

Free Press Editorial Page

See you at the fair

The fairgrounds will be the magnet this weekend when crowds will again enjoy the annual fall fair. Again this year the fair boards and all their assistants are planning an event which caters just as much to town tastes as country products.

The stress on entertainment is obvious, and there will be plenty of entertainment for everybody.

The midway will run throughout the three days, if not longer, and it always attracts with its music, delighted shrieks, prizes and delicious smells.

Parts of the fair grounds will be small oases of quiet, as thoughtful judges inspect the warm sheep, sleek cattle, gorgeous poultry and other livestock.

The products of the gardens and the kitchens will entice viewers and beg comparisons.

Local people will have all manner of booths and all matter of things for sale.

Miss Acton Fair will be chosen and will reign. The parade will pack the main streets of town. There will be draws galore, and food for sale everywhere, much of it raising money for good causes.

All three days will bring their own attractions, not the least of them the visiting with old friends.

Few of us will think of the hours and hours of planning and hard work behind these exciting three days. As usual, hundreds of people will thoroughly enjoy themselves this weekend.

See you there.

A better chance

Lottery addicts take heart. Here is a new lottery plan where you are guaranteed to win at least \$250 once a year, suggests the editor of The Renfrew Mercury.

However it involves stopping spending money on any other lotteries.

The day before each of the Wintario, Provincial or Loto Canada draws just deposit the value of two tickets in a special bank account.

With 26 Wintario, 12 Provincial and four Loto Canada draws the total after a year will be \$252. And to make the winnings even bigger, you will be paid interest on the money.

Of course, there isn't any chance

of winning a million dollars, but then the chances of winning a million on the lotteries is so small as to be worthless anyway.

The truth about the lotteries is that from 40 to 50 per cent of the money goes into prizes. That means that of your \$252 entered, only from \$100 to \$126 is paid back in prizes.

So that means that, after leveling out the odds, you could make twice as much money by putting the ticket-money into the bank.

And then at Christmas or whatever time you decide to take the cash out, you will have a nice total of winnings on hand instead of cursing that you didn't win.

Of this and that

Councillors and firefighters who hoped to buy or expropriate CN land near the tracks for a new fire hall, were led to believe there is a two year freeze on the sale of CN land. However, the Globe last Saturday reported the sale of CN land to the city of Toronto for housing and offices. Adds to the confusion!

How about the fire siren atop the town hall? Where will it be reconstructed, and how much will such a tower add to the cost of the fire hall addition?

According to the Ontario Safety League, while most children stop before entering a pedestrian crosswalk, many of them then run

across the road. They try to act correctly, but are unable to take in the entire situation. Children don't see things the same as an adult and they can't judge distance and speed. In fact, the child's way of looking around gives them a great deal less information than an adult in the same situation.

When a driver makes eye contact with a young pedestrian about to cross the street, the driver knows the child has seen the vehicle and will wait for it to pass. Actually, the reverse is true. The Safety League reports that studies show that a child making eye contact with a driver is sure she or he has been seen and that the driver will stop to let her or him cross.

Words to live by

We've lost a freedom

By James A. Taylor

The United Church of Canada
Contrary to popular belief, there was more sexual freedom years ago than there is now.

Yes, back in the days when male college students came home from the dance at the nurses' residence bragging about who had been able to do what with whom, sexual behavior still offered one choice that is apparently not available today. That choice was virginity. For male or female.

A person in his or her twenties, or older, who admitted to being a virgin, might get sympathy. But it was still possible to admit it.

Today, when every other TV program either suggests or shows casual sex, when every film seems to have a mandatory nude scene, when best-selling books define, illustrate, and encourage every conceivable technique and excuse for sex—who's going to admit being different?

Gordon Zahn, writing in the magazine U.S. Catholic, states: "Surely it is much easier (now) for a young person, male or

female, to come out of the closet and confess to being a sado-masochistic homosexual transvestite than admit to being a virgin."

Suddenly, virginity has become something to be ashamed of.

Christians are divided on the doctrines of the virgin birth. Bible authorities quibble about the meanings of words; biologists disagree about the likelihood of Jesus' spontaneous conception.

Yet through the dispute, the Virgin Mary has stood for all Christians, as a symbol of purity and innocence.

When those virtues are no longer desirable, our society has lost something. And in spite of all the arguments about the new freedom and openness in sex, when virginity is no longer an acceptable option, we have lost a freedom, not gained it.

Written for this newspaper by James A. Taylor, Managing Editor, The United Church Observer, 85 St. Clair Ave., E., Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1M8.



