

Free Press Editorial Page

Understanding your policy

If you are not sure just exactly what your home insurance policy covers, check it out with your agent!

The case of Cory Van Merkesteyn and his insurance on his house has made others think of their coverage and what would happen in a similar case of a very serious fire.

We have heard this past week from insurance agents who understand the details of such coverage, and the complexities of an option loss clause. They also point out the appraiser is independent, working to strict guidelines.

Their concern, though, is with others who may be wondering this week about their policies. "Ask your agent," they say. Many people don't realize what coverage they have, and only find out when they have a loss.

Up-to-date appraisals are important, too. They should be reviewed often.

The insurance agent is working on our behalf, between the insured and the insurance company. Helping us is part of his service.

Understand your policy before you have a loss.

Stiffer drinking penalty

New legislation proposed concerning drinking is to be commended. It will be introduced into the Ontario house in the fall.

The new legislation will give police on-the-spot authority to suspend a driver's license for 24 hours if the driver's breath test proves too high. The legal drinking age would be increased to 19 from 18 years of age.

And the maximum fines for drinking driving would be boosted from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for drinking under age. The three month suspension for three time conviction would be increased to three years suspension.

But are our fines and suspension stiff enough yet to be a real deterrent?

A friend in England told us recently that people there are extremely cautious about drinking and driving. It's such a worrisome problem—especially to parents of teenagers—that we asked why.

Here, from England, is the reply.

Young people are inevitably stopped more often than older people. Penalties are the same in principle although monetary penalties will depend on the severity of the offence and the

financial situation of the defendant.

The official maximum penalty for the first offense for driving with excess alcohol is four hundred pounds (about \$680) or four months imprisonment, and at least 12 months disqualification.

This is increased to three years disqualification if the person has been previously convicted in the last 10 years.

Some courts adjust the fine to the amount of alcohol in the system beginning with 60 pounds (about \$100) up to 120 milligrams alcohol per 100 ml. blood, increasing by 40 pounds for every 40 mgs. Plus the obligatory 12 months disqualification.

A Crown Attorney in Oxford county in Ontario announced that he will impose jail terms on second-time offenders. They will receive a 14-day jail sentence and be suspended from driving for six months. A third conviction within five years would bring a mandatory three months in jail. He says there are far too many cases of impaired driving in Oxford county.

Who wants to be on the road with a drunk driver? Nobody.

At the end of May

Cancer society canvassers and campaign organizers have a happy evening each year over pot luck dishes as well as facts and figures. "You should be so proud of yourselves," guest speaker Helen Cummins told them. Certainly the town is proud of the organization and its volunteers. And we all helped Acton mount a terrific response to the appeal again this year.

The Meals on Wheels program is facing a serious deficit of drivers and deliverers for the summer. If you can help, come to a meeting in the Y tonight, May 31, or call Terry Grubbe. There's a story and ad about it in today's paper.

It's interesting to watch all the progress in rebuilding and renovations around town this spring. Many improvements are underway.

The organizers of the young people's coffee house The Mug handed out their thanks in the form of nicely-lettered certificates last week. For the many who assisted them without thinking of public praise, the pat on the back was a fine gesture.

Although spring was about two weeks behind schedule, gardeners got right up to date on the last two weekends. Garden shops found business booming on Victoria Day weekend and again last weekend. Petunias and delicate annuals are all going into the ground these days.

The sun and heat brought out the greenery in record time.

The problem with recessions is that they always come at such a bad time when everyone is out of work.



AREA BEHIND DUBY ST. houses has become a subject of controversy since last week. Some residents want it cleaned up and filled in to become a grassy park for children, while others believe it should be left in its natural state.



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

Anybody got a job for my kid? She's 27 years old, has three degrees, is three times as bright as her old man, can charm the birds right out of the trees when she feels like it, and is an outstanding fund-raiser (from me).

She plays the piano extremely well, the guitar rather rustily. She composes music, raunchy rock or contemporary classical.

She can cook up a storm when she's at our place, although I've never had anything more substantial than a cup of weak tea and a burnt brownie at hers.

She has an erratic but brilliant academic career, liberally sprinkled with As for essays and glowing tributes from professors. That's mainly because she can write rings around me, and comprehend abstract theses in one-quarter the time I do.

She is completely versed in all the modern psychological jargon of child-raising, but despite that has two happy, healthy children. Despite the fact that she's an ardent Women's Libber, she's still living with a male chauvinist husband and gets along pretty well with a male chauvinist father, or at least what she thinks is one.

