

Free Press Editorial Page

Listen to voice of voters

Our voice is small. But our votes are the same as anywhere else - one per person. And this time the strong swing to the opposition Liberals in Acton and Esquesing surely must say something important to the party in power.

There can be no doubt that the Liberal willingness to review regional government had a good deal to do with the change this time.

In the last election, voters here were divided in whether to oppose the reigning PCs and their position on regional government, among other things, or whether to support a native son, Gary Dawkins, who was the PC candidate.

There was not an Acton person in

the running this time, and only the issues remained.

Acton and Esquesing joined the rest of Halton-Burlington riding in a strong backing for the opposition Liberals.

While Halton will no doubt remain as a region, the Conservatives must now address themselves to the voice of the Acton populace.

Let there be a review of regional government at the provincial level, as there is at regional level.

The Actonians for Acton committee has prepared its brief for region council.

Now we have spoken again. We have voted. Please listen.



HELEN DAWSON TAKES front row seat (or stand) at the Acton Citizens' Band supper concert Sunday evening. The event was graced with dry comfortable weather and piper Jim Ballantine, Mount Brydges;

entertained during the band's intermission. Patients from Countryside in Hornby made the trip to hear a fine performance. The concert was outside behind the music centre.

Why wait for paving

Can there really be any reason for the delay in the final paving and sidewalk construction on Mill St.? The roadways and sidewalks are dangerous and a disgrace. To wait throughout the winter is understandable. Bad weather in this country certainly stops construction.

But here we are near the end of June and the second stage of the reconstruction has still not begun.

The matter of the liability for the crumbling curbs is still under discussion, we are told.

The matter of who signs the cheque that pays for the new curbs doesn't concern us.

The state of our main thoroughfare concerns us very much.

Someone has to pay.

Why should the whole town and all the people who use the highway constantly be made to suffer?

Downgrading police office?

Acton should have a full force in its police station here, with a sergeant on duty, and not simply operate as an adjunct to the Georgetown office.

It was surprising to learn last week that our sergeant has been transferred and is not apparently being replaced.

Acton is growing, and the needs as far as policing are growing, too. It is no time to cut back here.

Our calls to officials produced no good reason why the men here should have their supervisor in Georgetown rather than in the Acton office, as he always has been.

The people here still feel somewhat remote from the regional police force, which took over from the O.P.P. The regular complaints about lack of foot patrols on the main streets have only recently been heeded, apparently. There are accounts of the length of time it takes for a policeman to respond to a call. They do not seem to "belong" to our community. All but one live out-of-town.

There are 13 men here now - more than the O.P.P. ever had. Yet the area to be covered includes large parts of Esquesing and Nassagaweya, and it would be interesting to know how we stack up on a per capita basis. Cruisers are often out-of-town.

Are our men as experienced as those in other parts of the region?

Downgrading our office will not solve these problems.

We deserve the best policing we can get. Surely that means a full complement of policemen or women with a corporal or sergeant in charge.

Although there has been an indication that the police are seeking another location for its office, the public has never learned what is wrong with having the police office remain in the town hall. It seems an excellent place for it.

We have heard that it is becoming crowded. Relieving the men here of a supervisor and administrative work would solve that problem, perhaps. Is that the reason for the change?

Long live the Queen!

Watching and reading about the special events in Britain to celebrate the Queen's jubilee have brought a surge of pride to Canadians.

How fortunate we are to have a sovereign and system of government to be proud of.

The British system is of course our system. It has been found to be an appropriate and successful way of regulating the lives of people for centuries.

The monarch's powers have varied over all the s. At one time, the monarchy was abolished al-

together in Britain.

Our present day ruler is one who does her duty nobly and seemingly with satisfaction.

A living symbol, she presents the crown in human form. Justice is dispensed in her name in Canadian courts, too.

The enthusiasm which infected the crowds in London the past week has extended to all the corners of the commonwealth, heightening our awareness of her position and the success with which she maintains it.

Long live the Queen!

Of this and that

How times change! Tom Ware recently came across an old piece of paper which records the price of building the basement at the first cottage on the right on the Crescent over the Maria St. bridge.

