

Free Press Editorial Page

Can we change things?

Regional government—can we get out?
Can we even change anything?
People running for office here this election all seem to recognize the unhappiness in Acton and district with the new system imposed on us from on high.
In Acton, a group of people concerned about the question have met

quietly to initiate a study of the situation. They will be able to find some answers to the most trying questions of the new system.
Judging by the comments of candidates at last Wednesday's meeting, any of them would be sympathetic to the report of such a group, and would try to proceed to institute changes which would help.

Complaints are easy

It's a time for serious thinking, election time.
It's not a time to have the brain ruled by emotional issues or unreasonable accusations.
Federal, provincial and municipal elections all find the same situations—challengers who have ready complaints and

criticisms. What a terribly difficult task for the voters to try to figure out if the challenger would really be able to change anything. The people with the most intelligence are obviously who we need, in office already or not.
Complaints are simple. Solutions are not.

Too late for letters

A letter to the editor has been received on the subject of the election. The writer, in fact, states the names of three candidates he feels should be voted for. It is the policy of the Free Press not to print

any letters to the editor on the subject of the election the week before the voting. By limiting letters to weeks before the election, we give the people involved a chance to reply.

Candidates communicate

Candidates are using all the methods at their disposal to reach the voters. The Candidates Night was one, of course, but the percentage of voters attending was low. Folders and cards left at doors is another way being used by the candidates as they hope to tell people their platforms.

Some are making door-to-door calls.
Posters on the roadsides, on lawns and windows is another way to make names known. It's disturbing to see some signs ripped down. Rather unusual is the story of one candidate stapling his own posters right on top of another man's sturdily mounted sign!

Election notes

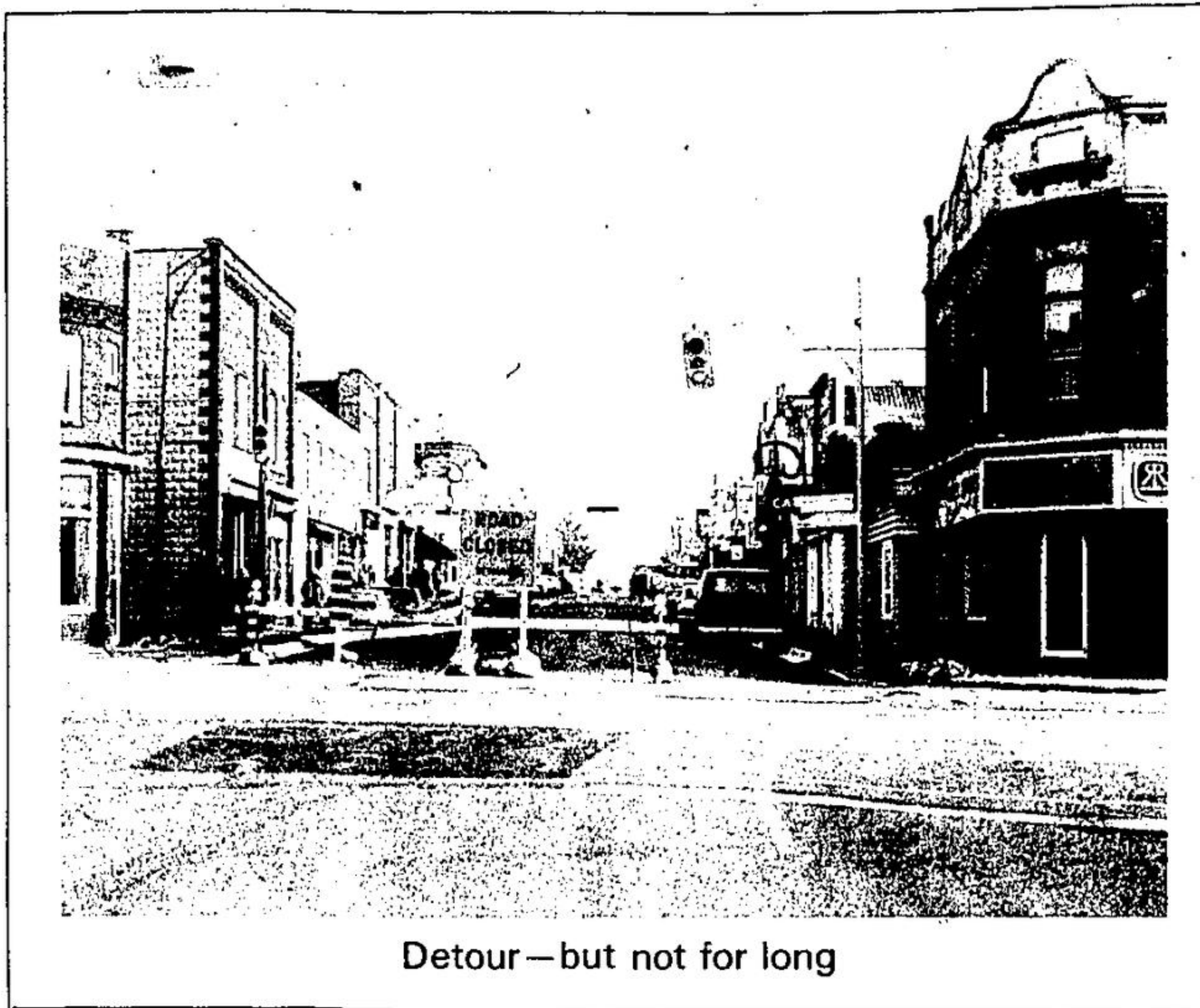
The liquor question being put to voters is apparently not inspired by an application for a new dining room with entertainment in the area. It's just to equalize the right to decision throughout Halton Hills.

