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

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 Mississauge News, The Nowmarket/Aurora Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, and The Stouffville Tribune.

Founded in 1875 Don McDonald, Publisher

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

Second class mail Registration Number 0615.

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Stimulating morning

Proof Halton is considered a key riding in the current federal election was given by the appearance of finance minister Jean Chretien here last week and suggestions there may be more Government "heavies" through Halton, including the prime minister, before the campaign is over.

Mr. Chretien, a down-to earth speaker, had senior high school students as an audience here last Thursday morning with interested adults and teachers as well. His pitch was mainly directed towards the necessity for a unified Canada and the benefits of bilingualism rather than a straight political message.

At the urging of French teachers at the school he also gave part of his address in French but provided a translation for those in the audience whose French was rusty or non-existent.

Mr. Chretien also defended his and the government's economic policies in the half-hour address and in a question period afterwards.

It was a stimulating morning and the interest the majority of the students showed in his address and opinions augurs well for the future of Canada. We congratulate the teachers and all others responsible for arranging

It is one of the happy advantages of this country that even a small town like Acton can be a forum for members of the cabinet to defend their record and paint a picture of the Canada they en-

If there were any weaknesses in

Mr. Chretien.



Chamber of Commerce president Jake Kulken presents Rev. Andrew McKenzie with leather plaque,

Full grant needed

It isn't hard to disagree with Councillor Ed Wood when he said he was ashamed to sit on Halton Hills council and listen to them trying to make it hard for the Acton Community Services Centre to do a job for the community. He pointed out that if Acton had full time health care and other benefits it would cost a lot more money.

Cause of Mr. Wood's consternation, of course, was council's decision to cut the requested \$5,980 grant to just over \$4,000, which is \$1900 less than anticipated. Despite pleas from former councillor Peter Marks who told councillors the cut could have serious repercussions on the centre, council stuck by its decision, recognizing at the same time that the centre was doing a good job providing services for residents of Acton.

Councillor Harry Levy noted there were 30 requests for grants totalling \$31,000, of which only 12 have been approved with seven of them receiving cuts. Council can't manufacture money and grants only go so far over 30 groups.

However, if you were one of the almost 800 people who took advantage of the services the

If you had no reason to use its services perhaps you are not

If full services were offered in Acton then it would cost a heck of a lot more-both for town and region. Councillor Mike Armstrong admitted this when he told Mr. Marks he would support an additional request for a grant at

It is obvious council should rethink their priorities on grants if it means cutbacks on Meals on Wheels for instance, which delivered over 3200 meals to elderly people through the Acton centre. As Mr. Marks says these meals help senior citizens keep their independence by staying at home and out of senior residences, again saving taxpayers

Mac Sprowl's address salutes Rev. Andy

Tonight we are gathered here to. honour the 1979 Citizen of the Year, the Reverend Andrew Hugh McKenzle B.A. B.D. Mr. McKenzie is the 22nd Citizen of the Year since the initiation of the Citizen of the Year which started back in 1957. The Chamber of Commerce selection this year of Mr. McKenzle is the first for a man of the cloth in Acton.

Andrew McKenzie was born and raised on a farm in Huron County in this province, the son of William and Margaret McKenzie. He grew up in a farm home with five brothers and two sisters. He attended a rural public school at School Section Number 14, Stanley Township, Huron County. After public school he attended High School three years in Hensall and two years in Clinton. From 1936 to 1939 he attended Toronto Bible College.

It should be noted that from 1938 to 1941 a Miss Isabel Robinson, also attended Toronto Bible College. She was later to marry Andrew, October 17,

After Andrew attended Toronto Bible College he went to the University of Toronto for two years where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts.

In the summer of 1940 Andy was sent to Estevan Saskatchewan, his first mission field as a student. It was an area that for the previous 10 years had been hit by drought. It was here he conducted a funeral of a Scandinavian lady, one of the first of several hundreds over the years. It was the poorest funeral equipment he had ever seen. The coffin was carried in the back of an open truck and after he conducted the graveside service he was shocked to see men fill the grave with earth while the people stood around.

The next two years were spent at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. While in the West he had a four point charge at Vermilion, Alberta.

