

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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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.

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Second class mail Registration Number 0515.

Get out and vote!

Both candidates for the vacant Acton seat on Halton Hills council are alarmed at the lack of election interest on the part of residents. Some voters think that it doesn't matter who gets the seat, there's not much they can do anyway.

It's a poor conception. This community needs strong representation on Halton Hills council.

The winning candidate is going to have his or her work cut out for them in the hurly burly of municipal politics. He or she will have large shoes to fill. The late Les Duby had many years of experience on councils both as the mayor of Acton and as a councillor. He readily admitted that working on Halton Hills council was the most challenging job he had encountered in his career.

Voters not only have a duty to exercise their franchise next Tuesday night, they also must try and pick the candidate most suited for the job. Both Mrs. Grubbe and Dave Whiting have no previous municipal experience so they need support in their bid for a seat on Halton Hills council. If

they can't muster a good percentage of voters then it surely is a signal that voters are content with everything the way it is.

Although neither candidate has had previous political experience they have chalked it up in other areas which require expertise. It is up to the voter to decide which of them will represent Acton best at the council table where Georgetown and Esquesing representatives outnumber those from Acton 9-3, counting the mayor as neutral.

There has been some muttering about there being no need for an election, that an appointment was all that was necessary. However, there was no one wishing to take that appointment for such a long term without a vote of the electorate.

Council has decided there should be a vote and Acton residents can express their choice by choosing a new councillor by ballot on October 9. If residents stay home then they simply allow someone else to choose their representative for them.

Good news from planning board

Halton Hills Planning Board supplied good news for readers last week by approving 50 single family homes for the Churchill Road North area of Acton. The development covers 13 acres and conceivably could once again generate development within Acton.

Don't be surprised if we don't hear the old song once again but there being no room in the sewage plant for the extra homes, but it is time as one business man said recently for council to "get their eyes out of the ground."

Unless Acton wants to become this weak sister in Halton Hills there has to be more development so the community has some clout at Halton Hills council.

Actonians have been looking with more than a touch of envy as Georgetown gets a new plaza which includes a large supermarket, three cinemas and a motel, to name a few amenities. They get disturbed when they see no comparable development in Acton. There was some consolation from the same planning board meeting last week when a plan for a new supermarket on the former Force Electric property and additional retail development

beside Canadian Tire on Mill St. were proposed.

There are those who would prefer to see Acton a small sleepy town. However, the geographical location and political situation makes this ideal unrealistic.

If no further well planned developments are allowed in Acton then the community will lose what voice it has at the council table and simply have to abide by decisions from elected councillors who neither understand or appreciate the problems here.

There are signs that future growth of Georgetown will take some giant strides especially if the McLaughlin development is allowed to proceed. It could mean a shake-up at Halton Hills council with Georgetown adding to their number of representatives. If Acton does not have parallel growth then surely this community would be the losers.

Most residents would surely like to see planned orderly development of homes so the business climate permits amenities which this community has not the population to support now. Planning board's approval of 50 new homes for Churchill Rd. north is the first step in that direction.

Court settles nothing

The Divisional Court of the Supreme Court of Ontario further confused an already complicated issue when it refused to exercise the discretion of the Court and dismissed the application by Halton Hills and the Interested Citizens' Group appealing a decision by the Ontario Municipal board for amendments to the Official Plan which would allow Ontario Hydro to cross Halton Hills with a 500 k Hydro corridor.

The Town and the ICG appealed the decision because it was felt the OMB had no jurisdiction over Ontario Hydro which operates under The Power Corporation Act, rather than The Planning Act. The Justices maintained that Ontario Hydro does operate under the Planning Act, a statement which townships such as East Garafraxa will certainly find confusing because Ontario Hydro has consistently refused to honor their plan and zoning bylaws.

It took three months for the court to hear the appeal and it isn't hard to agree with the assessment of ICG spokesman

John Minns that the group should appeal the decision because it isn't a decision.

It might have been different if the ICG had lost a decision but since they have not it stands to reason there will be considerably more delay in Ontario Hydro's plans to march across Halton Hills with nuclear power from its Bruce plant.

The case has dragged on for over five years under a succession of seven ministers of energy and now another chairman of Hydro. Both the Town of Halton Hills and the Interested Citizens' Group has appealed to Queen's Park for an independent study although an east-west study by Dr. Solandt took less than two years and settled the matter of an east-west corridor after considerable opposition.

Farmers and land owners along the route of the proposed Bruce to Milton corridor feel they should be accorded the same rights as were given to their counterparts on the corridor from Pickering to Nanticoke. They have also pub-



Canada riding on coat-tails of U.S.

Boy, the world is in some mess today, isn't it? With two world wars in this century, and the oceans of blood shed in them, not to mention the limited wars in Korea and Viet Nam, you'd think mankind would come to its senses, sit back and say, "Hey, chaps. Enough is enough. Let's sit back, cultivate our own gardens, and have a few centuries of peace and friendship. Let's relax a little, try to make sure everybody has at least two squares a day, stop burning up irreplaceable energy, and make love, not war."

