

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Pat on back for Pomeroy

Do doubt there are some who will brand the mayor's \$1,450 pledge to the Acton town hall restoration project a purely political move.

This being an election year Peter Pomeroy has left himself wide open for attacks on his motives.

However, we suspect the majority of people who gave him such a large plurality in the last municipal vote, and by doing so expressed their confidence and trust in the Esquering resident to lead this town, will conclude his donations to the town hall and Georgetown library-theatre complex fund raising drives was an honest effort to keep an election promise.

During the last election, while campaigning in Acton, Pomeroy

promised not to turn around and raise his pay once he was in Halton Hills highest office.

Apparently his colleagues, who drafted the budget this year, were napping when he made the pledge of no pay hike during his first term. They surprised him with a \$2,900 pay boost in the 1980 budget.

He wisely found way to keep his promise to the voters and still put the taxpayer's money to good use on a couple of important municipal-public projects.

True, Pomeroy is an astute politician, but if he'd only been concerned with making points with the electorate surely he would have found a way to donate some of his raise to some project in Esquering just to cover all the bases.

Happy Easter and Passover

This is a holy week both for Christians and Jews with the solemn ceremonies in the great churches of the world and intense family celebrations in Jewish homes.

For the Christian the week commemorates the passion and death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection on Easter morn. For the Jew it is Passover, when the Hebrew children were spared from the sword of the avenging angel who slew the Egyptian first born.

For the Jewish people it is a time of family gatherings much like Christmas is for Christians. Families sit around the Seder table listening to a recital of the tale of liberation from the book of Haggadah, and savor once a year dishes prepared by the family

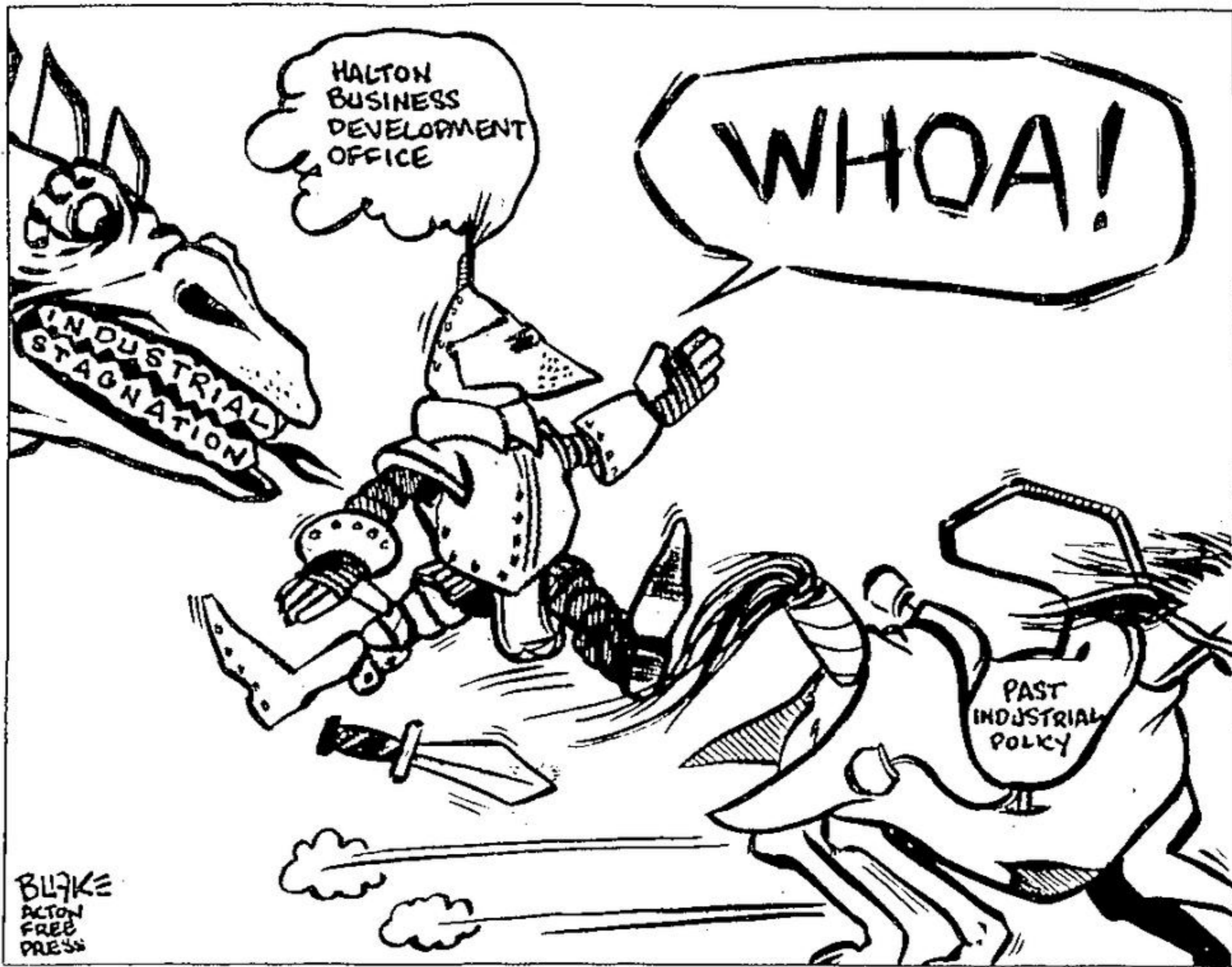
matriarch.

