting is now on the wall, loud and clear. And as fast as M. Drapeau rubs it off, or licks it off with his eloquent labial organ, it reappears.

It seems inevitable that you and me, sistern and brethren, are going to be picking up a big, fat tab for the 1976 Montreal Games. And games is the word, if the Olympics consist of running in ever-decreasing circles until you disappear.

Let's not blame it on the construction

Set up shop in Acton

Acton, Ont.
Feb. 14, 1975

To: The Editor
Acton Free Press
Acton, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I agree with "Fed up too" that a Ballot Form printed in the papers would provide people with a convenient way to express their opinion of this expensive, bungling form of Government which has been forced upon us. It would be interesting to find out just how the people of Esquimes and Georgetown feel about this new Town of Halton Hills.

In my opinion, we are being treated as if Georgetown is "Halton" while Acton is the "Hills".
How about it Actonians — let's attempt to get out of "Them Thar Hills" and set up shop once again in Acton.

No Hill-Billy

More letters on page B3

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, February 17, 1955

With a thundering roar, a 50-foot tree toppled the wrong way and smashed to splinters a two-story house on the Campbellville side road, just east of the village on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. William Turner were in the house at the time, watching workmen cutting the tree. Noticing it pitch toward their home, they escaped to a back kitchen which was not caught in the path of the heavy ash tree. About four feet across at the butt, the tree was one of the largest that district residents could recall having seen felled.

The Acton Junior Farmers held their regular meeting at the home of Bill Fox on Wednesday, February 9. The Junior Institute held their annual meeting, Mrs. G. Sommerville presiding over the election of officers. They are: past president, Anne McLaughlin; president, Marlon Portie; vice-president, Doris Thompson; secretary-treasurer, Ida Archibald; district director, Kathleen Stanley.

Fluoridation of water has definitely been proven to cut down tooth decay, Dr. Harold Leib told Acton Rotarians Tuesday at their regular meeting. He touched on the controversial subject during his address during National Health Week.

A chest full of treasure was found right on the stage of the public school auditorium this week. In fact it was found twice, once on Tuesday and once on Wednesday, when the school presented its opera, Treasure Island.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, February 19, 1925.

Post Office Inspector T. H. Murray, of London, was here on Tuesday to meet and examine the candidates for the vacant Postmastership. The persons applying are: J. C. Matthews, A. M. Smith, Melfort Collier, W.J.L. Hampshire. The Inspector will no doubt send in his report to the department without delay and the appointment will probably be made in the course of a few weeks.

Little Jammie Jones, the five-year-old son of Mr. J. W. Jones, Manager of the Acton Co-operative Store, had the misfortune on Tuesday morning, while playing on Main Street with a companion, to fall on the sidewalk and fracture his left leg between the knee and thigh. The fracture was temporarily reduced and the dear little lad was taken to the General Hospital, Guelph, by his father. He is doing very well.

Last Sunday was observed in the Methodist Church as Connexional Funds Day when the funds of the budget outside the local church and Missionary funds are contributed. Rev. Henry Caldwell, S.T.L., of Georgetown was the preacher of the day. He gave excellent discourses abounding the gospel truth. The offerings of the day were generous, and when the contributions of those who generally give but were absent on Sunday are handed in, the aggregate will fully meet the amount of the budget asked for. Rev. Mr. Culp preached at Georgetown and Ashgrove.

Mr. Charles Symon has been in the Guelph General Hospital during the week, having an operation on his tonsils.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, February 15, 1900.

The first inspection of the electric light system here was made last Friday evening. Mr. Johnston, the Government Inspector, visited town that evening and after a careful inspection of the plant and system generally reported to Reeve Pearson, chairman of the Fire and Light Committee, that everything was very satisfactory. This result must be encouraging to the committee and reassuring to the citizens and patrons of the light.

Owing to the opening services of the new Baptist church next Sunday the morning service of the Methodist Church and the evening services of the Presbyterian church will be withdrawn.

Mrs. James Leslie, eldest son of George Leslie, Esq. of the 1st con., Erin, has purchased the Samuel Johnston homestead lot 10, con. 3, Erin, 100 acres. The price paid was \$3225. He will take possession the first of April.

Mr. W. A. Stewart has purchased the Lamb farm adjoining his own on the second concession at a fair price.

Mr. John Thomas, Church Street, fell on the ice last Friday while coming from work at the tannery and bruised his shoulder badly.

Mr. W. R. Reynolds, electrician, who has now charge of the plant at Elmvale, was in town on Tuesday renewing acquaintances. Mr. Reynolds was married about Christmas time and wears a very happy mien.

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Business and Editorial Office



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