

Free Press Editorial Page

About that curfew

Halton police should think twice before enforcing an old curfew statute.

Recently chief Ken Skerrett said the police are considering enforcing a curfew to keep youths 16 years of age off the streets after 10 p.m. It's thought the curfew will reduce vandalism and loitering.

Vandalism has become a big worry the past few years as more and more public and private property is damaged. Police attribute most vandalism to teenagers. Vandalism is touching many lives as businessmen and home owners find they must continually replace glass, shrubs, parts of cars and other items. Vandalism of public property is also soaring and costing all ratepayers dearly. Vandalism was a subject of concern at two

meetings in town this past week, the Business Association and the Youth Services subcommittee.

With winter coming there will be enough hours of darkness before 10 p.m. that teenagers inclined to vandalize will still have plenty of time to accomplish their task without running much of a risk of detection.

A curfew would however end some harmless and worthwhile activities for young people who don't cause trouble.

It would also turn off many decent young people, who had never felt hostility to police.

The rising vandalism problem is a tough one to tackle and answers are scarce.

However, punishing a whole group for the actions of a few, and vandalism certainly is the actions of a few, has historically flopped.

Fire Prevention Week

This week is Fire Prevention week across Canada.

Activities by Acton firefighters are greatly confined this year due to the construction at the fire hall, but that does not mean the week has gone unnoticed. Fire Chief Mick Holmes along with a few of his volunteers have been visiting schools, giving talks on fire safety and prevention. Children have been busy the past few weeks making posters on fire safety, which will be judged by the Ontario Fire Mar-

shall later in the year. Prizes will be awarded to winners.

There are several activities in Georgetown for Fire Prevention Week, including tours of their new hall.

During this special week, firefighters should be saluted. They rush to the fire hall as soon as their hip beepers make a noise, undaunted as to the dangers which lie ahead.

Firefighters think of fire safety the year round, and hope everyone else does also.

That's our money

Is a bargain a bargain even when it's still expensive?

The boys who brought you conventions in New Orleans, Site F and rising taxes have struck again.

A committee of regional council has come out in support of new chairs for council chambers worth \$1,033 each.

But hold on, they say. We're not extravagant. The region's getting a deal and the chairs will only cost between \$500 and \$600.

The region still doesn't seem to have got the message. Governments at all levels must restrain spending.

Getting a good deal on the chairs and other furniture for council chambers in the lavish new headquarters being built in Bronte Creek Provincial Park isn't restraint.

Councillors are considering

spending as much for their chairs as many ratepayers dare spend on a chesterfield.

The fact the chairs are the same as the kind chessmaster Bobby Fisher insists on using doesn't increase their value either. The councillors are supposedly, wisely administering public funds. Not relaxing with the chess board.

Why not keep using the present council chambers' furniture? It all looks as if it has been plucked from the board room of a rich multi-national corporation.

Plans call for the present chambers furniture to be used in a committee room. Surely reasonably priced office furniture could be used in committee rooms.

Council hasn't approved the committee idea yet. With a little luck councillors will come to their senses before more tax dollars are wasted.

Of this and that

Leaves are falling now that autumn is here. They fall everywhere—in yards, on walks and on porches. They have served their purpose. Once they were a source of light and life. Now the trees drop them freely, gladly. Leaves are like ideas in the mind. They come when needed. They flourish and give light, life, and wisdom. When ideas have served their purpose, they need to be swept away, lest they block the

way for new ideas. We must constantly sweep out the old to make way for the new.

Reach out with all the senses God has given us.

Reach out and love and create and be involved, and you will experience the fulfillment of living life in its fullest.

Dorothy Thomas



OLD SHOT OF LADIES who worked for Hewetson's Shoe factory in the 1920's was brought in to the Free Press office by Thomas Gibbons. Front row, left to right, Amelia Evans, Dorothy Babcock, Frances Jennings, Marjorie Gibson, Ruth Jennings, and Maureen Wilson. Back row, left to right, Frances Kenney, Wilma White, Leona Waller, Renetta Waller, Cora White, Alice Coles, Miss Scriven, Dorothy Smethurst and Lucy Golden.



