

# The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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. \$12.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

The Acton Free Press is one of the Inland Publishing Co. Limited group of suburban newspapers which include The Ajax/Whitby/Pickering News Advertiser, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, Etobicoke Gazette, The Georgetown Independent, Markham/Thornhill Economist and Sun, The Milton Canadian Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket/Aurora Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, and The Stouffville Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

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

Second class mail Registration Number 0515.

## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Editor: Gord Murray  
 Reporter/Photographer: Eric Elston  
 Sports/Women's: Diana Wilmann  
 Rockwood News: Jennifer Barr  
 Contributor: Helen Murray  
 Darkroom: Ken Bustin

## ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Manager: Bill Cook  
 Sales: Jennifer Barr  
 Classified Advertising: Pat Kentner  
**BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE**  
 Office Manager: Rhona Thornhill  
 Shirley Jacque, Carolyn Artom, Marilyn McArthur  
**CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT**  
 Manager: Marilyn McArthur

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010  
 Business and Editorial Office



## Give emergency numbers

Our sister paper, the Georgetown Independent, has suggested the town send the telephone numbers for emergency services to each householder with their tax notices.

This is an idea we heartily endorse.

Phones have been an inconvenience for Actonians ever since Halton Hills was born in 1974. Not only did this community have to get used to a batch of new phone numbers, thanks to the region and amalgamated municipality, but the town is in an entirely separate phone directory from Georgetown, most of Esquering, urban Milton, Nassagaweya, Oakville and Burlington.

Regional council has apparently decided Halton could use one emergency number for police, fire and ambulance services. The idea is that a resident in any corner of the region need only dial 911 and tell the dispatcher which service is required.

While liking the idea, councillors have shied away from the cost of a feasibility study, which Bell Canada estimates could cost anywhere from \$114,000 to \$286,000.

Halton had decided to scrap the 911 plan for now, sit back and see what our neighbouring region, Peel, does with 911. If Peel goes ahead then they'll get stuck with the hefty price tag connected with the feasibility study.

But, what if Peel decides to do the same thing, sit back and wait for Halton to carry out the study? Peel councillors are undoubtedly just as cost conscious as their counterparts in Halton.

If could be years before there is any action on a single emergency number for the whole of Halton.

If Peel wavers at all on proceeding with the study of 911 then Halton should jump in and see if a deal can be worked out to split the

cost between the two governments.

It isn't presumptuous to suggest the present system, involving several emergency numbers, is inadequate since regional council took the time to at least discuss the idea.

