

# 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 Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.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 Elstone  
Sports/Women's: Dana Waltham  
Rockwood News: Jennifer Barr  
Contributor: Helen Murray  
Darkroom: Ken Dustin

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



### ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Manager: Bill Cook  
Sales: Jennifer Barr  
Classified Advertising: Pat Kentner  
BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
Office Manager: Rhonda Thornhill  
Shirley Joque, Carolyn Arsen, Marilyn McArthur  
CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT  
Manager: Marilyn McArthur



## Revamp Citizen of Year

Acton Chamber of Commerce should take a long look at revamping its Citizen of the Year program so more of the community will become involved.

About the only way the selection committee could get public input was to again opt for nomination ballots in this newspaper. The committee rightly felt letters giving detailed explanations of nominees would be preferable to names and one line reasons on ballots. The Chamber had few names to consider for the award this year before they reverted to ballots.

After naming Arlie White, an excellent choice for Acton's 23rd Citizen of the Year, the Chamber promoted the dinner for about a month.

While the tickets for the dinner were a little on the dear side, \$10 a head, attendance was still very disappointing.

There were less than 100 people in attendance.

Fortunately Arlie's family was strongly represented.

However the Chamber itself was poorly represented in terms of numbers in attendance and one might have expected more of Mr. White's colleagues from the Cancer fund raising drive and the local Roman Catholic community to be in attendance, to say nothing of more of general populace.

Undoubtedly those who didn't come to the dinner were absent not because they didn't feel Arlie deserved the honor.

Certainly this comment isn't intended to take anything away from Mr. White's richly deserved honor.

The Citizen of the Year Program, including the balloting

period, lasts about three months and interest in the award and recipient can wane during that time.

There is ample evidence that one of the easiest ways to build interest in an award is to keep the identity of the recipient a secret until it is actually presented.

However, keeping the name of the Citizen of the Year secret until the award is given, is too simplistic a solution to waning interest.

It is one thing to keep the identity of say the winner of a hockey award secret and expect a good attendance.

It will be harder to keep the Citizen of the Year secret because the Chamber must ensure the winner and his or her family are in attendance as well as representatives of organizations they're involved with are in attendance.

The period of time between the start of balloting and the dinner should also be shortened to help maintain interest.

Another idea might be to make a short list of finalists public and have runners-up or honorable mentions for the award. More people would turn out the night of the dinner to see if their nominee was the winner. Of course this would pose problems to, since honorable mentions and their families and supporters could feel slighted.

The Citizen of the Year program is excellent and very worthwhile. The Chamber is to be commended for its sponsorship.

Now the Chamber has a year to consider these and other ideas which might make the program more meaningful and better.

## Cancer fund needs support

Judging from the record of the past four years Acton and area residents don't really need to be reminded of the importance of giving generously to this month's cancer fund raising drive.

This community has been setting fund raising marks the past few years for the rest of Ontario to take aim at.

But in these tough economic times everyone needs a little prod that cancer research is extremely expensive and research is the only way to cure the suffering of millions, some right here in Acton, who are struck by this dreaded disease annually.

Cancer research is very costly. An electron microscope runs from \$50.00 to \$125,000. An ultra-centrifuge costs about \$25,000. A whole body scanner may be as dear as \$800,000.

And that's just for equipment. Then there's buildings to house

research facilities, wages for scientists, lab technicians and assistants.

But there are several other crucial uses to which cancer funds are put.