In 1941 he had the pulpit of St. Andrews' in the summer and looked after Vegreville for six months in the winter. He had one year at Westmount Church. While at one of these charges he assisted in the painting of the church and can tell a story about a problem of the color of the paint.

In 1943 he entered the Presbyterian College in Montreal where he graduated with a gold medal. He received his Bachelor of Divinity here. Andy next dld post-graduate studies at Yale. In the summer of 1945 he studied at Mount Allison University at Sackville, New Brunswick. The one year and three months in New Brunswick was his ordained missionary year in which he had a three point charge: Sackville, Dorchester and Port Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie lived in Port Eigin where the population at that time was half-French and half-English. In 1947 Andrew received a call to St. Andrew's Church, Islington, where he served for nine years until 1956. It should be noted this was his third charge called St. Andrew, pretty similar to his own name.

While at Islington a new Church was built and the Congregation in 1952 gave him a new car for his hard work in leading the building of the new Church.

In 1956 he received a call from Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton, and in September, 1956 he was inducted Minister. During the years in Acton he officiated at 335 weddings, 420 funerals of which 172 were members of Knox, 248 were not. He did 530 baptisms, 472 children and 58 adults, and members of his congregation can testify that he could hold a haby better than most

Mac Sprowl, Halton sheriff and Elder at Knox Church and longtime friend and helper to Rev. Andrew McKenzie, wrote and gave the address to Acton's 22nd Citizen of the Year at the dinner and dance honoring Mr. McKenzle Friday night.

Mr. Sprowl's address is published here in its entirety:

(maybe the father of seven children had something to do with it.)

During the 221/2 years in Acton he received 545 new members into Knox Church. In his farewell sermon on January 21 of this year was his 2900th of which 1,338 had been preached at Knox. Many here tonight have heard hundreds of his sermons.

While Andrew was preacher, teacher and counsellor and the many things a minister is, milestones of the years included putting a new roof on the Church, drawing the church together by steel tie-rods; renovation of the basement; naming the large auditorium after the Reverend Dr. A. C. Stewart; a beautiful new kitchen; renovating the choir room and the building of the new addition in 1971, which included Christian education rooms, board-room and the new minister's vestry.

When Andy was inducted in 1956 as the 13th Minister of Knox, the church stood 65th in membership of 1000 Presbyterian congregations in Canada. With declining memberships, not only in the Presbyterian but other denominations, when he received his call to St. Andrew's, Perth, Knox stood 48th in membership one of the largest Presbyerian congregations in Canada.

In between weddings, funerals, baptisms, church services and all other duties expected from a minister, Andy was a member of the Rotary Club of Acton for 22 years, serving as president in 1960-1961. Also he served as Club director, program and membership chairman and was publicity chairman of the arthritis campaign carried on by the Rotary Club since 1972, in which campaigns have gone from \$400 a year to last year's \$3,000.

He has also been a director of the Chamber of Commerce and President from 1964-1966. He has held all offices in the Acton Clergy Association.



Janet Fleming, secretary of the C of C presents a gift to Mrs. McKenzle.

Reverend McKenzie, who has curled 30 years was a member of the Acton Curling Club and eight of his first 12 years he was on the Board of directors and president in 1969-1970, the year the new rink was built. In regards to curling, Andrew's name appears on many trophies as skip on winning teams over the years. Once at Acton his team got an 8-ender. He skipped a clergy rink to the Ontarlo Champlonship and in Winnipeg last year skipped a team to the Canadian clergy championship. Andy is definitely a competitive curler.

Since his arrival in Acton he has been the padre of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Another game he loves besides curling is golf. He was often known as the "Puttin' Padre." I am not sure whether this means what is often said in golf-driving for show and puttin' for

Since coming to Acton, Andy has won the Acton Open four times and been runner up four times.

In politics Andy is a Conservative and was once the President of the Halton West Progressive Conservative Association but he is broad-minded because in the summer he often goes from his cottage on the French River to play golf with the Honourable James Jerome, a Liberal and Speaker of the House of Commons, until dissolution. In addition to curling and golf, Andy likes to hunt in the north each fall, and usually comes home without a moose.

In Acton, Andrew has been a member of Walker Masonic Lodge and on the Board of the Georgetown District Hospital.

