

Free Press Editorial Page

Hallowe'en on Saturday

Decision to have Hallowe'en traditional festivities on Saturday night instead of Sunday—the right date—is a good one. Halton Hills council has made the decision, which was being considered by members of the local Y's Men's club who are again closely involved with the day.

Saturday will give the costumed characters lots of time to prepare. They can be out good and early and back home again ditto - we hope.

Acton has had a happy group of youngsters out each Hallowe'en, with little foolishness or vandalism in recent years.

Although vandalism appears to be a growing concern we trust the local people will again show their good sense.

The Y's Men are sponsoring a Swimathon on the Saturday, with proceeds for UNICEF, and box collections are so far set for the Saturday as well.

We will help again

The nations of the world spend an estimated \$200,000 million a year for military purposes. By contrast, UNICEF has about \$81 million for supporting the build-up of basic services benefiting infants and children in 112 countries (estimated child population: 860 million.) An additional \$14.4 million is also used for relief and rehabilitation.

About 70 per cent of UNICEF's long-term aid goes to equip health centres; provide piping and pumps for village wells; help production of food for the family; and provide textbooks and teaching aids for schools. This assistance directly benefits millions of infants and children. Nearly 30 per cent goes to support the training of national staff-nurses, midwives, health and nutrition field workers, primary

school teachers and supervisors, family-child welfare and day-care workers-needed to run these services.

At every stage, UNICEF and the countries assisted are partners in aid. Each government sets its priorities. However, these are based on a joint survey with UNICEF of the actual needs of children in the country. Most governments invest many times over what UNICEF provides, and many build into their national development plans services for children.

Acton people have been helping UNICEF in their own small way for many years now. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilson and now their son-in-law Ed Leatherland have spearheaded the collections each year, in a very worthwhile effort.



Is 1.6% a majority?

Dear Editor: I wonder if you could give me a little help with a puzzling question. You see, my teacher gave me this problem: "A man asked 60,000 people for their opinion on a matter of public interest (I think it was about education!), less than 1000 citizens responded to his questionnaire. What would be the maximum percentage of people who may have expressed agreement with his viewpoint?" Now, it doesn't seem to matter whether I use new maths, middle-age maths, or just plain old arithmetic—I keep on getting the same answer and that is 1.6 per cent. The

teacher and I both agreed on this figure (and so do most other people I know), but every time I look in your paper there is a man (I think his name is Campbell) who keeps saying that 1.6 per cent is a majority. Please tell me: is this because he doesn't understand arithmetic, did he never learn his grammar or is it all just the work of a "printers' devil?"

Yours truly,
Eric Balkind,
20 Knox Ave.,
Acton.

Route decision mistake

The Editor Dear Sir: The recent lengthy and condescending reply by Ontario Hydro to the fears of two farm wives, Theresa Manion and Patricia Wilson, for their families' safety near high voltage transmission lines is infuriating. I am one of the hundreds of farmers whose farms would be crossed "kitty-corner" by Hydro's proposed 500,000-volt transmission line from the Bruce nuclear station on Lake Huron to Milton near Toronto. About 48 miles of the route would consist of diagonal crossings of farmland.

explosion could occur during refuelling under their proposed high-voltage line. It only recommends involved procedures to prevent it.

Why should a farmer, whose other problems these days have been well publicized, have to stop and consider his every move and those of his family when working or living under these lines? He wouldn't need to if Hydro would concede that its route decision, made five years ago with no input from affected people, was a serious mistake.

It was a mistake for two reasons. First because of the intolerable diagonal crossings of farmland and second, because no independent study was ever carried out to determine if this route is indeed the cheapest one with the least agricultural impact. An independent study has been refused us by Hydro.

We say that no one, including the Davis government which controls Hydro, should have the right to trample on the basic human rights of farmers affected by its expropriation privileges.

We will never give in to this sort of muscle-flexing by Hydro, nor will we be impressed by their phony attempts to show their concern for us, including the "safety" demonstration at Essa.

Yours truly
James C. Dunlop
R.R. 2, Conn.

Thanks 'Wicked Willie'

Dear Sir:

I have been reading with great interest all the letters about Halton Region's garbage and in particular, Site F. It seems all of a sudden everyone is an expert. No one has said anything about solid waste or any of the proposed sites, or recycling that Bill "Wicked Willie" Johnson hasn't been telling us for years.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

There are quite a few big black birds floating around these days. Or had you noticed?

No they are not black geese on their way south. They are vultures. They may not look like it. They may more closely resemble political pundits, media manipulators, or triumphant Tories. But they are vultures.

They are scrawny and hungry as they circle impatiently, waiting for the moribund body to fall down and become a carcass on which they can fatten.

That staggering corpus on which their beady little eyes are fixed is the Liberal Party, which composes the government of this fair land at the moment.

A Gallup or some other poll revealed recently that the Liberals would receive only 29 per cent of the vote, should an elec-

tion be held when the poll was taken.

Add to that the increasingly virulent tone of the media toward the prime minister, and a gaggle of fairly minor scandals involving prominent Liberals, and it would appear that the vultures will soon be gorging themselves.

There certainly is a faint stench arising from the Liberal party these days. But it is not the stench of death. It is more like the odour of a body that needs both a strong purgative and a good, hot bath.

I don't pretend to be a political seer. Nor do I owe any political prognostications to any political affiliation. In short, I don't give a diddle for any of them.

But it doesn't require more than a modicum of common sense to realize that the Liberal party is far from being on its last legs. Anyone who thinks otherwise is

indulging in wishful fantasies or a form of self-hypnosis. That includes the political vultures. I think they are going to go right on being scrawny and hungry.

Remember, you read it here first. The Liberals may have absorbed a few stiff punches in the solar plexus, but they are a long way from going to the mat and being counted out.

