

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Don McDonald, Publisher

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Corridor leaves wound

A steel tower and wire "war memorial" will be completed through the heart of Halton Hills this summer.

Ontario Hydro is wasting no time in stringing wire from Milton station north to where it will join the line from the Bruce nuclear generating station. Preparations are being made for the final push which will finish off the last remnant of the Interested Citizens' Group.

As with all conflicts the memory will linger long after the battle. Long time ICG member Reford Gardhouse summed up the feelings of members in a recent interview. "Some people are left with wounds that won't heal quickly. Notably affected landowners and anyone who has known the story."

The kind of wounds referred to by Gardhouse are those which will not be soothed by the balm of cash settlements.

Money won't buy off the feelings in the ICG's bone marrow that they are right while Ontario Hydro and the provincial government are wrong.

For years the ICG sought to establish in law the right of people affected by proposed Ontario Hydro corridors to be treated equally.

The particular corridor which the ICG opposes is the one under construction from the north to the south through Halton Hills between the Fourth and Fifth Concessions. That 12-mile link will complete the 109-mile transmission line from the Bruce nuclear generating station on Lake Huron to Milton.

Near Milton the north-south line will parallel another line which runs east to west. It's that east-west line and the study which it received that has always been the ICG's model by which the standard of equality should be measured.

The lines are so close to each other. They are both of 500 kV power. They both cross Halton. Only one received a royal commission inquiry.

There is a qualitative difference between the investigation of the Solandt Commission in 1974 on the subject of the east-west line and the many lesser inquiries which focussed on this or that section of the north-south line.

The Solandt Commission, for one thing, had the power to hear evidence under oath. It could also call witnesses who would give to

Solandt the benefit of their expertise and he had a budget which permitted him to hire other expertise.

The land expropriation hearings, the Environmental Hearing Board sessions, the various Ontario Municipal Board hearings which were held concerning the north-south line fail in sum to equal the quality of investigation carried out by the Solandt Commission. And some sections of it have been criticised.

Flawed though the Solandt Commission is, it is far superior to any inquiry given to the north-south line.

The wound, to use Gardhouse's word, goes even deeper than the issue of unequal treatment for equal citizens.

For those citizens, some in the ICG, others were less inclined to fight, there has been a relaxation in their belief in the province's institutions.

The Ontario government, Ontario Hydro, the OMB and other agencies cast shorter shadows today than before because they no longer stand as straight or as tall as people here believed they should.

The Interested Citizens' Group, on the other hand, has written itself into the citizens' participation chapter of Ontario history.

They used intelligence, wit, diligence, determination and much courage to challenge many of the ideas and institutions which they once believed capable of rendering nothing less than sound decisions.

As with all successful citizens' groups, questions were the main weapon used by the ICG. When members saw something affecting them which they did not know about; they asked about it. And when the answers they received rang less than reasonable or true, they asked again and again.

The number one question which remains unanswered is why the east-west Ontario Hydro line received a full inquiry, an independent study, while the north-south line did not. Perhaps they will never know.

Again in the words of Gardhouse: "It's shaken our faith in the democratic process. I don't think we've asked for anything that is not reasonable and fair. . . we've only asked for what other people have gotten."

—Eric Elstone



Smiley to attend geriatric convention

Man, that's going to be some party, if it comes off. I'm referring to a massive reunion of alermen slated for Toronto next September. That's one I plan to take in, even if I have to lock my wife in the bathroom to get away.

The occasion will mark the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Ninety-nine per cent of us were not in that particular affair, but it's a great excuse for a party.

Everybody "who wore blue" is invited. That means all air and ground crews of Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.A., who spent his war years in the air force blue of the allies, according to an official news release.

