

Refused at dump

The town dump is an important topic here this week! The problem of the dump came to the fore in connection with the razing of the old Free Press building on Mill St. A Tyler truck, loaded with debris, was refused admission in the town dump outside Georgetown.

No help was given to the driver as to where he could deposit the unwanted load.

And we understand that this week another Acton industry was also refused entry to the town dump.

Since Acton dump closed, builders and private garbage contractors such as Don McIntyre have had to pay to enter the dump, which is open at certain hours.

We recall a debate among the Acton councillors years ago which concluded with a definition of garbage. It was whatever the taxpayers wanted hauled away.

Wood for fireplaces

As part of our personal solution, we are offering scrap wood for use by people who would like it for their fireplaces. It will be piled at the side of the old Free Press building on Mill St.

Come and get it.

Let's get started

In Georgetown, garbage is now being separated. Home owners are asked to put out newspapers, glass, cans and ordinary garbage separately. Cardboard cartons or plastic bags are being used to hold the different contributions.

This is an experimental research project, funded by the Ministry of the Environment. It's also being tried at the same time in other towns.

The province covers the cost of an extra pick-up vehicle as well as guaranteeing up to \$20,000 of collection costs.

Even if only 20 per cent of the people in Georgetown take part in the voluntary program, it will mean 24 tons less garbage going

Nowadays of course the garbage paker can't take everything that a truck could take.

And garbage is now a regional matter. But still, is it not the responsibility of the region to provide a place for taxpayers' garbage?

Apparently not. Not big loads of garbage which won't decompose, anyway.

So where are we to go? Rural roads show evidence this spring that others are searching for a place to heave their garbage. Mill St. W. and No. 25 sideroad are lined with garbage since the snow left.

Surely we don't foresee the day when bootleg dumps would be available, for people such as ourselves to use in the dark of night?

The fact that the region is faced with a problem in providing dump space is understandable. Citizens managed to oppose and scuttle the plans for regional dump near Milton.

But surely the responsibility extends down from the region to the individuals who pay the taxes—and thought they had the service.

Wouldn't it be common sense as well as courteous to arrange the alternative, and inform the people who pay, before springing such a decision on them?

into the town landfill site, works superintendent Frank Morette figured out.

Surely the time is near when all of us will separate our garbage this way. Acton people have separated paper before and are presently keeping their glass for the monthly collections on the first Saturday of each month.

People understand the need. If they don't, people who fail to separate their garbage could be charged extra.

Let's get the pilot project over and start conserving, along with the regular garbage collections.

We understand the problems of the dumps and we're ready to cooperate.

Salute the Red Cross

Next Monday, May 8, is World Red Cross day.

Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross, was born in Geneva on that day 150 years ago. The Swiss pacifist saw battle atrocities in 1859 which led him to write a book proposing relief societies. The committee which was formed dedicated itself to the relief of those wounded in war, regardless of nationality.

They chose as their symbol the

reverse of the Swiss flag, a red cross on a white background.

Henry Dunant also founded the Y.M.C.A., proposed the concept of the United Nations and of an international Supreme Court of Justice. He favored abolition of slavery and arms limitations—all of which came to be, years later. He was a winner of the first Nobel Peace Prize, along with Frederic Passy, in 1901.

It's May . . . and may not

May arrived Monday . . . with snow on the dandelions.

Got a story about the old town hall? The town hall restoration committee is compiling these old anecdotes and would like to talk to you. Phone George Elliott, Yvonne Rosenquist or Alice Duby.

The tower of London is 900 years old this year. Now that's OLD.

Someone passing by the old Free Press building commented that the new stores will improve the appearance of the main street. . . but she expanded. Now, she said, if only everybody in town would clean up their own back yards, THAT would give us an attractive town. A lot of mess has become visible since the snow left, all right. How about it, everybody. Start at home.

The Hargraves are a particularly well-known couple, and many extended best wishes to them on

their special milestone, 60 years of married life. Mr. Hargrave was on council for years, ran a garage, and issued motor vehicle licenses, all tasks that made his face a very familiar one in the community. Congratulations!

Had a reader complain this week that the amount of damage reported in the Free Press in connection with an accident was wrong. Not surprising at all! These estimates are done speedily by the police and are certainly not intended to be the figure the repairs will cost. It gives an idea of the severity of the accident, and that's why we include it. The figure is not inaccurate because we reporters are stupid, as this reader declared. No. When we do something stupid, it's a lot stupider than that.

Last week was Volunteer Week in Ontario. Take a second and give yourself a small pat on the back. There are hundreds of you. You know who you are. But more are needed, for all kinds of things. To volunteer to help in Acton, phone the Community Services Centre, 853-3310.



