

# Free Press Editorial Page

## We showed the flag

A big wave of a Canadian flag for all the organizers of the exciting three-day bash called Back to Acton Days.

Its seeming fun and spontaneity belied months of planning, and its organizers vow they're going to start getting ready for next year's within the month.

The Mill St. mall was packed with strollers and shoppers, sight-seers and skateboarders for all of two days, and on the next day the beautiful park hosted the crowds.

The Calithumpian parade indeed proved to be a Pied Piper, and all manner of people joined in behind the music in the three parades.

At the last minute, the route had to be changed to avoid highway traffic. It resulted in all three zany parades joining forces at the track to descend on the waiting world at Mill and Main.

The sea of people across the roadway and down the sidewalks cheered organizers, councillors and prize winners and went on happily to enjoy all the amusements of the day.

Right until Sunday's fireworks, there was full participation in all the special festivities.

Of course a few things went awry. . . why not? It was all done by volunteers, at very little expense. The one whopping bill was for the fireworks, and the host firefighters found most people willing to share the cost by donating a sum.

A sound system would have been nice, and should be a certainty for next year.

Acton showed the flag on the weekend, and didn't we all enjoy ourselves?



Fireworks painted the sky Sunday to end a glorious weekend

## We want solutions

It's disturbing to read that town employees are considering limiting the number of garbage bags we may put out and have collected.

Earlier this year the powers that be suddenly and without notice limited the materials that could go in to the dump.

But aren't things a little mixed up? Aren't the government depart-

ments there to solve problems, not create them?

New sites must be found, and soon. Recycling should be promoted everywhere.

And, as councillor Les Duby suggests most sensibly, let us burn all our combustible garbage if it can't be recycled.

## End of an era

The burning of the freight shed at the tracks marks the end of an era. There's nothing left there now to show how important the railroad once was here. Even 20 years ago the station was there, its platform covered with freight awaiting transport by rail. Mail used to come regularly via rail; passengers depended upon it.

When the station was sold and demolished, a tiny glass cubicle was built in its place. Now even that is disappeared.

The worst thing about the disintegration of service from the railways is the growing knowledge that commuter trains will be much needed in the future.

## Flies are feasting

The many Actonians who go to Muskoka for holidays were happy to find few tent caterpillars this year, after last year's nasty invasion. Swarms of large parasitic flies are the major factor in the 90 per cent reduction in the number of the wriggling beasts. Larger and hairier than house flies, the Sarcophaga flies lay live larvae, or maggots, on the tent caterpillar cocoons. These maggots feed on and destroy the caterpillars in their

pupal stage. Delicious! The increase in the number of flies is a natural phenomenon connected with the outbreak of tent caterpillars who occur about once every 12 years.

Many people believe the government has released the flies in an effort to combat the tent caterpillars. Not so. But the thousands of buzzing flies will be gone when the tent caterpillars are gone. Happy Holidays.

## Birthdays and such

Happy birthday to us. The Free Press starts a new year each July 1. We've been at it since 1875. The first paper was printed in Matthews Hall, the building that was known as Hotchen's Bakery when it was torn down this summer.

The kids are all home from school.

Now the next two months' teaching and examples all come from parents and friends, not from teachers. Parents are in sole control of television viewing, reading, sharing, morals, religion, moderation, language both clean and grammatical, discipline, obedience, exercise. An awesome burden!

How come it's Canada Day instead of Dominion Day? How did that happen?

Just when advertising took a seasonal dip, our news columns and pictures took a soaring rise. Many pictures will be left out until next week.

Any small business in Canada (and that includes right here in Acton) can now telephone Ottawa free of charge for ombudsman service to cut red tape and eliminate paperwork problems.

If you don't like what's happening, this is a free country. There's nothing to stop you from doing something about what's bothering you — or trying to. But don't complain about the dirty dishes if you won't take your turn at the sink.

The hotline, (613) 995-9197, operates Monday through Friday, 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ombudsmen will accept collect calls from any business in this country.

Don't complain about taxes if you've got your hand out for some of the goodies. Don't call the next generation bums if your own family isn't earning its own way. Don't cry about inflation if your own income isn't tied to your productivity.

After callers describe their problems, ombudsmen will go to work on their behalf to seek solutions immediately. If a problem is not solved within five days, the ombudsman will provide the caller with a progress report and follow up until the case is resolved.

