

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Don McDonald, Publisher

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Dumping irresponsible

Halton Hills is a lovely place to live.

It must be a lovely place to live. Why else would so many people have moved to new subdivisions in the two towns and particularly to new homes on Esquesing roads.

But, if it is such a lovely place to live, then why have a minority (hopefully?) of residents of all ages decided to turn our streets, rural roads, river banks, gullies and ravines into a garbage dump?

It's getting tough to find a corner of the town that hasn't been blemished by dumped garbage.

And it isn't a case of littering. It's deliberate dumping of household garbage.

Not only is the dumping spoiling our countryside and neighborhood's, but it is also a health hazard.

Recently residents complained to Acton councillors about items like pieces of patio stones, garden clippings and scrap lumber being dumped in front of a barrier on Division Street.

The ladies pointed the finger of blame at people living in their own neighborhood. They reported when they spoke to dumpers their answer was "the town will clean it up."

Well, the town is cleaning up garbage. And cleaning it up, and cleaning it up.

What began as a major problem in the rural area has now spread into the urban parts of Halton Hills as well.

The councillors have also heard complaints of dumping behind Fairview Cemetery. Some of the dumping is dead flowers and planters thrown over the back fence by people visiting graves and cleaning them up. Other garbage has even been trucked in and dumped by the pond.

This unlawful dumping isn't being done by juvenile delinquents either.

Dumping of garbage on public, and sometimes private property is being done by supposedly responsible and mature adults. People in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s are the offenders—mothers and fathers who are setting a deplorable example for their children.

One might think the garbage dumpers were the poor or uneducated. No the dumpers are this community's middle class.

They aren't even embarrassed. Town officials say they are able to track some of the illegal dumpers down. They leave mail envelopes with their names on them in the

green bags. Sometimes they dump right in front of friends, neighbors and other witnesses.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy says he doesn't know why people dump garbage. He has some theories, but they by no means answer all the questions.

In fact the theories are weak and illogical. They are the theories of a man who finds the whole act so incredulous he's grasping at straws for answers. His theories are as illogical as the act itself.

Pomeroy says one reason for all the illegal dumping is the rise in private garbage collection charges in the rural area. But have they risen so much that people have to dump their garbage on the sides of roads? Hardly!

The mayor says maybe people dump because of restrictions at the Georgetown dump. Restrictions like you can't dump if the garbage isn't bagged and tied. Real tough criteria to meet.

Is dumping taking place because people can't put every type of refuse they generate out each week. Why can't they keep it until the spring clean-up pickup? The garbage dumped on Division Street could all have been put in bags anyway.

Councillor Ed Wood notes all a resident who has garbage that can't go in the normal weekly pickup has to do is call the town works department and a time can be arranged for the special pickup.