LEAF BURNING CEREMONY: Leaf burning is a traditional activity during the fall, despite Halton Hills bylaw against open fires. When the leaves pile up, what can you do? Put them on your neighbor's lawn or burn them.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Boy, I get sick of the news sometimes, don't you? Unemployment and inflation are up. Housing is scarce and mighty expensive. The idiots in Ulster are still blowing each other up. The various pipeline debates go on and on. And everybody is scared stiff that Quebec will separate. Boring, boring, boring.

It becomes difficult to remain a positive, concerned citizen of this country of ours when the daily news is nothing but bad. Madness and senseless violence and fear of involvement seem to be all about us.

It's highly doubtful that any Canadian hockey club can beat the Russians. Toronto Argonauts and Toronto Blue Jays are the worst teams in their respective leagues. My friends are getting old and sick. I have to have a tooth extracted tomorrow. And the bricks on my house are crumbling, just like my teeth. Just try to keep a stiff upper lip when you haven't any teeth with which to siffen it.

Canadian women are living six and a half years more than Canadian men. Juvenile delinquency is increasing at the rate of 6.3 per cent annually. And my buristis is playing hell with my shoulder.

Taxes in Canada are higher than they

are in Britain. Two guys trying to fly the Atlantic in a balloon ditched in the sea near Iceland. And some poor turkey, fishing in the Niagara River, was drowned when his tackle-box fell in and he jumped after it. He probably had a mickey of rye in it.

Another big (really big) cabinet minister resigns from the government. George Chuvalo, at 40, wants one last fight. A CBC drama shows Alberta and Ottawa getting a royal screwing from U.S.-based oil companies.

And my wife wants to buy a whole lot of new furniture for the living room, despite the fact that the stuff we have is only 30 years old, and perfectly good, if you like leaning lamps and rump-spring chairs.

We've got enough natural gas to last us for years, but we won't be able to afford it. The weather is absolutely rotten. So is my car, which is about to disintegrate in a cloud of rust-dust, should anyone give it a kick.

In Quebec, the English-speaking are taking a hosing, while the rest of the country, various guys called Goyer, Chretien, Lalonde and Trudeau are telling us what to think. And I never did get the

stain on my picnic table.

Nothing much wrong with the big banks, of course. There never is. Why, one of them has slashed its interest rate on loans for new cars from 13.5 to 12.5 interest. Quelle benevolence!

Who needs it when the price of cars has gone up about six per cent? If you see a car going by you some time in the next year, and a body falls through the bottom, that'll be me, running my old car until it disintegrates.

However, there's an out. I can buy a Turbo Commander executive Jet that will Fly Above The Weather, for only \$160,000.00. Trade or finance. I think I might have to finance that one.

Ottawa recently floated a bond issue of one billion dollars with remarkable ease. Authorities are "enthralled" with the ease with which the bonds were sold. Why not, they say, cut personal taxes and cover the enlarged deficit with increased borrowing? Why not, indeed? They only have a debt now of six and a half billion dollars. Peanuts.

What in the name of all that is weird has happened to this country in the last three decades? We came out of World War II with a proud war record and fourth in the world in gross national product. We had a surging economy, a vibrant industrial health, and all those natural resources. We were united and free and strong. The future was rosy.

