

## Reunion at the fair?

High hopes for a happy reunion of former Actonians have collapsed. Charles Caswell of Toronto, buoyed by enthusiasm expressed to him by many people, contacted dozens by letter. But not enough replied. The reunion will not be held. Organizers wonder if it could be held again.

May we suggest having a reunion on fall fair day? Perhaps old friends could gather in one corner of the park and chat there. Those from out-of-town could still drive home in good time.

In past years, people come back to the fair and miss seeing friends, simply due to the size of the park. One central meeting spot might solve that problem every year.

## Free Press Editorial Page

## The census tells all

Twice in every decade, a census is taken in Canada. The major decennial census is taken in each year ending in 1, while a less extensive, mid-decade quinquennial census is carried out in every year ending in 6.

This year's quinquennial census will be taken on June 1.

Because it is a short census designed to update essential population and housing data, it will be less detailed than the 1971 census, and will be confined to collecting basic population and housing data.

In 1971, according to the Census of Canada, Ontario was home to one out of every three Canadians. Out of a total provincial population of 7,703,106—72.6 per cent (or 5,996,720 people) lived here in the densely populated southern region;

1,359,881 lived in the eastern region; 522,135 in the North-Central area which includes Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, and just under 225,000 in the more sparsely populated vastness of north-west Ontario.

The province's growth rate of 23.5 per cent between 1961 and 1971 was second highest in Canada, and higher than the Canadian average of 18.3 per cent, due, in part, to the fact that 50 per cent of all immigrants coming to Canada in the 20 years after 1951 settled in this province. In the five years between 1966 and 1971, 700,000 newcomers were attracted to Ontario and, 438,000 of these people came from abroad.

No wonder Acton's growing and the country roads filling up with homes.

## Needed: Metrics debate

Popular opposition to metrication has caused the British Government to postpone debate on its Weights and Measures Bill. Ottawa doesn't even have a bill. Bureaucrats are pushing Canadians into metric conversion without parliamentary debate, let alone approval, says the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Typically, there have been no estimates of cost. In the U.S., conversion cost estimates range from \$40 to \$100 billion. At the usual one-tenth differential that means between \$4 and \$10 billion for Canada. "Let the costs lie where they fall" say the bureaucrats. They're not in business, of course. They don't have to buy new scales, or new tools, or new labels.

Much of the pressure comes from multi-national corporations. As part of a world-scale process of rationalization, they are concerned with transferring standardized manufacturing to metric-using, low wage countries. Canadian jobs will be lost as a result.

Canadian-owned companies will be forced to convert tool and die equipment, lathes, punches, drills and presses. In many instances, when equipment has to be completely replaced, experienced foreign manufacturers of metric equipment can be expected to replace domestic suppliers.

Claims by Metric Commission officials that conversion will increase exports must be taken with a grain of salt.

Canada's rush to convert speeds, distances, temperature and pressure and household measures merely confuses and irritates the public. In the U.S., conversion is more gradual and selective;

each move must pass the test of benefits exceeding costs.

However, with the U.S. committed to conversion, Canada has no choice but to follow suit.

A recent holiday to Myrtle Beach put Canadian conversion prominently in our minds again. With weather the most important consideration every day, it was a pleasure to hear about it in good, understandable Fahrenheit.

### Of this and that

The planters have just been placed on the main streets a few days, and already some clowns have tipped one over into the roadway. These stupid pranks don't happen often, but they are depressing.



OH, NO — not again! The season for giving the street boxes a hard time has arrived. Most people like the boxes and flowers but some find them a challenge.



Raindrops in the stream



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

In a recent issue of Canada's so-called national magazine, Maclean's, writer Walter Stewart has an article trying to show that Canadians are not the quiet, sober, gray, decent people they think they are.

I could have told him that years ago, and have used it as a theme in this column on some occasions.

Perhaps the self-perpetuating myth, at home and abroad, that we are sensible, tolerant, respectable, and rather dull, has been fostered by our generally colorless press and equally colorless politicians.

The facts, as Stewart pointed out, in describing several brutal and violent strikes, are otherwise.

Canadians, on the whole, are not tolerant. I am young enough to remember when such expressions as "Jew him down", "nigger in the woodpile", "dumb Hunkie" and "greasy wop" were current in the home and on the street.

