

# Free Press Editorial Page

## Back to Acton

Back to Acton Days this weekend promises to be bigger and better than last year's, with plenty of exciting events and a super variety of programs. Ending, of course, with the fireworks!

We certainly hope visitors and former residents will come "Back to Acton" and that many local people will find there's no place

more interesting to be, this holiday, than at home.

Many groups, individuals and businesses are getting their plans together this week. They're hoping to boost the town, improve business and live us up in a community-wide event.

It's for everybody. Come on out and enjoy yourself!

## History in pictures

With good weather, the Free Press will have an exhibit of old photographs out on the main street for Back to Acton days. We hope you will drop over to see these pictures.

We have a very important ulterior motive in getting them ready for display.

We hope that old timers will come along and identify some of the people for us. Many of the pictures are lacking names, dates and places. We would very much like to fill in the blanks.

And then we hope that many people will feel inspired to lend us their old pictures. We have a system all arranged which involves rephotographing the old pictures, and making ourselves a print from the new negative. Then the original goes back to the owner. We hope to do a lot of this in the fall, when the weather gets chillier and we don't mind spending the time indoors.

We hope you enjoy leafing through the pages of our old picture albums.

## He will be missed

St. Joseph's Church bulletin last week carried a terse announcement that parish priest Father James Smye is being transferred to a parish in Winona.

The announcement came as a surprise to parishioners at masses Saturday and Sunday. The recognized parish priests are often moved but Father Smye's popularity with all age groups in the parish and the work he has done in his short tenure of four years has endeared him to many. His transfer is regretted both among parishioners and friends of other faiths he has made during his stay in Acton.

During his pastoral care the parish with the help of the Separate School Board founded and established St. Joseph's School. He took a keen interest in worthwhile community events and co-operated with the other churches of Acton and district.

He tried successfully to bring spiritual messages in the simplest manner so anyone could understand them. His homilies were short and to the point.

A visitor to the parish remarked on Sunday, "That priest has a lot of common sense."

He'll be missed.

## They told you so

The study of regional government made by the Liberal task force has found much dissatisfaction, their report shows. The study found there was not a strong community of interest between rural and urban people. People in smaller communities resented being absorbed in a larger, artificial community.

Towns which had their own

councils prior to regional government found their representatives drastically cut in number.

These, of course, are among the problems which were presented to the Task Force by the Actonians for Action committee.

There is a copy of the full report at the Free Press office, if anyone would care to see it.

## Treat us royally

Treat visitors royally, says the Ontario government.

They've got a big campaign going encouraging people to be nice to tourists. As we commented in this column before, we really think we people who live here all the time deserve to be treated pleasantly, too. Everybody knows stories of gloomy waitresses and indifferent clerks. They make you feel a nuisance.

The government is sending out the following list of eight ways to treat visitors royally.

It's worth sharing.

1. Smile. It's the quickest way in the world to make a friend. If you look angry, your visitor will feel uncomfortable—and that's the last way a visitor wants to feel.
2. Listen. Some visitors have different languages, different accents, different customs. If you listen carefully to a tourist's needs, you'll be better able to help him.
3. Be polite. "Thank you" is probably the most important thing you can say to make a visitor feel that his visit has been appreciated. Simple courtesy will work won-

4. Be prompt. Most tourists only have a short time to visit with us, so naturally they don't want to spend their time waiting to be served. Do you like waiting on your vacation?
5. Be helpful. Try to know your area well so that you can help visitors find their way. Visitors often ask direction to hotels, banks, hospitals, restaurants, sightseeing attractions, liquor outlets and a host of other places.
6. Be clean. Nothing turns a tourist off like grubby people and dirty places.
7. Respect their money. A visitor's money represents his country, his work and his worth. However much or little it's worth in terms of Canadian dollars, never treat it as "funny money" and always give the best possible rate of exchange.
8. Wish every visitor a happy day. It makes a tourist feel good to think that somebody cares. And if a visitor feels good, he'll come back again and again.

(And so will Actonians!)

## Did you know

Each alcoholic badly affects the lives of four other people. Here, as throughout the country, it is apparent that people are drinking more and more. Watch it...

Did you know that there are 40

religious periodicals in Canada... and according to 1974 statistics, people in the age bracket 40 to 44 had the largest average income and yet in a break-down of charitable donations were fifth on a list of eleven, with those over seventy contributing the highest amounts?



