



## Take it slow and easy

Winter weather gets the blame for a lot of accidents but the real culprit in most cases is the driver who fails to adjust to cold weather problems.

"Too fast for conditions," is all too frequently listed as an accident factor. When the road is slippery you can't stop as quickly or as safely. Lowering speed when the road surface is hazardous and stretching following distance to even double or triple the usual road interval, will avoid many "accidents".

Abrupt turns, lane changing and sudden acceleration or deceleration can cause bad skids on ice and snow. Anticipate turns or speed changes and make them slowly and gradually.

Limited visibility is a major

problem. A driver who scrapes only a little peephole in his ice-covered windshield is asking for it. Clear your windshield completely of ice and snow and keep it that way. Also, scrape outside mirrors clear. Be sure your defroster is in good shape.

Poor traction has caused many a crack-up. Check tread wear on your snow tires and keep them inflated correctly. Tire inflation should be checked more frequently during winter months to be sure pressures are at recommended levels: cold weather reduces tire pressure approximately one pound every 5 degree celsius drop in temperature.

There's one trick to safe winter driving, take it slow and easy, from start to stop!



## The Free Press Back Issues

### 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, December 4, 1968

A resounding majority ushered general Les Daby right back into the mayor's chair. Former reeve Bert Hinton suffered his first political defeat. On council are reeve Frank Oakes, deputy Ted Tyler Jr., councillors G. W. McKenzie, Earl Masales, Jack Greer, Orval Chapman, newcomers Bill Coats, and Peter Marks.

Esquering re-elected Reeve George Currie and deputy-reeve Tom Hill. Councillors are Wilfred Leslie, Ken Marshall and Russell Miller.

Tom Watson handily won the school board seat.

Decades of service to Acton Agricultural Society have been totalled up by the five gentlemen who were guests of honor at the fair board dinner, Smith Griffin Sr., who's 98, R. L. Davidson, Sandy McLean, A. Robinson and Duncan Waldie.

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 11, 1958

Final decision to handle tannery effluent through the town disposal plant was withheld pending a written report from the Ontario Water Resources Commission when the Acton Public Utilities Commission met on Thursday, December 8.

Cold dinners or light snacks were in order for many an Actonian in some sections of town last night when the power was off for over two hours due to an overload on the breaker at the subdivision.

Acton bandsmen had "the show must go on" spirit at Milton on Saturday when it was a constant task to keep their instruments from freezing up as they escorted Santa Claus to town. Acton Citizens Band was part of a lengthy parade of floats, bands and majorettes.

Eighty-two firemen, wives, and guests attended the annual firemen's ladies' night in the Legion auditorium last Friday evening when the firefighters played host and the legion ladies auxiliary catered for the dinner.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 6, 1928

Hats off to the ladies! To Mrs. George Havill and Mrs. H.S. Wilson goes the distinction of being the first women to occupy positions on Acton School Board. Reeve Mason was returned. Two new members have been elected to the Council in Dr. E.J. Nelson and Mr. C.H. Harrison. Councillors Thetford and Hansen are returned. Other members of the school board are Mr. E.W. Masters, Mr. G. Hall, Mr. E. Beswick and Mr. G.R. Agnew. Never in the history of the present editor has such frank sportsmanship and good fellowship been shown by the candidates.

Red and White store, J.W. Jones, specials for the week: 10 lb. sugar 57 cents, choice black tea 1b. 55 cents, Chips 19 cents, 2 lb. grapes 23 cents, peck apples 50 cents, 90 lb. potatoes 85 cents, 40 oz. jam 40 cents.

Dublin branch of the Women's Institute are not holding their December meeting as there are so many entertainments.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 5, 1878

Christmas and New Year's presents at J.E. McGarvin's Hall of Pharmacy consisting of quadruple plated silverware in cruets, butter dishes, cake baskets, napkin rings, toilet sets, vases. Real Japan Ware in card trays, match safes, calendars, bouquet holders, fancy stationery, ink stands, purses, pin cushions, dominoes, checkers etc.

Mr. Jas. Moore, tanner of Acton, has received a Sheep Skin Wringer from Inglis and Hunter, of Guelph, on Saturday last. The machine is to be used for wringing the grease out of the skins and for making them more elastic.

