

Plenty of information

Tomorrow is our day of decision—election day.

There has been no lack of ways to become well informed on the issues and on the candidates. This newspaper, the dailies, radio and TV have all given their share of news stories, pictures, interviews, "profiles" and advertisements.

Law prevents The Free Press from publishing election advertising today, the day just before the election. Controversial Letters to the Editor have been rejected. News coverage continues of course, because the candidates kept on "making news" during the past week.

The three candidates, Gary

Dawkins, Bill Johnson and Julian Reed (alphabetical order, as always) came to Acton for one of their seven Meet the Candidates nights. This was particularly for the people of Acton and district.

First question thrown up from the floor was on regional government. Acton is surely sensitive on that subject. But the topic soon changed and stayed on more general subjects.

Attendance was considered pretty good, at 200.

Pretty good compared to what?

There were thousands of eligible voters who weren't there.



Voting - a privilege here

The weather - the date - the place - the lack of information - nothing should provide a good excuse to keep people from voting here tomorrow.

One good thing about going out to vote. It seems to give you a certified right to complain. In the polling booth is the place to get yourself the OK to carry on with that favorite old pastime, grousing about the government.

In Australia, all British subjects are required to vote by law. (That includes Canadians who are

visiting there, too.)

No one has seriously suggested such legislation here lately, but voting records over the years will prove if such a law should ever become necessary.

Then perhaps that old issue of multiple votes might be raised again, too. People who achieve success for one reason or another would be given additional votes.

With the lively discussions there have been around town, legislation to require voting doesn't seem probable yet.

We can have anything

Something else to remember today is that voters can have anything. Anything at all. From any party. Anything they'll pay for, that is.

As another paper put it this week "How deep is the public trough?"

Government can do anything

enough people wish it to do — all the special projects, welfare benefits, housing, increased salaries for public servants.

You name it — you can have it. And pay for it through your taxes.

This is a simple fact that sometimes gets forgotten.

Signs come down soon

Election committees will likely have those posters and signs down soon, all across Halton-Burlington. Organizers who so hopefully put up all those signs will have it in their schedules to get them down again. It will be one of their last duties, whether they're exuberant or disappointed. After all, there

will be two losers. Taking down publicity signs is often left off the lists of publicity people around town, who leave their posters to grow old and yellow in store windows long after the events, or their long-outdated messages in the Chamber of Commerce sign board.

No phone service here

There will be no phone answering election service at the Free Press Thursday night.

This service, which we've had before is primarily good for local elections. We expect people will be able to hear election results almost as soon on television or radio as we would have them here in Acton. Local committee rooms will be

busy totalling up all the information they can get, too.

Both the Liberals and Conservatives have committee rooms in town, easy to get to, and likely there will be plenty of people there to share the word from the latest phone call. Special arrangements are being made to use the Legion as a focal gathering place, too.

Our readers write

The majority of people are not aware of the existing problem regarding the shortage of Nursing Home beds in North Halton. The awareness of the problem comes only to light when individuals find themselves in the situation where active hospitals can no longer help, and pressure is put on the family to find a nursing home for their loved ones. For instance our local residents who are admitted to Guelph hospitals in the County of Wellington, naturally wish to return to their own environment, which is North Halton. Where can they go? The same applies to the Georgetown Hospital. Where can they go?

Queen's Park tells us there are 155 vacant nursing home beds in Halton County. Mr. Kerr, M.P.P. cannot find these beds. Halton Manor does not have these mystical vacancies, and I certainly do not have them!!

Our local politicians evade the problem, by just ignoring it, hoping maybe it will vanish, but just let the problem hit close to home and I bet the tune would be different!

The Ministry of Health has been approached since 1972 with building plans for an establishment of 60 beds at the Kelly Nursing Home, in Acton. The answer that we received is that beds are not needed in this area!!

An article in the Toronto Star and a Television debate between Mr. Davis and Mr. Nixon mentioned a \$12.00 increase for old age pensioners. Good. Now may I mention the last increase for old age pensioners in nursing homes.

Please note! In March of 1975 the old age pension amounted to \$204.37, also a guaranteed supplement of \$36.23, and a grand total of \$240.60. In a nursing home the government in March paid \$11.55 and the resident paid \$5.45 daily, leaving the patient with \$67.00 on a 30 day basis. The increase in April 1975 for old age pensioners jumped to \$213.97,

also guaranteed supplement increased to \$30.01, total amount being \$243.98.