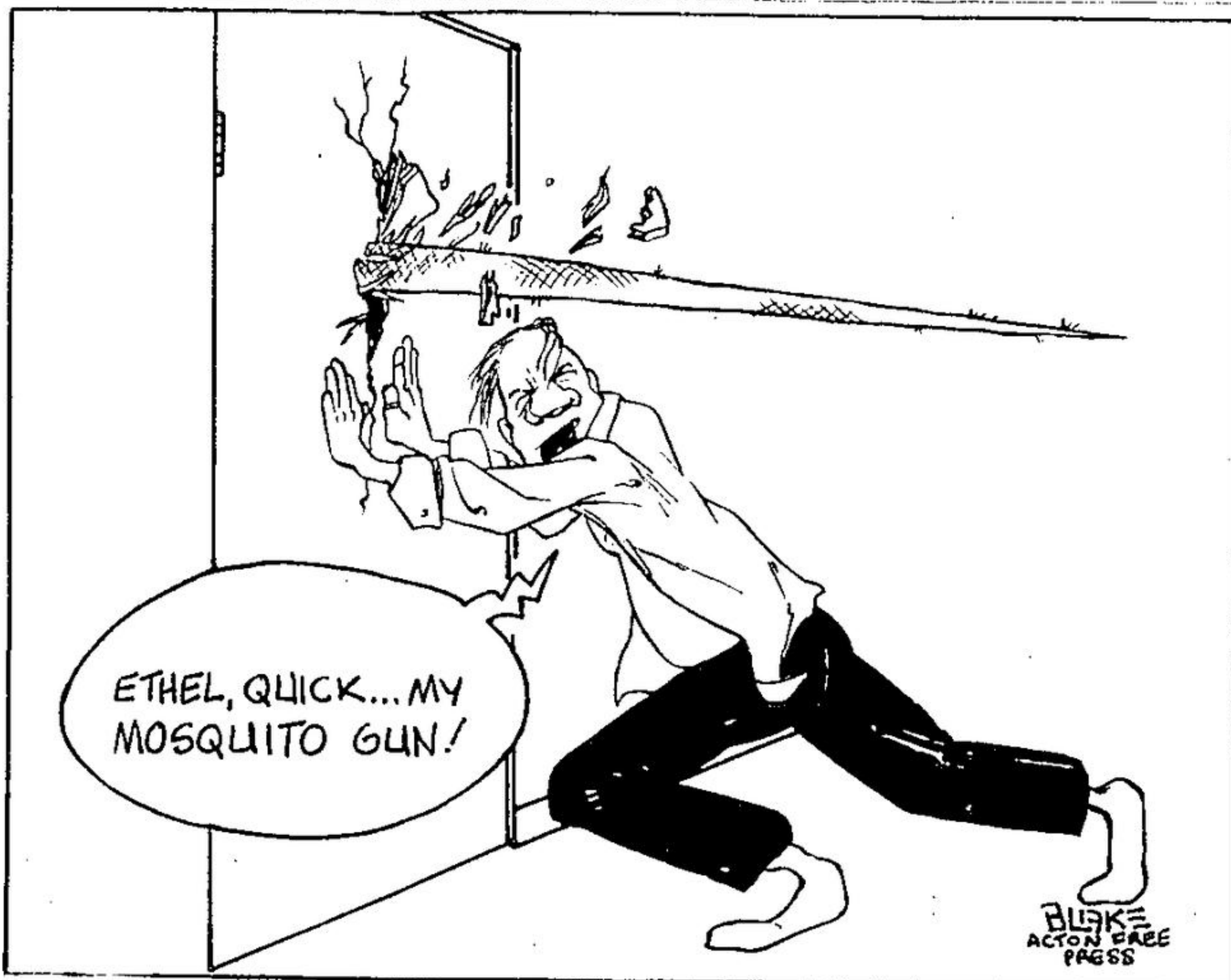
The attitude that the town will clean it up is costing every resident money. Money that could be spent on fixing roads, better parks maintenance; many things.

The only answer is to make fines for dumping so stiff nobody would dare dump. And dumpers need to feel the full force of the law because what they do is no different than other types of vandalism, like smashing windows. Dumpers must suffer the embarrassment and humiliation of prosecution in the courts.

Another solution is for the schools to start discussing vandalism, including dumping of garbage, in classes. Maybe a little criticism from their children would smarten some parents up.

Yes, Halton Hills is a lovely place to live.

Something must be done about irresponsible adults who dump garbage before Halton Hills becomes any less a lovely place to live.



For Canada, the cheap, easy way

Headlines are not reassuring these days, to say the least. By the time this appears in print, they may be terrifying. The American debacle over the hostages has ended, and who knows what violent and world-shaking stunt the CIA and the U.S. military will try next.

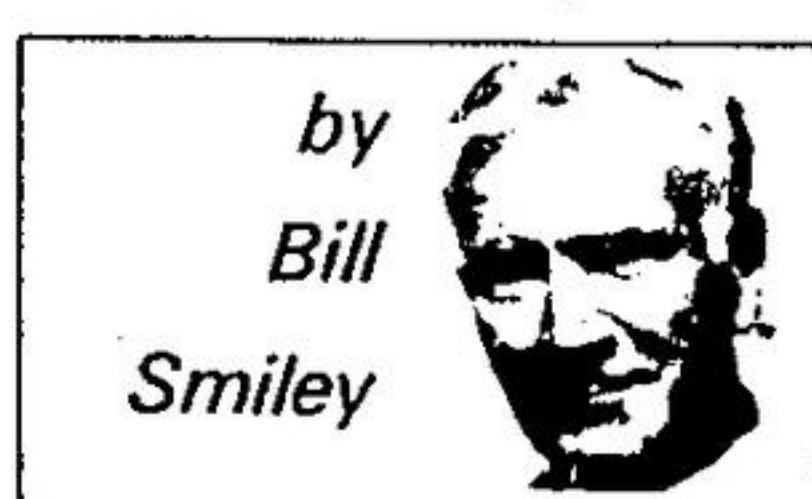
There is no more dangerous time for our society on earth than one in which the Americans are embroiled in foreign affairs and, at the same time, there is a presidential election in the offing.

