

# The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Don McDonald, Publisher

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## Keep drunks off road

Mixing drink and driving is a dangerous game. Statistics prove it. Police forces publicize it. Yet thousands of intoxicated motorists still pretend they are capable of weaving their way safely home.

Thousands never make it. Between 1973 and 1976, 39 per cent of the car drivers killed in accidents, and 42 per cent of the truck and van drivers, had been drinking more than the legal limit.

In 1977, half of the 5,000 Canadians killed in car accidents were, in legal terms, impaired.

In a concerted effort to fight the statistics, the borough of Etobicoke introduced a one year experimental crackdown against drinking drivers in October, 1977. Of 75,861 drivers stopped in the first six months, 242 were charged with alcohol-related offences; and while alcohol-related traffic accidents increased over the previous year's level everywhere else in Metro Toronto, they declined in Etobicoke from 343 to 293.

When the Metro police instituted Christmas spot checks last December, they charged 56 of the 3,978 drivers they stopped in the first weekend with impaired driving.

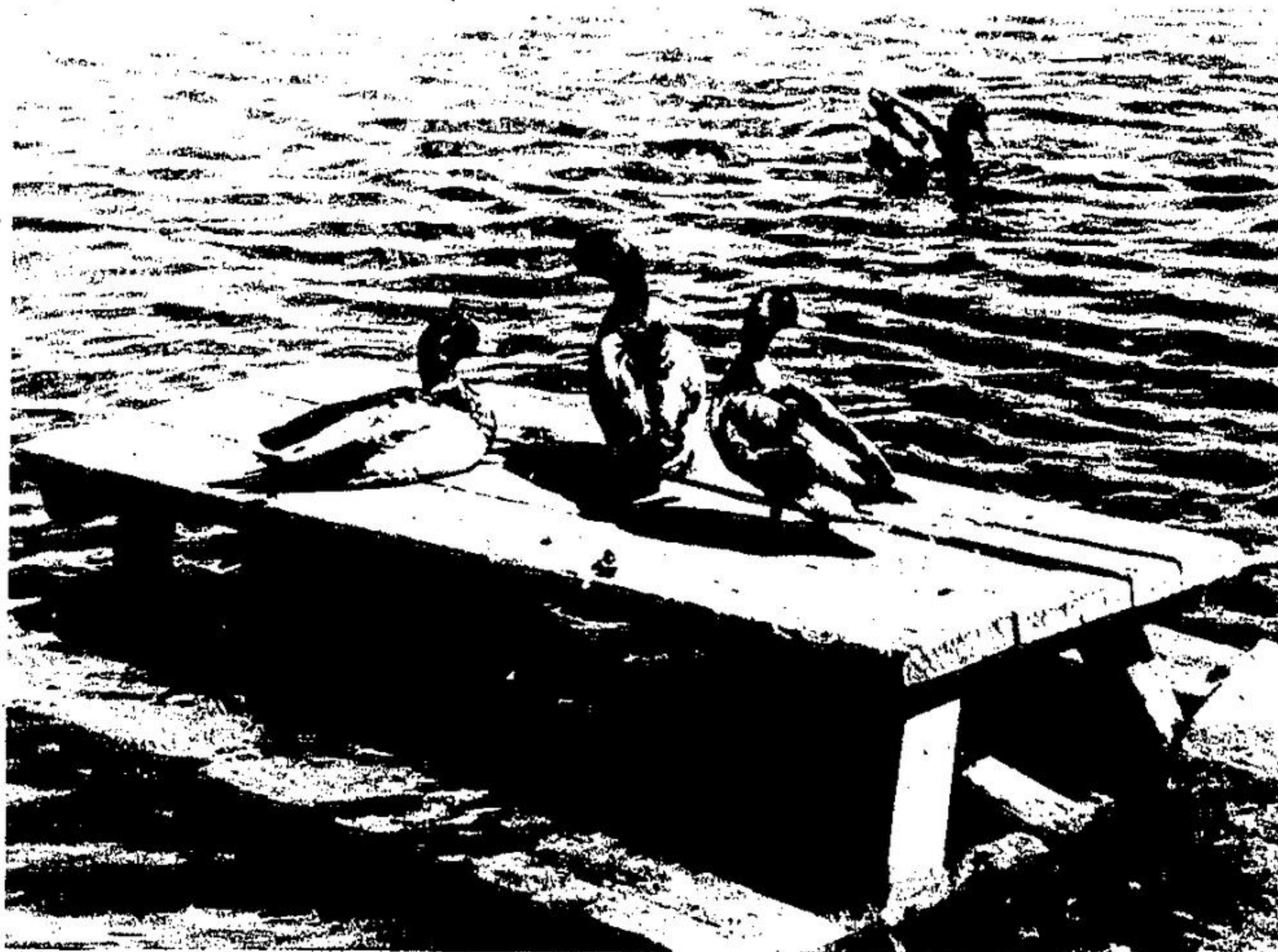
Now the Ontario Government has taken up the cause. The Transportation Ministry, with the help of municipal and provincial police, will stop drivers this month between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. at 15 disclosed sites and ask them to take a breath test.

