

# Big, wet welcome for Santa

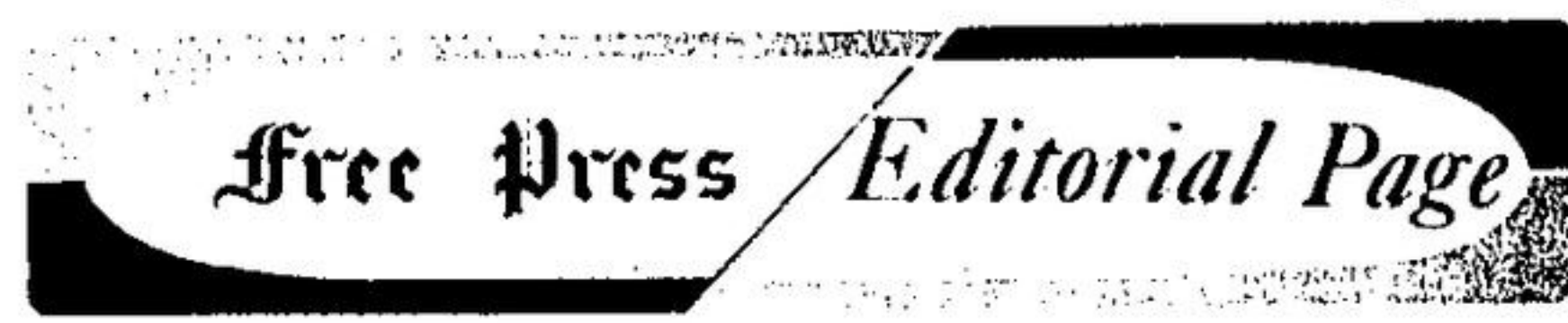
Bouquets of sparkling snowflakes to the organizers of Saturday's super Santa Claus parade! Nothing but praise was heard through town after the long, colorful procession of bands, floats and riders had passed by.

The Y's Men, who spearheaded the parade this year, encountered co-operation on all sides.

Despite the rain, ice and fog, participants and watchers all enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

It was particularly fitting to have one entry from a church, the Churchill Community church, which depicted a manger scene.

Talent, imagination, ingenuity, fun and willingness abounded to make Acton the place to be on Saturday afternoon.



## Second arena for Acton

Regional councillor Pat McKenzie tells us in a Letter to the Editor that a second arena for Acton has indeed been considered.

He says councillors hope arrangements can be made with the public school board so the arena could be built eventually on the site for the new high school.

Students in the M. Z. Bennett school, and the new senior public school in the former high school building, and high school students would all have easy access to this

new arena in the day time. It would be close by for all the people in the Glenlea and Bovis subdivisions, as well.

It would seem like an ideal proposal.

The day could come when there is a community centre in the countryside too, as the recreation advisory committee suggests. Rockwood has a similar hope with its recreation complex there.

Recreation has a popular appeal—if the money is available.

## Grouch? Make it formal

Councillor G. W. McKenzie wonders by way of print this week if people would like to read a column which would go into details on councils' discussions and decisions.

The Free Press thinks it's a splendid idea, and we hope to hear from other readers who agree.

Naturally Mr. McKenzie doesn't want to waste his time writing information no one would bother to read. But his Letter to the Editor today shows he has knowledge that

should indeed be passed on. A column would seem the best way to do it.

We think people are keenly interested in what councils do, and would indeed appreciate being given a closer understanding by someone so closely connected with both the regional and local workings of government.

We would also hope to have personal comments from councillors Hurst and Dudy, and from the Esquering councillor from this district, George Maltby, too, on matters of special concern.

Dr. Philbrook and Julian Reed also send us columns already.

## Another chance

Two weeks ago a questionnaire about garbage disposal came with The Free Press.

Now there's another opportunity—made easy—for people to express their opinions. Dr. Frank Philbrook, our Member of Parliament, has sent out to his constituents Reports from Parliament Hill. He starts with a letter, goes on to review the anti-inflation program, new housing program, summarize the first session of the House and list his activities in the constituency. He reports on his participation in parliament, pointing out he is presently working on negotiations to make Channel 17 continuously available

to Halton viewers. Another page is devoted to Canada World Youth participants, in which Canadians spend four months doing volunteer work in Canada and one of the Third World countries.