WM. COOPER stands waiting for customers in his tailor shop and men's furnishings store in the 1920's located where the Donut Shop now stands. Thomas Gibbons, Main St., lent the Free Press the picture which he found amongst the belongings of his late sister Dene Gibbons. The photo shows the bolts of material and show cases to the left, the hats at the back of the store and cuffs and collars to the right. Mr. Cooper was the father of Gordon Cooper of Willow St., Acton.



Ruined foundations still stand on highway 25



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

When you want to rub somebody's nose in something, it's customary to say, rather smugly, "I hate to say I told you so, but..."

Well, I don't hate it at all. I thoroughly enjoy it. So here goes.

Nearly a year ago, I wrote a column about the vultures gathering to rend and tear at the still-quivering flesh of the Liberal party in general, and the Prime Minister in particular.

Remember? The Tories, still flushed with excitement after electing a new leader, were in a state of euphoria. Why? Because public opinion polls showed them steadily gaining in popular appeal, and Liberals steadily decreasing.

Political pundits across the country were trumpeting the beginning of a new era. The Liberals were pretty blue. Trudeau was all washed up, said the experts, licking their lips. The government was on the ropes, waiting for the knock-out punch.

At the time, I tried to introduce a note of reason, or at least common sense. Almost alone among the prophets, I warned that, while the big Liberal machine was creaking and seemed almost moribund at times, it was not quite ready for extreme unctio-

I remember asking bluntly: "What do you think all those Liberals across the country are going to do? Lie down and play dead?" I reminded readers that while Trudeau seemed the most unpopular man in the country, so had that perennial winner, Mackenzie King.

Nobody paid any heed. A few people paid me the extreme insult of insisting that only a dyed-in-the-wool Liberal would have written such a comment.

Then, mysteriously, the polls began to change. The Tories began to slip, even though the government went on bumbling and bungling.

Now, after almost a year, the figures are reversed. The Tories were wiped in by-elections. They have lost four members of caucus, through switches and resignations. Right now they are as shaky as the Grits were 10 months ago.

What happened? Well, for one thing, young Tory leader Joe Clark came on like an old rubber boot. It didn't help that the media, disappointed because no political blood was being shed, savaged him ferociously.

Next, Trudeau was tossed a political bouquet when the P.Q. won the Quebec election. Suddenly the whole country began bleating about the destruction of our sacred union. Overnight, he was transformed from that "arrogant dictator/socialist (take your pick) in Ottawa" to St. Pierre, the white hope who alone could turn back the savage hordes from Quebec and salvage Canada's maidenhead.

At exactly the propitious moment, his beautiful young wife began rolling and stoning around and we all sat with baited breath. The soap opera ended perfectly

with the flagrant hussy leaving the poor, dear man alone with all those boys to raise.

Finally, add the sheer perversity of the Canadian voter, and you have all the reasons for the Liberals' once more flying high, ready for an election any time, and the poor old Tories wondering why the roof fell in.

Don't for one moment think that the reversal in fortunes in less than a year, is due to any perspicacity or boldness on the part of the Liberal government. Far from it. Let me refresh your mind.

This is the government that rejected wage and price controls when the Tories (Robert Stanfield) wanted them; then turned around and bare-faced hypocrisy and applied them.

This is the government that was going to "wrestle inflation to the ground." Guess who's won two out of the first three falls.

This is the government that allowed the postal workers to tie up the country for five weeks, then slammed the door on the fingers of the air traffic controllers when

they called a perfectly legal strike.

This is the government that has sat by bemusedly and watched unemployment climb to frightening levels, without stirring a finger.

This is the government that dithered over capital punishment and waffled on gun controls.

This is the government that threw millions of dollars off the dock by trying to make middle-aged civil servants learn French, instead of spending those dollars on teaching it to children.

This is the government that has set up a propaganda service and has acknowledge black-lists of Canadian citizens.

This is the government that sold you a \$100 Canada Savings Bond which is now worth 93 cents on a good day.

This is the government that preaches control and constraint and practises neither in its own spending.

Now, let he who dares call me a dyed-in-the-wool Liberal.

OUR READERS WRITE:

On the town hall

The Editor,

As Chairman of the Acton Town Hall Restoration Committee I feel I must reply publicly to comments made by Council members about the work of the Committee. Press reports of statements such as the following have appeared: "...the hall might still be coming down because the fund raising is going so slowly" Guelph Mercury Sept. 8 and they would like the firemen "out of there" Acton Free Press Sept. 7.

Council, it seems, does not know much about the Committee's work or is not clear on its terms of reference.

The mandate of the Committee appointed by resolution of Council June 6, 1977 is as follows:

"...to co-ordinate the required fund raising activities through all Provincial Government and private sources to finance restoration to insure the structural integrity of the Town Hall."

