

# The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Don McDonald, Publisher

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Editor: Gord Murray  
Reporter/Photographer: Eric Elton  
Sports/Woman's: Diana Waltmann  
Rockwood News: Jennifer Barr  
Contributor: Helen Murray  
Darkroom: Kim Bustin

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010  
Business and Editorial Office



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 Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.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.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Manager: Bill Cook  
Sales: Jennifer Barr  
Classified Advertising: Pat Kentner

BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Office Manager: Rhonda Thornhill  
Shirley Jacques, Carolyn Attem, Marilyn McArthur

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Manager: Marilyn McArthur



## Praise revived province interest in Heller's deal

It is indeed heartening to see the revived interest by government officials to help put together a deal to move Heller's into the closed Disston plant.

When four months of negotiations went down the drain in early April and Fred Dawkins announced the deal to move the firm, which is now spread over three plants, two of which are in Acton, into Disston, he pointed the finger of blame at the sluggish economy, soaring interest rates and lack of government aid. Lack of government aid was the primary villain.

At the time we were quick to castigate Ottawa and Queen's Park for not helping more.

We are just as quick now to congratulate the province for taking a resumed interest in the possible deal.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy, who was never involved in the bargaining, and Halton Business Development Officer William Marshall, who hadn't been involved much, are also to be thanked for instigating a meeting to breath new life into the proposed deal.

Aid from the province is crucial and Bob Plank, the Halton representative for the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism, and Ontario Development Corporation official Art Tofano

should be praised for their renewed efforts and interest.

There has been an indication there will be more government help available than was originally forthcoming.

That is only right. If any firm deserves government help it's Heller's.

Firstly they will take over a large plant in a community which badly needs industrial expansion. Their move out of two small factories here will free up valuable industrial buildings for some new firms.

Secondly, Heller's is a totally Canadian firm.

Thirdly, their move to Disston will mean an expansion which will create new jobs.

Fourth, Heller's expansion will reduce imports. Fifth, the firm will increase exports. Both of these reasons for aid are powerful since this country badly needs to improve its balance of payments situation, even if just a little bit in one industry.

Five good reasons for Queen's Park to help Heller's.

And a golden opportunity to demonstrate, albeit belatedly, that government pledges to stimulate exports and employment, promote Canadian industrial ownership and reduce imports aren't just political promises.

## Hydro bill surprises

Acton residents received a bit of a surprise when their first electric bill from Halton Hills Hydro arrived in the mail last week.

Many were startled by the bottom line, the price they must pay for a month's power.

They had forgotten that with the new amalgamated hydro commission serving the entire town of Halton Hills, urban rates went up while rural rates came down substantially. Previously Acton and Georgetown were served by the Acton Hydro Commission and Georgetown Hydro Commission respectively, while Esquensing was served by Ontario Hydro.

Besides the higher cost, another customer noticed and brought to our attention that the due date is much earlier in the month than it use to be under Acton Hydro.

One might also think, looking at the bill, it must be paid in Georgetown or mailed to the Georgetown office of Halton Hills Hydro. Wrong. Acton residents and area rural residents can pay their electric bills at the Alice Street office, the former Acton Hydro office. Come on Halton Hills Hydro, put the fact bills can be paid at the Acton office on the bills.

The new hydro commission sent out a brochure to households in Halton Hills early in April containing a wealth of information. Likely its contents weren't read. If it was read, likely it wasn't remembered by the time the bills arrived.

A new mailer, explaining rates, due dates, where to pay bills and other tidbits of information should go out with the next bills.

## Our readers write

### Boy's fishing gear stolen

Dear Sir:  
On Sunday a theft of personal property occurred. It was of minor importance in dollar value but of major significance to my 10-year-old son.

You see, Robert was fishing on Sunday, as is normal for a 10-year-old this time of year, and when he stopped fishing to go and visit friends at the corner of Main and Church Streets, he left his tackle box outside their door.

A few moments later he returned outside and his tackle box, full of lures which he had received for Christmas and his birthday, was gone.

