

# Free Press Editorial Page

## Smile at us all

The government is undertaking an advertising campaign to promote the value of hospitality, to give a boost to the province's flagging tourist industry.

At a cost of \$250,000, the government will extoll the value of good manners and smiles.

But not only the tourists suffer from glum faces and unwilling clerks.

How about the rest of us, who spend our money in this province every week?

All of us have experienced lackadaisical service. We have all met

waitresses who treated us as if we were a nuisance. Clerks who regretted having to interrupt a chat to wait on us. Store employees who have no friendly words or thanks.

A conscious change in attitude would benefit them and us. And those tourists the government is most concerned about.

To make an effort to smile and seem happy and appreciative could become a welcome habit.

Cheery words produce happy reactions.

Smile for us, not just for the buck-laden visitors. We'll be back shopping again next week.

## Adios, amigo

Ken Hulford was one of those fortunate people who combined pleasure with profits and business with a service to his community.

For over a quarter of a century many people came in contact with Ken at the popular bowling lanes.

The bowling alley was a centre of fun and healthful sport. Parents knew their children were in good hands there. Adults spent many happy hours competing in friendly fashion and socializing.

Ken involved his bowlers in provincial competitions and he himself was due to be honored by the Ontario Bowling Proprietors

Association later this year. He spent many hours compiling the information that went into his well-read column in the Free Press. The top scorers always found their achievements recognized and applauded.

Ken spoke to the young boys and girls at one of this season's closing banquets and told them how he had enjoyed seeing the second generation bowlers join his leagues. Seeing them grow and develop meant more to him than anything else, he told them. Tears were choked back that day.

Ken Hulford will be widely missed.

## Mandate excessive

Although the Niagara Escarpment has occupied a prominent place in Ontario, it probably is coming in for more minute examination now than it has over the last 500 million years.

This unique land formation which stretches from Queenston to Tobermory, a distance of 450 miles, was formed before the glaciers marched down from the north to envelop Ontario in their icy grip and change the shape of the rocky ridge.

Changes are still occurring as the Niagara Escarpment Commission determines the fate of this natural legacy. Many people vow it should be preserved but few, if any outside the commission, can agree on how it should be done.

Farmers and land owners along the Escarpment resent the intrusion of the government sponsored Escarpment Commission in charting the course of a natural feature long accepted as belonging to the areas in which it rose, sometimes majestically and precipitously on pastoral Ontario.

It has long been recognized the Escarpment should be preserved from those who would destroy its beauty or its potential as recreation land.

The Commission has been charged with a mandate to preserve the 1.2 million acres of land from uncontrolled development or being ravaged by unsightly gravel pits and quarries. Unfortunately the commission has also been a refuge for defeated politicians or persons to whom the Government owed political favors. Local people did not take the appointees' sudden interest in preserving the escarpment seriously, resenting the fact they should be plotting the future of land they neither owned or cared much

about until they were appointed to the commission at \$65 per meeting, plus expenses. Meetings were also held in private, the press excluded, another sore point.

That was not the Government's intention when the escarpment commission was formed with 17 members appointed from nine representatives of the public-at-large and one representative nominated by each of the eight counties and regional municipalities within the planning area.

Some members of the public were also alarmed at the large area within the Escarpment Commission's jurisdiction. The commission's 1.2 million acres of planning area often intruded into areas miles from the actual lip of the escarpment. For instance, the entire community of Acton was included in its planning area, although it is two or three miles from the nearest evidence of the Escarpment.

It comes as no surprise to learn Premier William Davis has bowed to pressure from land owners and plans to reduce the amount of land controlled by the Commission by more than 50 per cent, returning it to the control of elected rather than appointed representatives.

Now that's been settled, objectors hopefully will present their case for change in the preliminary proposals of the Commission, especially restrictions on property which they resent. There is still time to have their concerns voiced and plans changed before they are written on the stone of the escarpment.

We don't think the commission has exceeded its mandate in their preliminary proposals. What is obvious is the mandate is too large.

Georgetown Independent



"I GUESS THE LOCALE IS GETTING TO HIM."

Blake '78  
ACTON FREE PRESS



## Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

Do you ever do one of those psychological quizzes in magazines or the Sunday paper? They're kind of fun, especially if you do them with your old man / old lady.

We do one every Sunday, although it's not a psych thing, but a straight quiz of general knowledge. And every Sunday morning, I get between 11 and 13 right out of 15, and the Old Battleaxe gets between six and nine right. There goes the rest of the Sabbath.

