

Free Press Editorial Page

Take a bow Acton

Accepting awards is never unpleasant and it never loses its thrill. That's why, when the Free Press was judged one of Canada's best again this year, it was just as pleasant as it has been over the years.

But in accepting an award, we've never failed to remember it is the work of many hands that has placed The Free Press in the top groupings.

This year's wins for best all-round paper and best front page indicates that it takes many elements to make a newspaper and unquestionably the best all-round award is the most coveted.

Free Press awards have always been considered by us as a kind of "community" award, since it takes a town like Acton to make a newspaper possible in the first

place. It takes a lot of co-operation from the area correspondents and individuals who alert us to events we might otherwise have missed, and it takes the support of advertisers, who find the Free Press a good way to get word around about their products and services.

Certainly it takes the work of the reporters, photographers, and production people who produce the issues and it takes the effort of carriers, the postal people and the merchants who sell papers to maintain an efficient distribution system.

In fact it takes a whole community of people to support an effective newspaper and one of the most important is the reader.

It is really all of you who share in any awards the Free Press receives. This year is no different, so take a bow Acton.

Littering on the streets

Trash on the streets has become an eyesore lately. Pop cans, candy wrappers and chip bags and cigarette cartons lie in junky heaps where people gather in the evenings—at the Mill and Main corner and the plazas.

Where does the responsibility for cleaning up the mess lie? Some people think the town men should be picking up the litter. That would mean a daily trip to each locality, though—an economic impossibility, probably.

How about the shopkeepers, whose premises back on the places where small crowds gather to chat—and chew? Most of them do

get out and sweep in front of their stores.

How about the police? Enforcing the loitering or littering bylaws seems harsh in most cases. Surely the responsibility should be with the people who do the absent-minded tossing. They know better...don't they? It makes one wonder what homes look like?

There are garbage cans available all along the street. A big new one has just been set out at the Mill and Main corner. Surely the sight of the big can is a good reminder.

These people should police themselves before someone in a blue uniform has to do it for them.

Wrong way to happiness

Increases everywhere...and one that nobody will be proud of is the fact that Canadians continue to drink more and more alcohol every single year. Sale of all alcoholic drinks increased 11.2 per cent in one single year.

Yet drinking is a luxury any family at all can easily cut back on. Canadian and Ontario govern-

ments do very well by alcohol, though. They collected 1.4 billion dollars in revenue—half the counter cost.

That should make the government happy.

But there are plenty of ways other than drinking too much to make the average person happy.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Acton couple speak out

Making a life here just not sleeping

177 Kingham Rd., Acton, Ont. Aug. 11, 1975

Acton Free Press To the Editor

Dear Sir,

I would like to reply to the paragraph headed "Lower Prices Owners Reason", in your issue of Aug. 6, 1975.

My wife and I are newcomers to a subdivision in Acton. And I admit that we came from Toronto, and I also agree that the lower prices of the houses was an attraction.

My wife still works in Downsview, and I will be returning to work there as soon as I recover from a recent illness. It is not because we particularly want to, but because the particular occupations we follow are not available in Acton.

However, the price of the house was by no means the main reason for our move. The driving to and from Toronto is not a very pleasant experience. Our main reason for moving was to get out of a big city into a small town. We have found that

there are advantages and disadvantages to being here.

We have had difficulty in finding a carpenter to do some repairs. It cost \$50 to have our washer and dryer connected, which incidentally we bought here in Acton. We have not yet found a window cleaner, and of course we were used to having shops and drugstores open till 9 p.m.

The advantages include a very pleasant and quiet situation and the shopkeepers are very kind and helpful. We do all our grocery shopping here, and have used numerous other shops as well. In none have we found any rudeness or discourtesy. We have joined the Acton Library, we have the Acton Free Press delivered, and we intend to join the Acton Curling Club in the winter—if we are accepted.

We have every intention of really living in Acton. Not just to sleep here.

Yours sincerely, Charles and Christine King.

P.S. I would like to add that there are many Actonians who were born here but do not work in Acton, but in Guelph, Georgetown, Brampton and even Toronto.

'Someone who cares' objects to snake killing

155 Poplar Ave., Acton, Ont. August 15, 1975.

The Acton Free Press Acton, Ont.

Dear Editor:

I must comment on last week's front page picture of Mr. Jim James and sons displaying the skin of a rattlesnake.

I quote from the article "they heard the distinctive rattle of the reptile and turned to find it sunning itself on a path about six feet away. Once Jim saw it and realized what it was, he quickly grabbed a branch,

planned it to the ground and hammered it to death with a canoe paddle." Surely if he had time to grab a branch he had time to walk away.

If the article is correct, the rattler was not close enough to strike, nor would it chase them down the trail. Why kill it? That rattlesnake was a significant part of the area's ecosystem. They were trespassing on his territory; he was not on their's. Killing is a poor way to teach children to appreciate the wilderness and its inhabitants.

