



Town Hall Tales

V-E day at the town hall

This week sees the beginning of a series of personal reminiscences of events in the old town hall. Others will follow in the next few weeks.

Thirty-three years ago this month the Second World War in Europe ended. German surrender had been anticipated and there were some plans for a victory celebration in Acton. As a member of the Acton Boys and Girls Band I expected to be a part of it because Charlie Mason, our leader, had announced that when the news came the Tannery whistle would blow. Then, no matter where we were or what we were doing we must rush home, pick up our instruments and uniforms, and meet at the Town Hall for a victory parade. But the end of the war came sooner than expected. That morning in May was a warm sunny one. In the park the High School army cadets were lined up for the annual inspection. There was one uniformed platoon of boys all equipped with army issue 22 cal Cooney rifles, and two platoons of girls. In those days girls didn't carry rifles although they learned how to shoot them. The Acton cadets also had a Band; one of the few cadet corps that did. Since most members of the Boys and Girls Band were in High School, they just exchanged uniforms and became a cadet band. The cadets prepared for inspection all winter and the rifle drills, PT exercises, and ceremonial inspection march past were down pat for the visit of the inspecting officer from Toronto. I was the C.O. of the cadets, chosen oddly enough because I could shout

words of command for the inspection march past louder than anyone else in the school. I suppose that is as logical a way to choose an officer as any. In any case there we were nervously waiting. The inspecting officer drove up with his escort and the corps went through the ceremonial general salute, march past, and inspection flawlessly. At the end of the march past, with the platoons drawn up in open order, I went forward to meet the inspecting officer and ask his permission to break the corps off for their displays. Before I could speak the Tannery whistle began blowing. Immediately by peals from the Town Hall bell. The officer looking surprised said, "What's that?" I replied, "I think, sir, the war is over". Out of the corner of my eye I saw Billy Middleton dancing a jig with another school board member. The officer smiled and said, "Get your corps together and we'll parade up town." In a minute the cadets were in marching order, the Band led off followed by the officer in his command car, the three platoons, and a collection of teachers, school board members and other citizens who were in the park to see the inspection. We marched the whole length of the Town from the park to Ajax Engineers and back again to the Town Hall. Already there were cheering citizens along the street. I think Acton probably had the distinction of being the first town in all of Canada to have its victory parade that day. On returning to the Town Hall we met Charlie Mason

hurrying home to meet his Band for the parade. He was a little put off because we got away without him initially but at the Town Hall the inspecting officer addressed the corps for a few minutes and gave us the rest of the day off. The Band members quickly went home and changed uniforms and got back to the Town Hall where Charlie waited as a mammoth parade formed up. This was a more formal parade which proceeded to the United Church for a community Thanksgiving service. That night a crowded victory dance was held in the Town Hall. There was no time to find a dance band but Stu Elliott, a local man who had a dance band, did his best. He played saxophone, someone else worked over the old Town Hall piano, and there was a drummer—I don't remember who these other were. Anyway the whole Town danced to the small hours of the morning. The Town Hall was all lit up and in the warm evening the windows were wide open to let the sound of music and singing float over the Town. There was great joy and thankfulness because it meant for many families boys would be safe and coming home soon. For others there was joy and sadness because their boys had fallen in the battles and would not be coming back. The Town Hall saw and heard it all as it had the end of the Boer war and the first World War. Echoes of that V-E day of celebration must still be imprinted on the plaster, brick, and mortar of the old Town Hall.

Our readers write

Wants band support

Dear Mr. Editor:
I am glad to read that the money sought for the support of the Acton Citizens' Band will be forthcoming, contrary to the determined effort of some of council to reduce the amount requested to a mere pittance. I do believe that next to the fundamental preaching of the Bible, good music is one of the most beneficial things in which people can participate today.

Our great composers from many decades past of all nationalities have contributed great works which are played and enjoyed world-wide with no distinction of race or class. I do make the distinction between good music and that so-called music which to my mind is nothing more nor less than a repetitious racket, a cacophony of unintelligible noises which in no sense could or would be accepted as good music. Unfortunately a large part of our television and radio programs glorify such trash.