Do you know how a 10-year-old who loves fishing, feels when all of his lifelong collection of tackle is stolen?

I am assuming that the person(s) responsible for this theft is in he eight to 10-year-old range.

I ask any parent whose child has suddenly acquired a gold coloured plastic tackle box with miscellaneous fishing lures enclosed, would question the child, as to the source of this newfound prize, and find it in their heart to return the tackle to its rightful owner.

If I am wrong on this point, and it was not a child who stole this box, I hope that this "adult" is very proud of his new possession and enjoys fishing with a 10-year-old's tackle.

R. J. Jennings  
110 Mill St. W.  
Acton.

### Thanks Total Immersion

Dear Sir:  
I'm writing this letter on behalf of 15 of my best friends who happen to be in Total Immersion this year at Acton High School. I have many other good friends as well, but these people and I have shared a very unique experience lately.

We practised a proper and safe way of rock climbing at Rattlesnake Point and prepared for it at our school. Although we know we aren't experts at this sport, we have learned a lot about it!

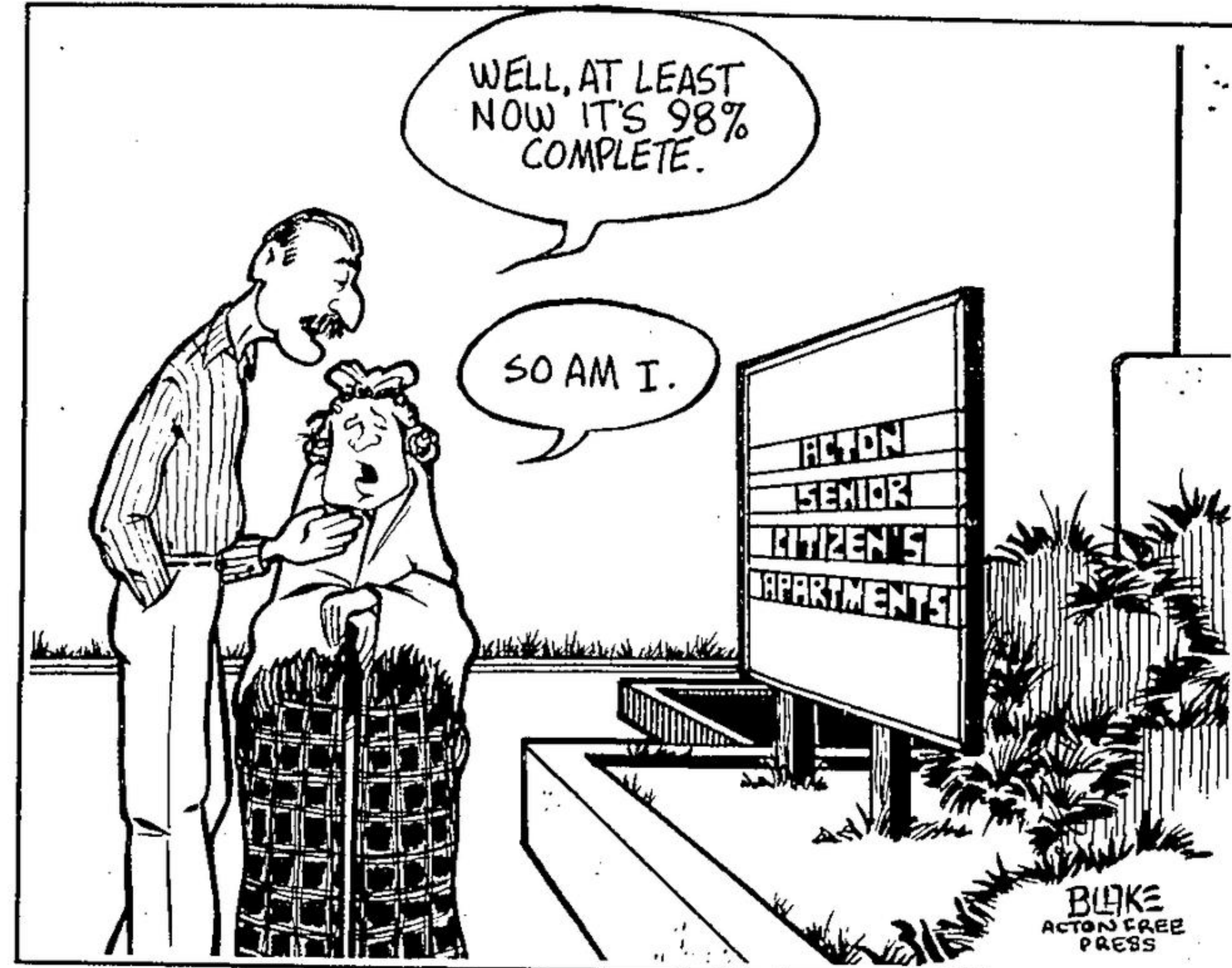
If it wasn't for two very valuable and experienced people, we wouldn't have had the courage to even think about what we have just done! We would like to thank Peter Arbic, and Dr. Paul Tamblin very much for their time, patience, and calming attitudes, among other things.

