

## Part of town history

The modest frame building which housed Hotchen's Bakery until last week echoes with Acton history. It must date back to about 1872.

It was known as The Post Office store when it was built and it was located on Mill St. Postmaster James Matthews set up his post office and telegraph quarters at the back of the building and his grocery and china store at the front. It was the town gathering place in those days.

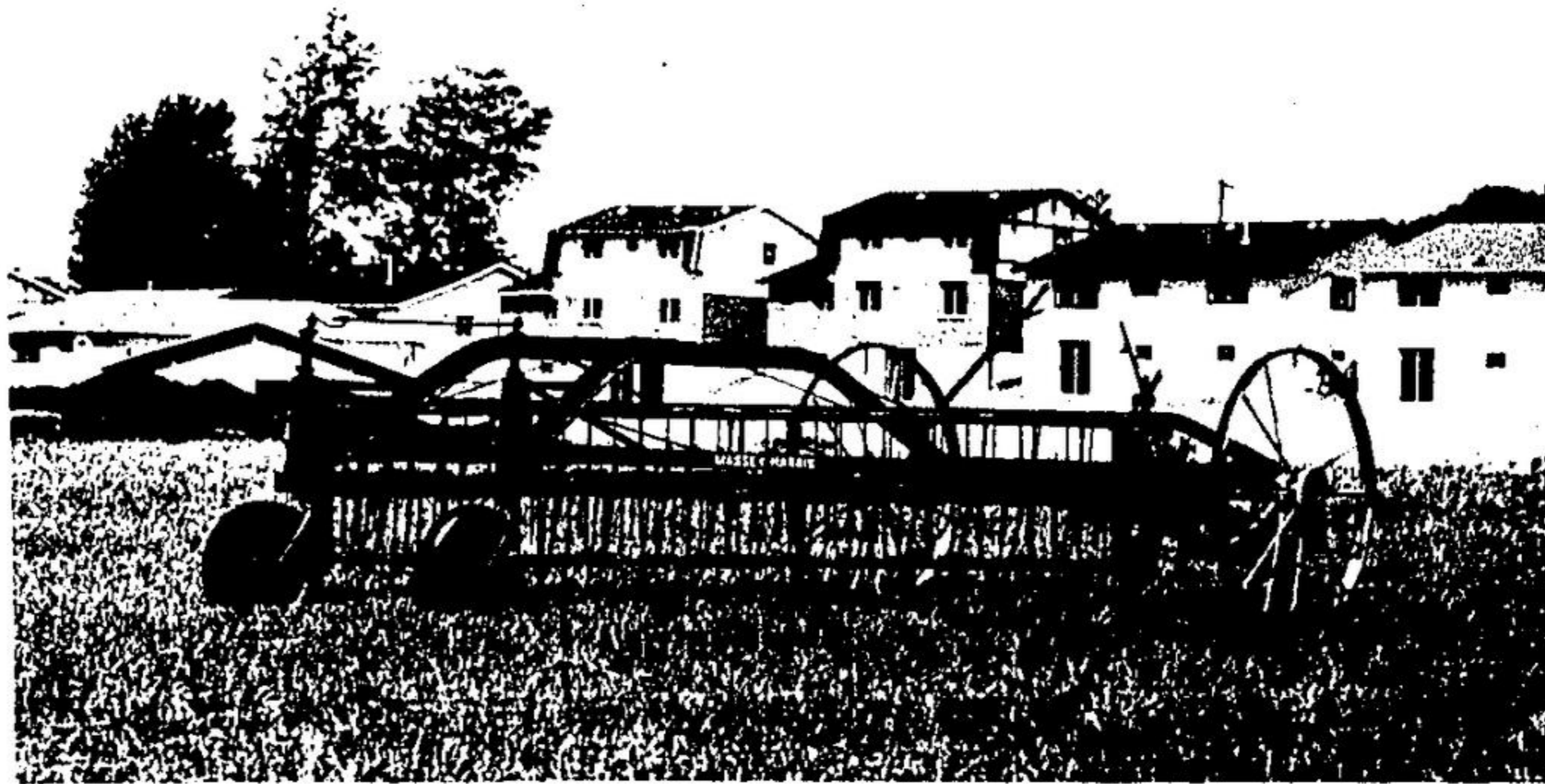
In 1877 Hynds' Jewellery store opened in one section of the store.

