

# 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.

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Member of The Audit Bureau of Circulation, The Canadian Community Newspaper Association, and The Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association.

Second class mail Registration Number 0515.

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Editor: Harley Cook  
News Editor: Helen Murray  
Reporter/Photographer: Eric Elstone  
Sports Editor: Robin Incoe

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



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## Election apathy runs high

Terry Grubbe is the newest Acton councillor on Halton Hills council, having beat out Dave Whiting in last week's municipal by-election. To Mrs. Grubbe, this newspaper extends congratulations and good luck.

To Mr. Whiting, we give a big pat on the back for his efforts, for a good campaign.

To the people of Acton who bothered to vote, we thank them for caring enough about their community to do something rather than complain about the representation in the council chambers.

However, to the 85 per cent of the eligible voters who for their own reasons didn't take time out to vote, we offer our sympathy. Are these people so satisfied with the way the town's affairs are run there was no need to change things? Or did they feel, like almost everyone, this election was unnecessary, and just refuse to vote?

Acton has only three representatives on council. That isn't a very loud voice when major issues come up, but it is all we have, and we have to make do with it.

There are some very valid reasons not to vote—illness, business hours and unexpected trips, etc. But when a person doesn't vote because they don't care, or feel it is unnecessary, they have no right to complain when they don't like the way things are being done. They had a chance to try and change things, but ignored the opportunity.

Municipal officials feel 15.2 per cent is not a bad turn-out for a by-election. But that figure represents 736 people, which isn't a heck of a lot.

For Mrs. Grubbe and Mr. Whiting who put so much time into campaigning, the people who care thank you both. You gave us the right of a choice and some exercised that right.

## Keep the past alive

Acton's Town Hall Restoration Committee is catching its second wind in its efforts to raise money necessary for the preservation of the 19th-century edifice at the corner of Willow St. and Bower Ave.

The Restoration Committee first sought funds from town folk last Christmas, and the money—nearly \$10,000—came forth in the form of pledges.

Recently the citizens' group interested in keeping sound our link with the past, learned that Halton Hills Council would be more willing to help the group attain its goal if there were some more dollars coming from town folk: about \$30,000 more.

Council has, after all, done its part. It allowed it self to be persuaded into channeling \$40,000 towards the town hall's restoration instead of the original intent for that money: the hall's demolition.

The restoration committee, and anyone else interested in breathing new life into local history, needs to match the Halton Hills contribution so that even more money can be pumped from other sources.

Those sources, such as Wintario and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, appear sympathetic to restoration if only there was more interest, in the shape of dollars, from Acton's citizens.

One can tick off the town's links with the past by marking the buildings which have fallen to the wrecker's hammers: Rose Cottage, the towered post office, and the railway station.

Only the Old Stone School near the library, ranks with the 19th-century town hall in importance.

Other villages, town and cities facing the same dollar problems as Acton folk are also endeavoring to keep some historical and architectural fragments for the children and grandchildren to enjoy. If the hall is kept, plans are in the works to make use of it, to keep it as a building with life.

In a press release from the restoration committee, chaired by Dr. George Elliott, there is a note of urgency regarding next week's fund raising meeting.

"If you believe in restoring Acton's last remaining historic public building you will be there to give your support. If very few show up for the meeting the Restoration Committee will conclude nothing more can be done and there is no interest in Acton in the restoration. They will then indicate to council the building might as well be demolished."

The meeting is scheduled for Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Trinity United Church.

Why not attend. Keep the past alive. E.E.

## Bowler is going?

That most English of all hats, the gentleman's bowler, is rapidly becoming extinct, sentenced to death by changing fashions and high production costs. In another 10 years or so it may only be found in museums of costume.

Bowlers are now made by only one firm in the world. The firm turns out some 24,000 bowlers a year. Their main customers are lawyers and top-level business executives in the City of London, England.

James Lock and Co., of St. James', the historic hatters founded in 1759, confirm that the bowler's years, if not days, are numbered. In the past they could supply bowlers in black, navy grey, two shades of green and three of brown. Now it's either black or brown, in one standard shape.

But the skill of matching hat to man is still alive; the size of the crown must be in proportion with the size of its wearer, because a big man in a small bowler would be a sad sight to behold, and vice versa.

At Lock's hallowed shop the bowler is called a Coke Hat. This is because they made their first bowler to the design of a 19th century Earl of Leicester, whose family name was Coke.

The noble Earl used to go hunting in a top hat, but every time he rode under a tree, the branches knocked off his tall hat. So he got rather annoyed, went to Lock's and ordered a hat with a round top—round, but strong enough to protect his head, should he be thrown by his horse. Lock's made up the original model. Later the hats were manufactured by Thomas Bowler's company, whose name was eventually attached to the product.

So grandpa may have worn a bowler but the dudes today wear no hats at all.

