

# The Acton Free Press

One Hundred and Fifth Year—No. 26

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Second section

## Sensational Seventies

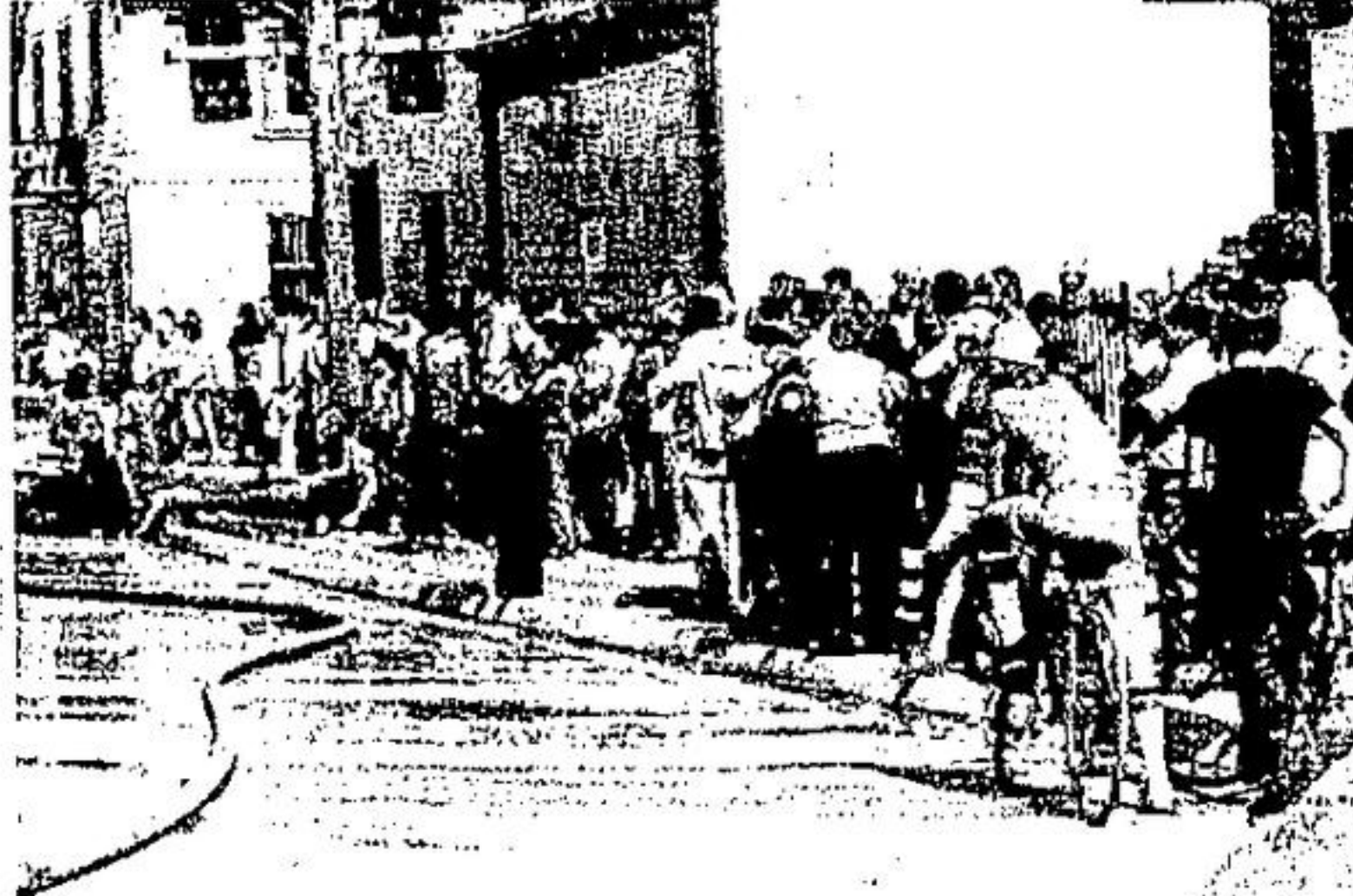
# A decade of changes, joy and sorrow



Three people escaped with their lives in the early hours of a cold February morning in 1978 when their house was ravaged by flames. Mr. and Mrs. Cory Van Merkesteln and son Shawn fled.



One of Acton's worst fires in the decade claimed two lives in 1979 as the Jones home on Highway 25 burned to the ground.



Crowds gathered to watch one of Acton's historic landmarks burn to the ground in 1979. One man was killed in the blaze. Three men have recently been charged with his death.



Ernie West, an area native, was made a judge in 1975. Family and friends gathered to wish him well.



Fire broke out in Eliza Shoes in February, 1978, destroying the entire stock. It was the first of a rash of large fires causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages.



Regional police took over where Acton OPP left off in 1975.



C.K. Browne celebrated his 100th birthday in 1970.



Isabel Watson retired in 1976 as head librarian at the Acton library after over 50 years.



It must be a local record. Mr. and Mrs. Mino celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in 1971.



