

Free Press Editorial Page

Meet your candidates

There is no better way to recognize the best people for public office than to see them and talk to them personally. Everyone will get this opportunity at the Meet the Candidates night. Although the Free Press is publishing interviews with all the local candidates, you can't beat a personal chat. They are trying

their best to meet as many people as they can, of course. But that's just not possible. Attendance at public meetings is notoriously low. Yet readiness to complain is notoriously apparent. If you want to complain later with a clear conscience, be sure to attend the Meet the Candidates night being arranged for next Wednesday, November 8.

What merchants want

Shoppers, think again! The fact that merchants oppose a new plaza on Acton's outskirts does not mean that they oppose new stores. What they hope to do is keep the downtown alive. They see other towns nearby where plazas have resulted in a dreary downtown full of vacant stores. So they encourage new business to locate downtown. Tear down existing buildings, if necessary, as is already being done here.

Whole blocks are zoned Commercial on Main and Mill, and Commercial Holding in their residential sections, for this very purpose. More parking has been provided, too, this past year. The Business Improvement Area participants have heady plans. But don't think they're opposed to more, bigger and better stores for Acton!

Hydro party line

Whenever Ontario Hydro officials feel they are not getting their own way they talk to the Globe and Mail, Canada's "national" newspaper. The Globe listens to Hydro's view of matters and after some research delivers a thunderbolt from Mount Olympus aimed at bending the Government's ear and changing the course of human events.

For six years the Government, under a succession of energy ministers, has pleaded there is not enough time to conduct even a six month independent study. That and a by-law are delaying what may very well be an unnecessary corridor, which will cost consumers a lot more money than the extra Hydro supposedly will lose from bottling up power at Bruce.

Last week it was Halton Hills' turn to feel the wrath of The Globe over the uncompleted Bruce to Milton hydro corridor which has been partly delayed because an old Esquering by-law prohibits passage across Halton Hills.

Far be it from us to question the integrity of Canada's "national" newspaper but it would help if they knew both sides of the story before they go off half-cocked about Halton Hills holding up a hydro corridor.

The Globe also took a swing at the Interested Citizens' Group for delaying the corridor, charging the delay is increasing the cost of generating power in 1979 from \$1 to \$3 million a month. (The figures are Hydro's.)

If we "eastern bastards" do eventually freeze in the dark it will not be because of a band of determined citizens who want a fair deal or a by-law which bans corridors, it will be a bureaucratic bungle by Ontario Hydro. The corporation has long known the by-law existed and has been upheld by the OMB. It obviously trembles at the thought of an independent study which may expose planning practices which should have gone out with the timber barons.

The Globe pontificates that the manoeuvres of Halton Hills, the OMB and the Government have consumed two and half years and are costing consumers money and are going to cost them a lot more money. Such nonsense.

Through a judicious combination of whining and poisonous nationalism, Maclean's managed to convince the Canadian government of the necessity to kick out of the country its only real competition. Time, magazine and Readers' Digest.

The Interested Citizens' Group has been asking for an independent study of the need for the corridor for six years as all other major transmission corridors have received. They have agreed to accept the findings of that independent study.

Not that it would bother me for more than one minute and a half if Maclean's went belly up. It's a fat, rich corporation, with many irons in the fire, most of them highly profitable.

-The Georgetown Independent

Of this and that

Don't worry if your Free Press subscription is due. The deadline was extended a couple of weeks because of the postal strike.

Sir Freddie Laker would like to start up a Skytrain to London from Toronto, probably with a straight fare of \$135 U.S., the same as from New York. He's restricted in what he wants to do by treaties which limit him to charter flights for which we must book 30 days in advance. But he thinks Toronto is ready for Skytrain service. Likely plenty of people around here think so, too.

Again this week, chuckles and special thanks to the group reporter who has given us so much more than the usual devotions, minutes, business and lunch!

While we read in the daily papers and watched scenes on television of striking postal workers, not much was made of the fact that in many small towns, like Acton, the postal staff was at work, not out on picket lines. Probably these workers knew the feeling of the general public better than their union leaders.

Since businessmen are doing their best to promote downtown shopping, we have another idea. How about a downtown business area map, posted in the Chamber of Commerce bulletin board outside the Y? It could list all the stores and indicate "You are Here" the way the maps in the big shopping plazas do.

