

Free Press Editorial Page

Restraint extends far

Mayor Tom Hill predicted Halton Hills is going to have to tighten its collective belt in 1976 because of recent announcements from Queen's Park and he has a moot point when he suggested the policy of restraint advocated at both federal and provincial levels won't work unless it is also applied to boards of education.

"If the province doesn't clamp down on school boards, when they are clamping down on municipalities, it can't work," he says with some justification.

One may or may not agree with the views held by members of Renaissance who feel the Halton Board of Education is spending half a million dollars for a new headquarters foolishly, but certainly under the new guidelines the spending is suspect, especially if it means postponing projects such as a much needed new high school for Acton, while the board builds a lease for an empire.

Restraint as we interpret it is spending only what is necessary without being parsimonious or mean. It doesn't mean postponing necessities at the expense of frills. However, all the restraint is not

the responsibility of boards of education. Municipal politicians must think along the same lines, postponing frills and projects which can wait. For instance, Halton Hills could quite easily get along with the present headquarters set-up until such time as finances and circumstances dictate new centralized quarters. The present set-up may be inconvenient but it is working well enough for the present.

Someday, centralized headquarters may well be necessary but with the suspicion and fear citizens have generated about big government and huge expenditures now is certainly not the time to move.

Restraint could also be beneficial in the form of reduced taxes, a feature taxpayers have not enjoyed for some time although tax increases in Halton Hills have been modest and a tribute to the acumen of the town's financial stability.

It should never mean a drop in quality of service although the number of services supplied by a municipality might have to be reduced.

Restraint is not a freeze—it is prudence walking with wisdom.

Strong Chamber needed

The Chamber of Commerce should be one of the most necessary and vital organizations in town, since the onset of regional government. The nominating committee states the case well in a Letter to the Editor today.

The Chamber is a group that is open to anyone in Acton and

district and its aims are important. It can speak for the town when there is no council.

Yet, as usual, there is a reluctance to serve sometimes. How else can Acton's feelings be expressed than through the Chamber... or through the pages of the Free Press?

How safe is the ice?

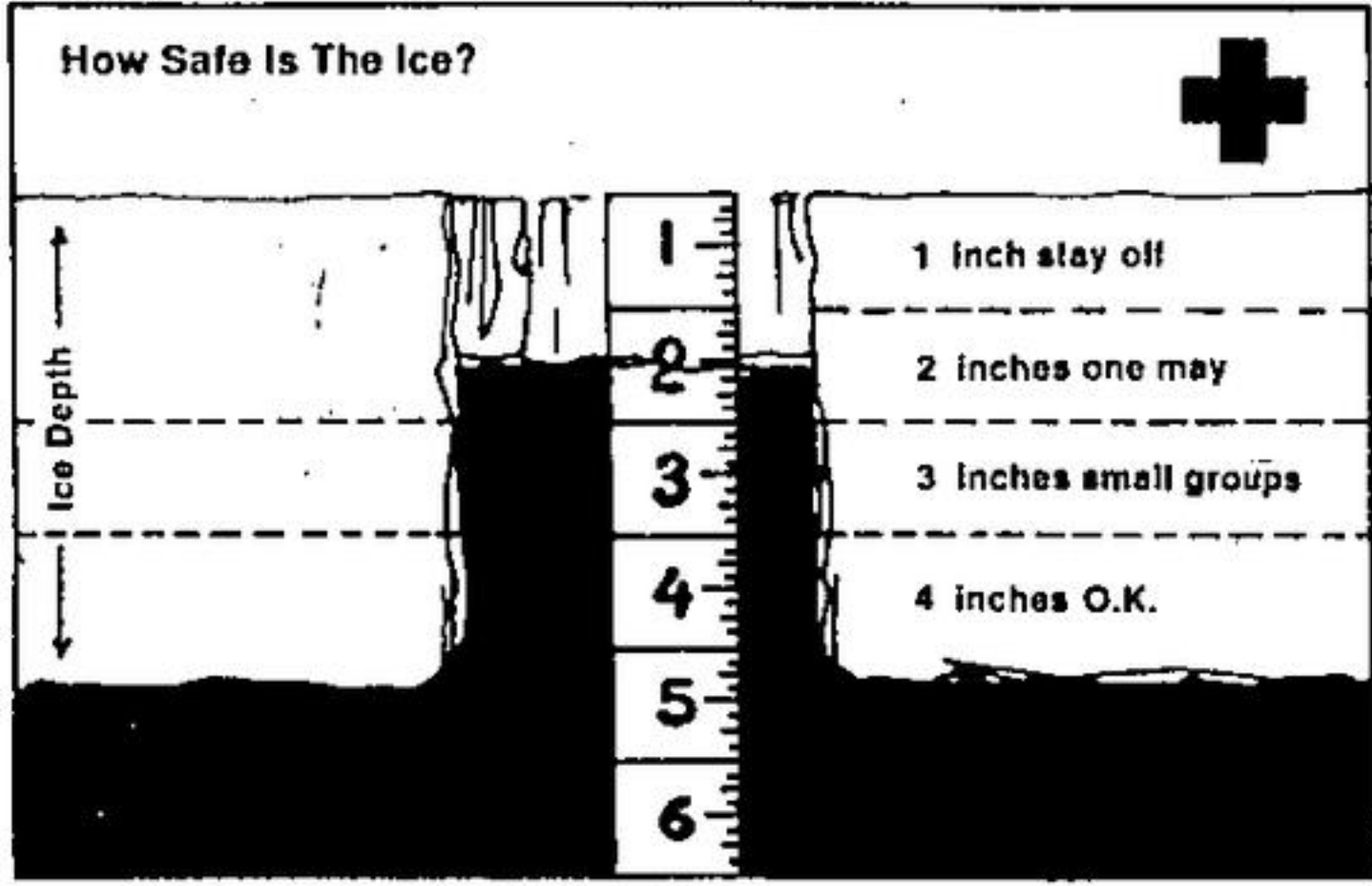
Every year there is concern over the ice safety at Fairy Lake.

