

Free Press Editorial Page

Where to buy a hide

How many people have beautifully tanned cow hide rugs in their homes?

Business Improvement Area board president Henry Stachyra had an experience that he expects many townspeople share.

In his home he has a beautiful hide, he told the annual meetings of the BIA and Business Association.

He bought it from a friend who owns a small tannery outside of Acton. He, in turn, bought it from Beardmore tannery, and then sold it to the Stachyras.

"I wonder how many people would be interested in items such as this and other leather products, if they were readily available?" he asked his listeners.

Of course he went on to promote the B.I.A.'s Leather Theme for Acton.

Leather specialty shops here could not only have locally tanned hides, but coats, purses, bags, belts, wallets, and even footwear made of leather treated right here in our largest industry.

Although we have made a small attempt at the Free Press to deter-

mine which shoes and purses for sale in town were tanned here, we were unable to trace the lineage. It could be done, though, of course.

It will add something very special to the town - as well as business, of course. It will give us a new identity that'll put us on the map.

The possibilities are terrific, as Henry Stachyra and the others involved in the Business Improvement Area realize.

While there has been no money allocated yet to get this aspect of their plans going, it shouldn't be long.

The leather industry, Chamber of Commerce and Business Association will become involved in the plan, as well as the Business Improvement Area.

The introduction and promotion of the Leather Theme could just turn out to be the most important thing the B.I.A. ever does, in the long run.

People all over the province will know where to come, to buy that hide for their homes.

Hope for financing

The new possibility of government assistance to speed up B.I.A. projects will be of great benefit to the Leather Theme. This promotion has been set aside while the most obvious of the proposals have been attended to. The attractive new sidewalks had to be done while road work was underway on Mill St.

Now there is the possibility the funds will be reassigned to provide

parking, if the town will not assist us. While other towns willingly provide parking, some Halton Hills councillors oppose the idea for Acton, saying it would set a precedent.

Even the knowledge that the government recognizes the problem of long-term financing should assist the hard-working members of the B.I.A. in making their plans for the future.

Caring people

The desire to help people who have undergone misfortunes is natural and commendable. Collections in Acton just the past week are being taken for two local families, for the Heart Fund and for Ten Days for World Development. All these causes touch our hearts in different ways.

Sometimes there is a special reason for the organization of a benefit dance or fund. Sometime

it's simply family and friends offering help quietly.

Now we have the Community Services Centre which can direct people to the Red Cross, too, or other agencies or individuals who will assist.

Many who make no donations of money or time or blankets still feel sympathy.

The responses vary, but people care.

Of this and that

Education is what you get from reading the fine print. Experience is what you get from not reading it.

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

Opinion

Doomed to gather dust

Bob Burt, who reports on regional council meetings for the Free Press, has this to say about the Bill 151 committee:

Halton Region's Bill 151 Committee tabled its 93-page report last week and the report is doomed to collect dust for ever more.

The report won't move mountains and will do damned little to alter the framework of regional government in Halton.

After the better part of a year the final recommendations represent the whims of a few councillors, as opposed to a commitment to any new direction the region should follow.

Recommendations appear in the report without any serious analysis of the consequences that might be faced. The report lacks the hard data and economic analysis that is needed for the report to carry any credibility.

Burlington Councillor Walter Mulkevic said it all when he said the effort was futile, because the recommendations of the committee were based on blanket statements and biases from both sides.

The report recommends returning power for local water mains, sewage lines and garbage disposal to the area councils.

All of those recommendations could be good thoughts. But that is all they are. There is nothing in the report to indicate how those recommendations should be carried out.

The return of water and sewers to the area councils would put an end to the problems developers and residents face when they have to apply at both levels every time they want to do anything. That's good.

But what about staff? When the region assumed those functions many new employees had to be hired, because local staffs wouldn't release employees. Would the same thing happen in reverse, sending taxpayers' taxes further out of sight?

In so many areas the report barely scratches the surface, offering bald statements as cures to complex problems.