Canadian hamburger

If you read those family magazines that are always near the grocery store check out counters, you might have shared with me the recent surprise of an all-Canadian hamburger. It was Family Circle that showed "24 round the world toppings to make your hamburgers special." Did you notice the Canadian hamburger? The recipe, listed as a

"top secret"! The Huskie Burger: Romaine lettuce, two slices of Canadian bacon, canned asparagus, lemon slice, mayonnaise. That's a Canadian specialty? Asparagus? Lemon? Lettuce? Canadian bacon, OK! But how to improve upon the recipe? What would make a good typical, Canadian topping for a hamburger?



Baptist church addition is credit to community



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

If you have ever bought, or borrowed, a copy of Maclean's magazine, you have probably been subjected, in the past month or so, to the same treatment I have, a variation on the Chinese water torture. Every second day I received a card, or a phony-looking certificate, or a sincere letter, telling me of the fabulous bargains in the subscriptions I can receive if I sign up right now.

Nor have I any reason to wish the new weekly newsmagazine ill. I have an old and honorable association with the magazine and its sister, *Buxom* with advertising, *Chatelaine*. The latter has become, from tenuous, wispy beginnings, about as good a magazine as a women's magazine can get.

"The CBC is the oldest whore on the block." Somebody trying to imitate *Time* magazine's style.

But, on the whole, the mag isn't bad. Considering the tribulations of putting out a weekly magazine in an age in which everything is instant dead two minutes after it's been seen on TV, there is a fairly good analysis of provincial and federal news, and adequate coverage of international news, and a few good features. One of them is interesting enough, visually and verbally, but bears the dreadful cliché "People" as its heading.

There's a lot of cutesy business of printing over yellow and purple and orange, which is juvenile and slightly annoying.

My association with this pair began at a tender age, about 10, when I received a contract to go out and hustle up subscribers to either or both of these mags. I was a lousy salesman then, and still am, and it was Depression years, but as I recall, I sold two subscriptions to *Chatelaine* and one to *Maclean's*, to friends of my mother. I received \$1.50 in commissions, and that was the end of a potentially great career in publishing.

Of course, in those days, a kid didn't have a chance against the pros. *Maclean's*, and other publishing chains, would send into a small town a highly-trained team of hustlers to sell subscriptions. They were personable and fast-talking, much like the encyclopedia salesmen of a couple of decades later.

They'd hit the town like a hurricane, about Tuesday, and depart Friday afternoon, laughing like open drains, with a lot of loot, leaving behind them a host of housewives wondering vaguely why they had signed up for eight years of *Maclean's* and 16 years of *Chatelaine*, even though it hadn't cost them a cent, ha ha.

However, I am willing to let old business animosities lie. If *Maclean's* leaves me alone, I'll do the same for them.

Let's take an objective look at their newsmagazine, the non-pareil, according to them. It's not bad, really.

There is a strong tendency to be smartass, as in this opening sentence,

OUR READERS WRITE:

Something positive

R.R. 1, Acton, Ontario
October 28, 1978

Dear Editor: Despite the negative revelations of Eva Sanson in her letter to the Acton Free Press, October 25, I would like to say something positive about Bert Hinton. Hinton's effective action brought swift resolution to a school bus problem we had. While the transportation people's priority was only time and money, Hinton was

immediately concerned with the children's well-being.

The Sanson letter, which unconditionally damns Hinton with personally cutting comments about effectiveness, grandstanding and ego-tripping, ironically appears to be a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

Yours truly,
L Johnston

Supports candidate

114 Elizabeth Dr.
Acton, Ont.
Oct. 30, 1978

Dear Mrs. Dillis: I agree with Eva Sanson's letter of last week. We do need a more effective voice on the Board of Education. That voice should come from a resident of our community. Betty Fisher of Georgetown is to be commended for her interest but we do not need two trustees from Georgetown. Can you

imagine the board being made up of residents from all of Halton except Acton and Esquering?

Fam Sheldon is a resident of Esquering with children in Speyside school. She has been involved in the community and the schools. Mrs. Sheldon is deeply concerned with the future of education in general and Halton in particular. She is knowledgeable and articulate and would represent us well. Sincerely,
Alma Sweetman.

