

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Acton W.I. to be missed

After 77 years of faithful service to Acton and area the Acton Women's Institute has disbanded because of dwindling numbers.

It is another in a series of long-standing organizations which have closed down in recent years because of shrinking membership.

The Acton W.I.'s demise is regrettable for several reasons.

The lifeblood of any community is its volunteer service groups. Over the years the Acton W.I. performed many worthwhile and necessary deeds. Evidence of their good work still abounds today.

However, Acton hasn't lost just another service group.

An organization like Acton W.I. is an important link to the community's past, which has been severed. Whenever an old institution does both the young and old sectors of the society suffer.

Another negative in the W.I. disbanding is that Acton has lost a vehicle for community involvement by senior citizens.

Undoubtedly the fact the membership was elderly discouraged new blood, younger women, from joining the W.I. It's a sad situation. The young and old both benefit from joint ventures. If a few younger gals had joined up the W.I. wouldn't have folded. The seniors could have passed on the mantle of service to the new faces.

It's a symptom of the change society has undergone in recent years. Women don't have the spare time they once had.

One young woman expressed her regret at seeing the W.I. disband, to an Acton Free Press staffer last week. She said she thought her career and family commitments were finally reaching the point where she might have soon had some time to devote to an organization like the W.I.

That was the whole problem.

Everyone was waiting for the day when they'd have the time to devote to the W.I., instead of simply finding the time now.

Town protest illogical

Phone rates are going up in Acton and Halton Hills council has protested, but for the wrong reasons.

When informed recently that Bell has applied to the Canadian Radio, Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for a residential service rate hike of 50 cents a month because the number of phones in the 853 exchange has increased by five per cent, pushing the exchange up to a higher service charge block, council used the opportunity to once again protest Halton Hills being split into two telephone directories.

It may be a nice idea to have both urban areas in one directory, but it would seem to have little to do with the rate hike.

Council could have protested the automatic upping of the monthly rate just because there are five per cent more phones in the 853 exchange. Bell wants to raise the rate automatically, without apparently studying to see if costs have actually increased in the 853 exchange because there are a few more phones. If they have studied the question, evidence certainly wasn't included in their brief to council.