Steve Papillon received a Scouts Silver Cross for saving a young girl's life on Fairy Lake in 1970.



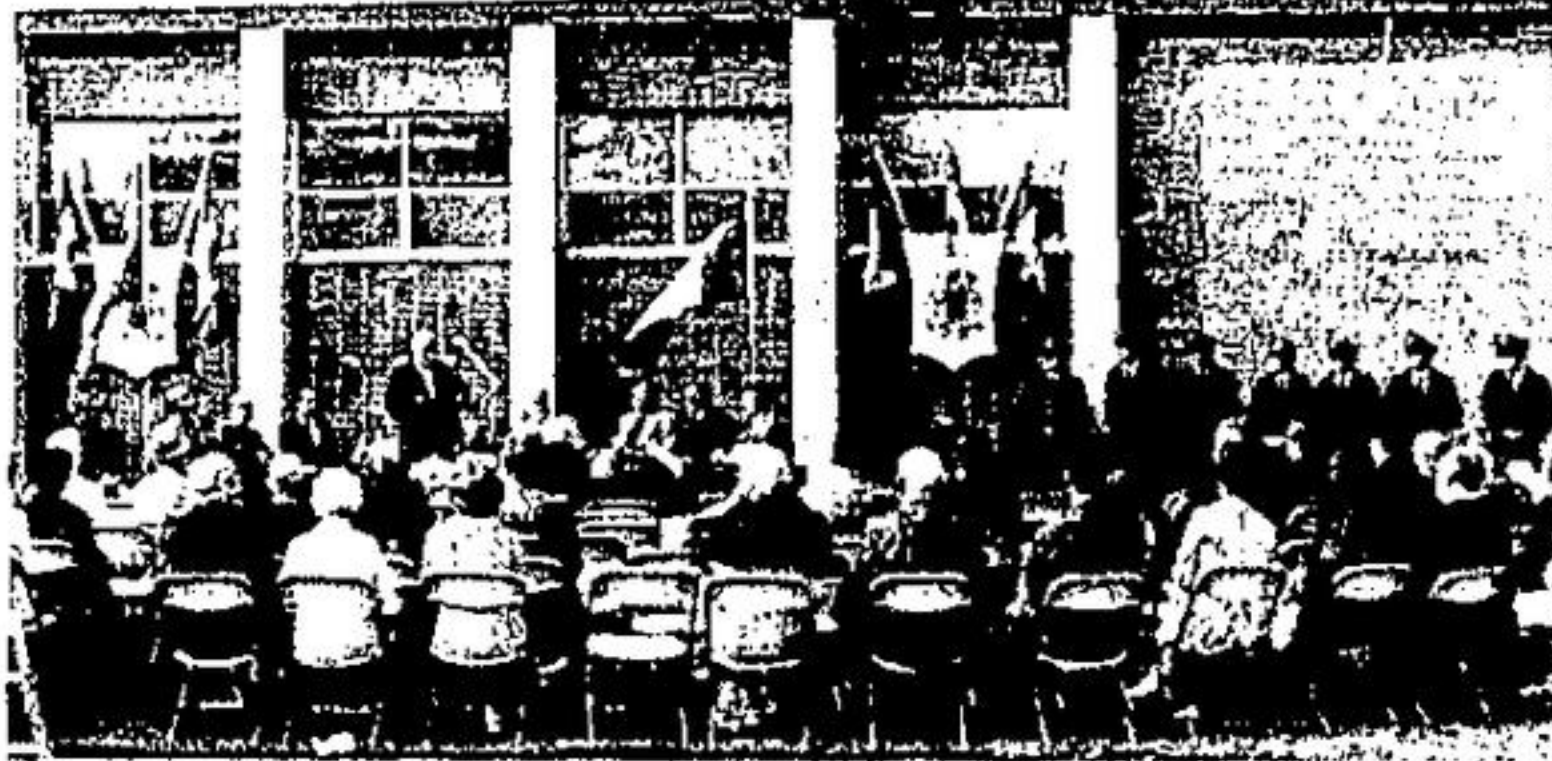
Esther Taylor could be seen feeding Fairy Lake's ducks regularly.



Mr. and Mrs. R. McEnery marked 64 years of marriage in 1975.



Back to Acton Days Spirit in 1978 was dampened when fire broke out in the Canadian Tire Warehouse by the railroad tracks.



Letter carriers were introduced to Acton in 1971.



Norval resident Julian Reed beat out two other candidates in the 1977 provincial election.



Beth-El Christian Reformed Church celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1978.



Acton's last council dissolved in 1973 when regional government took over.



Fire destroyed the Foster home in Nassagaveya in 1970. Very few possessions were saved.



Ukrainian camp on the Fourth Line was honored in 1973 with the visit of Cardinal Slipj.



Les Duby served as Acton's last mayor. The popular and revered politician died in 1979.



Matilda Roadknight turned 100 years old.



Nov. 1978 marked the end of an era when Dills Printing and Publishing was sold to Inland Publishing Co. Ltd. owned by the Bassett family.