From someone who cares, Charles Bennett



LAST WEEK was a scorcher, with temperatures One way to heat the heat - swan dives into the lake with a handy tree branch as diving board. The crowds are enjoying the water and breeze.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Every mid-summer, for some peculiar reason, my wife and I get into the same conversation. We talk at some length about where we should go for a holiday.

We have this ridiculous, guilty feeling that we should do what normal people do on their vacations: go to a lodge; rent a cottage; buy a tent and go camping; hire a trailer; go for a "trip" somewhere. Anything.

We talk about it for weeks, off and on. We keep referring to "our little trip."

Perhaps we should just jump in the car and go gypsying around the country, we say. It sounds good, nice and carefree and fun, with a new adventure just around the next curve.

Or maybe this year we'll do the culture bit: a week at Stratford, take in all the plays, dabble our feet in the Avon, look with the eye of old theatre-goers at the stunned gawping tourists.

Or, for a change, book in at a posh lodge for a week, no meals for the old lady to cook, dress to the hilt for dinner, mingle with the fascinating sub-jets.

Or this year, for once, we'll rent a cottage for two weeks, damn-the-expense, get away from the telephone, slouch around in bare feet and shorts, and listen to the loons on the lake at night.

Or, for a complete change, maybe we'll go to the city, check into a fancy hotel with a pool, lounge around in an air-conditioned room, and go out to dinner and a good show.

There's only one trouble with all these plans. They require decisive action, and we never seem to get around to either decision or activity.

Take the posh lodge, for example. First, they are all clip joints. Secondly, they are booked for the whole summer. Thirdly, we don't have the wardrobes to dress to the hilt or anywhere else. Fourthly, they are full of bores. And the food is no screaming hell.

Then, the culture bit. It's awfully difficult to gear yourself up for a week of Shakespeare and Shaw and dressing up and standing in lineups for dinner, when you're lying in the backyard listening to the birds, with a good book, and barely enough energy to reach for your glass, and you know there ain't going to be no lineup for the fried chicken and the young, new potatoes and the juice-spurring corn and the cold tangy tomatoes in your own house.

Gypsying around in the car is fine, except that you have to get out on the road with all those maniacs, and drive and drive in the heat, and pay a ransom for motel rooms, and eat fried food until you begin to feel like a french-fry, and watch a TV set offering re-runs of last winter's reruns. The biggest adventure here is wondering whether the toilet will back up.

A couple of weeks at a cottage is appealing. But what the heck, we slouch around at home in bare feet and shorts, and as far as listening to the loons at night goes, you can always ask a few of your friends to drop in.

A few days in the city has an equal appeal. I always catch a cold in the air-conditioned rooms, neither of us likes swimming in a pool with a lot of common, middle-class people, you have to sign a second mortgage on your house to pay the bill, and you can hardly wait to get home, where the room service is free and a great deal faster.

So this week, with our "little trip" looming up like a vampire, we both discovered, instantaneously and with great relief, that we'd just stay home for the time being.

She: "I was really just agreeing because I thought you wanted to get away somewhere."

He: "You mean to say that you don't want to go off in the heat and be soaked every time you turn around and eat all those rotten french-fries and besides the tires on the car aren't so hot. I was only going because I thought you'd like a change, get away from the meals."

She: "I can't stand other people's cooking and I hate motel rooms and you know how hard it is to find a decent place to swim."

He: "Yeah, and if we took our golf clubs we wouldn't have room for anything else and if we didn't, we'd have to rent them, for an arm and a leg."

Ironically, we live smack in the centre of one of the great resort areas in Canada. People who move here from the city can't understand why anybody wants to go away, even for a day.

Anyway, great, mutual sighs of relief. But there was still that guilty feeling, that sense that we weren't pulling our weight in the great holiday farce. So we compromised.

He: "Tell you what we'll do. We'll drive down to the marina and look at the boats. Then we'll check the prices at two of the local motels. Then we'll drive out to the beach and look at the cottages."

She (eagerly): "Yes. And then we'll come home and turn on the sprinkler and I'll get you a dinner that would cost you \$14 in a restaurant and tomorrow morning we'll play golf at the most beautiful course within 300 miles, and tomorrow afternoon we'll sun and swim at the most beautiful beach within 400 miles."

He: "Yes! Yes! Yes! And there's a terrific movie on TV tonight, four stars, and we've only seen it twice."

Who needs a "little trip" anyway?

The most frustrating of all life's ups and downs is keeping appearances up and expenses down.

Ministry garbage not roses

To the Editor,

Ministry of the Environment's propaganda in local media last week, (a three quarter page ad on garbage) "Garbage is coming up roses" was just that—a load of garbage.

As one who has devoted much energy and time, and some money, into the study of solid waste, I would point out that Ontario's much publicized world first plans for handling Ontario's solid waste, are at least a decade behind the plans of the city of St. Louis and Hempstead, Long Island. Ontario's solid waste plants will have a capacity to handle from 200 to 1,000 tons of municipal garbage per day. That garbage that cannot be reclaimed, will be landfilled. There is also a vague promise of some incineration in the distant future.