G. Clifford was the man who made the estimate for Mr. Ware, on Sept. 20, 1935. Mr. Clifford was a busy town builder in those days.

Here is what he estimated:

"Wall to be eighteen inches thick, and six feet four inches high to bottom of joist. Stone to be laid in cement mortar for the first two feet to make solid foundation. About

one part cement to six parts lime mortar.

"Window to be built in as shown on plan and battened back from frame inside. Where cellar steps go down would like wall narrowing down to 14 inches to give more room for steps (as shown on plan.)

"Inside pointing to be well flushed up and broomed off.

"Outside pointing to be done after brick work is finished and block off.

"I agree to do all the labor and supply all material to complete same for the sum of one hundred and sixty five dollars. Signed, G. Clifford."



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

There's a big black cloud hanging over this country, and despite the veritable hurricanes of hot air emitted by politicians, it refuses to blow away. It's name is Unemployment.

If you have noticed that not so many people seem to belong to the curling club or the golf club as there were, don't imagine for a minute that for some reason, there is a drop of interest in the sport and the conviviality of these social oases in the desert of our lives.

It's simply and purely that a heck of a lot of guys and gals can't afford the fees any more, because they are simply and purely out of work.

As a child of the Depression, I grew up under that big black cloud, and I know full well what a brooding shadow it can cast over an individual or a family. It hung over mine for more than a decade, and it left its marks on the soul, if not the body.

Let's take an average family of today confronted by this spectre, without any preparation for it. Jack has worked for 15 years in a plant. Working conditions were good. Pay was good, and got better every time the union growled. Jack belonged to the union, but didn't attend meetings. He had worked up to \$14,000 a year as a foreman. Pretty good for a guy with Grade 12.

His wife Jean has been working, too, for the past seven years, them, they had a good income. Like everybody else, they wanted the good life. Bought a house, with a 30-year mortgage. Traded the car every three years, on a bank loan. Plunged for a boat. Enjoyed a week's holiday in the south each winter, and two weeks at a rented cottage in the summer. Even went to Europe last year.

No real financial problem, although spare money seemed rather scanty, with inflation. But all payments met on time.

Suddenly the roof fell in. Jean's job was declared redundant as the small firm she worked for tightened its belt against rising costs. She tried for another, but there were 10 younger women, with more skills, for every job she applied for. With a rather forced laugh, she told friends she'd decided to stay home and be a housewife. And, after all, she was collecting unemployment insurance.

Still no real financial problem. Then the pogey ran out. Canada Manpower, that hunk of bureaucracy as useful as teats on a bull, had nothing for her.

Then-earthquake! Jack's company announced, with the utmost regret, that it would be closing permanently within a month. In business double talk, the employees were informed that for some vague reason to do with the parent plant in the States, it was no longer feasible to maintain production at the local plant. Translation: the fat federal subsidies the company got to build the local plant had run out, along with the special local tax deal.

Jack discovered, with horror, that he was 41 years old, that he had fairly limited skills, despite his good reputation as a worker, and that there were hundreds of young guys, who knew more than he did, looking for jobs. He and the other foremen were told that there might be a job for them at the home plant in Waukegan, if they wanted to make the move. Not as foremen, of course. The home plant already had foremen.

Jack and Jean had an income of \$110 a week, unemployment insurance. Their mortgage payments were \$30 a month, car payments \$90 a month, fuel and hydro \$70 a month. It cost them \$50 a week to put bread on the table. They owed the bank \$1,200 for the boat.

That's why they don't show up at the curling club and the golf club. That's why they never throw a party any more. That's why they don't go on holidays. That's why their kids don't get new clothes on demand. That is unemployment.

Boat is long gone. Transportation is now a beat-up pickup truck that Jack uses for his business. Oh yes, he's working. He scraped up a thousand dollars and, with his knowledge of welding and such, started a small auto body repair shop. The thousand he owes has increased to \$1500, but business is picking up. A second mortgage, at 18 per cent, saved the house. But there'll be no money to educate the kids. There'll be no more dreams of retiring on a pretty good pension, and buying that place in the country. There may not even be a marriage. Jack and Jean fight a lot these days. Their kids don't like them much

these days. Jack gets awful drunk on Saturday night. Jean cries a lot.