The sparkling purity of a fresh blanket of snow covering an icy river, stream or lake can be deceptively inviting. We all become eager to try out new skates or the latest model snowmobile. But our haste can lead to tragic mishaps.

The Canadian Red Cross Water

hour. And never skate or snowmobile alone.

If you should fall in, don't panic. Extend your hands and arms onto the ice surface before you. Gently kick your legs out behind you to a level position and slide or squirm forward to safety. DO NOT STAND! Your concentrated weight can cause the ice to break. A fall through the ice is not always fatal,



Safety Service urges you to think twice before you try the ice.

Remember to check both ice thickness and weather conditions.

You can measure the thickness by cutting a hole in the ice. Make sure the ice is at least four inches thick for group skating and hockey. Ice seven to eight inches thick is required for ice boating, snowmobiling and similar activities because of the extra weight.

Ice over large bodies of water, or rivers with currents, or on salt water is likely to be unsafe. Currents can erode and melt ice from below. Extra caution is necessary around moving currents because it is here that it is easiest to become trapped if you fall through and fail to surface in the same spot.

In Fairy Lake, the bubblers keep the water open all winter.

Watch for dark spots which generally indicate weakened ice. And stay close to shore. Ice in the centre tends to be thinner.

Always check weather conditions. Be extra careful during early and late winter when ice thaws and re-freezes. Remember that ice weakens under midday sun. Make sure the ice you played hockey on last evening is just as sturdy today when you skate during your lunch

but it can be an extremely shocking experience. A plunge into icy water causes muscles to contract. Blood circulations slows down and body temperature falls rapidly. When your core body temperature drops from its normal 37 degrees C. (98.6 degrees F) to around 30 degrees C (85 degrees F) your life is in danger.

