

Free Press Editorial Page

Be thankful

Monday is Thanksgiving. Take a minute or two... think of what you have to be thankful for.

There are plenty of them, aren't there?

Start out with those trees... the magnificent maples leading the glorious list.

If you pass the Free Press office, be sure to admire our own personal favorite tree, a stupendous maple

along the banks of the school creek. "Dora's tree," we call it, since Dora Ryder happily faced it each fall as she sat at her linotype machine.

Then think about our town and how it is improving. Its new people, new appearances. Then our province. Then our country.

Then the growing consciousness that we are all responsible in part for the intelligent use of the whole world.

At the Beaver investiture Monday night, we heard nine earnest young lads promise to help look after the world. And they will, too.

Consider a seat

It's not that long until election time. Surely there are more people who will make the considerable effort to represent us?

For so few people to represent so many takes dedication and effort.

We all appreciate the work of our representatives over the years past. Still, there must be more people who could do an excellent job.

There are only two newcomers so far who have announced their candidacy. Roy Goodwin and Bill Coats, both for the joint regional and area seat.

Good-bye, good luck

We say "good-bye" and "good luck" this week to sports writer Denis Gibbons.

He has been a good friend as well as a most capable and dedicated sports writer and general reporter and photographer.

Year of the Child

The Halton Youth Services network wants to assume a role in the region for the co-ordination, facilitation and promotion of the programs and projects undertaken during the International Year of the Child next year.

—encourage all countries, rich and poor, to review their program for the promotion of the well-being of children, and to mobilize support for national and local action programs according to each country's conditions, needs and priorities.

October notes

There seems general agreement that we have had a lovely summer, and a fall as sunny and warm as could be expected.

Highway signs indicating Acton are much wanted. Another town in a similar position was Utterson, in the Muskoka area.

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again. For board of education, only present member Bert Hinton has indicated his intention to try to retain his position.

(Since this writing, Betty Fisher of Georgetown has decided to run for the Acton-Esquesungat seat as well.)

No one from here has talked officially of running for mayor of Halton Hills.

It is conceivable some of the seats could be filled by acclamation, with not enough contenders to warrant a vote.

Peter Marks, who is leaving council (just for a while, we hope) says he will be glad to talk to anyone interested.

What makes leaves turn red in fall?

You thought the red leaves were caused by frost? You're wrong. J.H. Lever, district manager, Braebridge for the Ministry of Natural Resources, writes: Let us look deeper into the subject and see what processes actually happen.

October notes

birthday cakes and take pictures of the festivities which they give to the men and women who're celebrating that month.

Other travellers, like ourselves, find everywhere we go that towns and cities are restoring and treasuring their old buildings.

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A misty morning... photo by Eric Elstone



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

Absolutely my last column about trips to Europe, cross my heart and spit. Just a few final impressions and some tips to those who haven't done it before.

Holland is flat and flower-filled: flowers everywhere. We visited a local cheese factory and I was suckered into buying a real cheese knife with a Delt handle.

Went up into a working windmill, of which there are only a few left. An awesome experience, with the great stones grinding and the vast sails whirling.

Holland was also a sort of memory trip for me. Went within a few miles of Gornchem, where I was shot down, and passed the city of Utrecht, where I spent several days and made the Great Escape.

Same in Germany. We spent a night at Frankfurt, where I had passed three days and nights way back then in solitary, at an interrogation centre.