Upstairs, in Matthews Hall, council meetings were always held until the town hall was built. There were concerts here, lodge meetings and exciting political meetings. The Free Press rented space upstairs and July 1, 1875 the first issue was published.

The upstairs location was a problem for the newspaper, and when a small building was built beside Matthews Store, the Free Press moved in there. In 1879, the Free Press moved into its grand new building further down Mill, and the post office moved into the small building.

When the big new post office was built at the corner of Mill and Willow in 1913, this frame building was moved further down Willow. It was used as a recruiting station during World War I, was later the Public Utilities office and then Evans' meat shop. For the past 32 years it has housed Hotchen's Bakery.

The building's fate is easy to guess at. It will be sold and go the way of the stately post office, the United Church, the Storey Glove factory and the railway station... to the wreckers.



Town and country meet . . . on Mill W.

## Of this and that

Yes! we welcome letters to the editor on topical subjects, written briefly and clearly. Writers must sign their own name and address. For publications, pen names are permissible but are not recommended since they reduce the effectiveness of your message.

The photograph of a group of tannery employees in last week's Free Press was taken in Bracebridge between 1912 and 1914, says a reader. That makes it earlier than we had thought. Probably only some of the men in the picture came to Beardmore in Acton, among them John McGill, John Gibson, Severino Braida and James Waterhouse. Has anyone else any comments?

A couple of weeks back The Free Press had a touching picture on the front page of former resident Eileen Buckner and Sunshine school principal Gwen Jeffares greeting each other with a hug. The event was Mrs. Jeffares' retirement party.

After receiving extra copies of The Free Press Mrs. Buckner wrote back and thoughtfully enclosed some clippings from the Picton Gazette.

They cover activities of the

Wellington Fitness Club which Mrs. Buckner now leads. These lively senior citizens do exercises to music—Mrs. Buckner's specialty—and also have a program of song, rhythm band numbers and jokes. Mrs. Buckner, who seems to be just as full of pep and enthusiasm as when she was in Acton, says the Fitness Club not only prolongs lives but warms hearts too.

Dr. and Mrs. Buckner now live in Wellington, Ontario, and it's good to hear from them again.

Anyone writing to express opposition to the municipal complex near Georgetown must get the letter in by the end of this week. It should go to G. D. Pritchard, 36 Main St., Georgetown.

In Georgetown, a group of citizens has banded together to oppose the complex. They are hoping to collect thousands of signatures this week, and are trying to locate some people in Acton to follow up their lead.

Summer holidays will be delaying delivery of picture orders. Don't expect prints ordered now before the middle of August. Despite being short staffed in the next few weeks, The Free Press will come out. But not the print orders.



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

It must be an uneasy time for members of parliament. First, they were forced to vote on a moral question, the abolishment of capital punishment, in what must have been an agonizing examination of conscience versus expedience, for many.

Despite the fact that the bill squeaked through, most M.P.s must know that most Canadians are against it. And it's that same majority that elects those same M.P.s. Enough to make a politician lose a little sleep, eh?

Next they saw a comparatively small group of Canadians, the airline pilots, thumping their noses at the government, and getting away with it. And once again, it was pretty obvious that a majority of Canadians was solidly behind the pilots.

There is little doubt that most M.P.s will be happy to get out of the pressure-cooker Ottawa has turned out to be this year, and back to their own constituencies for a couple of months of fence-building, baby-kissing and all the other nefarious activities of a politician on his home grounds.

My heart is not exactly bleeding for our M.P.s, but I am more than a little disturbed by the two incidents that have contributed to their unease in the past few months.

On the first issue, capital punishment, it is readily apparent, from the closeness of the final tally, that the country is split right down the middle on the issue. And that's not good.

But I can live with it. The majority has spoken, in a supposedly free vote, and it's not going to wound this country to the vitals if a few murderers are hanged or kicked to death with a frozen boot, or otherwise executed in whatever cute manner is decided on.