Council could further have protested the rate hike on the basis

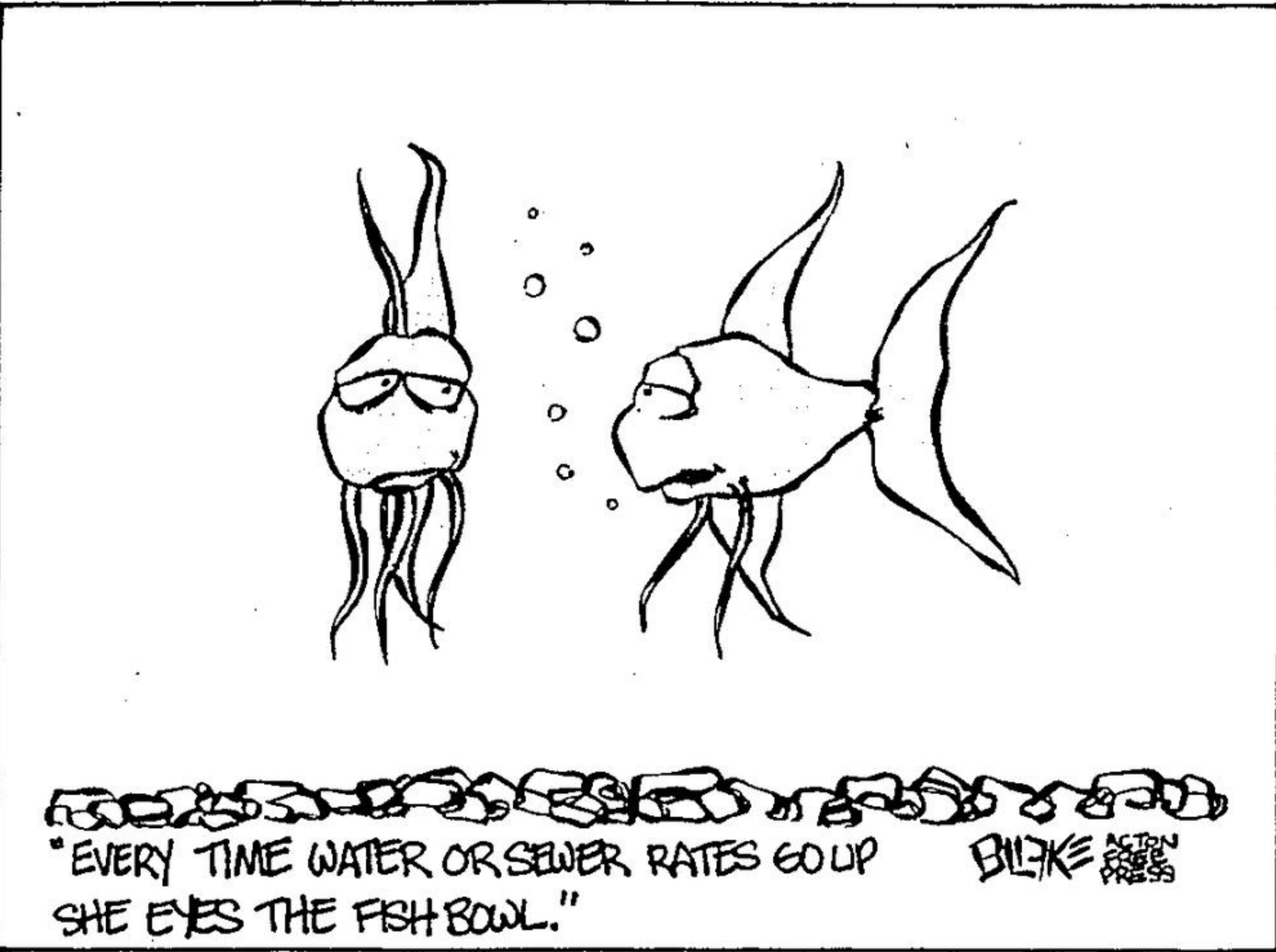
that Bell made huge profits last year. They could have protested on the basis that Bell has a monopoly on an essential service.

Likely the CRTC will get a good chuckle out of the town's message that rates shouldn't go up until both Acton and Georgetown are in the same book. The two subjects are unrelated.

Further, councillors seemed to like the idea of Acton being moved to the Peel-Halton directory, with Georgetown, Milton, Oakville, Brampton, Mississauga and Erin, (even though Erin isn't in Halton or Peel). They neglected to mention Halton's largest municipality, Burlington, isn't in the Halton-Peel book either.

Moving Acton to the same book as Georgetown would seem to ignore the wishes of the customers of Acton. Bell reported in the past doing a survey of residents here and found they liked being in the same book as Guelph because Actonians obtain many services from that city.

Also much of the time spent debating the rate hike was spent discussing the hassles experienced by Georgetown residents trying to get an Acton directory for free, as Bell has previously promised. However, that's another irrelevant argument.



Spare me the feelings of hockey players

Like every other red-blooded male in this country over the age of four, I am an expert on hockey.

As a player, I didn't exactly make it to the NHL. Or Senior A. Or Junior A. Or Junior B. Or Juvenile C.

But you don't have to make it all the way in Canada to become a connoisseur of the game. All you have to do is have been exposed to the game since you were about three, and it's in your blood for life.

As a kid, I felt culturally deprived because I didn't have a pair of "tube" skates. To my great shame, I had to indulge in the sport wearing an old pair of my mother's "lady's skates" (pronounced with utter scorn by the kids with tube skates.) Mine were almost to the knee and supported your ankles like a bag of marshmallows. Obviously, that is the sole reason I didn't make it to the big leagues.