As I pointed out at Hope Township, Milton Heights, Georgetown, Kilbride, Brampton, at Halton Region, Esquesing, etc., etc., if garbage is shredded, baled, or dipped in 11 different herbs and spices,

it is still garbage, and when landfilled, it still pollutes.

St. Louis has very definite plans for solid waste. The garbage from a 4,500 sq. mile area (8,000 tons per day) will be recycled. The non-reclaimables will be incinerated smokelessly and will produce power. This facility will be operating by 1977. Initial plans were announced in early 1974.

Hempstead, Long Island's plant, will process 100 percent of that city's municipal waste (3,000 tons per day). After reclamation, the remainder will be incinerated (smokelessly), and will provide 250,000,000 kilowatt hrs. per day of new power to that city.

This method of solid waste disposal (incineration for power after reclamation) is the accepted method in many countries around the world. Landfilling is no longer accepted and no amount of public money spent on ads telling us otherwise will make it acceptable.

William A. Johnson

Live wires

The latest edition of Hydro News shows pictures of happy apartment dwellers working in home garden plots - along the right-of-way under the hydro towers and lines. Hydro says these right-of-ways are good places for golf courses, vehicle routes and parking, too.

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UFO experts say frequent sightings near electrical lines and transformer stations may indicate flying saucers are drawing power from electrical installations. So a new power line might bring on the Martians. You never know!

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, August 25, 1955

Actonians could venture to the C.N.E. for \$2.75 which included admission and lunch from Harold Wilkes' store on Mill St. And these were with a reduced fare for children. Frances Baker, winner of the queen for a week contest sponsored by the local Rotarians in conjunction with the local general day, left today accompanied by her mother for a four day tour of New York City. The 17-year old Acton High School student was crowned queen after a two week contest last May contended for with 11 other fellow students.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Norton and Nancy will leave in a few weeks to Iran where Mr. Norton will be associated with Iranian Oil Exploration and Producing Co. in reopening the oil fields there. He has been in Tulsa, Penn. South America for some years.

Acton members of the Christian Reformed Church in Acton have undertaken a fund to add a Passageway township lumber rebuild his barn and replace his crop. Heally destroyed when lightning struck the barn and ruined the structure to which Acton firemen rushed to the blaze late Saturday when a call was put through from the home of A. Langgogga, seven miles southwest of Acton. The brigade was thwarted in efforts to save the structure as heat from flames, fanned by high winds prevented them from getting close enough.

A group of friends and neighbours gathered recently at the parish hall in Kitchener to present a formal table and present Mr. and Mrs. David Selles, one Geraldine Lennart with a beautiful coffee table and a purse. The prizes for the Kitchener are being distributed by the secretary, Mrs. Irene Soodkhaner.

Halton's annual picnic which this year will be held at the farm of J. J. Thistleton on Friday, October 25, states J. Spencer Wilson, President of the Halton Association.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, August 26, 1925

A very pretty wedding was solemnized at St. Joseph's Church, Acton, on Tuesday, by Rev. Father McHenry, when Marguerite Mary, second daughter of Mrs. C. Costello, Acton, was united in the bonds of holy wedlock to Mr. Wilfred Joseph Duval, son of John Duval, Beachburg.

Further evidence of the esteem in which Mr. Thomas Watson was held by his fellow citizens of Grand Valley is seen by the following item which appeared in the Star and Vidette: "The business men of the village on Friday last did honour to one of their number of twenty years' standing—Thomas Watson and presented him with a gold watch."

Two Acton men who staged a motor race on the streets are now wondering where the fun came in, for they were assessed \$10 and costs each.

The Canadian National Railway workmen have, during the week, widened the roadway at the Mill St. crossing. This makes a much improved driveway, and a safer course for motorists.

The splendid concert of Acton Citizens' Band on Saturday evening, on the lawn at Sunderland House, has proved very conclusively that the band has now a very comprehensive repertoire. Week after week almost a complete new programme is given.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, August 23, 1900.

Monday, the day proclaimed by His Worship, the Reeve, as Civic Holiday for this municipality, was a very pleasant day and our citizens generally enjoyed the opportunity afforded for holiday outing and enjoyment. Mr. H. S. Holmes, the obliging agent of the G.T.R., secured the very advantageous rate of single-fare to all stations in Canada, from Kingston west. Tickets were good going on 18th, 19th and 20th and returning until the 21st inst. A large number took advantage of civic holiday low rates and visited friends at various points. The golf links, tennis courts and lacrosse field were well patronized during the day, while driving and holiday visitations were largely indulged in. This is the first civic holiday held on Monday but it has been demonstrated a popular day.

The children's annual flower service will be held in St. Alban's Church on Sunday morning next, 26th inst., at the 10.30 service. The children will march into the church singing the processional hymn, "Brightly Gleams our Banner," and carrying their new banner recently made for them.

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