BICYCLE PARADE LED OFF the M. Z. Bennett Circus last Thursday at the school. The whole school took part in an afternoon of festivities ranging from

prepared acts to concession booths to a paint the teacher booth that proved to be quite popular with the students.



## Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

There are so many things about me that annoy my wife that I could not list them in this space, not even in point form.

But I believe the one thing that abrades her most severely is that, "You always have your nose stuck in a newspaper." Well, I retort, if one must get one's nose stuck in something, there are a lot more painful things than a newspaper.

She's right, of course. I glance through two dailies, a writer of weeklies, a scattering of news magazines, and a gaggle of other publications, from the Anglican to Canadian Literature. When I'm not reading news, I'm reading books, from fiction to history to biography, from children's books to spy stories to pornography.

It must be irritating to her, when she's trying to tell me what a scramble she had with her music pupils, or why the dart she put in her new blouse makes her look like Mae West with one breast shot off.

It must be maddening to her, when, after 15 minutes of waiting about our daughter's unemployment, groaning about our grandsons' powers of destruction, or worrying about our son's safety in the purlieus of Paraguay, to have me look up and say, "Hey, sweetie, did you know that Dennis Braithwaite (a columnist) had the gout? Know what causes the gout?" Or, "Guess what that turkey Trudeau is going to do next?"

She is, however, hot without a modicum of realism. If she were a general's wife, she'd know that I had to be off to the wars, or at least to some cosy place within 50 miles of the front lines. If she were a doctor's wife, she'd know that you can't make \$100,000 sitting around watching TV. If she were a lawyer's wife, she'd know that your ears do prick up, like a hound dog's, when you hear an ambulance siren.

So, she's the wife of a teacher and a writer. And she knows darn well that this is part of the price. The man has got to read.

At least this is the picture I draw for her, in many a heated discussion. Sometimes I manage to convince her, until the next lapse. The truth is something else.

I read the news for nefarious and numerous reasons. One is for pure laughs. Often this is at the media themselves, and the seriousness with which they take themselves. Did you ever see, since cousin Elmer was left standing at the altar, such a disgruntled bunch as the media when the Prime Minister refused to call the election they had got themselves so engorged about?

Another reason I peruse the papers is to indulge my taste for irony. In an effort to keep the peace, the Yanks are selling fighter plans to both Israel and the Arabs. They would prefer to sell only to Israel, because there is a veritable host of Jewish votes in the U.S. But they need oil, so they sell to the Arabs, too. Shades of the days when they sold scrap iron to Japan, before WWII, and had it returned with interest in the form of shrapnel.

I study the media as a sort of ego trip. Doing so makes me aware that I am not as obnoxious as Pierre Berton, not as arrogant as Pierre Trudeau. It works the other way too. I learn that I'm not as fearless as Borje Salming, not as colorful as Muhammed Ali. But then I'm not as silly as Elwy Yost or Howie Meeker, so I really come off fairly well.

Studying the news makes me aware of the darkness of the human condition. Two little boys in England, six and four, beat an old lady of 84, bed-ridden, to death because she gave one of them six-pence, and the other nothing. I wonder about my grand-

boys.

I read a story, and wonder at the lack of a sense of humour among our politicians. Recently a professor hired to do a study of falling enrolment in schools, came out with the first part of his report. With tongue in cheek, he suggested women should start staying home and having babies, or perhaps test-tube babies should be produced; otherwise, our educational system would fall apart for lack of clients. The pats, fanned by the media, accused him of racism, antifeminism, and everything else short of going to the bathroom without having to.

I know the feeling. Sometimes I make a joke in this space, and I'm appalled at the reaction of humorless people. I'm attacked as a libertine, an atheist, a monarchist, a war-monger, a peace-monger, a perverter of the young, a denigrator of the elderly, a male chauvinist, a female apologist, a rotten husband and father, a lazy bum, a teacher who should not be allowed within hailing distance of our young.

It doesn't bother me much, because I get all this jazz at home, long before the letter-writers get to me. I'm not any of those things. I'm just old Bill Smiley, trying to keep his head above water in the stream of life, without swallowing any of the sewage that seems to infest it.

Finally, I enjoy that old enjoyable known as "I told you so." I get a real kick out of looking back and realizing that some cause I espoused years ago, to the great indignation of my friends and foes, is now the thing. Thirty years ago I said we should recognize Red China, a fact. Horror! Now they're our buddies. They buy wheat.

