

OUR READERS WRITE:

Coffee now, beer bottle later

Apt. 807
2195 Jane Street,
Downsview, Ontario,
Jan. 27, 1976
M3M 1A3

The Acton Free Press,
Haltoun Hills (Acton)
Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Kindly accept from my sister Katie and myself our sincere thanks and appreciation for your interest in things of the past as far as Acton is concerned, and its children, which we were in that era 1900.

My Dad was a stone mason and it seems that he liked the idea of leaving some memento in what he built. I know of one home in Toronto where he had all the workmen on the job sign their name on a piece of paper, he got the daily paper, a bottle of beer, and some bottle caps, and in the corner of that house maybe some day in the future someone will find that.

I do visit one of my lifelong Prouttown neighbors, who is Mr. Charlie Green of Rockwood, and Mr. Ray Agnew of Acton. If there is any way that I could assist the Acton Free Press, or any individual of the past as far as my home town is concerned, I will be only too willing to assist them.

My sister Katie and I live in Toronto; Sarah lives between seasons in Streetsville, Ont. and Florida. Emily moved to Burnaby B.C., many years ago, and is now residing in a nursing home. George (Casey) has passed away.

The McLeod boys' names, if my memory serves me right, were Gordon and Norman.

The memory of the past has been brought back by a note in a Camp's Coffee bottle, maybe in the future a bottle of beer will have come to the front.

Many thanks for your interest, and also Mr. Hofstede for bringing this to our attention.

Sincerely,
Chas. E. (Whitey) Caswell.



HOME OF MR. AND Mrs. Bert Hofstede on Scene Street has sparked a lot of reader interest of late. Mr. Hofstede found a note in a bottle when replacing an upstairs window. The note described life as it was in 1911 and named many people's first names and last initials. After the story appeared in the Free Press early in January, this paper received phone calls and letters about the story and the names in the note. This week, a letter was received from the family who put the bottle in the window so many years ago—the Caswells.

The wolf bounty

Re: The Wolf Bounty

I am very much disturbed by the vote in favour of reintroducing the wolf bounty in Erin Township. The wolf has always received poor press, most of which is unwarranted. Many people cling to their "Little Red Riding Hood" notions and ignore recent and enlightened research. Television documentaries such as The Wolf Men and Death of a Legend, and Farley Mowat's book Never Cry Wolf are a sincere attempt to educate the public. But this takes time and meanwhile, the wolf's life, and in some areas, very existence, is in jeopardy.

I sympathize with the individual who loses livestock to wild animals. I also understand the township's concern over payment for these losses. However, surely the wolf bounty is not the only answer. It encourages the irresponsible to shoot anything resembling a wolf whether it is guilty or not in order to collect the bounty. A family's German shepherd, out to do his morning's business, is as likely to be shot as the wolf. To illustrate the difficulty in identifying a wolf is the following article taken from the Kitchener-Waterloo Record, December 1975:

"Betty Cumpson, Kingston Township's

new dog-catcher had difficulty Thursday distinguishing a wolf from a dog.

"Mrs. Cumpson said provincial police called her to pick up an animal that had been hit by a car. She found the animal lying on the road, but it ran away as she approached. Mrs. Cumpson chased it through several fields and avoided several attempts by the animal to bite her before finally managed to get a muzzle and chain on it.

"She didn't learn until later that it was a wolf, not a German Shepherd. I wasn't frightened because I thought it was a dog, she said. "If I had known it was a wolf, I might not have been so brave."

Also, the delicate ecological balance of nature has been sufficiently tampered with and upset by man without furthering this process.

Surely our objective would be to devise a system that will provide for the control of problem animals only rather than the indiscriminate killing of all. Should we not reach for this goal rather than settle for an outdated method that has been shown lacking for many reasons.

In my opinion the members of council who voted in favour of the bounty showed moral and environmental irresponsibility. Judy Woodburn

Now and then

We were standing at the "mission" in line to get some "crumbs" We were the poor and that's for sure. We got the name of "bums".

With no thoughts of turning hostile, Against the fold who "had" No thoughts of pranks, or robbing banks, We were simply poor and sad.

Our clothes were thin and scanty, We were not the "Social Set". Our youth was old, and we were cold, As crumbs we hoped to get.

We were the unimportant, There was "Willie", "Joe" and "Bob" Who got our fare, just anywhere, With no hopes of a job.

But then, the country needed, Every able bodied "Joe", To fight and keep the freedom, So, we found a place to go.

We all got nice warm clothing, Good food and lots to spare, Our hungry souls, came from the holes, We were hiding in despair.

But, now our social life has changed, For everyone to see, For every man a "Masterplan" Is built in U.I.C.