It's the second issue that bothers me considerably. For behind the pilots' palaver about safety, and the government's obduracy, amounting almost to stupidity, concerning bilingualism at our airports, lies a much darker mark.

That is the obvious backlash of English-speaking Canadians to the government's chosen policy of bilingualism. This bitter backlash is not just bad, in my opinion: it is dangerous.

Again and again, we saw on television perfectly ordinary citizens who backed the pilots' stand, even when personally inconvenienced by the strike that was not a strike, blurted things like: "I'm sick of having it (bilingualism) shoved down my throat."

This is not the voice of reason, but of bias, and I hate to see it in this country which I love so much.

For a couple of centuries, the French of Canada had English shoved down their throats, not by law, but by business, commerce, politics, education. Naturally, they resented it. Now, they're trying to achieve equality of opportunity, through bilingualism. The result is a strong and ugly racialism bouncing back at them from those Eng-

lish-speaking Canadians who are biased and bigoted.

As in most bigotry, the retorts are based on ignorance and fear. Civil servants too stupid or too lazy to learn French are afraid for their jobs. Protestants abhor the rise of Rome, even though most French-Canadians these days are more protestant than the Protestants. Conservatives fear any change in the comfortable pattern of Canadian life, in which, for generations, a Frenchman was a "Frog", to be looked down on.

Maybe I'm out of touch, but I haven't noticed anybody trying to shove French down my throat.

I hold no brief for the province of Quebec. I am as sick of its whining and demands as the next guy. I think its politics are and have been, more corrupt than any of the other provinces, which isn't saying much. I don't even care that deeply about Quebec separating from the rest of Canada. Nations are not sacred.

But none of that has anything to do with the French language. I thought Canadians were growing up, learning tolerance, becoming more sophisticated, more fair.

But the latest ugly developments make me wonder. Are we just a bunch of red-necks at heart?

## Who did evaluating?

July 16, 1976

The Editor, Acton Free Press

Referring to your article on the effectiveness of Electronic Bug Killing Devices. This article was based on the report by Drs. Brust and Costello of Agriculture Canada's committee on biting flies and insects.

The only person who could evaluate such a device on the basis of "one hour test, carried out 30 minutes after sunset", would be a manufacturer of aerosol insect repellents. Most Government employees go to much greater lengths evaluating their own coffee breaks.

Yours truly, Henry Stachyra

## Enjoy beauty, creativity

Number Ten Grier Street, Sainte Anne de Bellevue, P. Q.

Dear Editor:

Having just returned from your delightful area, I wanted to let you and your readers know how much we enjoyed the beauty and creativity thriving in your proximity.

To the west of Acton my daughter and I stopped to talk with some of the citizenry of warm and beautiful Rockwood. We were impressed with the open Ontario hospital.

Especially interesting to us was our visit with Rockwood potter, Maureen McLeod. Her work is fresh and of fine artistic quality. We were amazed to discover independent artisans pursuing their forefathers' ideals of quality and creativity.

Thanks to all for a pleasant time. Sincerely, Patrick Donovan, Sainte Anne de Bellevue, P. Q.

## Of this and that

Things to See and Do in Festival Country is a brochure published under the Ministry of Industry and Tourism by the Niagara and Mid-western Ontario Travel Association. It includes Halton, Wellington, Dufferin, Waterloo, Brant, Niagara and Haldimand-Norfolk counties and lists events from April 1 to March 31.

Acton's listing includes only the fall fair and the nearby Railway Museum. Officials at the Travel Association office have previously told us they are happy to include any special events from any town—as long as they are told about them.

Copies have been sent to the Free Press and are available at the counter for anyone interested.

## The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press July 19, 1956

First reading for a by-law which would provide Acton's Public School Board with some \$120,000 for a new six-room school was heard last night at a special meeting of Council. The meeting was called expressly for this purpose as trustees hurry efforts to complete legal formalities prior to a hoped-for start on the new building this summer.

Miss G. J. Leavey, Supervisor of Nursing for the Halton County Health Unit, yesterday told this newspaper that no cases of poliomyelitis have been reported in the county this year. In this particular case it might be well to assume the old saying that "no news is good news".