A horror story? Nope, just a modern fairy tale, about two babes lost in the woods of our material society, where everybody wants to get quite a bit more, and give quite a bit less.

I feel sorry for Jack and Jean, and all the other people whose grasp exceeded their reach. They're not really to blame. In a society that puts money, things, possessions, status, at the top of the list, and people, thrift, humility, and integrity at the bottom, they're just a couple of the casual casualties.

That's unemployment, 1977 style. Show me some bread-lines, soup kitchens, men who would literally sell their soul to the devil for a decent job, and I'll show you some 1930s unemployment.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Star reporter defends himself

Inlake Court, Mississauga,

The Editors:
The Acton Free Press,
The Independent, Georgetown.
To The Editor:

Mayor Tom Hill is incorrect when he accuses this reporter (Independent and Acton Free Press 8) of using confidential information given at a May 31 Press conference to identify the company considering take-over of the Dometar Fine Papers Ltd., plant at Georgetown.

The facts are that everything stated at the Press conference by George Gray, Progressive Conservative candidate for Halton-Burlington and Mayor Hill was "on the record." This can be confirmed by your own Hartley Coles and George Evashuk of The Herald.

I can assure you that at no time was the name of Scott Paper Ltd., mentioned to me by Mayor Hill or Mr. Gray as the company interested in moving to Georgetown.

Although I informed Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray at the May 31 Press conference (again Hartley Coles and George Evashuk will confirm) that I already knew the name of the company the only possible clues to its identity at the Press conference were given publicly by Mayor Hill.

These were published on the front page of The Independent on June 1: the name of a Mr. Goulet, the fact (incorrect as it turned out) that a Scott directors meeting on the possible take-over was being held in Vancouver and that the company concerned was a manufacturer of paper products. Also, purchase of the Dometar mill was "imminent" according to Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray.

George O'Leary, president of Scott Paper Ltd., only with the objective of checking the substance of certain statements made concerning the firm by Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray notwithstanding the fact that the company in negotiations with Dometar had not at that time been named in the Press.

I can assure you that Mr. O'Leary was most distressed with some of the misleading or incorrect statements which had been put out concerning his company by Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray.

As a result I had specific permission from Mr. O'Leary to write a story for The Star (published June 2) naming Scott and denying the company has any firm plans for taking over the Dometar mill or phasing out its existing production facilities in Crabtree, Quebec or New Westminster, B.C.

It might also be interesting for Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray to know that I was congratulated for my "integrity" by Mr. O'Leary and Bernard Goulet, a Scott vice-president, for bringing the matter of statements concerning their company to their attention and on the accuracy of my subsequent story concerning the company's position.

I would point out that had the company substantiated the facts as given by Mr. Gray and Mayor Hill and had not wished its name published under those circumstances no story would have been written by me for The Star.

Halton Hills Councillor Pete Pomeroy has backed Scott's official statement on the issue. For the Town of Halton Hills only Mayor Hill, Pomeroy and planner Mario Vendetti took part in the talks with Scott officials and at the two meetings held Mr. Gray wasn't present although he does claim he is aware of the Dometar side of the negotiations.

I find it quite significant that Vendetti says he has been "instructed" to say nothing on the issue. Instructed by Mayor Hill perhaps? If so, why?

As of last week I was personally assured by Mr. Goulet that the fact that the company name has become public "in no way changes" Scott's plans for "TAKING A LOOK AT PURCHASE" of the Dometar plant along with properties elsewhere in Canada.

At the end of the Press conference (during which I didn't say the name of the company either) Mayor Hill and George Gray agreed quite specifically with the statements each had just made on the Dometar situation although to be fair Mr. Gray didn't say much on the issue at that time. However they "fully supported" what each other said.

