

# Free Press Editorial Page

## An Arts Festival

A Festival of the Arts is a concept being talked over by band members this spring. They would like to see a full day's program—maybe in the arena—with concerts and displays of all types of crafts. It sounds like a great idea, and although it couldn't be organized this year, maybe next spring will see Acton's festival arranged and operating.

There are plenty of talented local craftspeople. Proof—the M. Z. Bennett crafts day, the Oxfam

trade fair, Palette and Pencil club and the Acton Arts and Crafts group which has its sale each fall. And Acton is outstanding in music talent. Singers could be incorporated too, probably through the schools.

Decoration Day weekend has been suggested as a good time for it, when out-of-towners are back.

May the organizers find lots of encouragement and co-operation as they talk up the Arts Festival!

## Fifty years of union

Church union is a continuing topic, seemingly enmeshed in problems.

But 50 years ago one church union worked, and set a splendid example for divided Christian factions. It was the union of Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational congregations into one unit, the United Church of Canada.

Some Presbyterians decided not to join and in many places, as here, have remained separate since.

The United church has

continued its efforts to involve more in one Christian faith.

Fifty years ago this month a special ceremony took place in Acton United church, when the rolls of the new members were transferred from the Methodist and Presbyterian churches to the brand new congregation. Part of this ceremony will be re-enacted this Sunday, with two of the original members, Marguerite Taylor and Orwell Johnston, taking part.

It's another important milestone in the town's history.

## Those organ donor forms

Lives will be saved as a result of the introduction of organ donor consent forms which come with drivers' licenses. However, a news release out this week from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications says a number of drivers have in error detached the organ donor consent forms from their new drivers' licenses and mailed them to Queens Park.

The consent forms, the Ministry says, should remain attached to or kept with the driver's license once it is completed and signed. This

ensures that in the event of death the wishes of the donor are immediately known to the authorities.

The Ministry can't trace the drivers who mailed back their consent forms, because there's no name on them.

If you suspect you did it, you can get a new form from any Driver Examination Centre. Or if you aren't yet due for a new license with the form, and would like one, call in there, too.

It was a commendable change and will find wide support.

## Our eyes and ears

Reporters go to all the meetings and public events they can, to impartially relay to the people what our eyes have seen and our ears have heard. We consciously endeavor to be accurate and fair.

Someone says a quote in last week's paper was wrong, yet others at the same meeting agree with our reporter. Another newspaper has criticized one of our

reporters.

Well, these things happen. Not everybody agrees completely about everything—ever. The Letters to the Editor column is always open for people with differing opinions.

We continue to do our best, and keep trying to make our best better.

It's our profession!

## A time to tell

Our Member of Parliament Frank Philbrook picked an apt time to send out a questionnaire including a question on gun control laws.

"Do you think the federal government should introduce stiffer gun control law?" he asked

constituents in a letter sent out recently. He repeats the question in his column this week.

We know what we think. Guns are made for killing—what else? And how many people need to kill? Please write your M.P. and tell him what you think.

## Thanks and such

Thanks to the works crews, who had the town looking all shined up for Decoration Day. The streets had been specially cleaned, planters out and flowers blooming, flags flying, and cemetery grass cut.

Each year there are many comments on the attractiveness of Fairview cemetery. There seemed more geraniums and bouquets than ever this year.

Aren't there more robins than usual twitting around the lawns this year? And more butterflies?

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Let's have a show of hands of those who did anything about Family Unity month! We approve of advertising, but that extortion to family living paid for with our money was more advice from the Big Daddies than we needed.

