

Free Press Editorial Page

What's town hall future?

The likelihood of changes in town office space brings up the question of the upstairs of the town hall. This beautiful old hall has been out of use for several years now, except for storage.

When a community services group was operating about 10 years ago, clothing was stored here ready for emergencies. Now there are all manner of things there—the Christmas street decorations, for instance, and the letters for use on the signboards at the edges of town.

The proportions of the hall are elegant and the decorations still beautiful. The stage is still there. The windows are attractive, but grimed over with dirt.

The grand staircase has been completely taken down. Surely it could be rebuilt? It began where

the police offices are now, split in the middle and went on up to the second floor in two sections, one to the left, one to the right. Now the only way in is from an outdoor staircase, amid danger of pigeon droppings.

A group or individual might take on the restoration as a project. Surely this is one thing that should not be left up to council; they have plenty of other things to debate. Their share will be to make sure the hall is kept as it is until something is decided.

There are grants available. Both Stewarttown and Rockwood town halls are being restored with the help of government money.

Will anyone in Acton or the Esqueving Historical Society express an interest in this project?

Blind people keep pace

You may never meet a blind person in the course of your day. Yet in Halton County alone there are 185 blind Canadians and in Acton district maybe half a dozen.

Most of them lead quiet lives, turning to CNIB from time to time for the occasional service. They can do this because in the past sighted Canadians like you made donations to CNIB's annual campaign.

With your financial support along with that of community funds

and some government grants, CNIB, a private agency, has developed 80 different services in rehabilitation and prevention of blindness.

In today's world there is a need for mobility training and recorded reading materials. New kinds of employment aids are now becoming available. These assist the blind person to keep pace with sighted neighbours. Prevention of blindness services must also be financed from donor dollars.

Is education necessary?

Some of the young people seeking jobs have degrees and community college certificates this spring. It is unfortunate they want to work and can find nothing in their line. Some of them are changing direction, accepting whatever jobs they can, and finding them satisfying.

Perhaps some of the courses may have educated people more

for their leisure time, rather than their full-time, dollars-paying job. It's a new concept.

Then again, perhaps some have felt they must keep at school, without good reason. At a recent meeting of Halton Hills council, one of the members spoke of the "false ethic of obtaining as much education as possible."

Benefit from seniors

This is Senior Citizens' week and the slogan is "There is a job for senior citizens."

Almost one Ontario resident in 11 is over 65. Only four per cent live in homes for the aged. More than 85 per cent live with their spouse or other relatives.

Women outlive men, mainly because of genetic factors.

Stress is a major cause of heart weakening in older people. But many other diseases are caused in part by inactivity. Seniors could be

healthier if they were more active.

The drop in centre at the town hall has been a good thing; it gives people somewhere to go downtown no matter what the weather. The Golden Age club has a hefty membership of interested over-65s.

Many people in this age group here are busy and as active as ever, even holding down regular jobs.

The town benefits from its seniors every week of the year.

Blood clinic Monday

Did you ever stop to think how many people rely on you? There's your family, friends and the people at work. But there is one group of people that you probably haven't even thought of. They are those in need of a blood transfusion.

Here's something else to think about. Over 1,300 units of blood are needed every 24 hours, seven days a week in Ontario. It's a difficult task to keep up with, but even more so during the summer months. Last year, over 380,000 units of blood were collected in Ontario. In fact, 22 per cent of the blood collected was used during the summer months.

Clinics held in Acton, and one of them is next Monday, June 28. For a while, donors had to go to Georgetown if they wished to donate.

Now a group is organizing clinics locally, but they must have the support and attendance of the public.

Giving blood only takes about half an hour.

The people at the clinic certainly don't like turning people down, but for the safety of the patient and health of the donor they must say "no, thanks" now and then.

Here are a few regulations.

1. A donor who has taken

will be excluded from giving as tablets destroy the clotting factor. Aspirin-type products taken 48 to 72 hours before the clinic should be reported to the technician as this blood will be specially bagged for use as whole blood.

2. A wait of one week after antibiotics for colds, infections or dental extractions is necessary before giving blood. Penicillin or sulfa require a three week waiting period after last dosage.