This is not the first big event that Dr. Tamblin and others have undertaken for us. Several others will have been in contact with us by helping out the Total Immersion gang before the semester ends.

We should also thank the parents of everyone in the group for putting up with an exhausted, demanding kid! And we shouldn't forget the leaders of the extracurricular activities some of us are involved in; and of course the employers of those who have after-school jobs. Thanks to all who are helping us learn!

Total Immersion at Acton High may be strenuous (on us and our teacher), but it certainly is worth it!

Adventurously  
Nancy Patterson and the Total Immersion People of 1980 Acton.



## A lot of farmers are getting royally shafted

I'm glad, I'm not a farmer. I'm glad I'm not a number of things: a bartender, a doctor, a goalkeeper, a fighter, Chairman of the Treasury Board; among many others. But I'm particularly glad I'm not a farmer.

A bartender must cope with a low class of people, forever trying to tell him their sordid secrets.

A doctor must handle some of the lowest parts of the human anatomy: piles, bowels, ingrown toenails, seed wants on the sole.

A fighter, a professional or merely domestic, must constantly be on guard against low blows, physical or vocal.

The Chairman of the Treasury Board is faced with trying to sell savings bonds at a low interest rate when everyone else—banks, trust companies, and jumped-up usurers of every color are offering the moon in interest.

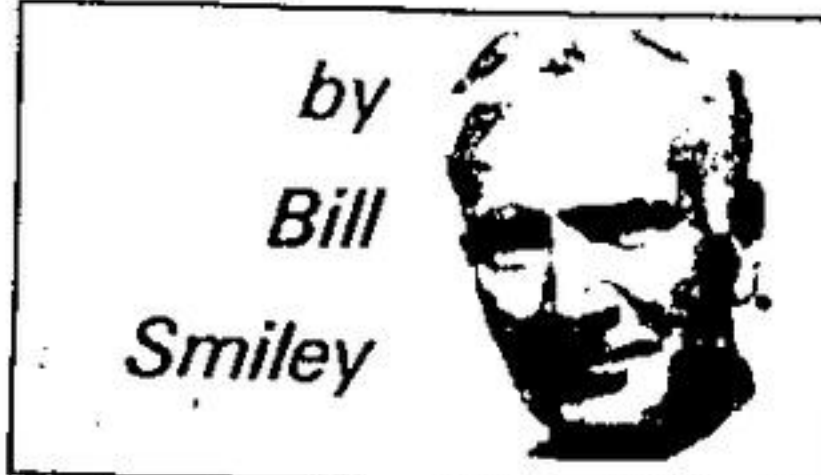
But the farmer is faced with the worst low of all—low income, low prices, and the low opinion of the vast majority of lowly-informed people in the land.

A number of things has recently brought this to my attention, though I've known it, peripherally, for years.

Last Saturday, the Old Lady and I gazed, with the fascination of a rabbi facing a rattlesnake, at a tiny prime rib roast of beef in the meat counter.

