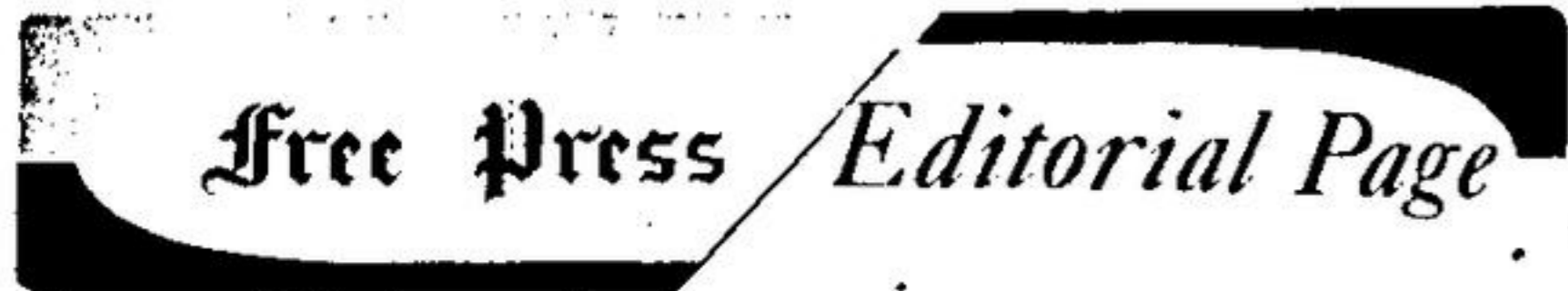


Petitioners will be watching

Local people got together for a cause when they willingly signed petitions against the proposed municipal complex. It's usually terribly difficult to get people interested in political issues. This issue, that touches the wallet, managed to rouse us.

The fact remains, as some councillors and others insist, that the cancelled complex could be later replaced by an even bigger one, in Georgetown.

The people who signed the first petition here will be watching.



Lord Thomson in Acton

Lord Thomson of Fleet has died at 82. Newspapers in three countries are publishing columns of type about his life and career, and he owned many of those newspapers himself. His publishing empire includes neighbors The Georgetown Herald and the Guelph Daily Mercury.

his crown, or any profits, either. It was way back 55 years ago that Roy Thomson set up business in the present Blow Press plant. He manufactured luggage racks for the side running boards of those early automobiles, and battery clips. (Some of the unsold battery clips are still there).

It wasn't successful; he closed up.

But otherwise, and in other places, Roy Thomson did well. Acton just had no place in that empire.

Not one of those newspaper articles (nor, indeed, his biography) mentions his days in business in Acton, Ontario. Those days didn't provide any jewels for

Rock and fruit land

It is distressing to read that 7,600 acres of tender fruit and grape land will be put under pavement and cement for housing, if Niagara Regional Council has its way.

It could be sold—with proper compensation to the present farming owner—and even kept while something in the best interests of the district is devised. If farmers really have to be subsidized, so be it. Perhaps large farms are the answer.

That the land could be so simply lost seems irrational to people in this area, aware that we are all now under the control of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. If a commission can take good care of a rock, surely somebody will look after fruit land.

The argument in favor of development is that the farmers are going bankrupt and the land is lying idle. Farmers say they cannot keep their properties viable as farms. Surely the solution to that problem is not to lose the land forever! Something more reasonable should be considered.

The land is surely the main thing,

Of this and that

Has the wrong decision been made on the feeding of ducks at the lake? People are beginning to feel that the birds are hungry, even in the summer time, since regular feeding was cancelled. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority's theory is that in the fall, when natural vegetation disappears, the hungry birds will fly south. In past years they had been fed by the town each day, and stayed on at the lake. Surely a new assessment of the situation should be made.

A too-hasty shuffling through old papers produced the wrong information in the 50 Years Ago column for a couple of weeks. The columns were in fact a year early in appearing, having been taken from the issues of the summer of 1927 instead of 1926. Don't know how that could happen! Can't even blame it on the heart. Our apologies, Mary and Stan Matthews, whose wedding appeared a year too soon. They just celebrated their 49th anniversary.

Canadian International Paper Sales Company Inc. commemorated the Olympics and does some novel advertising by sending Olympic athletes and their own customers red maple trees. The Free Press maple tree arrived in a cardboard box and has been carefully planted at the front of the building by Colie MacColl, watch carefully if you come to inspect; you could just step on it and squash it completely, by mistake!

