

Free Press Editorial Page

Ugly elms

With so many government grants for special schemes, from book publishing to hockey pads, you'd think by now there would have been some tax cash for the removal of dead elms on private property.

The once-stately trees, the victims of the fatal Dutch elm disease, punctuate the southern Ontario countryside. They are eyesores in all directions around town.

As the dead trees stand longer they become grey and bleak and have a certain picturesque effect,

outlined against the sky or healthy greenery.

But the dramatic effect isn't any reason to keep them!

Obviously the task of cutting these trees is difficult for a single farmer or land owner. Trees on government-owned roadsides have been cut, but the ones on private property should get the same treatment. It requires trained workmen with the proper equipment.

Like ugly hydro wires and towers, the trees have become so common we seem to ignore them.

Petition on unity

While we were at the Canadian Community Newspapers Association convention in Vancouver, a speaker urgently asked us to join in circulating a People to People Petition for Canadian Unity.

We have two sheets here, and admittedly don't know what to do with them.

The sheet begins: "In a spirit of understanding and to better meet the ongoing needs and hopes of all our people, we the undersigned from British Columbia to Newfoundland invite Quebecois

members of our Canadian family to remain Canadian and to continue building with us this magnificent Canada."

Honorary chairmen are listed including for Ontario the famed M.E. Canada, John Fisher.

Copies many easily be photocopied, if anyone is especially interested in carrying out this request.

There will also be a copy on the front desk at the Free Press, for anyone who would like to sign.

No one is laughing

Why is it a few selfish and inconsiderate people are allowed to walk off their jobs and create total chaos in a city of more than two million people, not to mention the surrounding area?

The Toronto Transit Commission went on strike Monday morning for among other things more money. In doing so, they also forced affiliates GO Transit and Gray Coach off the highways. Hundreds of thousands of people are inconvenienced, annoyed, fed up and in all likelihood, late for work, if they even made it.

Thousands of extra cars lined Toronto streets in a tangled mess. Hitchhikers, bicyclists, and pedestrians were out in full force, crowding the already too crowded streets. Getting to work in the morning in Toronto is hectic enough without extra cars and no buses or subways.

However, Toronto residents are not the only people inconvenienced by the strike. Local people, who depend on GO to take them from Guelph to Toronto, or vice versa, and any points in between have also found themselves out in the cold. Some, unaware of the connection between the companies, stood at on Highway 7 Monday morning, waiting for a bus which never arrived. Businesses depend on bus to get parcels delivered to them, or others. This too has stopped.

The drivers want more money. Who doesn't?

This goes for all strikers, not just the TTC employees.

One driver was quoted on CFTM radio Monday morning as saying he didn't feel bad about going on strike. "They" didn't care when "they" went on strike and inconvenienced him.

Good grief. Let's hope everyone doesn't have such a childish attitude. If so, this country is in worse shape than anyone ever thought.

Who is "they" the man was talking about? Was it Air Canada? The post office? Who? "They" mean all people.

But it was not all people who went on strike, so why try and punish all people? If the man wants to get back to those who inconvenienced him, let him fly CP or telephone instead of mailing a letter. Why should someone with this narrowminded attitude be able to throw an entire city, and neighboring towns into chaos? Doesn't Mr. Driver realize people will be just as mad at the TTC as he was at Air Canada, or whoever he was talking about?

People are fed up with strikes, especially when the strikers, who are public servants, don't care about the public they are serving. There are almost one million people unemployed in this country. Ask them what they think of strikers.

On fluoridation

In Milton, some townspeople and councillors are furious at the region's high-handed decision to fluoridate their water. They are proud of their pure water and don't want chemicals added.

In Acton, there seems little objection to the decision made for us. Our dentists all feel the decision is wise.

If you have a comment, how about a letter to the editor?

Back to school

Things aren't just the same at the Free Press news office since lively Jennifer Rowe has left to study journalism at Sheridan College. She started with us as a school project part time, and then the past summer continued her part time involvement as she learned more aspects of newspapering. Her help

was invaluable to us, and she will be much missed, especially in the coverage of young people's events.

Cartoonist Dennis Blake has also returned to Sheridan, to take his second year in cartooning. His talents were shared with Free Press readers during the summer as well.

Of this and that

Welcome to the young people who will be writing news of their schools for the Free Press this year. We know the parents will find it interesting, too.

stream? . . .

A community-wide event, the fall fair will draw hundreds to the park this weekend. Months of work and planning are behind the annual show, which has entertainment and interest for everyone. See you there! . . .

Are we imagining it, or are these more iron stains on sinks and porcelain fixtures, since the iron-rich water from the new well is on



Unwanted, unloved . . . uncut



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

There are only two really important words when you take your trip to Europe. One is "toilet" and the other is "money". Each is a constant source of anxiety, fascination and frustration.

In general, the ladies worried about the toilets, and the men about the money.