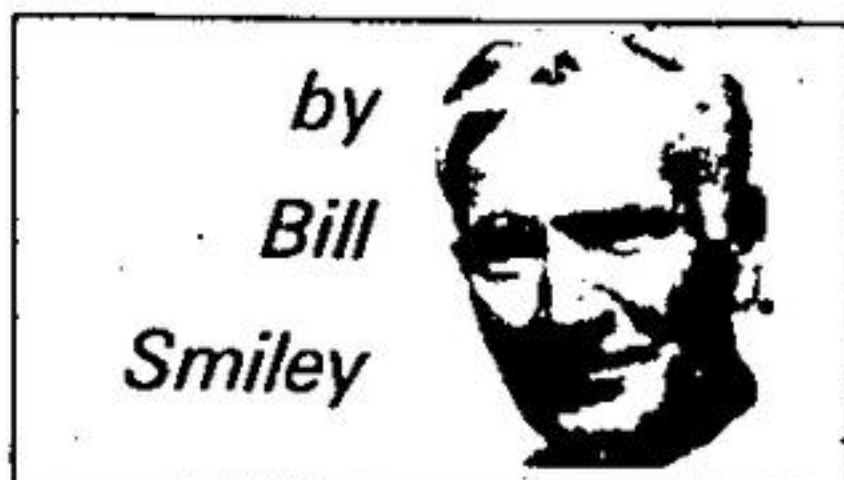
Americans? Of course. Thousands of U.S. youths headed north and joined the RCAF before their own country was in the war. And some of them stayed in air force blue until the end, though they were given the opportunity to switch to the USAF when the Yanks got into it.

But the list above would scratch only the surface. The Royal Air Force contained the greatest potpourri of nations since the Foreign Legion was established.

I wonder if all the others who fought on our side are invited. Poles, Norwegians, Belgians, Free French, Dutch, Czech, West Indians, South Africans, Rhodesians. Maybe my old friend Shigh Thandi will be there. He's probably a general in the Indian Air Force by now. Or dead. Or my old sidekick Mohammed Rai. Who is likely a general in the Pakistani Air Force. Or dead.

Will Nils Jorgenson make it from Oslo? He was a mate in prison camp, and feared he would be courtmartialled when the war ended. It's a long story, but he was shot down while on leave, quite an accomplishment.

Will Don McGibbon make it all the way from Salisbury, Rhodesia, or has he been purged? We were on the same Typhoon wing, and were shot down within days of



by Bill Smiley

each other. These are the questions that a lot of ex-Air Force chaps must be asking themselves. And the answers will probably be disappointing. I doubt if I'd fly to New Zealand for a reunion. Too much money.

What would make the reunion a stamdammer would be every nation with W.W. 2 alermen sending them all free of cost to Toronto, on government aircraft. That would swell the ranks.

But for too many, there will be too many obstacles; lack of money; sick or nagging wives; troubles with grandchildren; failing health.

For those poor devils, I have some advice. Beg, borrow or steal the money. If your wife is sick, get a babysitter; she'll probably last till you get home. If she's a nag, tell her to stuff a sock in it, for once in your life.

Forget your rotten grandchildren for a week; they appreciate nothing you're doing anyway. If your health isn't good, go to the reunion. You'll either die there, and your troubles are over, or you'll be so sick when you get home that your present failing health will seem petty stuff.

Reunions are great for the ego. You go to one and see all these old, fat, baldheaded guys, and you marvel at how you kept your youth, strength and good looks, even though they are thinking the same when they see you.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. No man who looks in the mirror while he's shaving his jowls or bleary eyes or a shiny pate. What he sees is a steely gaze, a firm jaw, and he doesn't let his eyes wander higher than his eyebrows.

I've been to a few reunions over the years, and come home feeling and looking like a skeleton, but wondrously rejuvenated.

A good smasheroo with a bunch of other guys allowed off the leash for a weekend, a mutual exchange of whoppers, a little sentimentality about old So-and-So who brought it over the Channel: this kind of stuff puts your wife and kids and your dull civilian life into proper perspective. For a week or so you're a real fire-eater, issuing orders, refusing to do things you hate doing, and generally smartening everybody up to the fact that you were once young and brave and carefree, before you sink back into the cold bathwater of your regular life.

Fighter pilots' reunions were the best and the worst. They were fairly small, quite exclusive, and the entertainment was great. But a reunion that begins with Bloody Marys for breakfast can change a man, literally. Last time I came home from one of them, my wife met me at the bus. She walked right by me. Didn't know me. Thought I was some old chap who should be in a wheel chair. She was right, as usual.

Well, this shindig in September will probably be the last chance saloon for many. As long as they don't invite the wives, it'll be OK. When they started doing that, I stopped going to reunions.