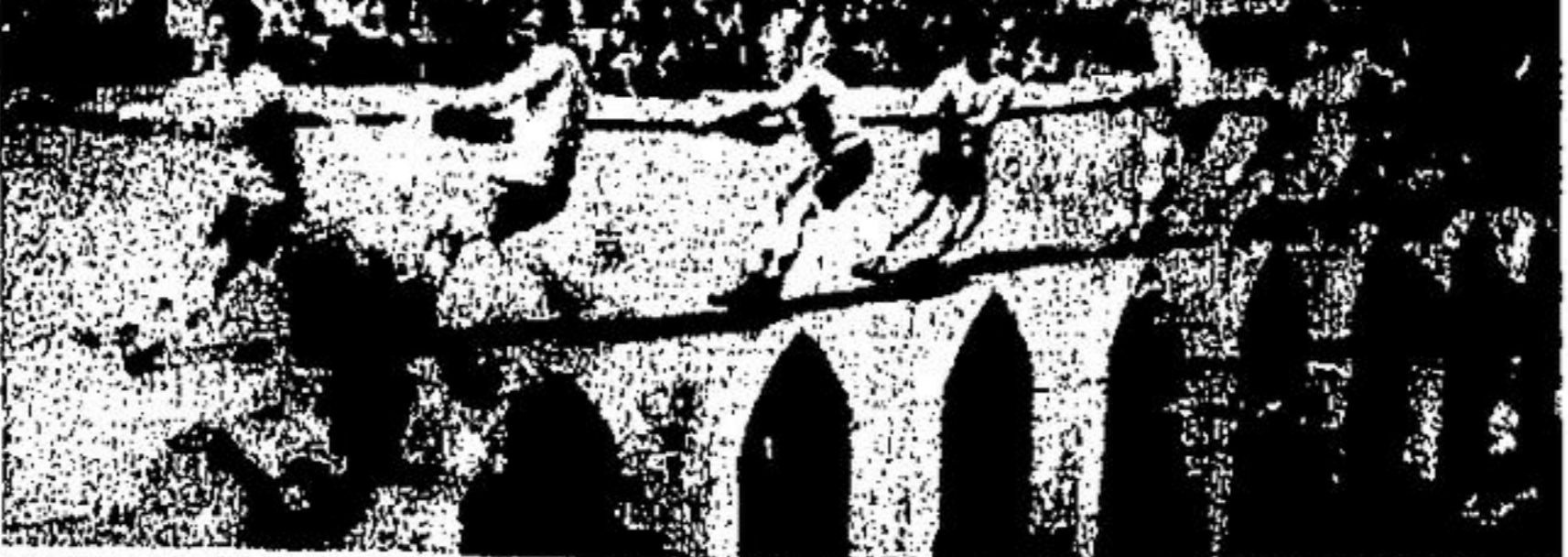
Innsbruck in Austria worth visiting. Up through the Tyrolean Alps, then down, down through them, everyone a bit tense on the curves, to the beautiful old city nestled like a jewel in a valley.

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Up until now, the green chlorophyll pigment has been dominant, blocking out others, thus giving the leaves their green colour.

Two of these other pigments that now show up are called "carotinoids." One pigment is orange and called "carotin" after the carrot which has "carotin" as the main colouring agent.



THE 50 YEARS AGO column a while back told of the Bearmore tug-of-war team and its victory at the Exhibition in Toronto. Here is a picture of the exciting action that day, loaned to us by Tom Gibbons.

all around, Olympic ski jump just up there. Take in an evening of local entertainment, yodelling, dancing, singing. Robust good fun.

Don't let your wife loose with a credit card in Florence, where gold and leather are beautifully worked and just half the price of back home.

Venice stinks. Or so they tell me. With my bashed-up beak I didn't notice a thing. The waterways are controlled by the gondoliers mafia.

Rome is remarkable, a bit frightening if you get off the beaten track and the English-speaking guide. After you've seen the Pantheon, St. Peter's, the Colosseum and the Vatican City, relax.

A good bet for some of that relaxation is travel by express train from Rome to Genoa, where Chris Columbus was born.

By bus along the famous Cote d'Azur to tiny Monaco, rigidly ruled by a benevolent dictator, Prince Rainier. Took a look at the royal palace. Not too impressed.

Nice was nice, though men in party all woke up with stiff necks from craning to see topless bathers of the International set.

Off to Switzerland, through Grenoble, in France, another Olympics site. Through the French Alps (not quite so scary) to Geneva and the calm, peace, cleanliness and beauty that Characterize that country.

What makes leaves turn red in fall?

The lifelines between the leaves and the tree become blocked and the production of chlorophyll stops. The existing chlorophyll in the leaves slowly disappears as it is destroyed by sunlight.

As Chlorophyll production reduces, the other pigments become more dominant until the time just before the falling off period when all the hardwoods on the landscape are ablaze with colour.

