

Free Press Editorial Page

All get together

It is good news that the Chamber of Commerce will be calling a public meeting to discuss current issues.

There has probably never been a time in the history of the town when there were so many really important issues cliff-hanging for decisions.

And it's no time to proceed with anything until there is very general agreement that the correct decision has been made.

One of the obvious decisions is that of the second storey to the fire hall, estimated to cost double the original estimated price, now \$200,000.

A citizen tells us he is planning a drawing of an entirely new building on another site altogether, conveniently located. A drive through town reveals several locations which could provide a brand new fire hall with plenty of parking for the firefighters.

Although Acton firefighters last week asked council to consider alternatives, two of their own representatives, councillors Duby and McKenzie, added their votes to others to create a majority voting to proceed.

The firefighters are willing to wait a while to have the best they can for the money.

What reason can council have for pushing through a decision without a good deal of serious thought being given to other sites which could prove better?

The present fire hall could be a terrific asset to the town in its pre-

sent state. It could house the senior citizens. The front part could be rented out as shops, or could provide a youth centre. (Milton just turned the sod for a \$375,000 town youth centre this week.)

The committee working on new fire hall accommodation, headed by Russell Miller, has done a commendable job. However, the jump in cost caused the firefighters to return to council suggesting a second look. Obviously this should be done. Council has called tenders, but it's still not too late to think again.

The fire hall addition in its present location would continue to add to the downtown parking congestion. Limiting parking around the fire hall - the obvious solution - doesn't help shoppers any. There is no doubt more parking is needed downtown.

The planning department is working on alternative ways of paying for more downtown parking and this is encouraging.

Hopefully the principals who are holding on to Hotchens property can continue to exercise patience, while the subject is still talked out.

The Business Improvement Area's hopes and plans - and ways of paying for them - are another topic that can benefit from a meeting of the minds.

These matters are all crucial for Acton's future.

To push through decisions would be wrong.

The public meeting in September should help clear the air.

Surprised and insulted

A press release from the general council of the United church of Canada proved a shock and disappointment. Not only that, we're insulted.

A resolution from the Saskatchewan conference of the United church of Canada to the general council lambasts at commercial advertising.

The resolution actually says the council should oppose the "Proliferation of advertising and its major role in the support of the media." They would "urge the government to initiate a reduction of paid advertising in all media with a view to replacing it as the chief source of revenue for the media."

Of course advertising is our chief source of revenue, and why not? Weekly newspapers - the media we know best - are a business and if we don't make enough money to meet the payroll, we fold up.

And where else would our money come from?

Readers could not pay the full cost for a newspaper which contained only news. The cost of selling the Free Press containing news only would be far too high.

Anyway, we know our readers look upon the advertising in the newspaper as an extremely important part of the package. They want to read about the announcements, meetings, the sales, the changes, the innovations - the church notices.

Of this and that

Congratulations to the people who have been selected as recipients of the five Halton Hills jubilee medals. Dr. Frank Oakes of course is this year's Citizen of the Year. Edith Hillman of R.R. 4 is an active worker and presently president of the board of directors of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded.

Good news! The Free Press will again have a column headed 50 Years Ago. Our files had been away for microfilming far longer than expected. Then they were returned to us unbound and unusable. Finally the microfilming company has loaned us a microfilm reader and the tapes for the year 1927. To our annoyance, we discover some of the pages are missing. We are developing more grey

hairs over this attempt to make sure the Free Press files are safe and always available for the future!

Meanwhile, we hope to have the old files rebound soon...by another company.

Eventually, people may read the old issue via microfilm reader at the library.

The whopping great water bills being received this month were predicted quite a while ago. Regional treasurer Donald Farmer recommended that Acton water rates be increased 60 per cent.

Our regional councillor Pat McKenzie supported the decision. He explained then, via the Free Press, rates here should have been increased years. He said then rates would have increased drastically, regional government or not.



KERNEL STANDERS—rows and rows of finger-lickin' good, ready to roast corn. The August treat is available at many roadside stands as well as in stores.