HERE COME the cookies! Guides and Brownies head out of the scout hall Saturday afternoon with boxes of cookies ready for delivery. There were 3,288 boxes sold this spring, to raise money for the groups' projects. It's an annual event.



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

Canadians are in a bad mood these days. Not bad in the sense of angry or ugly. Bad in the sense of gloomy, depressed. And not without reason.

After riding a post-war boom, with industry thriving, new money coming in, new opportunities opening up, and a general sense that the man might be right be right after all, that the 20th century did belong to Canada, we have skidded to a low that hasn't been touched for decades.

Trouble is, during that boom, we grew accustomed to affluence and a measure of ease, and we weren't built to cope with that. We were a rather dull, independent, sturdy people, far more used to battling for an existence than lying around enjoying life.

We just couldn't cope with the ideas: that we would get a raise in pay every year; that practically everybody could own a house or car or both; that there was a job for everybody; that we might even be able to borrow money from the bank in a pinch.

All of these were alien to our Canadian experience, which had always maintained that life was real and earnest, that fun was almost sinful, and that if things were going well, you kept your fingers crossed and knocked on wood.

Those of us who had grown up during the Depression, of course, never believed for a minute that the prosperity would last. We went around like so many Jeremiahs, warning the young of the horrors to come when the bubble burst and boring them to death with tales of our own impoverished youth.

Fortunately, or perhaps unfortunately, the boom didn't end with a bang but a whimper.

We Cassandra's of gloom were scoffed at. There were still plenty of jobs. Everybody could go to college, on loans and grants. Everybody really needed a summer cottage or a ski chalet or two cars or three snowmobiles. The banks would lend

money to anyone who didn't have two heads, and the loan companies looked after them. The Canadian dollar was buoyant, and we were a little sickly glad when the Yanks had to pay a dollar and five cents for a Canadian dollar's worth.

If you were temporarily between jobs, unemployment insurance was easy to get and fairly generous.

If you were really strapped, you could go on welfare and sit home watching TV. If you got sick, hospital insurance looked after all the bills. Gas for the car and fuel for the furnace and food for the belly were cheap and plentiful.

And then the rot set in, slowly. A touch of mould here, a cockroach crawling there. Strike after strike after strike made us one of the world's most unstable industrial countries. As a result, capital investment began to dry up. Another effect was that many of our manufactured products had priced themselves out of the world—and even Canadian—markets.

Branch plants began to close as their owners pulled in their horns and retreated to the comparative stability and higher production of the U.S. Other plants running three shifts cut to two, then one. Foreign investors found more fertile fields for their money.

Our armed forces became ineffective for lack of funds, and lost much of the pride they had once held in their role in NATO.

It snowballed. Inflation became more than a topic of conversation; it became a bogeyman. Then, suddenly, there wasn't much gas and oil left and their prices soared.

A new, ugly racism reared its head, sparked by the fact that so many immigrants did so well with so little, because they were willing to work.

A separatist party was elected in Quebec, and it was a whole new ball game. The employment force swelled steadily, while new jobs failed to keep up. Huge mining and smelting companies which had

been stockpiling their products because other nations could buy them cheaper elsewhere, closed down and put thousands of well-heeled workers on the pogy.

Small farmers fell by the wayside when only the big ones could survive. And we kept paving over valuable farmland with asphalt and concrete.

Retired people saw their life's savings gobbled up by inflation and the falling dollar. Small businessmen cut back on staff and service in order to stay in business. Doctors, fed up to the teeth with overwork and bureaucratic interference, began heading for greener, and warmer, pastures.

University students, tolling over their books, grew ever more bitter as they began to realize that the country did not want or need them, that the chance of a job on graduation was paper-thin. Thousands of high school students who should have been out working, went back to school and lazed away another year, because they were a drug on the market.

And governments, national, provincial, and local, wrung their hands and waited for the wind to change, the miracle to take place, while they went right on spending more and more taxpayers' money.

It's not much wonder that the prevailing mood of the country is morose and suspicious.

But surely a nation that toughed it through two world wars and a world depression is not going to roll over and die. We ain't licked yet. And spring will be here. Probably by the first of June.

OUR READERS WRITE:

The Editor
Acton Free Press
Acton, Ont.
Dear Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to express to you, on behalf of the Acton Minor Hockey Association our sincere thanks, for all the coverage of our games and special events over the past season.

Our association is very proud of the accomplishments of the teams this 77-78 season, with one team winning the Zone Championship, and other teams winning the W.V. League Championships and Consolation Champs. We also had more teams go further in O.M.H.A. play offs than ever before.

