

Free Press Editorial Page

Preserve history

It's to be hoped that Halton Hills will join 77 other Ontario communities in establishing a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. These committees designate historic buildings and sites.

While Acton's town hall would of course be included in the list of

buildings worth preserving, the other building mentioned by historian John McDonald was Fairview Place, now St. Joseph's school.

The lovely building was once a gracious private residence. It has housed school children now for many years.

Crunch and pride

Have you noticed those new orange, grape and cherry flavored potato chips?

Believe it or not, they're supposed to be a typically Canadian invention!

Canadians love chips and all kinds of versions have been created especially for our northern palates. In the States, the people are much more inclined to add flavor to their chips by way of special dips. But Canadians prefer their flavor direct.

Even though the local stores find there is not a terrific demand for the fruit flavored chips, there are plans in the works for blueberry, banana, lemon and strawberry flavour.

Also in the near future: hot dog

flavoured chips and chicken flavoured chips!

In England, you can buy packages of crisps with the salt in a separate container.

Those Chompers chips are doing especially well in Quebec. There, people flavor thicker and darker chips.

Ontario and the Maritimes like their chips lighter and thinner.

As an offshoot to the snack trend, flavored popcorn is also coming onto the market.

One brand of chips, claiming to be natural, make the product with unpeeled potatoes and special oil.

Canada is the world leader in flavored chips sales. Now isn't that something to be proud of!

Of this and that

Deer and foxes are being seen in this area.

A long-time resident recalls that a raft used to cruise on Fairy Lake, with a cutting blade mounted beneath it which cut the weeds. The weeds would then be raked up, dried and burned. There are plenty of weeds in the lake this year, but then the water level is pretty low.

People who have wanted a copy of Acton's Early Days for years are delighted to be able to obtain reprints. Sales are going well. The books are only available at the Free Press office.

Who could be away from business for four months and return to find everything running well? Not many of us. But our members of parliament do. They don't meet again in Ottawa until October. The civil servants are dealing with the nation's considerable serious issues. But we may have the opportunity now of seeing our members more often in their ridings, with the possibility of an election on the horizon.

The Ex is celebrating its 100th birthday this summer... and the grandstand shows are featuring almost all United States performers. What irony. Surely a national exhibition should make a major effort—every year—to present Canadian performers.

Civic Holiday coming up soon. It's the one some politicians would have renamed Simcoe Day, after the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. Personally, we like the good old names. Towns like Acton would, many years ago, pick their own date for civic holiday. The stores would close and special ball games and concerts would be arranged. Or half the town would go off by train on a special excursion. Like Governor Simcoe, Civic Holiday has a good tradition.

It's good to see that less expensive flights have been arranged so Canadians can more easily travel within Canada. It has long seemed to us reasonable to have planes flying both day and night, to make use of the expensive equipment and facilities.

As for noise near the airport, solutions are used at other airports. Neighboring houses can all be insulated, or can all be bought up and replaced with industrial uses.

If you're planning to travel through or to Quebec on your holidays this year, you would be advised to check with your insurance agent before you leave, to see how well your insurance policy protects you in that province. Quebec's new No-Fault Insurance appears discriminatory and detrimental to non-Quebec residents. We understand some insurance agents are advising motorists not to travel in Quebec and the Hamilton Automobile Club is advising members heading for the Maritimes to go via USA, rather than through our neighboring province.



Summer serenity at Fairy Lake



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

When you are going on a trip, your first hope is that you will get there in one piece, preferably the fairly large piece in which you began the trip. Not a lot of little ones.

Your second hope is that you will not be hijacked. Or, at least if you are, that the hijackers will insist on landing on the island of Bali, where the terrified hostages will be comforted by nubile, young brasses, topless ladies, waving fans and things around to keep them (the hostages) cool.

Another vague hope is that the airplane gets off the ground. It didn't help our frame of mind when one didn't recently at Toronto airport, and instead wound up in a ravine.

Then, of course, it is to be hoped that once the thing gets into the air, it returns to terra firma. This is fairly important, they tell me.

Next, it's rather essential that you have a place to lay your jet-lagged head when you get there. Marriages are made in Heaven, it says somewhere. Divorces are made when the room clerk says, "Sorry, sir. Your reservation definitely states August 15th, and this is July 15th. We haven't a thing for the next two weeks." This experience is far, far worse than being left at the altar.