There are 4,000 hotel rooms put on hold for the event. If one twentieth of the air force vets turn up, it will be the greatest geriatric convention ever held in the world.

Not me though. I spent the weekend moving—and have the scars and bruises to prove it.

After insulting a Saturday morning by waking up at 7 a.m., hubby Gord and I were soon busy with the second stage of our three stage move. We had help from my sister Susan from Collingwood, Free Press publisher Don McDonald and his son Donny.

After months of trying to sell our home in Norval, we truly looked forward to the day we would be leaving life in a rural hamlet and moving back to Acton.

However, we finally sold our house only two weeks ago and suddenly had just three weeks to move.

Two weekends ago we brought six car loads of boxes up. This weekend it was all our furniture except the television, kitchen appliances, and one lumpy mattress. In a house as large as ours, there's an echo when we speak.

In less than 48 hours this weekend, I had a box springs dropped on my foot, a hammer slashed across my hand (the hook part), a drawer ripped down my arm, metal springs from a bed pushed into my face, a bruised elbow from walking into an open truck door while carrying a dresser, broken finger nails (of which I have little to spare) and a sunburned nose.

And to think, I looked forward to this since September.

Next weekend is stage three in our

move. Then we will be official residents of Acton—again.

This Sunday is Mother's Day. My own mother in Collingwood and mother-in-law in Mississauga both know I wish them a happy day. Don't forget to give your's a greeting on this special day set aside for special people.

Mothers interested in information about breastfeeding are welcome to attend their next meeting of the LaLeche League of Acton.

It will be held on Monday, May 23 at 8 p.m. at the home of Lynne Wilson, 19 Wilbur St., Acton.

The topic will be "The Advantages of Breastfeeding." Other meetings in this series are "Art of Breastfeeding" and "Overcoming Difficulties", June 9; "Baby Arrives—The Family and the Breastfed Baby", July 14 and "Nutrition and Weaning", Aug. 11.

All meetings will be at 19 Wilbur St. The League has a lending library of books available at the meetings also. The meetings are held the second Monday of every month.

Anyone who wishes information on the meetings or who has a question about breastfeeding please call Marilyn Cox 878-4803 or Karen Gregory 878-3884.

Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Wednesday, May 13, 1970

Sixty per cent of Halton secondary school teachers have voted to reject current school board offers, after a heated meeting.

Esquering council has been asked to find a new location for the township dump.

Flat rates on electric water heaters will be a thing of the past.

The new Golden Horseshoe dragway will be ready for racing the middle of June.

A glittering array of trophies was presented at the Tri-County banquet including Pee Wee MVP John Hansen, novice MVP Ford Alton, bantam MVP Ron Loutlet, outstanding defenseman Steve Brunelle, outstanding all round player Bob Andrews and midget MVP Dale Fisher. Ricky Holmes was named top scorer and MVP in the novice division, a rare feat.

Chris Brunelle, Stephanie Merrin, Diane Fisher and Bob Smith have completed the high school year book.

Loyal True Blues held their 8th birthday dinner. Worshipful Mistress of Rockwood Lodge Doris Browne was given a gift.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, May 5, 1960

Six Queen's Scouts from the First Acton Rover Troop, accompanied by Scoutmaster Hartley Coles, headed the parade of 110 Queen's Scouts at Stoney Creek. The local scouts are Laurence Doby, Peter Newton, Brian Otterbein, Ricky Currie, Kenneth Gardner and Robert Hinton.

Acton high school board is concerned about the soaring cost of education. Board members agreed they would not accept pay. Trustee Duncan Moffat summed up the feeling: "The expense of running the high school is enough without us being paid."

Public school board trustees were wary of granting recognition to the formation of a local Teachers' Council, which trustee Wes Wolfe felt was "just a flowery name for a union."

Y members presented with certificates were Tony Hopper, Shirley Cohen, Chris Denny, Susan Cohen, Junior livesaver; Bradley Mainprize, John Creighton, archery; Pat Churchill, table tennis.