Today's 50 Years Ago column (with the right date on it) mentions the "fine new booth erected by the Women's Institute" at the park. This is the wooden building just demolished, to make way for a cement block structure by the pool. It was in bad shape, and not repairable. It had half a century of good service to the people of the area.

Too bad its replacement couldn't have been combined with a building for other needs in the park, leaving us with one cement block building instead of two. Certainly they haven't much charm.

Life's difficulties are meant to make us better, not bitter!

Pet of the week

TAWNY SITS BESIDE A wicker basket full of her black and tan Airedale Terrier offspring. Tawny, whose full name is Champion Tyandaga Tawny Leaf C.D., bore one dozen pups—four males and eight females. They are six weeks old. The sire is Champion Tyandaga Man O'War. Tawny, owned by Ken and Cathy Slaney of Main Street South, Acton, is three-and-a-half years old. Tawny, who is registered with Brickstone Kennel, has had one previous litter.



A SUMMER AUCTION still draws a crowd inspite of the attractions of cottage country. This one last Saturday saw many household items on the block. The sale was for Mr. and Mrs. Edward Harrison on the McNaughton property near Acton.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Every so often I'm reminded of how very lucky Canadians are. We are not smarter than other people. Goodness knows, we are no more industrious. We are just luckier, because we happen to be living in this country at this time.

rather than cold and are much more likely to die from too much medicine than they are from disease.

When you consider that we are just a drop in the bucket of the world's population, you can see just how blind lucky we are.

And even the poorest of our poor, with all the buffers that welfare provides, are materially millionaires compared with the poor of many other countries.

Millions of people on earth today are literally starving to death. They will be dead, stone dead, in days, months, a year

You, Mister, wheeling your Buick down the highway and beefing about the cost of gas, might just as easily be pulling a rickshaw in Calcutta, wondering whether you could last until you were 30, so you could see your first grandson.

Millions more are just above the starving line. They eke out a barren, blunted, hopeless existence, just one step away from the annual

And you, Ms.; whining about the mess the hairdresser made, or complaining about the cost of cleaning women, could be selling yourself in the back streets of Nairobi to keep body and soul together, if you will pardon the expression.

These hordes are subject to all the other things that go with a minimal existence, besides hunger: cold, disease, ignorance, fear, and perhaps worst of all, helplessness.

But you aren't, and I'm not, and we shouldn't forget it, mates. We were lucky. We live in Canada.

And we complain endlessly, we Canadians, about such horrors as inflation, postal strikes, taxes, and all the other relatively piddling burdens we bear.

Once in a while this hits me like a punch between the eyes. One of these times was on a recent holiday weekend.

We howl with outrage when butter jumps 15 cents a pound. Some of us nearly have a stroke when the price of beer and liquor is raised. The very wealthy feel a deep, inner pain because they can retain only 55 per cent of their income.

We were spending a weekend with Granddad, in the country. I spent one of those lazy, thoroughly enjoyable times when there is nothing to do and nothing to worry about: eating and drinking, playing cards, enjoying the fireplace, reading, watching television.

But what does it all amount to? The consumption of butter will go down for a few weeks, then rise to new highs. The consumption of alcoholic beverages will not even tremor, but go steadily upward. And the rich will become richer.

But at least we can stop bitching in our own backyard, and face the facts that we're not smarter, or harder-working or better-looking. Just lucky.

Talk about fat cats, or buxom beavers, and we're it, The Lucky Canadians. The envy of the world.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Customer feels insulted

Aug. 9, 1976
This week while visiting in Acton, I decided to go to a downtown boutique with the intention of purchasing clothing. The owner promptly approached me with the usual "Can I help you?" I answered "I'm just looking, thank you."
He then stated that the store was under renovations (which I had noticed) and if I was buying he would welcome my business, but as I had just entered the store and had not had a chance to find what I wanted, I was asked to leave and come back another day.

I have always found the merchants in Acton both friendly and only too glad of customers' browsing through their stores. I hope the many customers in Acton don't get the reception and feel as I do that I will never enter that place again.
May I suggest if he wishes to renovate, he close his doors instead of insulting customers.

Sincerely,
Deborah Rose,
Box 1732,
Penetanguishene, Ont.

Do we really need parking?

