

Free Press Editorial Page

Separateness not answer

The implications of separatism are being discussed both locally and nationally this week. An article in last week's Free Press opposing the introduction of a separate school in Acton has brought comment on both sides of the question.

In these days when it's considered wise to 'talk out' problems surely both confederation and religion come in a category worth talking about.

What is Quebec lacking, that

voters feel they would gain by being separate?

What is our present school system lacking, that some Catholic parents want their children to go to another school?

Finding the answers to these questions would improve government and education for everyone.

The writer of last week's article on the separate school, for instance, recommends religious education for everyone, together. Separateness is not the answer.

History repeats itself

King Construction workmen are proceeding along Mill as neatly and speedily as possible, and they have every intention of being finished by the second week in December. Everything is going along on schedule.

It is surprising how efficiently the heavy equipment and gaping hole are protected as a matter of course, and how built up crosswalks are quickly constructed for pedestrians at every corner.

One of the foremen told the Free Press this week most of the people are very understanding about the inconvenience. He hears very few complaints.

And the townspeople, too, are saying how pleasant and helpful the workmen are.

(Are all construction men sea-

soned girl watchers? The prettiest girls have a reverse complaint... masculine admiration. And in November, too! Think how the Acton girls would hold up construction if they were struggling up and down those dirt banks in their summer cutoffs and T-shirts!)

For business of course the construction can't help but be bad. It's not easy shopping on Mill and won't be for a few weeks yet. But the improvement will surely make it all worthwhile later.

Just 50 years ago, King Construction company was paving Main St. The people didn't think the work could be done before winter set in, but it was. And it was a good job, too.

So in that way, history repeats itself.

Small towns growing

Small town Canada not only exists - but thrives, writes Lois Bridges from Edmonton in The Financial Post. Dr. Gerald Modge of Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning, told delegates to a conference on the urban environment a nation-wide study of small towns of less than 10,000 are the most part showing "tremendous vitality."

In the past decade they've attracted a hefty chunk of the country's population as well as its investment dollars. Roughly four million Canadians now live in towns and villages, an increase of

443,000 in the past decade. Many smaller centres are growing at a much brisker clip than cities, and average population increase has been 13 per cent in small centres, vs a Canadian population growth of 17 per cent.

Acton certainly falls in this category, and is still growing. We live with the knowledge that there are great plans afoot for more subdivisions, schools and stores at Acton's outskirts.

Extension of GO train service to Guelph will make living in Acton even more attractive.

Of this and that

Our Member of Parliament Dr. Frank Philbrook has tabulated the replies to his latest questionnaire, sent to all households through the mail. The surprising thing about it is not the replies, but the small response. Out of 40,000 households, he has only heard from 214.

Again we had a chance to participate, and we blew it.

Yet how many of those 40,000 households complain about the government? Betcha more than 214.