Henry Deveau has this week joined the business office staff in Acton of the Dills Printing and Publishing Company Limited. Mr. Deveau is well-known to the citizens of Acton, since he has been manager for the past six years of the Roxy theatre here.

A Gray Coach bus driven by John Troopish of Toronto and a car driven by Arthur Holland, Waterloo were involved in a rear end collision on Highway No. 7 just west of Acton one evening last week.

A bride of last weekend, Miss Joyce Lambert was the guest of honor at several gatherings. Six showers were held for her. A trousseau tea was held at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lambert, Brock St., on July 18.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 15, 1926

A very enjoyable evening was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Agnew on Park Ave. by the members of the United church choir. They assembled to spend a social evening with this two of their number who were recently joined in holy wedlock. Nellie and Ray were presented with an electric toaster.

The Ladies' Aid of the United Church presented a set of three very fine pulp chairs to the church last week. A set of silver communion plates was presented by the C.G.I.T. They were used for the first time on Sunday morning.

The Women's Institute will hold a strawberry festival on the lawn of Sutherland House. Proceeds will be used in the interests of the park.

Milton was the rendezvous for Orangermen on the Glorious Twelfth. Acton L.O.L. made a fine showing headed by their own life and drum band. It is estimated 2,500 arrived in Milton by special train.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bauer, who moved to Cleveland several years ago, returned to visit the old home this week. They came by motor, making the 350 mile trip in one day. Mr. Bauer is quite proud of his Jewett sedan, having found it most satisfactory and very economical in its consumption of gas and oil.

A terribly sudden and fatal accident occurred at the raising of R. N. Brown's new barn when Peter Murray fell and was instantly killed.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 13, 1876

A small child fell into the creek near the bridge on west Main St. the other day but was rescued by his mother from an untimely end.

Farmers in the hay-field. Big crop. Local items very scarce this week. Drowning Catastrophes—A Heavy Record. (Details given of eight drownings in Ontario.)

Ladies who are planning to visit the Exhibition at Philadelphia will do well to dress simply and sensibly. Nice garments are almost certain to be injured. In some parts of the grounds the dust is quite penetrating and the asphaltum walks become sticky under the hot sun. In the main building the passages are sprinkled to lay the dust. And to see long dresses trailing through the water is not only disgusting but such obstacles seriously interfere with the comfortable locomotion of the crowd. A short walking-skirt is indispensable to comfort and neatness.—Harper's Bazar.

Shot through from Port Huron, Michigan, Henry Wheeler shot and it is feared fatally wounded Wm. Jones. He has long suspected improper intercourse between Jones and his wife. It is reported he shot at him before... when Jones came out in the garden to wash, Wheeler fired at him... (details given).

Twenty-six persons perished when the propeller St. Clair burned on Lake Superior.

## Olympics ups and downs

The history of the Olympic Games contains many ups and downs. Let's hope that the Montreal Olympics has passed most of its "downs" and is headed into a couple of weeks of thrilling "ups".

Thanks to Murray Scoyne's Ridgeway Dominion, here's a quick history lesson:

"The Olympic movement tends to gather in radiant splendor all the principles that work toward man's perfection." So said Baron Pierre de Coubertin who founded the International Olympic Committee in 1894 which was responsible for the re-birth of the Olympic Games.

Hundreds of years ago games were held in Olympia, Greece.

The games of the first Olympics lasted one day and included one event only "The race of the stadium." More events were soon added.

As Greece went downhill, so did the Games. Top athletes were bought by cities so they could have the honor of claiming a winner. Slaves in the chariot races started cheating when their owners promised them freedom if they won.

The games ended in 393. They were re-born fifteen centuries later in Athens. Baron De Coubertin was most impressed with the English public school system, where sports and academics were both fostered. At his suggestion in 1894 representatives from thirteen countries decided to re-institute the Olympic Games.

