

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Left to the Lord!

There's an old story about a clergyman admiring Mr. Smith's garden, exclaiming, "Isn't it wonderful what the Lord can do!"

The agnostic Smith scoffed. "What the Lord did? You should have seen it when He had it," he declares with deprecatory gestures.

Probably that's the way Halton Hills council feels about the location of Acton public library, surely one of Acton's beauty spots. It has been left to the Lord to beautify it when the water is low and the weeds high. Obviously there is no money to spend to take advantage of the natural beauty of the location.

Town workmen keep the grass cut and flower beds looking beautiful but the school creek is a mess during mid-summer when stream flow is low. Weeds grow to great heights and clog the stream bed. Children find it a handy place to dispose of their refuse.

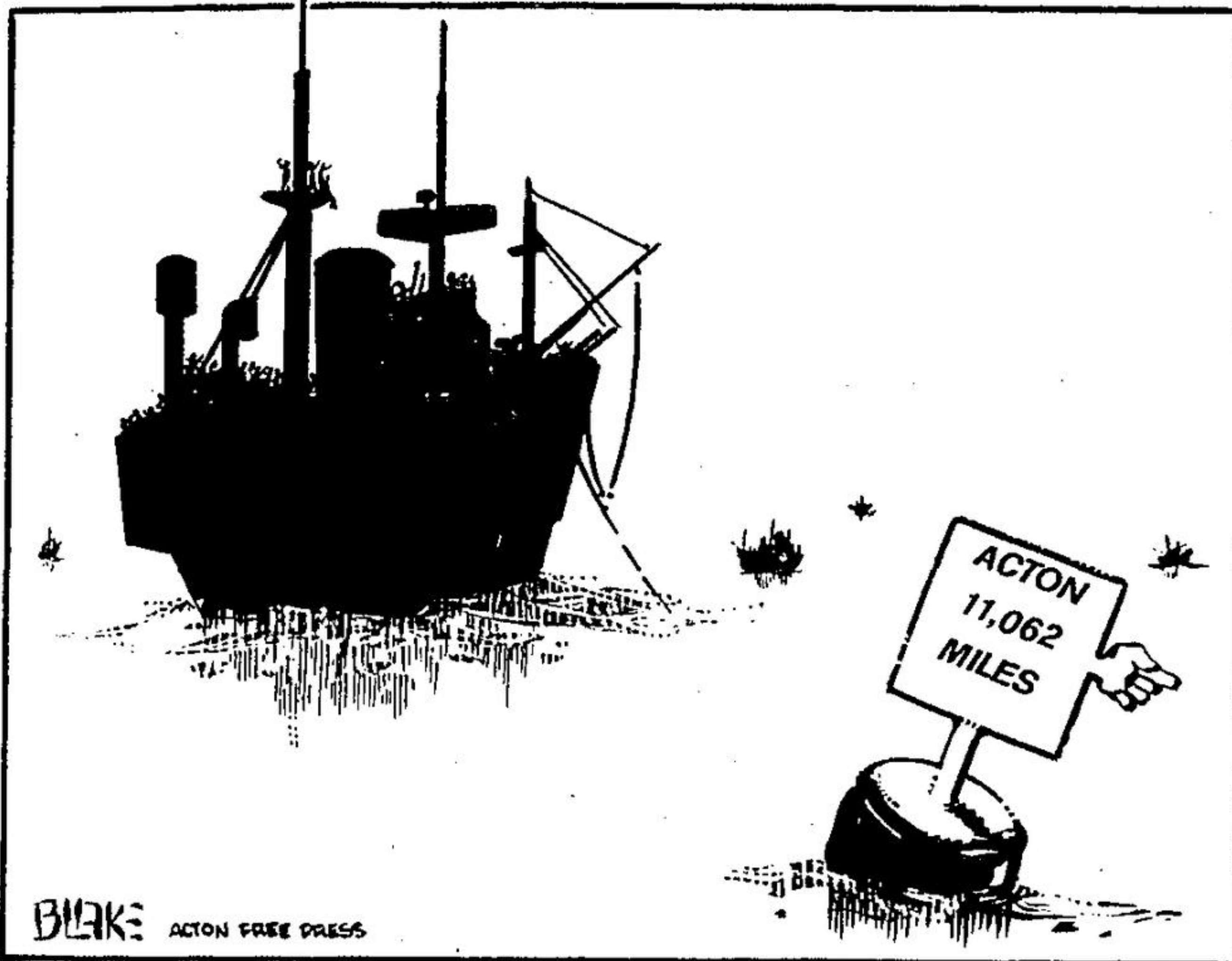
Library board member Norman Elliott has entreated board members on several occasions to do something about the library during the summer season when

most people would appreciate it. Somehow it always gets overlooked.