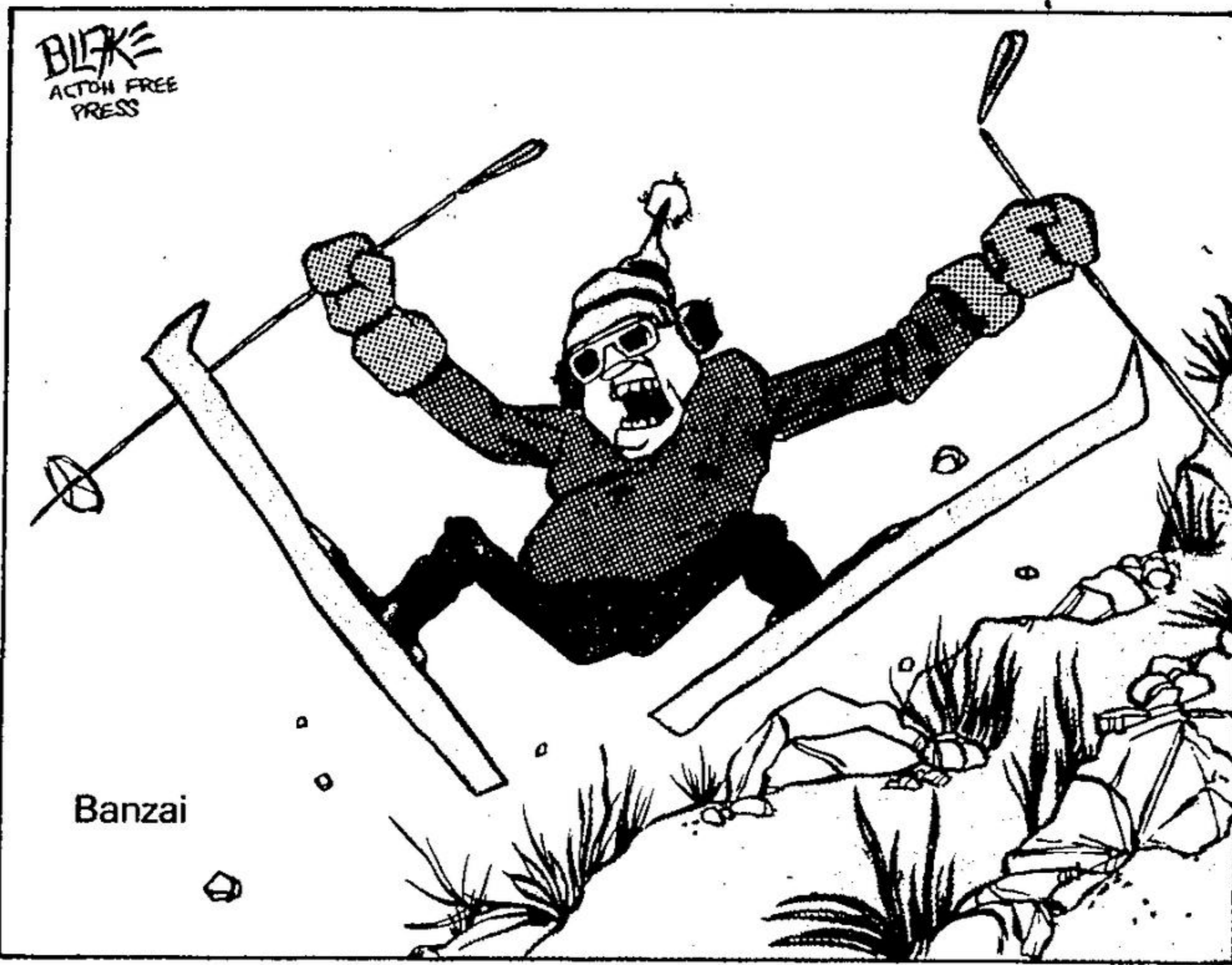
Until the 911 question is settled each municipality should send out their own emergency numbers with tax bills. They could be put on labels which can be stuck to the phone. It has been done in the past here with the costs minimal and the benefits tremendous. Tenants, like apartment dwellers, who don't receive tax bills, should have the emergency numbers sent to them also.

Ambulance, fire and police services are all listed on different pages in the Acton book. Only one has an 853 exchange. Georgetown and Milton are listed with the numbers, no instructions that the numbers are for Acton service too.

For new residents the 877 and 878 exchanges must no doubt be confusing, especially since the 416 area code is with the number. Neither of the Guelph hospitals or the Georgetown hospital are even listed in the Acton part of the book.

In an emergency seconds are precious. People frequently aren't calm. There just isn't the time to flip from page to page in the phone book, only to have to try and figure out different exchanges.

However, just in case our politicians decide emergency number stickers aren't worth the bother and money here they are: AMBULANCE - 877-9221, FIRE - 853-1212, POLICE - 878-5511, GUELPH HOSPITALS - Guelph General 822-5350 and St. Joseph's 824-2620, GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL - 877-0111. Why not clip the numbers and save them?



## We're gonna pay for all this funny weather

There's something positively unnerving in the experience of going out in sneakers and a sport shirt, in the month of January, in Canada, to pick up one's newspaper, and being able to find it without groping through half a dozen snowbanks to find that tell-tale yellow or green wrapper.

If our December-January weather was any sort of omen, this is going to be a very unpredictable decade.

Personally, I loved it. Every night I'd say a little prayer: "Please Lord, make some snow for the skiers." With my fingers crossed behind my back.

Frankly, I don't care whether they have to ski on sand all winter, though it's rough on the resort operators.

It's pure envy, of course. There is nothing more degrading for a once-young man, a pretty fair once-athlete, to sit in the clubhouse drinking coffee and watching those rotten kids come flying down the slopes like so many seagulls riding the wind.

Unless it's to be plodding along a forest cross-country trail, desperately heaving for a breath and hear from behind a sharp, "Track!", and once again have to leap off the trail into the deep snow while some young punk of either sex goes by you like a Jaguar passing a tractor.

