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## Congratulations, Kevin!

Congratulations to Kevin Parker, the 17-year-old Acton High School student who skated to a silver medal in his third try for the Canadian junior men's figure skating crown last week.

Kevin would have wrapped up the coveted gold medal except for a once-in-a-lifetime performance by Brian Orser of Penetanguishene, who trailed the Acton skater after the figures and short programs.

Kevin has been really training hard for the junior championships spending five to six hours a day on the ice and he accomplished what he set out to do—bring home a medal, as he told sports writer Robin Inscow who interviewed him two weeks ago.

No one really knows the dedication and hard work that goes into winning a medal in Canadian figure skating competitions except the competitors and their families who emotionally and spiritually are with their sons and daughters during year-round training.

It is a gruelling task to even place in the competitions. Bringing home a medal is tantamount to scaling the Mount Everest of the figure skating world. Brian Orser, an athletic

skater, struck gold when he successfully completed two triple lutz jumps as well as a triple axel and triple toe loop, the triple axels and lutz the first ever successfully accomplished in junior competition. Kevin finished just behind Orser in the free skating.

It was an astounding week for skaters from Halton Hills. Kris Barber of Glen Williams and Kelly Johnson of Toronto teamed up to win the junior dance championships at Thunder Bay. They served notice they were going to be tough by taking a silver medal at the junior world championships in France last year. They've been skating together for only about a year and a half.

To Kevin Parker, Kris Barber and all successful young athletes who strive to bring excellence to a sport in which they excel, we extend the best wishes and congratulations of the many who watched and cheered them on television sets, knowing they were from small town Ontario and this particular corner of it.

We'll be hearing more from them as they advance into the senior competitions and one day could represent Canada against the best the globe can produce.

## Whoa, there, Mr. Mayor!

Mayor Peter Pomeroy is fulfilling an election promise with his vow to give Beardmore the sewage capacity they need at the expense of no growth in Acton.

The mayor told Norval rate-payers last week that Acton can only grow from between 1,000 and 2,000 people and he would sacrifice this in the best interests of Beardmore, Halton Hills' largest industry. The company has been experiencing problems with their own sewage plant and the mayor wants to make sure industry already located here has first chance at using the increased sewage capacity.

It's a commendable stand but unfortunately it does little for business and people who feel Acton needs some growth to obtain some of the amenities other communities enjoy, such as more and larger places of business, and movie theatres, among others. He is suggesting in effect that the town subsidize the company (Beardmore) by providing sewage treatment for their waste.

The mayor has done much study of the problems Beardmore has been experiencing with waste since the Ministry of the Environment applied stringent environmental regulations. The company has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in an attempt to find a solution to their waste problems but continually run into further trouble because technology is not

at the advanced state required to handle them.

The company has made enquiries to Halton Hills and its predecessor, the Town of Acton, for many years asking that the town sewage plant be utilized to carry tannery waste. Ministry of the Environment officials in the past have turned the company's requests down because they have said the plant is not equipped to handle the waste generated by tannery effluent. However, we understand Halton region officials who specialize in sewage treatment, foresee no problems with tannery effluent and are amenable to the request.

Mayor Pomeroy feels bound by his election promise to carry out his mandate but we think he is going a little too far. Perhaps Beardmore may justifiably claim part of the expanded sewage system but to suggest it must all be used by the company is hardly fair to those taxpayers who do not rely on the company for their livelihood. There must be room for other provisions as well.

We feel council and the region must do their homework very carefully before charting such an extreme course. Let's do all we can to help the company out of their problems but committing all the expanded resources of the sewage plant to one company is further than we think most taxpayers would care to go.

## Other opinions

### Who's sick, anyway?

There are those who claim ours is a "sick" society; and our country is sick; that we are sick. Well, maybe they're right. I submit that I'm sick and maybe you are too.

I am sick of commentators and newspaper writers canonizing anarchists, revolutionaries and criminals and condemning law enforcement when criminals are brought to justice.

I am sick of being told that policemen should not have guns, or listening devices when criminals who use guns, and all sorts of devices, to rob, maim and murder should be understood and helped find their way back into the main stream of society.

I am sick of paying more and more taxes to build schools, public buildings, and fancy jails, while more and more of them are being deliberately burned down or vandalized.

I am sick of entertainers deluging me with their condemnation of my moral standards on late-night television and of

suggestive programs, and very personal ads on the not-so-late programs.

