

# The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1876

Don McDonald, Publisher

Published every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 59 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 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 Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.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.

## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Editor: Hartley Coles  
News Editor: Helen Murray  
Reporter/Photographer: Eric Elstone  
Sports Editor: Robin Inesco

## ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Advertising Manager: Bill Cook  
Classified Advertising: Marilyn McArthur

## BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Office Manager: Fran Gibson  
Rhona Thornhill, Shirley Jaccou, Carolyn Artem

## CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Manager: Marilyn McArthur

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



## Otto Jelinek choice of candidates

This newspaper is endorsing Otto Jelinek as the candidate who can effectively represent the riding of Halton in Ottawa over the next four years.

Mr. Jelinek, an experienced parliamentarian with a reputation for standing up for what he believes in, is the Progressive Conservative candidate. He hopes to unseat Dr. Frank Philbrook, the Liberal incumbent.

Close observers suggest Mr. Jelinek is well ahead in the race now to unseat the incumbent although there is some concern because the riding has been split up with Georgetown being shoved into a new riding of Brampton-Georgetown and Erin into Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe.

Halton now consists of The Town of Oakville, Town of Milton and Halton Hills with the exception of Georgetown and the area around there from Erin Township to 10 Sideroad, the vertical boundary running up the Sixth Line.

Mr. Jelinek is a firm believer in PC leader Joe Clark's policies of bringing the country back together again. He believes Prime Minister Trudeau and the Liberals are turning the direction of this country from a free-enter-

prise incentive-oriented system into a welfare socialist state. He is concerned that the word "incentive" has disappeared from the political vocabulary of the Trudeau government.

Mr. Jelinek believes because of the work he has done in areas of sport and small business he could very well be a cabinet minister if the country elects a PC government. He, however, does not say "if" but "when" the PCs form the next government.

Mr. Clark's policies, especially that of deducting property taxes and mortgage interest, is going to assist the burdened young families struggling with huge mortgages and stimulate home building, an industry which has a high unemployment rate. It is a policy young voters can appreciate and one despite the criticism, which will do much to make homes more accessible to young families.

Since we endorse Mr. Jelinek and his party this is in no way a condemnation of the other candidates in this election. We believe it is time for a change and Mr. Jelinek and the Progressive Conservative party are the right individual and party for this time.

## A pox on all three

We have enough problems in this old globe without the three leaders of Canada's major political parties maintaining they are in accord about the decriminalization of marijuana. Yet this is precisely what they did in the not so great debate Sunday night for an audience of Canadians in the millions.

Why the question was even asked as being of major importance in a political campaign isn't hard to guess but to think all three, vowing they are not encouraging drug use, flatly stated they wanted marijuana use decriminalized was a lesson in political opportunism.

As if we don't have enough problems now, they would encourage rather than deflate its use by the decriminalization process. Obviously they haven't really given it much thought—or they don't care as long as they are elected.

A pox on all of them.

To show there is another side to the issue we have reprinted an interview with Malcolm Muggeridge, the well known British writer and speaker, on these pages. His experience with drugs in the Middle East relate some of the problems we could experience when drug use is common, especially among the young.

## Commenting briefly

Eldon Comfort, who asked candidates in this election what stance they would take to narrow the gap between the rich and poor, got two replies—from Doug Black of the NDP and Karen Selick of the Libertarian Party. Mr. Black said the third world poverty gap cannot be closed as long as the industrialized nations import raw materials and send back finished products because Third World countries develop no industry and developed nations lose such industries as textiles to the low wage nations. He says industrialized nations must encourage local capital in the third world to develop local industry rather than using our capital to continue to detract resources for shipment to the western world.