## Here and there

A \$5,000 grant for Milton Chamber of Commerce project to restore the town's old CNR station was announced by Halton East MPP Jim Snow. The grant comes from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, which gets its money from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

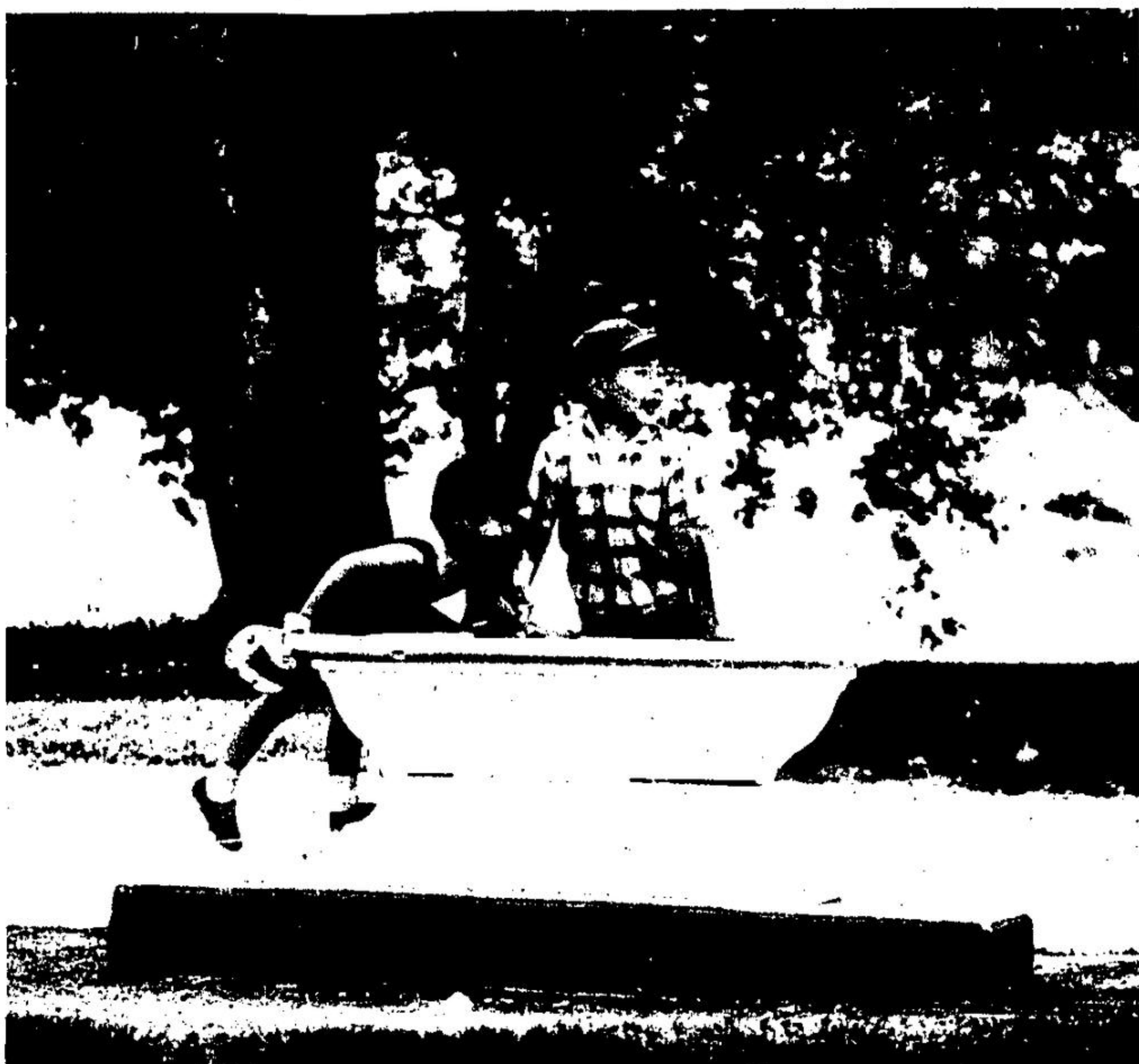
The station was moved from its long-time location to a small park just north of the town and will likely be used as a tourist information centre. Donations helped make

the move possible as the total cost was estimated at about \$25,000.

Fergus council is offering its CN station to any non-profit group. In appearance it, too, is much like Acton's station. They're thinking of a recreation complex or senior citizens' centre.

MP Perrin Beatty commented "we'd be out of our minds to let the building be demolished."

No passenger trains have been through Fergus in the last four years.