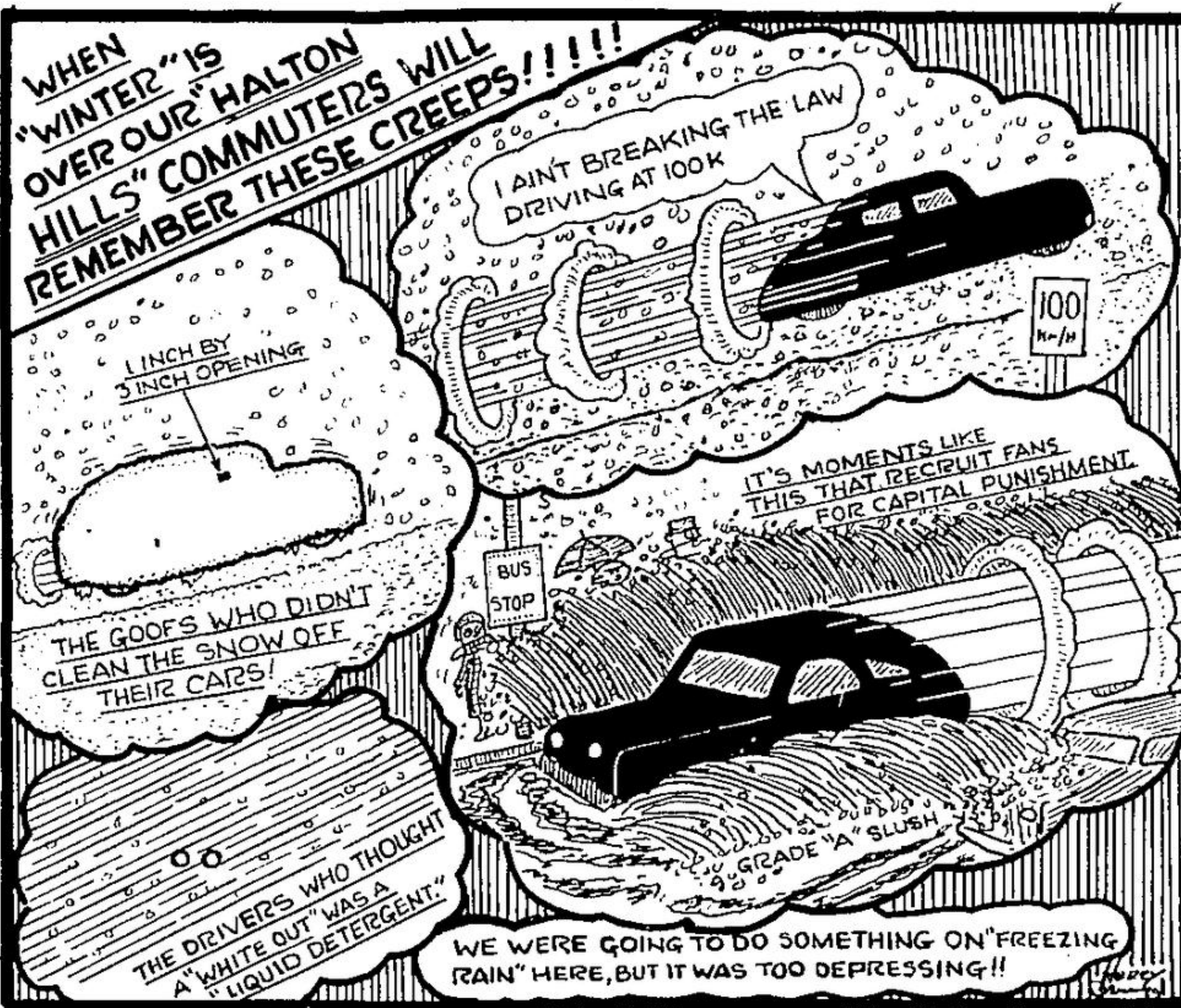
I am sick of being embarrassed when my son takes me to a movie and we find the most popular movies feature nudity, homosexuality and the glorification of narcotics and liquor.

I am sick of cynical attitudes toward patriotism; of politicians with no backbone, or code of ethics.

I am sick of the decline of personal honesty, personal integrity and human sincerity.

Most of all, I am sick of being told I am sick. And sick of being told my country is sick.

Fully 50 percent of the people in this world would willingly trade places with the most deprived, and most underprivileged among us. If I am sick, others are sick, but perhaps together we can get well and help our country to get well.—Ridgeway Dominion



## Fighting the metric hordes

by  
Bill  
Smiley



After about 10 days of solid blizzards and bad driving, low temperatures and a lower temperament, my social, intellectual and emotional life hovering around zero (Fahrenheit), I wondered what to write about this week.

Came home from work, picked up the mail, and there was a fat package from something called AMC, Ottawa. I turned it over a couple of times, wondering whether the initials meant Ancient Military Curmudgeons, from some veterans' outfit, or All Men Cowards, from some rabid women's lib crowd.

Not to worry. Democracy is still rearing its bruised and battered head here and there in this our native land. The package was from Anti-Metric Canada, its single and avowed purpose the stamping out of the metrication of our fair white country.