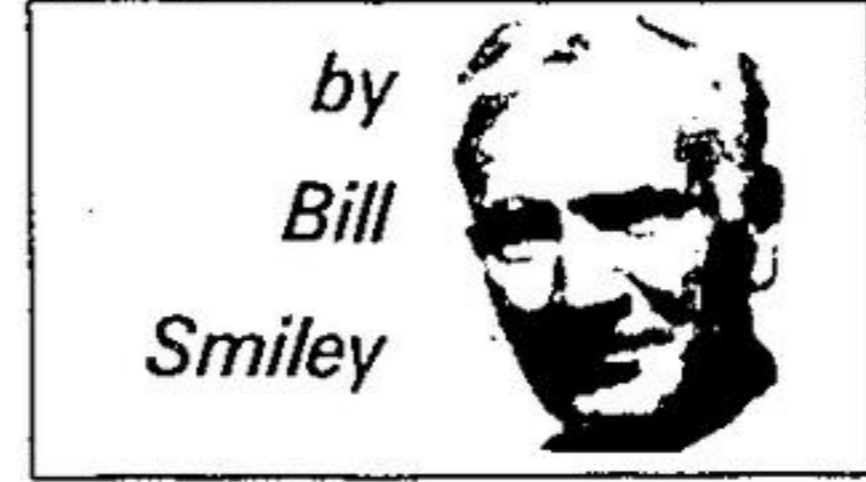
Let them stew in their own wax. Let them frenetically chew the toes off their skis. Let them put on their great, thinking boots and stomp around in the wreck room. Let them whine and swear and decry the vagaries of Old Man Winter, who this year seemed to know what he was about, for a change.

Don't tell me there isn't a Mother Nature. It's just that she's a perverse old hag. Early last fall, I wrote a paean of praise to the glory of a Canadian October.

Mother Nature promptly turned on the tap and sat there like a dowager having her Saturday evening soak, while we went through the wettest October since Noah was around.

My father-in-law, after spending nearly a half a century taking the rural mail on days when he'd set out in the morning with a horse and cutter and nobody knew when, or if, he'd ever get back, slipped on a bit of ice this past crazy December and broke some bones.

But don't worry. We'll all pay for this



I wrote another rather sharp column, demanding at least a few days of decent weather in hominally horrid November. Like the capricious old trout she is, Mother promptly turned off the tap. Bit the fire, and we had a November of unprecedented sun and clear skies.

I didn't dare demand anything for December. I was getting leery of the old witch's moods. Apparently sensing my queasiness, she threw in the works: 12 inches of snow; warm rain; green grass; temperatures from zero to almost hot. Pickle wench.

My grandboys came down from the frozen north, bragging about it. "The snow's right over my head, Grandad," and were kicked out into the backyard in their great cumbersome snowboots and great bulky snowsuits to play in the grass. They could have gone out in shorts and fiddled with the hose, their usual July pastime.

Mr. son arrived home from South America, expecting to freeze to death, blood thinned from five years in a tropical climate, was exhilarated by the snow, and a week later was running around in a light jacket, claiming that it got colder than this in Paraguay.

There have been suggestions in the past, not from Hydro, that there might be another line through here some time in the future. Macaulay reports there's no need to worry, the corridor now being completed isn't wide enough for another set of towers.

When the Acton Hydro Commission disappears and the new Halton Hills Commission is hatched in April urban rates are expected to increase while Esquering customers will get a break.

Don't point the finger of blame at Ontario Hydro.

While he welcomes the move to amalgamated commissions, since he's a rural customer, Macaulay says it was all Que en's Park and the municipalities idea. He said Hydro isn't promoting amalgamation of the commissions.

Public relations man Len Taylor recalled when regional government came in the politicians set up local study teams who made the decisions regarding amalgamation.

Power is supposed to be on for the corridor through Halton Hills by June 1, Hydro brass said.

## From the editor's desk

by Gord Murray  
 New Ontario Hydro chairman Hugh Macaulay has set improving the flow of information from the provincial utility to the public and enhancing the degree of trust the citizens of Ontario have for Hydro as his personal goals during his term at the top.

That was one of several interesting tidbits Inland Publishing Co. Limited publishers' and editors, including Don McDonald and myself, learned at a luncheon with the chairman and his top brass Thursday at the Hotel Triumph.

If Macaulay is able to achieve his goal of a more open Hydro and bolster public trust of the organization then he will have really achieved something.

Certainly a new attitude like this will be welcomed by organizations like the Interested Citizens' Group, which has been battling Hydro on the 500 kV corridor through Halton Hills for many years. They haven't found Hydro too open in the past and have little trust for the power boys.

While Macaulay's stance, which will hopefully filter down through the ranks, can't save Halton Hills from a swath of towers this time it might make things different in another battle, another day.