There have been scandals and problems. The Antwerp Games in 1920 were the scene of the biggest scandal in the history of Olympic football. In 1908 in London when a United States runner was disqualified, all the finalists who were all

from the United States withdrew from the event and the British runner ran alone. That same year the Italian runner made the usual right turn at the finishing line instead of left where the line was set before the reviewing stand. Someone helped him and as a result he had to be disqualified. But next day Queen Alexandra gave Pietri a gold cup in acknowledgement of his outstanding courage.

The 1936 games in Berlin were intended by the Nazi propaganda to show the superiority of the "Aryan Race". That dream was shattered by a black American Jesse Owens.

The 1972 Olympic Games in Munich were the most lavish in the history of the Olympics. The Soviet Union finished first with 99 medals, the U.S. second with 94.

For the Games in Montreal the buildings that have been built leave the visitor breathless. From the air the 70,000 seat stadium looks like a giant flying saucer. Behind the stadium is the velodrome. At a cost of \$70 million it is perhaps the best bike-racing track in the world. The Olympic competition pools each have their own seating area. Olympic Village where the athletes will be housed are made up of two massive, tiered apartment buildings.

Although Montreal is the main site for the 1976 Summer Olympic Games it is not the only one. Competitions will be held in several other centres including Toronto, Ottawa and Kingston.

Most important Olympics city, next to Montreal, is Kingston, site of the yachting events. Some football preliminaries will be played at Toronto's Varsity Stadium, Ottawa's Lansdowne Park and the Sherbrooke Stadium.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Spend money where it's needed

In line with the editorial appearing in last week's Acton Free Press I take this opportunity of expressing my vehement opposition to the plans of Halton Hills governing body to erect a building on the Seventh Line at Georgetown.

There are many areas in Halton Hills where this money could be put to much better use than the creation of a center where contact is further removed from the areas served due to an already burgeoning bureaucracy.

We are aware that our Police Force has a personnel of dedicated, intelligent, experienced, and in many cases well educated non-commissioned officers and constables. What many do not know is that their efforts are being hampered by their superiors, and not only their efforts, but their lives are being put in jeopardy.

(1) The Patrol Cars serving Halton are standard vehicles bought from a dealer of course in the south end. They have NO heavy duty motors. NO heavy duty shocks or suspensions and as a result they do not have to engage in a high speed chase to incapacitate them. I have seen them in for what seems continuous repairs and it is not due to poor driving on the part of the officers.

(2) North of highway 401 is a different country to patrol than city streets. While we have urban areas, we also have rough country roads that warrant the use of vehicles having not only these "Extras", but also they should be equipped with SIRENS. I was dismayed to find that none of the vehicles serving Halton are so equipped because the Chief, while chief in Burlington had his car sirens silenced there and this has been carried over with his appointment as Chief of Halton Regional Police.

This is a wonderful tool for getting through traffic. If it is abused by an individual officer, blame the offender. Do not deny its use to the force at large.

The Ontario Provincial Police have just recently equipped ALL their vehicles with the multi-purpose siren.

(3) Originally Acton and Esqueping

were to have a non-commissioned Officer and 11 men. In the last few weeks ONE (1) constable has been covering Acton, Esqueping, and at times, Georgetown. In Acton we have four banks, a Credit Union, a jewellery store and many businesses. Add to this the number in Georgetown and it is frightening.

Some day in the not too distant future, some group of smart "yeggs" are going to make a "hit" and we may have to bury the guy in blue who was called upon to hold the line.

(4) I feel that my fears are justified in that our police officers working under conditions as they are with the equipment they now have will lose their desire to serve and will drift off into other lines of employment. \$900,000.00 on a new building?

Let us give this area more of the men and women required to do the job adequately with the tools to carry on in the professional way in which they have been trained. In closing I repeat my opposition to a new municipal complex.

A Concerned Citizen

### Mail delivery improved

235 Patricia Rd., Stratford, Ont.

Acton Free Press 59 Willow St., Acton, Ont.

Dear Sir:

We are very pleased to receive our Free Press the day after it's published.

When the paper was first sent to us, we got it a week later. Now we are getting them in our Thursday morning mail of the same week.

Thank you for the quick service, also to the post office.

Yours truly

Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Couture

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Business and Editorial Office



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