We turned simultaneously to each other and as I was blurted, "What the hell..." she was saying, "It's been two years." We bought the little beauty, we slavered as it roasted, and we attacked it when cooked like a couple of Eskimos who have been living on boiled moccasins for two months, and have finally killed a seal.

Lying groaning after the orgy, I began to think. The roast wasn't much thicker than one of the steaks you tossed on the barbecue ten years ago. It weighed 2.35 pounds.



by Bill Smiley

costs around seventy cents.

A lousy lettuce, imported from California, costs a buck. Same for a bunch of asparagus. A pack of cigarettes costs more.

Six imported tomatoes, shipped from New Mexico green as bullets, and less tasty than mashed toe-jam, will run you nearly a dollar.

There's something crazy about our way of life, our prices, our values.

We pay \$1.25, and will eventually be paying \$4.00, to run a rusty piece of metal from here to there. There are about six middle-men: the Arabs, the shipping company, two or three governments, the trucking companies, the eventual dealer. And we shudder as we walk past the meat counter and see that beef, choice, is \$3.38 a pound.

Would you rather have two gallons of gas or a pound of beef? Would you rather have a quart of rye or two and half pounds of beef? Would you rather have a pack of fags or ten pounds of potatoes?

Perhaps I'm not making my point. Eggs and butter and cheese are right up there in price, but the farmer who supplies the milk is working for peanuts.

However, these products have some kind of control. After all, Eugene Whelan dumped sixty zillion rotten eggs on us a few years ago, and Canada can't give away its huge supplies of powdered milk.

But a lot of our farmers are being royally shafted: especially the meat producers and the poor devils who come up with our spuds.

Have you any idea of the capital cost, the heavy interest, and the horse labor that goes into producing a pound of beef or a pound of potatoes?

I thought not, I'm glad I'm not a farmer.



On the Leavell With Helen

Was former U.S. president Richard Nixon in town this weekend?

He was a lot shorter than Trickle Dickie but the face sure looked the same.

Saturday evening one youngster was playing in the Wallace St. area with a Nixon mask on. At least, I think it was a mask. If not, the kid sure had a big nose!

I'm not sure, but I think Acton's Lynda Shadbolt was on a television special Wednesday afternoon about the Canadian youth program Katimavik.

Lynda left last summer for a nine month work program across Canada. The TV show showed glimpses of teens working on the program. At least three flashes of one particular girl looked like the Acton High School graduate.

There was no sign of Jim Saxon however, who is also on the work program.

Don't forget to renew your bike licences

this Saturday at the police station on Mill St.

Police constables Tom Roduck and Bob Ustrzycki and "civilians" Pop Malne and myself will be on hand to take your money. Doors open at 1 p.m.

The Friends-in-Deed are still in need of volunteer drivers to take them to their annual bowling tournament in Stoney Creek on May 25. They leave from the Acton indoor pool at about noon and get home, usually, around six. Once you're there the afternoon is yours.

Anyone interested in helping a handicapped person enjoy a fun afternoon, can get in touch with me at 853-2010 or 853-3224.

If you feel you "have no time," think to your own future. It could be you in a wheelchair wanting a ride someplace, someday.

Got a pleasant surprise this weekend while grocery shopping. While in Norval we always did our shopping in Georgetown. Now that we're in Acton, I patronized a local supermarket—one which I had heard was expensive. I found prices comparable or cheaper than Georgetown prices—where surveys show a great deal of the Acton dollar is going.

Phase three of our three phase move went without a hitch this past weekend—almost. We hired movers to take our ap-

pliances, television and other items I didn't trust Gord with.

There were moments however when I wished the moving men were at least as old as I am. Actually I would have settled for out of high school.

—Like when the one guy declared he could carry my cabinet stereo by himself. He did, but I had to turn my head.

—Or when they decided to roll my dishwasher to the front door, across thick carpeting which kept getting caught under it.

—And there was my buffet. My most prized possession. I left the house completely, but Gord heard it—the scratching noise as wood hit wood.

