

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Don't change park's name

The town has received a generous offer from longtime Acton businessman and politician H.H. "Bert" Hinton, but based on the initial reaction of Actonians, Halton Hills council will likely, somewhat reluctantly, turn it down.

A number of people here, including councillors, have expressed the wish that Mr. Hinton would reconsider the conditions connected with his dedication.

We join them in urging Mr. Hinton take another look at what he is asking the town to do.

Mr. Hinton has offered to make a gift to the town of his home in exchange for a life, tax free tenancy, and has asked also that a plaque be placed there in memory of his late wife, Mary Hinton, a well-known school teacher here for many years. That request would seem quite reasonable.

However, Mr. Hinton has further required that the municipality change the name of Prospect Park to Hinton Park.

It is that provision which has upset many residents, a reaction we sympathize with.

Prospect Park has been the name of the park, around which so much of the athletic and some of the social and cultural life of the community has revolved for as long as virtually every Actonian can recall.

In Acton's Early Days there is an old photograph of the entrance to the park and it is captioned

"The entrance to Prospect Park." Acton's Early Days, published in 1939, calls the park Acton Park.

Nobody seems to know for sure how it came to known as Prospect Park but the most popular legend has it that it was named Prospect Park not long after the town added a piece of property, including the small peninsula jutting into Fairy Lake, called Prospect Point, to the Park.

Acton has lost many aspects of identity and links with the past over the last decade.

Prospect Park as a name which conjures up many fond memories for thousands of fairs, ball games and quiet walks by the lake with loved ones, shouldn't be added to the list simply so the municipality can acquire a valuable piece of property, albeit a fine addition to the park and local recreation facilities.

There seems no question the town can put the house to many worthy uses sometime in the future. The house alone would be a fitting tribute to the memory of Mrs. Hinton.

Perhaps Mr. Hinton would consider following through with his generous gift and seeing the house named Mary Hinton House or Hinton House.

However, changing the park's name is too dear a price in terms of lost heritage to be acceptable to most residents, particularly those who have made Acton their home for all or most of their lives.

Make us self-sufficient

Canada is in a unique position among western industrialized nations, we have a chance to be self-sufficient in energy.

This country is rich in potential energy resources and all we need to be self-sufficient is a willingness to pay the hefty price tag and a course of action to follow.

The Progressive Conservative government of Prime Minister Joe Clark has devised a plan of attack for the energy crises, the most comprehensive plan dealing with energy ever unveiled in this country.

Clark's team has proposed a number of plans to take us closer to self-sufficiency. One is the revamping of Petro-Canada to bring in private enterprise expertise to make the national oil company more efficient. Another step is to raise the price so there will be the necessary funds to explore for more oil and gas as well as develop new alternative, renewable energy resources. Then there's conservation measures like a beefed up home insulation program. The new National Energy Bank will be funded by higher prices and work on making this country self-sufficient.

Making Canada self-sufficient won't come cheaply. Conventional energy sources are rapidly disappearing. The price will be

dear to mine the tar sands and recover oil from the Newfoundland waters and the Arctic. Then there's the huge sums which must be invested to move oil from far off spots to markets like Ontario. Developing alternative, renewable energy sources like solar, wind and waves will be even more expensive.

There's no question the cost of becoming self-sufficient will be enormous, especially for consuming provinces like Ontario.

But, really, what are the alternatives?

Every day the task is delayed it becomes more costly.

Do Canadians want to live in an

energy poor nation? A land where gas is rationed? A country where homes are frigid because there isn't the energy to heat them? Do Canadians want to see the wheels of industry and commerce slowly grind to a halt because they can't get fuel and suffer the resultant massive unemployment.

Or do Canadians want to spend vast sums today so that they can have a huge advantage in the years ahead over other western nations and in fact most of the world?

If we keep importing energy from unreliable sources at inflated prices we will end up spending more and more of our incomes just to purchase essential energy. There won't be any energy to fuel the things which make the quality of life here a little better than in most corners of the world.

The real issue in this election should be ensuring security of supply.

Any plan which attempts to ensure future security of energy supply in Canada, regardless of cost, deserves to be supported, and not judged on six months work but assessed over three or four years.

The best way to ensure future security of supply is to make sure all of our energy supply is eventually domestically produced.

The Progressive Conservatives have such a plan. It's up to Canadians to decide Monday if they are willing to pay the price, "suffer short term pain for long term gain."

It was said a long time ago that the 20th Century would belong to this country. It hasn't worked out that way.

But if we are willing to pay the price now the end of this century and likely much of the 21st Century will belong to Canada.

Progressive Conservative candidates in this area are Otto Jelinek-Halton, Perrin Beatty-Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe and Albert Fish-Guelph.



"Okay, guys, who brought the paddle?"

Smiley predicts minority "worse than last"

It's a wonder there aren't more people in politics. All it requires basically is a strong stomach, a thick hide, and an absolute lack of scruples about giving away other people's money.

There will be only one real loser in this mid-winter election—the Canadian people. After eight months of non-government, they have to pay \$60-65 million for the privilege of choosing between two flocks of turkeys.