This motion quite clearly implies that Council intends the Town Hall to be preserved and the Committee's job is to investigate and undertake fund raising. Before any fund raising however it is necessary to know how much must be raised. Application for Provincial Government funds through the Heritage Foundation and Wintario must include submission of a feasibility study by an acceptable architectural consultant. The Committee has been carrying out this essential preliminary work which cannot be done hurriedly or carelessly.

An architect has been engaged for the feasibility study now about completed. The Committee has made application to the Heritage Foundation for a grant to cover

one half of the cost of the feasibility study and expects a decision shortly. The Committee must raise the balance of the cost and has been greatly supported by a donation from the Acton business people as a result of their "Back to Acton Days" celebration. Other unsolicited donations from interested people and organizations have been forthcoming and the Committee is also engaged in fund raising activities to meet this obligation. The feasibility study is expected to be ready about the end of September.

A report will then be made to Council and if the study is favorable an application will be made to the Heritage Foundation and Wintario for financial assistance. A financial campaign in Acton will be necessary and plans for it have been discussed.

At no time did the Committee state it would like the firefighters out of their hall. In fact the Committee and its architect requested through Councillor Miller, an informal meeting of Acton Councillors, the Committee, Architect, Engineer, and Firefighters, to discuss how the two projects might be worked together to enhance the feasibility of the Town Hall restoration.

Councillor Miller was instructed by Council not to set up such a meeting. The refusal of this request for co-operation has resulted in more work for the Committee and architect and made some aspects of the feasibility study less favorable. Committee members have recognized that relocation of the Fire Hall would make restoration of the Town Hall more attractive economically, and some feel the firefighters would be better served by a new hall in another

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The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 13, 1967.

Climax of months of detailed planning, Acton Fall Fair will likely draw the largest crowd ever this weekend. At the last count, there were at least 25 floats registered for the big centennial parade which begins at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. First section of the parade is a military parade arranged by the Legion, with units from the Lorne Scots and the 11th Field Regiment. A legion float will include Legion officials.

The candidates are set and the race is on to choose representation for Halton County in the Ontario Legislature. Each of the three major parties will have candidates campaigning for seats in the Halton East and Halton West ridings in the October 17 provincial election. Candidates in this riding are Jack Lush, Liberal; Ted McDonald, New Democratic Party; and George Kerr, Progressive Conservative. Mrs. A. Symon of Vancouver is visiting with her mother-in-law Mrs. Mabel Symon and Mrs. Marguerite Taylor this week.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 19, 1957.

Gordon C. Goodwin, president of the Canadian Branch Office Service Limited for the Michigan Bulb Company, announced to the Free Press this week his firm has rented the Storey Glove Building in Acton from S. G. Smallwood Ltd. for the Michigan Bulb Company.

Last week, while servicing the home of Jack Locker, Bower Avenue, with gas, the United Suburban Gas Company located an old coin under the earth. Mr. Locker brought the coin to the Free Press office and after being cleaned off, it was found to be a half penny, Upper Canada token dated 1820.

Jim Buckland, swimming instructor, announced this week the post trial completions for their third and first star. Last week, Sue Walters and Jack Pope successfully completed tests for their third star and Andrew Knox for his first star.

J. McGeachie of the Acton Y Men's Club reports the Acton club will be hosts to the Regional Convention to be held at Geneva Park near Orillia on September 28-29.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 15, 1927.

The annual school fair of Esqueping township was held this year at Bannockburn school. The exhibits of fruit, baking, candy, grains and vegetables were arranged on tables. The writing and essays and sewing etc. were on the walls. In the grounds were the pens with animals. Barbara Guthrie of No. 12 won the spelling contest. Miss Velma Murray of Lorne school won the T. Eaton cup with a total of 76 points.

The detour on the Acton crossroad comes in at a very inopportune time for Acton fall fair.

A day or so after their return from their honeymoon, the employees of Toronto Lime Company and friends to the number of about 60 gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Grundy to welcome them to the community.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 6, 1877.

Another old resident of this vicinity, Mr. John Stalker, breathed his last a few days ago at the ripe old age of 88 years. His funeral yesterday was attended by a large concourse of relatives and friends.

The township clerk and postmaster now spell the name of their township "Nassagiveya."

An old man named James Munn, 58 years of age, and known for his eccentric ways, was instantly killed by a train near the 7th line of Esqueping.

A distressing case of seduction and heartless abandonment of a young girl has created some sensation hereabouts this week. She is reported to have been found lying in a fence corner after having given birth to a child during the night. The seducer is said to be a young man residing in Georgetown.

A private letter from Rome states that the Pope is not expected to live past November.

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PHONE 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



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