

# The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Published every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 58 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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## Welcome addition

News released last week that more development is coming for the downtown is welcome news for Acton shoppers, coming on the heels of commercial development on the east end of Mill St., between the CN tracks and Canadian Tire.

The newest development will see the old Morse Hardware building renovated and rebuilt with five new stores in a mews-type of mall. It will be similar to Acton Mews, formerly the old Free Press building.

The Morse building has been unoccupied since this spring when the owners went out of business.

Reconstruction will commence early in the new year and owner and architect Merv Prythka is convinced it will be a welcome addition to the downtown. Some of

the stores are already rented.

If the eyesore created by the fire at the Dominion Hotel and adjoining house were also eliminated, downtown Acton would be well on the way to looking like architect Lloyd Sankey's proposals which would keep the small town atmosphere and at the same time add attractive shops and boutiques to blend with the present mix.

Much of the present complaints from shoppers stems from the lack of variety and inability to get what they want in Acton shops.

The new commercial outlets should broaden the variety of goods available and make Acton attractive for shoppers especially in view of increasing prices for gasoline which makes travel expensive.

## Political wives suffer

Politicians' wives seem to suffer particularly from an illusive sense of self-worth.

Margaret Trudeau has been on a long, public, and often tedious quest to find herself. Joan Kennedy and Betty Ford suffer variations of the same trip.

Although Joe Clark's wife, Maureen, appears to enjoy her first lady role, she carefully keeps all options open, retaining her maiden name, aiming to continue her law career and even run for office.

The quest for self isn't exclusively a female problem as Prince Philip and Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's husband can testify.

Philip lets off steam playing polo, flying planes, and taking pot-shots at cheeky journalists. Ian Thatcher stolidly kept up his own career (he's rich), and delicately circumvented the wives'

inevitable round of cocktails, shopping and hospital tours during a recent Commonwealth conference in Zambia by, as the press put it, "playing a great deal of golf."

Journalist-broadcaster, Michele Landsberg, wife of former Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis, who has been there herself, says no matter how she acts and what she says a political wife can't win. The only solution she sees is to pay wives a salary and spell out their duties and treat them with the impersonal respect accorded public servants—if wives are to play a public role and be publicly accountable.

Landsberg warns a political wife's job is... "a muddle of conflicting demands and ambiguous rewards. No one elects her and no one pays her."

Maybe it's time the wife of the politician got equal pay for equal work!

## Tipping conundrum

By Roger Worth

You've just received lousy service from the staff at your favourite restaurant. The steak was overcooked, the vegetables nearly raw. The waitress spilled water on your wife's lap and the coffee tasted a lot like tea.

The question is: should the customer leave a tip??

In Europe and many other countries around the world there is no choice. An additional 15 per cent or so is simply tacked on to the bill in the guise of a service charge, no matter the quality of the food or service. In these countries, the traditional tip has become an unconditional tax. You pay the bill or the restaurant sees.

In Canada, the argument goes, the situation is somewhat different. Here, the size of the tip is supposedly based on the quality of service and food. But is it? Do Canadians really leave the waitress tips when they are forced to accept atrocious service or poor food?

The quick answer: Canadians are prone

to leave a tip, however reluctantly.

Tipping, of course, has become a basic part of the Canadian restaurant system.

Price competition has forced restaurant operators to rely on tips for a portion of the employee's wage package. Tips have become an important element in the battle to hold down prices at even the finest eateries.

While the present tipping system in Canada is fraught with inconsistencies and ambiguities, it is important to note that consumers still have the freedom and right to refuse a tip.

More than 90 per cent of us never take advantage of that right as we tip on a regular basis, even if the service is mediocre.

Still, the freedom to refuse is important.

It's the difference between the European style "service-charge" tax, and a gratuitous gesture on the part of a restaurant customer.

Mr. Worth is director of public affairs for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

## MPP's message:

## Towards 1980

As we approach a new decade, let us pause and reflect the happenings of the 1970's and think of the future. Let us look closely at the past ten years and consider whether civilization took any giant steps forward, or if indeed it slipped a little.

Permissiveness pervaded the past decade; common sense seems to have almost disappeared. I believe we should look at some of the problems this attitude has caused. Morality of all kinds seems to be considered old-fashioned today. We seem to have become increasingly self-centred, so conscious of possessions and so selfish in many ways that the old traditions of honour and respect are forgotten.

An example of this is the proposal made by the Toronto Board of Education, that the Lord's Prayer be dropped from the opening exercises in our public schools and a minute's silent meditation be substituted. I agree strongly with Premier Davis when he says that the Lord's Prayer "establishes a common respect for a society where morality, humility and faith in God are important pillars of stability and social norms."