But, we'll still go on improving, Thanks to our "labor-brains" Though we got the hikes from labor-strikes, We got some needless pains.

Victor Smith,
R.R. 2, Rockwood

HRCA cuts boards

In an effort to save money The Halton Region Conservation Authority is doing away with two advisory boards. Information-education and historic sites have been dropped.

Retained are conservation areas, water control, fill and flood-plain and land use.

More grass fires than anything else

Grass fires lead the way in fire calls made by the Acton Volunteer fire department last year.

Acton, part of Erin Township and part of Milton (Nassagaweya) are serviced in fire area one.

In a special report made to the General Administration Committee by Fire Chief Mick Holmes, it was reported that there were 16 grass fires in

the area. Ten of these were in Acton and six in Milton.

House fires accounted for 10 of the department's 64 calls during the year. Five of the fires were in Acton, three in Erin and two in Milton.

There were eight car fires responded to by the Acton department, seven in Acton and one in Milton. Chimney fires were the

next on the list, with a total of six. Four of these were in Acton, and one each for Erin and Milton.

Fire department assistance was needed five times over the year for car accidents. Three were in Acton and two in Milton.

False alarm Three fire alarms, two in Acton and one in Milton, saw the volunteers ready for action when there wasn't any. Other fires were: two grease, two garbage containers, two oil tanks, two barns, one truck, one garage, one dump, and one chlorine leak.

Total estimated fire loss was \$27,000 in the 64 calls.

360 extra seats on Georgetown GO

Some of the crowding on Georgetown GO trains was relieved last month with the arrival of eight more cars and more help is on the way.

GO spokesman Tom Henry said this week eight extra cars arrived in January when GO started using double decker trains on its lakeshore routes. Five of the eight additional rail cars were used to replace the old Polar Bear Express cars which have been returned to North Bay.

Since a GO car holds more people than one of the Polar Bear coaches, the increase with eight more GO cars has provided an additional 360 seats a day on Georgetown GO trains, solving some of the standing room problems which have cropped up in recent months since average daily patronage on Georgetown GO trains has zoomed past the 4,000 mark.

There are 276 extra seats for passengers in the morning

but only 88 additional seats at night.

Winners

There were several lower-category winners in the Olympic draw in the district.

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Council privileges and pay

Rockwood, Ontario. N0B 2K0.
February 1, 1976.

To the Council Members of Eramosa Township, c/o Clerk Lloyd Hindley, Township Office, R.R. No. 1, Rockwood, Ontario.

Dear Sirs and Madam,

I should like to comment on the proposed change in the salary-stipend system, about which I read in the local newspaper.

At present, I believe, councillors receive a flat salary for attending council meetings to do the work needed to manage our Township; they do this on behalf of the taxpayers who elected them. However, if there are more than 24 meetings in the year, they receive an extra sum for each extra meeting of council. In this way they are recompensed for any loss or inconvenience the extra meetings cause them.

The councillors also represent the taxpayers on other boards and they attend these meetings as well on behalf of the public. At present they are not paid for these meetings. These meetings are for committee meetings of the Recreation Board, Lions Club, the Finance, Agriculture, Social Service, or other Committees. Each one of the councillors now may be on two or more of these committees. The change in the system concerns the proposed change in which the councillors would be paid for each and every meeting they attend, whether it be a regular council meeting, or a committee meeting of some other Board.

It has been argued that the total sum paid under such a proposed system would be less than the present system. I wish to disagree. The very fact that members would be paid by attendance would only encourage attendance at as many meetings as possible for the sake of extra income. I do not accuse the members of being abnormally greedy; I merely state that this is a fact of everyman's nature; it is Man's humanity to be such.

Also I feel that the other persons on the committee are not paid as they are usually volunteers, thus it would be unfair to pay the council representatives. Besides I do not feel that this system would encourage restraint as we are continually being encouraged to practise.

Since the council members knew they would have to attend these meetings when they were electioneering, it is wrong to now object to the work. Non-members of the

council would consider it a privilege to be appointed to these committees and boards. Taxpayers are also pleased to have councillors representing them in this way. I do not think privileges need to be paid, they are in themselves payment enough.

I trust I have made my point clear, i.e. I do not think the present system of salary-stipend should be altered.

Yours truly,
Mrs. S. Drijber,
P.O. Box 43, Mary Str.,
Rockwood, Ont. N0B 2K0.

Drive-in rejected

The O.M.B. turned down the application for a drive-in theatre in Ashgrove. The word was received Tuesday morning in a five and a half page decision.

Ashgrove residents strenuously opposed the proposal at the O.M.B. hearing heard in December.

The decision said the board appreciated drive-ins must be located in undeveloped areas, but said there are much better locations than prime agricultural land.

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