Don't knock the politicians in Ottawa if you are not ready to support people who will do a better job.

Hey, weatherman! You told us there would be rain both Saturday and Sunday. And the weather was perfect. You shouldn't do that to us, with so many outdoor events planned!



## Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

I don't receive many letters from young people, with comments on my ideas in this column. That's to be expected. Young people, quite naturally, are extremely self-centred. I know I was.

They are becoming extremely aware of their own "self", their individualism. They are extremely interested in sex, love, some kind of belief they can hang onto, some guru with all the answers. And good luck to them, even though there is no such thing.

They are not interested in the maudlin meanderings of a middle-aged (sic!) man who doesn't seem to know from one week to the next what he really believes in.

It's not that I don't get along with young people. From the age of about one to 21, they and I are on the best of terms. There's only one fly in the fun. I can't help teasing them. It's a rotten quality and I'm always sorry when I do, but some demon urges me on.

For example, my older grandson hit

back when I'd needle him by saying "Jolly good!" when he'd try to make a Tarzan leap and land on his ear. He responded with, "Jolly bum-bum", to let me know he didn't like it. Be saying a bad word, he put me in my place.

He underlined his individuality by such remarks as, "no way", when I'd try to tease him into something he didn't want to, or couldn't do, "Bugger off" when I'd pretend to mock anger and threaten dire punishment. He didn't learn these terms, you'll be happy to know, from his gran, grandad, mother or father. He learned them from the other little punks at day-care.

Teenagers are just as easily teased, and pretty vulnerable. After spending nine months goofing off, they come up to you as exam-time looms, with a tortured expression, as though they had to go to the bathroom, and could hardly wait, and whimper, "Sir, could you tell me if I have to write the final exam?"

I reply to a freckled redhead, "not unless

you have freckles and red hair." There are all kinds of variations on this. If it's a boy, I might say, "Not if you can take me to a trout stream and guarantee I catch my limit." You can see the wheels spinning wildly in his motorcyclehaunted mind, this boy who's never caught a trout in his life. They HATE me.

From about 21 for the next 10 years, I can scarcely stand young people. They become pompous. They think their mildly socialist ideas, so hackneyed you can't believe it, are freshminded. They want to change the world and you: your religion, your ideas, your life-style.

After that they're not so bad, and they have acquired that rueful resignation that most civilized people get after pounding their heads against life long enough to soften them irredeemably.

From about 40 on, readers and I are on the same set of rails, and though they can and do attack me furiously, at least they know, most of them, that there is more gray in the world than there is black and white.

Their letters are much more interesting than those of young people: witty, astute, perceptive, sometimes brutal, often kindly, perceptive, sympathetic, nagging. They have lived, and they know that the world has them by the tail, not vice versa.

In response to a recent column, half-joking, asking if anyone had a job for my daughter, I received a great letter from A.R. Kirk of Renfrew.

"Yes, I have a job. . . New job requirements include a new baby in 1979, and another new baby every two years until 1989, when she and her husband will be the parents of eight healthy children. That was an average family in the early and best development years of Canada."

He goes on to explain that my daughter would never be out of work. "She will remodel and make clothing for her children and herself from the abundant supply of slightly used clothing you can get at a rummage sale for a song."

"She will with the help of her husband and you her father, and your wife her mother, have a large fruit and vegetable garden; the children will help."

Mr. Kirk goes on, seriously, and I'm half inclined to agree with him. But he doesn't know a few things about our Kim and her kids. In the first place, they already look as though they'd been dressed from a rummage sale, without any remodeling.

In the second, where do they get the land for this big garden? Young people today have very little chance of ever owning a home of their own, let alone one with garden space.

What really hurts, though, is when he suggests that such a life would interfere with my vacation trips to exotic places. "Think of the pleasure you will have, using vacation money saved, to help out the finances of your grandchildren in small sums where most needed."

Dear Mr. Kirk: Those small sums have accepted me from having a decent vacation for years. A penny saved is a penny earned, but a dollar to my daughter is a dollar I'll never see again. Thanks anyway.

Mr. Kirk and his wife are 78 and 74 respectively, with seven of a family and 21 grandchildren. He would like to live to be 100 years old, "life is so interesting."