It's basic that you should leave behind the instructions for the disposal of your property, in case you are kidnapped in the red light district of Hamburg, or, in the case of wives, decide to run off with the one-eyed Afghanistani pilot you met in the discotheque in Rome.

We've drawn up a list for just that purpose. Kim gets the grand piano, Hugh gets the lawnmower and the color TV (they

have some great programs in the jungles of Paraguay). Kim gets the lawn sprinkler for The Boys to run through, their favorite sport. My sisters get the old beds we outfurnished them for when my mother's estate was being divided. My wife's sister gets the huge linen tablecloth with the wine-stains that won't come out. And so on.

Another thing you should look after before you commence a trip is to get well rested. Maybe that's why I'm taking off this afternoon in a bus with a lot of hooligans to drive, round-trip, 200 miles and watch a double-header baseball game featuring the worst major league team in the world, Toronto, and arriving home at 2 a.m. Four hours on the bus. Four hours in the grandstand. After a day's work. "You're crazy", my wife said, unequivocally. She's right.

It's extremely important, when you are packing, not to leave out anything vital to your well-being. Make a check-list: laxative pills, tranquilizers, stuff for athlete's foot, piles ointment, dandruff killer, a travel iron to press out the furrows on your forehead. And so on.

Naturally, you need six dictionaries: Canadian-English; English-French; French-German; Schweizer-Deutsch; Toronto-Italian; Joulal-French. And so on.

Let's see. Oh, yes, you need money. When the Europeans came to Canada first, they brought lots of colored beads, and received in return for them prime furs, good as gold. When Canadians visit Europe, they take choking great rolls of banknotes and receive in return for them—you guessed it—colored beads. Seems fair enough.

Let's have another look at that list. Uh, Yup. Electric toothbrush. Extra dentures in case of breakage. Hair dye. Three quarts of underarm deodorant. Toilet paper, 12 rolls. Adhesive tape for blistered heels. Seven-iron to practise golf swings while waiting for audience with Pope. Booze. Hey, where's the booze? Heard a guy had to pay \$45 for a quart of rye when the Old-Timers played hockey in Holland last winter.

Wait a minute, now. Have to call the cops and listen to their amused snorts when I ask them to keep an eye on the house while we're away. Leave the house key under the eleventh stone on the patio. We'll never find it when we get home. Cut off the newspapers—sure sign you are not home when there are forty-two of them on the porch. Put out some ant traps to make sure they haven't demolished entire house while we're away. And so on.

You know something? My wife may be crazy, as I suggested here recently, but she's not dumb. She never wanted to go on this trip in the first place. All she wanted to do was have a normal summer: swimming; playing golf; picking berries; enjoying the grandboys; nagging me about the weeds.

Well, by George, we're going anyway, and she can lump it. As long as she doesn't lump me. You're nobody unless you've been to Europe. That is, of course, unless you've been to Newfie. Then you're O.K.

My greatest consolation is a line from a letter my son wrote on my birthday. "Tribulations, frustrations, rotten kids and neurotic spouse. All these things shall pass away."

Thanks, Hugh, I needed that.

Our readers write

Police and morale

The editor, Acton Free Press Acton, Ontario

I must applaud the editorial which appeared in the Free Press on July 12th regarding the Halton Police Association report on morale problems.

The Police Commission in general, and Commissioner Coons specifically, seem to be most upset that the Association would dare to release their report to the public. Just what does Coons want to hide from the taxpayers of Halton Hills?

It appears that the morale problems enumerated by the Association have been festering for some time, and obviously have not been resolved. Logically if the Commission cannot put its own house in order, the policemen have but one option—let the taxpayers know just how serious the morale problem has become.

Although the Burlington Commissioner states that the Commission is not looking for praise, in the same breath he carefully notes that nowhere in the Association

report is there any praise of the Commission. It appears that the Halton Police Commission would have preferred a whitewash report of just how great things are in the force, rather than recommendations on how to correct the situation.