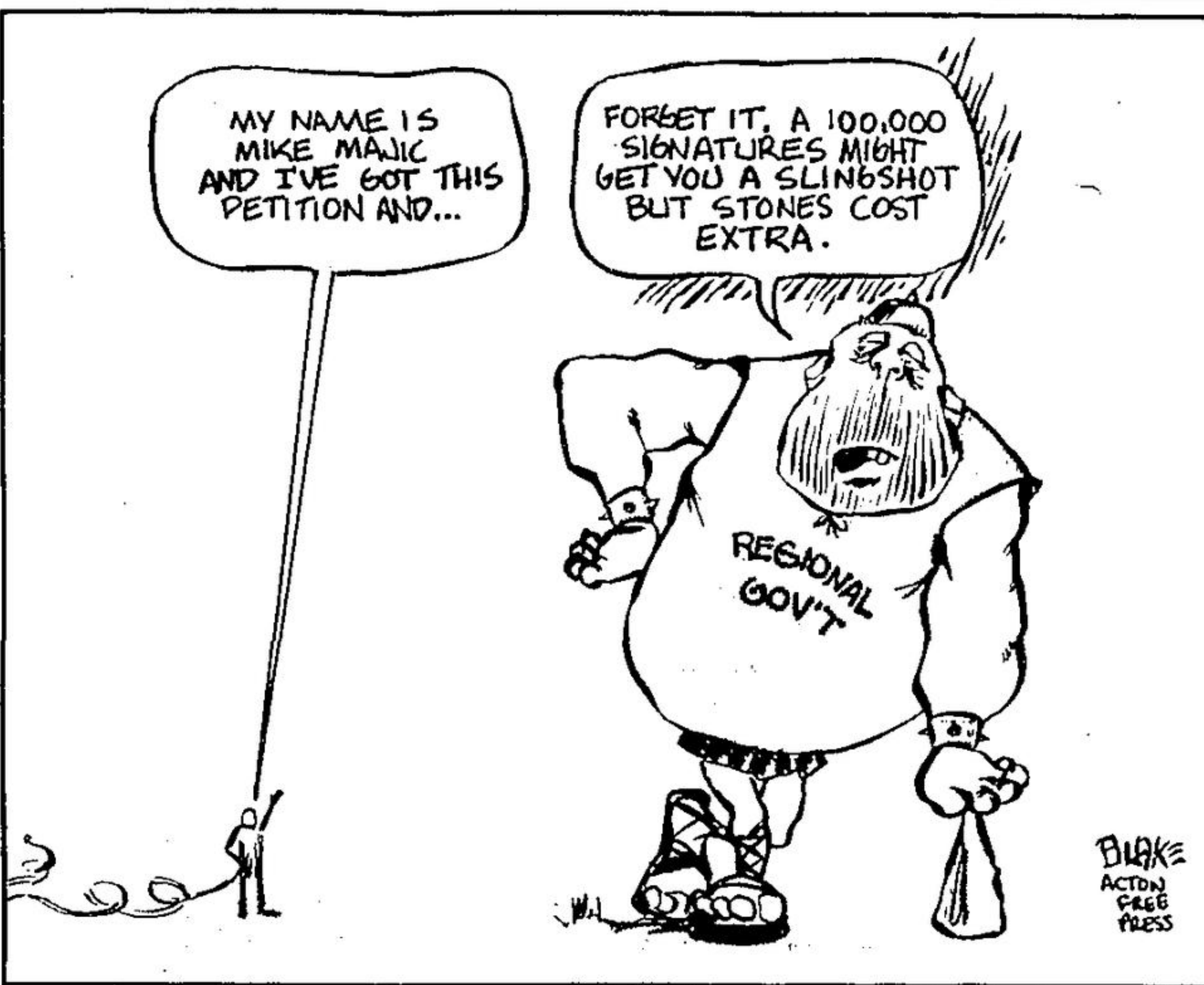
Education of the public on the importance of early detection and prompt treatment is just as important. Cancer prevention works hand in glove with the search for a cure.

Attention to early symptoms by members of both sexes can trim the human suffering and medical costs associated with cancer.

Then there's service to patients. This service includes distribution of dressings and other supplies, transportation, hospital and home visit.

All of these worthwhile endeavors take money.

No doubt Actonians will shine again when it comes to supporting the cancer drive.



## Answering letters is not strong point

In many ways, I am one of the worst people I have ever met. And one of them is in not answering letters.

I wish it were not so. I wish I were meticulous and tidy and had my income tax return filed at least two days before the deadline, and liked cats, and shined my shoes at least once a week. But I'm not and I don't.

That's just a sample of the things I don't like about myself. An entire list would fill this column. But not answering letters is right up there near the head of the list.

It was brought home to me today, end of March, when I received in the mail my annual card and gift from an old friend and one-time room-mate at college, Norm Lightford.