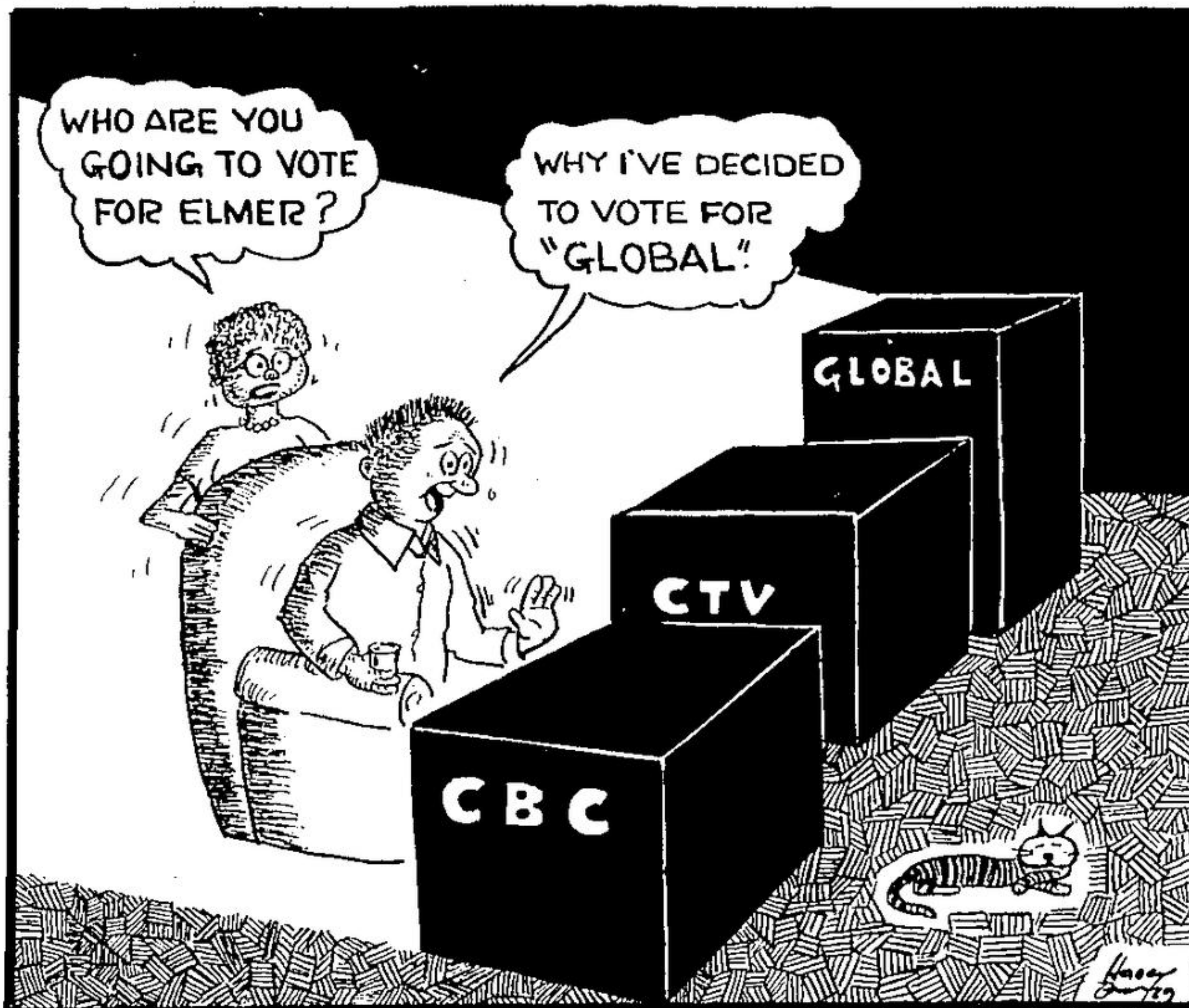
Karen Selick replied that the Libertarian Party is opposed to any form of government-run foreign aid programs, feeling it should be voluntary. Her party's policy calls for eventual elimination of all tariffs and trade barriers so it would open up Canadian markets to Third world countries. She also says free trade would benefit Canadian consumers by allowing a wider variety of goods into the country and reducing cost of imports.