Letters welcome



## Nega-Prod would save us from problems

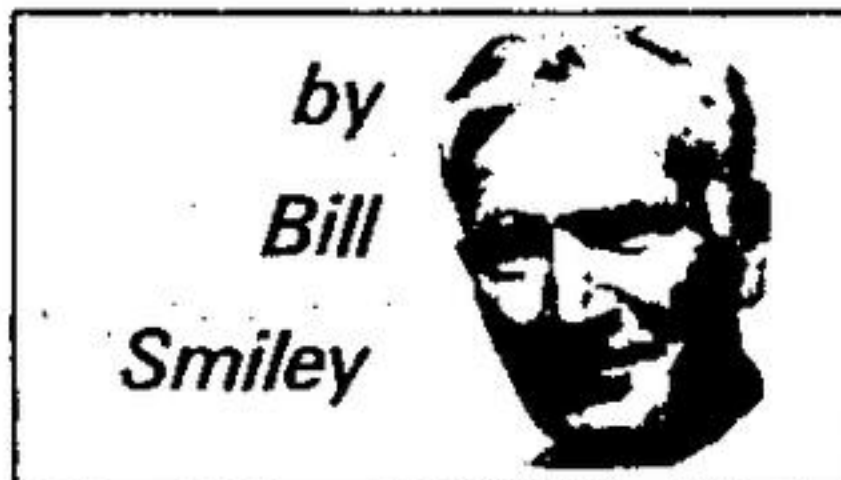
Some people, like me, believe in rolling with the punches, rather than sticking out our chins to show how many we can absorb. I have found that, in general, if I avoid trouble, trouble avoids me.

If I know that some pain in the arm has been trying to get me on the phone, I also know immediately that he or she wants me to do something that I don't want to do. Therefore, I take the phone off the hook and leave it off until the pain has found some other sucker.

Another invention of mine to stay out of trouble is patented as Nega-Prod. This is short for Negative Production. The theory is simple. The more you produce the more problems you have, whether it is children, manufactured goods or farm products.

The more children you have, the more emotional and economic problems you create for yourself. The more goods you produce, the more you have to hustle to find customers and meet payrolls. The more farm stuff you raise, whether it's beef or beans, the greater your chance of being caught in a glut on the market.

Our great national railways caught on to this years ago. When they had lots of passengers they had lots of problems. People wanted comfort, cleanliness,



by Bill Smiley

decent meals, and some assurance that they were going on time. There was much more money to be made, and fewer problems, by transporting wheat and lumber and cattle.

So the railways began treating people like cattle. Passenger trains became uncomfortable and dirty. Quality of the food dropped like a stone. And they never arrived on time.

Presto. End of problems. No more passengers. So the railways were able to cut off non-paying passenger lines, get rid of all those superfluous things like station agents and telegraphers and train conductors, and concentrate on taking from one point to another things that paid their way and didn't talk back: newsprint, coal, oil, wheat.

Perhaps this is the answer for our

provincial governments, which are quickly and quietly building massive mountains of debt for future taxpayers.

Perhaps they should just stop building highways, and repairing those already in existence. We'd all be sore as hell for a while, but as the roads got worse and worse, most of us would stop driving our cars. The governments would save millions of dollars now spent on highways, and they could fire two-thirds of the highway cops.

I don't quite see how the governments could use Nega-Prod to get out of the liquor business, which certainly produces plenty of problems. The booze trade is so profitable that asking government to abandon it would be like asking a millionaire to forsake his country estate for a run-down farm.

Perhaps if they had a Free Booze Day, once a week, every week, say on a Saturday, it would solve a number of problems. It would certainly reduce the surplus population. This, in turn, would cut down, drastically, the unemployment figures.

Should the provincial governments find that Nega-Prod is all I've suggested, some of it might spill over into the federal government, usually the last to catch on to what the country really needs.

Instead of the manna and honey flowing from Ottawa in the form of baby bonuses and pensions, we might get some terse manifestoes:

"People who have more than one and a half children will be sent to jail for four years. Note: separate jails."

"Persons who plan to live past 65 and claim a pension will be subject to an open season each year, from October 1 to Thanksgiving Day. Shotguns and bicycle chains only."

All veterans of all wars may claim participation by reason of insanity, and may apply to Ottawa for immediate euthenisation."

These might seem slightly Draconian measures, but they sure would put an end to a lot of our problems and troubles. Think of what they would do for such sinful activities as sex, growing old, and hanging around the legion hall, playing checkers.

But we must also think of the economic benefits. With a plug put into that river of paper money flowing from Ottawa, taxes would drop, inflation would vanish and undoubtedly, separatism would wither on the vine. People would be lined up six deep at the U.S. border, trying to get across, and that would solve, in one swell foop, our unemployment difficulties.

We could go back to being hewers of water and carriers of wood, which was our manifest destiny before the politicians got into the act. Fishermen or lumberjacks, in short, which most of the rest of the world thinks we are anyway.

Nega-Prod may seem a bit lofty and abstract at first glance, but it works. I know from personal experience. Every time I try to make something, or fix something, it costs me a lot of money, and I get into a lot of trouble.

So, I have a policy of never trying to fix something or make something. It's a lot less trouble to put up signs; "Beware of falling bricks; Not responsible for slivers from picnic table." and so on.