For the practising Christian Holy Thursday and Good Friday are solemn holy days culminating in the festival of Easter which commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Both festivals of hope coincide with the arrival of spring, when new life emerges from its long winter's sleep. It is a time of new hope and a time to sweep the doom-sayers and gloomy forebodings under the rug.

It is above all a spiritual time when the true meaning of man's existence on earth is pondered and material values can be set in their proper perspective.

To all who celebrate and value the traditions of both festivals we offer our wishes for happy and rewarding holiday.



March break lowers trade balance

Well, admit it, scoups. It's been a great winter, hasn't it? January, unbelievable February cold but clear. About half the amount of snow of an average Canadian winter.

My snow removal bill is about half what it was during a normal winter. And that makes me wonder. What are all those towns and cities and villages who put aside in their budgets so much for snow removal and disposal going to do with all the money they haven't spent?

I'll tell you. They'll switch it to some other department, and spend it on something equally as non-producing as snow removal: so much for straightening bent parking meters; an allotment to the fire department for three new checkerboards; a little dispensation to the Parks Board to repair vandalism; a portion to the Board of Works to pave over some grass for new parking meters; expenses for a councillor to go to a convention in Hawaii to study racism. You name it, but it won't be a refund to the taxpayer.

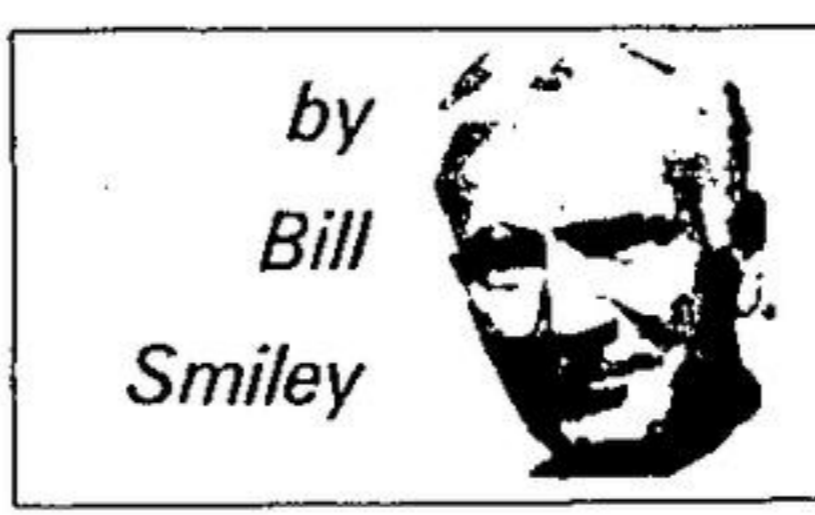
By the time this appears in print, the March Break will be over. This annual affair, which used to be known as the Easter Holiday, has grown into a gross exercise in lowering our national balance of trade with the U.S.