Rev. Mr. Talmage believes that there is more power in the newspaper press than Governments and pulpits. During a discourse he remarked "Get the newspaper editors converted, and in 24 hours the earth would hear salvation's call."

A number of editorials on "The New Village Council," "Esquering Council" and "The Afghan War" and other leading important subjects have been unavoidably crowded out this week.

The Knights of Pythias assembled at their Castle Hall over Matthews store to form a procession to march to the home of Bro. W.H. Storey, where they presented an address to Bro. Fred Storey prior to his departure for Nassau. The assembled Knights then sat down to an oyster supper to which they did full justice.

Nassagaweya approved accounts to be paid to Dr. Winn for medicine for the following indigent patients: (names given.)

Acton is rapidly receiving an unenviable reputation for bad boys.

## Baring its beams

# Cancel my two minutes on boob tube

by  
Bill  
Smiley



Chap wants to do a television shortie about me. I have no doubts about agreeing. I have deep suspicions about that particular medium, and a very low regard for the vast majority engaged in its machinations.

First of all, TV is one of the most pernicious influences on the imaginations and vocabularies of the young, to whom I am trying to teach the subtleties and beauties and clarities of the English language.

There is almost nothing to stretch the mind, to titillate the senses, to improve the language. Most television drama is one-dimensional. It's laid out flatly before you. The language is brutalized. Suspense is childish. Acting is insensitive.

And if, once in a blue moon, there is an intelligent, suspenseful, sensitive and imaginative piece of work on the screen, the mood is constantly shattered by noisy ads, or distasteful commercials about ring around the collar or underarm deodorant.

It's a pity. Television, in the right hands, could become the most warming, enlightening, enlarging experience in the lives of many people, aside from their personal experience with other human beings.

But 90 per cent of it is aimed at the intelligence of a slow six-year-old. The tinniness, artificial "applause." The ever-increasing sexual innuendo. The constant shouting of so-called comedians. The dull and derivative dance routines. The blating and snarling of rock groups. And perhaps worst of all, those insane, greedy game shows. It is literal fact that I can scarce refrain from throwing up when I come across one of those, with the bellowing master of ceremonies, the fawning contestants, and the idiotic audiences.

You know, when television began, it had a good many flaws, but most of them were technical. At the same time it had a vitality and reality that swept all before them.

Drama was done live, and we had such great plays as Paddy Chayefsky's Marty. Compare that reality and pathos with the slobbering, sugar-encrusted stuff like The Waltons. Compare shouting, leering Laverne and Shirley, or the late unlamented Maude with the great comedies of the early days: Art Carney and Jackie Gleason, Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca. You can't. There is no comparison.

Perhaps it's because the big boobahs of television have treated their massive audiences with more contempt than any other medium has ever done, including the Hollywood of the big studios.

And those appearing on television respond like fawning puppets. Hockey players get into needless fights so that they can display the big macho on the screen. Football players don't just score a touchdown any more, and leave it at that. They do a dance, or they bounce the ball hard off the ground and run around with their arms up in self-congratulation.

Learned and intelligent professors allow

Peter Kent, who gave the impression that he was doing us a favor. These days we have dull old solid, stolid George MacLean, who delivers the news as though it were a warmed-over pot-roast. Which it is, on most occasions.

In short, TV is dull, dull, dull. I have great sympathy for two groups in our society. One is the oldsters and shut-ins, who have so little left in their lives, and rely on television for a diversion, something to take the mind away from the aches and pains and the loneliness. What they get is a combination of the utmost pap and crap that only a sadist could devise: cheap, ancient, Grade C movies; soap operas; sickening game shows.

And the other group that gets my sympathy is young children. With a few exceptions, such as Sesame Street, all they have to watch is pictorial pabulum, great, uplifting epics like The Flintstones, or violent and bloody movies. What a pity, when the medium could educate their minds, stir their senses with color and music, and send their imaginations soaring.

Andy Warhol, a New York pop artist, said everyone eventually will be a celebrity for 15 minutes.

If that's the case, include me out. The TV chap told me it would take only two hours of my time to make a two-minute epic about me and my column. I have no particular desire to look like a turkey for two minutes and spend the next two days feeling like one.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

## Appreciation expressed

Dear Sir:

The leaders of the First Acton "A" Cub pack (Monday night) would like to express their appreciation to all parents who responded to our recent leadership crisis by showing their support and willingness to assist the Scouting movement. With this

assistance we feel, together, we can offer an effective program to the boys in the pack consistent with the objectives of the Scouting movement.