She can type at a hell of a clip, self-taught. She has worked as a waitress, a bartender, an organist and a helper at a day-care centre. And finally, she's a consummate actress. You should hear her coming her mother into taking the kids for a walk.

Now wouldn't you think that with all these attributes, she could hack some kind of living out of our economic jungle?

But, no. Her problem is that she is ready, willing and able to go out and conquer the

world, but she's walking right into Canada's worst unemployment situation since the Great Depression.

An added difficulty is that she is specially trained to be one of those pariahs of today's society—a teacher. Being a newly graduated teacher today is like being an undertaker in some Utopia where nobody ever dies.

Every occupation has its day in the sun, I guess. Fifteen years ago, it was the turn of the teacher. If your body was warm and you were still breathing, you were likely to be snatched off the streets or out of an office, and propped up in front of a classroom.

With the post-war baby boom over and out of the schools, and the reluctance of so many young people to have children, for whatever reasons, school enrolment has shrunk drastically, and will go on doing so for several years.

The huge educational empires created during the boom years are shrinking, and attrition is fairly savage. Thousands of young teachers are unable to get jobs. Hundreds are losing their jobs because they are redundant.

It's nobody's fault, particularly, just a matter of execrable management by our leaders. Nothing new in that. They're the people who study all the charts, examine all the facts, and invariably come up with the wrong answers.

Day in the sun for the teachers is over. Morale of those already in the profession is low, for various reasons. Morale of those trying to enter it is depressive.

I reckon doctors got the next day in the sun. For years, along with the dentists, they carried thousands of dollars on their books, of people who could not or would not

pay their medical bills. Then came health insurance, and suddenly young doctors were making a fantastic living, because they were paid for everything they did.

Now they've had their day too. They work incredible hours, often in rotten little offices where they scarcely ever see the light of day. But their expenses have shot up, they pay a whacking income tax, the government is always creating more paperwork, and suddenly it's become a grind.

Who's having his day in the sun in the sick 70s? I'd say the service people: garage mechanics, TV repairmen, plumbers, electricians. It certainly isn't nurses or construction workers.

So be it. But there must be something awfully wrong with a country when thousands of highly dedicated, highly educated young people simply cannot find employment in what they were trained for.

Maybe my son Hugh had some psychic foresight. He took off for Paraguay, as a Ba-hai pioneer, three years ago, and is living happily, hand to mouth, without having to go through the humiliating search for a way to put food in his mouth.

Max Braithwaite, whose Why Shoot the Teacher has been made into a popular movie, perhaps should have stuck a "no!" into his title.

Shoot the poor young devils, and put them out of their misery. Or shoot a bunch of our old codgers with our stale ideas and antiquated teaching methods, and give the jobs to the young ones.

Anybody got a job for my kid?

Duby Rd. land use Our readers write

To the Editor
Re: Neighbours disagree on Kingham land use

No one would argue the safety and environmental hazards that exist regarding the storm sewer outfall that lies on town owned land adjacent to the properties on the south side of Duby Road. The rectification of this dangerous situation would appear to be the main concern and objective of all residents concerned.

However, the question of land utilization is of some importance and although conceivably of secondary importance, it must be given due consideration as well.

On the one hand we have a group which does not but merely proposes that perhaps the existing, open natural space of town land be manually cleared of rocks, dangerously hovering dead trees and other hazards and perhaps be utilized as a natural play area for our children, a dog-run, and small garden plots, the maintenance of which would be the responsibility of the interested residents themselves, at no cost to the taxpayer. Again, it must be emphasized that these are proposals only and not demands. There is no question of changing the 'nature' of the land other than the addition of grass to the already existing open areas to replace weeds and the removal of mosquito-infested, water filled ruts left by the builder's heavy equipment. There has been no mention or intention of adding any chemical compounds to this effect.

On the other hand, we have the so-called 'environmentalist' viewpoint concerned that the land remain in its natural state, as it was when the homes were purchased, with the exception of removing garbage and other environmentally detrimental debris. There is no argument that this same group recognizes the hazards involved with the storm sewer outfall in its present state. However, it is interesting to note that a large number of this same group, namely the 'environmentalists', who oppose any grassed play area, dog-run and gardens have signed a petition in direct contradiction to their present state of affairs; that is, in direct contradiction to what they have done and are presently doing.