Ed Broadbent and the NDP don't have a hope of forming a government. All they can play is the role of spoilers.

So we have a choice between a paarty that practically put us into eternal bankruptcy, the Liberals, and a party that showed an incredible naivete in its first chance to govern in more than a decade, the Tories.

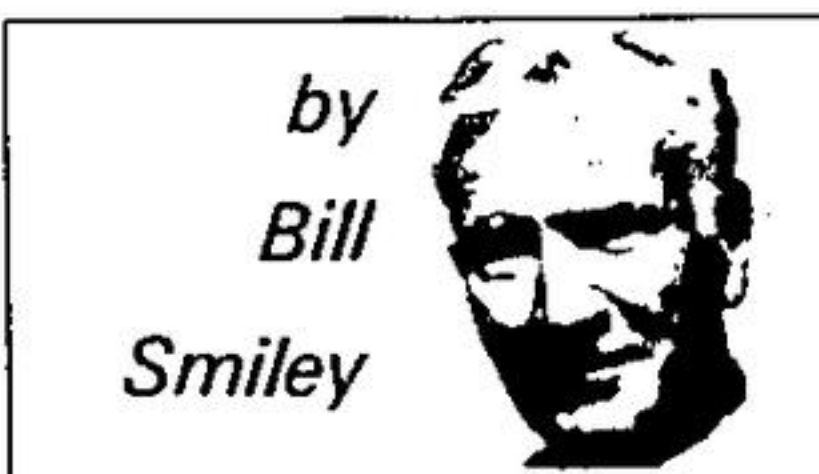
There's something desperately wrong with our system when we have two choices only: the mediocre and the mediocre.

My gut instinct about this election is disgust, and I'm sure it is widely shared. But it's the only system we have, at the moment, and a man can't just lie down on his face, cry, and kick his heels in frustration, as he would love to do.

As I write, the Liberals, after being soundly rejected by the voters last spring, are 20 points ahead of the Tories in the polls. What an incredible electorate we have!

Canadians tend to think of themselves as rather dour, solid, gray people, fairly unemotional, quite stable. The truth is that we are more volatile, politically, than the Balkans.

After several decades of good, gray prime ministers, whom we could count on to never let the left hand know what the right hand was doing, we embraced, with an almost religious fervour, a fiery, flaming, evangelical prophet out of the



by Bill Smiley

mid-west, who had a Vision—and not much else.

Rapidly becoming uncomfortable with this, we backed right up to a good, solid, Canadian, who liked sports, had an infectious chuckle, and didn't know how to chop off the hands of his friends when they got them into the till, Mike Pearson.

Soured on him, we clasped to our breasts a brilliant, arrogant man with a flower in his button-hole and a flowerchild in his kitchen. It was as disastrous as an honest, homely man who had never made the team marrying the chief cheer-leader. We became envious, and finally, embarrassed.

We listened to his manderings and his ponderings. We were at first proud, then baffled, then suspicious. He seemed to have the knack of saying the wrong thing at the right time.

There was nowhere to go but down, so we happily went back to a nonentity, a fellow whom most of his own party did not want, a scrambling, ambitious, and colorless man. We'd had enough of that color and charisma. We wanted someone like Mackenzie King, only not so crafty. Joe.

As I write, we are witnessing the Second Coming of Pierre and the Second Chance of Joe. His Brilliance and His Ordinariness. And you can't tell them apart. The first is trying to hide all his faults by acting like a clam. The second in mult-

iplying his faults by opening his mouth. Both are promising the moon, with our money. They have cancelled each other out.

What I'd really like to see is a massive rejection of both by the Canadian voter. Everybody staying home on election day. Three hundred votes cast in the whole of Canada. All of them for the Rhinoceros Party.

But that couldn't happen. We're too sincere, too earnest. We still believe in the so-called democratic system, which gives you a vote for one of two or three guys, none of whom you think should lead the country.

So we go into the polling booth, start to write an X, shake our heads, start to write an X in another place, shake our heads, and wind up feeling as though we'd like to kick the sides out of the booth, and go off and get drunk.

And that's about the way the vote will go, regardless of polls. We might vote for the local candidate, if he/she seems a good person, regardless of our party affiliations. We might cast a negative vote, against one party rather than for the other.

Personally, I hope the Liberals lose, for several reasons. They are in complete disarray. They did little to attack inflation, except steal Bob Stanfield's prices and wage controls. They let the national debt become infamous. They showed little political conscience in forcing an election.

The Tories were on the right track, with their tough budget. But they went too far on their so-called energy policy, in a land of long distances, and eight months of cold weather. Canadians will give up their mistresses before they'll give up their oil and gas.

Prediction? Another minority government, worse than the last one.

From the editor's desk

by Gord Murray

City slickers don't know nearly as much about shopping as people living in small rural towns like Acton, according to a recent study by Professor John Liefeland of the University of Guelph.

The study, sponsored by the Research and Evaluation Branch, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, explored the differences in urban and rural consumer problems.

The most dramatic contrast between urban and rural consumers was in their relationship with the merchants the study indicated.