Regional councillors regard the committee as some kind of a lark. Even some members of the committee readily acknowledge the committee lacks any credibility.

Even if their report ever did find its way to Queen's Park, there is nothing in it that would impress the powers that be.

It's too bad, because the committee could have served a valuable role and it could have helped relieve tensions that currently exist in the region.

The committee heard a number of briefs, one from the Actonians for Action Committee. That committee represents a group of articulate concerned people who don't much like having Acton dumped in with Georgetown.

They expressed their concerns to the committee last June. The committee listened. Whether it heard or not, is open to debate.

But nowhere in the report is there any answer or even an assessment of what the Actonians had to say.

The committee decided that matter was one of local concern. That is a little tough to swallow. The committee is set up to review and improve the legislation in Bill 151. Bill 151 set the rules for the regional game and it legislated Acton out of existence as a municipal structure.

The committee remains silent on a problem that has generated more concern in Acton than probably any other problem that community has faced in the past few years.

It appears the committee has wasted a lot of time and produced a document that will change nothing. In fairness, the committee did identify some of the trouble spots in regional Halton—but for any good to come of the study, another study will have to be done.

The committee concluded its last meeting by requesting an independent study. Independent studies have been completed in a number of regions, but no significant changes have been brought about.

Instead of charting a common course, the Bill 151 committee report will surely generate more heat than light. Too bad.



ANNUAL CHURCH service for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides was held in Trinity United church Sunday afternoon. Above left, Religion in Life awards presented by the Rev. A.H. McKenzie, Father Smye, Rev. C. Beaton and Rev. L. Ewing. Below left, Cubs enter the church after the parade. Right, the color parties left the church as the Acton Citizens' Band played.



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

Well, who are you going to vote for when they call the election? The youthful, righteous, quivering jowls, or the aging but still elegant shrug?

What a choice! One of the guys is so hungry for the big job that he looks as though he can already taste it. The other is so mesmerized by failed bilingualism and his personal feud with Rene Levesque that he wouldn't know an ordinary taxpayer if he climbed into bed with one. Of either sex.

If Joe Stalin were alive and well and living, say, in Moosejaw, he'd probably garner more votes than the other two put together.

That other Joe was chosen leader of the Tories by a handful of votes. Approximately 49 per cent of the convention delegates didn't want him. Since then, one of the latter has become a Liberal cabinet minister, another his Quebec "Lieutenant," has faded into the woodwork.

His opponent, the ubiquitous Pierre, bedevilled by domestic troubles, a sagging economy, high unemployment, a feeble dollar, and an apparent lack of touch with

reality, looks and acts every one of his nearly 60 years.

What's a million? This famous line, spoken by the arrogant but extremely competent C. D. Howe, builder of Canada's industry, almost toppled a government a couple of decades ago, when he uttered it in the famous Pipeline Debate.

Red-blooded Canadians across the land shuddered in horror at this scornful attitude toward that magic figure.

Today, a politician could stand up in Ottawa and say: "What's a billion?" without raising a ripple.

A minor example: the government people in charge of unemployment insurance have launched a \$1 million advertising campaign to warn cheaters of the system of the dire consequences should they be caught. What a farce!

The system is so full of holes that is being ripped off—legally it must be added—to the tune of millions, and we all know it.

It's a nice commission for the advertising

agency handling the account, but they are the only bodies who will get anything out of it. Who is going to read the ads?

Certainly not the people who are cheating. They already know all the loopholes and fine print. Only the very stupid are caught.

Certainly not the employers who also cheat, "laying off" a skilled workman when things are a bit slack, with a tacit agreement that he go on unemployment insurance until things pick up, when he will be "re-hired".

Certainly not the millions of people like me who (a) pay into the fund and (b) will never get a nickel back from it.

That leaves, as readers, the guys who drew up the ad, the civil servants who authorized it, and a scattering of pensioners who can afford a newspaper and read everything in it, for want of something better to do.