Solicitor General Roy McMurtry stresses that since this is a survey to gather statistics on the average driver's drinking, drivers who submit voluntarily to the tests will not be charged if they reveal alcohol limits above the legal limit. They will, however, be asked not to continue driving; if they refuse to comply, then they will be charged.

As surveys go, it will undoubtedly have some value. But the next, and most important step, is to substitute for the survey a series of spot checks which will operate throughout the year to ensure those found with high alcohol levels are charged with the offences.

It is not enough to measure the problem; Ontario, with the co-operation of police forces across the province, should mount a determined fight to stop drunken drivers in their trucks. Or, better still, to deter drunks from driving.

—Leamington Post.



We're having a picnic!

## Who gains from imports?

We buy Made-in-Korea shirts, shoes and radios because they are cheap—so much cheaper than Canadian-made products. We are importing more and more of our clothing, shoes and electric appliances from Third World countries like South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The jobs of Canadian workers are being threatened by these imports and their unions are demanding government action to curb imports and protect jobs.

Some have suggested that Canada and other industrialized countries should phase out their textile, electronic assembly and other labor intensive industries and let the under-developed Third World countries produce the things we need. They argue that this will provide badly needed jobs for the millions of unemployed in these countries and allow them to industrialize and develop.

But who would really benefit from such a shift in the international division of labor? While the expansion of clothing and electronic industries in Third World countries may boost GNP and economic growth figures, there is little evidence that this would benefit the workers or the majority of the people in these countries.

Labor intensive industries are attracted to Third World coun-

tries because wages are low. South Korean clothing workers for example receive about 40 cents an hour. The governments of many of these countries have outlawed unions and banned strikes in an effort to keep wages low.

Canadian consumers do not benefit much either. Imports from Third World countries usually have much higher mark-ups than Canadian-made goods, and the savings from the low production costs based on cheap labor are not passed on to the consumer. The only beneficiaries are the multinational companies and a privileged few in the Third World countries.

The people of the Third World would be much better off if their development plans were based on producing the things they need, not producing just for export.—Unchurched Editorials, The United Church of Canada.

## Opinions...

... Television has opened many doors—mostly on refrigerators...

When people are against profits, they're against business; when they're against business, they're against employment; when they're against employment, it's not surprising that a large number of them are unemployed.

—Richard J. Needham

## Miller blasts 'illegal' sludge

The only sludge, storage lagoon serving Halton Hills is "illegal" and has been for the past five years according to Halton Hills Councillor Russell Miller.

In addition, Miller warned of dire consequences on the behalf of people living in the Halton Hills area if the Region goes ahead and gives \$2,000 so the sludge lagoon can be expanded.

His remarks were made at the regional public works committee meeting in Oakville Wednesday, Aug. 8.

Mr. Miller was objecting to the proposal that Mr. G. Trevisanus of Alex Holmes Farms be given the money to enlarge the sludge pond so

it will serve five instead of four months before coming to capacity.

He also assailed an Ontario Ministry of Environment report on the lagoon as "totally in error." Mr. Miller was able to get a regional staff member to admit that no one from the region had visited the sludge site.

"That lagoon was never licensed and it still isn't, even though Trevisanus has been dumping sludge in it for the past five years," Mr. Miller said.

"It's right up beside a barn, not sitting in the middle of 200 acres.

"I know that farm well. It has overflowed once already, breaking the

dam.

"If we go ahead and let him expand, I can tell you that a lot of people are going to be upset about it and I mean a lot of people," he said.

The Ministry of Environment report said, "The statement regarding sludge running off onto adjacent properties in the Georgetown area, is incorrect.

"Assuming the most recent incident is the one

on or about June 13, the discharge at the lagoon site was minor and remained in the immediate proximity of the lagoon location.

"There is no evidence that these incidents could affect adjacent properties. The facility in question is located centrally within a 200-acre farm."

Due to the need on the part of the region to find locations to store sludge

as part of the sludge haulage contract, Alex Holmes Farms had been suggested but Mr. Trevisanus said he would need a five-month capacity in order to comply, thus the \$2,000 for construction of a larger holding area.

