

# The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1876  
Don McDonald, Publisher

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## Free Press Editorial Page

### Goodbye, friends

We are particularly happy that Hartley Coles is resuming the position of editor of The Acton Free Press. It was from him that I took the job, about five years ago. He has an excellent staff working with him. Many of you know them: Helen Murray, Eric Elstone and Robin Inscoc, with Bill Cook as advertising manager. Don McDonald takes over as publisher, replacing Dave Dills.

Perhaps not many people have the pleasure of working with and for their friends, as we have done.

In the beginning... I started work at the Free Press fresh out of university (and fresh out of money) in 1950, boarding with my aunt Fern Brown in the house where we now live. The plant was of course in the reconstructed building on Mill now called "Acton Mews—The Old Free Press Building." My parents Roy and Marguerite (Stewart) Brown of Toronto were both born here so I knew the town well. Having proved that I could write and spell I married David and became incorporated in the family business. My salary was \$17 a week when I started and then, as now, it included night and weekend tasks.

The staff was small, so my jobs included helping Ev Braidia in the office and with the proofreading, and finally mastering the machine which folded each copy of The Acton Free Press singly. Bob MacArthur had to run extra copies for many weeks while I struggled with that dratted machine!

I also delighted in trying to operate the big hulk of a press which printed the papers in those days and managed it, too, but I didn't have the strength to push the brake so happily abandoned that one to Hartley Coles, Wilf Duval or Dave.

There were few of us there then, all people who liked each other. And so over all the years that great

bonus of friendships has remained. Good times, fun, challenges.

In the course of reporting the news, we also always felt we were among people we liked. We wanted to do a good job for you. It was tiring, but fun, to go to those parades, kids' groups, Christmas concerts, 90th birthdays, anniversaries... all the things that make a small town paper what it is. And there were fires and accidents, too, that made for upsetting hours.

How worked up we have become over issues over all those years! In particular we will never forget regional government with its unkind changes for Acton, the loss of the post office, old school and station, and the defacing of the town hall with the addition of a second storey to the fire hall.

Maybe we will be even more vocal when we don't feel the obligation of trying to be fair!

Community weeklies are a marvellous creation, the one place where people seem to get together.

During the interchange that provides each week's issue, we have encountered the best of co-operation from staff, advertisers, politicians, representatives of active groups, the people who contribute news from the district, and all our readers.

Special thanks to publisher Dave, two floors down, and our daughter for their constant encouragement and interest.

There have been so many changes over the years, and so many more are coming. Publishing and printing are both thriving industries and there's a marvellous future ahead!

We'll be seeing you. I won't have a camera bag slung over my shoulder, and I won't have a pencil and scrap of paper stuffed in my pocket. We'll have more time to chat.

Kay Dills

### Protect your car

Winter's coming... Monday proved it. And not far behind are the salt and the sand on the roads.

You can do something about it, by waxing your car. Get some good exercise this weekend and help baffle winter, too.

Talk to any of the factory representatives and they'll strongly recommend regular waxing of the car. Though paint

itself will protect the metal for a considerable length of time, there are many elements—chemicals, air pollution, caustic particles, dust, grime, sun, squashed bugs, detergents, and of course, salt—which work against this protection. There's really nothing like wax to protect your car, probably the largest single investment your family has next to the house.

### Pedestrians can help

There are many people in Ontario who do not carry a driver's licence but no doubt would still like the opportunity of donating their bodies to science or organs for transplant.

Licenses have a place where drivers may indicate their desires.

Pedestrians, as well as drivers, may help others.

Others may obtain a special form and a card for wallet or purse by writing the Ontario chief coroner, Dr. H. B. Cotnam, at 26 Grenville St., Toronto, M7A 2G9.

### Of this and that

New mayor Pete Pomeroy is planning to be in the Acton town office some times, to be available for local concerns. That's good news.

came the reply, "but I got hockey practice at 2."

The current downtown improvements continue with the new facade for Nielsen's Clothing. There are many comments about how much better the main streets look these days.

In some towns... like Collingwood... council proceedings are sometimes seen on cable television. It would certainly help voters to recognize their best representatives.

