

## The Queen is here

Canada welcomes the Queen this year, as she visits our country in the year of her silver jubilee.

She comes at the invitation of our government and unfortunately they chose a short five day stay, limited to the Ottawa area only.

The rest of us read about it in the papers and see the Queen on television.

Since our contact was limited, we watched with particular interest her speech to the people of the nation on Sunday evening.

Equally in French and English, it dealt primarily with national unity, harking back to the history of confederation.

She spoke of joint efforts of English and French-speaking Canadians. "Nowhere has this been more evident than in your Parliament here in Ottawa, where you have together developed policies to meet all the major challenges of your history," she praised.

"From the viewpoint of history, this is the great Canadian achievement; not just that you have progressed and prospered, but that you have done so as a diverse society and in peace."

While her words were impressive and no doubt true, they were limited.

Was this really what the Queen wanted to say to her people here? Even the commentators who

spoke on television after her speech pointed out that it was written for her in the Prime Minister's office.

There in Ottawa much stress is being laid on national unity.

Some observers of the scene have even wondered if the government isn't sending up a smokescreen on this one issue, obscuring more serious problems such as unemployment, inflation and the world market woes.

Premier Levesque did not win his election solely on the issue of separation at all, and surveys in Quebec show many opposed to separatism.

The rest of the country is filled with people who accept Quebec as they always have, and certainly don't expect the country to break up.

Would it be the Queen's own suggestion to have her Jubilee marked in Canada by a \$300,000 endowment fund to benefit young Canadians who wish to study French?

Part of the value of having a monarch is the fact that a Queen is removed from politics. She is a living symbol of parliament.

The stress of the speech on French and English-speaking cooperation would seem out of proportion to the many of us who live many miles from Quebec, and who have had no opportunity to see Her Majesty in Jubilee year.

## How about suggestions?

Council is wondering what to do with the former pump house building on Main St. S. near the Kingham Hill houses. Although councillor Walter Biehn of Georgetown suggests it is unwise to ask opinion of the nearby residents, in case they are disappointed later, we must disagree with him. Recreation director Glenn Gray thinks hearing from people nearby is a good idea, too.

Even if council does not formally

ask for suggestions, perhaps interested residents will have some ideas anyway.

We hope they would forward these to the Free Press or to one of their three Acton councillors.

The building is presently being used for storage.

Some good forward thinking is needed in this case and it's not unlikely that the best idea of all could come from one of the new residents right down the block.

## Of this and that

A flight to Chicago last week, to attend the annual convention of the National Association of Printers and Lithographers, took us right over top of the town of Acton about 8.30 Thanksgiving morning. What an exciting sight! There lay the neat rows of houses, the straight streets, with larger roofs of factories visible, including the Free Press plant. Most surprising were the lake, which appeared large and beautiful, and the Indusmin

quarry, a huge gaping white patch on the ground below.

One-quarter of a million Canadian adults and over 1,000,000 children were involved in the work of UNICEF during the past year. When UNICEF Canada began 22 years ago, volunteers raised a relatively modest sum of \$15,000. In 1976, volunteer efforts raised more than \$3,000,000. October is nearly here—start saving up your change!

## Pictures of the past



HEWETSON'S FACTORY as it looked during the early 1920's. The plant produced shoes in those days, before being taken over for many years by Force Electric, and more recently by Solar Textured Coatings.



SOME OF THE gentlemen in this picture have been identified by its owner, Tom Gibbons. At the upper right is William Cooper; lower left Duncan McIntosh and lower right Tom McClure.



ALICE IN WONDERLAND: When Alice ate part of a mushroom in Wonderland she became very very small. This is what the mushroom she ate must have

looked like to her when she got finished shrinking. Photo by Wm. Stuckey.



## Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

There is something delightfully inconsistent about most women which can make strong men moan and gnash their teeth but provides a certain amount of inadvertent hilarity to those of us who have given up long ago.

After years of blowing every nickel we made, the old battleaxe and I decided to start saving some money for our old age.

Neither of us will make it; I because the old corpus will likely cash its ticket before that time, and she because she'll never grow old. But it seemed a good idea at the time.