Now nursing home rates are set by the government and nursing homes receive a raise. The portion paid by the government jumped from \$11.55 to \$12.60 while the portion paid by the pensioners jumped from \$5.45 to \$5.90. The increase paid by the pensioner amounts to \$13.50 a month so really the increased received amounted to \$1.98 per month or 6c a day. That wouldn't buy bubble gum even. Now what portion of this new \$12 increase is the government going to tell Nursing Homes to take when they receive a raise which is inevitable? Maybe the old age pensioners could purchase two sticks of gum.

The Davis government seems also to be concerned with Health Care costs. Would it not be logical for the local Public Health to inspect nursing homes in regards to all inspections other than finance and a tribunal board?

The three candidates were informed of this situation. May I state?

Mr. Johnson pledges to preserve and build what is good for the community and contact Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Reed is aware of this situation but can do nothing unless elected.

Mr. Dawkins was not aware of the great need for nursing homes in the area, but assures me he will fight alone if necessary for the betterment of all concerned. Mr. Kerr, our former M.P.P., has a file of information on this issue which will be available for Mr. Dawkins to act upon when he is elected for this term.

May the provincial government in the future realize that North Halton is good enough, rich enough, and progressive enough, to warrant a new building for their nursing home patients on the premises of the well established Kelly Nursing Home.

Kath Kelly



Just wondering where the summer went . . .



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

"I wonder what the poor people are doing today?" murmured my fishing mate, as we lay back on a bed of moss, our bellies stuffed with fried fillet of pickerel, looked up at huge blue sky and lit a cigarette.

We had just finished a shore dinner, prepared by our guide, and had nothing in the world to do but have a little rest and go back and catch some more fish.

No wives nattering, children squabbling, telephone ringing, tires squealing, newspapers blating headlines.

No decisions to make, disputes to handle, compromises to make, people to get sorted out, problems to solve.

It may not be paradise, but Northern Saskatchewan makes a pretty fair approximation to it, if you like fishing, and clean air, and a complete lack of tension, noise and pollution.

Some of the weekly newspaper people had elected to go on a fishing trip in some of the best fishing country in the world. It was like asking a boozer to go on a wine-tasting trip through Southern France.

We were guests of the Saskatchewan Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources, quite a mouthful. And fine hosts they were. They supplied transportation, accommodation, boats and guides. All we had to buy was our food.

Don't ever tell me again that Saskatchewan means endless miles of prairie. More than half the province makes up some of the most striking wilderness in Canada, thousands of square miles of lakes and forest.

And they're not just bragging about that fishing. I had read of it, and seen some of it on television. It's real. Time and again you'll see two, or even three people in one boat, all with a fish on the line.

Some of the fish-hogs from Ontario were literally hysterical after half a day's fishing.

It begins like this. The guide takes you out to a spot, and you troll slowly. In five minutes you've caught a pike that would have delighted you back home.

"Better throw it back. Let him grow up," mutters the guide, laconically. You are ready to clutch that four-pound pike to your breast and cry, tearfully: "Nobody's gonna get this baby away from me." Too late. The guide has unhooked the fish and let it swim away.

In the next 10 minutes, you've thrown back four, about the same size. Suddenly, your fishing partner ties into a good one with a lot of reel-screaming and general excitement, he lands one about nine pounds. "Yeah, we'll keep dat one. He's not bad," says the guide gloomily. And so on.

Same with pickerel. If you hit a hot spot, you can "fill up," that is, catch your quota for the day, in half an hour.

Quotas are generous, and there are no fewer than 12 species of game fish in the province.

So much for the fishing. It's so good that a four-year-old chimpanzee or an 84-year-old senile grandmother could catch fish. I know. I caught one over nine pounds. He was only seven when we netted him, but he's been growing steadily since.

Aside from the fishing, there is the magnificent feeling of being away from it all. Miles and miles and miles of clean water and thousands of acres of bush, and little old you right in the middle of it.

Most of the northern lakes have only a

few outfitters, located on them, and the government, to cheers from me, is not leasing more shore property. Without government intervention, I can see these beautiful, lonely lakes ravaged by motor-boats, ringed with cottages, and soggy with pollution in a very few years.

With 20 odd assorted bodies, men, women and children, and a most congenial group we were, I was dropped off, after a lone rattling, seven-hour bus ride, at Jan Lake.