If you came out with one of those today, you might just be looking for a purple eye or a fat lip from a militant Jew, black, Ukrainian or Italian.

As a result, Canadians have switched their intolerance a bit. We can tell Newfie jokes, because the victims are a long way off. We can tell Paki jokes, because the victims are pretty helpless. And if you are too "tolerant" to indulge in either of these, you can always run down the Yanks, and feel like a virtuous nationalist.

Sober? Canadians are about the worst drinkers in the world, with the possible exception of Scots, who get ugly, Irishmen, who get belligerent, and Poles, who get gloomy. Maybe we are the worst. We get all three.

If you do happen to be a decent, sensible, middle-aged person, and you don't believe a word of this slander, drop in to your local bar or beer parlor on a Friday night. There are scenes that would make Hogarth, chronicler of the 17th century gin places in London, quail in his cravat.

I once sat in a beer parlor and watched this scene. Four commercial fishermen came in. Tough, violent men. They sailed into the beer as though there were going to be a brewery strike within the hour.

And within the hour they were drunk and ugly and vicious. One called another a "sonuvabitch," an old Canadian expletive often used as a term of affection. The other, in maudlin mood, retorted "Don't you talk about my mother like that," cracked his glass in two on the edge of the table, and jammed the ragged edge in the first speaker's face. Blood and language flowed freely, but there wasn't even a fight. It was just another Saturday night in Canada, and not untypical of an evening in that beer parlor.

"Putting the boots" to someone who is down is something you might associate with the slums of Glasgow or Paris or Hamburg. It is not all that unusual on a Canadian Saturday night.

Reasonable? Courteous? Canadians? Don't make me laugh. Just take a drive on a four or six-lane highway. Admittedly, most people fit those two adjectives, but there is a large minority who make Canada one of the worst places in the

world to drive, as any American will tell you.

Just the other day I was driving on a three-lane, one-way highway. Solid old Bill was in the middle lane, gauge right on the 60-mile per hour limit. Suddenly, a car cut in front of me from the left lane, and, simultaneously, one from the right lane. Both were trying to get into my lane, about 50 feet ahead of me. They almost collided, before veering off like a couple of startled trout. Neither had any reason for passing me. I found myself almost wishing they had crashed, if it weren't for me being the filling in the sandwich.

Ask the people of southern England about the First Brigade of Canadians in World War II. Find out something about the Halifax riots at the end of that war. Ask your Dad if he was among the Canadian troops who booted their own prime minister at Aldershot, in the same struggle.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Explains rate increase

Dear Editor:  
I would like to give an explanation at this time for the recent raise in garbage removal prices and the request for a four-month advance payment.  
The additional cost is for driving to Georgetown and paying to dump, being as they are closing the Nassagaweya dump site. I would also like to advise you that the Region has been trying for the past year to force me to go to Georgetown.  
I have been advised that the route south of me in the much heavier populated Burlington area has been paying \$5. per month for the past year.  
I lost \$1,000 last year by people moving

out without paying me, therefore rather than adding more on the honest people, I decided to request a four-month payment in advance.

There will not be another raise this year and I have no intention of changing my rates unless cost prices get too high. I have been in the business 18 years and my older customers know I do not raise prices or charge in advance without very good reason.

Sincerely,  
C. A. Ferrier and Son,  
Garbage Contractor,  
Moffat P.O.

### Wanted: grouse eggs

Acton Free Press,  
Box 630,  
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

I would like to enlist your co-operation again this year in assisting us to carry out a research program on Ruffed Grouse supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources. If you could bring the following information to the attention of your readers, we would be most appreciative.

As part of a continuing research program on Ruffed Grouse at the University of Guelph, we are attempting to collect a sample of eggs from the wild. The eggs are required to provide grouse for use in the research projects.

Because of the great difficulty in locating nests, it is necessary to have the co-operation of as many people as possible. Any-one locating a nest within one hundred and twenty-five miles of Guelph is asked to mark the location, but not to disturb the nest. They should contact us by phoning collect to Betty Campbell (519) 824-4120 ext. 2703 during office hours.

At other times, call collect to: Al Garbutt (519) 821-3056, Don Price (519) 821-1207, Murray Pengelly (519) 824-0255.

We will come and pick up the eggs as soon as possible and will pay the locator one dollar per egg for his trouble.  
The number of eggs collected in an area-

will not be sufficient to harm the local grouse population. All captive birds are, of course, given the best possible care.