It involves hundreds of thousands of Canadians, parents and children, students, school teachers, in a massive airlift to the south, where they spend several millions of our sick Canadian dollars getting a sunburn.

Somebody should put a stop to it. It's a waste of energy, with all that oil and gas going up in smoke. It's a waste of money. And it's a waste of time.

Maybe you think I'm just jealous, when all the teachers, and half the students, tell me they're off to Jamaica, Hawaii, Florida, the Barbados, Texas for their one-week break. I am.

But I'll be diddled if I'm going to spend a thousand bucks, and another on my wife,



by Bill Smiley

to line up in confused air terminals with all the other peasants, fly down south at some ungodly hour, stay in some hotel that has about as much style and class as a McDonald's hamburger joint, be ripped off for everything I eat and drink, and come home broke and exhausted and peeling.

Not when I can do the same thing for about two dollars, four months later, and not be burned, frustrated, or even tired, by just driving out to the beach, opening the thermos, gently brown, swim in clean water, and come home relaxed.

People who can't cope with March by staying in Canada for the March Break should be picked up at the border, locked into box-cars and sent up to James Bay.

And that's exactly what I contemplate, as I write. Instead of heading for the sunny south, and a sybaritic week pretending I'm rich and elegant and swinging, I'm planning to head for the frosty north, and a frigid week pretending I'm poor, tough, and hardy. It takes a lot more guts than flying to Barbados, bolting rum punches, and getting stung on the foot by a sea urchin.

I'll be training to Moosonee, bolting rum punches, and getting squeezed all over by human urchins. My grandboys.

It's only a 24 hour ride on the Polar Express, and I love trains. I can sleep and read and contemplate the inanities of the human race far better than on one of those

great cattle cars they call jumbos.

There's a four-hour stop in Cochrane, and I doubt that I'll have to line up to see the sights there. I won't have to stand in a sweaty line to catch the last four, five or six-hour train ride to Moosonee.

Instead of having to fight for a taxi, I'll be met at the station by a snowmobile, ineptly driven by my daughter. I'll whistle out to her house, teeth chattering, not with cold, but fear, as we circumnavigate tractor trailers, trucks and Indians under the influence.

I'll be greeted by bonewracking hugs, and mislaid kisses by two little blonde boys who love the north, and haven't had a cold since they went up there. (When they lived in the city, they had eternal runny noses and chest barks.)

I'll pull out some presents and be the centre of attention, which is good for the soul of a grandad.

I'll have the odd skool with the neighbours and venture into town to see whether it's true that the Hudson Bay Company is gouging the natives, as it has since the time it was formed by Prince Rupert in the seventeenth century.

If it's a clear day, I'll holler "Hello, boy!" across the 300 miles that separate my daughter and my brother, who is up in Northern Quebec helping organize the greatest hydro project in the world.

My only concern is what I should wear, son Hugh having taken off with the last of my thermal underwear. Where does one purchase fleeced panty-hose?

And when I came back, I'll smirk and sneer and snigger at my colleagues with the tan that will last a week.

"Wijaga do in March Break, Bill?"
"Oh, nothing much. Spent a few days at James Bay, shooting caribou and catching 12 pound trout through the ice."

My only fear is that my wife will want to go with me. That would require four months planning and put us right into the black-fly season.

Our readers write

Atom tourney successful

Acton, Ont., Mar. 27-80

To the editor of The Acton Free Press

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the hockey players, parents and hockey fans who attended the Acton Centennial Atom Hockey Tournament. With the support you have shown over the past weekend, our atom tournament and minor hockey in Acton will be successful.

To the Acton Referee's

Assoc., who without their help patrolling the blue lines our first game would not have got underway, thanks a lot fellows.

To George and Marie Hargrave of the St. John's Ambulance our enduring thanks for watching over our hockey players through all of our 22 games.