As our vivacious guide, Annette, informed us, you don't ask on the continent where the bathroom is, or you're apt to get a response something like, "Watsa matia you lady? You canna taka bath in a restaurant?" No, you bluntly blurt "Toilet!" It's the same in every language, so you can't go astray.

There was only one thing wrong with our bus. It had comfortable seats, air-conditioning, a superb driver. But no "bathroom" at the rear. So you sailed off at 7 a.m., full of morning coffee, and shaky in the knowledge that you might be on that bus for two or three hours before a halt and the magic words TOILETS leaped into view.

It wasn't bad for the men, but there was always a line for the ladies', the door often guarded by a fierce old barridan who demanded 100 lira or a franc piece before they were even admitted to the inner sanctum.

From what I heard and saw, the facilities ranged from spanking clean with hot water and lots of towels, down through pretty sleazy, with tissue the texture of wallpaper, to the very pits, which were just that, holes in the ground, from which the ladies emerged looking a bit stunned, rolling back down the legs of their pant suits.

In a little more than 3,000 miles, only two emergency stops were made. One was for Larry, B, who had drunk three cans of pop

at the last stop, and had the distinction of having a tinkle right beside the auto-route in France.

The second was when Graham, a young Australian, (pronounced Grime in that language) was hit by a sudden attack of bad tummy and spent half an hour emitting at both ends in a filthy roadside toilet. Nobody minded either stop.

Enough about toilets, surely. Now, about money. First of all, take more than you need. You'll need it. By the time I got back to London, on a weekend, banks closed, I was so broke I had to borrow five pounds from the hall porter at our hotel.

Before you begin your trip, obtain from your travel agent or airline a little chart, or table, showing the approximate value of your own dollar in European currencies. It won't help much, but it will be something to cling to in the maelstrom of five or six different currencies changing value from day to day.

For example, I changed some dollars for lira three times in one day, in Italy. First time, I got 850 lira for a dollar, second time 830, third time 800.

Get rid of your loose change before you cross a border, even if you have to buy some candy and pass it around the bus. Each country will change paper money but is not interested in coins. You would wind up with a suitcase full of utterly useless francs, lira, marks, schilling, etc. I have enough to start a coin collection.

Millions of tourists are honey to flies for the international pickpockets who infest the large cities. Our guide, la belle Annette, warned us so thoroughly, especially as we headed toward Rome, that we were a sight to behold after two days there. The women were all humpbacked from

clutching their purses to their bosoms with both hands. The men looked like a group of spastics, trying to keep their hands firmly in all their four to eight pockets at the same time.

Just the other day, our Rome guide informed us, a gentleman had had his wallet, containing \$450 Australian, lifted right in St. Peter's, the largest church in the world. We had a nice few moments of vicarious excitement when Glynis, from Australia, discovered her watch, worth \$450, and a gift from her husband, was missing from her wrist. She said she'd felt a very soft, slight movement, looked down, and the watch was gone. She was distraught. So were we all. Twenty minutes later, she found it in her bag, the turkey. It had slipped off her wrist and fallen into her purse.

Some of the ladies were so nervous they took the unprecedented step of pinning their credit cards inside their bras. I played it safe. I never gave my wife more than a coin for the john, and I kept my cash in one pocket, my travelers' cheques in another, and my credit card in a third, so that I wouldn't be made bankrupt by one swell foop.

It was a bad year to visit Europe, with inflation rampant there (cuppa coffee or 'oke well over \$1.00), the Canadian dollar dithering around 88 cents, and the American dollar sliding. Hotels run around \$48 to \$60 a night, and that's not the Savoy or the Ritz.

But woe-hell, Archie, it's only the price of a new car, and a small one, at that. Take your trip and drive the old heap for another couple of years. You can't sit around in an old car 20 years from now, and exchange things like: "Remember the pinchy-pinchy party in Rome, where the waiter, straight-faced, pinched each lady's bun as he served her soup or pasta?"

Boys vs girls

This weekend I attended a baseball game between an all girls team and an all boys team. I believe the average ages were around eight to ten years old.

While watching the top of the fifth inning with the boys up to bat I saw the first batter score a run. The next two batters were put out at first. The fourth batter struck out. That ended the inning.

As the boys donned their gloves and prepared to take the field a man in his late forties walked over to the young man who had struck out.

"How could you let a girl strike you out?" he sneered.

It is statements such as these which keep the battle of the sexes raging. This person was not upset at the boy being struck out but upset that it was a "girl" who pitched the fatal balls. Obviously something must be amiss. Everyone knows that girls just can't play a man's game!

J. Malmston

level of community involvement that we received without their aid.

Once again, it has been a pleasure to serve the Halton Hills community and on behalf of the Office of Energy Conservation and the staff of the Halton Hills Community Conservation Centre, Thank You for your support.

