

# 'Dief the Chief' nostalgic visit

"Well, it's been quite a day," he said, turning to an aide.

For the Right Honourable John George Diefenbaker, it had been quite a day. It had been quite a day too for about 100 people who had waited outside Mohawk Inn at Campbellville for the arrival of Canada's elder statesman.

Mr. Diefenbaker had accepted an invitation from the Inn management to have tea in the Acadia, a railway coach "the Chief" had used in his whistle stop tours across the country in the 1960s, while campaigning for the Tories against Lester Pearson.

"It's amazing, just amazing," said the Chief, his eyes flashing as he strolled through the coach, admiring the restoration work.

"I recall one time in British

Columbia when a group of Indian Chiefs came to pay a visit on this car. They weren't impressed. They said it was too frugal. That was pre- Trudeau."

**'Memories'**

"This brings back great memories," the former PC Prime Minister mused.

"No one uses cars anymore. I used to say it was a mistake to travel at 30,000 feet during a campaign. You can't see many people that way. The experts said it was prehistoric."

Mr. Diefenbaker said he attributed his election loss in 1962 to the fact he used planes to travel. He reverted to the whistle stop tour style in 1965.

"I was only 7,000 votes away from being prime minister in 1965. The Gallup



**THE FAMILIAR** grin, the knowing smile and the endless repertoire of humorous stories which embody the character of former Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker were evident in Campbellville Monday afternoon when "Dief the

Chief" paid a visit to Mohawk Inn. He came to see the rail car he used to use for whistle-stop campaigns in the 1960s, and about 100 people came to greet him.

Polls said I had no chance. I said I was a man fond of dogs and they knew all about polls."

The former Prime Minister—probably the best loved politician of our time—had started to leave the coach a number of times at the urging of his aides. But he stayed to talk and recount stories of the past, as only he can do. It was 5 p.m. before he actually did leave to catch his 5.45 flight back to Ottawa from Toronto International Airport.

Quietly and courteously, guides edged him towards the door, only to have him return each time with yet another bit of nostalgia to share with the few assembled reporters and his hosts.

Finally about to leave, he caught a glimpse of a picture of King Edward VII. He turned away from the door and started talking again.

"I was a newsboy in 1911 when he died. They turned out ribbons and sold them for 30 cents each—and made 17 cents profit. They made a fortune."

The mention of his days as a newsboy triggered yet

another story.

"I was a newsboy in 1910 in Saskatoon. I had 125 papers to sell—Winnipeg Telegrams. One day Sir Wilfred Laurier was in town and I sold him a paper. He gave me 25 cents and that put us on friendly grounds. There we were, the Prime Minister and the newsboy, talking about the Canada of the future."

"Later that day the prime minister laid the cornerstone for the University of Saskatchewan. He told the people there, 'You have unusual newsboys here.'"

Sir Wilfred proceeded to talk about the conversation the two had had earlier and quoted young John Diefenbaker as saying "Well, I've work to be done, I can't waste any more time talking to you."

It was during that now-famous conversation that young John told Prime Minister Laurier that some day he, too, would be prime minister.

"I knew where I was going then—that's the way my life

has been," he told his small audience.

Aides glanced at their watches and wondered how they were going to get the Chief out of the car and off to the airport on time.

But there was still time for another story. "I was in this very car in Prince Albert when I first knew that I was Prime Minister. This is very emotional."

"It's been quite a day."

"Yes sir, it certainly has," an aide replied.

Outside the car, he stopped to chat with the people who had waited for him to leave the car. Even then, a friendly hello wasn't enough.

With almost each person he touched in the crowd he had some sort of special personal story. When John Diefenbaker speaks to people in a crowd, it's more than a hand-pumping session. It's more apt to be a memorable experience and just as likely a brief lesson in Canadian history.

"Mr. Diefenbaker, my name is John so-and-so, a man

said.

"Yes, yes, I know the name, they were one of the first families I met when I returned from overseas. It was in Toronto. Yes, I remember..."

Finally the Chief was guided into the waiting car and it sped away.

A special assistant remained behind. He was asked if it was upsetting trying to get the veteran politician to where he was supposed to be.

The aide nodded. "It is always the same. He always says 'don't worry, we'll be

there.' He's right, we always are, but it's our ulcers. He wears us out," the younger man acknowledged.

"I've been with him for seven years and I can't keep up with him."

Mr. Diefenbaker is 81 years old.

Sitting on rails in front of Mohawk Inn, the 57-year-old CNR coach has been restored to its original state, like it was when it carried Mr. Diefenbaker across Canada on his campaign trail. It is now available and rented to families or groups of up to eight people for \$100 per night. A few business groups have used it for meetings, and a few families have used it since it became available in July.

The car was built by Canadian Car and Foundry for Ontario Northland Railway in 1919, later transferred to Canadian National and was on loan to the federal government until 1972. The railway used it for a while and eventually sold it last year to Mohawk Inn at an auction.

Mohawk owner Alex Hacker and partner Anna Spencer said CN employees helped refurbish the car. It is air conditioned and hooked up to sewer facilities and has three bedrooms, and a solarium, dining room (with two extra beds) and a galley.

There are several pictures of Mr. Diefenbaker and some Macpherson cartoons on the walls.

Mr. Diefenbaker never did have the tea, nor the cucumber sandwiches, petit-fours and sponge cake the Mohawk staff had prepared for his visit. The aides said there wasn't time, but there was time for talking, for stories, for autographing copies of his book, and for exchanging pleasantries with young and old in the crowd.

