

Write if you're concerned

The Queen of Canada is here in Canada, reminding us again of the system of government that has served us well for many years.

Having a monarch as a head of state, rather than a politician, is an advantage that we cherish. As well, our Queen adds personal dignity to our whole system. Elections come and go, promises are made and broken. Blame is cast. Yet above this remains the institution of the monarchy.

To learn that this system would be undermined by proposed new federal legislation is a great concern.

A governor general is the Queen's representative in Canada, and the lieutenant-governor her representatives in the provinces.

To propose changing this, and making the governor-general our head of state could lead to politicians taking over total control.

Constitutional authority Senator Eugene Forsey says that the new constitutional proposals will make ousting the Queen and establishment of a republic a fairly simple thing for the government to do

whenever it chooses.

Is it really necessary to change our government to please the people in Quebec? We doubt it.

In a letter in last week's Free Press, the Dominion chairman of the Monarchist League refers to the insult to the Queen in possibly removing her as part of Parliament and concentrating power in the hands of the governor-general, a government appointee.

With this proposed legislation, and with the country's Prime Minister pointedly absent when the Queen arrived last Wednesday, it seems obvious there is reason for concern.

Write to your member of parliament to protest the Bill's provisions. Our federal member Dr. Frank Philbrook, Room 118, Confederation Building, House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0X2 or Suite 204, 345 Lakeshore East, Oakville, L6J 1J5.

And if you feel the Prime Minister should have welcomed the Queen to Canada, instead of being out of the country on holidays, write to him too.



IS ONE of these houses yours? Aerial view of Acton shows the newer area which surrounds the cemetery. In the central foreground is the Legion, beautifully positioned on the shore of the lake.

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 31, 1968

Application for authority to close the agency and remove the Acton CNR station has been made to the Canadian Transport Commission, a notice posted at the station has revealed.

Popular Constable Peter Campbell moved today from Acton to Burlington where he has been transferred. He becomes traffic safety co-ordinator with the Burlington traffic unit beginning August 1—tomorrow.

More effects are being felt this week as a result of the two-week-old postal strike. Phone calls, telegrams and special delivery are being increasingly utilized to replace postal service.

Closed for a year to railway traffic, the siding at Beardmore and Co. is being repaired this week.

Acton radiology patients no longer have to travel outside of town for treatment. The Medical Building has recently installed a full radiology department in its upper floor.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 31, 1958

Official word has been received from the Canadian National Railways that Princess Margaret will travel through Acton in her special coach attached to the Royal train enroute to the Stratford Shakespearean Festival today (Thursday) at 4:25 p.m.

Bruce Andrews, 17-year-old Acton High School student and track star, beat his Juvenile one mile track time by three seconds last Saturday at the Highland Games in Hamilton.

A soap box derby, band tattoo, fishing derby, old times' ball game, calthumpian parade, truck and field events, crowning of Acton's Miss Popularity Queen and dozens of other events will feature the Acton Legion Minor Sports first-day Civic holiday program this weekend.

Final action was taken by the Acton Community Swimming Pool Committee on Tuesday evening when they turned over to the Board of Parks and Management a cheque amounting to \$4518.96.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of August 2, 1928

About 70 Hewatson employees enjoyed their picnic at Port Dalhousie. Sports were under the direction of Lloyd and Grenville Masales. Among the winners were Norman Searrow, Jessie Coles, Neola Masales, Victor Elliott, A. White, Beola Masales, Ethel James, Mrs. W. Coles, F. Waterhouse, Mrs. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Bull, J. McGeechie, Grace McMullen.

The Creber Bros. factory will this week complete the largest order they have ever filled. It is a Soldiers' memorial for Peterborough, 70,000 pounds of Standard granite were brought in to Acton for the work.

The Acton Girls' Ball Club took their longest journey to play a game of ball in one day, when they went to Honey Harbour. At Midland they were met by Mr. Gordon Beardmore and his new motor launch. The party was chaperoned by Miss Merk.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 1, 1878

Nearly all the cities, towns and villages in the province are having a civic holiday. Is there any prospect of Acton having one?

The Marquis of Lorne has accepted the Governor-Generalship of Canada.

Goodly crowds of young people of this village go raspberrying every day and return with full pails.

Parents are commencing to wish that the 19th of August had arrived, that they might send their children to school again.

Mr. Sangster, an employee of Mr. D. W. Campbell, of this village, has attracted large crowds for several Sabbath evenings past, to the corner of Mill and John Streets, where he has been exhorting the people to leave their wicked ways, and turn to that which is good.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Alex Mann, who was seriously injured at Mr. Paul Kennedy's raising, is recovering.

The mail from the east did not reach Acton till noon on Monday on account of the damage done to the G.T.R. near Weston by the hail storm Sunday.