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

A great many people look down their noses at the game of golf. Scornfully they ask: "How can an adult with a mind walk around a few acres of manicured pasture hitting a little white ball with a long stick?"

And I am inclined to agree with them. It's a silly game and at least once a week I determine that I'm going to quit. But it's just about as easy to quit golf as it is to quit smoking.

It's a game that reduces strong men to tears of impotent rage and turns honest women into cheats who move their ball from a bad lie when nobody is looking.

Even the parlance of the game is ridiculous, combining terms from the butcher shop (hook, slice, shank) with those from an aviary (birdie, eagle) and those from a horror movie (bogey, skull).

It's an expensive game. Membership in a club can run from \$300 a year to \$5,000 or more. Even the basic equipment can easily run to \$500 for clubs, cart, bag, shoes.

Those who don't belong to a club can pay as you go, eight or 10 dollars a round, and add to that three \$2 balls lost in the bush and a couple of drinks in the club house and you're getting up around \$20 for four hours of muttering at a little ball, pursuing a little ball, and occasionally hitting that little ball so sweetly that nothing can quite compare with the feeling, and you are hooked all over again on this silliest of sports.

Come to think of it, golf isn't a sport, any more than chess is. It's more like a way of life. And there are a lot worse ways of life. For a teenager, once bitten by the bug, it's like a disease. But a kid who has played 27 or 36 holes of golf on a Saturday is not very likely to be out smashing windows in the local school on Saturday night. He's too pooped.

For the old-timer who plays nine holes every day with his foursome of cronies, it's a lot better life than sitting around the legion hall or the beverage room grousing about the government. He still has a challenge. He knows perfectly well that one of these days, if the wind is right, his arthritis isn't acting up, and the dam' club will connect with the dam' ball often enough, he can bring his score down equal to his age.

An 8-year-old can still play golf and enjoy it, but you don't see too many of them surf-boarding or parachute jumping.

Of course, it's an evil game. I've heard it rumored that there is sometimes betting involved, especially among the older guys, sometimes staggering wagers of as much as a nickel a hole.

And then, of course, it's a dangerous game, physically, emotionally and psychologically. You can be thumped on the head by a golf ball traveling about 300 miles an hour.

You can be struck by lightning right at the top of your backswing, if it's storming. Some golfers have gone into sand traps

and never been seen again.

Emotionally, it can turn a calm college professor, the epitome of reason, into a raging maniac who is capable of throwing all his clubs into a water hazard and stalking from the course, purpleleered. I have seen one of the seetest-natured chaps I've ever known, after hitting the ball three yards three times in a row, put his foot in the middle of a perfectly good four wood, bend it double, and hurl the crippled club deep into the nearest woods.

I have heard a poised young matron, a regular churchgoer, using language on the golf course that would curdle the blood of a drunken Danish seaman.

And if the game doesn't scar you physically and/or emotionally, it will probably destroy you psychologically.

There are 40 people watching as you take your three practice swings, each one a marvel of symmetry, a machine that is grooved and oiled.

You step up to the ball and hit it 60 yards straight up and 20 feet ahead of you. Or right over the fence on to the road. Or straight into the woods. While the gallery sneers, discreetly and you desperately try to grin nonchalantly.

It can get worse. Your wife, whom you can outdrive by 60 yards, steps up and hits a beauty right down the middle, and then gives you one of those looks. Marriages may be made in heaven, but they can become unmade on a golf course.

Golfers do have a couple of things going for them. For one thing, they're extremely generous. They'll tell you, without charge, what is wrong with your backswing, your downswing, your stance, your grip and the kind of balls you are using.

For another, they're tough. They wouldn't think of walking to church in the rain, but they'll play 18 holes in a torrent. On sultry summer days when people are dropping with heat stroke, and on cold fall days when people are huddled by the fireplace, the golfers are out there, hacking and heaving around the course.

Well, there you are. The game is silly, expensive, evil, and dangerous. Golfers run the risk of being scarred for life in one or more ways and should be locked up for their own safety. I'm definitely going to quit.