But some of our people have wondered how much it costs to operate our Assoc. for a season. So here is a brief breakdown of our finances.

DISBURSEMENTS	Ice Time	For season
Referees - For season		\$840.00
Equipment - For season		1675.00
Banquet and Trophies		2034.00
O.M.H.A. & W.V. Registration		719.00
Tournament Entry Fees		384.00
Advertising and Printing		990.00
		\$4692.00

REVENUE	
Registrations from Players	\$5900.00
Gate Receipts	2867.00
Sponsors	700.00
500 Club Draw - Expected income	5400.00
as only 400 tickets were sold.	\$14607.00
Wintario Project Grant	
To be spent on goal Tending Equip only	\$1402.00

There are some other expenses not shown here as the final bills are not in yet, but this gives some idea of the cost for a season, and next year is going to be worse. Ice time is going to cost us another \$800.00, a couple of teams need new sweaters, another \$550.00. But this is for the new executive.

So let me finish off by saying once again a sincere thank you to you, to my executive, to the managers and coaches who gave so much of their time and gas mileage, to the sponsors and all our supporters, and invite all interested parties to the annual meeting Sunday, May 7/78, 2 p.m. at the Arena. Yours in sport, Frank Allsop President of A.M.H.A.

The Free Press

Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, April 24, 1968. Members of Local 23650 of the Saw Workers Union went on strike against the H.K. Porter (Desfont Division) Co. Ltd. Acton plant last Thursday. Pickets were set up outside the main gate of the plant, on McDonald Blvd., shutting down production and barring anyone but management, office personnel and foremen from entering.

Possible building of 250 housing units on the Van Gils farm was discussed when planning board met Thursday evening of last week. Mrs. Matthews of Starr Real Estate, representing Gellmy builders of Weston, presented plans for the board's perusal. The proposed homes in the \$17,000 to \$20,000 price range include some semi-detached units.

Acton and district people travelling No. 7 highway at night between Acton and Rockwood over the weekend were startled to see what appeared to be a surveyor working in pitch darkness with the aid of a flare. He was setting up some kind of plastic marking on the ground in the form of a cross which would only be visible from the air. One motorist, startled at the after-midnight apparition laughingly suggested it was man from Mars setting up landing sites for flying saucers. Why was the work being done under the cover of night?

Actonians watched with interest Tuesday night when Mrs. Wendy Thomson of R.R. 1, appeared on the CBC television show The New Women. The program showed four women of different marital status and they each spoke informally about their modes of life. Mrs. Thomson emerged as a "heroine" of sort in the more typical role of housewife.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 8, 1958

Nine new teachers were engaged for the fall term at the Acton public school at the regular meeting of the school board on Thursday. The teacher engagement committee reported the nine teachers were G. Banks, for music, E. Brears, D. Byerman, Mrs. J. Doberthein, Miss Marilyn Gordon, Miss Joy Peal, Miss E. Sawatzk, Miss Marlene Taylor and Miss Marjorie White.

The Halton Music Festival Association held the 1958 rural finals at Snider's school, Trafalgar township on Friday. George Hannahson acted as adjudicator. In the girls' solo, eight and under, Jamie Lou Hill of McCurdy's placed first with 85. Christine Foyers of Dublin came second with 84 and Nancy Mahon of No. 6, Nassagaweya was third with 83. Other contestants in this class were Nancy Beatty of Omagh, Kathryn Sinclair of Ballinfaad and Heather Baker of No. 4 Nassagaweya.

For boys, eight and under, Laurie Death of Hornby came first with 86; Teddy Gowland of Ash, second, 85; and Richard Reed, third of Omagh, 84. Others were Ricky Corbett of Stone school, Allan Gordon of No. 9 Nassagaweya, and Neil Robertson of No. 6, Nassagaweya.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 3, 1928.

The members of the Primary Room were all taken to the most dangerous corner, Mill and Willow, by their teacher Mrs. M. R. Moore, and given a practical demonstration of what they are required to do as members of the safety club.

Miss Bernice Reid last week completed her course of training at Guelph General Hospital and graduated as a trained nurse. This is spring clean-up time. The municipal officer will make his rounds of inspection Wednesday.

Some splendid work has been done on the streets with the road scraper and drag.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 2, 1878.

Is anything going to be done about getting a fire engine?

Messrs. Robert Nicklin and Edward Mathews have purchased the lively business of Mr. Ransom Adams.

Acton supports a first class brass band. The town of Guelph does not support any, and yet it expects to become a city shortly.

We are requested to state that the boys who are in the habit of throwing mud at their neighbours' houses had better beware of steel traps and spring guns.

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