We were all pretty pooped, and I hit the jackpot of that renowned western hospitality. My hostess, Mrs. Jean Martin, showed me to a fine, modern, log cabin, completely outfitted with everything including indoor waterworks and sleeping room for eight. I had it all to myself. It was like walking deep into the jungle and being shown to a room at the Ritz.

The Martin's couldn't do enough for me. They don't serve food at their camp

"You took your time, but insisted I eat all my meals with them, and refused any payment. Garnet, the husband, and Bernard, No. 1 son, fixed me up with a cap, jacket, a fish rod and tackle, and Mrs. Martin insisted on making a shore dinner for me.

Highlight of my whole trip, perhaps, was an hour's flight over the area, at fairly low level, with Bernard Martin at the controls. He flies an ancient but sturdy Aerocraft, and it was my first flight in a small, light aircraft for many a year. My wife would have a stroke if she'd seen her old boy climb into that.

It was quite a thrilling flight with a view of lakes and islands as far as you could see. It was made even more exciting by the facts that I had no parachute, there was only one engine, there was no place to land if the motor conked, except on a lake. And we had no pontoons.

One other circumstance made the whole trip a good one. My fishing companion was Barry Wenger of Wingham, a friend of 25 years. It was just by accident we were thrown together, but I was glad. There's nothing quite so harrowing as spending two days in a boat with someone you get on your nerves.

Barry and I had a great time, talking about our grandchildren, and agreeing that we get bigger fish than this back on the Bruce Peninsula.

Halton once represented in Legislature by Premier

In the excitement of the current election campaign, few people realize that one premier of Ontario represented the riding of Halton.

But Morley Mills of Delrex Blvd. remembers when E. C. Drury, a Crown Hill farmer, was picked to lead the United Farmers of Ontario in 1919. Drury had not even won a seat in the provincial election but he was asked to form a government.

Sir Adam Beck, the party's first choice, laid down what were considered to be arrogant and unacceptable conditions, so Drury was asked to take the leadership. In order for him to sit in the Legislature it was necessary for a sitting member to resign and give his seat to Mr. Drury.

The sitting Halton Member was a Mr. Ford, a farmer, who either decided or was coerced into resigning and Mr. Drury represented the riding of Halton. As far as Mr. Mills knows there has never been another premier representing this riding although there have been cabinet ministers including the present two Progressive Conservative incumbents the Hon. Jim Snow and the Hon. George Kerr.

The United Farmers of

Ontario, a hastily conceived political arm of the farm movement was founded as a protest against Ottawa's conscription policy and because farmers felt there were too many lawyers and businessmen running the country. Premier Drury had the backing on only 43 U.F.O. men and 12 labor representatives in 1919 out of a total of 111 members but he accomplished much in his term of office.

Mr. Mills gives him credit for introducing many reforms into Ontario politics. His government began paving highways, reforestation of waste land, a meaningful workmen's compensation program and such social legislation as mother's allowances, the Adoption Act and the Dependent Parents' Act. Drury also passed legislation relieving the plight of children of unmarried mothers and encouraged the growth of Ontario's gold mining industry.

The government was marred by a scandal which sent the provincial treasurer to jail and Drury himself failed to counter a charge of extravagance centering on his purchase of a pair of brass coal scuttles, believe it or not. Actually a coal grate was bought which cost \$100, a pal-

try sum compared to the sums extravagantly bandied about today. It was enough to unseat the Government in conjunction with the promise of Howard Ferguson to repeal prohibition and permit the government sale of liquor. The farmers were buried under a landslide Ferguson victory.

Drury wanted the U.F.O. to seek a broader, more general based membership but the rank and file of the party disagreed and this also helped defeat the government.

There is a paradox in farm politics in Canada where farmers have been traditionally associated with conservatism both with and without the capital C. However, there have also been strong movements amongst the farm population which favored co-operative marketing and social welfare legislation.

Drury, a fierce opponent of socialism and an advocate of fewer government controls and legislation, was a controversial figure in his time and few people know he represented Halton as the Premier of Ontario.

Mr. Mills says it is a shame "We should be taught more about our own history," he says.

Falling leaves

The many people involved in producing a great fall fair are starting to wind up for their annual week of frenzy. It's rush, rush, rush from now on for the people who do so much work to make it all a huge success.