At one time there were plans to install weirs on the creek with pleasant falls of water. There were also plans proposed to give the creek a gravel bottom in front of the library. Since it is along the highway and with an historical marker adjacent the library is a focus for both pedestrians and those passing by in cars. It could truly be a beauty spot to remember.

It seems appeals for improvement are always made during the winter months when the creek is covered with ice or when the school creek flows strongly by with an abundance of water. Now is the time for councillors to examine the area and make plans to keep it beautiful all year.

If council cannot find time or money to further beautify the area around the library perhaps some service club or other organizations would be interested. It would make an excellent project, always on public view.



BLAKE ACTON FREE PRESS

Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press of Wednesday, August 6, 1969

Nassagaweya township reeve W.A.N. Hoey died of a heart attack in his sleep Friday night while vacationing in Digby Nova Scotia. Reeve Hoey had served just seven months of his two year term as reeve of the township. He has been deputy reeve of Nassagaweya in 1968, 1967 and 1963.

Planning board Thursday night rejected a plan submitted by T.H. Berry of Altheo Thrush Construction to build five stores each with an apartment above on the west corner of Church and Main Streets. However, the board did indicate concern about improvement of this area and invited Mr. Berry to submit a revised plan at their next meeting. The board also received a letter from Lake Manor Holdings Ltd., indicating interest in building a small shopping plaza on the east side of Main St., near the C.N.R. tracks.

Model airplane flying enthusiasts from Toronto, Detroit, Cincinnati, Ohio and Ithaca, New York will converge on Acton's Prospect Park Sunday, August 31 to compete in the Acton Combat Exposition.

Elevated into a higher class because of increased circulation, The Acton Free Press nevertheless bagged two honors in the annual Canadian Community Newspapers Association competitions. The Free Press was judged to have the best editorial page in its class and also took third place for best all-around newspaper in the Canada-wide competitions.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press of Thursday, August 6, 1959

Trudy Scott, 17-year-old Acton high school girl who hails from the neighboring village of Limehouse was crowned Miss Popularity Queen on Saturday, August 1, to reign over the Minor Sports Civic Holiday program the following Monday.

An estimated 2000 citizens and visitors lined the streets in Acton for the call-thumpian parade on Civic Holiday Monday, August 3 to see nearly 36 floats, cars, decorated bicycles, tricycles, doll buggies, marchers and clowns pass the annual Minor Sports Civic Holiday.

John Cunningham returned to the Acton Merchants lineup after a long lay off last night and led his teammates to a 12-2 victory over the Dundas team to win a berth in the Intermediate baseball playoffs.

A mother of five children and a pal and helping hand to nearly 100 other young Acton kiddies, Mrs. Monty Root, was forced to toss in her whistle and resign as supervisor and attendant at the Acton wading pool on Sunday.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press of Thursday, August 8, 1929

A pretty wedding took place in town when Margaret Bennett became the bride of Mr. Elmer Terry of Kitchener. The bride wore an ensemble of rose lace and georgette.

The events and sports at Erin drew a large crowd from Acton on the holiday. Hillsburgh ladies' and men's teams both defeated Acton. Acton winners in races were Gordon Cooper, Bob MacArthur.

Mrs. George Henderson of the seventh line between Acton and Georgetown was badly cut about the head on Wednesday evening when the car in which she was riding and driven by daughter Marjorie Henderson, collided with a car driven by Edgeworth Young of Milton. Miss Henderson was attempting to pass a car, which was stopping front of Speights garage and did not see Young's car coming in the opposite direction.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press of Thursday, August 7, 1879

Mr. William Gordon and wife of Glencoe formerly of Acton, are in town this week.

One day last week, as a son of Mr. John Chisholm of Erin was working in the harvest field he accidentally stepped on a grain cradle cutting his foot badly in the instep. The wound which required eight stitches to keep it in position was dressed by Dr. McGarvin and is healing up as rapidly as could be expected.

Mrs. George Walter, accompanied by her daughter Miss M.E. Walter left yesterday morning on the 4.10 train for Wernersville, near Reading Pa., on a visit to Mr. Robert Walter, M.D. son of Mrs. Walter. We understand that Miss Walter purposes remaining with her brother and entering the staff of the Laws of Health.

Mr. P.S. Armstrong requests the party who took his wrench from the tool box of the mower in his field last week to be so kind as to return it. We think when people take the liberty to go through Mr. Armstrong's premises as a short road to and from the village, they should at least do so without pilfering the articles within sight of their covetous eyes.