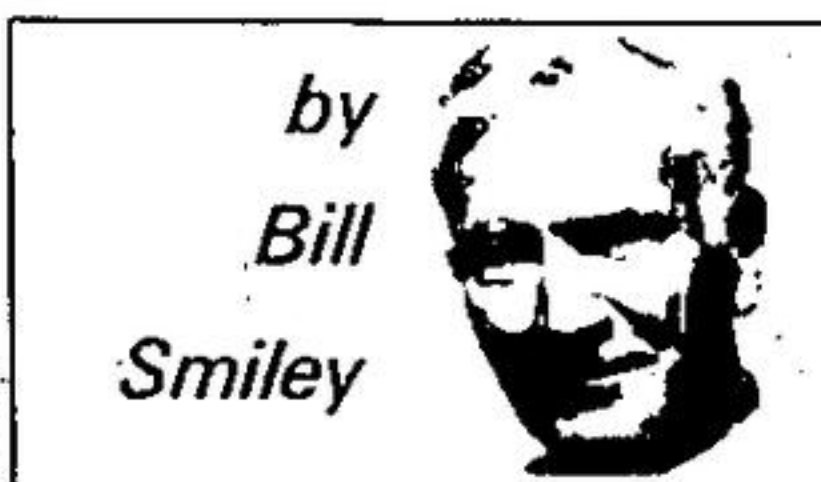
As a kid, I played shinny on the river with some guys who actually, later, did make it to pro or semi-pro ranks. When I was in high school, some of my best friends were playing Junior A.

I was brought up in a rabid hockey and lacrosse town. When I was a little boy, we had a senior hockey team. It was made up of local factory hands, blacksmiths (yes, I go back that far), and generally good athletes, of no particular rank or station in life.

They played for fun. They bought their own equipment. There was tremendous rivalry with the other towns in the country. The rink was jammed for every game.

We kids sneaked into the games through the place where they threw out the snow after clearing the ice, squirmed our way down behind the players' bench, and fought each other to the bone when a senior broke a stick, and with a lordly gesture, handed it back toward us.

If you were lucky, you got two pieces of



hockey stick, took it home and had your old man split it, taped it up, and played the rest of the season with a six-foot man's hockey stick practically tearing the armpit out of your five-foot frame.

When I was a teenager, the home town went ape over hockey, began importing players, and iced a Junior A club. We local high school guys were devastated by jealousy when the imports, from such exotic towns as Ottawa, Montreal, Brockville, came to town and stole our girls away.

We locals didn't have a chance. It was Depression times. We were lucky if we had the money to go to the Saturday night movie (two bits), let alone take along a girl and feed her afterwards.

But the hockey imports had everything. Flashy uniforms. Great physiques. The roar of the crowd. And money. They got about \$15 a week for room and board and spending money. They often had two or three dollars to throw around, so, naturally, they got the girls. (Some of them are still stuck with them, ha, ha.)

Ironically, about a third of those guys who made us green with envy would be knocking off eighty-five to a hundred thousand a year if they hadn't been born 40 years too soon. They were good enough to make so-called NHL today, but not then, when there were so few teams and so

many aspirants. There were only eight teams then: Toronto, Montreal Canadiens, Montreal Maroons, Ottawa Senators, Boston, New York Rangers, New York Americans, Chicago and Detroit.

There were probably just as many hopeful players. Today there are 21 or 23 or 28 teams in the NHL. Nobody seems able to count them any more.

Well, figure it out. Take a quart of whiskey and add a similar amount of water. Split the remains in two and add a half of water to each. What do you get? Not a whiskey with water. A water with a touch of whiskey.

And that's why so many once-ardent hockey experts like me just don't bother going to games, or even watching them on TV, unless the Russians are playing, when you see a few flashes of the old-time hockey, instead of a group of high-school dropouts high-sticking, slamming each other into the boards, pretending to fight by dancing ring-a-round while carefully clutching each others' sweaters so they won't be hurt, tripping, clutching, hooking, and doing everything but play hockey.

Perhaps the most sickening thing of all is the great hugging and kissing and dancing that takes place when one turkey has scored a goal by shooting toward the end of the rink and having the puck go in off a teammate's stick—pure accident.

It's O.K. I don't necessarily want to go back to the days when players had some dignity, and didn't have to pat each others' bums all the time. Nor do I want them reduced to the sort of wage slavery they endured years ago.

But please spare me, on the sports pages, from their constant whining, tantrums, hurt feelings, and never-ending interest in the big buck.

Reader sends bouquet for YMCA article

Dear Eric: Just wanted to drop you a short note to, once again, say "thank you". Your story in the paper this week (January 23) was terrific and very much appreciated. I think it was a shot in the

arm for all of us. Hopefully the rest of the town felt the same. I've also learned to appreciate such a story. I didn't realize the time and work involved. We worked together for two hours just finding out facts,

then it all had to be put together.