LINDA AND Edward Wong take a refreshing break at the Prospect Park fountain. Something important has caught their eye as they look up from taking a drink. The fountain was originally the village horse trough, located at the Mill-Main corner.



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

This is a bad time of year for female television watchers. The hockey seasons are in full swing. And already the sports writers are running stories about next fall's football players.

It's got so that a girl hasn't much choice on the weekends. She has to knit or get drunk or do some work around the house, whatever her thing is. She is a widow, to all intents and purposes. Her husband has retreated into the weak-kneed, bit-fumbled, slicing, pass-missed womb of his youth. He is of no more use than a large vegetable.

True, he is sitting in a chair, but he must be watered and fertilized occasionally, or he will just wither away, as he watches, mesmerized, large hairy young men doing all the things he could have done better 10 or 20 or 30 years ago, if only he'd had a decent coach, or the money for proper equipment, or hadn't got married.

are going to watch on television announced that there was going to be an ass-wiggling competition.

Every woman in the country, from four to 84, would be glued to the set. The males wouldn't get near it. They would mope about the kitchen and have to do the dishes in disgust, or wander into the backyard, and clean it up, just for something to do.

Just as the men chuckle now, when they're watching these over-paid clowns, and say: "See that beautiful elbow?", or "That was a lovely butt-end," or, when some ape slams another orang-outang into the boards: "Wow! Atsa wayda hiddim," so would the ladies have their innings. I

can hear them, viewing such a muscular trial as mentioned above.

"She looks like a bowl of jelly with palsy."

"I'da made her look sick twenny years ago."

"They godda be falsies."

"She hidden learn that strut in the Presbyterian choir."

"She wooden be bad if she wuzzen knock-kneed."

Just a sample. There are many other female sports that would be sure-fire to attract the fair flower of our land and push those barrel-chested, carefully-casual-coiffured inarticulate male athletes right back to Hayfork Centre, where they came from.

How about a dirty joke confrontation? What do you think about a Lemme Show Ya My Operation contest? How does a Boy, Did I Tell Him Off! competition sound to you?

The possibilities are endless. But the TV moguls blew it. And so did Women's Lib.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Worried about bus safety

Mrs. Stansbury sends a copy of her letter to Mrs. Alexander to the Free Press.

Rural Route 1  
Limehouse, Ont. L0P 1H0  
26 May 1975

Mrs. J. Alexander  
Chairwoman, Halton County Board of Education  
48 Alexander Drive  
Oakville, Ontario

Dear Mrs. Alexander:

I write to you with growing concern over the mechanical safety of the school buses my children travel on daily.

Last week I agreed to be an assisting parent with grades Kindergarten thru 3 from Limehouse Public School on a field trip to the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo. The trip was held on May 22, 1975.

We departed from the school at approximately 9 a.m. and before we had gone twenty miles on Hwy. 401 between the Mississauga Road and Hwy. 10 interchanges) the lead bus was engulfed in smoke. The motor had burned out. The children were put on the two remaining buses and we continued on. Just west of Kennedy Road interchange on Hwy. 401 the bus on which I was travelling lost an enormous chunk of the tread (retreads perhaps?) and the tire had to be replaced

immediately. I was told that the battery on the third bus went dead after we arrived at the zoo.

Needless to say, the day was, at best, a very trying one for all concerned.

I can't help but wonder how often and how carefully all buses in the province are inspected by representatives of the Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

The main reason there was no severe injury or loss of life in the first two instances mentioned above was the competence of the drivers. The situation could have easily resulted in tragedy if the drivers had been any less capable.

I would like to know what the schedule is for complete mechanical checkups for all buses in the Halton Region and how many years or miles they are kept in service before being replaced. Also, when were the buses in question last certified as road-worthy by government inspectors.

We were all fortunate there were no tragic results to this trip. We should learn from this situation and take steps to prevent it from occurring again.

Compensation and lawsuits will not replace my children.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs.) Sandra R. Stansbury

### Old miser Bill

He has a little surplus  
Even though his pay is small  
'Cause he budgets every dollar,  
For his clean and tidy stall.

He squeezes every penny,  
To save a tiny bit,  
An example for our Government  
Is this thrifty Scottish wit.