Your co-operation last year was most appreciated. The birds raised from eggs we collected have allowed us to make a number of significant findings.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely  
Allan Garbutt  
for A. L. A. Middleton,  
Associated Professor.

### Of this and that

Congratulations and best wishes for a fine future in the ministry to Donna Riseborough, who was ordained here last week. Donna's studies are over and now she heads out into Christian service. Friends are happy at her success and will remember her in their prayers.

## The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, May 10, 1956

Four-year-old John Seelen, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Seelen of Acton, was reported last night to be in improved condition following an accident Sunday afternoon when the young lad was struck by a car at the corner of Mill and Main Streets.

The wall of the fire siren at four a.m. Tuesday morning turned firemen and a handful of light sleepers out of their beds to a smoky blaze at the Wool Combing Corp. plant. The gatehouse of the plant caught fire while watchman C. Withers was on rounds. When he noticed the smoke firemen were called, but they arrived too late to save the small structure from extensive damage. Firemen did not state the cause of the blaze.

Mrs. Roy Arnold was hostess to the Acton Music study group on Monday evening. Cesar Franck was the composer under consideration and the group heard a recording of his Symphonic Variations.

George Bowman will again head the Acton night school committee. Miss Florence Wilkins is secretary and Miss Julie Lesniewich treasurer. Other committee members are Mrs. W. Beatty, Miss Bella-Maye Roszell, Miss Barbara Wood, Mrs. David Dills and Ted Hansen.

Members of Acton's Public Utilities Commission last week took steps to pay themselves for their duties on the basis of 24 meetings per year. The amount will likely be fixed at \$6 per member per meeting with the chairman getting \$2 extra per meeting.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 13, 1925.

Road contracts have been let and 7.56 miles between Acton and Brampton will be macadamized.

His Lordship, the Bishop of Niagara, has appointed Mr. Philip Sawyer to the incumbency of St. Alban's church, Acton and St. John's, Rockwood.

High school students who passed in every subject given at the spring term examinations are Muriel Crossman, Archie Kerr, Neville Harrop, Olive Cooper, Mary Chalmers, Irene Dimp, Charles Kirkness, Clara Savage, Fred Day, Mac Stewart, Stewart Lasby, Mildred Hollinger, Merle Grindell, Harvey Young, Lois Malone, Ivan Kirkness, Nellie Young.

Acton Athletic Association's beautiful grounds will be opened for the season this week and the lawn bowlers and tennis players will commence the season's activities. Officers are Hon. Pres. G. W. Beardmore; President A.O.T. Beardmore; 1st Vice-president W. J. Gould; 2nd Vice-president Dr. E. J. Nelson; Secretary-treasurer John Wood; Assistant J. C. Matthews; bowling committee F. E. Sweeney, E. Gamble, T. Bailey, T. Watson, J. Bauer; tennis committee F. J. Salt, W. K. Graham, C. R. Knapp, W. J. Beatty, T. J. Lyle.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. James Hamilton at Limehouse was saddened by the death of their four year old daughter from diphtheria.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 27, 1876.

