

# Free Press Editorial Page

## A great idea

Did you ever wonder when your house was built? How it looked when it was new?

Have you had a surprise when you found the intriguing patterns among the layers of wallpaper when you were redecorating?

Did you ever wonder who wore down those stairs? Who put those nail holes in unbelievable places? How come there are sounds that could be a ghost?

The Women's Institute has an excellent scheme that many of its members are following. Dublin W.I. Women are among them.

The idea: a house log. W.I. members spend many happy hours compiling booklets about their own homes. These books are to be left in the house when the owner moves on, for the benefit of the next tenant. And each subsequent family is expected to

add to the book all the changes they have made.

It's an idea that's worth picking up by every home owner.

The book would of course begin with the original sale of land, which is obtainable from the registry office. All the history that can be compiled should be written into the pages. How about pieces of wallpaper, carpeting and paint samples as well?

The dates and prices of renovations and repairs would add even more interest.

Most families have cameras nowadays and pictures will enliven the book. Before and after shots as each room is redone, or additions made. Garden and garage are included too.

The house logs are fascinating.

How about starting one for your house?



CAN YOU GUESS WHEN this picture was taken? Last Sunday, on one of the warmest and sunniest days we have had all year. This large snow embankment,

possibly the last in Halton Hills, still exists alongside Halton Road 3, near Ballinafad.

## Biding their time

The senior citizens who hoped to be moving into the new apartments this fall have had a sad surprise, with the news the units could be another year in the works.

While these people who have applied for units now know they should renew their leases for a year, they still do not know if they would be eligible for the apartments when they are indeed ready.

They have asked, but have had no assurance.

These older people who live alone find this uncertainty very distressing. Surely Ontario Housing could at least promise some of these people that a unit will indeed be saved for them.

They have been biding their time in hopes for too long already.

## Move the siren

Isn't it time to consider moving the fire siren from the top of the town hall?

The noise of the siren creates a vibration that permeates the whole building. It is probably this vibration which caused a stone to break loose from the face of the town hall this week.

Architect's studies have shown cracks and repairs were antic-

ipated. But these flaws are certainly strained by the siren.

In the event the town hall should come down, the siren will have to be moved, probably to a tower on top of the fire hall addition.

Why not move it now, to prevent any further damage to the building and possible danger to pedestrians?

## Short takes

Here's a good way to help the economy. How about taking the sales tax off all Canadian-made goods?

A new series of articles begins this week, containing memories of the old town hall in its better days. Have you any recollections to share? Call George Elliott, Yvonne Rosenquist or Alice Duby.

One of the people at the band concert Sunday night said: I guess we'll read on the editorial page of the paper this week that more people should have been at the concert. Right! You just did. It was an excellent concert.

While many of us have been lamenting the late spring, fruit growers have been rejoicing. They are pleased because blossoming has been delayed until danger of frost is past. Bud development is about a month behind last year, but it won't take long to catch up.



"THIS MAY WEATHER HAS ME WORRIED."



## Sugar and spice

by Bill Smiley

What with Chretien's budget and the hockey playoffs, it looks like along, dull spring ahead.

That budget came sailing out with all the buoyancy of a wet sock. I can't help agreeing with the braying opposition critics, who labeled it a cynical, pre-election budget.

So the sales tax was cut. Big deal. It means that if I want to go out and buy a \$6,000 car, I can save \$180. Brother, if I could afford that kind of money for a car, I'm not going to let \$180 worry me, one way or the other. And that \$180 is sure going to go a long way in providing jobs for the 1 million unemployed, isn't it!

There wasn't a single item in the budget that will remotely affect our sickly dollar or our sorry unemployment situation.

Something that truly amazes me is that the federal Liberals, despite their horrendous record over the past decade, have a very good chance of being re-elected.

How do you figure that, with the whole country mad at the government for inaction, lack of leadership, a monstrous deficit, and a dollar in the doldrums? It must only mean that we thing an alter-

native would be worse, and this is a depressing thought. How can anything be worse than dreadful?

I think perhaps the reason for a Liberal lead in the polls is that a sort of apathy and cynicism has affected the Canadian voter to the point where he just doesn't give a diddle any more.

The lack of credibility among politicians has deepened, rather than the reverse, since the CBC began telecasting House of Commons debates. Nowhere was it more evident than on budget night.

On one side of the House, as the finance minister followed cliché with platitude, one group of trained seals flapped their flippers on their desks every time he stopped for a drink of water. On the other side of the House, another group of equally well-groomed trained seals flapped their flippers on their desks when their man was cutting up the finance minister. Perhaps the name should be changed from the House of Commons to the Common Zoo.

What is developing in this country is a deep, festering sore based on a mistrust of Ottawa and everything that emanates from it.

And somebody had better start paying some attention to it, at some other time than election time, or there's going to be hell to pay in this country.

Surely the Ottawa mandarins, the "expert" economists, and the \$50,000-a-year civil servants have had their innings. They have made a complete hash of things in the three decades since World War II, when Canada emerged as a vital country with everything going for it, and has slid steadily from a strong secondary power to a whining voice in the wilderness.

Surely it's time for a leader to emerge who has a gut feeling of what this nation is all about and what its people want. But where is he? Or she? John Diefenbaker had it, but his own ego blurred the mirror. Robert Stanfield had it. But in this TV age, he didn't have "charisma." He wasn't sexy enough.

Joe Clark sexy? Ed Broadbent charismatic? It is to laugh. I'll bet I'm sexier on a Sunday morning with a hangover and no shave.

Oh well, we can't solve the nation's problems here every week. Let's turn, for comic relief, to the National Hockey

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## Newsbeat

# On the road to crisis

By Bob Burt



Bob Burt reports on the region for the Free Press, Milton Champion and Georgetown Independent.