B. Foyers and L. Doberthein are the conveners for the Y's Men's peanut drive. The Hi-Y club is assisting.

Vic Donner and Danny Holmes won the trout fishing contest.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, May 8, 1930

Work commenced last week on the erection of another building at the plant of Acton Machine Co., to be the same size as the present factory. The company was started about 12 years ago by Mr. F.S. Blow in the premises now occupied by Norton Motors. Twelve years ago he was joined by Mr. H.C.H. Harrison. They took over the factory given up by Thomson Motors. The growth of the factory will be a matter of pride for Acton.

Mrs. Lantz was elected president at the annual meeting of Acton Women's Institute.

Among the 3 nurses graduating from Guelph General Hospital are Mary Isobel Darby and Dora May Lambert.

The old buildings in front of the arena have been removed and Messrs. Beardmore and Co. have arranged for the planting of flowers. Miss V. Frank of Rockwood finished her courses at St. Joseph's.

The Town team defeated the Tannery 4-3 in the first ball game of the season. Chalmers seemed to be pitching mid-season ball.

Miss Jean Wedge became the bride of Mr. Harry Burns. Attendants were Miss Ada Mills and Mr. Russell Wedge.

The regular six pages of The Free Press have increased to eight this week.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, May 6, 1880

School board instructed a new roof to be put on the teachers residence. April salaries were paid: Thos. Moore \$45.83; Miss McKeller \$25, Miss Grant \$18.75; Mrs. Hughes \$8.25.

The Quebec police force is on strike for higher wages.

A preacher at Chicago advocates the use of lady ushers in church, to make the young men attend.

Quotling is commencing. It will be followed soon by croquet.

Rev. Mr. Hazelton performed the ceremony of baptism on several candidates at Nicklin's Pond.

Messrs. E. and B. Nicklin will open their Ice Cream Parlour tomorrow. Summer drinks on hand.

Fire destroyed the Engine House at the GTR station Monday rendering the engine and machinery unfit for use.

Several young men desecrated the Sabbath by boating on Nicklin's pond.

Our readers write

New store owners carry on Swetman's traditions

Dear Mrs. Higgins:

I have tried to reach you by telephone but find you are not listed. Because of your letter to the Free Press, I am sending them a copy of my reply.

It is unfortunate that you chose to express your criticism to the press rather than to Donna Bottos, who obviously served you. It seemed to me a very unfair thing to do.

The owners of Acton Family Shoes are carrying on the practise of fitting children's feet in the same manner we did, and the Bensons and Braidas before that. I say this with a certain amount of sentimentality and pride that each successive owner has turned down offers to purchase and wanted to find someone they felt was sincerely interested in quality and service. I have worked closely with the new

owners. Donna Neely is a previous employee and Betty Blain has remained on staff. Both are very competent fitters and would lose a sale before they would harm a child's foot. Donna Bottos feels the same way and is busy learning, as we all did, by taking courses, learning from others and from everyday experience.

We always did our best to fit properly but no one is perfect and we did have mothers come back. After a shoe is worn it is much easier to tell if it was a poor fit. We always replaced the shoe and this policy remains the same.

I understand the store's new slogan is going to be, "If satisfied, tell others—if not, tell us."

Drop in and discuss your concern with them. I know they will appreciate it.

Alma Swetman

Letters need signatures

Letters to the editor are welcome, however there are some guidelines.

There must be a signature on the letter. Names need not be published, initials or a pseudonym can be used in the paper, but the editor must know the identity of the writer. Letters may also be edited for libel. This week the Acton Free Press received

a letter regarding retail business and I invite the writer to come in and sign the letter. Also it is helpful if a phone number, which won't be published, is also sent with the letter in the event there are any questions we have about the handwriting or content.

—Gord Murray



On the Leavell

With Helen

Last weekend's perfect summer weather sure did bring out sure signs winter is behind us, and sunny days ahead:

Arthur Gamble on Willow St. might just have been the first Actonian to mow his lawn in 1980. He cut his grass Thursday and sent the scent of freshly cut grass throughout the neighborhood.

Haller tops and shorts were everywhere Saturday and Sunday while most took advantage of the 80 degree temperatures to get their first bit of tan for the year.

Halton Hills councillor Mike Armstrong could be seen cruising around town in a flashy white convertible, making me wish I had a can opener to take the roof off my car.

Gardeners planted their vegetables; while others planted trees; cleaned out pools (or filled them up with water); enjoyed barbecues; and numerous other summer activities.

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