Thanks to all

Dear Editor:
As was reported in last week's Free Press a gratifying amount of \$1588 was raised in Acton by the sale of yellow daffodils, the flower of the Canadian Cancer Society.

As convener of daffodil day, I would like by this means to thank all of the people who bought these flowers on the streets, in the schools and in the factories. I would

However most local bands such as Acton and Georgetown did not surrender to this vogue, but provided real suitable and listenable programs which should be supported by the public.

Moreover, any band that seeks to interest our young people in learning to play good music should receive every support possible. If necessary to curtail other expenses to give the bands the necessary support, I suggest exorbitant salaries being paid our educators be drastically reduced and these savings go to band support.

Oakville, Burlington and Milton have bands, why not Halton Hills? I have been associated with military and Citizens' bands, orchestras and other groups for over 60 years in both Toronto and Halton and Peel counties. Have also taught percussion instruments, so have had a lifelong association with the best in music. Yours truly,
Ed. A. Peters
31 Byron St.,
Georgetown

especially like to thank the Industries, who so graciously took the time to take advance orders from their employees.

This amount will be added to our door-to-door campaign for funds and sent to the Canadian Cancer Society as Acton and district's part in the search for a cure to cancer. Thanks to all. Mrs. Marg Oliver,
Daffodil Day convener,
Canadian Cancer Society, Acton branch

Notice of reunion

Dear Editor:
During the centennial celebrations for the town of Shelburne, a reunion of all former Centre Dufferin District High School staff and students has been planned for Saturday, June 3. Anyone eligible who has not yet been contacted is urged to inform the

C.D.D. H.S. reunion committee at Box 84, Shelburne, Ontario.

Yours truly,
Sandra Stoddart
Reunion Chairman
89 Marion St.
Orangeville, Ont.

HELP THE MENTALLY RETARDED
"Support the Flowers of Hope"

"IT'S MEAN!"

THE NEW GLC 'SPORT' WITH ITS SCULPTURED LINES, STYLED ROAD WHEELS, WOOD STEERING WHEEL AND SHIFT KNOB, COLOUR-KEYED DOOR MIRROR AND STEEL BELTED RADIAL TIRES. THE 'SPORT' ADDS A LITTLE EXTRA SPORTSCAR FLAIR TO GLC's GREAT ECONOMY AND COMFORT.



PRICED FROM

\$3840

GLC. GREAT LITTLE CARS FOR A GREAT LOT OF REASONS

Test-drive Mazda's line of GLC's now

at...

am achilles motors
mazda SALES & SERVICE

357 Queen Street East, Acton 853-0200

On the road . . .

(Continued from page 4)
that their high handed, arrogant ways were of no benefit and that the rights of the individuals do count, even if they don't have adequate representation on council. The real dirty part of the whole thing is, the region has known from the beginning that the site would never be approved on its own merit. If it is approved it will be because the region has driven itself to a desperate position and left itself with no option and no contingency and 200,000 people with no place to dump garbage. One of the amusing parts of last Wednesday's meeting was Georgetown Councillor Roy Booth's announcement that he is fed up with the delays. After all, people in his ward are doing their spring cleaning and where are they going to throw all of their junk? That's from the same councillor who, a year and a half ago, told dump fighters that he wouldn't be visiting Site F because it really didn't matter where the garbage went as long as it wasn't in his area. Now the good councillor is getting fed up with delays. Isn't that too damned bad!

If worse comes to worse and the restrictions are expanded to cover all of us, I suggest you check the voting pattern before you blow your lid. The first reaction might be to vent anxieties against the dump fighters instead of those councillors who insisted on taking the path to crisis. The region was well warned long ago that the dump fighters weren't backing off and that there were legal provisions to delay approval for five years at least. In fact the group's lawyer, David Estrin, told the region a landfill site would never be developed because it contravened the law of the land. In fact Estrin actually advised the region to get some better legal advice than what Mike Martin was able to provide. Martin's gone now and the region has a new lawyer and a whole army of legal beagles from outside firms working on the case. It's too bad the council hadn't swallowed its pride, backed down and taken a different course a couple of years ago. This type of crisis politics would never have been necessary.