I try to be decent and modest about it. "It's only because I know more about politics, read more general news, and am about twice as smart as you, dear."

She responds: "Yes, it's because you are fascinated by those stupid politicians, have time to read the news while I'm doing housework, and are stupid enough to read a lot of stupid articles and watch stupid TV shows, that you beat me." And so it goes.

But last Sunday morning, after I'd licked her 12-6 on the information quiz, she dug up another one, in a golf magazine, with little squeaks of delight and potential triumph.

It was a personality probe, and the end result was that you were supposed to discover what sort of person you were, and as a side issue, what sort of golf player this would make you. You had to be absolutely honest in your answers. And if you weren't, there was your spouse, across the way, glowering, and saying: "You aren't a bit like that."

So, with brutal honesty, we did the quiz. We'd have been far better off in church, but there you can answer the questions, hide behind the prayer book, and bellow the hymns lustily, although you be a very Old Nick underneath, and nobody knows the difference.

This was real and earnest, with no side-stepping, no hiding, no evasions. And it came out pretty well as we had expected: we are almost total opposites. I've known it for years, but my wife forlornly keeps hoping and saying that we have a lot in common.

Who needs it? The old adage says "Opposites attract." Maybe that's why we got stuck with each other, and have lived happily ever since.

Oh, we have our little differences, but beyond things like "Drop dead!" or "I'm leaving first thing in the morning," nothing much comes of them.

Well, this quiz really spelled it out. There were 20 questions, each with three categories, and we filled them in religiously.

There were three columns.

Examples:  
1. Dependent-Dominant-Detached.

2. Lets things happen-Makes things happen-Watches things happen.

In both of the above, I was number three, she was number two. And so it went, right down the list.

Both of us had only two or three marked in the first column. In the second and third columns we were almost diametrically opposed, although there were a few overlaps.

Here's how we stacked up, if you haven't turned to the comics by now.

My old lady is: dominant, assertive, anxious, kind, extrovert of action, has enduring rapport with people, quick-tempered, irascible, talkative, active, energetic, enterprising, precise, needs

people when disturbed, puts stress on doing, makes things happen.

Your humble servant, on the other hand, comes out as: detached, relaxed, calm, considerate, introverted, has extensive rapport, is gentle-tempered, reflective, reserved, cool, inhibited, restrained, needs solitude when disturbed, puts stress on perceiving, watches things happen.

We agreed we were both: even-temperative in temperament; had a love of privacy; were self-assured (in most cases); were suspicious. In four out of 20, we have something in common.

Well, which of those two would you want to be stuck with for 30-odd years? My old lady comes across as a quick-tempered, aggressive, dominating bully. Which she ain't.

And I come across as a cold, bloodless piece of calf's liver, hung over the line to dry. Which I ain't.

Like all of those psychological quizzes, it's a bunch of junk. The title of my wife's category is the Triangular Type, or the Muscular Warrior. She is supposed to bully people on the tee, offer advice, and play only to win. Hell, she can't even bully me, accepts advice, and plays only to win.

My category is called the Linear Type, or the Loner. I'm supposed to be a solitary, not wanting confrontation, and even want to go out and play twilight golf by myself. Ridiculous. I wouldn't walk across the street to play nine holes of golf by myself. One of us might win.

The only thing we found out from the quiz was that we both should have been in the first column, called the Circular, the happy extrovert who enjoys golf and plays an excellent game.

## Newsbeat

### Volunteer help valuable

By Bob Burt



Bob Burt writes the regional council news for the Acton Free Press.

From time to time there seems to be a desire by municipal councillors to rid themselves of all special purpose bodies. That would include Conservation Authorities, Library Boards, and Museum Boards where they still exist.

Some municipal councillors will argue that the people sitting on those boards and commissions are not truly responsible to the people because they are appointed and not elected.

If you listen to some councillors, they'll have you believing that the special interest groups are responsible for the miscarriage of

justice, due process and a whole lot of other things.

The idea that special interest groups should be abolished and their responsibilities taken over by council was aired again this week by Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen.

Eriksen is usually a bright light on regional council and the statement seemed out of character, coming from one who can generally be counted on to still spot the trees and the forest.

Prior to regional government there were a number of boards and commissions that reported to local councils.

People with special interest in parks and recreation were chosen for that committee, those with some expertise and interest in planning sat on that committee.

But with regional government those groups went by the board and with them went a helluva pile of expertise and volunteer time and effort.