In the Riding of Wellington-Dufferin-

Peel, our citizens are blessed with many advantages, not the least of which is a strong heritage and a great sense of belonging to this land. Many of our people can trace their ancestry back 150 years or more in the same area in which they live today; others have come from other lands and chosen our area in which to live, in much the same manner as our forefathers did.

Let us approach this new decade with hope and dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of a better lifestyle, concentrating on a resurrection of those qualities which were bequeathed to us with pride and which made Canada a nation respected throughout the world. Let us give to our children an understanding of discipline—it is one of life's most important lessons.

Let us give thanks for the blessings of life which are abundant in our part of this great Province; let us not take these blessings for granted, but guard them and cherish them, and go forth into the 1980's determined to strengthen the moral standards of life.

Jack Johnson, M.P.P.  
Wellington-Dufferin-Peel



## Limehouse school concert

Christmas Around the World was the theme of the Limehouse school concert. In the upper left picture, carollers gather under a street lamp. Santa saves the day in the upper right photo. Toy soldiers are on guard, in the bottom left picture and the flags of many nations were featured in one scene. Many parents were in the audience.

## Those were the days!

# Inflation in Ontario of 1819, too!

Did somebody say inflation?

Maybe prices in Ontario are high in 1979, but if you had lived in Penetanguishene, Ontario, 159 years ago, you would have paid almost \$5 a pound for coffee and some 90 per cent more than was paid in Kingston for all other goods.

And that's not all! To send goods from Quebec to Penetanguishene in 1820 was, at best, a lottery. More than half of the items shipped, if they arrived at all, were broken or otherwise spoiled.

If you were a private individual, you could not get any form of insurance for your goods and the shippers would not pay compensation if these were lost or destroyed.

Consider the case of one naval officer

who was posted to the Royal Naval Establishment at Penetanguishene in November, 1819.

It took him and his wife and sister-in-law five weeks to make the journey from Kingston, through York (Toronto) to Penetanguishene.

Captain Samuel Roberts, C.B., hired seven sleds to transport his baggage and household goods—which he had to bring along with him because the Navy did not supply such necessities at the base.

Five of the sleds broke through the ice on Lake Simcoe and were lost. Captain Roberts also lost his purse containing 83 pounds and he had to pay for two horses that were drowned during the fracas.

In addition, he had to pay wages to six men "employed in conveying part of the baggage of Captain Sam'l Roberts, C.B., through the woods."

The names of these worthies have survived in the record. Three were European, three were native, probably Ojibway. The "friendly movers" were: Will'm Turnbull, Jas. Chapin, Lewis Bapp, Warbarkiskie, Nenastin and Shonguiss.

In an effort to seek compensation from the Admiralty in London (which he never did receive), Roberts made a plea that speaks for itself. Under a date of September 22, 1837—18 years after the fact!—he wrote:

"Confident of your Lordships' desire to give consideration to my statement... I embarked in (the service of the Royal Navy) and from the year 1798 to that of 1817, I was constantly active with the exception of nine months in prison (the was captured by the Spaniards) and seven days leave of absence, during which period a brother was the only relation I had seen."

"Constantly in active service, I was in 53 occasions engaged with the enemy and in 1805 was sunk in action, in a tender I commanded, by two vessels of superior force; I had been wounded twice and was shipwrecked in H.M. Ship Tay, under my command in 1816.

"My acquittal for the loss of the Tay was so fully satisfactory (the was court-martialled routinely) that I was appointed to command Lake Huron, as Lord Melville kindly observed, to make up in some measure for my misfortune...

"Their Lordships were pleased to allow me to take my family with me (to Penetanguishene), I therefore purchased at heavy expense furniture here (in Eng-

land) for my residence on shore on my arrival in Canada."

Roberts' eloquent plea concludes:

"My Lords, I have been a Child of Fortune. My only interest lay in the breast of those officers I served under, many of whom unfortunately for me (and them?) are now reposed among the dead..."

In the event, the letter fell on deaf ears.

This is just a sample of what it was like to be posted in the King's service to Penetanguishene during the early 1800's.

Those who might wish to learn more can do so today by visiting the Historic Naval and Military Establishments, portions of which have been reconstructed on the original site at Penetanguishene.

Operated by the Huronia Historical Parks, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, the Historic Naval and Military Establishments are located at the foot of Church Street in Penetanguishene.

## 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 23, 1879

The skating rink was opened on Tuesday evening last. There was a very fair attendance but owing to the fact that no provision was made for informing the general public, a great many of the citizens knew nothing about it. None from other towns were present. The Brass Band supplied an excellent abundance of music.

Not a winter passes without a severe accident caused by children hanging on sleighs. A lad fell off a sleigh on Saturday last and came within an ace of being run over by the following team.

