

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1876

Don McDonald, Publisher

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Losing our police?

We're alarmed at the diminution of Acton's status in the eyes of Halton police.

If the trend continues it won't be long until Acton is merely a satellite community without a police office. Then this community of more than 7,000 people will have to depend on the office in Georgetown for its police protection. It's alarming! and will happen unless we wake up and demand full service.

The latest nail in our police protection coffin was hammered recently when Staff Sergeant John Barratt, in charge of the Acton detachment, was moved back to Georgetown headquarters full time. Previously he spent part of the morning here and another part in Georgetown, returning here for afternoons.

His removal means the Acton detachment has no head for the first time since full time police protection was ushered into this community. It goes back to the days when Acton had its own constables, to when the OPP patrolled under Corporal Ray Mason and Cpl. Bob Arbour. They were succeeded by Staff Sgt. Bernie Ward when Halton

Regional Police took over duties of law enforcement in Acton and later Sgt. Dick Hilton and finally by Staff Sgt. Barratt.

We're convinced there's a long range plan to abolish the Acton office and operate all Halton Hills under one detachment situated in Georgetown. Police brass claim it results in more economical and better policing.

Residents know it doesn't work that way. It demeans constables who see the community merely as a place to work. It cuts them off from the human contact where they can prevent crime as well as enforce the laws.

In the large cities especially in the United States, which Canadians like to emulate, policemen are once again getting out of patrol cars and walking beats, meeting the people they protect and making friends for the police department. We need more of that kind of policing here, not the impersonal, cruiser-type brand we are getting.

The policeman should be recognized as a friend and help in time of trouble. Under the present system we are doing our best to dispel that image.

Mr. Clark's opportunity!

After 16 long years in opposition the federal Progressive Conservative Party is forming a Government, topping the regime of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, not in the popular vote perhaps but in the strategy department by winning seats in key southern Ontario.

They did it in three ways:
(1) By offering a reasonable alternative.
(2) Capitalizing on the feelings of need for a change, and
(3) Promising a mortgage and income tax exemption plan to home owners with large mortgages.

It worked, especially in areas such as Halton where PC Otto Jelinek breezed to victory over incumbent Dr. Frank Philbrook by over 9,000 votes. Mr. Jelinek

went for the liberal jugular early in the campaign, in fact long before it started. His resounding victory was a credit to both him and his organization.

The Liberals waged a quiet campaign, seemingly undisturbed by PC inroads until returns started arriving election night. It wasn't until then they realized they lost the election on the plains of southern Ontario.

That's old hat now. We've got a new government and winning an election is only the first battle. From here in it will be performance that counts.

Mr. Clark and the Tories now have their chance to fulfil the promises they made to the electorate during the campaign. The entire country will be watching.

10 Commandments of human relations

1. Speak to People
There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting
2. Smile at People
It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile
3. Call People by Name
The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of their own name
4. Be Friendly and Helpful
If you would have friends be friendly
5. Be Cordial
Speak and act as if everything you do were a genuine pleasure

6. Be Genuinely Interested in People
You can like everybody if you try
7. Be Generous with Praise
Cautious with criticism
8. Be Considerate of the Feelings of Others
It will be appreciated
9. Be Thoughtful of the Opinions of Others
There are three sides to controversy—yours, the other fellow's and the right one
10. Be Alert to Give Service
What counts most in life is what we do for others.
—Kiwans News