In their demise dawned the era of professionals. Sometimes the new system seems like professionals work in a vacuum without the guidance they would have received from a group of interested and committed people and report to a council that doesn't always listen and often doesn't understand.

Bill 151 abolished museum boards at the regional level, setting in its place a system where the curator or director at the museum reports directly to council.

Now the interest in the regional museum by councillors has never been overwhelm-

ing, and it hasn't changed. But at least when there was a museum board working with staff there was some bridge between staff and council.

Now the council is directly responsible but I'd hazard a guess that 50 per cent of the councillors couldn't tell you the name of the curator or find their way to the museum. In fact, if it wasn't for approving the budget, they'd probably never know the region owned a museum.

For some reason or another Library Boards and Conservation Authorities were left intact under regional government.

I would hope that any move to get rid of them would be seriously considered and the experience in other areas of involvement reviewed first.

## The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, May 15, 1968

The 28 day old strike at the H.K. Porter plant was settled Tuesday at noon. Employees of the plant's Thermoid and Diston divisions went back to work today (Wednesday).

A seven member delegation from Acton Chamber of Commerce presented council with a brief regarding a temporary mall on the Mill St. business section last night (Tuesday) precipitating a lively discussion on the merits of the plan first proposed to council by councillor Ted Tyler last summer.

Rud Whiting, 37, was chosen Liberal candidate for Halton riding in a precedent shattering nominating convention last night (Tuesday). The lively, lengthy meeting featured a tie vote on the third ballot, resulting in a fourth ballot and a narrow two vote margin over Oakville Mayor MacLean Anderson.

A canvass of members, past members and the general public will begin within days to raise money for a separate curling building for Acton. Approximately two and a half acres of land on the third line north of Highway No. 7 has been bought by the curling club.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 29, 1958

Residents of Acton and District are invited to join in the annual Decoration Day service to be held this Sunday, June 1, with a parade and outdoor church service to be prior to decorating the graves at the various cemeteries.

Bruce Andrews of Acton, who is slated to attend the British Empire Games trials at Saskatoon in June, equalled the Canadian Juvenile mile record at the Ontario Secondary schools track meet held at the O.A.C.V.C. athletic field recently. Bruce, a member of the Guelph Legion track team, was running in the Acton high school colors and ran the mile in 4.28 to top the field.

Claimed by Game Authorities to be the largest male fox shot in this area, a large male was bagged by Robert Marshall Jr. of Acton, on Tuesday evening near the Lorne school area. The young man told reporters the first shot knocked the animal down and when it rose to its feet to attack him, he killed it with a shot in the head.

No conclusive action followed requests by deputations Wednesday from land owners, real estate brokers and home builders to the Acton Planning board for permission to develop residential lots in Lakeview subdivision. The many residents attending from the subdivision crowded the planning board from its usual quarters into the larger council chambers.

50 years ago

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

Sixteen pairs of the large mouth bass have been deposited in Fairy Lake on Monday morning. The fish were supplied by the government for stocking Fairy Lake. All fishing has been prohibited here for two or three years by Beardmore and Co. and it is hoped all will co-operate in the endeavor to get good stock in these local waters.

The laying of asphalt roadway between Acton and Rockwood commenced at Acton on Monday. This type of road seems to be laid very rapidly and already the stretch of about half a mile has been laid with the first coat. A couple of steam rollers and quite a gang of men are at work laying roadway. One splendid feature of this kind of construction is the fact that no detours are necessary. As soon as the asphalt has been laid and rolled, the vehicles are permitted to drive over it. Only half of the road is laid at a time. Traffic is therefore not interfered with at all during construction.

"There was a time when a fool and his money were soon parted. Now it happens to everybody".

## Of this and that

Acton now has another service club, the Optimists. This new group of people have banded together in a social way to also work toward the good of the whole town. Their particular interest will be in children. Each service club brings its own goals and projects, that add to the whole community. Welcome, Optimists.

Members of the Bruce Trail Association would like to see strong legislation that would preserve the rural atmosphere all along the route. While the Niagara Escarpment Commission has recognized

the route, applications for development are being regularly approved. Association members don't walk to walk from subdivision to subdivision. They'd like the route to remain a wilderness experience. Yet of course the owners of nearby land wish to remain free to do what they want to with their land.

The Big Brothers Association of Halton Hills actively includes Acton. Eric Balkind of Acton and Bill Sanford of Limehouse are on the executive.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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