Halton Region is on the verge of a garbage crisis and regional council has no one to blame but itself. For more than two years the council has taken a narrow minded approach, determined that the regional dump must be located on prime agricultural land near the intersection of Tremaine and Britannia Rds. in the southern part of Milton.

Spurred on by the shrewd and wily manoeuvring of Public Works Chairman Jack Rafilis, majority of councillors satisfied themselves that there could be no alternative.

No, they wouldn't consider expanding the Burlington landfill site in spite of a consultant's report indicating this could be done. No, they wouldn't entertain the prospect of a small site at the Milton Brick yard in spite of the fact that the site was heartily endorsed by Milton Council. And no, they weren't much interested in developing dry waste sites that would take the pressure off the existing sites.

Rafilis and his cohorts took the attitude that they were going to stick it to the dump fighters and even if "we're wrong, we can do it 'cause we're bigger."

More than two years ago the Tremaine-Britannia people made it clear that they wouldn't stand for it and it was just too much to swallow.

But now when it appears that even the region can't stuff it down the people's throats, the region is calling foul.

Regional officials complain about Supreme Court decisions that force them to abide by the law, about residents who won't fall over and play dead and about the province's lack of leadership.

Late last month the region issued orders that no more industrial rubble was to be accepted at any regional landfill sites. Trucks loaded with rubble pulled up to landfill sites, only to be told to take their load someplace else. Mind you, the drivers weren't given any indication about where to take the garbage—but simply told it couldn't be dumped at the landfill site.

In keeping with the tradition the region has earned in the waste management field, the staff bungled the move to restrict use at the site.

There was no advance notice of the restrictions and no option worked out to provide for the waste. Instead of pressing Queen's Park for permission to use a vacant quarry pit for dry waste as an interim use, the region simply said "sorry

fellows, you're on your own."

Until now Joe Public has been happy to leave the matter in the hands of the politicians and experts. Disaster wasn't imminent and as long as the garbage was picked up and taken away, did it really matter what happened to it or where it went, as long as it went?

But that situation is changing and disaster does seem imminent. So far householders haven't been effected—just commercial or industrial concerns. But residents have been warned that restrictions on their use of the dumps is very real indeed.

Now the fur is going to fly and you can bet the region is going to point a menacing finger at the dump fighters.

I can hear it all now: "We followed the law (after two supreme court judges told us we could no longer break it), we studied all of the alternatives and made the decision on the best technological data we could get. If only it wasn't for those selfish, unreasonable people, we could have taken care of the needs of all of the people in the region and had a landfill site developed," they will say.

It would do my heart good for the region to be told once and for all that a dump at Site F is out of the question. It would mean

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# The Free Press Back Issues 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, May 1, 1968

There is no indication of settlement in the strike at the H.K. Porter plant in Acton. Members of local 23650 of the Saw Workers Union have been on strike since Thursday, April 18 and the plant is picketed.

Halton M.P. Harry Harley ended all speculation and second guessing about his political future when he told a press conference Sunday he would not contest the riding of Halton in the June 25 election.

Peter K. McWilliams of Oakville, Halton's Crown Attorney for the past ten years confirmed Tuesday evening that he would be a Progressive Conservative candidate entry in the June 25 federal election race in Halton riding.

J.M. Mike Ledwith, a former Mayor of Milton and an active community worker, announced Tuesday evening he would seek the Liberal nomination for the Halton riding in the June 25 federal election.

The prompt response of firefighters from Beardmore and Co. and Acton brigade averted what could have been a disastrous fire at Beardmore's early Tuesday afternoon.

## 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 15, 1888

Starting in Acton 48 years ago, George Edwards, prominent citizen and harness maker will retire from his business in his present shop at the end of the month. Considered to be one of the few remaining harness makers in the district, Mr. Edwards began his business in Acton at the present location of the corner of Mill and Main Streets.

Marilyn Young, Acton high school student, was chosen by staff members of the school to participate in a four day trip to Ottawa, sponsored by the Acton Rotary Club, in conjunction with the Ottawa club.

Representatives from H.K. Porter Co. were present at the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday evening to request permission to build houses for employees on their industrial property in Acton. W. Walker and L. Durning, company representatives, in making the request pointed out that several employees from the Toronto plant relocating in Acton would require homes here.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 10, 1928

The topic that has been of such interest to the taxpayers—the building of a new covered rink for skating, curling etc. was settled by the electors on Monday when the project found favour two to one with the electorate. Considering only the 450 or so property owners were allowed to vote and upwards of 50 of these are non-residents the turnout of 174 showed the vote was representative.

Mr. John Duval passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. T. Papillon, Church St. He is survived by 10 children.

The public meeting held under the auspices of the Acton Women's Christian Temperance Union was replete with interest. Reading essays were Helen Osterlander, Frank Cook, Roberta Michie, Olive Rookes and Lorena Lashbrook.

## 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 9, 1878

Owing to his increased business Mr. Campbell of the Rossin House is having another shed erected on the commons, opposite his hotel. At the meeting of Eramosa Township Council Messrs. Waters, Horlop, Duffield, Nutrie and the Reeve were appointed a committee to examine all roads, for the improvement of which petitions and applications had been made.

The Acton Division Sons of Temperance held an Open Division Tuesday evening in the Temperance Hall. The hall was literally jammed, and seats had to be put in every clear place in the building. During the progress of the entertainment the floor gave two very loud cracks but little notice was taken of them until the audience rose to leave, when the floor, owing to the extra weight upon it, sank in the centre fully three inches. This caused some excitement and the crowd made their exit as quickly as possible.

Local news is scarce. The Division Court met in Matthews hall (Holchen's Bakery) Monday.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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