Some of these same environmentalists have taken it upon themselves to extend their personal property fences to enclose areas of town-owned land. Some of these extended fences have completely and blatantly blocked passage through a natural, open walkway that exists along the entire length of the town-owned land in question, thus disallowing any other resident the pleasure and freedom of a stroll through one of few remaining natural areas. Some of these same environmentalists have established the same vegetable and flower gardens and grassed areas so vehemently opposed in their counter-petition, along with the chemical additives to 'maintain' these personally enclosed town-owned areas. Some of these

same environmentally-conscious residents nonchalantly allow their dogs free run of this town-owned property with all that this entails (Namely, dog feces and in some cases, bitten children)—proven hazards to our children.

Obviously, the land is not ours to do with as our personal whims and wishes would dictate. It is, first of all, a beautiful little area which we, as residents of the south side of Duby Road, have the immeasurable, unique pleasure of beholding and sharing in common. It must not be changed and it must be shared. The sewer outfall situation must be recognized and rectified as a hazard. There is no need for an organized park, a dog-run, vegetable or other gardens; no need for a mechanically constructed walk-way or fenced-in personal land claims under whatever pretext. We all have our own properties for these activities and the joy of an unstructured, natural area should be available to all who wish to avail themselves of the freedom to enjoy this small, but wonderful piece of nature.

There have been attempts to reconcile the opposing groups with the intention of proposing a general meeting of all residents for the purpose of discussing these problems. The 'environmentalist group' has aided in the initial preparation and proposal of such a discussion, but for personal reasons, have reneged on their commitment. The situation speaks for itself.

Yours truly,
(Mrs.) Odile M. Thomson

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, May 22, 1968

News that the Chamber of Commerce and council will try to implement the proposed mall along the Mill St. business section between John and Mill Sts. wasn't long in drawing reaction. Businessmen opposed to the idea immediately drew up a counter petition. They apparently got more signatures on the document opposing the idea than the Chamber of Commerce had supporting it.

The congregations of Trinity United church, Acton and Churchill United church will be amalgamated effective June 30. A letter to this effect, received by the recording stewards of both congregations from Halton Presbytery, was read during the morning service at each church Sunday morning.

Peter K. McWilliams who resigned as crown attorney was declared the Progressive Conservative candidate for federal representative of Halton County after a single ballot last Thursday night.

Providing the weather co-operates, official opening of Prospect Park will take place this weekend, Parks and Recreation committee decided at their regular meeting Thursday.

20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 5, 1958

On June 1, 1908, Cordelia Algie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Algie, was united in marriage to Amos Mason in a pretty double wedding ceremony at "Beaver Hill" the family residence in Alton. On Sunday, last, June 1, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Mason quietly marked the 50th anniversary of that event at their home on Bower Ave in Acton.

Council approved a plot charge of \$1.10 per square foot and grave opening charges of \$30 for plain box and \$40 for vault on their first regular meeting in three weeks last Monday evening.

The Five Straws, a group of Acton singers, entertained at the Junior Pipe Band Garden Party held in Acton recently. Included in the program were a group of Scottish dances and singers. The Junior Pipe Band played several selections dressed in their new kilts. The event was held to raise funds for the Junior Pipe Band to purchase equipment.

50 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 31, 1928

Very general and sincere regret will be felt at the announcement that Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Henderson are about to leave Acton. Toronto, which is the centre of Mr. Henderson's business and where the sons Messrs. Ralph and Arthur are attending college, is naturally the objective of their new home.

A young man of this village caught 30 trout in Morrows pond Monday.

The G.T.R. authorities intend to do away in the future with the night switch man at the station. The night operator will have to do the switching.

