

Free Press Editorial Page

It's carnival time

It's been several years since Acton had a winter carnival. The high school organized one a couple of times, and it provided a real break in the long, hard winter.

This year, Halton Hills recreation department is co-operating in producing a winter festival at Kelso for all of Halton.

We asked the department if they considered a carnival just for Acton. They thought they'd like to see how many people from this district participate in the Halton carnival first.

One problem with that, is that even an outdoor carnival is partly a spectator sports. People enjoyed watching the torchlight parade to the high school, from the warmth of their cars. More people want to see snow sculpture than create it.

The high school gave up their carnival because the burden of work fell on too few. The Y's men no longer sponsor snowmobile races.

Perhaps with assistance from the reaction department and its full-time director, the idea could be resurrected again.

What would you do?

The 26th annual campaign for funds for the Ontario March of Dimes is underway here and all over the province.

Founded in 1951 to help polio victims and to finance research into a cure for the crippling disease, the Ontario March of Dimes has, throughout the years, met the changing needs of disabled adults whatever the cause of their disability.

The most recent program introduced by the Ontario March of Dimes is that of Community Development. Workers in a dozen areas across the province are

helping disabled adults from dependence to independence to interdependence within their communities; the emphasis is on working with them rather than for them.

The campaign slogan "Put Yourself in the Picture", and showing an empty wheelchair, should give pause for reflection to every able-bodied man, woman and child in the province. What would you do if your world suddenly collapsed into total dependence on others?

Donations may be made at the banks.

Coffee once banned

According to legend, coffee was discovered in Africa by an Arab shepherd around the year 850 A.D., when he first chewed the coffee berry. The effect was a great feeling of exhilaration, which he rushed off to proclaim to the world.

Coffee had, in its early years, as rugged a road to travel as alcohol had during the temperance movement and Prohibition. When introduced into Europe in the 17th century, it was considered by some Mohammedan priests as an intoxicating beverage, and therefore banned by the Koran. Severe penalties were threatened upon those addicted to its use.

In spite of this, the use of coffee spread. With the opening of the London coffeehouses in the 17th century, coffee proved that it was here to stay. The steaming cup performed the same function at these establishments as a pint or two of beer, loosening tongues and enlivening conversation.

Coffee was brought to America in

1607 by Captain John Smith, according to tradition. It was not until 1670 that the first licence to sell coffee was issued in the future United States.

It wasn't until nearly 1800 that coffee was first grown on this side of the Atlantic, but its production soon became centered here, with Brazil accounting for most of this.

Coffee has since become an accepted drink and cries of "intoxicating beverage" are few. Canadians enjoy waking up to a quick cup or two in the morning, one cup during a coffee break, perhaps a coffee at lunch, another during the afternoon, and another at dinner. The Mohammedan priests of the 17th century would probably have condemned the whole nation as profligate, but they are not around anymore, in body or spirit, to blunt our pleasure.

In spite of the apparently large amount of coffee we drink, we account for only 2 per cent of the world's supply.

Of this and that

The 20 years Ago column is being replaced by Ten Years Ago, as an experiment. It was suggested that many of the newer people in town would find it more interesting. We would appreciate comments on the change.

Third class mail wishing us Merry Christmas was still arriving at the Free Press January 14. Issues of weekly newspapers

published before Christmas are still arriving.

How about this, Actonians for Action Committee:

People who drive between Acton and Georgetown thought snowplowing and clearing work were proceeding faster in Georgetown last week. It's a regular winter complaint. Can anybody prove it?

Analyzing the election

Ric Morrow could chart a new course for Halton

By Bob Burt

In terms of the unexpected Ric Morrow's election as regional chairman is nothing less than sensational. Morrow was given two chances to win in his bid for the brass ring—slim and none.

But the decision to elect a chairman was much more than a popularity contest. That decision by council could be one of the most important decisions in the development of regional government in Halton.

In 1974 council took on new powers that the old county system never had. In the three years since then, council has assumed more power and taken responsibility for more of the functions involved in municipal government.

Sets new tone

Until Morrow jumped into the race, there was never any doubt that the future would see even more power shifted to the regional level of government.

But if Morrow follows through on the tone he set Wednesday, the whole field of region-

al and area council relationships could change.