Squeaky wheel greased

The freeze on a proposed telephone rate increase by Community Telephone of Canada Limited, for customers in Erin, Hillsburgh and Orono draws a very blatant point. "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Committee for Better Service, a group of people who have banded together in the Erin and Hillsburgh area to protest the poor service of their phone, have scored a major victory against their huge American-owned telephone company. Their rates will not increase until the service is improved, as stipulated by the Ontario Telephone Commission, the company's regulating body.

CBS has battled with Community for over a year. Their contention was, why should they pay more money for the poor service. If the quality and quantity of their service were improved, they would not mind the rate hike.

Now, after one joint meeting of the CBS, the telephone company, the commission and over 200 customers,

and smaller meetings between the three organized bodies, the Commission has decided Erin, Hillsburgh and Orono (where there are lobbyists of the same degree) will be exempt from the increase. Many other areas which have not launched a complaint will be paying more than 7 per cent more on their next bills.

Jeannette Cox, of CBS is upset because her organization had to complain for one year before justice was done. She charged the wheels shouldn't have to squeak for so long before action is taken.

Her group took on big business and the government, and won the battle, but the war is far from over. Their phone service is still poor, their toll free calling area far from adequate, their directory listings still almost impossible to find, etc, etc.

Is good service a right or a privilege? To the folks in Erin and Hillsburgh, it is essential, therefore it is a right. Now if they can just convince Community Telephone of that.

Fourth estate

Acid raindrops keep falling on our heads

by Eric Elstone

Here comes the new improved rain drop. Its shape is the same as you're used to. It works by gravity like the old one and its size is identical to drops that served your daddy, your grand-daddy and all the daddies before them.

What's new and improved is what's inside. To the traditional and some argue out-of-date water rain drop things have been added. Chemicals.

They're OK, aren't they? After all everything is made of chemicals. I am. You are. Chemicals are natural.

So the itty, bitty, teeny, weeny yellow sulphur and nitrogen dioxide that joins hydrogen dioxide to form the new rain drop is natural—as natural, that is, as a baby born drunk 'cause its mommy is an alcoholic.

The newly born infant does not have to suffer a hang-over if the mother decides she won't drink. We don't have to suffer what's been dubbed "acid rain" if we decide not to, and stick with the decision.

Right now, however, the province is toying with taking up the bottle, while Ontario Hydro pays for the first drinks.

At provincial cabinet's request, Ontario Hydro is exploring markets for electricity in neighbouring provinces and U.S. border states. Such sales may be on a full-time basis, more than likely at least part-time. But could be full time, too.

And boy is the market there! James Auld, the provincial minister who juggles his time between energy and natural resources, claims gross revenues for last year's exports of power were about \$285-million. The energy minister prior to Auld, Reuben Baetz claimed the gross earnings for 1977 were about \$200-million.

Neither of these gents bothered to mention how many tax dollars go to generating that power for export.

Here are some cost figures from long-time Ontario Hydro watchdog John Minns. The sale price of electricity from Ontario Hydro to General Public Utilities Cor-

poration in Pennsylvania is 2.3 cents per kilowatt hour. That hydro comes from the fossil fuel burning Nanticoke generator. One kilowatt hour of electricity from there costs 2.38 cents to produce.

Assuming the figures are only approximately correct, we're not getting much profit. Especially since the Americans and our fellow Canadians did not shell out the bucks for the equipment: generators, towers, transmission lines.

Keep the cost in mind. You pay when Ontario Hydro increases its rates. You pay in Acton and Georgetown because part of the cost is handed down the line.

Also keep in mind Ontario Hydro just proposed a 9.9 per cent increase this year. There wasn't much of a whimper from the Ontario Energy Board either when it got the word. After all it just passes it on to the rest of us.

There is a real cost in dollars and cents to us, regardless of what the ministers of energy present and past remember.

There is, however, another cost that only a few folks have dared to program into their pocket calculators.

That's the cost our lakes are paying for the chemicals which are exhaled into the air from such chimneys as Nanticoke, Sudbury southwestern Ontario, Toronto, Hamilton. Parts of the U.S. also contribute chemicals to the atmosphere.

One estimate to cut the acid rain in half puts the bill at \$350 million in Canada. How's the gross revenue after that that's figure in?

I expect much attention from government ministers et al concerning the cost of cleaning up acid rain. These dollars will be, with little doubt, described as being too many, far, far too many for you and I to pay. Cleaning up the air we breathe isn't quite the motherhood issue as the boat people.

Acid rain drops will keep falling on our heads until some enterprising fella markets acid rain resistant coats, hats and umbrellas. Not acid proof because you have to engineer the stuff to wear out so that a recurring market is created.