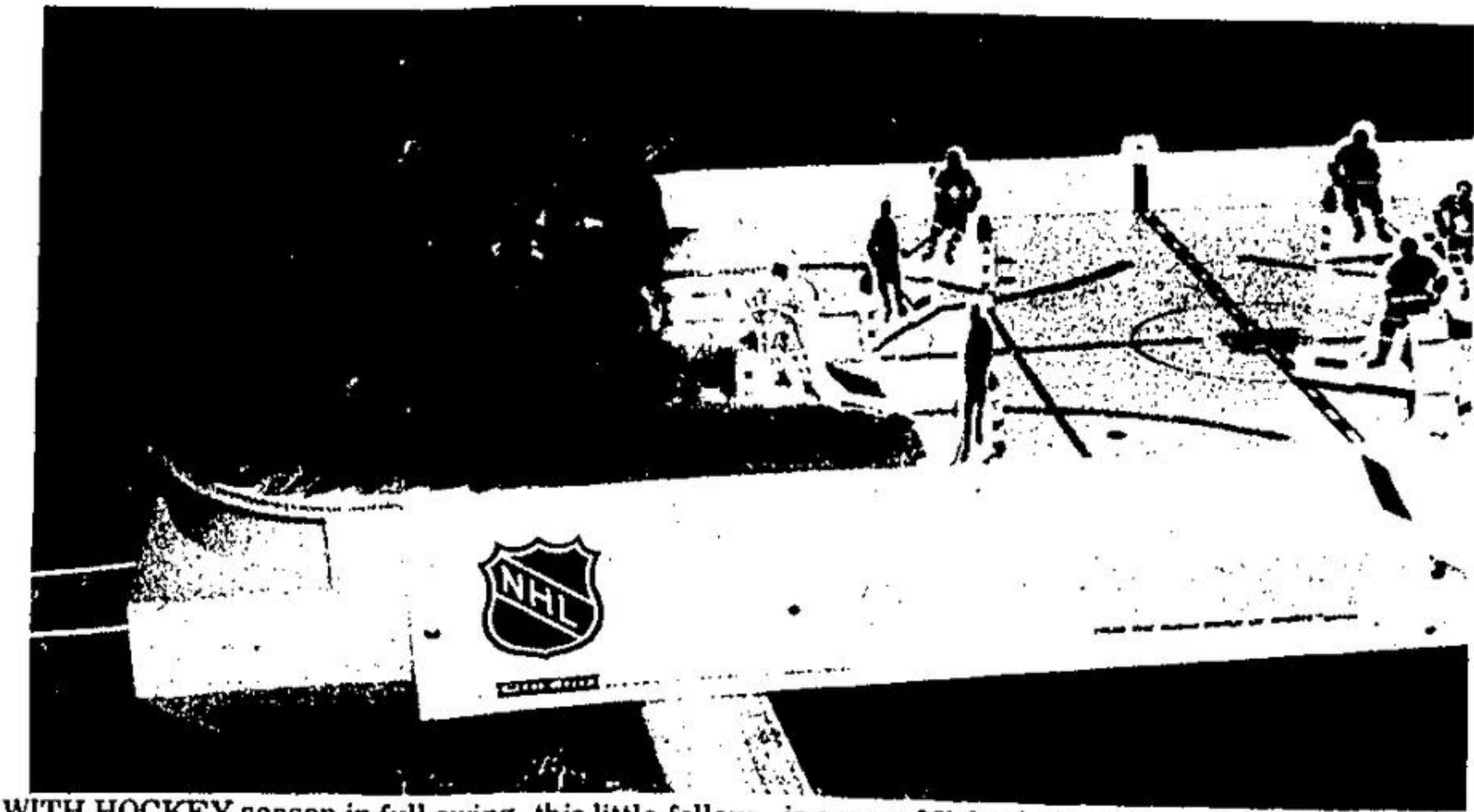
Canada's newsmagazine, Macleans, arrived in the mail of Acton subscribers Tuesday morning - the day after the Quebec elections - bearing on its cover the big face of the new president of the United States. With this kind of coverage, we might as well still have Time Magazine!

In retrospect: Age is mostly a matter of mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

The men forming the "164" to represent the 164th battalion, in the picture in last week's Free Press, ended up with a convoluted version of the "4". Guess it's pretty hard to figure out what you're doing when you're all lying on the ground. Anyway, there is no known explanation for the upside down 4.

Unhappiness is not knowing what we want and killing ourselves, trying to get it.

A night owl is someone who doesn't give a "hoot" what time they get in.



WITH HOCKEY season in full swing, this little fellow gets in the action. Showing off his good right defense is young Michael Kincaid, a furry hockey freak.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

There is one type among the species Man that puzzles and saddens me.

In an age that congratulates itself on its openness, its honesty, its "Let it all hang out" attitude, the hypocrite is still very much with us.

Some people might think the 19th century was the golden age of hypocrisy. Certainly, it set some high standards in this line.

There were the manufacturers who preached enlightenment and progress on the one hand, and on the other worked children 60 hours a week in their factories.

There were the men who brayed of chastity as one of the prime virtues, and dallied with prostitutes. There were the men who spoke glowingly of a gentler way of life, and set savage fighting dogs on one another. The list is endless.

And the women! Oh, but weren't they the hypocrites, too? Just as tough and voracious as any woman of today, they hid these traits behind a facade of gentility, humility, helplessness and fainting fits.

It was an era in which the public mouthing of the Christian virtues was only exceeded by the private materialism, corruption and sometimes downright viciousness of the middle and upper classes.

Well, then, have we got rid of this particularly obnoxious type, well into the second half of the 20th century? Not bloody likely!

Perhaps we're not quite as hypocritical as the Victorians, but I wouldn't want to bet on it. All that's changed is the terms of reference.

No manufacturer today could get away with hiring children. But don't think they're any less heartless than their forebears. At least, in the 19th century, you knew the boss was a bastard. Today, a company can "reorganize", and turn half a dozen middle-aged men into the street by an "executive decision."

Many men in today's society still practise a double standard, one for themselves, one for their wives. A man who gets drunk has had "a few too many." A woman who gets drunk is "disgusting." A man can go to a business convention and have a little fling with a call girl. If his wife kisses a couple of guys at the New Year's Eve party a bit too warmly, she's a sex maniac.

We have politicians who spout of peace and plan for war, doctors who preach against drugs and tell you cigarettes will kill you, even as they butt their 50th coffin nail of the day and pop a couple of bennies to keep going.

We have pillars of the church whom you wouldn't trust as far as you could bounce a bowling ball in a swamp.

We have all kinds of characters who will cheat on their income tax, and then berate people on welfare for "ripping off the government."

We have teachers who "Can't understand the attitude of young people today," completely forgetting that they themselves were insolent, lazy and not even that bright when they were young people.