Not a chance. All over this planet people are starving, shooting, burning, blowing up, raping, mutilating, and demonstrating, all in the name of some non-existent ideal, such as freedom, or nationalism, or language, or religion, or color. And nobody is making a nickel out of it all, except the purveyors of weapons.

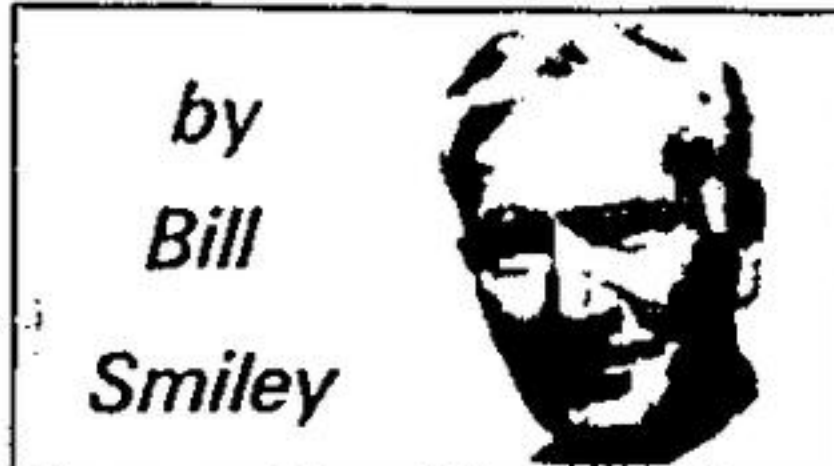
All over the world, in vast areas of Asia, Africa and South America particularly, there are probably 300 times more refugees, orphans and just plain starving people than there were at the beginning of this century of enlightenment.

World War I, with its millions of dead, produced a bare decade and a half of peace. It also the beginning of the end of the fairly fair and benevolent British Empire, allowed the beginning of the massive international communism, and by its punitive peace terms, laid the foundations for World War II.

That one produced as little, or less. It vaulted Russia and the U.S. into the great confrontation that has been going on ever since. It wrote fins to the British Empire and reduced that sturdy people to a drained, impoverished, third-class power. It split Europe down the middle between two philosophies, communism and capitalism. It launched on the world the final weapon by which mankind could write kaput to his own species.

Has it smartened anybody up? Not exactly. Today we have Iranians beating on Kurds, Chinese glaring at Russians, blacks and hardline unions, and a recession on the horizon. Abroad, "it has lost a great deal of credibility, and seems to be

licly stated they would abide by the decision of an independent tribunal. Their request has been consistently refused and they have countered by digging heels in and putting their backs up to stop the Hydro steam roller.



by Bill Smiley

Cambodians hammering Laotians, blacks fighting blacks all over Africa, Jews and Palestinians tooting off, dictatorships in South America, India in turmoil, revolution in Central America, Irishmen blowing up each other with giddy abandon, old Uncle Tom Cobby and all.

We don't seem to learn much, do we? The United Nations, a noble idea, conceived with a touch of the greatness man can aspire to, is a joke, albeit an expensive one, merely a political sounding-board for every new pipsqueak nation that wants some publicity, along with plenty of foreign aid.

The U.S., which emerged from W.W. II as a great, powerful and wealthy nation, has been terribly weakened, chiefly by its external affairs policies, or lack of them, and the meddling in foreign affairs of the notorious CIA.

It had its shining moments: The Marshall Plan to put devastated Europe back on its feet; Kennedy's showdown with Khrushchev over the Cuban missiles instalment; an attempt to make a better deal for blacks in their own country.

But these were flawed by other events and attitudes: the backing of right-wing dictators around the world; the loss of face in Korea; the treatment of Cuba; the meddling in the affairs of other nations; the fairly indiscriminate supplying of arms to anybody who could pay for them; and finally, the abortive, badly-burned-fingers mess of Viet Nam.

At home right now, the States has a rather panicky President, growing inflation and unemployment, belligerent

pushed around by anybody who has plenty of oil.

American imperialism is coming home to roost, and there are a lot of vultures among the roosters. Cuba is an out-spoken enemy. Mexico, sitting on a huge oil deposit, is cool, considering past grievances. The Philippines are gone. Japan and Germany, the losers in W.W. II, are the winners in the economic war. The U.S. dollar is no longer the international monetary standard.

But let's not forget the tremendous power that lies in that great, half-stunned nation of the Western hemisphere, the U.S. of America. The giant may be slumbering, having nightmares, twitching in his sleep. But he's far from dead.

There is still a great, latent vitality in the States. With strong leadership, and a renewed sense of purpose, the Yanks can make a tremendous comeback, as they have proven more than once.

For our sakes, they'd better. Despite what our ubiquitous nationalists blather, Canada is riding on the coat-tails of the U.S., and you'd better believe it. If they suffer, we suffer. If they bleed, we hemorrhage.

Let's not give it away: our gas and oil and water and hydro power. Let's trade shrewdly, like a Yankee. But let's not get mean and stingy and narrow, either. Let's be neighborly.

For the simple fact is, that if Canadians get all upright and righteous and miserly, refusing to share, they could walk in and take over this country and help themselves. And nobody, nobody in the world, would lift a finger to stop them. End of sermon.