The last page contains the questionnaire, with the addresses to mail it to on the back.

Got some comments about the anti-inflation program? About the way the postal strike was handled? About anything else at all?

Put your complaints or praise on paper. Our elected Member of Parliament wants to hear from us personally.

## Love in all sizes, prices

It takes an effort at this time of year to make sure busy-ness doesn't overshadow the happiness of the Christmas season.

Some people are always complaining about the excesses of celebration these days. They say we are spending too much... eating too much... and so on.

However, it seems the reason for spending is the same old basic one—finding a way to express love and affection for other people. If we have enough money to be able to spend too much, we are living in lucky times.

Many people will take a great pride in home-made gifts. There never was a time they didn't. A perfect example is the gift carefully brought home from school, made laboriously and lovingly. Some of these gifts are saved for years.

Crafts, knitting, sewing, those crayoned bookmarks and felt-glued decorations are always popular.

People give gifts of baking and of flowers—individual ways of making the same statement of giving.

Each Christmas card brings pleasure—homemade or from a bargain box, hand delivered or

mailed unsealed. Here again pennies bring plenty of pleasure.

Many parents chose to buy gifts that were needed and save them for Christmas time. This way come the skates and skis, new clothes and books.

God gave his Son; the Wise Men brought treasured gifts.

Love comes wrapped in all sizes. "Giving" is what matters.

## Christmas baubles

If you're getting yourself all steeled up to quit smoking at New Year's, you may want to attend one of the smoking withdrawal clinics.

Christmas Seal contributions finance these clinics, and another one is being held in Burlington starting Jan. 5. See the Coming Events for more details.

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If you hear the sound of carols above the normal evening household noises Monday, look out the door and listen. The band will be carolling throughout the town.



M.Z. BENNETT SCHOOL children have decorated a Christmas tree and brought presents from home to give to needy children in the town. Grade six students also made a huge paper mache Santa Claus, painted him the appropriate colors and gave him the proper length of hair on

his chin. Left to right, Gordie MacArthur, Pierre Himeshazi, Lynn Gordon who were just a few of the making students building Santa and school custodian Doug Price, who was a contributing factor in the building of Santa Claus. Both sit in the front foyer of the school.



## Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

Although it is a couple of weeks since Trudeau's Thanksgiving Threat, there is still a rumblin' an' a tumblin' in the atmosphere, bad vibes bouncing off good vibes, and vice versa. Certainly, it was an eventful evening in Canada's history.

First, there was the Prime Minister himself. Gone were the charismatic grin, the flip retort, the eloquent Gallic shrug that seems to say, "Just because you are stupid..."

Full-face, he appeared almost fat, and almost frightened. The lean, sardonic look was absent.

He looked like a city boy with the reins in his hands of a runaway team, hoping desperately that some innocent bystanders (you and I?) would jump out and help bring the runaways to a halt.

What he said was OK, and the whole country was behind him, except for the doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, construction bosses, labor leaders, landlords, and every worker in the country whose demand for a forty per cent increase had not yet been settled by a contract.

But it was the way he said it that turned me off. What should have been a ringing appeal to a nation came out with the blood-lingling effect of a symphony played on a kazoo.

What should have made us gird up our loins and fight on the beaches and in the bedrooms and in the beer parlours, left me feeling rather flat, forlorn and flightless.

Somehow, I could not identify with this rich, brilliant man whose early idealism has hardened into the familiar but ugly mold of political expediency.

Where, I thought, as he solemnly told us that we had a bad case of galloping inflation and must stop being so greedy, where have he and his musical-chairs cabinet been for the past three or four years, in a sound-proof shelter?

This, I said to Bill Smiley, the only person who ever pays any attention to me, this is not leadership. This is panic.

Instead of a government that is ready to roll up its sleeves, rally the people behind it, and attack the enemy, we have a government that is trying to win the war with band-aids and cosmetics to cover the wounds. Which go right on suppurating beneath them.

This is the government that gave MP's a 50 per cent pay increase to "catch up" on inflation, and now tells lesser mortals they may have ten per cent.

This is the government that thoroughly and utterly botched the estimates of Canada's oil and gas reserves.