For instance, a person could put an X for only one section, and this would not spoil the ballot.

Main thing is to make the effort to vote. If you find your poll is a longish walk this time - say, to the Legion - check the ads and candidates folders and phone for a ride. It's a service gladly provided, and doesn't in any way tie you to a specific vote.



SNOW MAY NOT BE HERE yet, but the ice definitely is. Just a few spots of Fairy Lake are not frozen over. Old man winter is up to his artists' talents with ice formations along the shore.



Detour—but not for long



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

LIKE SO many others, I was completely astonished by the sweeping victory of the Parti Quebecois in La Belle Province.

I was also just dreadfully, dreadfully upset at the thought of that darn old separatist Rainy Levaack taking over as Prime Minister of Quebec and exercising his rights to exercise that fair province right out of the body politic of this Great Nation.

In fact, I was so disturbed by the whole thing that when my assistant department head, Jeanne Sauve, came up to me in the hall, grinning fiercely, and said, "Vive De Gaulle!" I just gave her an icy look and walked.

I made myself scarce when my old shuffleboard partner, Bill Chenier, was looking for me for our usual noon-hour game in the staff room. No way am I going to be buddies with some guy who is probably an underground agent for Rainy Levaack.

However, I got my own back in a sort of sneaky, and you might even say sadistic way. I asked my four-year Grade 11s if they'd heard the news that the government of Ontario was going to put everyone with a French-Canadian name in concentration camps, just as our federal government, in its infinite stupidity, did with the westcoast Japanese after Pearl Harbor.

Boy, that shook them. They started looking around at each other. Half my classes are made up of Robitailles, Cadieuxs, Cadeaus, Moreaus, Bourgeois and so on. I said: "It'll certainly be nice to have smaller classes." Their mouths were open.

Then one guy in a front seat, with a good

Scottish surname, started to grin, and said, in the impeccable English I instill in my students, "Ya, sir, I heard that there broadcast. But you didn't hear it all. They changed their mind. They ain't gonna putten in camps. They're gonna line em all up and shoot'em." My cold, stern look began to crumble, and pretty soon we were all laughing as they realized they'd been "had" once more by Old Smiley.

Then we talked about what the separation of Quebec would mean. The kids, as usual, weren't too perturbed. Dynasties can come and go, as far as they are concerned, as long as they don't get a homework assignment out of it. The only thing that upsets them is a case of unrequited love, or the breakdown of the TV set just as the big sex-or violence scene gets started.