## Our readers write

### Thanks to Father Smye

Mrs. K. Dills  
Box 120  
59 Willow St.  
Acton, Ontario

Dear Mrs. Dills:

We at St. Joseph's Separate School realize that our school would still have been a dream without the efforts of one particular person. He has been a source of great help to us in our first year and we will miss him greatly in the new school year. Father Smye leaves us for a new assignment and we will be extremely saddened to see him move from our school and our parish.

The children and staff of St. Joseph's School will never forget his spiritual guidance, his beautiful way with children and a great support and enthusiasm for anything we attempted. Our continued existence will serve as a permanent reminder of the achievements of our pastor and friend, Father Smye. We wish him continued good health in the future, our prayers for success in his new parish and our thanks for a job well done.

Yours truly,  
Staff and Students  
St. Joseph's Separate School

A boy who had hoped in vain for a new pair of high boots went on a strike at prayer time, explaining to his mother, "It's no use. Art doesn't listen." "Art who?" she asked. "Art in Heaven", he sadly explained.



"IF THIS IS MERELY A CALITHUMPIAN THAT WE'RE JOINING, WHY DO I FEEL THIS INSATIABLE CRAVING FOR CHEESE?"

## The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 3, 1858

A proposed annexation of approximately 97 acres of Esqueving Township land into the town of Acton upon payment of \$4,000. to the township and subject to the Ontario Municipal Board was given the nod of approval by Acton council at a special 40 minute meeting on Wednesday evening in the council chambers.

Robert S. Hart, Divisional Superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, this week announced an unauthorized canvass for funds in the name of the Brigade has been taking place in Acton. Mr. Hart reported the Brigade is not permitted to raise funds by this type of canvass and citizens are warned not to participate in this local private endeavor.

Acton council Monday night accepted a recommendation of the Roads committee and instructed preparation of a construction by-law for the installation of storm sewers and hard top paving in the Glenlea subdivision, paving on Acton Boulevard to the M. Z. Bennett school and on Churchill Rd. South.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of June 28, 1928

One day last week, Owen, the four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Masales, was being ridden on a bicycle by an older lad, he fell from the wheel and onto the road, alighting on his head, and suffered a slight concussion of the brain from the fall. He has now almost fully recovered from the fall and is able to be about again.

Rev. A. C. Stewart returned home on Tuesday from the sessions of the General Assembly at Regina Sask., Mr. Stewart also visited in British Columbia and the state of Washington. He will occupy his pulpit at Knox Church next Sunday at both services.

Last Friday evening a number of Acton people motored to the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson and surprised them, it being Mrs. Davidson's birthday. The evening was spent in games and other amusements.

The unsuitable weather last Saturday forced the Ladies' Aid of the United Church to hold their social and sale of baking in the basement of the church instead of the lawn. The weather, however, did not mitigate from the success attending the affair.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Marshall were visiting with friends in Guelph.

The outbreak of poor weather which we have been experiencing is expected to pass before August.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 27, 1878

No business of any importance was transacted by our council Monday night.

Mr. Passmore of Rockwood is erecting a first class store and post office in that village. It will be ready for use in two or three weeks.

The Canada Glove Works here has been running to its fullest capacity for quite some time and the amount of goods shipped averages \$600 daily.

Last week there were eight robberies in Georgetown.

A grand celebration will take place in Rockwood on Dominion Day. \$100 will be given in prizes for games and amusements. Without warning the great Brigadier Strongroganoff will appear and march at the head of ye band of Kalithumpians. A musical entertainment will take place in the hall in the evening.

The constantly increasing demand for sensational literature is assuming alarming proportions. The young people of today are unstable in their demand for trashy literature.

## Seek costumes

The Costume Society of Ontario is presently conducting research on 'Men's Occupational or Work Clothing worn in Ontario during the 19th century.' We would appreciate very much your bringing this matter to the attention of your readers, as we feel they are perhaps our most valuable source of information.

To your readers we ask: Do you know of any sources of information such as: actual garments, photographs, memories and reminiscences, books, local histories, bills of sale, etchings, sketches, paintings, engravings, ledgers, etc.?

If you have any information that may help us with our study, please contact: Sue Scherbarth, c/o Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Gordon Street, Guelph, Ontario. N1H 4G7

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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