Commissioner Coons' statement that the "Board is fair and honest" indicates to me that this Commissioner seems to feel that he, and the Commission are above any and all criticism. Any suggestion by the Association would then, of course, be out of order.

Since the Police Association has rocked the political boat, Commissioner Coons has demanded that the Association must now request a place on the agenda prior to any discussions with the Commission. This, I'm sure, will greatly improve the morale problem!

Obviously the message has not yet reached the Commissioners.

Allan R. Foster, 201 Lakeview Ave., Acton, Ontario.

Trustee explains

July 21, 1978

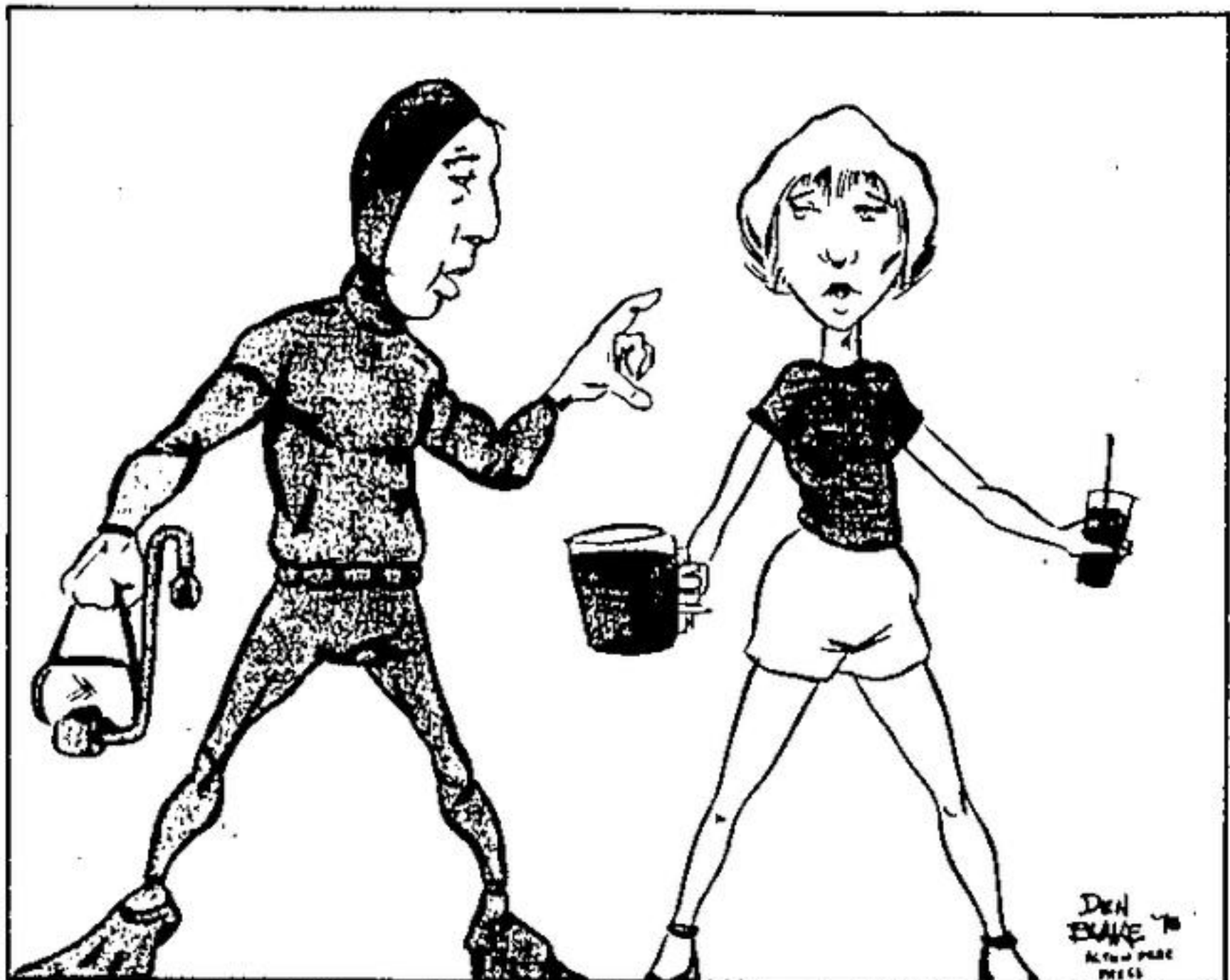
Acton Free Press, Acton, Ont. Dear Editor,

I am writing to correct statements made by your reporter at the Eramosa meeting of July 17 by your headline "Houses violate building by-law".