This has been proved, over and over again. The incumbent president, if he wants another term in office, and he nearly always does, is tempted, especially if it is going to be a close race, into perilous ventures from which he will emerge as a hero and walk into office.

President Jimmy Carter showed, for a long period, admirable restraint as the lawless Iranians twisted the tiger's tail. But, as the election loomed, and the situation remained stagnant, he came under more and more pressure from the "hawks" among his advisers, and from the mood of his people, to "do something."

He gave in, with the resulting fiasco in Iran. A completely botched rescue sortie. The hostages, target of the attempt, scattered. American soldiers killed in action for the first time in his regime.

At the White House, the moderate Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, resigned because he was against the somewhat stilted mission. And a new, harsh, hard-nosed voice for Carter, as No. 1 man on foreign policy, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who doesn't believe in the softshoe shuffle, but in hobnobbed boots. Another arrogant idiot like Henry Kissinger, the late, unlamented mouth for Richard Nixon. Lord help us all. Behind all the pious expressions of grief



by Bill Smiley

for the dead men, and the lukewarm sympathy of America's international "friends" lie a lot of unanswered questions.

Why didn't Carter wait another three weeks, until the date many of his allies had agreed to apply heavy sanctions on Iran? You supply the answers.

How could a nation with the greatest technology in the world, a nation that put a man on the moon, so abysmally foul up a rescue operation similar to the one carried out successfully by tiny Israel at Entebbe?

Why did they leave their dead behind, to be ignominiously displayed before the world's television cameras by the savages masquerading as holy men of Iran? Surely you take your dead with you.

Those are just a few of the questions the headlines force one to ask, unless one is a booby, and trusts the leaders of nations. Let's leave the Yanks alone with their troubles, and have a look closer to home. More questions pop up.

If Canada really sympathizes with the American position on Iran and the hostages, as our leaders indicate, why don't we do something about it? Whatever the Shah did, and his was obviously a corrupt and brutal regime, his successors are no better. They have hanged hundreds after kangaroo trials,

persecuted racial and religious minorities and surrendered the principles of justice and mercy into the hands of a narrow, religiously fanatic old man.

Why doesn't Canada kick out all Iranians, stop trading with them, seize any assets they have in this country, refuse them entry visas, and keep it up until the hostages are released and a stable and civilized government is restored in Iran?

Why doesn't Canada, internationally known as a peace-maker, go back to that role, and work through the United Nations, the Commonwealth, and the other great powers, to bring Iran into line?

If we deplore Russia's invasion of Afghanistan, which we claim to do, why don't we do something besides deplore? Because we might lose some wheat sales; that's why.

We make a feeble gesture by talking our athletes into staying away from the Olympic Games, poor devils.

Of course, that paradox is simply enough explained. Olympic athletes don't make money, they cost money. And they aren't very well organized and don't have much clout.

Maybe I sound like a hawk in this column, I'm not a school teacher. Perhaps because of that, I realize that, as there must be order in a classroom, there must be order, and a semblance of civilization in the structure of nations.

There are times when I'm ashamed of my country. We are not without guts and imagination, as Ambassador Ken Taylor's high jinks in Iran proved.

But time and again it has been proved that Canada will never take strong measures, whatever the provocation, if it's going to cost us a few bucks in trade.

Province can be ridiculous

The actions of the provincial government are sometimes described as ridiculous.

However, when it comes to population guidelines for securing Business Improvement Area (BIA) loans for downtown revitalization Queen's Park has gone from the ridiculous to the sublime.

Back in 1974 the province forced the welding together of Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing into the new town of Halton Hills. This forced merger of the three former municipalities created a municipality with population of over 30,000 people.