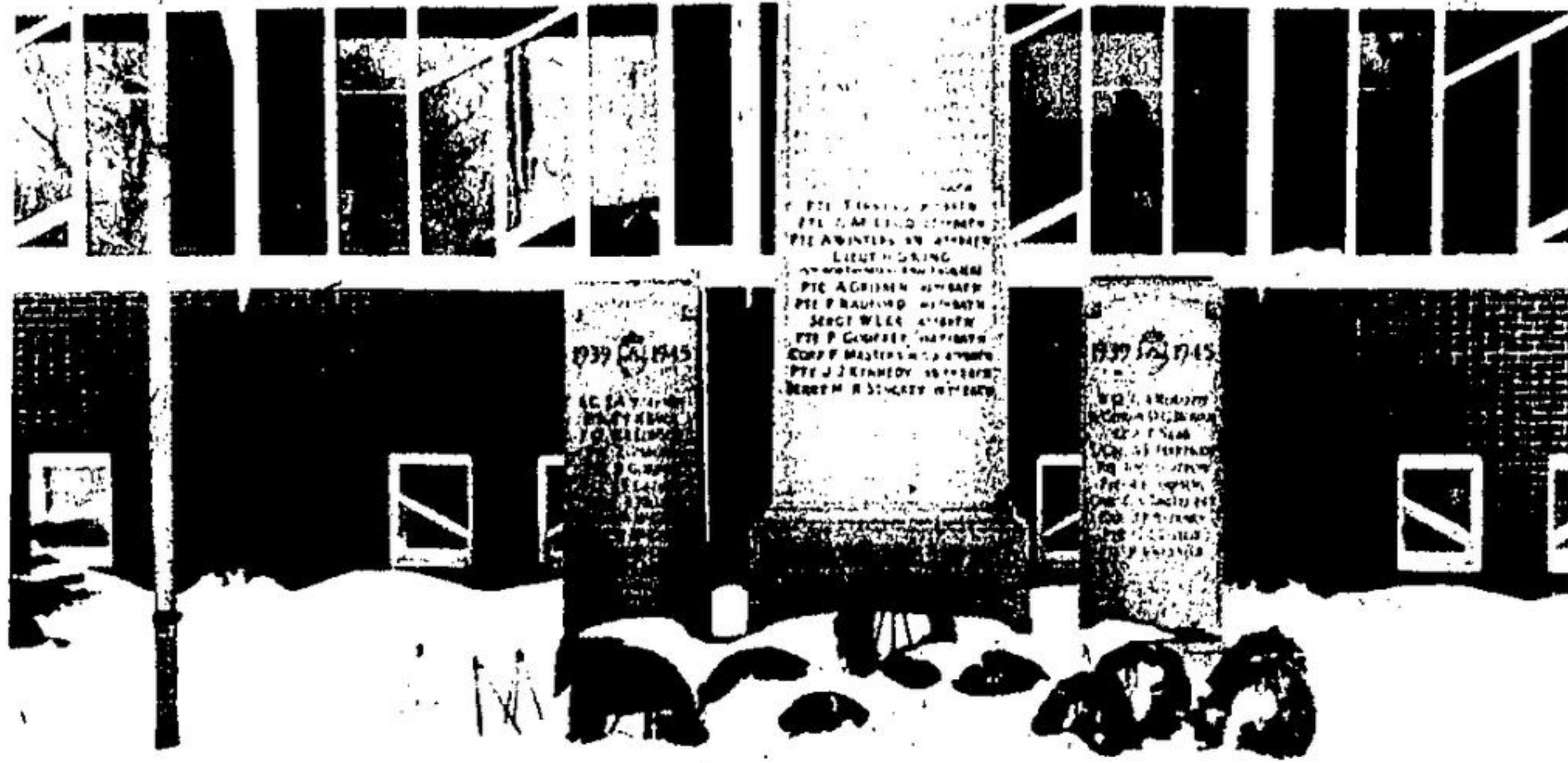
New faces of 1976

People seemed to enjoy seeing all the faces in the big "76" on the front page last week. Did anybody spot Prince Phillip? He was there, too.

Ab Irwin had his picture taken at the Legion standing in front of Prince Phillip's portrait, so the both of them were included in the year-end picture bash.

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God bless thy year!
Thy coming in, thy going out,
Thy rest, thy travelling about.
The rough, the smooth,
The bright, the drear,
God bless thy year!"



Lest we forget

BEDRAGGLED WREATHS, PLACED at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day, lie at awkward angles beneath drifts of snow. The ribbons are

sodden, the poppies tattered. Some stands bear no wreaths at all now.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

We are well into another season of what passes these days for that once-thrilling Canadian sport of hockey.

Far more interesting than being a spectator at games will be watching from the sidelines some renewed and determined attempts to decrease the potential mayhem in the former sport.

As any intelligent eight-year-knows, hockey is no longer a sport, it is an entertainment, superior to professional wrestling in this department only because it is faster, bloodier, and most of the participants, though not all, are not fat and middle-aged. Some are fat and young.