For that's what John Diefenbaker likes to do.



**SITTING AMIDST** gifts and flowers, Mrs. Isabel Watson receives a plaque from Halton member of provincial parliament Julian Reed on behalf of Ontario Premier, William Davis. The plaque honored her as Acton Citizen of the Year, 1976 Friday evening.



**HELEN JOCQUE**, on behalf of the Lakeside chapter of the I.O.D.E. presented Acton Citizen of the year Mrs. Isabel Watson with a handmade corsage at the banquet honoring Mrs. Watson held at the Legion Friday evening.

## 78. AUCTION SALES

**AUCTION SALE**  
Stallion St., Rockwood, Ont.

**EVERY SUNDAY AT 1:30 P.M.**

**FEATURING THIS WEEK:**

Refinished pine flat back cupboard, maple wash stand, pine dry sink with drawer, pine chest of drawers, walnut love seat, rocking chairs, crocks, steam engine oil can, odd chime bells.

Also:  
Good selection of furniture, glass, china and general household items, etc.

**AL WARREN**  
Auctioneer  
1-323-2138

Suitable consignments being received for future sales by appointment or phone 856-4272 or 824-7519.

## 80. WANTED TO RENT

WANTED - dry garage for winter storage of automobile. Call 853-2655

## 81. FOR RENT

NEW - 3 bedroom home, ground floor family room with fireplace. Attached garage. \$400.00 per month. Reply with references to Box 746 c/o Acton Free Press, Acton, Ont. 81amg15-9837

MILTON AND Acton area, 11 box stall barn with hydro and water - no house. 70 acres \$60.00 minimum. Lease available. Call 856-4212.

ROOM FOR rent for single person. Call 853-2179 after 6 p.m. 81atf-9866

ELK'S Hall for rent, contact Tony at 877-6028 or Larry at 877-3905.

## 81. FOR RENT

TOWNHOUSE for rent in Acton. 3 bedrooms, \$325 per month including all maintenance fees, available November 1st. Call 1-519-821-2306.

HOUSE FOR rent. \$350.00 monthly. Call 853-1818.

## 85. APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BACHELOR and 1 bedroom apt., all utilities included. Call 853-2043.

ONE AND two bedroom apartments with stove, fridge and balcony. Adults only, no pets. Call 853-3353.

2 BEDROOM upstairs apartment \$160.00 monthly, utilities included, quiet responsible couple, no children, no dogs. Call 853-3056.

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## Church Services

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON**

Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A. B.D. Minister  
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 1976**

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
6:30 p.m.—Evening Fellowship

Thought—Peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind.

**BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 1976**

11:00 a.m.—The Sacrament of Christian Baptism  
Everyone Most Welcome

**MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**

177 Maple Ave., Georgetown (A Fellowship Baptist Church)

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 1976**

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
6:30 p.m.—Evening Fellowship

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**THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR**

1872—Anglican—1976

Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Dr.

Rev. Leonard Ewing  
Rector  
Director of Music  
Mrs. Frank Oakes

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 1976**

Archdeacon Ted Rigby  
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist and Holy Baptism Service

Please Note:  
There will be no services during the week until further notice.

**EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE**

P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Rd. N.

Rev. Ron Struthers, 853-2715

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 1976**

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
7:00 p.m.—Sunday Evening Evangelistic Service

Tuesday  
8:00 p.m.—Prayer Service and Bible Study

Thursday  
8:15 p.m.—C.A.'s Service

**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
Excellent free town Bus Service for children and adults to and from Sunday School on the "All Red Bus". Also Rural pick-up. For information phone 853-2715 or 853-1435.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA TRINITY CHURCH, ACTON**

Rev. Chas. Beaton B.A. B.D.  
Dr. George Elliott M.A., Ph.D.  
Director of Music

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 1976**

Rev. C. Beaton Preaching  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School and Nursery  
Everyone Welcome

**CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Churchill Rd. N.  
Minister  
The Rev. J. L. McFadden B.A., B.D.  
and Mrs. Eleanor McFadden, B.A.

Box 731, Guelph, Phone 821-3215

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 1976**

11:00 a.m.—Worship and Church School  
11:00—Communion

The church on the hill is an interdenominational congregation ministering to the needs of the community. Everyone Welcome

**BAHA'I FAITH**

"O Son of Being! Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We test the gold, and with gold We test Our servants." - Baha'u'llah. If you would like more information or would like to attend a fireside phone 878-6138.

**ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**

80 Mill Street East, Founded 1842

Pastor: Rev. Das Sydney B.Sc., M. Div.  
Pastor's Phone—853-1835

Thursday  
7:00 p.m.—Choir practice  
Saturday 8:00 p.m.  
Adult Social—Bowling and Refreshments

**Sunday, Oct. 17, 1976**

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School, Adult Bible Class  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
7:30 p.m.—Evening Fellowship at Parson's Home  
Tuesday, Oct. 19  
Baptist Men At Guelph  
Everyone Welcome

**CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Churchill Rd. N.  
Minister  
The Rev. J. L. McFadden B.A., B.D.  
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**GO CLASSIFIED**

## Pet of the Week



**IAN GIBSON** is quite enthused about owning his very own pet puppy. Muffin, a cross-bred Collie, is only eight weeks old and doesn't seem too sure, yet, about having his very own master. They are getting well acquainted as Ian gives Muffin tours around the house in his wagon. Ian, who will be two in December, is the son of Jack and Fran Gibson, Kingham Road.

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