The possibility of Quebec separating from the rest of Canada upsets me just about as much as it does the kids. I love Canada as it is, but I don't think that Confederation and all that jazz is a sacred thing. It was put together by a bunch of politicians for reasons that were not entirely altruistic, and if another bunch of politicians wants to disband the club, so be it.

The original plighting of troths was basically a marriage of convenience. After more than a hundred years of marital disharmony, if one of the parties feels the union is incompatible, why not get a divorce?

When I was the age of my students, the British Empire stretched around the world. In the cant phrase, the sun never set on it. Today that mighty Empire has shrunk to a tiny, beleaguered Britain, financially on the rocks. Does anybody

really care, except a few elderly pukka sahibs?

People love frightening themselves and each other. Political columnists are having a hey-day, speculating on the Balkanization of Canada. After Quebec drops out, speculate the worry warts, B.C. and the Maritimes will probably become part of the U.S., the prairie provinces will secede and form a country called Manalask or something, and Ontario will be left sitting high and dry, the only remaining bastion of the true-blue WASP Canadian. Nobody seems to worry much about Newly.

Maybe it's time this country had a jolly good shaking up. We seemed to have changed in the last few decades from a vibrant and vital young nation with lots to be proud of, and plenty to look forward to, into a sour, crabby and suspicious middle-aged country, beset by inflation, unemployment and strikes.

We run down our leaders. We seek security rather than adventure. We whine about American domination and do nothing about it. We bitch about playing our part in NATO and giving money to poor countries and letting in too many immigrants and anything else that is unselfish.

Despite high unemployment, we have one of the most erratic labor forces in the world. Despite our tremendous natural resources, we let the Americans and the Germans and the Japanese do the investing in our development, because we haven't the guts to take the risks ourselves.

Maybe the threat of separation by Quebec is just the jolt this country needs to get the old adrenalin flowing once again. This is a great country, but it won't be great for long if it is inhabited by a nation of chickens. Or sheep.

Life is change. Things that don't change die. Let's remember that and not panic when there are indications of change, however great it may be.

Corridor exposes raw nerve

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed touched a raw nerve in Attorney General Roy McMurtry last week with a question in the Legislature which the Attorney General construed as innuendo against Dr. Omopd Solandt and his Ministry.

Mr. Reed told this newspaper he was taken back by the angry response from Mr. McMurtry. He felt his question was phrased so it would encourage only an investigation and answers from the Ministry. But Mr. McMurtry, who has been in the news much lately over violence in hockey and common-law relationships, shouted a reply accusing Reed of "innuendo" about people who are serving the public to the best of their ability.

His bluster showed he either knew little about the questions, or criticism of his office is beginning to rattle him.

Mr. Reed's question was: "Since the Bradley-Georgetown corridor hearings of necessity were called off at noon yesterday (Thursday) to obtain a judicial ruling on admissibility of evidence, would the Attorney General avail himself of the time between now and next April (date of recall) to study the revelations made there in the last few days—namely the evidence that Dr.

Solandt owned property close to one of the corridor options in his study (an option dropped) and (2) that the lawyer representing Hydro, is on loan from his office of the Attorney General, as is the hearing chairman, and no such loan was offered to the farmers and land owners? And would he satisfy himself and this House that these revelations do not constitute any conflict of interest?"

The hearings in Acton over the corridor, which will march 160 foot high towers down the Fifth Concession of Halton Hills, were adjourned but not before the two items in question were brought out. They obviously need answers and the Attorney General's refusal to withdraw an angry statement he made is either an admission of guilt or irritability with the disclosures

made. In any event they should be answered.

Liberal leader Stuart Smith, who often has his foot in his mouth, was quite right in asking, "...can opposition members not question the Government about events...which could involve possible conflict of interest about which we do not have information but simply suspicions from time to time?...can we not raise these questions without accusing anybody and not ourselves be accused of muckracking?"

We doubt Dr. Solandt's reputation would be impugned by scrutiny. We believe his integrity is beyond question. Surely answers from Mr. McMurtry's ministry will serve Dr. Solandt's reputation far better than evasions.

Of this and that

Why is it easier to believe something bad than something good?

As soon as the rush is over I'm going to have a nervous breakdown
I worked for it
I owe it to myself
And nobody is going to deprive me of it.

