The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Don McDonald, Publisher

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Need functional town hall

Early this year Acton was embroiled in controversy over H.H. 'Bert' Hinton's proposal to give his home beside Prospect Park to the town.

The home, after Hinton's death, would have become something of a community centre, containing things like a day care centre, meeting rooms and a fair board office.

Many thought community' acquisition of Hinton's house for needed facilities was an excellent idea. However, many people didn't view the conditions the former Acton politician attached to his gift favorably.

Some of the same people who wanted Hinton's house for needed community facilities aren't in favor of restoring the town hall.

Yet the town hall can be all of the things Hinton's home would have been for Acton, and more.

Some oppose the town hall restoration feeling the building will sit idle. They believe it will be nothing more than a piece of historical architecture.

If that was the case, considering restoration will cost in the vicinity of a quarter of a million dollars, apprehension would be understandable.

However an empty historical building isn't the goal of the Town Hall Restoration Committee or the fund raising body which is running Actario.

They want the building to be functional.

In all likelihood the nucleus of the management board for the restored hall will come from the restoration committee and Actario group.

Thus the goal of the interested citizens working to restore the hall to have it become a functional community centre will also be the aim of the management branch.

Already a number of future uses for the town hall have been proposed.

Public washrooms in the town

hall is an excellent idea. Most

towns have washrooms in their core area for use by tourists and shoppers.

There is a lot of support for a day care centre in Acton. The town hall would be a good spot for

A drop-in centre for seniors with kitchen facilities could be in the town hall.

Could there be a more appropriate spot than the town hall for the ward one councillors' Friday afternoon drop-ins or the next Halton Hills council or planning board public meeting in April.

The town hall would make a lovely setting for informal weddings and small receptions.

It would be easier to promote Acton as a spot for tourists to stop if there was a traveller information office, operated maybe by the Chamber of Commerce, in the town hall.

Many uses for the building would also be revenue producing so town hall maintenance and operation wouldn't be a big tax burden.

The list of possible uses is endless.

But if Actario isn't successful they'll remain just dreams. It will be a long wait for more and better community facilities in Acton.

Actario organizers use the word possible in connection with uses for a restored town hall.

Firstly because the uses won't materialize if the hall isn't restored.

And secondly, no firm decision has been made on uses. They have

come up with only a few ideas. But they need and want public input. They want to hear what people want the town hall used

Actario is a community venture and deciding the future uses of the restored town hall should be too.

When you buy your ticket pass your ideas for the town hall along to the organizers.

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Oh Canada so moving Smiley goes to bathroom

While the rest of you were winging around the country, smashing up and down the highways, belting about in a boat, or whining because you hadn't got the Monday off instead of the Tuesday, I, like a good citizen, stayed home and had sober thoughts on Dominion Day, Canada Day, or the Firsta July, as we called it when I was a kid. I even put them down on paper.

It's difficult to write something succinct, sincere, and sentimental when you have a lump in your eyes and tears in your throat. But I tried.

Like most moribund Canadians, I didn't run into the back yard and run the whatever-it-is up the flagpole. We don't have a flagpole. The nearest we come is a cedar post that holds one end of the clothes-line, the other end of which is attached to a cedar tree.

Nor did It set off any fireworks. We have those practically every day around our house, and they don't cost a penny. What I did was slump before the slob

machine and listen to a flood of flatulence from a posse of politicians who doggedly dragged out every old chestnut that had already been opened and exposed as Not only hope but anticipation of the

future. My anticipations are a huge heating bill, higher taxes and worse arthritis. Our immense size. The incredible Hulk? Our vast riches. Mostly owned by foreign companies. Our confidence in the future. Of the Canadian dollar? Our unity in diversity. Albertans letting us freeze and Quebecois letting us do it in the dark? And so on and on and on.

It was so moving that I had to go to the bathroom. Especially when the CBC types involved in reporting the whole dump job kept telling us that is was just peachydandy that we now had an official national anthem. O Canada.

When I heard this, I felt a real surge of

something. I can't describe it in a family journal. What do they think the organ has been playing at hockey games for years, while the players slouched around at the blue line, scratched their jocks, chewed gum and looked bored

What do they think the kids in my classroom have done every morning for the past few years, just before the principal's announcements that we beat Hayfork Centre yesterday in basketball, and that the Christian-Moslem Fellowship Group is meeting at 4.05 beneath any cars left in the parking lot, and then says, "Please rise for our national anthem?"

I'll tell you what happens. A doleful dirge which even the kids know is O Canada comes over the P.A. system. We

I stand like a guardsman, chin in, chest out, 'ollow back, thumbs aligned with the scams of my trousers. Encouraged by my stance, the kids also eagerly respond to the stirring tune and inspired lyrics that fill them with pride, hope, considence and

One knocks her entire math set to the floor, stoops to pick it up, and is aided by classmates who kick calculator, set squares and compass in all directions.