I've waited until last to thank the tournament committee, without their work over the past

months the tournament would not have got off the ground. Special thanks goes to Judy and Bill Shannon, Jackie and Paul Phelan, Joan and Nick Yalowica, Carol and Bob Smith, Mollie and Frank Allison, Doris and Harold Townsley, Joan Knight, and of course to the many support helpers on the days of the tournament.

Thank You Bill Knight Tournament Chairman

Bristow efforts outstanding

60 Grant Blvd., Dundas, Ontario, March 24, 1980

Mr. Gordon Murray, Editor of the Acton Free Press, Acton, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Murray: Enjoyed meeting you today, when Mr. Bristow handed over a very beautiful cheque to the

Heart Foundation. Just imagine, \$4,300.00 for heart research!

Vic Bristow has been an outstanding person in the efforts he puts into his Heart Fund Campaign. However, Vic is the first one to admit that he has had a great deal of help from the citizens of Acton and your fine paper has

assisted him tremendously.

The Ontario Heart Foundation is very grateful to the Acton Free Press for their loyal support. Many thanks Gordon.

Sincerely, Dave and Lenore Stewart Hamilton and district co-ordinators.

Appreciate paper's support

Dear Mr. Murray: Editor, Acton Free Press.

The members of the Halton Council on Smoking and Health wish to thank you for your active support of their program for National

Non-Smoking Week (NNSW) held this past Jan. 21-28. If we are to be successful in our efforts, it is necessary to have the support of many groups in the community. We hope that we will be able to count on your con-

tinued support in the coming years.

Thank you once again. Sincerely, Mary-Ellen Bridge, Secretary, Halton Council on Smoking and Health

Enjoyed M. Taylor Profile

Dear Mrs. Barr: I wish to thank you very much for honoring Mrs. M. Taylor in your Profile column. To me she is a special person and I was happy to see

her receive some recognition. I've entered her name as Citizen of the Year a few times, but to no avail, and she is so modest too. She would probably be upset if she

was chosen. She is just the sort that goes quietly about doing little and big things for others.

Again, thank you Elena Grammich



On the Leavell

With Helen

The Erin Fall Fair will remain a Class B fair. The Erin Agricultural Society had decided to bid for a Class A category, but withdrew that bid when livestock classifications for A fairs were changed. The new ruling says A fairs must have a minimum of 24 entries in each separate registered breed, each year, as compared with only three in the B class. Fair Board directors felt safer keeping their event at the B level.

The Hamilton Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, of which Acton is a part, will be celebrating their 125th anniversary in 1981.

The diocese is the second largest English speaking Catholic diocese in Canada. Three hundred priests administer to the spiritual needs of over 300,000 Catholics in 119 parishes and missions throughout Brant, Grey, Bruce, Halton, Waterloo, Wellington, Hamilton-Wentworth, and four

townships in the county of Dufferin.

Preparations are now underway to celebrate the anniversary. The Bishop of Hamilton, The Most Rev. Paul F. Reding, D.D. recently announced "Renewal" to be the theme of the anniversary. He described the celebrations as "An opportunity to thank God for the Graces and blessings of the past." "It should be an occasion to challenge us to a renewed effort in searching for the Lord's ways for the future."

There are two phases to the celebrations that will mark the anniversary.

The first phase, to take place in 1980, will involve the clergy of the diocese, who will participate in various retreats offered during the year. The retreats will be of a special nature, geared to the spiritual renewal of the clergy in the diocese. Both bishops and priests will aim not only at their own personal renewal and commitment but will reflect upon how the diocese will meet the demands of the church in the 1980s.

The second phase of the celebration '81 will involve the renewal of the people of God in the Diocese. Apart from regional, deanery and local celebrations, each parish community has been asked to have some type of renewal program for the members of the parish. This might involve a week's mission; 40 hours of devotions; days of recollection; twilight retreats; youth days; evenings for married couples;

special family nights in the home. Each parish will celebrate a special mass of Thanksgiving. This will be highlighted by the parish community choosing a worthy mission or charitable appeal to support through their offering.

In February, an anniversary prayer card was distributed throughout the parishes with a special intention printed for each day of the week. Each family has been asked to pray for that specific intention.