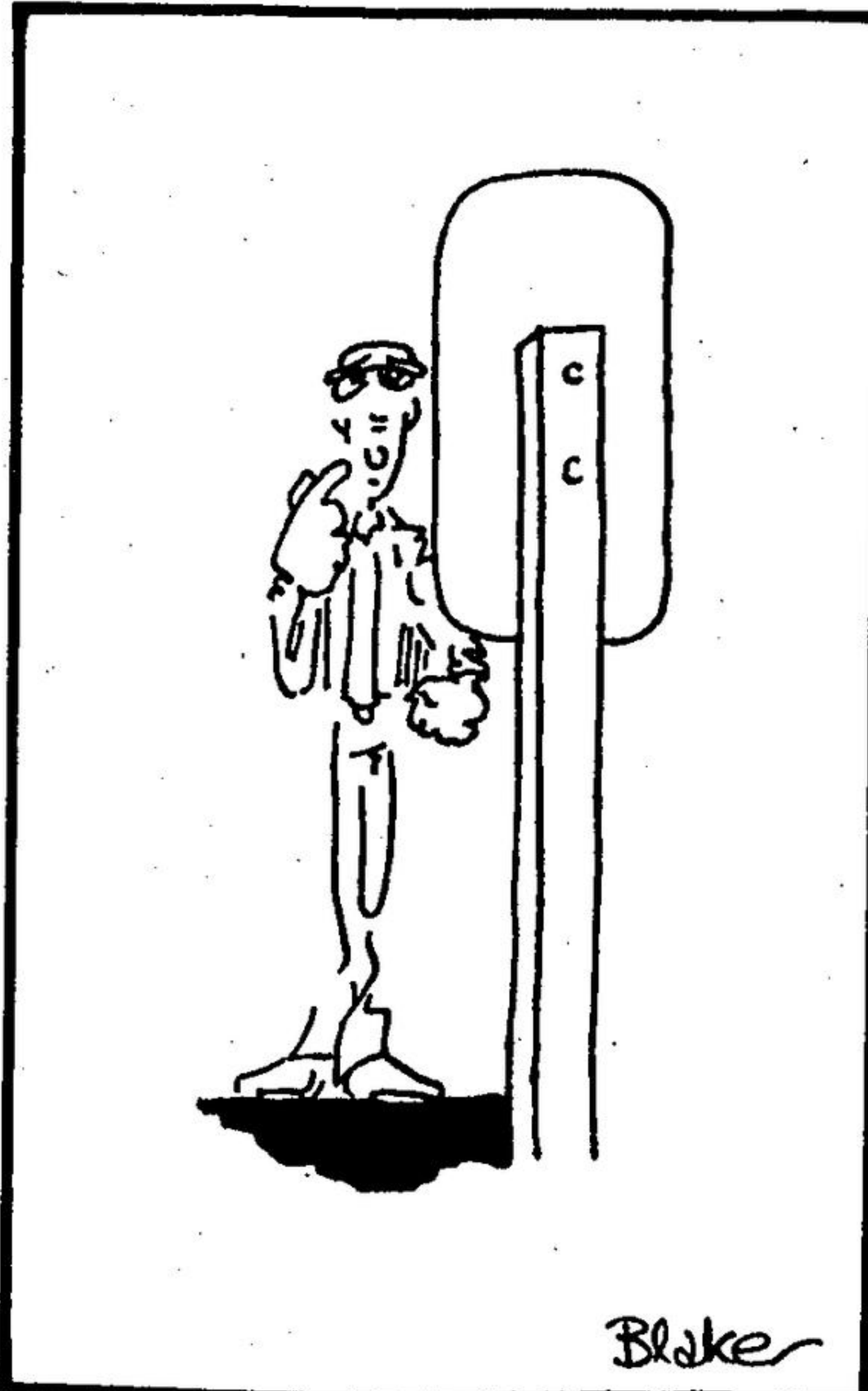
Thirty odd years later, we can't sell our products because our prices are too high. We have one of the worst records in the world for industrial and civil strikes. Our postal system is rotten. Our railways don't carry passengers. Factories are closing down right and left. The Maritimes are a disaster area. And Quebec is practically dictating its own terms, with a shattered Dominion in the offing.

Maybe we came too quickly out of the national short pants and into the overalls. Maybe we got greedy and lazy and soft. Maybe we had third-rate leadership that sold out our water and our energy and our other natural resources for interim political prestige.

Whatever happened, we have something very close to a national disaster on our hands. Our dollar is weak. Our young people have little faith in the future. Our middle-aged are suspicious and cynical. Our system is riddled with the worst aspects of bureaucracy.

Thirty years ago, I'd have said to any of my many friends from the Commonwealth: Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Rhodesia, "Come to Canada; that's where the future is; greatest country in the world."

I'd have difficulty in pronouncing those words today. I could say we have the best unemployment premiums in the world, great health plans. But there's not much room here now to build a future. Pity.