Mr. Comfort, of R.R. 4 Acton, appreciated their replies to his concerns but wondered why other candidates didn't bother to reply to his letter, which also appeared in the Free Press.

Another election Poll at Stone Road Mall, Guelph, last Thursday and Friday among 500 shoppers saw the Conservatives ring up 35 per cent of the vote, Liberals 25.1 per cent, NDP 20.7 per cent, and 17.7 per cent were undecided. The other parties—Independent, Marxist-Leninist and Communist—chalked up .6 per cent, .6 per cent and .3 per cent respectively. Pollsters noted 54.8 per cent of those who responded were from Guelph while 27.3 per cent lived in Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe riding and the remainder from Halton and other ridings such as Waterloo.

Monday night Halton Hills council finally decided the old Acton town hall was worth saving when they approved using the money slated for demolition to renovate the building. It was a victory for those Actonians who want to preserve a very unique page from our past and a blow to those iconoclasts who would destroy and rebuild everything smacking of tradition and age.

PC candidate Otto Jelinek might be a trifle embarrassed by the recent promulgation from the Soviet Union that all persons born in Soviet controlled countries are automatically classed as Soviet citizens. The new law apparently affects about three million Canadians, including him.



## Muggeridge says decriminalization of marijuana really legalizing it

Malcolm Muggeridge, well known British writer and speaker was the journalist-in-residence at the University of Western Ontario this year and his views on the issues of drug legalization, fantasy and TV have become well known. In view of the statement in the federal election campaign by all three major party leaders about decriminalization of marijuana we thought Mr. Muggeridge's views should be better known and published. Following is an interview with him by Donald Bastian—The editor

Q: I have read that you stopped drinking and smoking in recent years. Had you been much of a user before then?  
A: I have used them to an extent. I gave them up about 15 years ago, and I must say I've felt nothing but pleasure in having done so.

Q: Why did you stop?  
A: The actual reason was that if you were holding forth against drugs, someone would inevitably say, well, but alcohol and tobacco are also drugs, do you indulge in those? I therefore felt I wanted to be able to say I didn't, so I stopped. I offer drinks to people if they drink. I don't think it is wicked—of course it is in excess—it's not a puritanical gesture on my part. But you can't really argue with young people, particularly about a thing like marijuana, if you are yourself taking drugs of a comparable nature.

Q: How did you come to this position about marijuana?  
A: My feelings about it are so strong for a particular reason. When I was in my 20s, soon after I was married, I taught for a time in Cairo University and lived in the Middle East. It's extraordinary to think now, that at that time you wouldn't have been able to find anybody—European, Egyptian, anyone else—who would for a moment have thought there was anything good to be said about hashish addiction. You were surrounded by evidences to the contrary including, of course, the students at the university, who were occasionally stupefied with hashish and were utterly incapable of learning or thinking or talking. So I was absolutely dumbfounded when, 40 years later, eminent people—doctors, nurses, researchers—actually said that it doesn't do any harm. And I noticed that in all the discussions of this—in the United Nations or the World Health Organization—that people in the countries where there really is an addiction problem, such as Pakistan, Egypt, and North African countries, are invariably opposed to the legalization of hashish.

Q: What do you think about the decriminalization or legalization of marijuana?  
A: Whenever people are going to do something really crooked they invent a word for it—decriminalize. If you say legalize, it's giving the show away. But you decriminalize. It sounds very respectable. You know, you don't want to make people criminals, so you decriminalize them. The most hardened advocates of legalization then appear to be really humane people. But of course, decriminalizing and legalizing come to the same thing in the end. But I find it incomprehensible that you should have people, humane, good

people, who will actually say that it doesn't do any harm.

Q: Did you have students in Cairo whom you saw on hashish?  
A: Undoubtedly. They were zombies in the class.