And now a word about Isabel McKenzie who graduated from The Toronto Bible College. Graduated in English Literature two years ago with an Honours B.A. from the University of Guelph. Isabel McKenzie, over the years, has been a member of the choir at Knox, member of the Daughters of Knox, member of the Knox Alert Evening Group. She also assisted in the Bertha Buchanan Group, the W.M.S. Afternoon Auxiliary. She also assisted Bible Study in the Yoga class. Isabel McKenzie is truly indeed a fine minister's wife, mother and lady of the Manse.

And now a word about Andy and Isabel' family.

Joanne Anderson is a secretary to a police inspector in Rexdale, she lives in Bramalea and has a 12-year-old daugher. Alan recently graduated with his Honors Philosophy and is a well-site geologist in Alberta working for a Calgary company. Marsha Roughley is a teacher at the University of Alberta and lives in Edmonton. Bonnie is a bank teller in Innsvale, Alberta, Glen works in the Canadian National Express in Brampton. Carol lives in Kingston. Bill, who is in grade 10, lives with Clark and Betty Armstrong in Acton, completing his year at high school.

In conclusion, on behalf of all the citizens of the Town of Acton, a sincere thank you Andrew for the service you gave to Acton and the surrounding community which lasted nearly a quarter of a century. Two weeks ago the Acton Free Press, echoed "The Chamber selection and suggested perhaps we should not only endow him with the Citizen of the year mantle but present him with a key to the Town in the hope he would visit us ofen and remember us in his prayers."

Ladies and Gentlemen we salute Andy, as he is affectionately known.

Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 30, 1969

The critical shortage of rental housing may be partly solved this spring when a three apartment building complex on Churchill Road South is spened.

A communion chalice and Bible markers were dedicated in memory of Rev. Ken Griffiths at Ebenezer church.

What's going to happen to the old post office and the big clock tower which has been keeping time for half a century? One of the owners, Ben Rachlin, says the building has been sold to a Toronto businessman. He and co-owner George Robertson repaired the clock this week, to leave it in A-1 condition.

All-round athlete Bob Andrews was top point taker in the high school field day. Others with high points were Bill Spehar, Rick Newman and Ray Mainprize, Jim Slaven, Jim Lee, Mike Cooper, Dale Fisher, Pete Morris, George McPhall, Lynn Dunn, Marg Van Arragon, Cathy Smith, Donna Moore, Judie Rody, Evelyn Van Der Brink, Irene Severinski, Bev Brunelle.

A Quaker with a genuine concern for people, Richard Haris of Rockwood would have been 90 this Thursday. He died almost five years ago but the people of Rockwood still speak of him reverently.

20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 23, 1959

Luxton Memorial Hall was officially dedicated by the Right Reverend G.N. Luxton, Lord Bishop of Huron. The Bishop's brother, the late Rev. W.G. Luxton, was instrumental in starting the building of the hall nine years ago. Mr. Luxton was rector here from 1948 until his death in 1952. The church was filled to overflowing with parishioners, many of whom had worked long hours on the hall. The rector the Rev. H. Stokreef expressed thanks to them all. Taking part with the clergy were Sam Snow, the chairman of the building committee, the two wardens Les Duby and William Barratt and two former rectors Rev. Philip Sawyer and

Rev. Ralph Price. Acton Public Utilities Commission engaged Dorson Frizzell of Beamsville as linesman.

. Mrs. E. Leyland was again elected chairman of Acton Night school committee with Don Bexton vice-chairman, secretary Mrs. W. Toth, treasurer Miss F. Wilkin, applications secretary Mrs. J. Creighton. Frances Oakes and Russell Gaulton

were married April 3. Frank Schneider and Richard Harris have cleaned up the Rockwood cenotaph

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 25, 1929

Since taking over the Friends' cemetery, Rockwood village trustees have been making improvements.

Membership cards in the Acton Athletic Club may now be had, and a goal of 500 members is aimed at. The object is to create recreation of all kinds for old and

The old house at the south-west corner of the Acton crossroad and the Seventh Line was destroyed by fire. The old building had been vacant for years. It must have been erected about 100 years ago. It was for many years one of the 27 taverns doing business on the Seventh Line from Ballinafad to Oakville. Incendiarism or the carelessness of tramps is suspected.