Morrow says he wants the region to work as an equal with the four area municipalities, not as a senior level of government. He says he wants to return those functions to the area levels that can best be handled at that level.

By converting the job of regional chairman to a part-time position, Morrow has successfully reduced the status and prestige that goes with the office. He won't be the big daddy in Halton politics.

As far as he is concerned, the mayors are—and should be—the high profile politicians in municipal politics and a regional chairman has no business usurping a mayor.

Man with a mission

In speeches with the council and in discussions with the media, Morrow has appeared as a man with a mission. His mission involves reducing duplication. If that means reducing the role and the influence of the region, Morrow claims that's what has to be done.



LAKE WATER AND SNOW JOINED TO create this delightful winter scene near the Mill Street dam over the weekend. Many ducks and two swans are wintering in the open waters above the dam. People are advised to stay clear of the open waters there because of the thin ice.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

I was glad to hear, in his end-of-year news conference, that Prime Minister Trudeau had no plans for keeping Quebec within the Dominion of Canada by force, should separation of that province be approved by its people in a referendum.

I'm sure many another old sweat of my vintage who is still on the reserve list also breathed a sigh of relief. One of the many things we old vets don't need is a civil war. One war in one lifetime is enough for any man.

Most of us would have trouble completing the deshabille of a stripper in a burlesque show, let alone stripping a machine gun.

And I think we might have a little trouble completing a route march from, say Kingston to Cornwall, to repel an invasion strike from La Belle Province. Personally, I am puffing like a grampus after scraping a bit of ice off my windshield. I have to be down for five minutes after carrying out the garbage.

Can any of you guys of my vintage imagine being sent out on a night patrol, probably on skis, to take a few prisoners? What we'd probably have to do is dump the skis, hail a cab, head for a bilingual bar across the border, and bring back a couple of go-go girls. Might be fun at that, if

they'd let us use some common sense, which, of course, the military will never allow.

If the feds re-enlisted a brigade or two of old krieges (prisoners-of-war) they'd have their hands full. First of all, the krieges would steal, just out of habit, everything that was not nailed or bolted down. Secondly, krieges are trained to escape and head west. Stick two brigades of them on the Quebec border and in a couple of weeks, after stealing a train or two, they'd wind up in Alberta.

Ancient naval persons might be better off in a civil war. They don't have to walk to work. They could charge up and down the Ottawa River, firing broadsides of bilingual propaganda into the streets of Hull.

Ex-armen wouldn't be of much use. Most of them are so portly they wouldn't be able to get through the escape hatch if their aircraft was hit. Perhaps they could be reorganized as a special low-flying force, equipped with snowmobiles, and sent out to harass the enemy by driving all over his farmers' fields on the snow, thus ruining his crops for the next season.

Former paratroopers wouldn't be of much use, either. Most of them have grown so heavy that they'd plummet like bricks, and the screams of arthritic agony

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday January 18, 1967

A goal set in 1966 by Hydro chairman E.G. Tyler Sr. was reached last week when Acton Hydro Commission held its inaugural meeting in the recently completed hydro building on Alice Street.

Micro Plastics Workers members of the United Rubber Workers of America, at a meeting Sunday voted overwhelmingly in favor of strike action if a conciliation board report is not favorable.

On Sunday at the Legion Hall, 110 Micro workers were present. Out of this number, 109 were union card holders and eligible to vote. The strike action was unanimous, in the event a proposed two-year contract did not meet with their approval, according to local president Paddy Dick. Union mem-

bers are also requesting higher wages and increased benefits.

Glenlea Smoke Shop closes Saturday and a milk store will be established in that location.

Acton Firefighters answered their first call in 1967 Friday afternoon when they raced to a car fire on Cobblehill Road. When they arrived at the scene the fire had been extinguished. It is believed the car was driven by Ralph Matthews and had backfired causing a fire under the hood.

Consideration of establishing a day nursery in Acton continued this week at a further meeting of the executive of the Community Welfare Services committee. It is hoped to have the nursery operating.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 20, 1927.

Poll tax was collected from W. M. Kelly Jr. in error as he was not yet 21 years of age. The clerk was ordered by council to make a refund.

R. J. McPherson was appointed assessor and tax collector.

Mrs. Orwell Johnston, who was so critically ill last week, is now making progress slowly.