Public works committee chairman, Ron Planché, suggested the committee journey to Alex Holmes Farms to view the site first-hand.

## On the Leavell

With Helen

The fate of the youth drop in centre at the Mug in the Y hinges on the outcome of a dance being held tonight at 7.30.

Helen Friedman, of the Halton Children's Aid, who operates the centre explained that, due to lack of response, the last dance planned was cancelled when not enough people turned out for the event.

Miss Friedman explained that should the youth of Acton show some enthusiasm tonight, the centre could continue on into the fall and winter. The centre has been operating every Wednesday evening throughout the summer for youths 12 to 16 year olds.

With the Acton Fall Fair approaching, September 14, 15 and 16, many people in the Acton area are busy preparing entries for the various exhibits. Everything from preserves to baked goods and sewing and knitting projects are being made.

Don't forget the Free Press photographic contest. The rules are simple—see the ad in this week's paper. All photos will be returned; but, please, no negatives.

Donations of food, clothing, accommodations and anything else are desperately needed by Operation Lifeline, Acton group one. Any little bit will help. See the story in today's paper.

Only a few more weeks until school starts, much to the chagrin of thousands of children, and relief of mothers. One familiar sign of the end of the summer is the recreation department's annual playground finale tonight. A parade kicks off the event at 6.30, winds its way down to the arena, where a penny carnival will be held. All are welcome.

## Hit-and-run on Rabbit

Dear Editor:

Sometime between the evening of Thursday, August 9, 1979 and noon Saturday August 11, 1979 somebody put a large dent in the passenger door of my orange Volkswagen Rabbit. This happened either in the parking lot behind Ed's In and Out store or at Foodland and was a hit-and-run. The damage was reported to the police but there is little that they can do.

I can only hope that the offending driver will read this letter and have a feeling of guilt for a long time to follow.

Sincerely yours  
R. Schumacher  
22 Main St. S.  
Acton, Ont

## From the Editor's Note Book

By Hartley Coles

Weekly newspaper editors, and all editors for that matter, all deluged with what some will label "junk" mail each day. Sometimes it reaches epidemic proportions during hectic close-to-deadline hours and editors give it short shrift... into the wastepaper basket. Others plod through it for some local angle which might just elude them if they aren't careful.

I'm from the latter school. And sometimes through that avalanche of paper one catches glimpses of another world. For instance over the last week I learned that small contractors in Ontario are being exposed to histoplasmosis, caused by bat droppings. They are exposed when they remodel old houses where bats have been known to frequent. Cases have also been known in construction workers from exposure to ground disturbances under roosting sites of wild birds. The risk of contracting the disease are lessened by using dust control methods such as wetting down soiled surfaces and the use of respiratory protection from toxic dusts.

But you didn't know that did you? Or wanted to, either.

But how about the decline of the bullfrog? The Royal Ontario Museum sends a release which notes that unless we start saving weed-choked ponds and backwaters, the familiar bullfrog is threatened with extinction.

"It has been apparent for several years that bullfrog populations in the Kawartha Lakes district were declining," the release notes. It reveals recent work has shown this amphibian's life is fraught with hazards and threatened by our control of water levels and land use.

To make matters worse the frogs are not reproducing like they should. In the early spring the frogs leave their mud burrows and head for a local swamp—probably their own birthplace. If it is still there and unchanged, the males establish well defined territories where they produce their "atonal symphony of croaks." Female frogs attracted by the music (?) enter the mating area and later produce large egg masses.

But in the Kawarthas last year something went wrong. Two ROM biologists heard the bullfrog chorus in June and July but they searched in vain for mating pairs and fertilized egg masses. This summer they are trying to find out why the female frogs missed their dates with the males. It is hoped to glean enough information to eventually make it possible for the bullfrogs to maintain their numbers despite many environmental pressures.

But you didn't know that did you? That information was all in one press release. I know now why bullfrogs moved out of the south arm of Fairy Lake when it was dredged. However, since I don't harbor the same attraction for their croaking as the female of the frog species I've never really missed them. But I also now know why Kermit the Frog took over as MC of the Muppets TV show. It is too hazardous just being a plain old bullfrog these days.

So those press releases are useful to newspapers—and readers. So keep 'em coming, fellas.

Sometimes during the summer months publishing a newspaper can be a tough business, too, when there's little happening and the weather is hot enough to kill most of your ambition.

A friend of mine, who came here from Britain, maintained our British colleagues had the same problem each summer and invariably would bring up the subject of dog excretion on sidewalks and in the parks, to amuse readers. He says they always got the expected reaction—complete disgust from the non dog owners and revulsion from dog owners that newspaper editors had the gall to bring it up.

