

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875
Don McDonald, Publisher

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
Editor: Hartley Coles
News Editor: Helen Murray
Reporter/Photographer: Eric Elstone
Sports Editor: Robin Inscow

PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Published every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 59 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario. Telephone 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 20¢ each, \$10.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

The Acton Free Press is one of the Inland Publishing Co. Limited group of suburban newspapers which include The Ajax/Whitby/Pickering News Advertiser, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, Etobicoke Gazette, The Georgetown Independent, Markham/Thornhill Economist and Sun, The Milton Canadian Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket/Aurora Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, and The Stouffville Tribune.

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 Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Member of The Audit Bureau of Circulation, The Canadian Community Newspaper Association, and The Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association.

Second class mail Registration Number 0515.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT
Advertising Manager: Bill Cook
Classified Advertising: Marilyn McArthur
BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE
Office Manager: Fran Gibson
Rhona Thornhill, Shirley Jocque, Carolyn Duval
CIRCULATION
Marilyn McArthur



Copyright 1979



Great expectations

Halton Hills council has been expecting members of the Save the Town Hall committee to appear before them since the end of December so some policy can be worked out mutually acceptable to both. However, council's expectations have never been realized and they are in the dark about the committee's intentions for Acton's old town hall.

A Toronto daily newspaper ran a story Monday night declaring council was going to decide that night whether to tear the historic building down or go for a facelift. However, the general committee of council merely filed away the estimates for tearing the building down.

The future of the building is still undecided.

The committee told council it has raised about \$10,000 towards restoration of the century-old edi-

fice with an appeal for funds before Christmas of last year. But the impetus for the drive seems to have stalled, primarily we suspect until citizens know what Halton Hills intends to do with the building—tear it down or refurbish it for posterity.

We have gone on record in these columns for some time as supporting the committee's intentions to save the building, one of the few remaining 19th century buildings of its type in Ontario. It is not an architectural masterpiece but it does portray a page from Acton's past. It would be a shame if it too went under the wrecker's hammer.

Perhaps if council and the committee got together soon they could iron out the problems to the satisfaction of both. Then we could all know what's in the future for the building.

Bennett monitoring malls

An announcement that the government will monitor any indiscriminate development of shopping malls to protect the core areas of Ontario municipalities brought a number of queries regarding OMB-approved developments in several areas of the province.

But Housing Minister Claude Bennett made it clear that his announcement at Downtown Forum '78 did not mean to imply that the province was prohibiting shopping malls.

"There are, for example, downtowns restricted by topographic situations where the development of a shopping mall would be of benefit to the community because the downtown cannot expand," he said.

However, the minister noted, "We all realize clearly that indiscriminate

development by adjacent municipalities can seriously hurt those who are involved in downtown redevelopment programs and sound planning practices."

He said the policy of monitoring is aimed at cases where malls are plunked down in nearby rural areas to feed on urban communities, thereby adversely affecting existing core commercial operations.

"Where a municipality wants to have malls outside its core we would not be concerned. Where municipalities object to parasite malls springing up on their outskirts and threatening downtown cores—particularly those where the province is involved with its main street and core support programs—we step in with our powers under the Planning Act," Housing Ontario.

Notes and quotes:

Don't know how Ma Bell can do it but like Mayor Peter Pomeroy we think Halton Hills should be in one telephone book. It's a ridiculous situation now where Acton people must have a Halton-Peel directory to dial Georgetown and vice versa for Georgetown to Acton with a Waterloo directory. Listings should be in both books. But don't blame Bell. The company didn't institute regional government or preside over the Acton-Georgetown-Esqueping marriage.

Don't think vandalism is serious in Acton? Free Press staff hurried out to take a picture of broken display case glass one day and were asked to appear again where the plexiglass replacement received the same treatment. Plain, ornery meanness. Another resident reported 40 gallons of gas stolen—and his truck battery. It's time for the crackdown police promise in Halton Hills and for people to get involved.

"The most patient men you'll ever see are the ones who get paid by the hour." Richard J. Needham.

Unlike Acton where Halton Hills council is opposed to a shopping plaza in the east end, the council of Collingwood is committed to supporting a proposed mall on the Gateway Plaza in the town's west end although three other developers are eyeing the downtown as the location for enclosed shopping malls. Gateway developer? Jerry Sprackman, the same man building in Georgetown and proposing to build in Acton. Designation of the Gateway Plaza location was done by the '77-78 council and the present council feels they must uphold the decision. Meanwhile, Collingwood resident Joe Perna has appealed to the Province asking them to overrule the council decision. Just the reverse of Acton.

Architect Lloyd Sankey told Acton Business Improvement Area members recently, that Collingwood saved its downtown by persuading a large food store and a Woolco to locate there instead of in a peripheral plaza location. Collingwood's experience proves pressures for plazas don't go away and downtown must revitalize and stay up to date if it is to attract shoppers. Halton Hills planning board says the Acton plaza proposal is "premature." In Collingwood the planning board favors a mall at Gateway although the management of Blue Mountain Pottery feels the development will be

detrimental to that business and all businesses in the area. Two towns, two different stances for one developer.

We go along with Halton Hills Library Board's decision to install a handrail on the bridge approach to Acton Library. It can be slippery there in the winter and pedestrians need all the help they can get.