It contained: an honorary membership card; a bumper sticker which shouts, "Pound Out Metric"; a newsletter with a number of spelling and grammar errors; a personal letter from the president; a petition to send to my M.P.; a full page of anti-metric propaganda; and a quiz or survey loaded with questions along the line of, "When did you stop beating your wife?"

Sample question: "Do you realize that under the metric system that (sic) the farmers will lose (sic) money and the dairy cartel win?" Answer yes/no.

How can you answer a question like that? With a yes or no? Personally, I think it's high time the farmers were pried loose

from some of their money, and the whole thing is putting the cart before the cow.

Another sample: "Do you believe that people come before computers?" Well, yes and no. We were here before computers, but when it comes to arguing with one over a boo-boo on your charge, it's obvious that they come before us. And I have a secret hunch that they'll be here long after the human race has disappeared, chattering and giggling away among themselves about how they so finally, and so easily, got rid of us.

Just one more sample. "Do you want the Canadian public to pay \$2.00 a gallon for gas?" Answer: depends on whether you think a gallon of gas is more important than a pound of beef. If the Ay-rabs can get \$2 a gallon for it, and you don't have any, that's what you'll pay. If the beef farmer can get \$3 a pound for sirloin, and you don't happen to have a steer tied up in the garage, that's what you'll pay. Elemental.

These questions are being sent to M.P.'s. Migod, I hereby resign my honorary membership in the Anti-Metric Canada organization.

I am much more sympathetic with their aims than their means. (But I wonder where they were when I was carrying on a lonely, single handed, but valiant fight against metrication a year or so ago?)

I detest metrication and all it stands for: conformity, unification, anonymity, and confusion for everyone over thirty years of age. Ask any shopping housewife what she thinks of it? She will probably, if she has thought about it, reply that it's a lovely opportunity for the food barons to rip everybody off, except those equipped with a pocket calculator and endless time on their hands. A gram here and a millilitre there add up to millions, over a year.

And now let's hear from industry. According to it, changing to the metric system was going to make Canada much more competitive in the world market. We are about as competitive as Greenland, and our single biggest customer, the U.S., has not gone metric, though it is toying with the madness.

When I want to know how cold it is, I tune in to an American TV weather report, get it in Fahrenheit, subtract another ten degrees for the difference in latitude, and say to my wife, "Holy Moses, woman, no wonder the pipes froze. It was 12 below last night." And she knows I don't mean Centigrade.

Math and science teachers to the contrary, the world got along very well when every nation had its own terms of currency, measurements and weights. In the days when the sun never set on the British Empire, the British pound had a solid ring to it, anywhere in the world. They didn't give a diddle about changing it to annas, or yen, or marks.

Same with the American dollar, for a century or so. It was worth a dollar, not whatever the Swiss and Germans and Japanese decided it was worth.

There was a quaintness and a difference and an individuality about currencies and measures and weights, that is being lost in these days of international conformity. If a British horse stood 40 hands high and weighed 14 or 44 stone, in a British novel, that was good enough for me. He was either a big horse or a little horse. I didn't have to get out my calculator.

If Bassanio wanted to borrow three 3,000 ducats from Shylock, I knew that was no \$78.50, and was satisfied.

I know I have no more chance of reversing the metric than I had of another of my lost causes: the pale pink maple leaf on a dirty grey background that is Canada's national flag.

But I wish the AMC luck. And I'm going to use my bumper sticker, if only to annoy my neighbour, a math teacher, who has been flaunting a "Think Metric" sticker for several years.

My sticker is bigger, white printing on red, with a big hammer pounding down on the slogan, "POUND OUT METRIC."

The organization also has a stubborn little war-cry I rather like. "We won't move our feet an inch."

## Growth, parking, Beardmore and a peek at the Sun

Residing in Acton is getting tougher every day. First we are told that a shopping plaza is not conceivable because it will take customers away from the downtown core and then we are told that there will be no increase in parking downtown. This really makes sense.

Well I guess those who shop out of town will continue to do so and the rest of us will keep driving around looking for a place to

park. Boy! When Mayor Pomeroy said there wouldn't be much growth in Acton in the near future he wasn't kidding!

I wonder if Beardmore's sewage problem has anything to do with the parking problem?

Oh, by the way, did you see our Fall Fair Queen in the Toronto Sun? Maybe Acton's growth isn't limited after all.

Doug Griffin  
Acton

## It's that time again!

The first federal income tax was imposed in 1862 at a rate of 3 per cent, but was allowed to expire in 1872 because of protests and evasions.

### THAT TIME AGAIN

Our Johnny's quite a fellow,  
While he's making out his sheet,  
He thinks awhile, and then he'll smile,  
As he makes the figures meet.

Our Bill, made a little money,  
He was happy with the facts,  
Till the "lucky dog" wrote the "Liars Log"  
And figured out the Tax.

