

Don't split the riding

Mayor Tom Hill is urging people in Halton Hills to fill in the coupon in last week's paper objecting to the splitting of Halton Hills in the new electoral boundaries decision.

Surely the decision to put Georgetown in with Brampton, leaving Acton in with Oakville, Milton and a few rural areas, is a foolish one.

One government forces Acton and Georgetown together, and then another government forces us apart!

And Erin township, which only a few years ago was included with Halton, would now find itself in another riding altogether.

But the Electoral Boundaries Commission has decided to lump Georgetown and the former north-

east end of Ward Two (Esqueping) with Brampton in a new federal riding.

Last October M. P. Dr. Frank Philbrook and Mayor Tom Hill appeared before the Electoral Boundaries Commission to urge that Halton Hills be kept together in one riding. They said then it would be ridiculous to split Halton Hills, which is just beginning to get off the ground as a political unit.

However the commission seemed to think Georgetown should go with Brampton in one riding.

The commission, perhaps out of lack of knowledge, has ignored community interest.

Dr. Philbrook says he'll keep fighting.



EVEN THOUGH POOLS of spring water sit on top of the ice on Fairy Lake a pair of ambitious fishermen dared lady luck for a year end catch. One of the ice fishermen said Saturday that he had no bites during the day.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press March 22, 1956

Sunday, two years to the day after the same family was burned out of their Esqueping township home, flames again forced the large family of Mr. and Mrs. William Laing from their Churchill Rd. home. Smoke from a fire believed to have started in a bedroom, rolled from the small frame house as Acton firemen arrived in time to save the home from going up in flames. Mr. Laing and four of the nine children were inside when the fire was discovered. Saturday, a tenth child was born to Mrs. Laing in Acton Nursing Home.

Six members of an Acton family, involved in an accident on the Queen Elizabeth highway late Sunday night, were released from hospital in Oakville after all were examined and two treated for slight injuries. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Arbie, Teresa and Danny and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Arbie were returning from Toronto via the Queen Elizabeth Way Sunday night when their car collided with the rear of a vehicle making a left-hand turn into Oakville.

Miss Beryl Flynn escaped with minor burns Friday when an explosion occurred in the kitchen of her home just south of Acton. Miss Flynn was using the propane gas jet of her stove when the explosion took place. She was burned about the face and hair, but covered herself quickly and called Dr. W. Kenney.

Three Acton athletes leave here tonight for Montreal where they will compete in the annual Canadian Amateur Athletic Union indoor meet. They are Frank Cooper, Frank Mariseak and Emerson Baxter who are entered in juvenile and midget track events.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 18, 1926

The concert by the Mendelssohn choir, Toronto, have always attracted the people outside the city as well as those who reside there. Last week the following citizens who enjoy good music attended the Mendelssohn concert in Massey Hall—Rev. and Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. J. K. Gardiner, Misses Bertie Speight, Marguerite Symon, Kathleen Galbraith, Mrs. Minnie Moore, Misses Thelma Craig, Anne McDonald, Maimie Masales, Clara Savage, Mrs. J. M. McDonald, Misses Pearl Smith, Vida Ramshaw, Mrs. Martha Armstrong, Miss Elizabeth Graham, Miss Merkt, Mrs. J. H. McCoomb, Mr. Morely Ramshaw, Mr. T. B. Emerson, Mrs. Grenville Masales.

The church choirs are engaged in preparation of special music for Easter.

Municipal Officer McPherson is busy getting the drains opened.

Mr. Charles E. Bailey of Guelph, a former esteemed resident of Acton and former member of Acton council, returned from St. Petersburg. He saw the phenomenal excitement over real estate in Florida. Tourists continue to flock in.

Messrs. Beardmore and Co. have decided to cease operating their farm below the tanneries.

New York bricklayers are to make \$14 a day this season which makes one wonder if a college education is really necessary.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 16, 1876.

By an oversight we entirely omitted any mention of last month's Cattle Fair. It was altogether the best that has yet been held here, a large number of cattle having changed hands at good prices. Several buyers from Toronto and elsewhere were here for the first time and they bought up all the cattle that came in except for a few head.

On Dit! The neighborhood about two and a half miles west of Rockwood was thrown into a state of excitement on the evening of Friday last by the news spreading abroad that a certain well-known gentleman whom, for convenience sake, we shall call Bachelor, had committed matrimony with the niece of the worthy Irishman who owns Erinvale farm. It appears that Bachelor's mother is at the point of death, and he not wishing to be left an unprotected orphan in this cruel world has come to the matrimonial point very suddenly, after running against the gauntlet of bachelorhood for 43 years.

Mr. Little, the inspector, told county council there was a falling off in attendance last year. Only two per cent attended school year round. In some cases attendance was so bad entire classes were sometimes absent. This was the greatest evil that mitigated against our public schools. He thought the evil was promoted by frequent changes of teachers, and the engagement of those of a low grade. The cause of the frequent changes of teachers was purely financial in most cases.

Mr. Warren said it was humiliating to find after a very large expenditure of money the working of our educational institutions was so indifferent.