From the Editor's Note Book

by Hartley Coles

Unusual situations are commonplace for newshounds from this journal when they are on the weekend beat but few could upstage the one Robin Inscow fell into over the weekend.
Robin ordinarily covers sports but he takes turns with other members of the staff in covering other weekend activities in town and district. In this instance on Friday night he was headed for St. Joseph's church hall to get a rather routine picture of a rummage sale. It wasn't the type of assignment that gets your adrenalin pumping. But little did he realize the hornets nest he dropped into.
He hardly arrived at the hall when hurricane force winds swept into the area unloading buckets of rain and sending pedestrians running for cover. In its fury the wind toppled an old maple tree adjacent to the house of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Norton, crashing down on their house and doing considerable damage. Almost

simultaneously there was head-on crash between two cars along Church St., a couple of blocks from the church.
Robin hesitated, wondering which direction he should head for first when the ambulance siren and the directions of a former editor who emerged from her house to view the tree damage, sent him to the collision scene first.
In the excitement, this neighbor of the Nortons rushed over to assist. In her absence, her husband, bedbound with orders not to move, had an unexpected visit from the doctor. But the MD could not get into the house. His knocking woke up the dog which started a vigorous barking.
Engrossed in her attempt to aid the Nortons the lady did not notice the attempts of her husband to attract her attention by knocking and beckoning from behind the upstairs window pane. Just to make the frenetic scene more frantic the oven timing signal went off to signal his

favorite cookies were done and it was time to remove them.
With the ambulance removing accident victims just up the street, friends trying valiantly to emerge from their home blocked by the huge tree, the lady finally caught the signal from her husband.
She let in the doctor, look out the cookies and quieted the dog.
Robin? He got pictures of the crash, the fallen tree and the rummage sale. Providing everything else went right they should be in this edition of The Free Press.
By Sunday morning the frantic episodes of Friday seemed comical to the Nortons who now must have their house repaired and the tree removed. It was a topic for amusing conversation.
Who said nothing ever happens in a small town?
A footnote to the story was provided by Stan Norton. He noted that Friday night they were burning the last of their fire-

wood in their Franklin fireplace. He wondered where their next load of firewood would come from.
The answer came with a resounding crash.
+ + +
Last week's federal election was no gift for Acton raised candidates running in Ontario ridings. Tory Rob Parker who so handily won the Toronto Eglinton-Lawrence seat in by-elections last fall failed to win re-election in last week's runoff. He was defeated by Roland de Corneille, an Anglican minister running under Liberal colors. The seat was considered a safe Tory refuge considering the by-election. Results show how quickly voters can switch. Rob, of course, was raised in Acton and attended school here. He is a well known TV personality.
Meanwhile over in Bruce-Grey, Crawford Douglas, the Liberal incumbent, joined many of his colleagues in the loss

column, losing to Gary Curvin, the PC challenger by over 7,000 votes.
Crawford was a well known figure in Acton, being raised in Speyside where his mother operated the store and gas pumps. He was a musician, played the piano well with lessons from the late Mrs. W. Gowdy, and threw from the fork side for minor hardball teams. Crawford went to Wingham radio and TV after his school days in Acton where he became well known as a sports announcer.
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Still on the subject of times past, this scribbler was interviewed by local broadcaster Jack Carpenter on his weekly Music Hall radio show from radio station CFCA-FM Kitchener (10.5 on your dial). We reminisced about days gone by in Acton. Subject?—weekly newspapers and that covered a wide area. The program is heard every Sunday from 5.05 to 8.30 p.m. and this one will be heard this Sunday.



Fairy Lake flotilla

Photo by Robin Inscow

Davis denies line for export

The following is an exchange in the Provincial Legislature between Premier William Davis and members of the opposition, including Halton-Burlington Liberal Julian Reed, concerning the Bradley-Georgetown hydro corridor.
The exchange comes a week after the premier met the Interested Citizens' Group and some local politicians in his office concerning the 500 kv line. The premier refers to this meeting when he states he met some of Reed's constituents. (Ms. Gigantes is an NDP'er from Carleton East and Mr. Roy is an Ottawa East Liberal).
The Hansard is dated May 10.
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Mr. J. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. Is it true that the Bradley-Georgetown hydro corridor and possibly other corridors in the province are being built for the export of electric power and not for domestic consumption at all?
Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I understand the honourable member's concern with respect to the Bradley-Georgetown corridor. I had a very pleasant meeting with some of his constituents—some of them were not his constituents—with respect to that particular part of the corridor that is an integral part of the major transmission facility.
I think it is fair to state that transmission lines are not being built for the purpose of export.
Mr. J. Reed: Supplementary: If that is correct, then why has the government authorized the construction of this particular line, and possibly others, in areas that are not serving the most urgent domestic need?
Hon. Mr. Davis: There is a lot of history to this, which I know the honourable member has researched with great care. He has a particular point of view, and I understand that. I am sympathetic to the concerns of the people who are affected by this corridor; I happen to know two or three of them—perhaps for a longer period of time than the honourable member has—and one or two of them formed part of that delegation. But, as I attempted to explain to them, this is a part of the transmission system required by Ontario Hydro, the planning for this had gone on for a number of years and this matter has