His bike is stolen

Last Thursday afternoon my bike was stolen from the bike rack at Robert Little School. Last year my dad helped me paint it. It was black, red and silver. I saved and bought black motocross handlebars and saddle. It's not a very big bike. I am 10

years old. It was different, my very own bike and I miss it. If you have seen it please phone me. Sean McVeigh
81 Nelson Court
853-0265

Thanks for column

"Our Readers Write" Column
The Editor,
Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to thank you publicly for using the letter "Sharing" by Nancy Gordon. Many papers would not use a definitely religious letter at all. You used it in full, and it was lengthy. You gave it top billing. You emphasized its importance also by placing the drawing and title "Sharing" at the top.

It was a sincere letter. However, sincerity alone would frighten some newspapers. They are often themselves cynical, and practical too for some readers could consider the treatment given this letter as an endorsement by you of the Christian religion. They fear an attack by the "human rights" groups might damage the media's image. An example is the ever-present T.V. announcement "we do not necessarily agree or endorse the opinions of the following program." This is a typically sit-on-the-fence attitude and all too prevalent today.

Therefore I wish to congratulate you on your courage in printing a letter which was a personal testimony, but also a convincing argument for a belief in the love of God. May you continue to speak out on all the issues fearlessly.

Sincerely
Mrs. Oscar Drijber
Box 43
Rockwood, Ont.
N0B 2K0

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, October 30, 1968. "I'm going to miss the children all right. That's the thing I hate about quilting," admits John Bruce. He retires this Thursday night after 12 years and two months as guard at the crosswalk on Highway 7 by Glenlea. If Jim Snow has his way, Halton County would take on a radically new and different look. Snow, MPP for Halton East has submitted a plan to Darcy McKeough Minister of Municipal Affairs suggesting Halton County be split into five sections or divisions rather than seven as at present. Acton post office will be shut down Saturday beginning February 1, Halton MP Rud Whiting confirmed. The lock box lobby will be open and rural route delivery will operate as usual. No parcel post service will be available.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 6, 1958. Organization of a Springhill disaster fund was assumed Monday when Acton council recommended formation of such a group and appointed Mayor W. Cook as town representative. G.V. Barbeau was returned to office as president of the Acton Chamber of Commerce at their regular dinner meeting held in the United Church on Wednesday evening. Harold Perkins, Alice St., was engaged for the position of assistant assessor for the town of Acton and commenced his duties Monday, November 2. There were three applicants for the position.

The driver of a stolen automobile which crashed into the side of the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Wilson, 240 Elmore Dr., Acton on Tuesday of last week is back at the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph with nine months added to his sentence as a result of his short freedom. Acton firemen this morning (Thursday) responded to a fire call at the farm of Horace Blyth, R.R. 1, Acton at 8:46 a.m. Fire chief J. Newton reported a chimney on fire at the house and said the damage was small.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 1, 1928. The many friends of Mr. Frank Day will be pleased to learn of his appointment as postmaster at Rockwood to succeed the late Col. John Murrie. He will be selling the farm. The Robert Simpson Co. of Toronto is invading many towns in Ontario and setting up mail depots. Where we're all heading for we don't know, but we're on our way. Master William Chisholm, in the Hallowe'en frolic last night, had the misfortune to run into the rear end of a passing motor car and injure his shoulder. It was a pretty sane Hallowe'en. One home counted 133 callers. Mr. Hugh McCutcheon has recently had his barn and stables electrified.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 31, 1878. Quite a number of drunken men have been seen on the street of late. There have been no less than three "paring bees" at Speyside within a week, and large ones at that. These bees consist in paring apples in the early part of the evening and pairing people during the latter part of it. The Sunday School held in Dufferin school house has been a success, with as many as 50 attending. A social will be held at the home of Mr. Chris Swackhamer in Esquering Nov. 6. A number of teams will be in the village to take loads. "The Boys" are warned against doing any mischief in town tonight. The constable has been instructed to be on the watch and arrest anyone who does mischief. While a number of Actonians were in the post office Tuesday evening waiting for the mail to be distributed, they were suddenly surprised by hearing a lamp chimney explode. The glass fell in thousands of pieces and the affair caused considerable excitement. A quiet match between Mr. Hugh Cameron of Acton and Geo. Gibbs of Georgetown, for \$100 a side, is arranged for Nov. 22.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office

CGNA
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1978

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 50 Widow Street, Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the Canadian Community Newspapers Association and the Ontario Weekly News Editors Association. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance: \$7.50 in Canada, \$25.00 in all countries other than Canada; single copies 15¢. Carriage delivery in Acton 15¢ extra per week. Second class mail registration number 9515. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error, advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is hereby offered to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

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