Yours in Scouting  
First Acton "A" Cub pack  
Jim Phillips, Mike Walton.

## Friends versus enemies

Dear Sir,

November 1978

In parliamentary debates and questions in the past, before it became accepted practice, the Government was taken to task for looting to, and trading with, countries taken over by Communist revolutionaries—such as Allende's Chile, Cuba, China, Russia. The Liberals said Canada and the West believed in trading with all ideologies whether they agree with the politics or not.

N. Horne  
Edmonton, Alberta.

## Listen to the farmers

Although some of the statements made by Ontario Federation of agriculture president Peter Hannam in an address to that organization's annual meeting may seem extreme, he raised some issues which should be examined more carefully.

Hannam says the Province with half-hearted measures on agriculture has allowed urban people to impose their lifestyle on rural Ontario. "City people who move to the country think they are moving into a park," Hannam said. "Before long they are trying to stop odors, noises, drainage projects, machinery on the roads and other necessary farm activities."

Hannam warns farming in the most productive areas of the province could be restricted beyond reason unless there is some change in Government policy. He also cited garbage dumps, hydro generating sites, gravel pits, hydro transmission corridors, airports, highways, pipelines, nuclear dumps, snowmobile trails, poisonous liquid waste disposal sites and other urban intrusions as damaging to a productive farming community.

It is true some urban people try to impose their style of living on the farming community, objecting to the smell of fertilizers, barnyards and animals but we think they are few and far between. Any urbanites who move to the country should

have enough sense to know they will have to accept the conditions that already exist there unless there is a valid reason for them to change. They certainly shouldn't be allowed to interfere with the production of food, although evidently there are instances of this happening.

Hannam also has a moot point when he objects to farming communities being cluttered with dumps, generating sites, hydro corridors, airports, highways and liquid disposal sites which urban communities have rejected as unsuitable. If these are necessary for the common good they should be on wasteland unsuitable for the production of food. Ontario does not lack suitable wasteland.

Hannam has called on both the province and the federal government to change their priorities so there is a real commitment to agriculture. He notes in 1978 one automobile manufacturer—Ford—received government subsidies of over \$70 million to establish one auto plant in Windsor. He points out this amounts to nearly half the entire agricultural budget for all of Ontario last year.

If consumers want food prices to be stable and keep farmers on the land then we have to listen more often to the people who produce those products. If we don't we may one day regret it at the supermarket and in the home.

## Learn trade to get a job

Premier Bill Davis has recognized that greater efforts must be made to impress upon parents and children that learning a trade is just as good or perhaps even better than getting a university degree. Mr. Davis made his point at the federal-provincial conference on the economy noting the importance of learning a trade has often been neglected and understated.

Manufacturers, faced with a serious shortage of skilled workmen, have known this for some time. They have had to recruit people from Europe to take jobs Canadians were unable to fill in sufficient numbers. Now that source is up as economic conditions in the European countries improve.

The unemployment rate among young people in 1978 is 2.5 times higher than that for adults and more than one-third of the young people have never worked or had any work experience, Mr. Davis said.

The Premier acknowledged that for psychological or philosophical reasons, parents view a bachelor of arts degree as the "ultimate objective" for their children but the changing times have also changed the demand for university graduates who find a university degree does not necessarily

guarantee a job.

It is obvious some of this is getting through to young adults because statistics show a decline in full-time university enrolment and an increase in enrolment at community colleges where skills are taught.

The explosive growth of technology in the post-war years created numerous specialties in engineering and science but to reduce training costs employers now demand specialists for jobs which, previously, were filled by almost any professional.

N.A. Macdougall, general manager and director of Technical Service Council, said recently that a person's future job prospects in industry are largely determined by the experience he or she gains in in the first eight years after graduation. If university is the only answer for some then they should consider either engineering or commerce because studies show many education, law, science and general arts graduates will be forced to settle for jobs below their expectations. An Ontario Government study also estimates that more than half the Masters and Ph.D. holders may be surplus to Ontario's traditional manpower

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