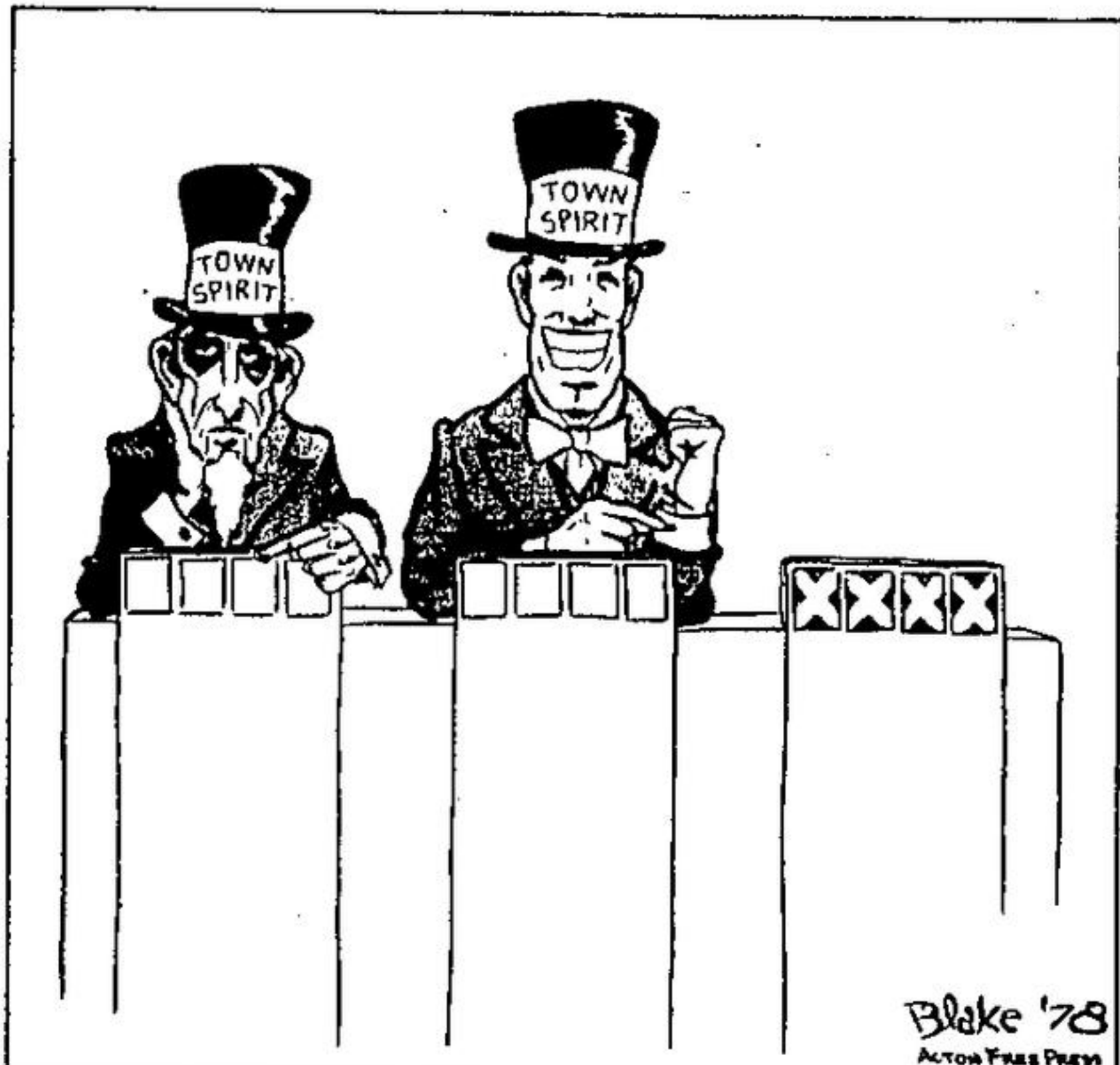
Yesterday morning, an aeroplane from the Jack V. Elliott Aeroplane Co. circled over town and landed in a field on Mr. Ed Mann's farm just west of town. The pilot in charge was prepared to give air rides to citizens at a rate of \$5 per ride. The rain, however, spoiled the afternoon's entertainment and few availed themselves of the opportunity to secure a thrill by the trip in the air. The machine proceeded west from Acton shortly after one o'clock to try a new field for business.

100 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press, of Thursday, May 30, 1878

The Queen's Birthday was celebrated in this village with great eclat. A splendid program was prepared. \$100 was offered in prizes. The sports consisted of baseball, quilts match, stone race, dancing Highland Fling, hopping race, foot race, catching greased pig, climbing greased pole, trotting race, running horse race, hop step and jump, running jump, high pole leap, etc. The Acton Brass Band discoursed music. In the evening a grand musical and literary entertainment was held in the Temperance Hall under the auspices of St. Alban's church after which there was a beautiful display of fireworks.

The population of Acton is about 900. A respected citizen, Robert Fisher died at the age of 40. The Knights of Pythias led the process to Swackhammer's hill and upward of 40 carriages followed the remains to their last resting place.



Blake '78

WILL THE REAL TOWN SPIRIT PLEASE STAND UP?

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
1978

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 50 Willow 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 15 cents per week. Second class mail Registration Number 0515. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertisement 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 advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is hereby offered to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.
Dale Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd.
David R. Dale, Publisher

Key Dale Editor
E.R. Cook Advertising Manager

Copyright 1978