Styles and colors will be so chic and acceptable they will appear on beer commercials. Maternity styles, too, perhaps.



Music, Art and drama were all displayed during the MAD centre cabaret last Thursday evening in Stewarttown. Children from the Robert Little centre performed two acts which got rounds of laughter and applause from the sell-out crowd.

Tipping out of hand

While we are not always in favor of demands made by workers, we are definitely on the side of those who demand a fair wage for a fair day's work.

Waiters and waitresses and those who serve the public should be paid a decent wage. If one of them gives the customer service beyond that required by the job, then the customer may give a bonus—or a tip—as he sees fit.

However, the business of tipping has got out of hand. It has become the rule, and some workers can be very obnoxious if the tip does not come up to what they expected.

Some dining rooms pay their workers ridiculously low salaries, counting on tips to make it up. Indeed we have heard of

some dining rooms where the waiters have to pay for the privilege of working there because of the amount of the tips.

Now an arbitrator says restaurant management has the right to require waiters and waitresses to hand over a portion of their tips to the matre d'hotel.

We disagree with the ruling. Whoever gives the extra service should get the extra pay. The matre d' would come in the category of management.

The ruling does underline the point that tipping no longer even pretends to be a special, personally-earned reward for good and courteous service. It is a levy imposed to be carved up among the employees, good and bad.

The Ridgeway Dominion

From the Editor's Note Book

By Hartley Coles

The August 2 issue of The Globe and Mail carried a feature story on their Thursday Section front of Frank and Lucinda Freeman and their well known 100 acre farm where they have been hosting farm vacationers for the past 11 years. The Free Press has carried stories about the Freemans before and the pleasure they get from being hosts to people from all over the province.

The Freemans are members of the Ontario Vacation Farm Association, one of 27 farms which take vacationers for \$100 to \$150 per adult per week and from \$55 to \$90 for children. At the Cedar Lake farm of the Freemans, old time simplicity is a feature that brings people to enjoy a rural vacation. And, of course, Frank Freeman, who has a bag of stories for every occasion.

Anyone who knows the Freemans or has had occasion to be in their company knows

what a delightful couple they are and how well they exemplify all the good things about rural Ontario. The Globe article captured their charm.

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If Toronto can have Simcoe Day to celebrate the August civic holiday perhaps Acton should have an Adams Day to celebrate the arrival of the three Adams brothers, Zenas, Rufus and Ezra. They were the first settlers here and left their mark on this community by naming some of the streets after their children; thus we have John, Wilbur, Agnes and Maria Streets.

According to Acton's Early Days, a bible for pioneer days in Acton, the farm of Zenas Adams took up all that section of Acton south-east from Main and Mill Streets, commonly known as the four corners. And, of course, before Acton was

officially named after a town in England on a motion by Robert Swan, a native of northumberland, England, the hamlet was called Adamsville after the first settlers. Earlier the settlement was named Danville after a clerk in the first dry goods store.

The Adams were fervent Methodist preachers when they arrived in this part of Upper Canada. Their brand of Christianity was not much in favor in official circles where the Family compact, an erudite, powerful and sometimes officious elite, ruled and dispensed favors to their friends and supporters.

Governor Simcoe was one of the instigators of the compact, which brought of the social strata from Britain here, a fact which was not lost on settlers who came here to escape it.

Itinerant Methodist saddleback preachers were often looked upon with

distaste by the ruling ogilarchy who suspected they were tainted with republican ideas picked up in the United States. So the Adams brothers, sincere and devoted Christians though they were probably got few favors from the powers that be.

When they came to this neck of the woods, and neck it was then, the attraction was power. Not the type of political power sought by Governor Simcoe and his friends but water power to operate grist and saw mills as settlers hewed dense bush for farms, grew grain and built homes. They dammed up the Black Creek and Ziegler's flour mill still sits below the dam on Mill Street, an appropriate name. It no longer operates on water power but the dam created Fairy Lake, long known as the mill pond and source of water for Beardmore tannery, another pioneer Acton industry.

It seems ironic that power, electrical

and nuclear, now takes the place of water power that drew settlers here. Ontario Hydro is still trying to take their power line from the Bruce nuclear station along a corridor just east of Acton, a controversial intrusion into farm land. In this case political and electric power are mixed.

The Adams brothers would probably be astonished to see the Acton of today with their farm homes long since incorporated into a town and that town incorporated into a larger town known as Halton Hills with arch rivals Georgetown and Esquesing.

It would be appropriate to name the civic holiday after them, even if the hard work and toil which went into establishing a community on the banks of the Black Creek should only be celebrated with such modern notions as athletic events, dances and a few bends of the elbow, the two latter they would have attributed to the devil.