Why? Use your head, man, or lady. Forget about the polls and the press. Nobody ever won an election with either, or both. People, not polls, elect governments. And people are the most unpredictable creatures in the universe. They don't base their votes on logic or reason. They base them on all kinds of crazy things.

They base them on emotions like greed and fear. They base them on glibness and charisma. They base them on such things as Margaret making an ass of herself on TV or Maureen having a hard time with her first baby.

In these days, when the tube is so vital in a politician's getting to the people, the latter base their votes, in many, many cases, on dazzle rather than dependability, on rhetoric rather than reliability.

A pity 'tis. 'Tis pity but 'tis true. When the crunch comes, whom are you going to vote for? Earnest, youthful Joe, with his jowls jumping like a junior John Dief? Or suave, elegant Pierre of the Gallic shrug, the seemingly utterly reasonable approach, and the charm of a professional actor? Be honest, now.

Add to that a few other facts. Trudeau has the solid support of his party, if only because he has led it to two successful grabs at the gold ring. Clark was elected leader of the Tories by barely more than one half of the convention delegates.

Add again. Trudeau is a skilled and experienced politician. He has shown that he can be at the same time loyal to his henchman and ruthless when need be. Clark is comparatively untried in the political arena. It is rapidly gaining skill, but hasn't had a chance to be either loyal or ruthless. He hasn't dared.

Add some more. The government controls the purse strings. This means patronage and post offices and pension cheques. And don't tell me that's nineteenth century politics. It ain't. Look for some sudden benevolence by the government on the eve of election.

And again. Don't count too much on the prime minister's current unpopularity. Mackenzie King was one of the most cordially hated prime ministers we have ever had. He suddenly became very popular and won an election, when he introduced the baby bonus. See last paragraph.

Another fact. There are millions of die-hard Liberals in this country. They'd vote Liberal if King Kong or Ibi Arlin (not much to choose there) were running for prime minister. What do you think they will do in an election? Roll over and play dead?

Add to this that Quebec, despite its disillusion with its own Liberal government, will go at least ninety per cent Liberal. They may not love Trudeau, but when it comes to a choice between a guy named Pierre and a guy named Joe, there is no choice, among French Canadians.

Trudeau will get a licking in the West, but that is not where elections are won or lost.

While it may be on the ropes, cut and bleeding, the Liberal party is a long, long way from being carried out of the ring, feel first.

Here's my prediction. Pierre Trudeau will eat Joe Clark for breakfast. If he doesn't, I'll eat three copies of the High River Times for my breakfast.

CATTLE GRAZE contentedly in a picturesque pasture in Erin township, just north of Acton. They are oblivious to the wind blowing the trees and grass, and the darkening clouds.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

taken from the issue of the Free Press, Oct. 25, 1956
A new record of 9.26 minutes was set by Bruce Andrews in the mile and a half cross country championship race at Hamilton on Saturday. The former record of 9.53 was set by Kent Young of Hamilton Delta Collegiate. There were over 50 in the race. The young Acton runner added a gold medal to his growing collection of awards.

An 11-year-old Acton boy is scheduled to appear in juvenile court tomorrow in Milton, charged in connection with three fires which occurred at the Scout Hall in the space of two weeks.

At the annual meeting of the Acton Lawn Bowling Club held recently, the 1956 officers were re-elected for 1957. They are: W. H. Rogers, president; J. Wood, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. E. Holes, ladies president; Mrs. M. Bell, secretary-treasurer; Miss B. B. Wood, tournament secretary.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, Oct. 14, 1928
The contractors are at work on the new offices and band stand at the park and will now push it forward to completion.

Mr. J. F. Roberts, Acton, did well with his sheep and swine exhibits at Erin Fair. He won first on Dorset sheep; first on Yorkshire hogs and first on best pair of hogs.

On Sunday afternoon a special harvest home service was held at Crewsons Corners. It was well attended with Rev. R. E. Zimmerman preaching the sermon. The choir of the United Church, Acton, was present and assisted in the service of praise. Miss Ruth Gibson sang a sacred solo with splendid effect.

The annual Field Day of the Acton High School and Public School was held in the Park last Wednesday afternoon. The weather was not the most suitable for the affair, but the scholars entered into the sports with a zest that overcame to some extent the deterrent of a chilly day.

A petition from the residents of the north-westerly end of Main Street from River Street to the C.N.R. tracks was presented to the council requesting that the roadway be continued 40 feet in width for the complete section of the road to the highway. The petition was supported by a deputation of the residents.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October, 19, 1876

The Halton County Agricultural Society appear to be generally fortunate in having fine weather for their show days, and no better could be desired than Thursday and Friday of last week. The second day was especially favorable for outdoor exhibition, and it was taken advantage of by an immense throng of visitors. As for the show itself, however, it cannot, at least, be said to have been any improvement on that of last year. Indeed, in many respects there was a perceptible falling off; nevertheless, it was on the whole very creditable to the county, the large and remarkably fine show of horses being the principal redeeming feature. In this department, our county may truly be said to stand second to none in the province.

The annual exhibition of the Erin Agricultural Society was held on the Society's grounds at Erin Village, on Tuesday. The day being very fine, there was a very large turnout of people, estimated to be from 2,500 to 3,000. In every respect, the show may be said to have been a perfect success, with the exception, probably, of the small number of team horses exhibited. There were a good many fine looking colts and young horses, and a large number of superior cattle and sheep. In roots, grain, and dairy produce, the show far exceeded any other we have seen this year, and in ladies' work and the fine arts there was an excellent display. Indeed Erin's reputation for its superior exhibitions was fully sustained.

It is now definitely known that the Local Legislature will not meet till the first week in January.

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