If you've been kicking yourself in recent years for buying a home heated electrically, because of the high costs, it won't

once-in-a-generation aberration of Mother Nature. As I write, it's just a little nippy, sun shining, blue skies, and skeptical Canadians going around shaking their heads and muttering that, "We're gonna get it one of these days." And they're right.

I predict a January and February so cold it would freeze the boobs off a brass monkey; a March with so much snow we won't be able to see the whites of anybody's eyes; an April in which we'll all be skating to work, because there won't be any gas for our cars; a May like our usual March; a June with millions of black flies frozen to death in their embryonic stage; and so on.

It's not all gloom. I think some hardy spirits might be able to take a quick duck in the lake around August 1, though they may have to break the ice to do so.

And think of all the money and energy we'll save because we won't need any air-conditioning. Of course, we might be burning our furniture to stay alive, but you can't take it with you, now can you? I think our grand piano, fed carefully, will last longer than the dining-room suite we bought years ago for \$150.

It sounds rather appalling, but there are solutions. One would be for the party that wants to get into power in this country to simply promise to send everybody south. Just close up the country for the winter, except for Ottawa, which might as well be closed anyway. They could send us all in cattle cars, as the Germans did the Jews.

There is one other factor that could save the day. It is not only possible, but probable, entirely so, that the next few weeks in this country will produce so much hot air that we could all turn off our furnaces, open the windows, let it all flow through, let the grass green, and bewilder the living daylight out of the birds that didn't fly south in October.

However, Macaulay hopes nobody is "making book" on it, despite the fact they believe the ICG has exhausted every legal stalling move.

Macaulay said the Bradley to Milton line and its completion date has never been a good bet and even now, with the end in sight, it still isn't.

There have been suggestions in the past, not from Hydro, that there might be another line through here some time in the future. Macaulay reports there's no need to worry, the corridor now being completed isn't wide enough for another set of towers.

When the Acton Hydro Commission disappears and the new Halton Hills Commission is hatched in April urban rates are expected to increase while Esquering customers will get a break.

Don't point the finger of blame at Ontario Hydro.

While he welcomes the move to amalgamated commissions, since he's a rural customer, Macaulay says it was all Que en's Park and the municipalities idea. He said Hydro isn't promoting amalgamation of the commissions.

Public relations man Len Taylor recalled when regional government came in the politicians set up local study teams who made the decisions regarding amalgamation.

## Back Issues

### 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, January 28, 1970

The newly-formed Rockwood Snowmobile Club, under the leadership of Louis Hills as president; Judy Hendry, secretary; Bruce Richardson, treasurer and executive of Chuck Pelty, Red Meredith, Eddy Kingsbury, Frank Allsop, Jim Muir and Jimmie Milne, met in the fire hall, to set fees and make plans.

Statements attributed to the dental director of the Health Unit about oral hygiene in North Halton have incensed many people.

John Shadbolt was returned by acclamation as president of Acton Chamber of Commerce at the annual dinner at Halton Heights Golf Club. Chris Schuts was returned as fire vice-president, Jack Hol as second vice-president and Mike De Jung as secretary. Newcomer Ken MacLeod will replace Ted Pratt as treasurer.

Temporary organist at St. Alban's 25 years ago when Mrs. Frank Oakes took over. Mrs. Sam Snow presented her successor with a silver tray from the choir at the "Betty Oakes Night". The parish gift was a silver rose bowl filled with roses.

Esquering residents, who packed the council chamber, were disappointed when council approved a building permit for a control tower for the drag strip.

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 28, 1950

Parents jammed the new high school auditorium for commencement. Shirley Masson was valedictorian for her classmates. The honour graduates are Mary Jane Force, Marilyn Young, Dianne Newton, Valene Varey, Margaret Morrison and Shirley Masson.

Acton Scottish Dance Club's annual Burns night dinner was held at the Royal Hotel in Guelph. Taking part were toastmaster Bill Wilson, piper Phil Caddick, Jack McGeachie, Bill Connall and Bob Currie who escorted the haggis, Robert Murray who spoke, Rev. Paul Stirling who proposed the toast to the immortal memory, and Herb Saravananamuto, future son-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. Buckner, who delighted listeners with reminiscences of the Scotland he knew.

The first regular dinner meeting of the Lions club was held at the Station Hotel Monday. President Alec Johnson reported 12 members were present.