Some are also middle-aged. Some are old enough to be grandfathers. And 80 per cent of the so-called athletes in this new form of Grand Guignol vaudeville are grossly over-paid.

A few discerning sports writers, and a good many former fans of the game, are sick at heart over what has happened to what was once the fastest and most thrilling game on earth.

The great majority of the so-called fans, however, along with most sports writers and nearly all of management, deride any attempt to restore the skills and thrills of what used to be the most skillful and thrilling sport of them all — professional hockey.

Perhaps that is because the current crop of fans consists of yahoos looking for blood, the sports writers are sycophants looking for an angle, and the owners are stupid, as they have always been, looking only for a buck.

At any rate, Ontario has a new Attorney-General, Roy McMurtry, a former athlete of some ability, and he is determined to stamp out the viciousness that has turned pro hockey into a Roman circus.

He had the appalling audacity to declare publicly that assault and battery on the ice would be treated the same as it is on the streets, with a criminal charge.

He took the unparalleled step of putting cops in the arenas and laying charges against the goons who try to decapitate an opponent with a stick, or emerge from a sparring duel with the enemy's guts wrapped around the point of their sticks.

McMurtry is making political hay out of it, but I, and a host of others, don't care, and say: "Go to it, boy!"

As expected, his edicts have been greeted with hoots of scorn by the yahoos, the sycophants and the manipulators.

Or as Variety, the showbiz magazine, might put it in one of its succinct headlines: "HOCK JOCKS MOCK SOCKS." Translated, that would mean that hockey people make fun of any attempt to stop the fighting and violence in the game.

Solidly behind McMurtry, however, is a majority of the people remotely interested in the game: the better sports writers, who have seen it go steadily downhill; kids who want to play hockey for fun, without being terrorized; parents of kids who play hockey; real fans of the game, who have seen their favorite sport turned into a carnage of clowns.

Surely even the robber barons of hockey, the owners, with their 19th century mentality, can see the handwriting on the

wall, large and clear. The game is going down the drain.

Let me give some frinstances. When I was a youth, our town had a Junior A team. They played it fast and tough and clean. The referees jumped on slashing, spearing, boarding, kneeling. Fights were infrequent. In a town of 4,000 there were 1,500 at every game. A hundred cars would accompany the fans to play-off games 50 miles away.

Today, I live in a town of 11,000 which boasts a pretty fair Junior B team. The crowds at games run around two or three hundred.

Hockey Night In Canada used to bind this whole nation together, from radio

days well into television. Its ratings have dropped disastrously.

What's happened? A lot of things. First, the quality has gone down and the price has gone up. That's a no-no in any business.

Sixty per cent of the pros today couldn't have made a fair-to-middling senior amateur team 25 years ago.

Arena owners, egged on by greedy players and those parasites, their agents, have hoisted the cost of tickets to the point where ticket scalpers are committing suicide.

But most important of all, the sheer viciousness of today's game, with its Nazi storm-trooper techniques, its open support of "intimidation", its appalling message for young players that violence beats skill and speed, has made a great segment of real fans turn their backs on it in disgust.

When the players are all millionaires, and the arenas are half empty, maybe the morons who control the sport will get the message.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Chamber important mouthpiece

Letter to the editor
January 1975

Dear Editor:

The Acton Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting will take place Monday, January 19, and officers for the new year will be elected. The Acton Chamber has a history of civic participation of great significance. Several of its presidents became mayors of the town, others councillors, members of boards and committees.

The Chamber has advised the town in many matters, often in the form of submissions or petitions. Creative and positive exchanges between Chamber members and politicians as well as town staff often take place from day to day.

Since Acton has become part of the town of Halton Hills this role is more important than ever before.

We are well represented by three experienced men, and I am sure that our council and our mayor have all the good will in the world toward the Acton community, but they are loaded with work. Their concern must be for all of Halton Hills' 33,000 people and in order that they may be enabled to make the best decisions, they should have all the help that citizens and organizations can provide.

The Acton Chamber of Commerce could very well become that most important mouthpiece for all the people of Acton. Therefore anyone who wishes to contribute to their community should take an interest and offer their help to the Acton Chamber of Commerce.

The Nominating Committee—
Jake Kulken, Paul Nielsen,
David Sweetman, Bill Yundt.

Help with resolutions

Need help making a New Year's resolution?

Quit smoking—sure—that's an old one.