This week the Free Press issues a supplement containing a large amount of choice reading and also a cut of the renowned Zulu King Cetawayo, the same as appeared in the London Illustrated News a few weeks ago. Instead of not publishing any paper this week, as is the custom with country journals, we herewith present the paper with one half more reading matter than usual.

Two weddings for last week, two more this week and six others to take place before Jan. 15th. Pretty good for Acton.

The College students are home for Christmas. Mr. Charles Lashby of Victoria College, Cobourg; Mr. W. H. McDonald of Trinity Medical College, Toronto; Mr. W. S. McTavish of Knox College, Toronto; Mr. T. Albert Moore and Miss Emma Matthews of Georgetown College.

## Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 31, 1969

A review of The Sixties includes: \$60,000 campaign for community centre huge success, first call on dial phone made by mayor Goy, political newcomer Les Dudy headed the polls in 1960, Jim Casburn first recreation director, the pipe band was active, brother and sister combination Calvin Aitken and Irene Swackhamer headed the 50th anniversary fair; recreation committee charter members were Doug Widdis, Albert Irwin, Claude Cook, J. Bert Wood, Mrs. H. Otterbein, Dr. F. G. Oakes, John Goy, Mrs. B. Keates, Jim Casburn and Len Lovell in 1963; first sod turned for music centre in 1965, new library centennial project in 1967, Legion Choraliers sang at Expo, hydro building was officially opened in 1967, Legion Choraliers sang at Expo, hydro building was officially opened in 1967, a downtown breached the Orange Walk in 1964, Heeve Bert Hinton was county warden in 1966, high school students saw Europe in 1968 with teachers the Martin-dales; in 1969 Miss M. Z. Bennett attended the official opening of the M. Z. Bennett school addition.

Apartments and subdivisions swelled the town in the sixties. Small country schools closed up and the county board of education took over. In 1965 the Free Press first began to report on regional government. The need of a Mill-Main spotlight is still an issue. Talk of emergency measures dwindled off and talk of pollution increased.

The decade's Citizens of the Year were Dr. Kenney, Bill Cunn, Madeleine Gibbons, John Goy, Miss M. Z. Bennett, Bill Middleton, Fred Wright, George Muselle, the St. John Ambulance brigade and Charlie Thomson.

Community spirit swelled at Churchill where residents decided to save their church. And a new flag flew.

## 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 23, 1959

With the onset of winter, a rise can be anticipated in the incidence of virus pneumonia.

An exception to most of the usual holiday activities was the Christmas party staged by the Water Y's Swimming Club as they held a competitive Christmas party swim at the Guelph Y pool Friday. Over 40 members of the club took part under instructor Jim Buckland. Among the winners were Lynda Cooper, Jean Sprston, Jackie Calder, Madeleine Drew, Bernice Drew, Nancy Dudy, Bryon Walker, Linda Stevenson, David Ryder, Therna Phillips, Shirley Cohen, Tony Hopper, Jack Pope, Elaine Johnson, Leslie Carnochan, Mary Grisehow, David Sprston, Carl Weir, Susan Cohen, Jack Pope, Bill Reed.

Teen 'n Under bowlers held their Christmas party and lucky winners of turkeys were Jane McCrea, Sally Dick, Karen Gervais, John Dunne, Phil Grahame and Steven Townsley.

Whole sections of the Canadian shoe industry are in danger of being wiped out by unfair competition from low wage countries, says the president of the Shoe Manufacturers Association.

Christmas concerts were held at all the rural schools.

A chicken barn on the T.M. Spratt property was completely destroyed by fire. The new Milton hospital is now open.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 26, 1929.

On Friday the Seynuck Valley Oil company resumed their drilling operations at their well about two miles east of Acton. The drilling outfit is being run by two shifts working day and night.

The patience and courtesy of the Post Office staff during the trying experience of plethoric mail has been admirable. From 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. they worked incessantly in the effort to serve the public with promptitude consistent with accuracy and post office requirements. The heaviest mail in the history of the office was handled on Monday. It comprised two dray loads of mail matter. There were about 10,000 letters and cards in the morning delivery alone, and hundreds of Christmas parcels. Postmaster Matthews and his staff are worthy of the gratitude of the people of the community.

Tomorrow night will see the opening of O.H.A. Junior hockey in the new arena, with Milton as the opponents. Let's all be there to cheer them on.

Mr. Fred Pasmore has started a skating rink on the bowling green at Rockwood.

The annual High School At Home was most enjoyable, under the direction of principal Lawrence and his assistants Miss Nephew and Miss Rynard.

The first car of supplies for the new Limehouse hydro line have arrived. Now watch Limehouse grow.