Now in 1980 the same provincial government tells the Acton and Georgetown BIAs and Halton Hills council they aren't eligible for the Main Street Revitalization program because Halton Hills has a population of over 30,000.

Acton would be eligible for the program, which provides for loans of up to \$150,000 repayable over a 10 year term for downtown renewal, if this community hadn't been forced to join the other two municipalities to form larger Halton Hills.

For some reason the province refuses to treat the two separate downtown areas as being in separate towns.

Georgetown regional councillor Mike Armstrong observed, when this issue came up at council, that at Queen's Park the right hand often doesn't know what the left hand is doing.

However, he suggested this time the province knows exactly what it's doing. It's using this stupid regulation to leave Georgetown and Acton out of the program.

He and other members of council rightly said there is no reason why Georgetown and Acton shouldn't be treated as separate municipalities for provincial downtown revitalization funding.

The provincial officials who met with town and BIA people hinted broadly that the population regulation will soon be changed and both Acton and Georgetown will become eligible for the loans.

If changes are made in the regulations we will only be able to say "it's about time," not praise the province for its actions in this matter.



Former Acton area resident, and Free Press columnist, Wendy Thomson is certainly making a name for herself in her adopted province of Alberta.

The Thomsons, as you may recall, moved to Buck Creek, near Edmonton almost five years ago, and Wendy went to work for a small local paper. One thing led to another, and she ended up with her own photography business doing everything from weddings to rodeos. Now she's into photographing and publishing post cards and brochures, and they are quite nice.

The post cards even have her name on them, so if anyone heads out west and sends you a card, check the centre (between the message and address). It just might be one of Wendy's cards, and have her address on it. Her husband, Gord, is seen throughout the one brochure on Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

For three years now, Gord and I have been laughingly criticized for treating our dog as if she were a child. Well, a few weeks ago, we certainly were shown that she too thinks she's human—she took a pouty and locked herself in the bathroom!

It was the day the movers brought the last load of our furniture to Acton from Norval.

Thinking she was a brave watch dog (it certainly couldn't be further from the truth), she raised such a racket, we were forced to bring her into the house and put her in the bathroom until the commotion was over.

Not one to be locked away, Sandy jumped against the door trying to get out, until she eventually jumped against the knob and pushed it in, locking the door and confining her to a life of flushes, drips and toothpaste.

We contemplated breaking down the door, but dollar signs before our eyes dismissed that thought. We went outside and attempted to take the window off, but no luck. I guess we are just too honest to break and enter, even if it is our own home.

By this time, the crazy canine has stopped barking and started crying, just like a little kid who has changed its mind about its voluntary confinement, and now can't get out.

After what seemed like an eternity of trying not to panic, I suddenly remembered an old trick my college roommates and I used to play on each other. A small hole in the doorknob provided a remedy to situations such as this one. A sharp object inserted in the hole unlocks it. Fortunately, it worked. The dog was free to drive everyone bonkers again.

Sandy is now holidaying in Collingwood with her cousin Muffin, giving her poor "parents" a much needed break from her human-like antics. No doubt after ten days with Sandy, my poor parents will have to have a holiday.

Local MPP Julian Reed certainly has been busy lately.

April 22, Julian was guest speaker at the High Park/Swansea Provincial Liberal Association Annual Meeting, Toronto. The next day he was attending a Burlington Volunteer Week meeting. On the 26th, he was the master of ceremonies for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations for the Mentally Retarded Association in Milton.

On April 30th, our man from Norval was guest speaker at a meeting of the Canadian Mining and Metallurgy Association in Elliott Lake. He also toured the mines, spoke to grade 13 students on Land Use; and took part in meetings with municipal authorities.

With such a tight schedule, I don't know where he gets the time to film commercials, such as his most recent one for Canadian Tire, in which he chomps on a tomato.

The World War Two CWAC (Canadian Women's Army Corps) veterans are having their 22nd annual reunion the last weekend in September. Organizers however still have not located all their friends of "those great service days of WWII."

On Friday, September 26, there will be photo viewing, a wreath-laying ceremony, social time, dancing and fun.

The next day involves a reunion luncheon, dinner and dancing, and more fun. For more information, write to CWAC Veterans Reunion Chairman, Mrs. Shirley Wood Hecaker, 201 Niagara Street, Toronto M5V 1C9, or telephone 781-2872, 781-3821 and 488-4027.