But what's a million, if it keeps some advertising types and civil servants happy, and makes the blood of a few pensioners boil?

Unfortunately, those ads and that million, along with many more squandered on such pettifoggish piffles, don't mean a thing to the man or woman in Glace Bay or Sudbury or Chilliwack who has been out of work for a year, and has no prospect of being in it in the near or distant future.

Clark carps and Pierre pontificates and Broadbent issues broadsides. And factories close because Canada's prices are too high, because Canada's wages are too high and because Canada's production is too low.

Many people—mostly young people—rejoice at our release from the slavery of the "work ethic", even though they don't really know what it means. To my generation it merely meant doing an honest day's work for a day's pay.

Today's generation ranks the work ethic with slavery, racism and having a bath Saturday night, whether you need it or not, all the trappings of a vicious, misguided past.

So be it. It's their funeral, not mine. They are the ones who will be paying the horrendous taxes for welfare, medicare, unemployment insurance and indexed pensions for civil servants when I am sporting about in the Elysium fields with a couple or three nymphs.

What with the half-hour coffee break twice a day, the calling in sick when you have a hangover, the sneaking off at noon Friday for the weekend, and various other little games, which you know about as well as I, we are turning into a nation of layabouts. And we're already beginning to pay the price.

Add to this incipient separatism and the stranglehold of the mandarins on the wafflers at Peking-on-the-Rideau Canal, and you can see why I, and many another honest Canadian, look forward to another federal election with a certain lugubriousness. It seems to be a question of "turn the rascals out" or "turn the turkeys in."

Nuff said. Don't think me a gloom-pot. It's 2 a.m. and I've just put No. 2 grandson to bed. For the fourth time. He loves those late movies.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Grateful to all

May I take this opportunity to notify the wonderful people of Acton and Georgetown and everywhere that due to a call which came to me from the Province of Manitoba and British Columbia, I have found it necessary to move my residence to Manitoba effective February 3, 1978.

Further, I cannot express my gratitude enough to all concerned in the Halton Region for the chance everyone has given me to start a new life of freedom from prison after 42 years confinement. I am indebted to everyone and I will not fail anyone. I will continue to strive toward a sincere and meaningful rehabilitation and I do want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of my creditors, local business establishments, stores, banks, private citizens who have placed their trust

and faith in me by contributions and loans and credit, without which I would not have been able to make the goal for which I strive so hard, the foundation of Boys Town in Acton and in each province in Canada.

I leave my present address by this announcement so that there will be no misunderstanding as to the sincerity of my intention to continue to maintain my obligations to my creditors from my present address which is:

Arthur J. Meunier
194 Main Street
P.O. Box 301
St. Adolphe, Manitoba R0A 1S0
Phone Nos. 1-204-883-2560
or 1-204-883-2497

Sincerely yours,
Arthur J. Meunier

Seek 65th men

Dear Sir:

It is hoped that a detective story without murder, fraud or crime may be sufficiently novel as to win space in your paper.

There is such a story of a Canadian Army unit that served throughout Europe WW2. This unit, the 65 TANK TRANSPORT COY. RCASC was disbanded in Holland in 1945. Ex-members departed for civy street in every part of Canada and contact between individuals was lost.

Twenty eight years later, two former members met in Ft. Flon, Man. and speculated on what had happened to their wartime friends. It was decided to try for some answers. It should be noted that a 28 year old trail is a cold trail and difficult to follow. The first answer was a shock, a man remembered as a happy joking youth and unit favorite was found dying in an Edmonton hospital. A notice in the Legion

Magazine produced eight replies, all from the area between Sydney, N.S. and Powell River, B.C. (a truly generous hunting preserve).

Four and a half years of detective work has located 210 living ex-members and about 35 deceased out of a possible of about 700. The search continues.