He was only trying to make a buck,  
With "overtime" and such,  
But all he got to improve his lot,

Did not amount to much.

So, now he's not too happy,  
About his extra toils,  
He must carry on, his incentive gone  
To make some extra spoils.

The more he earns, the more he pays,  
For all his earthly treasures,  
With all his savings, they take his savings,  
And tax him for his pleasures.

Then when he leaves this mortal shore,  
They'll send out the "legal mind,"  
To grab the Spoils from all his toils,  
Of what he leaves behind.

Victor Smith,  
R.R.2, Rockwood.

## Back issues

### 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, February 12, 1969

The onus is now on the C.N.R. to show that closing the Acton and Rockwood stations will result in no inconvenience or hardship to the area.

Nassagaweya township deputy-reeve Anne MacArthur has purchased an advertisement in today's paper that urges township residents to protest in writing over the proposal for regional government.

Acton's new illuminated crosswalks signs are making highway crossing easier. Acton high school Phuture Phreeze winter carnival was a success from Wednesday's torchlight parade to Saturday's formal dance. First prize float was Mrs. Reed's 11A class entry. Anita Thibodeau was crowned Snow Queen in the auditorium before a crowd of about 400 spectators. The grade 13 entry won the chariot race. Woodsawing contest winners were Bob Andrews, Rod McEachern, Paul Cooper, Bob Waller, Jim Shaven. Spike-driving winners were Harry Gehrich, Paul Copper, Alex Muselius, Bob Andrews. Steve McIntyre won the dog sled race. Mr. Skerrett won for full beard, Bob Bonnette for sideburns, Mr. Holmes (who claims he never entered the contest) for Van Dyke.

The snow sculpture contest was one of the most successful aspects. A detailed motorcycle and rider entered by Paul and Phil Dugguis was awarded first prize. Second was a life-size copy of The Thinker done by Cam Forbes.

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, February 5, 1959

No fire sale at Ledger's IGA this week, thanks to the speedy action of the Acton Fire Department! Our supplies last week were ruined but our prices are better than ever. Turkey broilers 53 cents lb., oranges 39 cents doz., celery 2 for 29, jam 49 cents, pork ribs 39 lb., muffets 2 for 31, niblets corn 3 cans for 49.

Certificate awards were presented by Superintendent R.S. Hart of the St. John Ambulance Brigade to Scouts R. Currie, R. Hinton, Scouter R. Smith and troop leader P. Newton. Tenders were opened for the construction of Halton Centennial Manor.

Roads north of Hillsburgh in Erin Township were finally opened to traffic after being blocked off for six days. The snow in the Erin area is the worst in many years.

Gerald Wieck placed 5th in a class of 31 entries in cornet solo competition at the Toronto Kiwanis Festival.

Harold Denny has joined Denny's Insurance Agency, coming from the Head Office.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, February 7, 1929

The new hardwood floor, footlights, plugs and panelling are improvements to the stage of the town hall, a credit to the Junior I.O.D.E., the council and Mr. J. Bell, who did the work. Another Prince in Israel has fallen. The news of the sudden death of Mr. W.H. Stewart, Superintendent of the Children's Aid Societies of the counties of Halton and Peel and former principal of Acton schools, came to Acton with heart-rending suddenness.

With unexpected and pathetic suddenness the passing of A.E. Nicklin J.P. took place at the family residence on Bower Ave.

Acton Continuation School Literary Society meeting began with addresses by Ivan Kirkness and Isabel Smith. A humorous play was given by Katharine Stewart, Jack Skilling and Herbert Hinton. Lillian Perry favored with a piano solo. Four talks on "Comparisons of Artists" were given by Oral Chalmers, Kathaleen Molozie, Isabel Bruce and Barbara Guthrie. The critic, Rev. A.C. Stewart, gave a very helpful address. Mrs. Jas. Adamson was elected regent of the Jr. I.O.D.E. Other officers are Mrs. V.B. Rumley, Miss Jessie Anderson, Miss Vera Hurst, Miss Pearl Wallace, Mrs. Jas. Dobbie, Mrs. P. Watson, Mrs. M. Overholt, Mrs. Geo. Muselle, Miss E. Robinson, Mrs. W. Middleton.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, January 30, 1879

There died at his residence in St. Marys this week one of the oldest Gospel ministers in the Dominion, the Rev. Joseph Messmore. He was 82 years of age and entered the ministry of the Methodist church in 1828.

The following village officials were appointed: Constable G. Forbes \$10; Assessor D. Kennedy \$20; and auditors W.H. McDonald and W.H. Lowry. Ten dollars was granted to the reeve to be dispensed for charitable purposes. Three dollars a month was granted to James Campbell, an aged and infirm person.

Farmers, give those lads a sharp cut on the shoulders with the whip when they try to hang on to your sleighs. Several minor casualties have occurred