Back issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Wednesday, June 3, 1970

Ontario's Mr. Clean, George Kerr, officiated at the opening of Acton's attractive new water pollution control plant, assisted by Mayor Les Doby and council's sewer and water chairman Ted Tyler Jr.

Lakeview residents are raising funds for the grading of the area along Elizabeth Dr. facing Fairy Lake.

Acton's third bank is introducing its new quarters and staff at Open House this Saturday. Manager of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is J.D. Cook. It is the only bank in town with Chargex.

The last euchre of the season was held at Crewsons Corners hall. Trophy for the most lone hands for the season went to Murray Stamp.

Congratulations, graduates—Janet Braida, Roy Shultis, Barbara McEachern, Marion Prosser, Fredamae Gillies, Gail McHugh, Bill Reed, Ann Hurst, David Watson, Antonia Rocchi.

Principal McKenzie had students cleaning up the school creek for two days. The Red Shield campaign raised \$1,050 in Acton.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, May 26, 1960

A Golden Jubilee birthday cake was enjoyed when the First Acton Guides held a display night in the scout hall. Captain Mrs. T. Watson and Lieut. Mrs. J. Hurst presented badges to Jill Hurst and Gayle Roszell. Halton Divisional Commissioner Mrs. E.C. Reed of Norval was present.

Postmaster Frank Terry will be transferred to Owen Sound after 14 years here. Dog control in Acton became official. Council also made plans to prohibit parking and stopping at the Mill-Main corner to relieve congestion. No parking areas are in front of the pool room, Clansman restaurant, Roxy Theatre, Nicol's 5c to \$1, Bell Telephone office, IGA and Russ-Mac beauty salon.

Joe Jany graduated with his B. Comm. degree. Leno Braida received his Doctor of Philosophy degree.

From pin boy to champion five pin bowler in six years is the record chalked up by Bill Johnstone. He won the men's class B aggregate championship in Waterloo.

Over \$2,600 was collected in North Halton for the cancer society, including \$607 in Acton.

Ken Hulford ends his bowling column for the season this week.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, May 29, 1930

A delightful family reunion and picnic was held at the home of Mrs. and Mrs. Wm. Gowdy, Limehouse. A.E. LePage, H.P. Moore, Rev. Caldwell and Dr. Reynolds were among those giving addresses.

The Empire Day concert and awarding of prizes, given by the senior Daughters of the Empire, was attended by the splendid audience. Empire Day orations were given by Howard Norton and John Nichol Jr. As well as musical selections there was a Gypsy Dance by Helen Ostrander, duet by Marie Brunelle and Lorna Dunn, dance by Dorothy Reilly, solo by Vernon Agnew, Scottish dance by Mona McGeachie, solo by Barbara Taylor. Mrs. A. Mason, regent of the chapter, presented awards to May Bruce, Harold Skilling, Elsie Anderson, Audrey Chalmers, Lucy Braida, Vera Case, Eleanor Tubman, Lucy McArthur, Bill Nicolak, Frances Dills, Elmer Lasby, Ruby Smith, Leonard Lambert, Gordon McCutcheon, Isabel Smith and Bessie Hawlings. Miss Emma Robinson, regent of Lakeside chapter, presented awards to the top students, Doris Wilson, Bert Hinton and Bill Wilson.

The tennis courts at the Athletic Association grounds are in excellent condition.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Acton Free Press Thursday, May 27, 1880

Her Majesty's birthday was celebrated in this village on Monday in a most loyal and enthusiastic manner. There was a large gathering of between 3,000 and 4,000 people and considerable interest was manifested in the games and amusements of the day. The absence of firecrackers was a noticeable fact and we tender the unanimous thanks of the people to council for prohibiting the nuisance. In the evening the entertainment given in the drill hall by the ladies of this village, in aid of the band, was well patronized. Mr. W.H. Storey was in the chair. The program opened with a Chorus in four acts. Readings and musical numbers followed. The fish pond created considerable amusement. The proceeds of the concert amounted to \$100.

Our friend, Mr. C.W. Hill, of the Photographic Studio, copied a physiognomy of a good many persons on the Queen's Birthday.

Comparatively few drunken men were seen on the streets.