It provided news for weeks such as some daily newspapers are providing now with their poop and scoop items. And letters.

I can remember my own experiences on Britain's shores while at the Kenilworth Royal Agricultural Fair a decade ago to vouch for the esteem in which the English public holds their dogs. Thirty tongue-hanging, friendly hounds, aided by three riders in hunting "pinks" gave a demonstration of hunting at that show. Pooches

and steeds charged up the greensward chasing an imaginary fox with much gusto, one rider tipping a hunting horn to his lips and letting a ringing blast fly.

The bugle call brought one old hound, midway up the common, to apply the brakes. He skidded to a stop, solemnly lifted his nose for a long sniff. Then unconcernedly, Fido trotted over to the steeplechase water jump and lapped up the water, indifferent to everything else.

The crowd roared, the old dog wagged his tail in salute.

That was the signal for the other 29 hounds to leave the chase and line the trough with outstretched pink tongues.

The riders were furious, the crowd convulsed, especially when that old dog completed the digestion process on the lovely English common.

So if you're in England this year, keep an eye to the ground on at least some occasions when walking in park or common. It could save a messy clean-up job.

## Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press of Wednesday, August 13, 1969

Responding to a radio call he received at 7 a.m., Acton OPP Constable Roy Wood caught up with an escapee from Hillcrest Training School. He brought him back to Acton, where he was turned over to officials of the school.

Parks superintendent Harold Townsley told the Free Press this week that he reluctantly took down two of the life savers the Board of Parks Management had installed around Fairy Lake. The reason? Vandals had made the floating life rings useless if an emergency did occur.

Sixteen-year-old Karen O'Rourke, of R.R. 1, Acton was chosen Fiddle Queen at the Canadian National Open Old Time Fiddlers' Contest at Shelburne last weekend. Karen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James O'Rourke.

At a meeting held Monday night, Nassagaweya council paid tribute to the late reeve of the township William Hoey and went on to elect deputy reeve Anne McArthur reeve for the remaining term.

Many charges were laid last Friday evening when nine police officers showed up at an outdoor drinking party. About 30 young people, a few of them girls were at a party in the neighborhood of Smallwood Acres. One of them was discharging a shot gun.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, August 13, 1959

Harry M. Fogarty, middle-aged businessman from Auckland, New Zealand leaves Canada tomorrow with many pleasant memories following a brief business trip to Acton when he visited the Disston Division of the H.K. Porter Company Limited here.

A gallery of 22 spectators, council and representative from the Ontario Water Resources Commission during a special council meeting Monday evening heard two Beardmore officials confirm the odor being complained of in Acton was caused by the operation of the tannery. However, no promise was given of when this odor might be controlled.

A 15-year-old Mimico youth, Paul McMinnow owes his life to the prompt action of George Barbeau of Acton when he pulled the youth from the choppy waters of Lake Simcoe on Thursday, August 6. However, attempts to save Paul's twin brother Peter failed.

Eight new homes and a garage and service station permits issued by Nassagaweya township made a total construction value of \$487,000 during June and July.

A new eight room consolidated school will be built near Brookville in Nassagaweya township next year, it was officially announced this week. Cost of the project has been estimated at \$160,000.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, August 15, 1929

On Friday afternoon of last week, the choir of St. Paul's United church and their friends picnicked at the beautiful summer cottage of Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Clements at Rattlesnake Point.

The Beardmore and Co. Ltd., tug-of-war team holders of the Industrial and Dominion Championships are putting in full training, preparatory to the contest at the Canadian National Exhibition again this year. Trainer Eccleshall has a fine team again this year and believes they can hold the honors.

Those who still remained abed at 6.25 on Monday morning, got the earthquake thrill that seemed to be deprived those who were at work or had arisen. The realism was indeed quite sufficient for this section of the country, where tremors are not usual.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press of Thursday, August 14, 1879

On Sunday morning between two and three o'clock some person or persons broke into Mr. J.C. Hill's tinshop on Mill St., through the front door. They first removed the shutter from the door and then broke one of the panes which allowed them to unlock the door. After entering they proceeded to ransack the money till, but found to their disappointment that it was empty. Mr. Hill having removed the contents Saturday night.

Dr. C. Freeman has sold his 100 acres farm near Milton to Mr. George Dunoon of Islington. Mr. Dunoon's an extensive cattle dealer. He does not take possession until about the middle of September. The price paid for the farm is somewhere about \$6000. On Saturday last, Master William Speight succeeded in catching a speckled trout in the Acton creek, which weighed two pounds and measured 14 inches in length and nine inches in circumference.