Acton 4-H Club recently honored Nino Braida for his many years of work with the club and it's richly deserved. Mr. Braida has been a stalwart of the club and supporter of agricultural pursuits in this area and his voice is well known as announcer in the cattle ring at Acton Fall Fair. We add our bouquet to the many others.

Quote from Rob Parker, Tory member for Eglinton, former Acton resident: "The Trudeau Liberal government has been as organized as a kitten with diarrhea."

"Like your job?" asks the Strathroy Age Dispatch.

"We are reminded of two waitresses we know to know. One waitress has a very interesting job. She frequently gets to meet civic officials, captains of industry, and all manner of other interesting people. The other slings hash, is continuously hassled by crabby customers, and wishes she could find something else. They both work at the same restaurant."

Fourth Estate
Education price tag is cheap, writer says
by Eric Elstone
What can you buy on instalment for less than a dollar per day while enjoying the use of the purchase?
Well for one thing, your child's education in an Acton school this year. Figures so far show the education tax bill will be \$321—far less than 36¢ on a home assessed at \$4,498. Some folks will, of course, pay more and others less.
The increase to last year's education price tag amounts to about \$23, or slightly less than three 24-bottle cases of beer. That's cheap, but won't stay that way for long.
Education is cheap, in relation to luxury items, because Halton's Board of Education finance committee did its job well and because of increased funding from the rest of Ontario. However, as the education budget nears the 100 million mark, some budget assumptions will be in for exam-

Citizens of the years

Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 16, 1969
Brampton Atoms emerged as Legion League champions following a 3-1 victory over Weston. Scoring were Scott Malcolm and Don Brown and Bruce McPhail for Weston.

The dredging project at Fairy Lake will be completed soon.
The Bank of Nova Scotia will be allowed to expand, following a public hearing. Neighbors had no objections. Acton council was not satisfied since zoning bylaws were disregarded. The first Eden Mills Scout, Cub and Venturer Father and Son banquet was held in the community hall. Jack Bould, a Scouter with many years service with Eden Mills troops received a gift. Trav Clifford kept the program moving.

Free Press Youth Bowling Council columnist Jackie Palmer was selected as the Canadian press secretary of the year. Fred Spambati made the presentation of the award in Hamilton.

Last meeting or not? High school board members weren't certain. While the county board's intention had been to phase them out at the end of April, they had received no further word. Fred Salt, the secretary-treasurer, will check out their future. Present at the meeting that may be the last were chairman Duncan Moffat, members Kerwin McPhail and Chester Anderson, Mr. Salt and principal Ted Hansen.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 25, 1959

Bruce Andrews, Acton high school student and member of the Guelph Legion Track Club, placed second in the Canadian Championship half mile track event at Hamilton, against 38 runners. Officials from the United States praised the young athlete.

Five former Avro engineers and technicians are hard at work in Georgetown producing working drawing for a two-seater gyro plane which, if successful, could be the future mass transportation medium of the world. Calling their firm Avion Industries they have been encouraged by a group of Georgetown businessmen.

Eric Page's lads won the championship in the Legion dart league. Doubles were won by Jack Earle and Hank Coyle.

Acton Junior Farmers presented "Bobby Pulls Up her Socks" in the drama festival. In the cast are Joy Hayward, George Robinson, Pat Hitchon, James McDonald, Neil Moffat and Marg Early. Director is Bertha Watson.

The Keep Fit series presented on television by Mrs. Robert Buckner's class concluded on Wednesday. The group will miss Mrs. White and Mrs. Stanchiffe who are moving to California.

Peter Wolfe and Robert Parker began their Easter vacations from St. Andrew's College last week.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 28, 1929

The two-day Boy Scout conference in our district was held in Acton. The "Bulldogs" are to be congratulated, especially Patrol Leaders William Wilson and Arthur Lawson. Every delegate envied the local troop on its club rooms, donated by the Beardmore Co. Bulldogs are Mac Stewart, Bing Ramsden, Ernest Broughton, Stuart Lantz, Jim McGeachie, Jack McGeachie, Carney Byrne, Bert Hinton, George Tyler, Gordon Hansen, Murray Smith. Cubmaster is A. Mills and Scoutmaster W.G. Mason.

The latest addition to the car agencies in Acton has been secured by Dr. H.A. Cox. He secured the agency for the Desoto Six and the first model has been placed on exhibition.

Hindley Bros. of Lanker Sask brought a carload of horses here. Roy Hindley wielded the hammer and the horses were sold at an average of \$150 each.

There are now 331 telephones on the Acton exchange, made up as follows: business 106, residence 107 and rural 118.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday April 10, 1879

Muskrats are beginning to show themselves on Nicklin's Pond. Lots of sport for the boys now.

Mr. John Murray of Nassagaweya handed up a goose egg which weighs 12 ounces, measuring 1 1/2 inches by 9/16 inches. If anyone else thinks they have larger eggs let us see them.

The walking craze has reached Acton and troops of young men may be seen "getting down to it" every evening making big distance in little time. It is also noticed that these evenings when the moonlight is beautiful young ladies join the ranks.

Christie, Henderson and Co. take pleasure in intimating their spring stock of Millinery is coming to hand.

Letters welcome