Friends were shocked to hear of the sudden death - together - of a fine Acton couple, Mr. and Mrs. Thys Oost. Their church, Beth-El Christian Reformed, was filled for the funeral last Thursday. The sorrow of the community was evident.

There's a new weekly newspaper in the neighborhood, called Guelph Life. It is published every Wednesday, with many feature stories, pictures and news articles about Guelph people.

One happy kid, loaded with Dawkins stickers and shopping bag, announced happily (albeit absolutely wrongly) "I'm a Liberal."

News missing from last week's paper can be blamed on slow mail delivery.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, September 22, 1955

Over 4,000 strolled through the attractive fair grounds Saturday when the weather matched the success of the whole 1955 endeavor. Stan Hall M.P.P. welcomed the crowds. Gate receipts of Saturday were \$1185, the highest ever. Hundreds of children marching in the parade were admitted free.

The Friday evening show was "the best in years" and about 1000 attended. A local entertainer was Mrs. John Lightle with her trained pony. The ladies in the hall were eager to see the winners in the Acton Creamery 112 cake contest. It was the first time that Mrs. Ward Howe, Esq., the winner, had entered anything in competition in the fair. The night school classes had an impressive display.

Town planning consultant A. Pearson was given the go-ahead last night to explore the possibilities of a new municipal building for Acton, also to study the feasibility of converting the present town hall to make room not only for a new fire hall but to include all municipal offices.

The July winner of the Victory trip to Ottawa, spoke to the Order of Deservants chapter of the U.F.O.

Acton merchants petition for more opening store hours to be added for the week, judging from information at a recent U.F.O. meeting indicated there was too much an agreement among the merchants. The petition calls for a by-law to change Saturday night opening to Friday night with the closing hour at 10 p.m. The U.F.O. closing petition to be the executive's job.

Acton System was a busy place at the 14 show store operated by the Free Press for the Maple Harvest was there. Mrs. Jean Lightle was in charge. Mrs. Jean Lightle was in charge. The show was free. The show of the day of the show. Mrs. Jean Lightle with the showery from the show.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press September 17, 1905

Mr. W. F. Moorey, who reported on the travelling and shooting business, is not leaving Acton but will continue to work on the business in Acton and the county.

Suffering from a severe stroke of the left leg sustained when a horse back which he was riding, fell on him at the Rockwood district, he is at the General Hospital, Guelph, in a critical condition. The accident occurred about eleven o'clock Wednesday morning of last week.

The annual Ontario Schools Athletic Meet will, this year, be held at Oakville on Saturday, September 26 at 10 p.m. Special events for the County of Halton rural schools only include a girls' 300 yard relay race, open and a boys' 100 yard dash open. One prize for each will be given by George Hillmer, M.P.P. and Dr. R. K. Anderson, M.P.

There have been numerous corn roasts about lately. They are proving very popular and from all the parties come reports of excellent times. Among these who have entertained in this manner are Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Kenyon, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spielvogel, Mr. George Bishop and Mr. Fred Wilks.

Councillor Thetford and Mrs. Thetford returned home after spending a very pleasant holiday with Mrs. Thetford's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dennett at Markdale. Mrs. Thetford also visited friends at Williamsford.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, of Thursday, September 20, 1900.

A strong team of cricketers came up from Georgetown to have a friendly match with Acton.

A large gathering of the faithful gathered at the G.T.R. station to catch a glimpse of Sir Charles Tupper as he passed by en route to the Conservative demonstration at Guelph. But he didn't come this way.

Following are the lengths of Acton Golf Links, 156 yards, 140 yards, 89 yards, 178 yards, 166 yards, 190 yards, 190 yards, 138 yards, and 74 yards. Four of the links require skillful driving from the teeing grounds and an experienced player who is champion of his district who played over the links last week declares they have no superior for the diversity of skill necessary for successful play over them. The course continues to grow in favor here. The course was located where Beardmore spraying beds are now.

Secretary Grant of Esquesing Agricultural Society has a poster announcing the exhibition on Friday, 8th October 1852. As Hall Esq. is the only officer now living. This year's exhibition is the 54th.

Mr. Geo. Cann has disposed of his store and post office at Creasons Corners to Mr. Robt. Cripps who takes possession at once. Mr. Cripps is one of our highly esteemed young men and will no doubt make a capital postmaster and storekeeper.

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Business and Editorial Office



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