I had no idea what it would lead to. But it did. First thing I noticed was that it cut down severely on my extra-curricular activities.

"Hey, sweetie, is it OK if I join the poker club this fall? They need me. They play so many old women's games that they want someone to teach them how to play real poker. It would practically be the same as teaching night school."

"Bill, you know perfectly well the answer is no. We can't afford it. We're trying to save money, not throw it away."

No use reminding her that on the couple of occasions I played with these infants of the game I came home with so many quarters in my righthand pocket she thought I'd broken a leg as I limped in the door.

"Uh, dear, there's to be an old fighter pilots' reunion in Edmonton this October. Golly, it would be kinda nice to sneak away for a few days and see some of the old..."

"What do you do at those reunions? Besides tell lies and drink?"

"Well there's a whole program. Speeches. A dances. Wives are invited. How'd you like to go? They're a great bunch. Guys'll be there from all over Canada and the States, Australia, Britain. We didn't do a thing all summer. Let's get away from it all."

"From what all? You mean from me. You know I wouldn't be caught dead at a fighter pilots' reunion. A bunch of boozey old men standing around, half-pickled, waving their hands in the air. What would it cost?"

"Well, there's just the air fare. And the hotel. And the convention fee. And a few odds and sods. For the two of us, it would come to only about \$700. And if you were sure you didn't want to come, I could make it alone for \$500."

Stony silence. Not a word, a gesture of encouragement. She went off, rather tight around the lips, to watch TV. I sat and pawed rather wistfully through the reunion literature. Next day, when I came home from work, it had all disappeared. There was a small pier of ashes in the fireplace.

But that's not all our saving hinge has affected. I'm not that selfish. I'm not going to kick up a fuss just because my social life has been wiped out so that I can have a hamburger and a half, instead of splitting one, when I'm an old dodderer.

No, there's a lot more. My wife, in her zeal to save money, has started reading the food ads for the first time in her life.

Could any of my readers use 20 pounds of flour? The old lady used approximately five pounds a year, for frying fish and stuff. The other day, because it was half price, she bought a 25-pound bag. It sits in the kitchen, moved from one location to another, like one of the seven dwarfs sleeping off a hangover.

The house is filling up with bargains. She bought 12 cans of peas at 30 per cent off. We never eat canned peas, preferring the frozen ones. We'll never get rid of them unless she makes a massive canned-pea casserole and invites all our friends to dinner. We would then have no friends.

Yesterday she came in gleefully and dumped a whole bag full of razor blades in my lap. Half price! By the time I get half way through them, an orderly will be shaving me in some Sunset Heaven.

I go into the bathroom and literally

stumble and fall over sticks of roll-on deodorant which are spilling out of the drawers. There was a special on them, and we have enough to pass a few along to our eventual undertaker.

Any day now, I'm expecting a truck to drive up to the back door and unload half a ton of potatoes, because they are 10 per cent off when bought in bulk.

Open the freezing compartment in the fridge to get a couple of ice cubes, and you are liable to be brained by an avalanche of frozen hamburger, 10 pounds of it at 45 cents a pound, wrapped in half-pound packages. That's 40 hamburgers. I eat about four a year, grudgingly.

I was thinking of having some brickwork done on my house this year. But bricks are expensive. I think I'll use frozen margarine instead. We got a great buy on it: 37 cents a pound, and we have 82 pounds in the basement.

We have two beaten-up old cars. It was always a decision: which one should go in the garage. No more problems. Now they both stay out on the street. The garage is full of turnips, squash, vegetable marrow and cabbage, every one a bargain.

There's no question. We're saving money right and left. And just the other day, my wife announced the coup de grace. If we move quickly, we can get a terrific deal on a new dining room suite. It's been knocked down from \$1,800 to \$1,500.

Any readers who are having trouble saving money in these troublous times need only drop a line. At Smiley's, The Price Is Right.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Youths not all bad

11 Storey Drive  
Acton, Ontario  
77-10-11

To the Editor:  
I would like to comment on an experience that reflects on some of the previous letters to the editor in regards to Acton teenagers.