Bless you, sir. May you do so. May you be pinching your wife lovingly at 98, and she responding.

But don't ask me to take on six more grandboys. I said to my wife the other night, "I have a feeling in my bones, just a premonition, that some disaster is about to befall me."

She answered, "Oh, didn't I tell you? The boys are coming for the weekend."

## Our readers write

### Special thanks

Dear Kay Dills:

Last week the Free Press carried pictures and stories of Calithumpian Parades the way they were years past and how they were a part of July 1st celebrations in Acton. Today as your readers look through the pages of the Free Press they will see how the Calithumpian Parade was this past weekend, recreating and making history once more. They will see different faces, outfits, and vehicles but the smiles, the laughter and the coming together of a community, friends, families and strangers (no longer) is the one thing this parade certainly shares with those of yesterday.

As chairwoman of the Calithumpian Parades, I wish to thank everyone who participated and worked so very hard to make it such a success. With much gratitude I say "It Worked."

Sincerely,  
Terry Grubbe.



"As with any true patriotic Canadian, I believe in the Pierre system of international nationalism; therefore, I celebrated Canada Day with a brief jaunt down to the Bahamas."

## The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of June 26, 1968

Rod Whiting is Halton ridings new Member of Parliament. Whiting, 37, an Oakville salesman and public relations officer with a Burlington quarrying firm, handily defeated Progressive Conservative candidate Peter K. McWilliams by almost 5,000 votes. The latest available returns from Halton Returning officer Gordon Blake gave Whiting 16,219 votes to McWilliams 11,555 while New Democratic Party candidate Murray Kernighan trailed with 6,009 with 192 of the 205 polls heard from.

On the receipt of working drawing approval from the Department of Education, General Contractor tenders will be called for an addition to the M.Z. Bennett public school. The addition consists of a general purpose room with ancillary facilities, three standard classrooms, science room, teachers' room and library.

At a special meeting of Acton high school board last Thursday, a motion was passed that the board could not participate in paying the cost of transportation for any student taking tuition out of Acton.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 17, 1958

Thieves made their get-away with at least \$700 worth of watches and jewellery after smashing the window of Don Bexton's jewellery store in the pre-dawn hours Tuesday.

No word has been received at the Acton station as yet concerning the royal train taking Princess Margaret to Stratford early next month. However, it is believed the train will pass through the town. Official notification will likely be sent shortly.

The staff of Acton High school has increased by one. Last year there were 11 teachers. Miss Grodke is leaving to teach in Ottawa and two teachers have been hired, Mrs. D.A. Smith and Miss Griselda Bovard.

The majority, if not all, the Acton Merchants are expected to continue with the present Monday closing as provided for under the by law that was disputed in Magistrate's Court on Monday, according to Frank Terry, chairman of the retail section of the Chamber of Commerce. Washroom facilities at the new change station in the park were opened for the first time to the public Saturday.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 5, 1928

A reunion of the Simpson and the Fletcher families was held on July 2, at the Simpson homestead, Lot 20, Concession 3, Nassagaweya, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the coming to Nassagaweya Township of their forefathers. Descendants of other families of the early settlers were present, on invitation, and also present residents of Nassagaweya to the number of about 1,500 people in all.

Games of ball, etc. were engaged in until about 4:30 o'clock, when a beautiful supper was served, followed by a lengthy programme, given with Mr. John Marshall, Clerk of the Township, in the chair.

The chairman gave a detailed history of the early settlement of the Township, giving incidents of the struggles and hardships of the earliest settlers viz: David Scott, the first settler, Wm. Trudgeon, the second; and Alex. McNaughton, the third; also John Husband, John Simpson and Jeremiah Fletcher.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press July 1, 1875

What has become of the Fenian scare? A telegram from London, Eng., states that Lord Dufferin has accepted the prolongation of his term as Governor-General of Canada. This announcement, they are sure, will be received with profound satisfaction throughout the Dominion, from one end to the other of which His excellency stands unrivalled in the confidence of the people.

The Council met in Milton, June 21, at 12:30 p.m. in accordance with notices for special meetings issued by order of the Warden.

The Warden informed the Council that he had called a special meeting for the purpose of investigating an account of George Blain, contract for extra work of the new jail and addition to the Court House. The Clerk read the contractor's account, and the Warden read the architect's statement of reductions from the same.

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