We have mothers who get in the family way at 19, and had a shot-gun marriage, bewailing the "sexual licence" of their daughters.

We have fathers who deplore at length the slothfulness of their sons, conveniently ignoring that they had a good boot in the tail from their own fathers before they'd even carry out the ashes.

We have school trustees who will double over in an agony of glee after hearing a filthy joke, but in public sternly deplore the "pornography" children are being exposed to in their school literature.

They are the type who will respond with chuckles and even belly laughs to the sexual leers of Norman Lear in Maude and All in the Family, but thunder fulminatingly against a fine novel like The Diviners by Margaret Laurence.

What about today's woman? Are they less hypocritical than their great-grandmothers? On the whole, I'd say yes. They're just as blasted irritating as ever, but they're more honest. They still cry for no apparent reason, but they know there's no percentage in pulling a faint. They'd probably just get a glass of water in the face.

But even the women are a long way from being out of the woods, when it comes to hypocrisy. And many of the biggest hypocrites are "surface" feminists. They want all the perks of the new freedom, and all the treats of the old "essence of woman."

Oh, well, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." I'm certainly not talking about me and thee, gentle reader. But aren't you a little sick of them—all those hypocrites?

OUR READERS WRITE:

Don't spoil it for children

I would like to show my appreciation to the person who wrote the article in the Free Press last week entitled "Separated for What? Parents should have right to religious education."

It is too bad that there are not more people who really care about our little ones.

I believe whole heartedly in that article and feel that we should do something positive to promote an alternative to separate schools, as was suggested in this article. I wish it was possible for everyone in our community to read it and digest the meaning of it.

Let's bring up our children together, and in the same schools.

Please... do not segregate them.

We teach our children to love one another as we would like them to love us, and to treat people the way we would like to be treated in return.

Segregating children is not in my estimation teaching them to love one another, because by segregating you are saying, "you are different."

Let's be more open.

We were brought up in one faith, but surely we should expose our children to other people's faiths.

If the suggestions in last week's article were carried out, by at least grade eight, all pupils would have had the opportunity to learn about other religious groups, and discuss them in a straightforward, uncomplicated way, within the school community.

Children should be taught respect for other people's religions and feelings and that can't be attained by going our separate ways.

I thought God wanted us to unite, and work together. Why can't our schools be united where our little ones are concerned? Why do we have to involve them in the battle of religion? They don't want to separate.

Some people have to organize their own group just for the feeling of power. Some people feel they have to be swamped with paperwork in order to feel important. Is that what children need—to be tossed around in a power struggle?

Let's not spoil it for the children. Let's stay together and bring all religions into our school. Let's learn about each other so we can appreciate and respect each other better.

Marilyn MacEachern.

On separate school education

Acton Free Press. To the Editor:
In answer to "Separated for What?" by an Educator in Halton:

It is not surprising that this extreme and misleading comment on the separate school system was written anonymously. The writer has no knowledge whatsoever about the aims and motives of the Catholic school.

We Catholics have a right to Catholic education in Catholic schools. We do not wish to separate our children from the body of the community or its spirit, but simply to educate them in a perfect manner. True education can only be attained when it involves the child as a whole person made up of body and soul. We see the Catholic school as the only institution where this can be done, because it is here that a child will be

taught and trained in such a way as to prepare him for what he must be and for what he must do in the world, in order to attain the sublime end for which he was created.

To be a suitable place for Catholic students, it is necessary that the whole organization of the school, and its teachers, and all its subjects be regulated by the Christian spirit under the supervision of the Church. Hence, the solution offered in the comment for preventing the separation of our school children could not permit us to give our children the true education which is necessary. That is why we must have our own separate school.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Catherine Barrett

Include young people, please

R.R.1,
Acton, Ont.
10th November, 1976
To: The Editor,
The Acton Free Press
This is a copy of a letter sent to the Acton Royal Canadian Legion, for publication under "Letters to the editor".

The President,
The Royal Canadian Legion,
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:
It was noted with regret and disappointment that the Colors of the Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies were excluded from the official Color Party at last Sunday's Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph.

May I suggest that for next year's service the Colors of the Scouts, etc. be included in the main Color Party. Many members of

both Scouts and Guides also gave their lives in both Wars. Also could your parade marshals give the boys and girls who turn out a chance to be nearer to the Ceremony. This year the parade was halted while the rear end was still a block away from the Ceremony. The children consequently saw little or nothing of what went on.

Remarks are often made in the press regarding the lack of respect for tradition displayed by some of the younger generation. However, if youngsters are not allowed to participate fully in events such as the November Memorial to those who gave their lives, how can we ever expect them to even know what the traditions are based upon, let alone have any respect or feelings of any sort, regarding our past history and the men and women who made that history.