Some members had to stand for the 11:15 United church service in the Y Sunday morning.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 23, 1930

The Women's Institute proposed to council erecting new gates to Fairview cemetery. Mrs. Bishop and Mrs. Herbaugh formed the delegation.

Mr. W. Foulie and Mr. B. Pargeter, on behalf of residents on Beardmore Crescent, were present at council and asked that their part of the town be annexed to Acton.

Energetic Limehouse rural mail driver Mr. R. Doughty leads the van, having his dwellings all wired and ready for the new electric power.

The annual meeting of Acton Library Board was held at the number of books borrowed shows an increase. This is accounted for to some extent by the sub-library opened in the schools. A.T. Brown and Dr. Farmer are two new members of the board, and one more is to be named, replacing Rev. A.C. Stewart, Father McReavy and the late A.E. Nickline. H.P. Moore was elected chairman.

A radio and batteries have been provided for Mr. John Wood of Valley Road, Rockwood, a shoemaker by trade who of late years has been unable to get out due to lameness.

Dublin Literary Society met Friday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Sprowl.

Mr. Frederick L. Wright was among the highest for sales of insurance for his company in December. Other winners were all in larger centres of population.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 29, 1880

The timber limits of Canada are day by day being destroyed by lavish extravagance.

A poor and indigent person in Nassagaweya (name given) will be given three dollars per month by council, rather than two dollars. Wm. Logic, Nassagaweya Collector, will be paid one hundred dollars per annum for the collection of all taxes, school taxes included.

We understand that Messrs. Goodman and Crawshaw have leased the Limehouse Freestone Quarries and are prepared to supply builders with every description of freestone, either dressed or in the rough.

Mr. A. Campbell Black, of Guelph, is giving lessons in vocal music to a class of about 70 pupils in the Presbyterian church.

Between 50 and 60 of our skating citizens attended the carnival given by the Milton club in their rink on Tuesday evening last.

## Weedless day convincing

Today is Weedless Wednesday, the day groups like the Halton Council on Smoking and Health hope puffers will quit the habit, if even just for today.

National Non-Smoking Week began Sunday and ends Saturday, though promoters of the program to get Canadians to quit smoking are banking on it producing results that will last all year.

Their case for non-smoking is convincing and loaded with facts.

Recent Research regarding smoking and health both strengthens and extends the strong scientific foundation which supports the view that tobacco use is "Public Health Enemy Number One," a recent anti-smoking release states.

Studies show that for all smokers the risk of developing lung cancer is 7.6 to 14.2 times as great as compared to non-

smokers.

Heart disease accounts for more than 50 percent of Canadian deaths statistics show. (Approximately 80,000 coronary deaths occur each year.) Male cigarette smokers incur twice the risk of contracting cardiovascular disease compared to non-smokers. Chronic bronchitis and emphysema are about 18 times as common in smokers as in non-smokers the Halton council on Smoking reports.

Smoking during pregnancy leads to an increase in infant mortality, both in numbers of still births and neonatal deaths. Overwhelming evidence indicates that smoking is harmful to the non-smokers who are involuntarily exposed to the products of tobacco smoke.

The above facts are food for thought on this "Weedless Wednesday."

## Letter

### Energy policy harsh

273 Queen St. East  
 Acton, Ontario  
 January 9, 1980

Dear Editor:  
 I hope that the following words will evoke readers to take pen and paper and write their opinions concerning the election campaign.

The present government's policy to increase taxation on gasoline and heating fuel is an outrage. The Conservatives caused their own downfall by trying to force through a budget which did not take the government's minority position into consideration. On the night of the government's defeat, I observed our honourable member voting in favour of a budget

which would admittedly cause higher unemployment and double digit inflation.

I agree that the national deficit must be reduced. I do not think that it should be accomplished at the expense of those who can least afford it, and to the benefit of Alberta's Heritage Fund. It takes little imagination to tax a necessity of life.

I do not believe Mr. Jellinek has the concerns of the constituents of this riding in his heart. The survival of the Progressive Conservative Party seems to be his most important concern.

Contrary to the Conservative cry of this be-

ing an unnecessary election, I welcome the reprieve. Expenses are becoming harder to meet every month in my household. A Tory government in Ottawa guarantees the average Canadian will face even tougher times. I hope all Canadians will carefully consider the options and vote for policy rather than for who they dislike the least. If the Conservative party is returned to power, I fear I will not be able to afford the amount of petroleum lubricant which will be necessitated by Tory policy.

Yours truly  
 Sean Aherne