Equipment important

Both sides of the Halton police, the boss, Halton's Regional Police Commission, and the employee representative, Halton's regional Police Association, may justly be pleased with the method and results of the new police pay package. The Halton policeman is the highest paid in Ontario, but that is not enough.

Before commissioners and association brass send an officer onto the street they should make sure he has more than some extra bucks in his pocket.

Equipment. Check to see he has the tools to the job. One of the major complaints in the association's survey and evaluation of the force is the equipment is the cheapest of the cheap.

All policemen receive pay cheques and all of them have some sort of equipment. Just as Halton's policemen have some more dollars than other municipalities' officers these others have better equipment than the Halton officers. Pride is an emotion all armed forces thrive on. The police, like the army, navy and air force, is an

armed force that guards us against local foes. They derive pride from their accomplishments and having equipment—modern, effective, safe equipment—to help them.

The association's survey and evaluation, the so-called morale report is, also, more than a list of complaints, it is a bargaining paper.

The police commission seems to be waiting in order to counter the association's report with one from the police chief. Hopefully his report is made soon, in public, and is more substantial than a brief rebuttal plus an assurance to citizens that all is well. There is another step.

Both sides must get together to sift through each other's report—carefully, the same way they talked about the contract. Some items will no doubt be set aside, but equipment should be kept near the top of the list.

Issuing officers with equipment they can trust is a step towards making them more productive and therefore better policemen.

Identifying concerns

Identifying major concerns and issues for rural residents, is one of the objectives of a University of Guelph Rural Development Outreach project. Halton is one of two pilot areas.

It is interesting to note, that after a full day session involving members from the rural community, concerns discussed under different headings, took on a similar ring.

The problems in summary are identified as "the negative impact of ex-urbanites on the rural community; poor social planning and land use planning for rural areas; high taxes with no benefits; alienation of rural people from the political and planning process and a feeling of helplessness—being unable to influence one's own future."

As we reflect on the summary we wonder if some of those same complaints could not be equally identified among those in the small communities that make up Halton. There are certainly times when the weight of government seems oppressive and unchangeable, when planning doesn't seem to suit our needs and when the importance of social planning seems to be ignored in our march to "bigger and better."

The R.D.O.P. summary that converts to goals takes on a more positive note as it puts the focus on "integration of ex-urbanites into rural communities, the need for effective social planning and land use planning for rural areas; the reduction of taxes; development of better means of communicating with politicians and planners; and development of strategies to in-

fluence decision-making bodies."

The urbanization of rural areas forces emphasis on the need for new neighbor to meet new neighbor. There will only be understanding when there is communication. City dwellers who seek their retreat in the country should be aware there will be different smells and different problems. Social life is different and important. There still needs to be time for neighborliness even though the new country dweller seeks only isolation at the outset.

Four of the other goals or problems touch on the role of government, access to it, communication with it and its cost. The roots of government were disturbingly shaken when regional government was introduced. Voluntary boards were dismissed, cutting participation. Municipalities were merged causing alienation. Costs rose as they were bound to do under any system, but the lines of communication of citizen to councillor in those chance encounters on the street, while picking up the mail or socially, were greatly reduced.

Being on councils demanded more time and much of it has been more time away from the community, away from those chance encounters.

There is some similarity between rural and urban problems even though they are not identical. Identifying the problems is the initial stage and having done that we are encouraged that meetings in the fall are planned at which a steering committee may seek solutions.



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

Canadians have a great pre-occupation with death. It is common knowledge that we carry more life insurance than any other nation in the world, on a per capita basis I wonder why.

It must be a great country in which to be selling life insurance. Even Simpsons-Sears, Limited, is getting into the business. Only in Canada would a big department store be selling insurance. Pity.

But it's a fact. In my wife's last computerized, machine-signed letter from that august organization, one L. Visosky, General Credit Manager talks earnestly about an accidental death policy, exclusively for Simpsons-Sears account customers. It pays up to \$100,000 in benefits and "protects you while you're driving, riding, or walking—even when you're at home or at work—everywhere in the world! No medical exam! No age limit!"

Well, I don't do much driving, riding or walking when I'm at home or at work, but perhaps it's a good idea. It costs only \$3.50 a month for a family.

Does it mean that children under five can be insured for up to 100 grand for accidental death? Does it mean that people over 90 who decide to jump in front of a bus, accidentally, can leave their heirs set for life? Somehow, I doubt it. It's far more likely that Simpsons-Sears just want to be dang sure they're paid off, if you've managed to get into them for a few hundred dollars on your charge account.

Perhaps Canadians are not so foolish in their concern about death. A pretty good English playwright, Will Shakespeare, was fascinated by the subject, and speculated upon it in Hamlet's soliloquies.

And a thousand thousand other poets and playwrights have attempted to probe into the meaning of death. A quick look at Bartlett's Familiar Quotations shows more than three solid pages of references to death.