He is not bedecked in luxury,  
This humble thrifty lord,  
For he never buys a single thing,  
That he can not afford.

He does not believe in "interest"  
On top of what he pays,  
But puts a little on one side,

In case of rainy days.

He will not take from other folk,  
But keeps his selfish pride,  
He gives his labour honestly,  
And praises God inside.

Here's to the little miser,  
We're thankful for his lot,  
Unlike the spendthrift government,  
He's not a borrowing lot.

If we had a miser government,  
Inflation would be beat,  
We'd have more money after Taxes,  
With which to buy the meat.

Victor Smith,  
R.R. 2, Rockwood.

## The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from an issue of the Free Press June 2, 1955

Fire of undetermined cause broke out in the home of Alex Currie near Limehouse, early Sunday morning. The fire, which started in the bedroom, caused about \$50 damage and was extinguished by members of the Georgetown Fire Brigade.

North Halton high school District Board gave approval to the engagement of David Roberts and Mrs. S. Hardy on the Georgetown staff and Miss G. Gruber, who will take the commercial classes on the Acton staff, at a meeting in Stewarttown Monday.

The Women's Association of Acton United church held a turkey supper Thursday evening, May 26, honoring choir leader and members and the Sunday school staff for their faithful work during the year. George Elliott, Rev. Poole and Rev. Currey thanked the ladies for their work in preparing the supper and expressed the appreciation of all those present.

District provincial police reported an accident Saturday evening on the Esqueving-Nassagaweya townline, four miles south of Acton, involving a local youth and a Summerville truck driver. Wayne Arbie, Acton, was driving a light pick-up truck east when he was in collision with a truck driven by John Meito, Summerville, at the brow of a hill.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press June 4, 1925

Every Saturday evening that the weather is suitable, the Acton Citizens' Band will give a band concert on the lawn at Sunderland House during June, July and August. Mr. John Clarke has kindly consented to give the use of these grounds for this purpose and the Band asks that the public generally protect the grounds and building during the concerts so as not to abuse the privilege.

St. Alban's Church will open the local Garden Party early next week. They have booked their annual affair for Thursday evening June 11.

Advertisement—Removal Notice—H. W. Hinton, Jeweller, Watch and Clock-maker, etc., is removing his business next to Tom Morton's Barber Shop on Mill Street on June 1, 1925; where he will continue to do all repairs and retail the same lines as cheaply as possible.

The regular meeting of the Acton Women's Institute was held in the Parish Hall on Thursday afternoon, May 28, with president, Mrs. James Dobbie in the chair. Bessie, the nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wilson, Esqueving, sustained a double fracture of her right arm when she fell from a motor car on Saturday.

The roadway at the intersection of Fairview Avenue with Main Street is badly in need of repairs. A tile drain and a dozen loads of gravel would help.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press June 7, 1900

The interest in the coming reunion of the old school boys and girls of 1827-71, on the 13th of July, is rapidly growing. The monument scheme is also meeting with success and letters and liberal contributions to the fund have been received during the week.

The Methodist Church here is to be congratulated upon the appointment of the new pastor, Rev. Joseph M. Hagar, M.A. who is to succeed Rev. J. A. McLachlan, M.A., the first Sunday in July. Rev. Mr. Hagar has for a number of years been a member of the Montreal Conference and requested to be transferred to Hamilton because his home is here and his kindred resided within its bounds, at Niagara Falls and Welland. He is a minister of the gospel of high attainments, a graduate of Toronto University and has had a successful pastoral career.

Acton was not behind in the celebrations last Thursday. Word was received of the capture of Pretoria early in the morning and the town fathers were soon around working up a demonstration. The morning was enlivened by the discharge of a miniature cannon and hearty cheering from all parts of the town. At 2 p.m. a procession was formed at the town hall consisting of the band and upwards of 250 happy children who had been granted a half holiday.

Mr. Charles T. Moore, son of Mr. John Moore, Limehouse, has purchased the interest of his late partner Mr. Chard and is now the leading photographer of Lancaster, Ohio.

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