Will anyone reading this, please check with your WW2 army acquaintances, if a 65th man be found, please advise him of a company reunion to be held at North Bay, Ontario, July 7-8-9, 1978. For reunion details and other important information, he should contact Maurice Rainsforth, P.O. Box 1071, Stirling, Ontario, 613-395-3052 (or the writer).

Sincerely,
L.L. Purdy
P.O. Box 145
Waterloo, P.Q. JOE 2N0

The Free Press Back Issues

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 7, 1878. The committee of the Acton Branch of the Upper Canada Bible Society met in the vestry of Knox Church, Acton.

The Georgetown Town Hall was destroyed by fire about one o'clock on Saturday evening. It was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. The building was insured in the Western for \$700.

While Mr. Edward Matthews was coming off Nicklin's pond with a load of ice one of the horses broke through and sank. With considerable difficulty the animal was taken from its cold bath.

Mr. Fred Secord, one of Messrs. W. H. Storey and Co., travellers, left yesterday for the Lower Provinces. He has met with great success in selling gloves in different parts of the country.

The Acton Flaw Works which were lately purchased by Mr. Sidney Smith will resume operations shortly.

On Tuesday afternoon a large crowd gathered at St. Alban's church to witness the nuptials of Mr. John Nicolson and Miss Nancy Whilly. The event had been studiously kept from the ears of the general public but as such matters always will leak out to a considerable degree, a crowd of both sexes assembled to witness a ceremony which always possesses so many charms to the uninitiated.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 23, 1928

The long distance at which radio reception is received and the ways it is transmitted and re-broadcast grow more interesting all the time. Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brown listened in on an interesting broadcast Wednesday morning from Australia which included listening to Big Ben in London. The announcer in Buffalo explained how the re-broadcast had been made.

The contestants in the high school oratorical contest were Clarence Henderson, Merle Grendell, Marjorie Switzer, Frank Cook, Jessie Young and Isobel Smith. Each spoke in rosy terms of Canada's future. Miss Switzer and Miss Young were tied.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 6, 1958

Thomas and Thomas building contractors were granted building permits, representing a house building value of \$436,010 to build single family units in the Glenlea subdivision by Acton council Monday evening.

Acton's oldest and popular centenarian William H. Mainprize passed away at his home at 104 Mill St., in Acton, March 3, after a short illness in his 101st year.

On Sunday, the Rev. Evan H. Jones, of St. Alban's Anglican church, Acton, officially announced that he had tendered his resignation to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, as rector of the Parish of Acton and Rockwood, effective April 21. Mr. Jones has accepted a commission as an officer with the Royal Canadian Air Force (Chaplain List). He will leave for No. 1 Officers School, RCAF, London, Ontario, for a course.

Rarely indeed do married couples have the privilege of living together for 65 years. In Acton, we recall only three couples who marked their 65th wedding anniversary. They were the late Postmaster and Mrs. James Matthew and the late Mr. and Mrs. William Williams. On Saturday, March 1, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Reed marked this event to make the third couple.

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, February 21, 1968

Carol Patterson, 14, after winning the Lions public speaking contest at Acton high school on Thursday went on to the second stage of the contest, zone 6 north, Tuesday evening at Georgetown Lions club. There were eight contestants, with the winner a girl from Streetsville and her standby, a girl from Bramalea.

Marsha McKenzie and Rob Roughley were chosen Queen and King of Hearts at the Valentine Ball at the high school auditorium last Thursday evening.

Sparks from a chimney were blamed for a fire which broke out on the wooden shingles at the farm house of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Rognavaldson, R.R. 4, Acton, Tuesday at 11.30 a.m. Acton firefighters responded quickly and they kept the blaze restricted to the roof. Ray Rognavaldson discovered the fire and he was aided by Don Van Fleet who was passing by on Highway 25.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 58 Wilmot 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 10 cents per week. Second class mail Registration Number 6516. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, 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 in printing goods or services as a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is hereby offered in full, and may be withdrawn at any time. The Acton Free Press, Publisher.

David R. Dils, Publisher

Editor

Advertising Manager

Copyright 1978