So, on behalf of the Memorial Y.M.C.A. (Acton) and myself "Thank You."

Yours truly
Carol Clark

Letter to editor

Pay 18¢ and be happy

Dear Editor: I have taken the advice of Mr. Sean Aherne and written my opinions of this election campaign. It seems that this person should have waited until today (Jan 23 80) to make his comment on energy policy.

but let's not forget also that he would impose Wage and Price controls. "Never" said Pierre. Do you remember that happy Thanksgiving night? Wage controls, A.I.B. and the rest.

I won't worry though if Trudeau is returned. Maybe I can apply for a L.I.P. grant or another of his many wasteful goodies.

Coming back to the subject of energy, maybe a hefty hike will keep some people from making unnecessary trips in their car or burning too much fuel oil while heating their homes. Who

knows, it may even get them thinking about the future of this country.

As for a minority government trying to pass such a budget, well sir, it shows that there are some people in Ottawa with a view of the future, not the narrow minded here today gone tomorrow attitude we have seen so much of during Trudeau's "reign."

Eighteen cents be darned! Pay it and be happy.

Who is going to bail us out when Canada becomes a New York City. Bob Maddeaux
Acton

From the editor's desk

Halton-Burlington MPP and Ontario Liberal energy critic Julian Reed practices what he preaches. No matter how cold it is Julian can be seen standing most mornings on Highway 7 in Norval waiting for the GO bus to take him to the city and his duties at Queen's Park.

He's doing his bit to ensure Ontario has enough oil to get through this winter and is no doubt glad to see the mild winter we are experiencing. It saves on fuel and makes it more comfortable to stand and wait for the bus.

Nassagaweya regional councillor Bill Johnson was known to many as "Wicked Willie" when he was busy as an environmental activist and later a provincial NDP candidate.

However, now that he is a councillor Bill jokes that he has a new nickname, "The Earl of Nassagaweya." Wicked says he is the "Queen's Own Representative to Halton Region."

Speaking of affable Bill, he's not sporting an NDP button this election. Johnson is carrying a decal on his label which appeals for a "Fair Deal."

Johnson is one of thousands of federal employees, (he works for the Ministry of Environment) who want "political freedom." He's wearing the decal in protest of the restrictions on federal workers during elections.

Halton region has begun a review of "problems perceived within regional

government." Already the administration and finance committee, which is carrying out the study, has compiled 93 pages of documents that contain a number of recommendations for amendments to the provincial legislation which created Halton region in 1974. One of the recommendations calls for a review every five years of existing representation on council by populations.

The Halton Lung Association expects to have raised over \$100,000 from its 1979 Christmas Seal campaign. As of mid-January \$99,308.30 had been collected and the association expects more to come in from about 8,000 past contributors who hadn't yet been heard from. In 1978 the Christmas Seal campaign brought in slightly over \$90,000.

Veteran scout leader and former Halton District Commissioner Gord Douglas was recently honored with the presentation of a Medal of Merit at Halton's first annual "Forum 80" conference. The day-long session in Oakville, at Sheridan College, was chaired by Jim Dills, assistant provincial commissioner for Halton, a former Acton resident and former co-owner with Dave Dills of the Acton Free Press.

Mr. Douglas' wife Joan was presented with a plant by Jean Belshaw, president of the North Halton District of the Boy Scouts of Canada, for her support of Gord in his devotion of scouting.

Veteran Credit Valley Conservation Authority staffer Basil Noels has left the CVCA to become general manager of the

South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority in Newmarket. Noels' replacement as manager of the Water Resources Division is Ajji Sahabandu, who formerly worked for the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

It's probably no secret, but according to the Bank of Nova Scotia's economics department, uncertain times are ahead.

Scotiabank's monthly review notes there was surprising business strength in Canada last year and in fact throughout the world. However, the review warns international economic conditions have clearly deteriorated in recent months, mainly because of the oil price hikes and supply uncertainties. Scotiabank points out that south of the border housing has joined the auto industry in recession.

Canada's firmer competitive position should provide something of a buffer against the worsening world economic situation, the bank suggests.