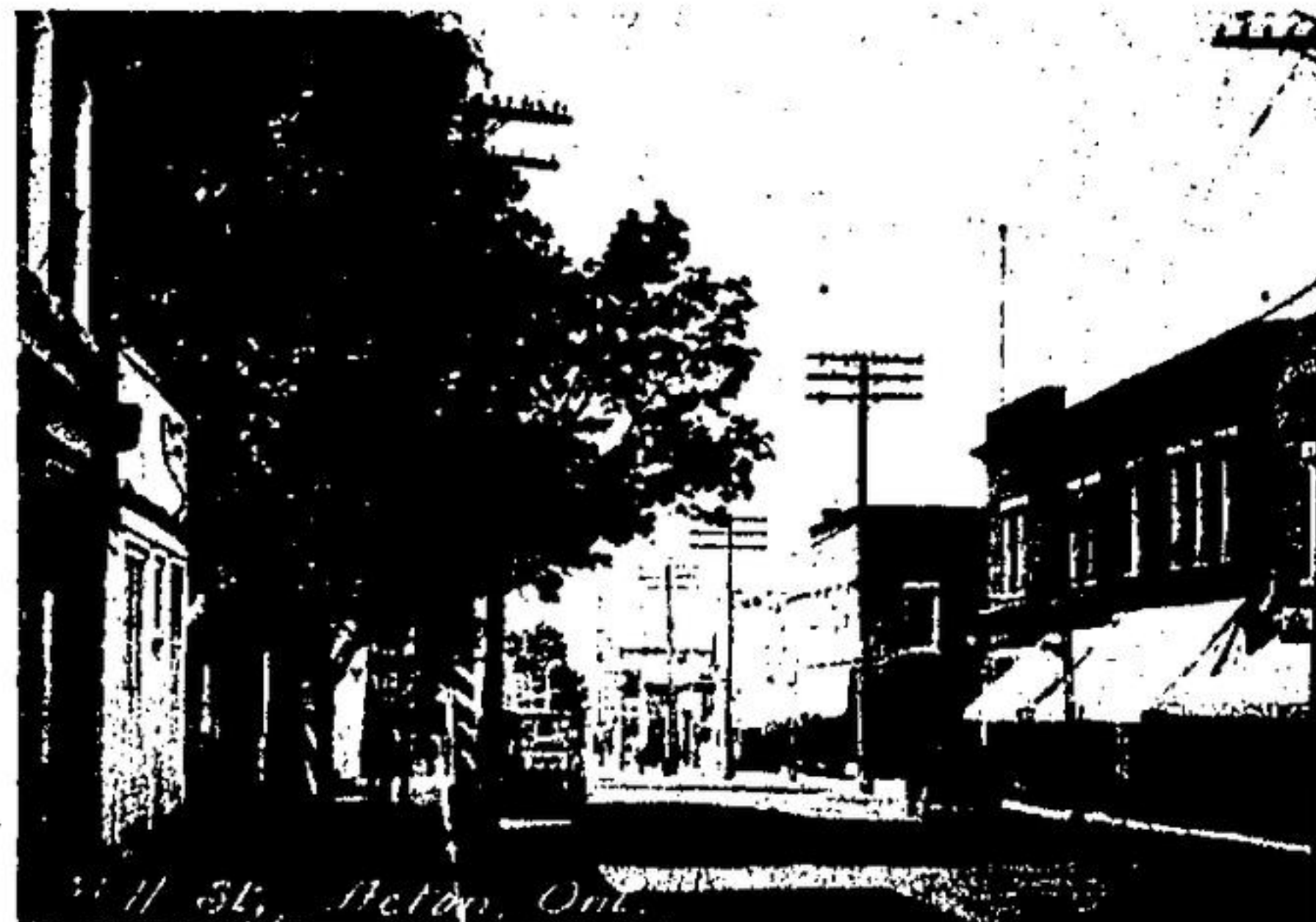
Mr. Christie, chairman of the finance committee of council, stated that he had recently examined the state of the village finances in order to ascertain the amount available for this year's improvements, and found that by adding the cash in the hands of the treasurer, uncollected taxes and license fees as assets and deducting therefrom to cover the payment of accounts there would be only about \$300 left for improvements. (It has since been ascertained that only two tavern licenses would be granted, consequently this sum would be reduced by about \$50.)

Mr. Ransom Adams' beautiful black stallion carried off a first prize at the county show at Milton last week. An auction sale of horses, wagons, etc will take place at Mr. Adams' home next Thursday.

How about the early closing system that has so successfully been carried out the past winter? Several of our storekeepers appear to have gotten back to the old nine o'clock plan again. Why is this? Don't all speak at once.

The new license law has the effect of thinning out the number of taverns in Ontario. In this county the commissioners have decided to reduce the number by 17, one being cut off in Acton, one in Georgetown, two in Milton, one at Ballinacree, one at Silver Creek, two in Nassagaweya, and others in various parts of the county.

Mr. Hertzog delivered an interesting discourse to a crowded house in the Temperance Hall on Mode of Baptism, taking a decidedly different view of the subject from that recently taken by Rev. Mr. Calver. He spoke for an hour and a half.



WITH RECONSTRUCTION of Mill St. being planned, this view of the street from the 1920's is in sharp contrast with today. The street then seems to be a good width with a reasonably wide sidewalk and hydro posts already encroaching on the travelled portion of the street. Vehicular traffic is noticeably different though. This view is looking west approximately from in front of the Y building, along past Willow St.

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