Thus we learn that Death among other things, such as the end of Life, "borders upon our birth, breaks every bond, is only a horizon, is the fatal asterisk, is like a friend unseen, is the end of a journey, is but the long, cool night a debt, a trumped ace, a boatman, a road we all must go." And so on. They all sound like cliches, don't they?

Brother Death becomes more familiar as you grow older. Children are completely unaware of him, young people are barely so. It's a rather distasteful thing that happens to other people, mostly old ones.

When I was a young fighter pilot, I was very close to death, fairly often. But I didn't even feel his cold breath, nor smell his slightly mouldy scent. A few times I was almost literally scared to death, but not of death.

When you begin seeing school friends in the obituary columns, when a brother dies, when a colleague dies, all of them in their prime, you begin to feel and smell the Old Boy. It's not particularly frightening, merely a bit disconcerting.

In your heart, you are 12 years old, with a little sophistication plastered on the outside. In your head, you're a couple of years away from retirement, a decade or so away from senility, certainly on nodding terms with Brother Death.

Holy Smokes! I hope this is not too lugubrious a column for a family journal. It was that thing from Simpsons-Sears that got me going. And then my wife suggested I make a list of my insurance policies and leave it all in the hands of my brother-in-law, the lawyer, before we embarked on our trip. What a gloom-bux way of commencing a summer holiday.

I told her I would, but never got around to it. If we're hijacked or go down in the Atlantic or die of sea-sickness on our

voyage down the Rhine, let somebody else sort out the mess I've left behind. I've been sorting out their messes long enough.

Let's see, now. There are two insurance policies in the bottom drawer of the dresser, beneath my thermal underwear. There's another with the county school board. There's a stock certificate somewhere in my desk drawer, worth \$94.00. There's a house paid for, and two cars in the driveway, worth \$250 each, on a good day.

As for my safe deposit box at the bank, I lost my key the first week I had it, and the girl told me they'd have to have a chap drill it open, with me present. We were to make a date mutually agreeable. That was six months ago. I don't know what's in the thing anyway.

My wife has a sewing machine that's worth more than our two cars. The color TV is ten years old, but going strong, ever since we had the TV repairman put back new knobs where the grandboys had ripped all the originals off.

My colleagues in the English department are perfectly welcome to split up my reference books, my filing cabinet, which has not been opened in ten years, and my picture of the Queen, the one with the moustache drawn in.

Any left-handed golfer with arthritis may have my clubs and cart, which are so old and shabby they almost qualify as antiques. There's a pretty good fishing rod down in the basement, with the Christmas decorations. A few patches and there's a dandy pair of hip waders to go with it. They're in the trunk of the old Dodge along with a case of beer that froze last winter.

There, I think that pretty well clears the decks. If Brother Death gets over-friendly, my daughter won't need a job for the next three years. It'll take her that long to sort out the estate. Bum Voyage.

On the News Beat

Control is the real issue

By Bob Burt



Bob Burt reports on regional council for the Free Press.

On the surface the debate about uniform water rates in Halton is really an argument that won't mean more than a few dollars one way or the other for most homeowners.

If you can believe the presentations by the professionals Acton stands to lose the most if each community is left to foot its own bill for domestic water.

Of the five urban serviced areas in the region Acton is the smallest and has the smallest revenue base from which expensive improvements and expansions have to be financed.

The argument has always been Acton needs help. Some say the entire region should pay one price for water regardless of the size of the

community or the cost of providing the water. Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid went as far as to say the region is morally bound to provide water to all residents on the municipal water system at a uniform price.

But digging beneath all of the rhetoric and the long-winded speeches councillors are prone to make the issue in most areas of the region isn't money at all but control of services and control of growth.

Halton Hills is the only one of the four local councils supporting uniform water rates and the abandonment of the chargeback system for water services.

There is no question that once uniform water rates come into being the decision making power for that service would shift from area

councils to the region. That's where the province intended to have that power in the first instance.

Legally the region has the power to approve or refuse improved water systems, expansions to systems or even hookups to a system.

But the cost of the work is being charged to the benefiting community and because the municipalities and not the region are footing the bill, regional council has been content to approve recommendations from the area councils.

Milton Councilors have traditionally bucked any move to uniform rates. It isn't that they don't want to help Acton but they feel they won't be able to help themselves. They claim that with only three councillors representing the town, requests from

Milton will receive low priority in the scheme of things. Their fears could contain more than a shred of truth.

But it isn't just Milton councillors that are against the proposal. For five years now Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett has insisted the current system charges the people who use the service and he insists nothing could be fairer.

It is difficult for anyone to argue against the logic from an administrative standpoint about having one system and one common rate for domestic users. Industrial and commercial users have a different rate and rural homeowners are not affected at all.

When regional council is legally responsible for water (Continued on page 5)

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