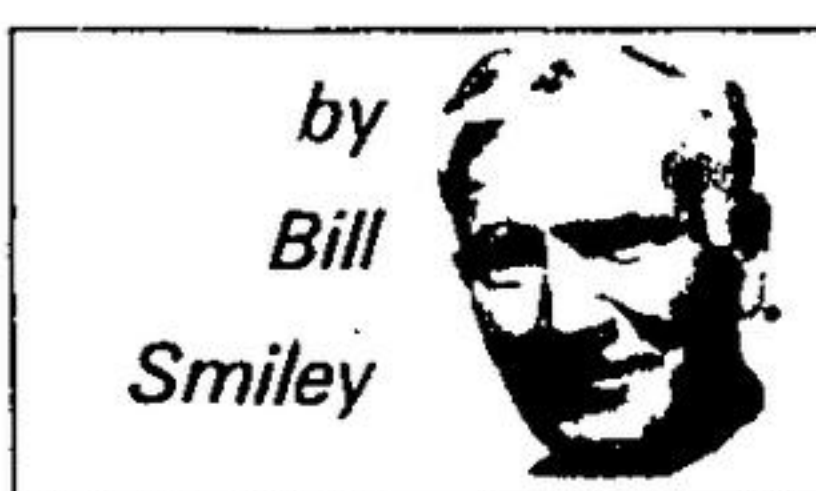
Every Christmas, arriving end of March this year (great mail service, eh?) he sends one of those beautifully illustrated calendars, and a warm card. And I have never seen him, or written to him or telephoned him, for about 35-years. Of course, the turkey never sends his address, but I could find that with a little effort.

Poor Norm. I shouldn't say that. He's now a dental surgeon in Ottawa with a large practice, a happy marriage after a lousy one, and a family. y

But I did him a dirty one. Away back in the fall of '41, I decided to join the Air Force. Not because I thought I could bring Hitler to his knees in short order. Not at all.

Mainly because I was falling badly behind in my studies because I had fallen badly in love with a girl from Rio de Janeiro who had to go home, leaving me bereft. Enlisting was a good way out.

Only one problem, I was sports editor of the Varsity year-book, *Torontensis*. I had some scruples, but not many. I didn't want to leave them without a sports editor (scruple). So, I suckered my room-mate,



by Bill Smiley

Norm, into taking over. Result? He failed second year dentistry, and had to repeat, while I was off in the wild blue yonder. (No scruples).

And just here on my desk, under the beer bottle or the goose-neck lamp, is another example of my non-letter-answering perfidy that bothers me, but doesn't seem to go away, like a headache or a cold.

It's a letter from Tony Frombola, of Oakland, Cal. It is dated October 4th, 1978. It begins, "Dearest Bill," and ends, "Well, Bill, old buddy, I sure wish I was hand-carrying this up to you; it sure would be nice to have a few for old times sake..."

Tony had tracked me down, after 34-years. Last time I'd seen him was on a troop-ship home from England. He was a Typhoon pilot, a prisoner-of-war, and we had "escaped" together after our camp was taken over by the Russians.

He was also one of the great cartoon artists, and I'd written a column about this aspect. Somehow, through the "old buddy" network, he'd learned about it, and spent four months trying to find out where I was. He phoned me one night from California. And I've never answered his letter.

Here's another example. Every Valentine's day, I get a card from a beautiful woman, Canadian, who spends the winter in Florida. She reasserts, annually, that she loves me. And I've never answered.

My sisters write long letters occasionally, and I never answer. My kid brother sends off an affectionate missive every Christmas. I do not deign to reply. Readers write warm, intelligent letters praising my column, or telling me what a jackass I am, I maintain a haughty silence.

Certainly, after a while, people stop writing, and you've lost another friend. Or enemy. What they don't realize is that I'm just testing them. Anyone who can go on writing letters into a void for 30-odd years is a real friend, worth cherishing, even though you never answer the letters.

Today I had a long-distance call from a woman, asking if she could reproduce one of my columns for a meeting of school trustees. The column was critical of schools. I said, "Sure." She said, "Thanks very much." I said "O.K." Communication instant. If she'd written me, asking, she'd never have heard, yea or nay.

What really has rubbed into my skin this major flaw in my character is the number of letters that pile into our place, from exotic lands, bearing incredibly beautiful stamps, for our son Hugh.

After nearly five years in the wilderness, he gets letters from Iraq, Paraguay, Argentina, Ireland, and so on. There are two from the United Nations building in New York, another from Florida, many from Quebec. He has friends all over the world. Maybe he writes back to them.