Miss Minnie Z. Bennett, principal of the public school, is ill with the gripe. Last year was Acton's centennial year of its founding by the Adams family and the event was fittingly celebrated. Some people had doubts as to Acton being founded prior to Guelph, which celebrates its centennial year in July next. Acton's natal year is

however, 1826, without doubt as authentic data proves. The Free Press has just received from Mrs. G. W. Cook (Minnie Adams) of Grand Rapids Mich., a copy of the genealogical history of Robert Adams and his descendants. This record says Rev. Ezra Adams and his wife who had lived in Cambridge, Mass. and Lundy's Lane, Canada, settled in Acton, Esquing township, in 1826. In July 1826 Jane Maria Adams was born. In May 1828 Eliza Roxana was born. She married Rev. Matthew Swann who was minister of the Methodist church in Fergus, Acton and Georgetown. George Washington Adams was born in Acton July 4, 1830. He resided in Grand Rapids.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 18, 1877

Skating is the popular amusement this winter.

The new two cent Canada post cards, for use in the United Kingdom, are now out.

The renowned Scottish singers, Miss Jeanie Watson and Mr. J. F. Hardy, are announced to give one of their inimitable entertainments in Mathew's Hall (Hotchen's Bakery) next Tuesday evening.

The Reeve spoke of the large number of "tramps" that have infested the village lately, stating that the money that had been placed in his hand for the purpose of giving them temporary relief had been exhausted. Smallpox is extremely prevalent at

Quebec, several cases having proved fatal. Mammoth sleighing parties are all the rage these winter evenings. They inevitably result in frost bites, palpitations of the heart, bad colds, and engagements to marry.

Morning papers outside of Toronto seem to have a hard struggle for existence. There is only one left outside Toronto in all Ontario.

Traffic was greatly delayed on all lines by the snow storm on Friday and Saturday. Ninety men will be thrown out of work by the fire at the Welland Vale Manufacturing Company Works. The loss is estimated at \$100,000.

when they hit the ground would destroy any element of surprise.

Thinking it over, we must conclude that a civil war in Canada, using nothing but reservists, would certainly be comical, but not too dangerous. Most of the casualties would be in the Legion halls, each night after the "fighting" was over.

And speaking of the Legion halls, a civil war would certainly add a little spice to the rather dreary dialogue that is the norm. Instead of monotonous mutterings about the last bingo game or the next shuffleboard tournament, you'd hear stuff like this:

"Ja hear what Quebec Cora said on the TV tonight?"

"Ya. She said the frogs captured a whole battalion of the Canadian Army today and there wuzzen a man in it below the rank of sergeant. Eighty-five colonels, 150 majors and so on."

"Right. And 50 per cent of the officers was French-Canadian."

"It figures. But she's a good lookin broad, right?"

If it does come to civil war, you can include me out. And that goes for all my old friends, including a few Germans who fought on the other side in WW II and are now happy Canadians.

But that doesn't mean we wouldn't make our contribution, our sacrifices, if needs must.

My contribution would be to over-all strategy, which has always been my strong point. You should see me plotting to get someone else to mow my lawn, put on

my storm windows, shovel my walk.

Hereby some suggestions. First, if the feds want a short, swift victory. Muster every aircraft in the country, load them with every scrap of paper in Ottawa, man them with civil servants under the command of Otto Lang, and bomb. Not only the separatists, but the entire province of Quebec would be obliterated for a generation.

An alternative to this would be to build a fence right around the province, constructed of all the red tape in Ottawa. It would take the Quebecers 10 years to cut their way out, and they'd have forgotten referendums and such.

If these methods of an easy solution are not dramatic enough for you, here's my final offer.

Muster all the politicians, lawyers and Women's Libbers in the rest of Canada. Fly them to a remote section of Newfoundland. Muster all the politicians, lawyers and Anglophobes in Quebec. Fly them to the same place. No conventional weapons for either side.

Then let them beat each other to death with unveiled intentions, deliberate misinformation, absolute ambiguities, legal torts, trial balloons, and shrill cries of "French male chauvinist pigs," and "Maudites Anglais abortionistes."

It would be lovely and peaceful in the rest of the country. And the bleeding, battered winners could have Newfy, where the locals would hunt them down for sport, as they did the Beothuk Indians.

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