This is the government that stood around wringing its hands and uttering plaintive little mewls while those two giants, Big Business and Big Labor, put John Q. Public through the wringer of a vicious wage and price spiral.

This is the government from which its ablest cabinet member resigned recently from the financial portfolio, probably because he doesn't go for that old guff of staying on the bridge of a sinking ship.

Yes, this is the government which mocked and scorned and thus defeated Robert Stanfield a while back when he showed enough guts to urge price and wage controls. And this is the government which, without even a blush of shame, now snatches the biggest plank from that honest man's platform, to cling to in the stormy seas battering the economy.

I hate to remind you, chaps, but this is the government to which you and I (all right then, all those other dummies) gave a majority last time around.

Within hours after his solemn warnings and hints of dire punishments, the long-suffering public, which thought it had seen a glimpse of steel beneath the pap, learned that there were "exceptions" to the rules. Mr. Trudeau's strong medicine turned out to nothing but milk. And watered milk, at that.

Oh, there are going to be interesting times ahead, waiting to see which powerful group in this greedy time shall be the first to defy the controls and tell the government to go to hell.

That front-running group will undoubtedly, after making a few fast millions, get a terrific slap on the wrist with a feather, and receive a crushing fine of maybe \$500. That's what happens to big industry caught polluting.

Just remember, when your friendly family doctor plunges a needle into your arm with unaccustomed ferocity, he really isn't meaning to hurt you. He's just pretending you are Pierre Trudeau.

I don't know about you, but I don't know whether to laugh or cry over the terrible austerity, the fearful sacrifices Canadians must face—at 10 per cent per annum.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Parade committee sums up

On behalf of the Santa Claus Parade Committee and the children of Acton, whatever their age may be - many thanks. I would like to begin by thanking the judges, Elsie Syme, Helen Joque, Julian Reed and Tom Hill who accomplished the difficult task of choosing the three best floats. Chosen were Speyside School, 1st, Churchill Community Church 2nd and the Acton Skating Club 3rd.

Recognition is to be given the Acton Y's Men and the Y's Menettes for their work in organizing the parade and Santa at the Y. The committee were greatly assisted in the parade by Mrs. Dana Coats. There is a special appreciation for the Acton Volunteer Fire Dept. for their three entries and for the marshalling of the parade. The police department are to be commended for their fine service and the Acton Citizen's Band could have only enhanced their performance, by playing "Singing in the Rain".

A merry "thanks" to Santas' helpers, Bert Robertson for all his work both on the cutter and in the parade, also to Ron Douglas for his Ho Ho's at the Y. The Guides and Brownie Leaders and the Hangers showed a great deal of patience in serving hot chocolate to over 300 of the marchers. The committee wishes to thank the Acton Free Press for the publicity which we feel created much support. To all who participated in the parade and who gave so generously of their time and effort - we applaud you.

There were also those who contributed financially. Our contributions totalled \$598.75 and our expenditures at the present time are \$375.00 we expect to have a balance of approximately \$200.00. With this and your continued support we hope to make Christmas 1976 bigger and better.

Merry Christmas to All and to All a Goodnight. Santa Claus Parade Committee Chairman Tom Madrick. DONATIONS ACTON SANTA CLAUS PARADE FUND. Y's Men's Club 100.00, Acton Agricultural Society 50.00, Bank of Montreal 20.00, Bank of Nova Scotia 20.00, Lovell Meats 20.00, A & B Supermarket 15.00.

T. D. Bank 15.00, Bank of Commerce 15.00, IGA 15.00, MacKenzie Buildall 15.00, Halton Hill Furniture 12.50, Pete's Barber Shop 10.00, Watson's Restaurant 10.00, Hinton's 10.00, Royal Cafe 10.00, Music Shop 10.00, Family Cleaners 10.00, Acton Home Furnishings 10.00, Acton Home Hardware 10.00, Village Variety 10.00, Toddlers to Teens 10.00, Carpet Corner 10.00, Sweetman's Shoes 10.00, Moss Pro Hardware 10.00, Nielsen Clothing 10.00, Acton Pharmacy 10.00, Rachlin Jewellery 10.00, Foodland 10.00, Glenlea Drug Mart 10.00, L & J Motors 10.00, Holland Shop 5.00, John Hoare Texaco 5.00, Grant Motors 5.00, Lakeview Centre 10.00. Total 512.50. Acton Legion Ladies' Aux. candy canes 75.00, Mrs. C. K. Browne Variety Shop (hot chocolate) 11.25, Total 598.75.