It sounds like I am not in favor of building permits being issued to owners of single lots. That is not the case. Water and sewers are supposed to be in full operation by Aug. 1, 1978. At that time, a single 66'x132' lot is sufficient to build a house on.

I said since Eramosa is going to allow three previous building permits to continue with the no-occupancy clause this one should be given their approval too, with the same no-occupancy clause.

The building permit in question is on Alma St. where the person has a 100'x132' lot. Eramosa has refused him a permit until Water and Sewers are in full operation. The other lots in question are 66'x132', and building permits have been issued with a no-occupancy clause stamped on them now.



Not to panic you, my dear. However I'd advise precautions against the rising humidity index.

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of June 24, 1968

One postal employee who has reported for work since the country-wide postal strike started last Thursday has kept Acton post office partly open but mail service here has been effectively cut off.

A Gray Coach bus, stopped in front of the Royal Cafe to discharge passengers, backed into a car which had pulled in behind it on Sunday at 6.22 p.m.

Final government approval for the M.Z. Bennett school and the Robert Little resource centre will have to be picked up in Toronto on Thursday since it can't come through the mail.

Many patients of Dr. R.D. Buckner and friends of the family will be gathering tonight at the Music Centre to honor him and bid them farewell. Dr. and Mrs. Buckner are leaving Acton after 13 years here for a trip to Great Britain. From there, they plan to go (by banana boat) to Kingston Jamaica where they'll retire in the sun.

20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of July 24, 1958

Constable Bud Buckwald of the local OPP detachment reported yesterday (Wednesday) that four smash and grab suspects involved in the robbery at Bexton's Jewellery store in Acton last week, have been arrested and a warrant for a fifth man has been issued.

Mr. and Mrs. Garnet McKenzie and daughter Kathy accompanied by Ralph McKeown, left today (Thursday) for Santa Monica, California where Mr. McKenzie who is Ontario Regional International Director of the Y's Men's Clubs and Mr. McKeown, who is president of the Acton Y's Men's Club will attend the International Y's Men's Convention.

Governor-General Vincent Massey passed through Acton in his special coach attached to the 9.20 a.m. CNR train on Monday morning enroute to the Stratford Shakespearean Theatre.

Sunday guests at the home of their son were Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Scogye of Ridgetown. Mr. and Mrs. Charles of Toronto also visited.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of July 26, 1928

Tomorrow morning bright and early, at 5:45 a.m., the Acton Hewetson Employees picnic will leave for Port Dalhousie. They will travel by electric railway to Toronto and thence by boat to Port Dalhousie. An enjoyable day's outing will be provided at reasonable cost by the popular excursion. The fare is \$2.30 for adults and \$1.20 for children.

Acton's Gala Day on August 6 promises to provide a real day's entertainment.

St. Alban's church held their annual picnic at Eldorado Park last Saturday afternoon. An enjoyable afternoon of sports and picnic supper was held by scholars and parents.

Miss Marjorie Lawson, another pupil from Acton, was successful in passing her second class Normal examinations at Toronto Normal School.

Rain has been plentiful for the root crops, but just a trifle overdone for haying.

100 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Acton Free Press of July 25, 1878

The band was out serenading again Monday evening. Dr. McGarvin was the victim this time. After playing a number of excellent tunes, they were invited in the house, where ice cream and cakes were served up. An enjoyable evening was spent.

There will be a meeting of Orangemen and Protestants generally at Agnew's Hotel, on Friday night, to take into consideration the establishment of an Orange lodge in this Village. All Protestants are requested to attend.

You can go from Acton to Toronto thence by steamer to Victoria Park, Scarborough Heights, for 80 cents, next Thursday.

It is said that another young couple belonging to this Village is going to get married. Please give us notice if this is true.

The friends of Mr. Thos. Fielding will be glad to learn that he has returned from California. He looks well and healthy.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Business and Editorial Office



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