The travelling minister had finished his sermon in a prairie town and asked: "Now, how many of you would like to go to heaven?" Everyone raised his hand except for a small boy sitting in the front row. "Don't you want to go to heaven?" the minister asked, looking at the lad. "I'd like to,"



MANY BEAVERS were invested last Tuesday in Limehouse hall. District Commissioner Murray Harrison officiated and all the parents and many brothers and sisters attended. The adults standing at the back are, l. to r. Glenda Benton, Julian Clow, Murray Harrison, assistant district commissioner Andrea Sharples, Nancy Dewsnap and Mary Burns. The cubs with the flag are John Benton, Mike Hannah and Jason Sharples. The names of the boys invested in the First Lime-

house Beavers are: Dylan Aster, Ronnie Batchelor, Joe Blair, Jason Brown, David Boyle, Sean Burns, Jamie Dewsnap, John-Paul Dewsnap, Robby Gregory, Ian Johnston, Steven Little, Ross MacKenzie, Stuart MacKenzie, Kevin McClean, Dennis Pennie, Chris Pouw, Gregory Scholz, Gregory Socha, Scott Smith, Randy Tellier and Steven McDonell. Chris Burns was absent.



### Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

I don't think I've ever seen, or heard, the Canadian people in a more querulous mood than they are today. And with less reason.

Even during the Depression, people weren't so angry and whining. They were scared and worried and frustrated, because there was no work and they sometimes didn't know where the next meal was coming from. But they were also lean and tough and ingenious and independent. They didn't spend all their time bitching about the government.

Maybe we've got too fat and too lazy and too government-dependent during the last 40-odd years. During and after World War II, we sailed happily into the select few nations that had the highest living standard in the world, and we've never recovered.

We thought all we had to do was lie back like a high-priced prossie and let the money roll in. Germany and Japan were licked. The British were bankrupt, and North America was living high off the hog.

Everybody was buying new cars and houses and boats and summer properties, because the cornucopia of goodies had no bottom. All we had to do was keep the Red Menace at bay, and the Yanks would look after that.

For a decade or so after the war, the pipe-dream lasted, even got more colors

and more shine. Industry and business were booming. The Americans were pouring in development money.

But a combination of things put the handwriting on the wall. My salary quadrupled in a decade. And so did yours. But it still wasn't enough. We developed a reputation as a nation that was completely untrustworthy when it came to labor relations and strikes.

We took on massive social aid plans such as medicare, that we really couldn't afford. We tried to outdo every other country in the world when it came to unemployment insurance and welfare and pensions. The bills, with interest, kept piling up in the lending capitals of the world.

At the same time, Germany, Japan and other nations with populations only too eager to work their butts off to get rid of starvation and cold and housing shortages, aided by a massive injection of funds from the U.S., panned out the Cold War, began to rebuild with a speed and single-mindedness of purpose that was frightening.

Our trade languished because our products were too expensive to meet the competition. Our international clout diminished rapidly as we wrenched on our NATO commitments, kept our foreign aid

frugal, and waffled when we should have snarled, in the U.N.

And now it's all coming home to roost. And we're crying like a bunch of babies. We've wrestled inflation to the ground, but who's on top in the fall? Our dollar is propped up by interest rates that would make me turn green with sweat profusely were I a young husband hoping to buy a house with a big mortgage. Say \$40,000 at 11.5 per cent. Figure it out, boy. And it (the dollar) is still worth only 85 cents U.S., which isn't much good either, beside the yen and the mark and the franc.

A friend of mine, who fought with the German army in North Africa gets a bigger war pension than I do, PLUS a civilian pension from Germany worth \$150 a month, because the mark is so healthy. Who the heck won the war, anyway? We did, but we lost the peace.

With inimitable resources, we have a horrendous unemployment rate. The country is going into debt to the tune of billions a year. Taxes are high and ever-climbing.

And why? Greed. We all want more and more of everything: new highways, new airports, bigger pensions, bigger salaries, two cars in every garage and meat at least six times a week.

But look around you, and see if our un-Canadian whining is justified. It's still one of the best countries in the world to live in, physically.

Take in a supermarket. There's a power of complaining about prices, but people, even the relatively poor, are snapping up luxury items: frozen foods, oranges, California grapes, hot-house tomatoes, chicken, lamb chops, deodorants, bought cakes.

In the old days, the only time I saw an orange or a grape in the house was at Christmas. I didn't know what a lamb chop tasted like until I came of age. A chicken was something you bought from a farmer for a dollar, plucked and eviscerated yourself, and had for a special Sunday dinner, with relatives.

My mother would have considered frozen food an abomination of the devil, and a temptation for lazy women. Deodorants consisted of soap.

And yet we never went hungry, and never stank. Well, maybe a little, by the end of the week.

Don't misunderstand me. I don't want to go back to the old days, when my Dad developed ulcers worrying about the coal bill, and my Mom worked until midnight patching and sewing to keep us decent.