Where the leaf stem joins the branch of the tree, there is a separation layer. This is a layer of cells which gradually breaks down eventually causing the leaf to break off and fall.

Cool nights combined with bright days produce the most colourful autumns. Early frosts can actually disrupt the colour changing process by killing the leaves before the separation layer develops.

The hardwood trees discard their leaves in the fall to reduce the area of transpiring surface during the winter months when the moisture supply is low.

Let us give credit to the magnificent way in which a tree prepares itself for winter in a vast array of bright colours and avoid the old tales of how frost supposedly causes this phenomenon.

burning Catholics at the stake.

Then to Berne, the capital, whose symbol is the bear; a fine, ancient city. And so to Lucerne, a small, lovely lakeside resort city, where you once again have to put a leash on your wife.

It's up early for a long, long ride to Paris. It's all that it is claimed for it. We saw it from four vantage points: by bus on the way through; blazing with light at night on our way home from a party; by bus and on foot next morning; and from a cruise on the Seine in the afternoon.

This is beginning to sound like a dull travelogue. Its main purpose is to suggest that when you do Europe by coach, whatever the length of your trip, you are really on the move.

Don't listen to well-meaning friends. You don't need six rolls of toilet paper. You don't need clothes hangers.

Choose clothing with care: something for cold, something for hot, something for wet, something for smart.

Arrange your tour through a reliable travel agency. It doesn't cost any more and could save you many a headache.

So. Just arrange that second mortgage on your house, and away you go, foreign dictionaries in hand. Don't blame me if you collapse in Cologne and have to be shipped back in a box.

The Free Press Back Issues

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 3, 1878

A large number of school teachers assembled in Acton to attend the three day meeting of the Halton Teachers Association in the School House.

There are five new buildings in the course of erection in this village at the present time, three of which are brick.

A social will be held at the home of John Gibbons. Proceeds for the organ fund of the Church-Hill Congregational church.

Various reasons are assigned for the shortage of partridge this season, one of them being that they are being killed by foxes.

This is a fruitful season for the linsmiths. People who have kept their stoves in the cook-house all summer begin to think it is time to get them in the house proper.

The New Presbyterian Church in Ballinafad will be dedicated Sunday 20th inst. No less than six tramps passed through this village Tuesday evening.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 4, 1828

Mr. A. J. Murray, second line, had the misfortune last week to lose one of his fine black team, through a rather peculiar accident. In the work of building the new driving house on the farm, this horse had been used in hauling material for the new building.

The opening meeting of the year at Knox Young People's Society on Monday evening was in charge of the musical committee. Miss W. McMillan had charge of the meeting in the absence of President Mr. Mac Stewart.

Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Stewart and children went to Riverdale on Monday to spend a few days there with relatives.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of October 9, 1958

A motion to petition the Ontario Liquor Control Board to place an outlet in Acton received unanimous support without any discussion after the mayor gave an explanation of a recent discussion with an official of the board when Acton council met Monday evening.

Acton's population jumped over the 4,000 mark this year. Clerk J. McGeachie reported this week following the new assessment roll completion. To date, the population of the town is 4,026 persons.

On Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gamble of Park Ave., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary and attended the wedding of their granddaughter.

Approximately 75 firemen representing eight brigades used eight pumps and in relays pumped water over 2100 feet last Saturday, October 4, in Acton during a Mutual Aid practice session.

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, October 2, 1968

Two Acton athletes were among the ten of Halton County's all-time greats honored before 1200 persons at Oakville Saturday night. Neil Gibbons and Charles (Sonny) Townsley were inducted as charter members of the new Halton County Hall of Fame, a project conceived by Ken Brown of Oakville in an effort to honor county sports achievements.

At a special meeting Monday night, council decided to engage Grant Usher for the position of deputy clerk-treasurer for the town of Acton. Mr. Usher is presently deputy-clerk of Woodbridge.

By 1970, the M.Z. Bennett school could possibly have 164 children too many—eight classrooms of children without classrooms. Working on a projection of enrolment required by the area superintendent, Principal Eimer Smith explained Tuesday to school board he had had a hard time getting facts and figures about future subdivisions in his end of town.

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