### Christmas bus

The Christmas bus is running now, for the benefit of townspeople. So if you're travelling through town, take advantage of the businessmen's gift and hop aboard.

And don't forget, if you're drinking these holiday evenings, to call the taxi. The taxi drivers feel they are in business here too, and the bus is taking some of it away from them.

They work long and unpopular hours—New Year's Eve, for instance—and provide very necessary service year-round.

## The Free Press Back Issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, December 22, 1955

A small Christmas tree, a TV set, four chairs and a charred blanket are the only possessions left an unemployed Esquering carpenter, his wife and their two young daughters one of them ill after flames levelled their modest home into the snow Tuesday morning. Firemen from Acton and Georgetown could do nothing to save the small, bath board house built by Tom Munt a few months ago.

Engraved watches were presented to two men when Baxter Laboratories annual Christmas party was held. About 50 employees enjoyed turkey dinner in the Y.M.C.A. on Friday. Members of the Y Ladies' Auxiliary entered. Both Henry Jolley and Clarence Rogswaldson were honored for ten years' service with the plant when Bill Benson made the presentation of watches to them.

The Women's Missionary Society of the United Church met at the home of Mrs. A. Long on Tuesday of last week with the president, Miss M. Z. Bennett, presiding. A two minute silence was observed in memory of the late Mrs. P. A. Smith, a very faithful member. Worship services were taken by Mrs. D. Binne, Miss D. Simmons, Miss M. Manly, Mrs. J. Moore, Miss E. Hawthorne and Mrs. C. W. Mason.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 17, 1925.

Very impressive and interesting indeed was the visit of Grand Lodge Officers to Walker Lodge and the ceremony of dedication of the new lodge room. This attendance was larger than at any previous gathering of Walker Lodge in its history of over half a century.

The rental in connection with the fine new pipe organ at Knox church on Tuesday evening was accorded a great reception by a large audience.

Sunday, December 13, 1925, will long be remembered by the members of Knox Church, Acton, as the date when the fine new pipe organ was opened and formally dedicated to the worship of God. The congregations were large both morning and evening.

The installation of the organ necessitated the re-arrangement of the pulpit platform and choir seats. Mr. Salt, the organist, with persistent effort to master all details is making fine progress. A unique birthday party was celebrated at the parsonage of the United Church to celebrate the birthdays of Mrs. (Rev.) Zimmerman, the minister's wife, of Miss Fern Brown, the church organist, and Mr. A. T. Brown, the superintendent of the Sunday School.

The prize winners at Rockwood fair have received word they will receive only 50 cents on the dollar this year.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 9, 1875.

We have received a copy of a Bill introduced in the Ontario legislature respecting elections which seem to follow the United States custom of offering the elective franchise to every male resident twenty-one years of age without respect to property or income qualifications. We hardly think the country is ripe for such a radical element in our election law and it is scarcely probable that such an innovation would find many supporters in the House. The law which has just come into force giving the franchise to persons assessed on an income of \$400 a year approaches quite near enough to universal suffrage.

Thirty-seven large sharks were recently captured near the mouth of the Saguenay. It is suggested this accounts for the failure of the salmon take last season.

At a public meeting held in Matthews hall Saturday evening a committee was appointed to make arrangements for securing a suitable place for social gathering and reading room. Mr. Kelly's vacant store was proposed but it has already been leased for a tin shop.

Our Merchants have agreed to close their stores at 8 o'clock, prompt, each evening except Saturday, until the 1st of January. After that date they will close at half-past seven.

Second Bros have just received a beautiful lot of brilliant, useful and cheap Christmas presents, such as Silver Watches and Clocks, Caskets, Magnificent China Tea and Toilet sets, splendid Table Cutlery, Gold and Silver Finger Rings, also the newest and most brilliant things in Glass Table Sets, and Cups and Saucers for ladies and gents, and a thousand other things.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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