"The way Bernard Shaw believes in himself is very refreshing in these atheistic days when so many believe in no God at all." - Israel Zangwill.

"He flung himself upon his horse and rode madly off in all directions." - Stephen Leacock

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 29, 1956

Tragedy was narrowly averted late this morning when two-year-old Rosalind Hall, 217 MacDonald Blvd., was discovered floating face down in a creek back of Wallace Ave. houses. The child was reported recovering satisfactorily when transferred to Guelph General hospital by ambulance. Neighbors noticed "something red" floating in about 18 inches of icy creek water and rapid investigation proved it to be the Hall child, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hall of the McDonald Blvd. address. Screams for help brought assistance and the child was taken to the home of Mrs. G. Hargrave.

Mayor Ted Tyler was acclaimed to the position again for 1957 at the annual nomination meeting on Friday evening. Nassagaweya township will hold no municipal election this year as Reeve John A. Milne, Deputy Reeve Charles Thomson, Councillors Archie R. Service, B. D. Young and Arthur E. Padbury, and school area trustees Dr. Clifford Young and Arthur H. Gibson were all acclaimed to fill the vacant positions.

Mr. and Mrs. Stan White, Richmond Hill, spend Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Arnott, Peel St.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 2, 1926

The economic and businesslike administration of Reeve Mason and his councillors was amply vindicated at the nominations on Monday. This is seen in the election by acclamation of Reeve Mason with no other name put forward. The school trustees were also elected by acclamation, C. H. Harrison, John Ramshaw, George Mann and John Scarrow, and the Hydro-Electric Commissioner E. J. Hassard.

The ratepayers will not take kindly to the fact that Mr. Nicol forced the town to the expense of an election, which seemed absolutely unnecessary. Nominated for council are John Nicol, L. E. Atkinson, E. T. Theford, Frank Holmes and Chas. Parker.

The public meeting in the Town Hall was one of the largest and most impressive ever held in Acton prior to a general election. The hall was crowded to the doors. The seating capacity was altogether inadequate. The Mason Orchestra gave a generous programme. Mr. R. J. Kerr was chairman.

The Hon. E. C. Drury, who motored to Acton after addressing a meeting in Milton, was accorded an ovation upon entering the hall, and he spoke in the interests of Mr. Henry Pettit, Mrs. Isabel McCorkindale of Australia, a lady speaker of rare clarity of thought and expression, delivered a most eloquent address.

School children and others, generally polite to their elders, often reply to the respectful salute of older people with "Hello". A much more seemly reply is "Good Morning", "Good Day", "Good Evening" or "How Are You". The abrupt "Hello" savors of lack of due respect.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 30, 1876

A correspondent in a Detroit paper says: "Canada and the Eastern States are sending their unemployed 'West', under the idea that work is brisk and wages good. Detroit is easily reached from Canada, hence we may expect a tide of unfortunate immigrants who will be doomed to disappointment. We have hundreds of strong able-bodied men and women of our own who are able and willing to work and cannot get it.

Christmas is coming—Many patterns of china tea sets; ladies' beautiful fancy china cups and saucers; gents' fancy moustache cups and saucers in great variety; flower vases, celeries; mugs; glassware; sick cups and sick feeders, no house should be without them; lamps of all kinds. Everything imaginable in granite and common ware, the largest, most beautiful, and cheapest display we have ever brought to Acton, at Second Bros.

The superiority of the Canadian Cheese over all the others is thus borne out by a letter from one of the jurors on dairy products at the Centennial: "The finest U.S. cheese did not come up to the best Canadian. The best cheese in the states was graded at 95 per cent of perfection, while three Canadian exhibits were graded at 100.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 653-2010

Business and Editorial Office



Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 59 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the Canadian Community Newspapers Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$7.50 in Can., \$25.00 in all countries other than Canada; single copies 15 cents; carrier delivery in Acton 15 cents per week. Second class mail registration number 0315. Advertising space occupied by the erroneous insertion of a typographical error, that portion of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

David R. Dills, Publisher

Key Dills Editor Don Ryder Advertising Manager

Copyright 1976