I don't even write letters to the editor, no matter what inanities appear in print.

But it's all going to change. After all, a man controls his own destiny. I am definitely going to answer all your letters, Norm, Tony, Winnie, Floss, Norma, Blake, Uncle Ivan, nephew Paul, cousin Laura, and all you readers. The minute I retire.

## Our readers write Skaters weren't tested

Dear Editor:  
We are writing in regards to the Acton Figure Skating Club, pre-school class. In October 1979, regular season lessons began, and all parents and children involved were looking forward to a good season.

A \$35 registration fee was charged to us at the beginning of the 1979-1980 skating season. This money was used to pay the instructors and the ice time for their lessons. At registration time, we were led to believe that the pre-schoolers would be tested for their Beginners Badge at the end of regular season lessons.

However, one week prior to finishing regular lessons, we were informed that our children would not be tested, as the committee felt that there was not sufficient time to hold tests. At least 15 minutes of our ice time for a period of 3-4 weeks was used to practice for the year end carnival. We feel that if this time was used so sparingly, then at least 5-10 minutes per week could have been taken for testing. We agree that

carnival time is a fund raiser, but we also feel that this time should be used for perfecting our children's abilities.

A beginner's Badge is earned when a child can skate the length of the rink without falling, bend over and touch toes, glide and stop. While some children were not ready for their badge others were definitely qualified, as this is the second year in the same class for some of the children. Had we not inquired when testing was being held, we would not have been notified by the Committee. Our children worked hard and tried their best, and should have been given the same opportunities for testing as the other age groups in the skating club.

This lack of enthusiasm for pre-school children does not leave much incentive in our minds to register our children in the same club next year. Will there be any time next year for testing? It's no wonder that registration has been down this past year.

Signed: Mothers of Pre-Schoolers who paid good money for nothing. Public Skating is Cheaper.



With Helen Leavell

Here we go again with high school reunions. This time all graduates of Renfrew Collegiate Institute are asked to return to town for their school's Homecoming Weekend May 15-18, 1981 (yes 81). Seems next year is the school's 100th anniversary. Contact J.R. MacGregor, R.C.I. Centennial Committee, 184 Bonhomme Street, South, Renfrew, Ontario, for further information.

Anyone in need of a pen pal? No I'm not turning into a pen pal service, but know of one young man who is lonely and in desperate need of some writing buddies. Seems this person is in prison in Ohio and would like to hear from someone on the outside. As he puts it, "Man doing time in prison with no family or friends who care. Need help to keep from losing myself in loneliness. Anyone with time please write: Donald Hicks, No. 14272, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, Ohio, 45699."

Want to help? It will only cost 17 cents.

The Halton Lung Association was pleased to announce recently they had raised a total of \$103,096 with their 1979 Christmas Seal campaign which ended March 31. This was an increase of 8.5 per cent over last year.

The Senior Citizens in Halton Centennial Manor in Milton helped a great deal in this campaign by stuffing, sealing and counting the bulk of the household mail. Donations go to support Family Asthma Programs, withdrawal Clinics, Day Camps for Asthmatic Children, Better Breathing Clubs, Pulmonary Function Testing in Industry and Social Service Assistance.

Speyside area resident, and one time National Hockey League superstar Pierre Pilote was on the NHL Oldtimers show-down Saturday night during the Minnesota-Montreal playoff game. Pierre was beaten out by Harry Howell, another hockey great.

The commentator, Gary Dornhoefer (I think) told viewers Pierre was from Georgetown, Ontario, which was close enough I guess though Acton would have been preferable.

Having just discovered hockey in the last few years (since meeting Toronto's Maple Leaf Superfan Martha Jackson), I was not too familiar with current players,

much less retired ones. Last year, at a meeting in Stewarttown, Esqueving councillor Pat Patterson asked if I recognized the man beside him. I admitted I didn't and much to my father's chagrin later, I was embarrassed to find out it was Mr. Pilote, who any hockey fan would give their eye teeth to be meeting.

Sorry Pierre. If I ever do meet you again, I promise I'll know you.

Unfortunately, I'm not too good at spotting sports greats. Last Christmas Eve, I was introduced to Toronto Argonaut Peter Muller outside my church in Collingwood. I practically tripped over him in the aisle before hubby Gord told me who he was. They had met only days earlier in Georgetown at a sports dinner.