Brock Ave man hurt in crash

A Brock Avenue man suffered injuries when the auto he was driving came into collision with another vehicle at Highway 7 and the 4th Line of Esqueping Sunday. According to Milton's OPP detachment Terry McMullen, 8 Brock Ave., received minor injuries from the mishap. The McMullen vehicle was making a turn off the 4th Line onto the Highway. Westbound on the highway was the auto driven by Conrad Parent of Brampton. Damage to the McMullen auto is estimated by police to be \$2,500, damage to the Parent vehicle is \$3,000 police estimate.

Pope, Starret & Co.

Chartered Accountants

16 Mountainview Road S.

Suite 304
GEORGETOWN

877-6984

Announcing
the new
Air Canada

Nighthawk Fares

within Canada

Now you can fly non-stop from Toronto to Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Halifax & St. John's. Starting June 12 to some destinations.

Vancouver Only \$202.00
Calgary \$168.00
Edmonton \$168.00
Halifax \$ 97.00

*7 a.m. Friday - 7 a.m. Monday add \$20
Canadian Transportation Tax Max. \$8 Not Included

Milton Travel
Service

14 Martin Street

878-2886

Jail improvements are too late says super.

The heating system at the century-old Milton Jail was inoperative for 13 days. Jail Superintendent Derek Hincks told this newspaper, when questioned about the Institutional Inspection Panel's report criticizing the jail.

The panel's recommendation for better washroom facilities was next to impossible, Hincks suggested. Adding more toilets in the cells which are large enough to house toilets—(some aren't)—was an expensive proposition. "Nobody is going to undertake it at this time, due to the fact the jail is closing down next month," he suggested.

The furnace is the joint responsibility of the Ministry of Government Services and Halton Region, he said, adding "I think the Region was trying to avoid repairing it." The jail is slated to be closed in mid-June.

Temporary repairs were carried out on Friday, May 5, he said. The Panel noted there had been no heat in the jail since April 23 when the furnace went on the blink.

Hincks said it was a new furnace last fall. When it first went out the weather was warm, Hincks said. Then it cooled off and the cold eventually made it "quite cool" in the jail. He said he did not know how cool it got.

Hincks said it was a major breakdown. As for a program and exercise for the inmates, he said before the furnace went out he had been exercising the men regularly in the jail yard. But when the furnace quit, he kept them inside and tried to keep all the doors shut to conserve heat.

Spring & Summer Fashions On Parade!



View our beautiful selection of Spring and Summer Wear for Boys and Girls. Size New Born to 14

ACTON
Toddlers to Teens
DOWNTOWN ACTON • 853-3886

We're high on quality low on price

Fresh Lean MEDIUM GROUND BEEF	\$1.19 lb.
Fresh Lean STEWING BEEF	\$1.29 lb.
Swift's or Burns	6 oz. Pkg. \$1.09
Maple Leaf	1/2 Cut Cryovac S.P. COTTAGE ROLLS \$1.19

fresh as spring PRODUCE POTATOES \$1.29

Duncan Hines	19 oz. Pkg. Save 12¢	Maxwell House	1 lb. Pkg. Save 70¢
CAKE MIXES	77¢	NEW VACUUM PAK COFFEE	\$3.49
Carnival	28 oz. Tins Save 10¢	Quench	4 Pak Pouches Save 20¢
PEACHES	69¢	FRUIT CRYSTALS	89¢
Heinz Strained REGULAR BABY FOOD	5/\$1.00	Heinz	19 oz. Tin Save 23¢
Campbell's CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP	4/\$1.00	Proctor & Gamble	1 Litre Bottle Save 30¢
York	16 oz. Jar Save 26¢	CRISCO OIL	\$1.69
PEANUT BUTTER	89¢	Kraft	8 oz. Pkg. Save 14¢
Proctor & Gamble	12 Litre Pkg. Save 70¢	CANADIAN CHEESE SLICES	79¢
TIDE DETERGENT	\$5.49	EGGS	DOZ. 79¢

quick 'n easy FROZEN FOODS

McCain's DEEP & DELICIOUS CAKES 13 oz. Pkg. Save 20¢ 99¢

PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 10, 11, 12, 13
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES
A-B SUPERMARKET
9 Mill Street East • Acton
853-0650

TIDY CAR
Low-Cost Interior-Exterior Car Protective Cleaning Treatment call 877-6136