## Our readers write

### Live and let live

Dear Editor,

It is hard to be fair as you start in a world as foolish as we live in. We seem to have learned little from experience.

Most people were glad to see an end to the war in Vietnam. The U.S. to show its sympathy for those people accepted a boat load of refugees. Since then thousands more want to do the same.

We are not doing them any favor by encouraging

this practice. We have enough unsolved problems of our own that should be solved in a way that would be an example to the world. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Persecution has followed the human race from the beginning and will to the end unless we mend our ways.

Colonialism has been as ungodly down through the ages as communism. Small nations were the

victims and they withstood it be remaining loyal to their native land and staying. It was only in the time of the famine in Ireland that the Irish had no choice under the leadership of Britain. The British wanted to make more room for alien settlers who would do their will while the legitimate Irish remained firm.

The Vietnamese will face many problems much as the Irish did and many will die in their attempt to solve them.

In World War 2 Sir Winston Churchill boasted of the peace and freedom the world would enjoy at the downfall of Hitler but it snuffed out when the last shot was fired and left the world in worse shape than it was before.

There is a job for all that have a desire for well being to improve our world through the grace of God in our hearts that the life and culture of all may be directed to a live and let live policy—at home.

Yours sincerely,  
George Graham  
R.R. 1, Limehouse



Reaching up to touch the clouds

## Back Issues 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Wednesday, October 15, 1969

Gorgeous gals who are cheering on the high school teams as cheerleaders this year are Dianne Frank, Debi Booth, Nancy Abram, Marg Slaven, Janet Clendenning, Barbe Browne, Marie Holmes and Sharon Froelich.

Mr. and Mrs. Finlay Mellor and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Griffin celebrated their diamond wedding anniversaries.

The Golden Age Club took a day-long tour to Lake Simcoe with lunch at Port Perry and supper at Keswick.

Four juveniles who have racked up a record of over 100 break-ins and attempted break-ins were remanded for sentence. Cons. Bruce McArthur assisted Cons. Roy Wood in the lengthy investigation.

Applications before planning board are for one large store and five smaller stores at the corner of Churchill Rd. and No. 7 highway, a 339 home subdivision and plaza on the McCullough property bounded by Highway 7 and Churchill Rd., and two apartment buildings on property owned by Mrs. Hazel Orr on Bower Ave.

The 600 bulbs donated to the town by the Liberation Committee, for the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Holland, will be planted at the cenotaph, park and three schools.

## 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 22, 1959

Rev. C.L. Poole, who retired to Acton 11 years ago, passed away.

About 200 at the Home and School Association meeting heard Mrs. A.M. Bell speak of Stratford Festival, and show some of the costumes. R.R. Parker introduced Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Robert Buckner thanked her. Charles Landsborough presided.

The new system of flashing red lights at the Main N. crossing went into service.

Ruth Landsborough won the senior girls' championship at Guelph Collegiate.

Acton Rotary club won the Basil Tippet perfect attendance trophy for Ontario. President F. Prouse accepted the award. Mr. and Mrs. Finlay Mellor marked their golden wedding anniversary.

Night school registration figures climbed to 190.

Bishop Bagnall confirmed 46 candidates at St. Alban's, the largest class in parish history. Rev. H. Stokreef presented the candidates.

There were 243 donors at the blood clinic, under the supervision of Vic Patrick.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 17, 1929

An event of more than ordinary social interest was the presentation, eukhre and dance held in the Town Hall by Lakeside chapter of the IODE. Mrs. Jas. Adamson, in a splendid address, reported the society had put the hardwood floor in the auditorium, a hardwood floor in the stage, and now presented stage curtains.

Councillor Dr. Nelson thanked the organization for their generosity, seconded by Reeve Mason.

The Rink Committee reported to council that progress is satisfactory.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Bull have been sadly bereft in the loss of their dear little son Herbie, from appendicitis.

The Halton County Orange Association held their annual church parade to the United Church here Sunday afternoon. The entire offering was donated to the True Blue orphanage.

St. Alban's Young People elected Mr. Joe Whitham as president and Miss Viola Waller as vice-president.

Political meetings are now occupying the centre of activity. There is a meeting Thursday for Mr. Thomas Blakelock and on Friday for George Hillmer.

## 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 16, 1879

Our usually quiet and respectable little town has, during the past week, been cursed with more drunken men on the streets than has ever come under our observation during the past ten years. Why is it thus? Do we not need prohibition?

Canada Glove Works, belonging to Mr. W.H. Storey, is the largest in our village, and is working now day and night at its utmost capacity. At present there are employed about 70 persons, and the orders are so numerous this number are unable to fill them. The past week Mr. Storey increased his number of employees with several experienced cutters and machine operators from Gloversville, N.Y. Mr. Storey is building a handsome residence this year, on the grounds opposite The Free Press office, and it will no doubt be one of the finest in the village. (Now Shoemaker's funeral home.)

The annual exhibition of the Eramosa Agricultural Society was held at Rockwood on Thursday last. A large crowd assembled. The entries were in excess of last year.

Our readers will kindly overlook our not inserting the prize list of the county fair. As we were going to press the entire form was piced.