3. A wait of one week is required after injections for allergies or immunization shots. An active allergy will bar a donor.

4. "Psychedelic" drugs within 72 hours of a clinic are cause for rejection.

5. Flight crews cannot donate within 72 hours of duty.

6. Tuberculosis, diabetes, epilepsy, heart disease, cancer, kidney ailments, high blood pressure and any chronic illnesses will cause rejection.

7. Any contagious disease is unacceptable.

8. Persons with a history of jaundice will be excluded.

9. Donations cannot be given for six months after surgery, child birth or hospitalization, or for three months after being under doctor's care.



The town hall has beauty still

MEMORIES of past concerts and balls haunt the dusty interior of the town hall. The stage is abandoned to clutter, the floor is a storage area. A dead bird lies shrivelling beneath a grimy window.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Will you write MPP's?

88 Rykert Crescent Toronto.

Will You Write To Premier Davis and Your M.P.P.? A year and a half ago, the major churches and voluntary agencies in Ontario presented the provincial government with a brief calling for a greater government commitment to international development. Essentially the brief called for something quite simple, namely that the government should match, dollar-for-dollar, money which the people of Ontario gave to the agencies and churches for international aid programs.

Many people throughout Ontario took the trouble to write to MPP's supporting this idea. It is already being done in four other provinces, and Ontario is lagging far behind. It would encourage individuals to donate money, knowing that their gift would be doubled by the government, and would show that this wealthy province is willing to give meaningful help to the less fortunate people of the Third World.

Unfortunately after lengthy discussions and appointing a high-level civil servant who travelled round the world before he made his report, Premier Davis has now refused to provide any funds. He did this not for reasons of economy, but because international development is said to be only a federal responsibility. If that is the case, all four western provinces must be breaking the law!

The churches and agencies have pledged themselves to continue their efforts for a more worthy Ontario contribution to development in the Third World. We are going back to the Premier to ask for discussions to explore possible ways in which something can be done without encountering the difficulties they believe exist. It would greatly help our negotiating position if Premier Davis, and MPP's, were to receive many letters from Ontario residents asking for the government to take

action. We ask your help by writing a simple letter supporting the idea that the Ontario government should do more to help international development by supporting the efforts of the churches and agencies.

It could mean a lot to the people we are trying to help. Will you do it now?
Henry Fletcher,
Recent Oxfam board member,
via Daphne King

Proud to be from Acton

Dear Editor:
I am proud of having been born in dear old Acton, and I feel my parents were, but whether or not May Wed. 11, 1905 at 2:30 a.m., was for others will remain a mystery. My childhood and boyhood were simple and frugal but happy. My school days were happy, hectic and short due to my failure and no blame to anyone. Flo and I are happy. The 1929-1936 Depression set us back. We never recouped our losses, like many more. There were debts, some paid, some not, like many more like us. But we tried and in some cases not all failed. Some fine people helped us and we never forgot them, nor have we yet. As for sports I managed some but never brilliant, as for leaving footprints in the sands of time I did not and am sorry. In commerce I lacked funds and pull, as a performer was only fair and as a dancer lousy but I tried. As a writer only fair, never a story. As for friends I had many and enemies few if any. Flo and I had two children, a girl, a boy. We have 14 grandchildren, three great grandchildren some born in Acton, some elsewhere, are healthy and happy for which we are thankful.

Flo and I completed a History of Acton. It is in the hands of Rev. Father Morgan, our reverend friend. We would like to list some fine people who helped us in the past Art of Dills, H. P. Moore, A. T. Brown, Paw James, Miss Nelson, Les Hotchens, Bill Talbot, Ernie Barr, J. R. Kennedy, Doc Kenney, Doc Buchanan, Beardmore, Symon Hardware, Hinton's, Tylers, Goy and many more. In closing we wish to add we are still part of Acton and always will be.