—And then they headed for Gord's favorite item—our expensive television. They seemed kind of rough with it until Gord let them know nothing better happen to it. His tone of voice, to me, implied they wouldn't see another sunrise if they even scratched, much less dropped it.

Yes, we're getting settled.

Most of the boxes are unpacked, my electric blanket has finally been located, my cuts and bruises from last week are healing. The dog is making herself at home by barking at every living thing walking down the street (how do you convince a neighbor she isn't vicious). My Nell Diamond records are out, and there's dirty dishes in the dishwasher.

Yep, I guess we're home.

## Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press

Wednesday, May 20, 1970

Murray Smith Jr., who is working on his M. Sc. degree, is working on a groundhog survey.

Merl Harris received his B. Sc. degree at Guelph. Donald Cook receives his Master's degree in engineering at the University of Western Ontario.

Grade eight students toured the police station, with Cons. Roy Wood as guide. Paul Martindale and a group of students toured Washington. Karen Ashley, Nigel Scott and Jackie Lemon wrote their impressions for the Free Press.

In the event of a postal strike, subscribers may pick up their papers at Dilts Stationery Store.

Nassageweya councillors are critical of Hydro for not submitting maps of the route of their proposed right-of-way.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Robertson celebrated their 45th year in business at their grocery store at Ospringe.

Councillor Bill Coats advocated a wider use of the V.O.N.

Victoria Day's ideal weather made Fairy Lake a pleasant place to be. Smallwood Acres attracted a large number of campers.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press

Thursday, May 12, 1960.

Charter night for the Lions Club was attended by nearly 200 guests. Alex Johnson, president of the Acton club, received the charter from District Governor George Laughlin.

King and Queen for a Day was the honor bestowed on Gloria Latimer and Alan Hayward at the high school during Posture Week. Moira McKelvey placed the crowns on their heads, assisted by Mrs. J. Galloway and Mrs. D.A. Smith.

78-year-old Rink Vilestra of Holland, grandfather of 30, is visiting two of his sons here.

Acton, Milton and Georgetown councils are taking steps to form an industrial commission.

Bruce Kressler has joined the local O.P.P. detachment.

Nine children were baptized by the temporary minister of the United Church, Rev. R.A. Brook, in the Y. There were 15 baptized at Knox.

Ted Footitt received his diploma in photoarts from Ryerson Institute. He will take a position with Kodak.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press

Thursday, May 15, 1930.

A large crowd gathered to pay their last respects to a good man, George Dills.

An Acton home is sadly bereft of its youngest son in the death of Jack Symon. Mrs. R.L. Davidson, representing the Women's Institute, presented to council plans for a new entrance to Fairview cemetery.

Stores and business places were thronged with the largest crowd seen in some time on Saturday evening.

Mr. M. Pallant opened his new clothing store in new premises, next to the Bank of Montreal. He commenced business three years ago.

Halton farmers are complaining that pheasants are too numerous.

Pastor Forsyth tendered his resignation from the Baptist church.

Messrs. Beardmore and Co. have planted a good number of trees on the Crescent.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press

Thursday, May 13, 1880.

The telegraph brought the intelligence of the death of Canada's greatest journalist, the Hon. George Brown. He had received a pistol wound on March 25. Public excitement over the event was intense. Universal regret and indignation was expressed that a man who had done so much for his country should have met his death at the hand of an assassin.

The funeral took place from his residence in Toronto and was one of the largest ever attended in Canada. All business places were closed. A number of Acton citizens attended.

The attention of a number of our citizens was attracted by a row between a couple of drunken gypsies, when loud talk in the gypsy tongue ensued.

Mr. George Tolton left in his buggy in Campbell's Hotel shed a bag containing timothy and clover seed. When he returned the bag was not to be found. He says the thief may keep the seed if he will return the bag, as it was a new one.

Don't rush down into cold cellars in a state of perspiration; you could suffer with your brain.

The village council has decided that hemlock plank for sidewalks is a failure, and hereafter will use only pine.