Letter to the Editor:
August 9, 1976
This letter expresses my views on the motion before council to buy Hotchen's Bakery and turn it into a parking lot.
First: I have lived in Acton for 20 years and have been driving for two years during which time I have always been able to find a parking spot somewhere close to the downtown area. (within half a block).
There is usually room on Mill Street or in one of the four downtown parking lots. If I cannot find a spot there, there is always room on Bower, Church, Willow, John or Main Streets.
Second: Do we really need more parking spots downtown?
Is it really worth our hard earned tax dollars? Several councillors believe it is, but they are also merchants and it is to their advantage because it would mean increased business in their stores. (If I were a

merchant I would probably be in favor because I would have nothing to lose.)
Third: There are several reasons which warrant parking on back streets or parking in one of the parking lots. Parking on the back streets is considerably less difficult than parking on the main streets. Nor is it so frustrating.
You might have a short walk to the stores, but walking is good exercise — remember — PARTICIPATION!
Also your car is probably subject to less chance of being damaged because there is less traffic.
And finally, how many more parking spaces could the bakery provide and is the price per parked car worth the money which would be spent?
In concluding, I believe there are other priorities and more important ones that our tax dollars should be spent on.
Yours truly,
Concerned Citizen.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago
Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 16, 1956
Ernest West, formerly of Acton and now a lawyer in Kitchener, was the speaker at Acton United Church Sunday morning in the absence of the minister, Rev. Gordon Adams. He gave a very impressive message heard with interest by the congregation and about 25 scout leaders from a course at Blue Springs scout reserve. One of the latter, an ordained minister himself, particularly congratulated Mr. West.

How have your beans been? Can you beat this one? Mrs. H. W. Hinton reports a Scarlet Runner pole bean that is 13 and a half inches long, in her garden on Lake Ave.
Thompson Motors inaugurated their new location at the former Garner garage site with an Open House. Films, refreshments and a car display were enjoyed by many. Bob Marshall won a coke cooler in a draw. Other winners were Doug Brown of Milton, Dave Dills, T. E. Watson, C. L. Kirkness, W. Brown, Cam Sinclair, Melvin Walker, Ted Hansen, R. Goodwin, E. Tyler, Bill Nicolac, Andrew Frank, Jack Cooney and A. Gervais.
Believe about bad luck happening on the 13th. Russell Johnson had four cattle killed by lightning, two cows and two yearling heifers on Monday, August 13. He recalls that just four years ago he went to hospital for treatment on August 13.

50 years ago
Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday morning, August 5, 1926
That the people of Acton and vicinity have real local pride and community spirit was manifested in the splendid crowds that assembled at the Gala Day celebration held in the park on Monday, Acton's Civic Holiday.

In the morning a ball game was played between Acton and Georgetown. The jazz band paraded the streets and put life into the affair.
At one o'clock the parade formed up at the band hall with George Lantz as marshal and the bear and Italian comic outfit leading. They were followed by Acton Citizen's Band and the fire department's new motor truck and apparatus and decorated vehicles, and a band of calthumpians. The prize for the best decorated vehicle was given to A.O. Deforest for the 1913 model Ford and the prizes for best costumes went to Robert Chalmers, Harold Reid, Helen McDonald and Mary Clarridge. Athletic events followed. The ladies' baseball match was an exciting event. The band gave a generous continuation of musical numbers.
For the evening a very enjoyable garden party programme had been arranged and the largest crowd that has attended such a function in Acton in years was on hand to enjoy it. The band also played a sacred concert on Sunday in the town hall. A dance on a special platform at the drill shed provided quite an attraction for a number of people.
The fine new booth erected by the Women's Institute was in commission for the Gala Day. It is an appreciated asset for the plans for the general improvement of Prospect Park.

100 years ago
Taken from the issue of the Free Press, August 3, 1876
Cheap excursion on the Grand Trunk next Wednesday, to the great baseball match at London. Fare from Acton and return only \$1.40. It is probable a special train will start early in the morning.
We are informed by Mr. O. Lazier that last Saturday night someone was heard prowling around his house, apparently trying to get in. The following morning it was discovered an attempt had been made to pry open one of the windows with some iron instrument. Those tramping scalliwags are a great nuisance, were the formers of the marriage vow? Why have ladies been silent in the past, suffering much and suffering long? Why have they been willing to take down the word "obey" and never raise their voice? If for one will not be surprised if that word chokes me yet. It is a relic of barbarism and must have originated in the good (?) old days...
Acton Council met Tuesday. A special committee will make enquiries about the road allowance leading to Nassagaweya which is only from 25 to 30 feet in width between the village and the Nassagaweya town line. There was no other business, except granting \$1 to John McPhee.
Quite a number of our villagers attended a picnic at the McLaren's castle at Caledon.

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