Q: What led to their taking drugs?  
A: It was the Middle East, where it's a common practice. And, for everybody at all levels of civilization and economic prosperity, there are times when they don't want to be aware of life and the drug provides a way out. They find that it's pleasant, and when life seems overwhelming, or maybe they're bored, they turn to it again. And they observe other people taking them. The kids are taking drugs because they observe others doing it.



Malcolm Muggeridge

Q: How would you compare young people now, 50 years later, as you are working with them once again as a teacher? Do you see a great difference in matters of drugs and the way they're living?  
A: Well, I do, because I think they assume that the promiscuous way of life and indulgence in marijuana is just part of the ordinary routine of existence.

Q: Do you find this is the case with alcohol also?  
A: Yes. As it happens, I have never run across a drunk student, but in talking with students, it's assumed that drinking and promiscuity or, at any rate, love affairs, are quite accepted.

Q: Fifty years ago, all this was done, I suppose, but...  
A: Well, it was done, but much less. When I was at Cambridge University, which was in 1920 to 1924, it simply didn't arise. There would be students who were debauched and who would seek prostitutes, but promiscuity as it's known today was unknown.

Q: It had no apologetic then.  
A: None at all. In fact, quite the contrary. One of the things that kept one from unbridled license was the feeling that to make approaches of that kind to someone

who was in the social circle of your family would be a most ungentlemanly, bad taste thing to do, for which, if you happened to do it, you would be full of apologies. Whereas now, as I understand it, you are full of apologies if you aren't promiscuous—if you don't make some gesture of that kind, you would have to apologize.

Q: But, you're looking back on a long life. Do you think people who are young now could come to these positions you've come to? Or is youth naturally a time of excess?  
A: The last thing in the world I wish to seem to be is sort of holier than thou, a pharasaical person saying do this or don't do that. But they (young people) are products of the mores of this society. I've worked in the media a great deal. The media are systematically corrupting the young in particular, in the sense that they ridicule and disparage any sort of moral behavior.

To say that the media are on the side of the devil sounds like a rather excessive thing, but they are on the side of the forces that are corrupting this society. They delight in ridiculing the family, chastity, marital fidelity, all these. They're held up as being boring. There's a very good saying of Simone Weil, in which she says that in reality, nothing is more wonderful and beautiful and creative and exciting than good, and nothing is more boring and tedious and monotonous and tenth-rate than evil. But in fantasy, unfortunately, it's the other way round. The media traffic in fantasy, and in their fantasy world, virtue and goodness and faithful love are boring and outmoded things and all the excitement of life and fascination of life lies in evil. That is the view that is being presented in one way or another to the young people today.

Q: But do you think that withholding oneself from drugs and sex can be an upright sort of thing?  
A: Up to a half century ago and even less, people were withholding from drugs and promiscuous sex. Were we a collection of nuts and crazed people? We didn't have the sort of suicide rate you have here today. I've often said that if the promiscuous way of life produced glorious, happy, fulfilled kids, then I would have to say I don't like it and I don't approve of it, but I can't dismiss it. But it doesn't. It produces misery.

Q: You say you don't want to appear dogmatic or insisting that people live certain ways. But if you were to prescribe a remedy for youth who are bored and on drugs, what would you have them do differently?  
A: I'd tell them that in this world you can only come to any true sense of direction in life if you are in contact with what is real rather than pursuing fantasies, and that you happen to live in a world that exploits fantasies all around you, fantasies which are calling in every direction. If you wish to find reality, I'd tell them you can only find it in Christian terms.