Professor Liefeland's study showed "The most dramatic contrast between urban and rural consumers was in their relationship with the merchant. In rural communities, the merchant and consumer depend on one another and maintain a face-to-face, long-term business relationship. The merchant sees himself as an ally of his customer. He aims to satisfy, often dealing with the manufacturer in the customer's behalf. He sells not only goods, but the service that inevitably follows."

"The urban customer, on the other hand, has few face-to-face dealings with the same merchant. Each transaction is performed in isolation, with little concern for a long-term relationship. The merchant and consumer both know that an unsatis-

fied consumer will take his business elsewhere, but with so many potential customers around, the merchant doesn't worry about a few dissatisfied customers."

Urban customers may have more selection, but not necessarily better access to quality and they are unhappy about their consumer experiences much more frequently.

The study leaves the impression that rural consumers are wiser. Choice isn't as great in a small town but merchants, realizing what their customers want, are more likely to stock only good value, middle-of-the-line products, eliminating the discount models and frill items.

"Small town shoppers are methodical and long sighted. They plan needs carefully, take more time evaluating choices and consider the long term quality versus price relationship," the study shows.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority held its annual meeting Thursday and it marked the end of outspoken Grant Clarkson's term as chairman.

Clarkson's resignation was effective that meeting and he was replaced by Howard Stewart, a Huttonville apple grower, who has been vice-chairman of the CVCA since 1975.

Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press Wednesday, February 18, 1970

Acton will not lose its identity under regional government and quite likely will be the urban core of a new area in a four or five unit Halton split, according to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Hon. Darcy McKeough. "Things look a lot brighter for Acton now," Mayor Les Duly told the Free Press following the meeting at Queen's Park. "We may have a council the same as today." Boundaries of the Acton unit would likely include most of Nassagaweya and part of Esquesing.

There were 15 races on the card at the Y's Men's Club snowmobile races on Fairy Lake Sunday. Joe Woods Jr., of Guelph, won most of the hardware. Marj Lillie of Everton won the ladies' trophy. Ross Ribey made the presentations.

Winners in the Sweethearts bonspiel were Dr. Brian Moore and Anne, Wes Beatty and Nellie, Ron Cooksley and Lucille, Willa Hewitt and Harvey Young.

A ladies' rink won a bonspiel at Guelph, Mary Marks, Nan Hurst, Helen Otterbein and Gwen Tyler.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press Thursday, February 18, 1950

Plans for a new United church sanctuary reached their final stages when the tender from J. B. Mackenzie and Son was accepted by the building committee, under chairman Alf Long. The addition will be erected above the present Christian Education building which was completed in 1958. Tenders for demolition of the old church, erected in 1875, will be called soon. An organ has been obtained from Berkley United Church in Toronto and the present organ will be sold. The new church has been designed by Harold Hicks. Services have been held in the Robert Little school and presently in the Y.

Rover flag was presented by George Haggart, president of the Scout Group Committee, to the newly-formed Billy Middleton Rover crew during Baden Powell Night. The program was attended by 300 friends and as many Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Rovers in the Robert Little school auditorium.

Mrs. P. Austin and Mrs. J. Price are now helping the Y Ladies' Auxiliary with their nursery school.

The annual high school at Home was held for the first time in the new auditorium. There was a nautical theme for the dance attended by about 300. Dance programs outlined the ship's stops.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press Thursday, February 13, 1900

By defeating Milton in both the playoff games this week Acton wins the honors of group 5 for the good old town, amid the hooping, howling exuberance of the hundreds of local fans who had gone with their team to Milton. They paraded the Milton streets and hollered to their hearts' content. It was a well-earned victory for Acton's first Intermediate OHA team and a culmination of efforts over the past month since the opening of the arena.

The Acton crowd were jubilant all the way home and on arriving back let the folks who had retired know they had brought victory with them. Here are the boys who battled out that final sweep to victory: Goal Holloway, defense F. Gibbons and Greer, centre Salmon, wings Kentner and Huffman, subs. Chew, Woods and N. Gibbons.

About 1,000 attended the next round between Paris and Acton which ended 3-2 for Acton. There was such an ovation when "Gout" Gibbons came back on the ice after an injury, but Big Boy Greer had made up for his removal, and ran in another goal. Drilling operations at the Syenuck Valley Oil Company two miles west of Acton have reached a depth of 2,800 feet.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press Thursday, February 26, 1880

On Tuesday night last just at the close of the missionary meeting at Crewson's Corners, a fire was discovered in the house occupied by Mr. Oliver Lasby. It seems when some of the children went to bed a coal oil lamp was left burning which must have exploded and set fire to the furniture. Two little boys were removed from their perilous position, and the fire extinguished.

The Lord Bishop of Niagara has appointed The Rev. C. R. Lee of Acton to the incumbency of Port Colborne.

Acton Bible Society met to arrange for collectors and for the annual meeting.

Mr. H. Long leased the building formerly occupied by Acton Plow Co. and has put in new machinery for the manufacture of trimmings for fly traps, iron bound books, trunk and satchel handles, tobacco tags, covers for tea and coffee pots and all description of goods.