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Free Press Editorial Page

Join up, have a voice

The Chamber of Commerce is making a mail appeal for more members. If there's any group in Acton which should have support, surely it's the Chamber these days. It's the one group which should have a voice for all Acton people. It's the one group open to everyone

interested in the town.

Petitions from the Chamber could be the main way our voice is heard at council, for instance.

But of course the Chamber can't speak for the people unless it has a strong membership. Right now it hasn't.

Wintario grants abound

Four municipalities in Halton have received Wintario grants now—Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Georgetown. That leaves only Acton without one.

Burlington get \$18,627 for renovations to the Mohawk Canoe Club and up to \$7,000 for the Burlington Sailing and Boating club to establish a sail training program.

A grant of \$1,000 is being made to Oakville Yacht Squadron Sailing school to assist in the buying of two inflatable rescue boats for use in

summer training programs.

The Milton Major Midgets Hockey Club is to receive \$1,000 to assist in the travel expenses to the St. James Assiniboia Invitational Hockey tournament April 1 in Winnipeg.

An equipment grant of \$280 has been given the Pineview Olympic Soccer club in Georgetown.

There have been 23 million dollars worth of grants given to over 790 projects in the province.

It sounds probable that Acton could get one, too.

A few spring things

Remember the bottle found in the wall at the former Caswell house? The people who remember those days are trying to get in touch with each other and hold a gala reunion at the Legion here some time in May. Charles Caswell is trying to round up as many old friends as possible. He has taken an ad in the paper today with a coupon for anyone to fill in. It sounds like a great idea.

It seems a record number of local people are enjoying holidays in the warm climes this winter. It has been the longest, most discouraging winter in many years, no doubt about it.

Spring is here, and more snow. However, the wind was from the west on the first day of spring, and fellas who have been around a long time say that's good.

Milton hospital officials learned they were to close 25 of their hospital beds, only to discover soon that it was all a mistake. Health Minister Miller wanted to close the beds but Jim Snow personally interceded. Comments the Georgetown Independent: "Bet some of the hospitals that were closed in small centres wish they had Jim Snow in their corner."

Ads, letters and posters are all out this week to encourage everyone to drop in to the new Community Services Centre in the Y this Saturday afternoon. Wonder what's going on there? Just walk in and ask.

Its purpose is to be a centre for everybody. And that's who's invited on Saturday.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

IF YOU have teenage children who may in the next decade get married and have children, it is not too early for you to start getting into condition. The life you save may be your own.

I'd suggest a lot of jogging, for a start. Get your wind together. You'll need it.

Then you should get your back in shape. Practice leaning over a bath-tub until you can do it for 10 minutes without a stitch or a twinge.

Next, you should work on your arms and shoulder muscles. I suggest you buy a baby cot and a high chair. Then get hold of a large plastic bag and fill it with 25 pounds of sand or old iron. Nails might be even better.

Now, put the bag of sand in the high chair and practice hoisting it out until you can do it 10 times in a row without puffing. Do the same with the baby's cot, with the sides up.

This is only a facsimile, of course, not the real thing. One hopes that the bag of sand will not be struggling, or screaming that it doesn't want its bib on, or doesn't want to go byes-byes.

Next, put on your winter clothes, tuck the bag of sand under one arm and a 20 lb. bag of groceries under the other, and practice walking out to the car with them, over the slippery sidewalk. If you see a dog or cat or kid, you must stop and look for a suitable interval, saying: "See the nice doggie," about eight times.

If you followed this regime for five years or so, you might be physically able to cope with a lively two-year-old grandson or daughter. I wish someone had warned me.

We're into our third week with Pokey, and we're getting a bit tattered around the edges.

When I was a young father and had young children of my own, for some reason I didn't get so exhausted.

Of course, then, I didn't get home from work until about 6.30. The kids were fed, bathed by their mother, and I told them their bed-time story. There was nothing to it.

Nowadays, I get home about 4.30, and a little demon hurls himself at me. He's just up, refreshed, after his nap, and I'm a little pooped after coping with the life styles of 150 adolescents. It's no contest.

I'm beginning to have the deepest sympathy for young mothers. With one child, it's about a 16-hour a day shift. With several young ones, it's got to be the modern answer to the Chinese water torture.

How many of you old-timers have tried recently to get an infant into one of those winter snowsuits? The boots won't go through the legs, the zippers won't zip. Yesterday, I spent eight minutes getting one leg in, and for once the zipper worked. I straightened up to draw breath and ease my back, looked down with some satisfaction, and saw to my horror that the child's leg was in the wrong leg of the snowsuit. Back to scratch.

Sunday, there was a fresh fall of snow, and I thought I'd take Pokey for a toboggan ride. After the usual ordeal of getting him dressed, I was sweating and puffing. He was calm and keen to get going.

Unfortunately, our house is surrounded by hills. If you start off downhill, you'll be going uphill on the way home. I was smart. I tackled the steepest hill, going up, so it would be easier, downhill, on the way back, when I'd be tired.