—Reprinted with permission from the Journal of the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario.—

## Back issues

### 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Wednesday, May 21, 1969  
Acton's first Land Ranger troop in several years was invested with new Rangers Heather Strongtharm, Ellen Wissenz, Nancy McCutcheon, Betty Ginger and Mary Ann Freuler. Mrs. Ginger is troop captain.  
A total of \$62.50 has been backed so far for the building of the new curling club.  
Acton's two representatives, Diane Timbers and Susan Mills, joined 6,000 School Safety Patrols for a wonderful weekend in Ottawa.  
The North Halton music festival is continuing although the South Halton Festival will be discontinued.  
Acton population is 4,604, Milton's 6,422, Georgetown's 14,532.  
About \$600 was raised at the Y's Men's auction. Jack Holmes and Chris Schouten rattled off the figures.  
Only man present at the CGIT banquet was Orwell Johnson, who replied to a toast. Cheryl Lee represented Acton at the Adventure in Citizenship in Ottawa.

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, May 14, 1949  
One hundred paintings by Halton residents were on display at the Agricultural Hall in Milton. Exhibiting were George Bowman, Mrs. Walter Dubois, Mrs. Colleen Evans, Mrs. Edith Sharpe, Alex Pringle, Miss Bella-Maye Roszell and Mrs. J. Whitham from this area. One of George Bowman's paintings was chosen for Five Counties art show later.  
Safety Day was termed a huge success when 225 motor vehicles and 153 bicycles were checked. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored the checks, which were made by OPP officers.  
Acton Merchants Inter-County five pin bowling team for the fourth season are champions. On the winning teams are L. McGilloway, H. Deforest, J. Bullough, C. Peycha, H. Earle, K. Hufford, R. Morton, B. Johnson, G. Masales, A. Williams, B. Stewart, B. Williams, Hartley Deforest, Ivan Kilby, Vic Peycha, Don Grein, H. Lawson, N. Morton.  
Two new high school teachers have been hired, Oscar Drijber and Clarence Rogwaldson.  
Returning to the staff are principal Hansen, Miss J. Barber, Miss Bovaird, Mrs. Galloway, Mrs. D. A. Smith, Mrs. F. Rogers, Mrs. E. A. Reed, Mrs. A. J. Orr, T. Campbell, P. Caddick and D. Bothwell.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, May 16, 1929  
It is the feeling of the school board that it is desirable to have a male principal for the continuation school. At the request of the board, the motion is omitted from the Free Press. Miss Nephew and Miss Hurst were to be offered re-engagement at the salaries they presently enjoy.  
The sale of the farm of Mr. N. H. Black in Eramosa to Mr. Robert Johnston, Rockwood, notes the passing of the property from the family of the Blacks for the first time. It has been owned and occupied by Mr. Black or his forebearers ever since it was surveyed from primeval forest over 100 years ago.  
Mr. Wm. Gowdy of Limehouse is more than busy these days, supervising the Alabastine Company's plants at both Milton and Limehouse.  
Morgan Crewson was repairing some machinery at Henderson's Mill on Main St. when he was seized with an apoplectic stroke and died. He was born at Crewson Corners 55 years ago. He worked in many parts of the province drilling for gas, oil and water.  
A native resident of Esquesing, Thomas Elliott died.  
Wednesday was the last day of liberty for dogs. They must be kept tied up until Sept. 15th. The lawns and gardens will have a better chance to grow undisturbed.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, May 15, 1879  
A few bags of good seed potatoes will be taken as pay for subscriptions at this office.  
Mr. A. E. Matthews went on a fishing tour and caught a string of 42 fish, 14 of which were over a foot in length. This is looked on as something good for three hours fishing.  
The Acton Brass Band played around the streets on Monday evening serenading several of our citizens. The band is welcomed all over town.  
Members of the band presented their leader Mr. J.C. Hill with a beautiful triple plated silver cornet. It is especially inscribed, and cost \$70.  
Our merchants are uttering loud complaints about the clouds of dust that whirl into their shops. We have very frequently seen water used to ease this.  
A nuisance has been complained of in the fact that cows, horses, pigs and other animals are allowed the run in our streets.  
Mr. Fred Storey has returned home from Nassau, New Providence, restored in health.