Maple Leaf Economy store, M. Pallant, prop. silk stockings 25 cents, ladies' silk bloomers 69 cents, ladies' broad cloth longsleeved dresses, reg. \$2.50, \$1.79, men's overalls, double sent and knees \$1.95, men's shop caps 10 cents, men's shirts and drawers 39 cents, men's linen collars, 2 for 25 cents.

It will indeed be a source of general satisfaction if the plan of perpetual care could be adopted for Fairview cemetery. The car styles are now changing almost as rapidly as the feminheadgear.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 1, 1879

On Tuesday last Constable Forbes arrested Jas. McConnell on the charge of stealing money from the collection plate of the C.M. church in this village. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was sent to Million gaol for 30 days at hard labor. The amount stolen was only a trifle, but we hope it will be a warning to himself as well as to others.

We are sorry to learn that a number of young men and boys have again commenced the practice of boat riding on Sundays on Nicklin's Pond. Last Sunday this was noticed particularly and many of our God-fearing citizens are disgusted. Large numbers of female tramps have

been in Acton this week. Here it is the first of May and no one has yet bestrirred themselve in getting up a

celebration.

Canada, \$30,00 in all countries other than Canada.

Mr. Chretien's appearance.

vision.

the program it would perhaps be in the amount of time allowed for questions and answers. However, considering the pressure of an election and the time available for each stop, perhaps Mr. Chretien and his organizers were being generous.

Now it is up to the high school to ask representatives of the other parties to speak to students so they can have a well rounded view of the issues in this election, although indeed it will be difficult to get anyone more colorful than

community services centre offered during the last year then perhaps you can appreciate the usefulness of programs of legal aid, health unit, Meals on Wheels,

disturbed by threatened cutbacks in the program. At the same time, it isn't hard to see the centre is actually saving the region and town money by operating as a clearing house for 12 agencies.

that level of government.

We heartily agree

This commentary by Stephen Lewis was broadcast over radio station CKEY on April 19, 1979. We heartily agree with Mr. Lewis' comments and are proud to publish them.

The PUBLISHER One of the most extraordinary news stories about a Canadian politician which I have read in a very long time appeared in today's Globe and Mail, The headline tells only a small part of it "Drea Battling Alcoholism-Will Quit If Davis Asks Him To," Frank Drea, essential character, after a volcanic career as journalist, champion of the underdog, sometime Trade Union PR man, general roustabout and backbench Tory MPP, is now Ontario's Minister of Consumer and Commercial

He's been in the Legislature almost eight years, always combative, tempestuous, unpredictable, but with a kind of straight from the shoulder no nonsense candor that can leave the Opposition and on occasion his Government colleagues gasping.

Relations.

He is deceptively bright, tough and

open. A nice nose for coverage too; always walking that fine line between things which sound innovative and things which are patently outrageous. A hard hat wearing a Will Rogers Jacket. He also has a drinking problem. A

serious one. It's been known around

Queen's Park for years, sometimes

darkly hinted at, sometimes openly

referred to. But earlier this week, for a

couple of days, he apparently fell off the wagon with a reverberating thud. He

attended a meeting of Condominium Representatives drunk, he cancelled a dinner speach at the last minute in the Premier's own riding because he was intoxicated, and he failed to appear before a Legislative Committee for the same reason. Well, clearly armed with this heady whiff of scandal, two Globe and Mail reporters confronted Frank Drea and he handled it in a fashion so uncharacteristic for many a politician that you just have to have a sneaking or

explicit admiration. No cover up, no excuses, no guile, no inaccessibility, just straight confessional politics. In fact, Drea used language to recount and recant his behavior which leaps from the page in its honesty "If you want it straight, about 6:p.m. I got skunked."

He knows what he did to the groups involved. He admits to letting down the Premier, and he says he will offer Mr. Davis his resignation if the Premier wants it. Well, Bill Davis won't want it. He'll be enormously concerned, as he had every right to be. You can't countenance that kind of thing from a Cabinet Minister for very long, but Frank Drea is fighting a courageous battle with alcoholism. He is deeply involved with Alcoholics Anonymous and he is hiding nothing. It is one of the most wrenching and painful of personal

struggles. I have never understood Frank Drea very well, but he is a talented and able politician. He deserves time and support, and he'll get it.