Another, lost in a world of his own, sits silently until the 4th bar, then leaps to his feet and begins to disco.

For at least a decade, our Olympic athletes have stood, hand on heart, listening to what they thought was our national anthem. Tears have flowed freely over the repetitive song, written about a hundred years ago by a couple of guys nobody ever heard of, but who weren't Rodgers and Hamme, stein. Now, by an Act of Parliament, to which

all parties agreed, because it didn't involve the building of a new post office, the paving of some highways, the funding of some losing industry, or the cutting down of some trees to make a new national parking lot, we have an Official National

Smiley

Anthem. It figures. We don't move too fast in Canada, but we move. It took us only 100 years to beget a national flag. It is a maple leaf, a piece of foliage remarkable by its absence in about 95 per cent of the country.

Our national emblem is the beaver, a large rat which specializes in cutting down trees, building dams which flood farmers' fields, and doing nothing whatever for anybody except other beavers.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not being cynical. I think the beaver is a fine animal, if you like fat rats. Some of my best friends

I love our flag, too. Every time I see a Canadian flag that has been out in the weather for a week, something sweeps through me-like a desire to mop up the kitchen counter.

And I love that song. I must admit I had a certain leaning toward the other old one—the Maypull Lee, that we all learned in public school. The second line goes: "Fouremblumdeer." But it's long gone, and I doubt if there are many Canadians who would remember, or dare, to sing

"Wolfe, the dauntless hero came . . . " What the heck. We can always depend on our money. I just checked my wallet. Sure enough, there was the Queen, looking not a day over twenty. But what's this? Horrors? On a ten dollar bill was John A., looking as though he'd never had anything

but a Canada Dry in his life. Even worse, on a fiver, was Sir Wilfrid Laurier, looking like Pierre Trudeau. And the whole wallet would have bought me a box of strawberries, a quart of rye,

and a gallon of maple syrup.

Oh, Canada!

before heading to the States. Only one thing marred his almost two week holiday, and that was the weather. Pop says it started to rain in Milton, and

lasted the entire way down.

Pop promises it won't be another 41 years until he sees his sister again.

It's been so long since I mentioned a class reunion, or town get together, you probably thought cobwebs had grown in my mail bag. Not to worry-here's one to keep the fires going.

Trenton High School is having a Centennial Reunion this weekend, August 1 to

"Back Home Daya" is being held for anyone who has been associated with the school. Planned events include a wine and cheese party, a touch football game (that sounds like fun!), a variety night with former Principal John Garrett as Master of Coremonies, a fun track meet and a Centennial "Fest". The City of Trenton Centennial activities include 1880 Days downtown, a gigantic 120 float parade, carnival and street dance.

formation, but you can call 1-613-392-1960.

Back issues

10 years ago

August 5, 1970 The Ontario Municipal Board notified town officials Thursday that the longstanding proposed senior citizens' and geared to income housing development may proceed on the Cobblehill Road site. There was no comment from the OMB.

Members of Acton Planning Board unanimously endorsed a resolution in principle for a proposed town house. development on the Campbell farm, Main St. S. contingent on rezoning. The project-103 townhouses-would also include five six plexes for a total of 133

housing units. Judges in the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association Better Newspaper competitions awarded two first prizes to the Acton Free Press, it was announced this week. The Acton paper took first place for best all round newspaper, winning the Gertrude A. Dunning memorial trophy and also took first prize for the best front page in its own circulation class and the David E. Scott award.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Arbic returned this week from an enjoyable visit to Italy. Mr. and Mrs. Arbic left July 16 with their uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. Severino and Nino Braida.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Townsley, Karen, Jeff and Julie are home from a month-long trip to Western Canada. Highlights of the trip included stops at Calgary, Banff and Victoria B.C. The Townsleys also visited with Mr. and Mrs. Brian McCristall in Chilliwack, B.C.

20 years ago

July 28, 1960 Acton council Tuesday evening learned

that a portion of the water in the south spring, once the main water supply for Acton was now usable and if needed could be mixed with other supplies.

An Acton women is still in Milton District Hospital in fair condition following a broadside two car crash on 10 sideroad just west of Milton Thursday afternoon of last week. Mrs. Cam Winn of 70 Main St. N. suffered head, arm, shoulder, leg, chest and back injuries and is expected to besreleased shortly.

From 15 to 18 dead fish floating on the surface of Fairy Lake had the Ontario Water Resources Commission and the Halton County Health Unit puzzled. Tests are being taken but to date no definite reason can be ascertained.