Friends-in-Deed group for the handicapped will be heading to Stoney Creek for the annual handicapped bowling tournament May 25. Members enjoy the day when they can enjoy a sport played by "Normal" people. The owner of the Lucky Strike Bowling Lanes sets his alleys aside for the group, who use special props to aid them.

Anyone who is handicapped in any way and would like to go for a Sunday afternoon of bowling, or anyone who is able to offer transportation is asked to call me and I will get them in touch with the proper people.

## Back issues 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Wednesday, April 29, 1970

William Coon was named Attendance Counsellor for the North Education area. Lacrosse returned to the community centre Friday when the renowned Oshawa Green Gaels thumped the Acton Rams 20-7.

The Department of Labour has been asked to inspect Acton arena and local contractors will be asked for bids for repairs. Dr. Robert McClure spoke to the Tri-Angl Club in Luxton hall. He is moderator of the United church.

Acton's youngest Citizen of the Year, Steven Papillon, 12, was feted. Scoutmaster Gordon McCann read the citation, telling of his rescue of Suzie Hill from Fairy Lake. M.P. Rud Whiting read a surprise letter from Prime Minister Trudeau.

Mrs. Thomas Brotherton of Limehouse left Monday in the angel derby, a race for light planes piloted by ladies. Luncheon is served was a fund-raising project at Churchhill church.

A good crowd attended the opening stock car races at Osprings.

## 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, April 21, 1960

Sparked by a stellar performance by Gayle Hulford, the Eastern All Star ladies' five pin bowling team overcame a marginal lead to win the championship of the Canadian Five Pin Bowling finals at Calgary. She is the youngest ever to compete in national competition and was on two teams. She began her bowling career at the age of four. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hulford, proprietors of Acton Bowling Lanes.

She will receive a royal welcome from Acton council and Chamber of Commerce when she steps from the plane at Malton tonight.

Alfred Chopka and Walter Visser were named lifeguards to patrol the beach area, by parks board.

Two youths held up Silvercreek store and escaped with \$35.

Mrs. Robert Wright is now the correspondent from Eden Mills for the Free Press.

Rev. Gordon Holmes was honored with a farewell presentation at the Baptist church. He is retiring owing to ill health.

## 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, April 24, 1930

At a very representative meeting of those interested in baseball in Acton, the officers of the local club were elected, president J. M. McDonald, secretary-treasurer H. Chew, executive committee F. McIntosh, C. Lelshman, C. Reilly and N. H. Garden, manager Dr. Pearen.

Dublin Old Boys Association is planning for a reunion July 1.

A missionary play was presented at the United Church Young People's meeting. Parts were ably taken by Misses Kitty Savage, Vida Ramshaw, Veina Blair, Marjory Gibson, Sabra Nelson, Marjorie Switzer and Mrs. Bert Mowat.

Eden Mills Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. J. Marshall and decided on the material for new curtains for the town hall. The subject of dress was put forward, with suggestions that the women of our Institutes refuse to adhere to the unsightly and unsanitary mode of dress the designers of Paris would impose on us.

Dr. W. G. C. Kennedy of the Toronto General Hospital staff was home for Easter.

The Wednesday half holiday is now observed for the summer months by Acton business places.

The new cars are making their appearance with proud owners behind the wheels.

## 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, April 22, 1880

Esqueving council granted the sum of ten dollars to Mrs. May, for the purpose of assisting her to remove to some place where her older children can obtain employment. The sum of five dollars each was granted to Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Russell, who are in destitute circumstances.

Our brass band played a number of tunes on the streets Thursday night. Our citizens hail their reappearance with delight.

The carpenters are now busily engaged in completing the exterior of Messrs. W. H. Storey and R. Little's residences.

Advertisement—For the Spring Trade—importations of hats and bonnets, feathers, flowers and ornaments, in the most exquisite designs. Parasols and sun shades from 25 cents to \$8.

Black dress silks, wedding silks, black mantle silks, brocaded silks, summer silks. Dress goods in lustrous, mottle cloths, Mouselline beiges, pompadours etc. from 25 cents. Gray etel lustrous from 10 cents. Handsomely embroidered ladies' white skirts.