So far as Mr. Gray's position on the issue is concerned he told the Georgetown Rotary Club May 16 that the location of a new industry in the Dometar plant was "almost a fait accompli," it would possibly create 850 jobs and while negotiations for the sale of the Dometar plant were "completed" the actual sale had not yet gone through.

On June 1, in my capacity as North Halton reporter for The Toronto Star I decided that some of the statements made by Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray should be checked out in the public interest, mainly in view of the provincial election campaign.

Acting on information I had previously received from other sources I telephoned

I would suggest, with respect, that in future Mayor Hill and Mr. Gray be much more careful in the kind of "on the record" statements they make at public meetings and press conferences, especially at election time.

If they have suffered some embarrassment they have only themselves to blame. Mr. Gray's public statement at a Kilbride election meeting that the company in-

(Continued on page 5)

The Free Press Back Issues 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, June 14, 1967

Nancy Ruth Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Miller, graduated last week with a class of 29 from St. Joseph's Hospital school of Nursing in Guelph. She is on two weeks holidays now and returns to St. Joseph's until August 24. She is not sure yet where she will be nursing.

Mrs. Laurie Patterson, daughter of Mrs. Kay Bennett of Acton, also graduated at the same time. A family dinner party was held after the graduation and among the guests were her grandmother Mrs. Annie Bennett, Guelph, and her husband's grandmother, Mrs. Gray of Hillsburgh.

Harold (Sonny) Townsley has been engaged as arena manager and began his new duties this Monday. Also engaged to fill the complement of employees at the arena is Don Price.

Choralliers' activities are continuing right up until they leave to sing at Expo on Friday, June 30. They will be singing a program in the high school on Sunday evening, June 25.

New issuer of motor vehicle licences in Acton is Edwin Watson. His office is combined with his Mill St. Music store. Former issuer Jack Hargrave has resigned.

New residents at 341 Westcott Road are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Betteley and family. They moved to town from Brampton, and Mr. Betteley commutes to work at Kleinfelt Engineering there.

Miss Anne Watson and David Watson are visiting relatives in Montreal and seeing Expo.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 20, 1957

Peter Wolfe, age 11, was recently awarded an \$800 annual scholarship for the completion of his high school at St. Andrew's College, Aurora. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Wolfe, Acton, he was successful out of a class of 16 in obtaining one of two scholarships open for this year. Peter credits his success in completing these exams to the co-operation of the teachers at the Acton school, where he is presently completing his grade eight exams. The Acton student registers at St. Andrew's College on September 10 and will begin his studies on September 11.

"Keelots Bodo", a German Shepherd dog owned by Fred Pfeifle of Acton, took first class honors at the Scarborough Dog Show last weekend. Keelots Bodo, better known as "Nigger" won six awards during the day. He placed first in the open class, the "Winners Dog", the top best of winners, the best of breed and the best in the walking group and the best Canadian breed in breed.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 14, 1877.

The undersigned begs leave to inform the people of Acton and surrounding neighborhood that he has procured a magnificent hearse and is prepared to attend and conduct funerals on the shortest notice and most moderate terms. Caskets, Coffins, Burial Robes, Hat Bands and Gloves supplied when required. Signed John Speight.

A correspondent suggests locating caterpillars' tents, dipping a bundle of cloth in kerosene and setting fire to it.

Property owners on Main Street asked council to consider making the new sidewalks six feet instead of four. The petitioners said they were willing to pay the difference.

Flowers at funerals are getting out of date in the large cities.

At Queen Victoria's last drawing-room, a lady attracted considerable attention by the remarkable combination of colors in her dress. She had on a skirt of deep red silk trimmed with black lace. With this she wore a train of brocaded satin of a striking vivid yellow-green edged with a broad ruching of velvet of the same color.

In Georgetown a bylaw will shortly be voted on to raise \$7,000 for the purpose of purchasing the Market Square and erecting a town hall.

Christie Henderson and Co.— 100 dozen Canada straw hats at 5c. 40 doz. sunshades 10c and up. 1,000 yards of English prints at 10c. worth 15c. 60 doz. kid gloves, very choice, worth \$1.25 for 80c. All the novelties of the season.

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OSO CNA
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