Scotiabank economists note our exchange rate, a better trend last year in domestic costs, a resurgence in 1979 in business capital spending and Canada's "reasonably attractive" energy potential leave us in comparatively good shape. However, the bank experts emphasize the favorable influences won't last without "more realistic energy policies."

"Whatever the results of the mid-February federal election, policy-makers will have little leeway for stimulative measures. The country just will not be able to insulate itself from the broad sweep of world economic forces."

Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Feb. 4, 1970. Ken Marshall guided his team of huskies to a first place finish in the cross-country dog sled race in the Eskimodaze carnival in Galt on the weekend.

Wreckers moved into the old Acton post office Tuesday and started to demolish the familiar land mark. Built in 1913, the post office was superseded by the new federal building on Bower Ave.

Sixty or so new buildings were erected in Acton during 1969, the largest the Seneca Apartment building on Churchill Rd., a mate to the Winston Churchill apartment built earlier. Second largest was an addition to the Micro plant, third the new supermarket on the former tennis courts and next the Bank of Nova Scotia addition.

Bill Nelles was elected president of Acton Agricultural Society at their annual meeting in the council chambers. First vice-president is H.H. Hinton, second vice-president Chester Anderson.

The Department of Transport has ordered Rosslake airstrip to close.

Smith Griffin was elected president of the Ontario Shorthorn Association.

20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press Thursday, February 4, 1960.

A service diploma was presented to Dr. F.G. Oakes, honorary director and past president of Acton Agricultural Society, during the annual meeting Saturday. Lloyd McEnery was re-elected president, first vice-president Nino Braida, second vice-president Calvin Aitken, secretary-treasurer Mrs. Irene Swackhamer.

Mayor Walter Cook, Ted Tyler Sr. and Norm Braida were named to an interim committee to investigate the possible formation of an Industrial Development Commission here. Council and industry representatives met with J.R. Delaney of the Department of Planning and Development.

Nearly 200 veterans and guests enjoyed a dinner and awards presentation at the legion. George Musselle presented a 25-year pin to John Moore.

Acton Ministerial Association has discontinued giving religious instruction in the schools.

Rotarians all got a polio shot from Dr. Buckner at their meeting. Tom Shields has been appointed acting general manager of Disston.

50 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press Thursday, January 30, 1910.

For more than a century a landmark of Halton history, the mill at Norval was destroyed by fire. The old mill was erected about 1825 by James McMan. In the early days yokes of oxen travelled over the rough roads with grain from the farmers of the district. For more than half a century Robert Noble and his son conducted the business. Present owner is W.B.M. Browne.

The first draw for competition in the new Curling Club has been made. The skips are E.J. Hassard, Wm. Gould, Dr. Nelson, Geo. Cowie, J. Leishman, J. Morrison, W.E. Smith, L.B. Shorey, W.K. Graham, R.M. McDonald, H. Harrison.

Falling Brook, the Scarboro home of Sir Donald Mann and Lady Mann, fell prey to flames Sunday and was completely destroyed. The loss is estimated at well over \$150,000, although most of the contents were removed. Sir Donald is a native of this area.

It takes a contest between Acton and Georgetown to bring out the crowds to the new arena, and last Thursday night over 1,300 witnessed the O.H.A. fixture between these two teams.

Huffman was the big gun for the locals.

100 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press Thursday, February 5, 1880.

Orion Lodge, Georgetown, raised \$75 at a social to aid the suffering Irish.

In consequence of the great increase in the number of tramps, the County Council of Bruce is petitioning Parliament to amend the Vagrancy Act so able-bodied tramps can be imprisoned in the Penitentiary for a period of from two to five years.

A horrible tragedy took place in Bid-duph township when five persons in the Donnelly family were murdered by masked men. This has sent a shock through the whole Dominion, and opened the eyes of the people to the fact that in the most cultured and most powerful of the seven provinces of Confederation it is possible for scenes of lawlessness to be enacted which are not surpassed by the most bloody records of frontier life. The murder of the Donnelly family was but the last in a long tragedy of crimes. The deed was purely an act of revenge. It is a disgrace to the whole province. Thirteen men have already been arrested in connection with the murder of the Donnellys. A Vigilante Committee has been formed for the suppression of the lawless gang.