Blake

"40 kilometers, eh? Well . . . let's see now . . . there's 2.54 cms. in an inch and there's 12 inches in a . . ."

Of this and that

Here's where people can talk to each other, through the Letters to the Editor column. But please be sure to sign your name, even if you request that it not be used.

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 11, 1967
Transport minister Paul Hellyer prodded by Halton M.P. Harry Harley wants a full report from the Canadian Transportation Commission on the closing of the Acton C.N.R. station.

Acton council has sent a letter protesting the closing although they have not officially been notified of it.

For the second time, the Chamber of Commerce has arranged a Meet the Candidates night for the benefit of Actonians. The three Halton West candidates, incumbent, George Kerr, Liberal, Jack Lush, and N.D.P. Ted MacDonald will all be C. of C. guests at the high school Thursday evening.

Friday morning at 9 a.m. 35 Robert Little School pupils board their bus for Expo. They return Monday after managing to see the world's fair just before its closing the end of October.

The five chaperones going with the group are Mrs. Bern Van Fleet, Mrs. H. Collett, Mrs. Kerwin McPhail, teacher Miss Donna Riseborough and Robert Little Principal G.W. McKenzie.

20 years ago

Taken from the Acton Free Press October 17, 1957

Bob Cox and Bruce Andrews set the pace in the Thanksgiving Day races at Guelph last Monday when they both placed first in their running events.

Mrs. Olive Cairns, retiring secretary of the Y Ladies' Auxilliary was presented with a crystal set of earrings and a necklace, by the group last Tuesday evening in the Y.M.C.A.

An Acton organization arranged a very enjoyable and varied program for the residents of the Manor on Tuesday evening. This organization was the Acton Women's Institute, which was represented by a large number of its members, headed by the Institute president Mrs. George Fryer.

The Institute sponsored the program, which was given by a number of very gifted and versatile artists. The traditional roast turkey dinner that is always associated with Thanksgiving was served to the residents at noon on Sunday.

Rev. P.G. Vessey, of Long Branch was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club meeting last Tuesday evening at the Dominion Hotel. Introduced by Franklin Prouse, the guest spoke on the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 13, 1927

The notice reported to council that he had received the gift of peony roots from the Prince of Wales. They had been planted in the floral bed at the new entrance to Prospect Park.

There is plenty of rain these days. Thieves broke one of the windows of the ticket office at Wonderland Theatre last night and stole a number of tickets. They received little recompense for their trouble.

Dr. W. G. C. Kenney passed his Medical Council examinations. Acton friends extend congratulations.

Radios, parties, meetings and entertainments are again the seasonable topics.

The work on cementing No. 7 highway is progressing well.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 11, 1877

Rain had a decidedly dampening effect on the fair at Georgetown. Some displays were remarkably meagre. In hops, one of Esquesing's great staples, there was but a solitary sample. Mr. C. S. Smith and Mr. W. Waldie, both of Acton, were principal winners for sheep. Mr. Ryder of Acton showed two buggies and two democrats. Mr. C. W. Hill of Acton showed excellent photographs.

The Winnipeg Free Press says that what is said to be a potato bug—the first one, it is believed, ever seen in the province—was brought in the other day in a package of goods imported from the United States. It lived for a few days only.

Grace's Celebrated Salve cures flesh-wounds, frozen limbs, salt rheum, chilblains, sore breast, sore lips, erysipelas, ring worms, calluses, chapped hands, festers, piles, warts, bites, pimples, itch, ingrowing nails, flea bites, felons, ulcers, shingles, sties, freckles, boils, whitlows, scurvy, cancers, wens, abscess, sprains, cuts, blisters, corns, and all cutaneous diseases and eruptions generally. Price 25 cents a box.

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

CCPA
RIBBON
AWARD
1977

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 50 W. Bow 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, \$26.00 in all countries other than Canada; single copies 15 cents; carrier delivery in Acton 15 cents per week. Second class mail Registration Number 2615. 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. Dile Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. David R. Dile, Publisher. 84 Cook Key Date Editor Advertising Manager Copyright 1977