They are: Monday, Families; Tuesdays, Sick and Suffering; Wednesday, Vocations; Thursday, Bishops and Priests; Friday, Departed Ones; Saturday, Religious; Sunday, Diocese of Hamilton.

Acton high school students interested in furthering their education visited the University of Waterloo on Monday. They spent the day learning about computers, and attended lectures during the morning and in the afternoon they used the multi-million dollar computers on the campus to find their own solutions to problems. Those with sufficient knowledge spent the entire day with the computers. Students with no previous computer science experience received lectures on problem solving and actual use of the computer using a FORTRAN-like language called TUROR.

Back issues

10 years ago

The Acton Free Press Wednesday, April 8, 1970

A thousand cheering students raised the arena roof for their costume carnival Monday. Harold Townsley, assisted by Don Price, ran the events.

Figure skaters ended the season with a colorful carnival. Trophy presentations were made to Debbie Ruppert, Kathleen Cheyne, Robin Marshall, and Diane Charlette. Solo parts highlighted Debbie Ruppert, Debbie Drinkwater, Diane Charette, Robin Marshall and Patti Dunn. Club professionals Nancy Skuce and Sally Leatherland were presented with flowers by George McPhail and Brad Timbers. Gary De Bruyn heads the club and there are 102 enrolled.

Robert Hyde has been received into the ministry at Hagersville.

Dr. and Mrs. Buchanan are home after a two month tour of South America.

Mrs. Albert McCutcheon marked her 92nd birthday.

While Hugh and Marion Patterson and family were away in Florida, Cons. Roy Wood and Jessie Coles had to break into their house to rescue their cat, who had been left inside by mistake.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, March 31, 1960

The Y's Men celebrated their 20th anniversary. Earl Masales was inducted as president.

Murray Harrison is part-time manager of the Roxy Theatre.

Amid tons of cement blocks, steel pipes and shattered boards, Charles Shultis and Eddie Thatcher were hurtled to the ground when the roof of the Wool Combing loading shed collapsed under the weight of four feet of snow and ice. They suffered only minor injuries.

Rev. Gordon Adams will preach his farewell sermon at the United Church Sunday.

One of this community's outstanding athletes and sportsmen, Frank McIntosh died in his 83rd year. He competed as a runner as far away as Boston, New York and Buffalo winning many medals and trophies. He was the first and only Actonian to become a 33rd degree Mason. He was a star of early lacrosse, hockey and ball teams. He was on an Acton team that won the intermediate lacrosse championship in 1899. He worked for Storey Glove Company.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, April 3, 1930

Mr. M. Pallant of the Maple Leaf Economy store, has leased the store on Mill St. now occupied by Mr. E. J. Hassard and will move to these larger premises.

Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Matthews held a social evening for the United Church choir, on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. M. Overholt removing to Toronto. Mr. and Mrs. Grenville Masales were given a wedding gift. And it was Mr. J.H. McComb's birthday.

Inspector J.M. Denyes recommends that Milton and Acton should employ a school nurse.

Council is considering publishing the names of all those in arrears of taxes.

The regular meeting of Dublin Literary Society was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Ruddick. Taking part in the Scotch program were Margaret Waldie, Leonard Brownlow, Mrs. Brownlow and Mrs. Webster.

There are no houses available for rent in Acton.

From March 15 to October 15, every dog must be tied up.

Assessor McPherson has been going his rounds the past few weeks.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, April 1, 1880

Mr. Louis Adams of Drayton, late of this village and one of its early settlers, has died, aged 70 years. Mr. Adams, with his father's family, came from Quebec and settled in Acton nearly 51 years ago. The place was then a dense forest and the Adams were its first settlers.

A fire broke out in a pile of rags near a stove in Barber's Paper Mill at Georgetown, but was quickly put out.

Mr. Fisher, the veterinary surgeon from Georgetown, has decided to visit Acton weekly.

The remark is often made that Acton should have a town hall, as the public halls now available are too small, uncomfortable and inconvenient. The drill shed has been spoken of as a suitable site. It could be plastered and otherwise fitted up at a very small cost, and would make an excellent hall. (This drill shed is now in the park, and is used at fair time for poultry.)