Oh yes. I was smart. Near the top of the

first hill, an elderly lady, out shovelling her snow, remarked: "Well, you must be a devoted grandfather. I've seen men pulling kids on a toboggan before, but I've never seen one doing it on his hands and knees, pretending to be a sleigh dog." I wasn't pretending.

After three blocks, all uphill, we hit the road home. I didn't know, by this time, whether I was going up, down, or sideways. I was lathered in sweat and my knees were trembling like a virgin's on her honeymoon.

If you're wondering how your heart is, take your grandchild for a toboggan ride, preferably with long patches of bare slide-walk covered with sand. By the end of it,

you'll either be dead, or you'll know your ticker is in pretty good shape.

But the outdoor games are mild compared with the indoor. At least, when he's swaddled in a snowsuit, he can't move much. All he could do was yell: "Go more!" every time I stopped gasping.

Indoors, he's a living, breathing mobile. Favorite game is to line up at the other end of a 30-foot room, run as fast as he can, chortling fiendishly, and hurl himself, head-first into my stomach.

On Saturday mornings, I like to read the book reviews in the daily paper. Last Saturday, I spent four hours trying to read a six-paragraph review. In between I was changing records on the record player, which must be playing simultaneously with the tape recorder, fetching drinks of juice and crackers with peanut butter, hoisting him onto the pot (he's too busy to be bothered), helping him build a train, trying to keep him from pulling the cat's tail, and 60 or 70 other things.

No wonder he likes it here. He's like a little prince, with two servile attendants who leap to cater to his every whim.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Remember them with love

Limehouse, Ontario
March 15, 1976

The Editor,
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

As parents of one of the young people who so tragically lost their lives in last weekend's accident, we should like to express our sincere thank you to the people of Acton for the many expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance received.

We would like to make a particular reference to the beautiful young people who lost so many of their friends and whom we knew mainly by first names only and are unable to thank them each and all in person. We were deeply touched by their compassion.

In Rev. Beaton's words, please let the anger go, and remember all with love and smiles as they would have wished.

Yours sincerely,
Glen and Bobbie McTavish.

Campaign goes over top

When the final results of the Christmas Seal Campaign were released to our members at our March 11 Board Meeting, a motion was passed unanimously that we extend our sincere appreciation to your newspaper. You gave excellent coverage to the Campaign when it showed every sign of faltering during the postal strike and we feel its success is attributable, to a large extent, to this coverage.

In our going over the top, the public can be assured that we will carry on the programs initiated during the past two years—Smoking Withdrawal Clinics, Asthmatic

Children and Adults Conditioning Programs, Summer Day Camp and Pulmonary Function Screening in industry.

We would also like to thank our donors. Many of these people went out of their way to make contributions to the campaign when the mails were not available to them.

Of the 33 Associates in Ontario, there were only five showing increases, and some were down over 25 per cent. Thanks to you and our other Christmas Seal friends, we are in the former group.

Gratefully,
Mrs. M. E. Lunan,
Executive secretary.

Thanks from UNICEF

Dear Editor:

The Ontario Unicef Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the public for their generous support of the United Nation's Children's Fund in 1975.

We feel very grateful to Ontario-lites. They have responded generously to the children who come to their doors on Halloween night with their "trick or treat" for UNICEF boxes. They have purchased hundreds of boxes of UNICEF Greeting Cards, calendars and stationery. They have shown real concern for the needs of the children in our world Community. We feel the public would like to know where some of their contributions are going in 1976 and here are a few examples.

1. 500,000 people in Southeastern rural India will now have access to clean water. 1,000 hand pumps will be installed and maintained in each village of 500 people by UNICEF Canada.

2. We take good nutrition for granted. Many of the children of tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka are sorely lacking in the most basic elements of nutrition. Here again, donations are used to provide supplementary feeding for the most severely malnourished children. In addition, nutrition training is being given and a plant is being built to produce rehydration fluids required for these malnourished youngsters.

3. In Bangladesh, UNICEF is providing enough Vitamin A capsules to save 15 million children from the devastating results of this vitamin deficiency—every year, over 100,000 children become blind in

this country due to this lack. Six cents per child does make the difference between a productive life and blindness.

CIDA (The Canadian International Development Agency) often matches grants towards projects such as above, and the host country provides goods and services 2 1/2 times this grant.

Thank you so very much for your help, your interest, and your enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Adele Robertson
Public Information Chairman
Ontario Unicef Committee

Another reunion

Finch Avenue East Public School in Willowdale is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a reunion on May 1. There will be an Open House from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and a dance from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Music (and friends!) will be from the 50's and 60's and the school would like to see as many former students and teachers as possible. Contact Mrs. Carole Brandt at 416-225-2714 or the Finch Avenue East Public School.

Yours truly,
Carole Brandt



THIS BEAUTIFUL portrait of a milkweed pod won a first prize for the Free Press from the Ontario Department of Natural Resources. The photographer was Peter McCusker. The award was presented at the recent Weekly Newspapers Association convention in Ottawa.