And yet... And yet... The other day I had three good drives. Tuesday my putting was improving. Wednesday I'd have had a birdie if I hadn't hit the tree. Yesterday I was chipping well.

I think maybe I'll give her one more go. It's all got to come together one day. Surely.

Of this and that

Are you teaching a child to be careless with matches?
Do you teach a child to smoke?
Do you teach a child to play with fire?
If you do, you may be teaching that child how to kill itself by fire.
To reduce fire deaths and injuries fire safety must be taught at home.

The Free Press Back Issues 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, August 23, 1967

Three-year-old Marlene Helen Schonnop was struck by a car on Mill St., in front of Wilkes bus depot. The driver jammed on his brakes and swerved but was unable to avoid hitting the child. The car was nearly stopped when it struck the child, a witness said. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Schonnop, Mill St., was treated at the scene of the accident by Dr. D. Garrett and taken by John Creighton Jr. to Guelph General Hospital. She received bruises, abrasions and a broken left foot.

A little more light on the subject resulted from the meeting of the Hydro Commission on Thursday, August 10. All commissioners were there to increase the town's wattage—chairman, Ted Tyler Sr., Mayor Les Duby, Doug Dawkins, Wilf McEachern and Orville Brown. Two new mercury-vapour lights have been installed on Cameron Street.

Mr. Fyfe Somerville has been a patient in Guelph General Hospital this past week. His many friends are glad that he is showing improvement since his surgery.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, August 29, 1957

Lillian Phillips, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Phillips R.R. 4 Acton and local high school student had the misfortune to stumble while descending from a tractor on the farm and received a bad gash on her leg requiring several stitches.

George Bowman of Acton received the \$50 bonus prize given by the Canadian National Exhibition for his handcarved handbags being chosen to enter the purse contest for the third consecutive year.

Mrs. Frank Freeman, R.R. 2, Acton took first place honors at the Canadian National Exhibition for her tatted table cloth.

Beadmore and Company Limited announced this week it had purchased the Acton premises of the Wool Combing Corporation of Canada Limited and that Canada Packers will operate one or more units here.

Bob Landsborough, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Landsborough, Lake Avenue, received notice recently of being awarded a \$500 Dominion-Provincial Student-Aid Bursary.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 25, 1927

When the officials of St. Alban's Church were tendered, by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon T. Beardmore, their commodious and beautiful grounds for their garden party on Wednesday evening, the success of the event was assured. The Beverly House gardens are a replica of the famous Butchard gardens at Vancouver. (The Church St. apartments now stand on the site.)

The new public and continuation school will be opened September 5. A temporary bridge will be built over the stream at Willow St.

Successful in passing examinations are Mary Chalmers, Irene Dunn, Reginald Finney, Elvin Gamble, Margaret Grindell, Nevelle Harrop, George Mason and Jessie Young.

Master Harvey Hassard had the misfortune to fall and break his arm.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 23, 1877

Esquating Township Council met at Stewarttown on the 10th inst. The clerk read a statement from the county clerk of the sums levied on this township for the current year, as follows: County purposes \$2768.27; Public Schools \$800; Credit Valley Railway \$1987; H. and N. Railway \$2328. The treasurer was authorized to pay to Richard Broelbank \$13, being the two-thirds value of six lambs killed by dogs and to Richard Houson \$2 for one lamb killed by dogs.

Those boys and young men who are in the habit of congregating in the evenings and at all hours on Sunday at Mrs. Secord's corner are earnestly assured that they frequently render themselves a very great annoyance both to themselves and to the property owners in that vicinity. Ladies who are compelled to run the gauntlet of the double file of boys and have to submit to the slang and vile remarks that are often heard, have very serious cause of complaint and they no doubt feel like calling upon the town authorities to protect them from the annoyance. We sincerely trust that the good sense and moral decency of our young men will prevail and we will not be obliged to refer to this matter again.



"Vive la Acton libre!"

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 50 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 Canada, \$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 0613. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signatures, will not be charged for but the balance 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 & Publishing Co., Ltd.
David R. Dills, Publisher
Key Dills Editor
Bill Cook Advertising Manager

Copyright 1977