Here are a few suggestions... not original... but clipped-out of Murray Scoyne's Ridgetown Dominion.

seek out a forgotten friend
mend a quarrel
dismiss suspicion, replace it with trust

write a letter
share your treasures
encourage youth
give soft answers
manifest your loyalty in word and deed
find the time

forego a grudge
forgive an enemy
listen

apologize if you are wrong
examine your demands
try to understand
think first of others
be kind
be gentle
laugh a little
laugh again
take up arms against malice
decry complacency
express gratitude
welcome a stranger
gladden the heart of a child
take pleasure in beauty
respect the wonder of the earth
speak your love
speak it again

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

20 Years Ago Today
Taken from the issue of the Free Press, January 12, 1956

Miss Ellen Anderson told of the life in British Guiana and her work there when she was guest speaker at the weekly Rotary club meeting Tuesday. She also showed slides of the country.

The neighbors dropped in for a surprise tea when Mrs. Peter Sayers observed her 90th birthday on Saturday. Quite active for her years, Mrs. Sayers now joins the list of Acton's several nonagenarians.

In 1955 there were 34 births and 40 deaths registered in Acton. These figures do not represent a complete birth and death record for the municipality. Children born in other localities of Acton parents, are registered at the place of birth. Burial certificates taken out here include deceased persons from nearby municipalities.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Leslie are among those who will be spending some of the winter months in Florida. They left this week.

Levio, aged five, was hospitalized after he slid under the wheels of a truck at his home at the Lime Kilns, Friday of last week. Police stated that a bread truck driven by William Coulter of Campbellville was backing out of the lane and Levio slipped on some ice, falling under the front wheels of the truck.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 7, 1925
(Four pages in this issue)

Citizens generally will appreciate and endorse the action of council Monday evening in purchasing the combination motor hose truck and chemical fire engine. Council is determined to meet the cost of this new equipment, \$1,100 from current revenues, and without increase in the rate of taxation.

The truck will be purchased from the town of Mount Dennis.

Nearly 41 years after the death of her husband, the late Robert Little, his widow passed away. Her death occurred in Los Angeles Old Ladies' Hospital. She had suffered much but in the last few days was in a comatose condition. The funeral took place Dec. 28. There were no relatives of Mrs. Little's at her death bed nor at her funeral. Her sister died several years ago and her niece and nephew, who reside at Pasadena, California, failed to attend the funeral although notice was sent to them.

The family settled in Acton between 60 and 70 years ago and lived on Bower Ave. when she was married to Robert Little, who was principal of Acton school from 1863 to 1872. He was inspector of Halton county school from 1872 to 1885.

Mr. Little was buried in Fairview cemetery. He died in his palatial residence which stood on the property now included in the Acton Athletic Association grounds.

The local hockey season opened on New Year's evening with Milton providing the opposition. Acton was defeated 4:3 in 20 minutes overtime. The Acton team has real natty new sweaters.

With indomitable pluck Miss Craig, the principal of Acton high school, came back for the opening of school Monday. Her injured ankle has made remarkable progress but she is still going about on crutches.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 30, 1875

It is customary for country papers to suspend publication entirely during the Christmas week, in order to give the printers a rest from their arduous labors. We trust our readers will accept this half sheet (two pages) as a sort of compromise between a whole one and none at all.

Candidates for election: for Reeve — D. Henderson and Dr. McGarvin. For Councillors—Speight, Nicklin, Secord, Smith, Christie and Hamilton.

Both Messrs. Henderson and McGarvin were prime movers in the incorporation of the village three years ago.

Dr. McGarvin having been two years on council gave a financial statement showing a balance on hand of \$798.66. Taxes collected \$1545.65; municipal loan fund \$1545.65; licenses \$150; interest on loan \$75.21; statute labor \$36; clergy reserve fund \$29.25; government grant \$123; fines \$24.75.

Cash paid out, for school purposes \$1676.23, streets, sidewalks etc. \$555.07; officers' salaries etc. \$127; charities \$81.80; contingencies \$136. He said the amount paid for school purposes appeared to be high but the Trustees came to council and said they must have so much, and the council had no alternative. Our school was large, and we had three teachers and every department was full.

The Free Press carrier boys wish to say to their village patrons that their annual addresses will be delivered tomorrow. A small douceur will be thankfully received.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Business and Editorial Office



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