Stan Collett
Director
Halton Hills
Community Conservation Centre

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of September 11, 1968

Professional planners and engineers told municipal officials that Acton could be a city of 200,000 one day if certain development goal plans were implemented by the provincial government. This and other hypothetical proposals were dangled at an audience of members of council, planning board, development commission, committee of adjustment and the Chamber of Commerce meeting with Central Ontario Regional Development Council representatives in the library Thursday evening.

Acton will have a three way race for the mayor's chair this year from the present council. Confirming rumors which have been rife through town over the last few weeks, both Reeve Bert Hinton and Councillor Bob Drinkwater indicated at Tuesday night's meeting of council they would contest the office of mayor with present incumbent Les Dudy. Mayor Dudy said he intended to run.

Sandra Binnie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Binnie, Acton, graduated from Guelph General Hospital on Wednesday, September 4. Miss Binnie has accepted a position on the staff of the General Hospital.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of September 18, 1948

Annexation of 87.45 acres of land from the township of Esqueving to the town of Acton and permission to dispense with a public vote to spend \$119,000 on a paving and storm sewer project for the Glenlea subdivision received approvals from R.C. Howland of the Ontario Municipal Board subject to approval by the other board members at a public hearing held in the town hall on Friday, September 12.

Memories of 30 years ago were brought back to Paul Tomasic, Brock St., Acton at Malton airport on Tuesday of this week as his youngest son Nick alighted from the three p.m. plane from Yugoslavia. Seeing his 33-year-old son for the first time in 30 years brought tears of happiness to the father who emigrated to this country as a young man in 1928.

Termed the greatest invention in the amusement field since the Yo Yo, the hoola hoop has captured the fancy of grownups and children alike. Micro Plastics Ltd. of Acton, the first Canadian manufacturer to produce the linear polyethylene piping for use in the hoop are at present shipping over 5000 pounds of the product to Toronto daily.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 13, 1928

At a meeting of the Acton Public Library Board last Friday, the resignation of Miss Laura Scott, assistant librarian, was received and accepted owing to her removal to Kitchener. A complimentary resolution referring to the keen interest and satisfactory service given by Miss Scott during the past seven years was passed. Miss Mary Chalmers was appointed to fill the vacancy. She was well recommended for the position.

Miss Robena Clark, who has the past year been teaching in London, England schools in an exchange with a London teacher returned to Toronto on Monday just in time for school reopening the next day. Miss Clark returned aboard the Athenia which docked at Montreal on Saturday. Miss Florence Holmes who has been spending the summer touring Europe returned on the same boat.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 12, 1878

Vote in Matthews hall next Tuesday. Local news is scarce during the political struggle.

A large number of electors attended Mr. McCraney's meeting Thursday and Mr. Macdougall's meeting Friday. (Much of the news space is devoted to these meetings.)

Fashion notes: The most stylish visiting cards are very plain. Indian mousseline over white satin is the newest style for wedding dresses. Birds of all kinds, including their plumage, are much used for house decorations. Deep collars made of lace and loops of ribbon are very handsome and may be manufactured by ladies with little expense and time. Sleeves in the imported dresses are much larger than usual.

It would be wise for Acton to have a bylaw prohibiting wagons with narrow tires from passing over the streets and cutting them up.

Now that the children cannot go barefoot any more, the boot and shoe dealers are looking for a brisk business.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Appreciate support

To the Citizens of Halton Hills
The Halton Hills Community Conservation Centre officially closed on Friday, September 8, 1978.

Although the centre was in operation only since early March, we found that the "open door" extended to us by the many community groups in both Acton and Georgetown made our task of creating an awareness of energy and resource conservation both interesting and rewarding.

Our only regret is that we will not be able to revisit all the schools, churches, community and business groups who welcomed us in the spring and that we have lost the chance to meet with other groups and clubs.

All research material that was collected over the last seven months has been donated to the Georgetown Public Library and will be made available to the community. The centre had also donated a number of films and slide shows to the Halton Board of Education in the hopes that the schools will continue to emphasize energy conservation.

In order to continue answering inquiries concerning energy conservation, the Oak-

ville Energy Conservation Committee has been set up to answer questions and advise individuals or groups as to various ways to promote energy conservation. All inquiries may be directed to this committee care of P.O. Box No. 614, Oakville, L6J 5E8. This committee will meet regularly, once a month, to answer all inquiries.

The Halton Hills Community Conservation Centre would also like to thank the many people who have directly contributed to the success of our program through their attendance at our seminars, their interest and their advice.

Local businesses have also been an invaluable asset to the Centre. Their contributions as guest speakers, their expertise as community resource persons and their support given to our recent Energy Exhibition have all helped to make the centre the focal point in the community for energy conservation.

The IHCC owes a special debt to the community newspapers in both towns for their support and co-operation. Given our limited financial resources it would have been impossible for us to achieve the high

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Business and Editorial Office



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