Letters welcome

Reed says:

Govt. energy policy admission of defeat

The release of the government's latest policy paper on provincial energy security simply proves two things, said Julian Reed, Halton Burlington MP and Liberal energy critic. First that the Davis government fully expects a rapid increase in domestic oil prices and that it has almost no specific proposals to deal with it when it comes.

Continuing his criticism Reed said, "The paper is a lot of nice words with no clear meaning. It shows the

Premier's efforts to keep domestic oil prices have not been successful in Ottawa.

An increase which could be as much as \$6 per barrel by next summer even if Ottawa agrees with Mr. Davis that prices must be kept below world levels, would mean severe economic hardship for Ontario's manufacturing sector, rapidly increasing the consumer prices and the potential loss of thousands of jobs. Therefore today's (Monday) announcement is only an

effort by the government to prepare Ontarians for the worst, while at the same time trying to make it look like some real initiative has been taken to soften the blow.

There's almost no substance to their plans and their policy is even contradictory. First of all, the Energy Minister himself admitted today that the so-called \$15 billion commitment to renewable energy actually depends on what commitment the private sector cares to make

Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, October 1, 1969

Deputy-revee Tom Hill and councillor Russell Miller expressed opinions that covering garbage with land fill would be much better than burning it, as Esquesing council wrestled with the problem of curtailing excess amounts of smoke rising from the township dump.

Wouldn't it be a good suggestion to make Fairy Lake a sanctuary for wildlife, so pot shooting at the geese can be strictly dealt with and the lake could be a real haven for water fowl and other forms of aquatic life?

Rockwood girls' softball team went all the way to the league finals before losing to Hillsburgh.

A safety shield will be won each month by one of the public schools. Donor G. Alec Johnson presented the new shield to Acton OPP Safety Officer Roy Wood.

Betty Kocher of Guelph took first place in the third annual roller marathon in the community centre and split the prize with the six others left in the endurance contest after 24 hours. Larry Feeney, Ron Seifried, Wayne Deforest, Bob Turkosz, Bob Jackson and Robert Veidenheimer.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday October 8, 1959

Acton veteran who joined the 164th Halton-Dufferin battalion annual reunion were A. Cook, J. Loutett, Dr. A.J. Buchanan, M. Soper, E.E. Barr, J. Locker, S. Snow and Gus Clifford.

A five room school is in the offing, to serve Speyside area.

Nearly 50 sharpshooters took part in the Y's Men's turkey shoot Saturday at the Flynn farm.

About 200 have already begun a healthful year at the Y. Nursery school is being resumed as a Y Ladies Auxiliary project and over 40 members of the Water Y's Club travel to Guelph each week for swimming lessons. Every Friday there will be a dance. Judo, archery, exercise and floor hockey are popular.

The fall activities of the Scottish Dance Club got underway with a Family Night in Lutton hall. The program was arranged by Jack McGeachie, Bob Foyers and Jim Donnelly.

Liz Force, Pete Lawson, Stu McDonald, Frank Mariseak and Bruce Andrews brought honors to their school at the Central Western Ontario Field day.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 3, 1929

Mrs. V.B. Rumley and Mrs. M.C. Overholt, representatives of Lakeside chapter of the IOOE, requested permission of council to instal a new stage curtain and side curtains on the town hall stage. This society was granted permission to hold an opening dance right after the installation of the curtains.

The dedication service in Knox Church Sunday night was a memorable one. Two lives were dedicated to service in church work. Mr. John Waldie enters the ministry and Miss Nellie Anderson left this week to take a training course in Toronto, prior to going on the foreign mission fields.

Members of the Commission which regulates the Peel-Halton Home for the Aged met at the Home, finding that of the 72 inmates, 18 from Peel and 25 from Halton are eligible for the Old Age Pension. A small sum will be paid to each inmate eligible for personal use, and the balance goes to the county for maintenance.

Kenney Bros. shoe store was broken into for the fifth time since they have been in business, and a number of pairs of shoes were stolen. A suspicious character, who was chased away from the Dominion Hotel by Mm. Mellon, is suspected.

A quilting bee was held by the Ladies' Aid of the United Church yesterday.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 2, 1879

The Esquesing fall show was held in Georgetown Tuesday 30th Sept. The show of stock and implements was very good. The attendance was very good but they grew impatient before the judges had completed their work. Among the exhibitors Mr. G.W. Moore, Acton, took prizes in Hack Horse in harness and Saddle Horse, Messrs. A. and W. Waldie were foremost in the Leicester and Lincoln classes of sheep, John Shaw took first prize for Farmer's Wreath and second for honey, Mr. C. Swackhammer won several prizes for grain. The Free Press received first prizes for fine and poster printing. It is expected the show will be held in Acton next year and we feel confident our people will do their best to make it a complete success.

We have arrived at the delicate period of civilization when we must all dress a la mode and it is difficult to tell a duchess from a girl whose father earns six or eight dollars a week, they dress so much alike. Dress is fast becoming a passion in the female breast, and Paris fashions must be followed. No matter how sensible a girl is in every other respect, she loses her head underneath a costly bonnet.