been debated for a number of years. It has been the subject of extensive litigation and the subject of a hearing before the Ontario Municipal Board.
As I explained to the people who were there, the government in its wisdom maintained the judgement of the Ontario Municipal Board. There was nothing presented to us that would justify an alteration of the board's decision. Those who were in to see me would argue that not all of it was determined at the OMB. But the decision was made by the OMB and we could find no justification for its alteration.
I have to say to the honourable member that we have gone through this. I tried to explain to his colleague. They were seeking another inquiry. They committed themselves to saying, "If the inquiry says this is the location, we will accept that location." I understand that. But I pointed out to them that part of this Nanticoke to Pickering transmission line was determined partially as a result of Mr. Solandt's inquiry which, incidentally, I initiated. I realize the honourable member is not talking about that; he is talking about the Bradley to Georgetown corridor, which forms part of the transmission facility coming out of Bruce, and the need by Ontario Hydro for this corridor. I mean, it is built to one end and it goes from the other end. There is, in the interim—this gap.
Mr. J. Reed: It doesn't serve the most urgent domestic need.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We can debate for hours the degree of urgency, but the honourable member and, I think, even the delegation recognized—they can argue it is not necessary for a year or two years, but I don't know; Ontario Hydro says it is needed now—the point is that it is going to be built.
I am sympathetic but I know that, if the line is moved from point A to point B, the fact remains there are going to be some people affected as far as their property is concerned.
I am sympathetic to this, but I cannot alter it in any way. If we could find an economic way of transmitting power underground, that would be great. But the honourable member, who is an expert in all of these fields, knows that underground transmission over long distances simply is not technically feasible; so, unfortunately, property owners are going to be affected, and

this is true in that particular alignment. (3:15)

Ms. Gigantes: Would the Premier undertake to provide us with an estimate, as far as he can make it out from Hydro sources, of what proportion of that line will be used domestically and what proportion will be used for export?
Hon. Mr. Davis: I think that is really beyond my competence, although I don't like to acknowledge that there are many things beyond that competence—

Mr. Roy: But you have visitors in the public gallery and you have to be modest.
Hon. Mr. Davis: I try to be modest; it becomes me. You should try it on occasion. Let's be frank with one another; modesty is not your greatest quality.

Mr. Speaker: I am more interested in your being concise than modest.
Hon. Mr. Davis: You are interested in my being concise, Mr. Speaker? It is not easy to be concise.
The member has asked me whether I can get Ontario Hydro to give an accurate guestimate, that is really what she is asking for, an accurate guestimate as to how much of the power that might be going from Bradley to Georgetown might be for export as opposed to domestic use. I would have to say to the honourable member that questimates, to be accurate, would depend I guess on Hydro's further guestimate as to the extent of the export of power at any particular time. I think it would depend on whether that export was on the basis of interruptible or non-interruptible. It would also depend, with my limited knowledge of the system, on exactly at what point of export it may be. If they were to guess that there might be an export into Michigan—

Interjections.
Hon. Mr. Davis: I am trying to help the members as much as I can. If they were to guess that there was to be an export into Michigan, chances are that it wouldn't involve that line at all; it would go across at Port Huron if that is where that export is. If it were to go through to Niagara Mohawk, then the export would be going through some other transmission facility.
Mr. Speaker: Given the Premier's modesty, maybe he could take the balance of the question as notice.

Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, June 4, 1969
In the name of band members, past band members and former bandmasters, Ted Tyler Jr. declared the Acton Music Centre officially open Saturday afternoon. He snipped a ribbon to reveal a plaque painted by bandsman Aldo Braidia. The history of the project was reviewed by Mayor Les Duby. Band president Bill Buchanan welcomed everyone.
The Oakville band led a parade through town and for once the town's own bandsmen didn't play in a parade. They had the day off from playing, and acted as proud hosts in their new building. There were special displays.
David Watson had written a history of the band complete with photographs. It was "ambitious crusader" Ted Tyler who proposed the band should build its own hall. The history also paid tribute to bandmaster George Elliott who vastly improved the quality of playing and instituted and developed the junior program.
A large crowd gathered for the annual Decoration Day program. Rev. Harry Dawson gave the message. R. M. Storey was parade marshal.
Sixteen students and two teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martindale, toured New York City as a geography project.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 28, 1959
Mrs. Shirley Somerville of Acton is one of the contestants in the Halton Dairy Princess competition.
J. T. Hurst has been engaged as bookkeeper for the town offices at a salary of \$3,600 per year. J. Hargrave, former reeve and councillor, was elected by council to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Hurst.
The band gave its first concert of the season in the park. It was so chilly and windy bandmaster Perrott's music blew away at one point.
Orval Chapman introduced five new members to the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Williams of Lightman's Department Store, George Benton of Benton's Meat Market; Art Suddaby of Suddaby Meat Market; Ralph Pallant of Pallant's Ladies Wear and John Boardman of Courdanner Shoe Repair Shop.
High school field day champions — Eika Macke, Elizabeth Clark, Jackie Dawe, Anne Daintich, Matthew Russell, Bruce Andrews, Bob Foyers, Pete Lawson.
A request from council for a rental fee of \$7 for the band practices in the town hall resulted in the band moving to the arena. Lorne Weick, band president, said the band could not afford it.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 30, 1929
One of the finest school concerts ever presented in Acton was the Empire Day concert of the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.G.E. in the town hall. The programme included numbers from almost every department of the Public and Continuation Schools. There was a quaint little folk dance by the primary department, recitation Tommy Nicol, duet by Thelma and Lois Cripps, flag drill, sword dance by Mona McGeachie, dances and singing by the choir which won at the music festival. Louise Leathan and Rigby Cross and the gold medalist Harold Skilling each rendered their numbers from the festival. Mrs. M. R. Moore, who trained the choir, was presented with roses as Master Skilling made a speech. Principal Miss M. Z. Bennett and Miss M. J. MacDonald presented her with a music case.
The major part of the program was the presentation of Empire Day awards and the coveted Lakeside Chapter prizes for essays were awarded this year to Miss Hazel Cox and Ivan Kirkness by Miss Vera Hurst. Miss Helen Barber had the best Upper School essay, Miss Doris MacDonald honorable mention and for the Lower School the winner was Miss Barbara Guthrie with honorable mention for Miss Kathleen Molozzie.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 29, 1829
Last Saturday, the 50th anniversary of the birthday of our Beloved Sovereign Queen Victoria was celebrated in Acton in the customary manner. There was a large gathering of people from the neighboring towns and villages, while the surrounding country was well represented, there being over 2,000 visitors in the Village. Great interest was manifested in the games and sports and a large number of competitors entered for each. The events were Quoits, Putting Stone, Jumping, Running and Hopping. E. Clark won the 10 miles walking race in one hour 15 minutes. One of the contestants caught a young calf on Main St. and proceeded several hundred yards down the street having hold of its tail. It was the fastest time for 100 yards. The Brass Band played at intervals during the day and many were agreeably surprised at the efficiency of our band.