But I'm getting heartily sick of Canadians who are worried about missing the trip to the Caribbean this winter, or having to put off the purchase of a new car until next summer.

Quitcheerbitchin!

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### A small error?

November 15, 1978  
2368 Lariat Lane  
Walnut Creek, Calif.  
U.S.A. 94596

The Editor  
Acton Free Press  
Acton, Ontario

Dear Sir:  
We would like to point out a small error in the caption to a picture in your October 10th paper.  
The picture depicts Fred Archibald helping Brian Robertson and Richard Bruce to paint the rings on the ice at the

### Churches participating

Nov. 20, 1978

To the Editor,  
Acton Free Press,  
Dear Mrs. Dills:

I am writing in response to the letter from Lorna Clarke in the Nov. 15th Free Press. She announced the formation of the inter-church committee to plan Acton's 10 Days for World Development (Feb. 2 - 12).

It occurred to me that your readers might appreciate knowing which churches are

participating so far and the names of their representatives. They are: Acton Baptist (Mike De Jong), Churchill Community (Joanne Turner), Knox Presbyterian (Emilio Rodriguez), St. Alban's Anglican (Lorna Clarke), St. Joseph's R.C. (Peter Papillon) and Trinity United (Steve Urmsby).

We are happy to see the curling news back in the paper and look forward to following the action in the months to come.

Our congratulations to the club on their choice of executives.

Sincerely,  
Cathy and Dexter Lindberg

## The Free Press Back Issues

### 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, November 20, 1968

Reeve Dr. Frank Oakes and deputy-reeve Ted Tyler Jr. are acclaimed but there will be an election for all other seats Dec. 2. Three are already campaigning for the mayor's seat, Herbert H. Hinton, incumbent Leslie Doby and present councillor Robert Drinkwater. Eight who qualified to run for council are William Williams, Earl Masales, William Coats, John Greer, Garnet McKenzie, Cyril Bishop, Peter Marks and Orval Chapman. Six were nominated for Hydro seats, Jacob van der Kooy, Douglas Manning, Robert MacArthur, Wilfred McEachern, Orville Brown and Edward Tyler Sr.

The historic Eden Mills grist mill was gutted by fire Friday.

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 27, 1948

This year only three civic posts will be listed on the ballots when the electors go to the polls on Monday, December 1. Nominations held Friday evening in the Legion auditorium attended by nearly 300 were heavy with 43 representatives nominated to fill 14 positions. Due to withdrawals the list has been cut down to 18 who qualified.

Nassagaweya voters will go to the polls Monday for the first township election since 1955. This year, they will choose between incumbent John A. Milne and former councillor Arthur A. Padbury for the position of 1959 reeve of the township.

The tannery will close by spring if part of the effluent from the plant is not handled through the town disposal plant the same as last year, emphasized R.R. Parker, Beardmore official, when he asked the Public Utilities Commission to reconsider the serious situation at their regular meeting.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 22, 1928

All non-resident school pupils whose fees have not been paid will be denied the privilege of attending school. Principal Miss M.Z. Bennett will attend to the matter with despatch, school board decided.

Monday night was the annual meeting of Acton Citizens' Band. That venerable member of the band since its inception in 1872, Mr. J.C. Hill, was present. Mr. Hill has the original bass horn, several uniforms and caps, as well as the band records. President Ilay Agnew, was in charge of the meeting. A. Mason is Bandmaster. Elected to the executive were Geo. Simpson, J.G. Lindsay, C. Landsborough, Geo. Smith, J.C. Currie and J. McGeachie.

Census takers estimate that 8,124 cars per day pass along the highway at Burlington Beach.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 21, 1878

On Friday evening last, as Mr. Robert Brown was turning his democrat in front of the post office, the neck-yoke broke. He specially patched it up, and after getting his load for the soiree at Crewsons Corners, returned, no further damage resulting.

Dr. McGarven and Mr. F.H. Storey will leave Acton soon for Nassau city, situated in New Providence Island, one of the Bahama group in the West Indies, one of the healthiest places on this continent. The doctor will remain about two months and Fred about six months. He has been very sick for some time, and his friends hope this will bring him round again.

Notwithstanding the fearful condition of the roads a large number of farmers found their way into town on Saturday and business was very good.

The brickwork of Nicklin's new bakery at the corner of Mill and Main has been completed.

The Knights of Pythias of this village have formed a Debating and Entertaining club in connection with their regular weekly meetings.

The street crossings are very bad. The average depth of mud is three inches.