Old friends are hard to find and once lost can never be replaced, we only pass through once and must do our best as we go, for we will never pass this road again.
God Bless all in Acton old and new, young or old and fond memories for those no longer with us.
All our respects
Flo and Trimmer Coleman
Toronto

Horse feathers

To the Editor:
Dear Sir:
Recently reading of Halton Regional Planning Director E. R. Cummings report outlining the after-uses on sites for area sanitary landfill, I realize how little we need planners of this calibre, and I also realize how little these so-called experts know about garbage and its disposal, and the short and long term effects on ground water, soil, and last but not least, people.
Does Mr. Cummings not read the papers? Only this week there was a report of a dangerously high level of methane gas reported in an apartment block in Kitchener, just prior to that houses and a school were evacuated all due to methane gas generated from the garbage dump in the near vicinity.
My own files contain reports of pollution of the Oakville Creek from Oakville's dump, methane gas in basements in Mississauga, settlement out of court to a North York couple whose car and garage blew up

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of June 21, 1856
Word has just been received from Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Braida, who are visiting in Italy, that they received their copy of the Free Press five days after it was mailed in Acton. On the other hand, reports we get from such places as Belfountain, Hillsburgh, and Moffat are to the effect that the Free Press reaches them about five or six days from the time it is mailed in Acton. Distance doesn't mean a thing these days.
Robbie Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Parker, has learned from the head master of St. Andrew's College that he has won one of three scholarships offered for grade ten entrance there next fall. Competition for the award was keen this year, with written and oral examinations at the College.
Appreciation Day draw winner last Saturday was Mrs. John Frank. She went shopping with \$31 more than expected when her name was chosen. The treasure chest is up to \$440 next week.
Mr. and Mrs. Mac Symon, with Barbara and Anne, visited in Owen Sound with Mrs. Baker on the weekend.
Friends are sorry to see Rev. and Mrs. Robert Armstrong, Bob, Margaret and David leaving the manse after their years here. They are moving to Hamilton tomorrow.
Mr. Henry Arbic is attending the Y's Men's Convention in Estes Park, Colorado.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of June 24, 1906
While in Montreal attending the sessions of the General Council of the United Church of Canada, the editor had the pleasure of visiting a number of Acton boys who are making their mark in business and other activities. These include: Mr. L. P. Snyder, inspector of the banking properties of the Royal Bank of Canada; Mr. Chester Wallace, druggist, who occupies one of the best business stands in the city, on St. Catherine St. near Phillips' Square; Mr. J. Victor Coleman who is Montreal manager of Sampson-Matthews, Toronto; Mr. Howard Oram who is sales manager for the Sun Maid Raisin Co., and has an office on McGill St. among the leading jobbing houses there, and many other former Acton residents.
Mr. Fred Wright had the misfortune to fall from the roof of Knox Church driving shed on Wednesday afternoon while shingling there.
Mrs. (Rev.) A. C. Stewart was called to Riversdale owing to the illness of her father.
Miss Florence Foster spent the weekend with her cousin at Cheltenham.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 15, 1876
The Rev. Mr. Unsworth of Georgetown has resigned his pastoral charge of the congregation at Church Hill, better known as Swackhamer's, near Acton. On account of feeble health he found it too difficult to attend to two congregations so far apart.
The son of Abdul Aziz is reported to have following in his father's footsteps and committed suicide. (This is the entire news item, in the world news column.)
Lawrence Green, a Mamora farmer, dropped dead last Friday morning while hoeing potatoes.
The Toronto Temperance Union has appointed a vigilance committee of 12 to report all violations of the liquor law.
Foot and mouth disease has broken out with great virulence among the hogs at Outremont Quebec where numbers are dead and dying.
A fire in Cayuga last week destroyed the business section, entailing a loss of \$60,000.
The body of a Miss Bailey of Thorndale, who died in Hamilton from premature child birth, has been sent to London where an investigation will be carried out shortly as suspicions of foul play are entertained.
From the column headed Fatal Accidents. David Turner, one of Miss Rye's orphans, drowned last Sunday while bathing.

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due to an accumulation of methane gas, Expo 67's problems, i.e. burning off the methane at night time in areas built on garbage.
The list is almost endless: residential and artesian wells polluted from so-called 100 percent safe garbage dumps, parts of the Don Valley Parkway where vegetation won't grow.
"Horse Feathers, Mr. Cummings, Horse Feathers".
William A. Johnson