On Saturday evening past, a young man had the misfortune of losing control of his vehicle while negotiating a curve in the street and subsequently caused some damage to our property.

On Sunday he apparently came to our house to see us about the damage, but we were away at the time so he came back again on Thanksgiving Day. We were

aware that he was coming back but my wife and I had to be away at the time so we left word with our children to tell him that seeing he was honest and decent enough to come and tell us about his misfortune that we would fix up the damage.

There are a lot of adults that would not have had the courage to admit to causing damage to other people's property, so I think this young man should be complimented on his actions.

Therefore, I would like to say that all of Acton's teenagers are not as bad as it may appear by previous letter. There are still some good honest ones.

Ed Miller.

## The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, October 18, 1967  
On Wednesday October 4, the Acton Golden Age Club took another most enjoyable bus trip, this time to the beautiful city of London.

Fire Prevention Week in Halton County was again a busy one, and members of the Halton Fire Prevention Bureau reported it was a "highly successful" week.

Actonians continue to go to Expo right up to its final days. A chartered bus from Acton preceded the school children by a few days, and another group from town left Tuesday with an out-of-town tour.

The N.D.P. party swept the miniature Halton West election at the M.Z. Bennett school on Tuesday.

The students polled 134 votes for MacDonald, 25 for Kerr and 25 for Lush.

Joanne Pauli, played Jack Lush, the Liberal candidate, with Debbie Bagley as her campaign manager. Wendy Kowall was George Kerr with Kathy Slingerland as her manager. Sean Ahere took the role of N.D.P. candidate Ted MacDonald. Henry Wissenz was his campaign manager.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press, Oct. 24, 1957

Joe Hurst, president of the Special Gifts Committee of the new M. Z. Bennett school, reports his committee has been quite successful in obtaining many satisfactory gifts for the school.

Committee members are Joe Hurst, Herman Frueler and George Haggett.

About 75 members of the Acton Wolf Cub Packs last Thursday converged on the Acton fire hall for a two hour demonstration of fire fighting techniques, sponsored by the Acton Fire Department. At 7 p.m. Fire Chief J. Newton showed the early arrivals the firefighting equipment.

Renovations continue behind the wraps at the previous site of the Bank of Montreal, but what type of business will occupy the building remains, to date, a mystery.

Acton has something new in auction sales this week. Farm sales, land sales, household auctions both in town and district are fairly commonplace any week.

Yesterday 856 lots of equipment and furnishings of an industrial plant went on the auction block at the former plant of the Wool Combing Corporation in Acton.

Y secretary D. McDocherty reported on several activities in the Y.M.C.A. this week and noted the Junior Hi-Y have taken on the project of sponsoring the Teen Age dances commencing November 8.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 20, 1927

The informal opening of the new high school will be Saturday evening.

When demolishing the old barn on Frederick St. to make room for the new house Mr. S. Cordiner is erecting, Mr. John R. Watson found a number of Methodist Sunday School library cards, printed 50 years ago.

An extra number of lamps were added to the street lighting in Rockwood, which makes a big improvement.

On Thursday, Mrs. William Goudy of Limehouse received for the first time since her recent marriage and was charming in powder blue georgette over flesh pink. There were present about 80 friends.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 18, 1877.

Some person or persons made a raid last Friday night on Mr. C. Swackhammer's bee house, 3rd line of Esquimes, and took therefrom a hive of bees and a large quantity of honey. The plundered hive was discovered the following morning a short distance from the house, minus honey and surrounded by a number of dead bees. The guilty parties will probably be discovered before long. Such acts deserve the severest punishment.

More than a year ago a surveyor was employed by the Acton and Esquimes corporations to determine the proper width of the road leading from this village toward Nassagaweya. The surveyor did his duty, put down stakes and was paid. So far there has been no further step taken. Winter will soon be here again and unless something is done soon the same old trouble of almost impassable snow banks, caused by the extreme narrowness of the roads, will have to be contended with.

Over four thousand cigar makers are on strike in New York. Black squirrel hunting is now the popular pastime.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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