The Veterans of World War I are getting fewer with each year. Those who served in World War II are getting older and those of us who lived through it, though too young to serve except in peacetime, are already in our forties. If succeeding generations are not instructed and invited to participate more fully then "Lest We Forget" will be forgotten within a few more years.

Yours truly,
Bryan St. Alder

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The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press November 22, 1956

A straw stack was destroyed by fire on the Sprowl farm Sunday on Churchill Rd. South of No. 7 highway. The alarm was turned in by Mrs. Sprowl, who noticed the fire in the field north of their home.

Foundation was poured for the new Bank of Montreal building last Monday. The structure, rising on the Mill-Willow Streets corner property formerly occupied by Hinton's Department Store will be of stone, brick and aluminum. It is expected that the building, begun last month, will be completed by January.

Margaret Whewell of Bruce Street school, Milton, won the North Halton urban public speaking finals held at the Acton public school on Thursday, November 15. Judges A. J. Barker, Georgetown, J. D. Lee of Milton and Rev. Ray Costerus of Acton selected Miss Whewell from a field of 23 contestants, with Leslie Ann Dudy as the runner-up.

The paving of Acton's streets, entailing the laying of six and a half miles of pavement, has now been completed. The project was started early in October, continued all last month and throughout the first half of November. The job cost an estimated \$100,000 of which the town will pay half.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 11, 1926

Once again the Thanksgiving Memorial service on the holiday morning provided a most fitting celebration of the day for Acton citizens and visitors. The place it takes in the hearts of citizens was immediately evidenced in the attendance at the first section of the service in the town hall which was virtually filled on Monday morning; the ministers on the stage, the Great War veterans in two rows to their left and the town-folk and Acton Citizens Band as a whole surrounding. Rev. Sawyer gave an address laudatory of the heroes of the great war. Leaving the hall a procession was formed which marched to the soldiers' monument with the ministers, the band, the Veterans, the Boy Scouts, the women's societies and the citizens in general. Here the service though brief was decidedly impressive. Corp. Cooney read the names of the 19 men who gave their lives for the cause. From the monument the procession proceeded to the cemetery.

Here a hymn was sung and the graves of the veterans were decorated by the Junior Daughters of the Empire. The veterans' monument here was honored with a wreath by the surviving soldiers.

Safety First, a three-act comedy, was presented by the young people of St. Alban's church. In the cast were F. McCleary, Joe Wheatham, Ted Tyler, A. Rogers, George Lewis, Mrs. Smethurst, Lottie Holmes, Mrs. Allan, Lillian Tyler and Miss Jessie Galbraith. There was vociferous applause.

The new cement pavement on Main St. from the Canadian National Electric Railway tracks to the junction with the Toronto-Sarnia Highway, near the Canadian National Railway Crossing, was completed on Tuesday afternoon. It was with some misapprehension that people who have had no experience in modern road building saw the King Construction Company commence the work of laying cement the last week in October. Notwithstanding however the weather conditions have been very imprudent, the work has proceeded successfully and Tuesday marked the completion of a piece of work of which the contractors say they are very proud.

The reputation of the King Construction Company has always been satisfactory. Fine equipment of the latest type facilitated the work. Mr. King has had wide experience in paving contracts.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 16, 1876

An examination of Dictation and Spelling was given the pupils of the Public School on Friday, Nov. 10. One hundred of the most difficult words to be found in the respective readers and spelling book were dictated to each class. Quite a number of the pupils succeeded in spelling every one of the hundred words correctly and that many others were not far behind. Those with all or almost all the words correct were Fred Ross, Chester Hill, Fanny McGarvin, Elizabeth Stone, Maggie Campbell, Ella Hamilton, Maggie Nicklin, Alberta McGarvin, John Maloney, Isabella Hill, Ella Speight, Mary Worsnop, Marilda Masales, Angus Kennedy, William Storey, Thos. Kennedy, Albert Goodall, Henry Ryder, Jane Fearney, Annie Moore, Ella Worden.

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GRADE ONE class posed for their picture in 1936. There are plenty of familiar faces in this group! Those identified are front row left to right: Ray Atkinson, Jim McGilloway, Phyllis Robertson (Patrick), June Wilson (Kennedy), Betty Masters (Ashley), Dena Braida (Defend), June Dunn (O'Rourke), Joan Somerville (Burn), Betty Bauer (Campbell), Doug Shepherd; middle row, George Muselle, Andy Nichol, Don Lamb, Irma Kentner (Coles), Lena Lawson (Burns), Joyce Lamb (Rowley), Shirley Elliott (Dills), Frances Fryer (Johnston), Jean Massey, Helen McLellan (Jocque), Ken Marchant; Back row, Frank Wood, Alleen McIsaac (Brewster), Stella Zajac, John Barr, Charlie Rocher, Walter Party, McGilloway, Aldo Braida, Ken Adamson.