Aiready 15 to 18 workers from Huntsville tannery have started work here and more are expected as operations in Huntsville shut down gradually.

John Henry Foley, 22 Scene Street, was hospitalized early this morning (Thursday) when the 1956 station wagon he was driving was in collision with a car driven by Howard Anguish, R.R. 2, Waterloo, shortly after 7 a.m.

50 years ago

Thursday, July 31, 1930 By the death of Dr. James Lindsay, at his home in Limehouse on July 25, the community has lost one of its best and most highly esteemed citizens. Dr. Lindsay was a son of the late Mary McColl and James Lindsay and was born in the farm on which he died

A writer in the Toronto Star staff says: 'Road builders are busy levelling up the 'hot black' on Highway No. 25 about three miles below Milton. They should make a non-stop flight right through Milton to Acton on Highway No. 7 thus connecting up two east-west paved thoroughfares, 5 and 7." Another bright little chap lost his life by

drowning in Fairy Lake when Wallace, the bright little ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gudney, Church Street was drowned Tuesday afternoon.

The elections on Monday were carried on in a sizzling temperature and the best of the contest was in no comparison with the heat of the weather. Although the majority of Dr. Anderson was reduced from 1,897 in 1926 to 1,167 this year, he was elected handily over his opponent James Wald-brook, Liberal candidate in this traditional Conservative riding.

The Jessop-Stephens reunion was held recently at the old Jessop homestead 1st Line, Erin Township.

100 years ago

July 29, 1880

Mr. George Wilson who has been engaged as section foreman on the G. T. Railway here for the past twelve years has received the appointment of Road Superintendent, on the Northern Railway, between Allandale and Gravenhurst. Mr. Wilson will receive a much better salary in his new appointment.

Mr. Scott Armstrong, of Eramosa a few days ago sold one hundred hogs, being the remainder of threeshundred he had been feeding for some time at his mills, to John Black, Fergus. The animals sold at five cents per lb. and averaged 198 lbs. each in

We have before called the attention of the Street and Sidewalk committee to the fact that the sidewalk opposite the blacksmith shops of Messrs. M. Speight and A. Stephenson are badly in need of repairs. These repairs should be attended to at once.

Town must help Acton's Business Improvement

Area (BIA) board of management have charted a course for an ambitious revitalization of the downtown area within the next five years.

They'll start off with a major study to determine what needs to be done and then participate in a provincial downtown revitalization loan program which will finance putting a new face on the core area.

It might seem like a pretty simple task, albeit costly, to refurbish downtown.

But without considerable cooperation between the municipality and BIA the dreams and plans will just collect dust. Right now the ball is in the

minimum maintenance and occupancy by-law at least for the downtown, if not the entire municipality, before provincial help

Halton Hills must now adopt a

town's court.

will be forthcoming.

Having such a by-law makes a lot of sense. Why should the province, town and merchants pour a lot of money into revitalizing a down-

town and then allow it to deter-

iorate afterwards?

A minimum maintenance and occupancy by-law would ensure private property is kept up to complement the new beautification of the public lands in the commercial area.

Acton BIA has been asking for the by-law for some time.

Now is the time for council to quit pondering the question and either adopt the standard by-law available from the province or frame their own.

It is in the municipality's interest as much as it is in the merchant's to make sure downtown is revitalized.

BIA president Larry Greaves has been one of the few people to go back to council after a request has been fulfilled and say thanks. In the past he has praised the cooperation council gives the BIA. This shows the town and BIA can

work together. The town can earn a big thank you from not only the merchants but the shoppers of Acton also by proceeding with a minimum maintenance and occupancy bylaw and moving downtown revitalization a step closer to becoming a reality.

Offinw sappean and

Dominjon site was cleaned

Dear Sir:

Re: Letter to Name Withheld: In response to your letter in the Acton Free Press of July 23, 1980, regarding the

Dominion Hotel site. As for the cars, when they were parked there they were both licensed and in good running condition. With no thanks to the Acton people and the Police force that is the condition of the cars now.

As for the condition of the lot. I happened to be around when it was cleaned. Thanks to the local people, there is again rubble, tin cans and garbage.

Barbara Tucker, Oakville.



With Helan Over 200 people jammed into the Acton Curling Club Saturday evening to help Wilf and Laura McEachern celebrate their 40th

Friends and relatives came from all over to wish the River St. couple well, at the open house. A dance followed. The party was put on by the couple's children, Mrs. Rhona Thornhill, Mrs. Barbara Holmes, Mrs. Faye Halladay and

wedding anniversary.

Gary McEachern.

A great big thank you goes out to Jean Somerville of Churchill Rd. for her big bag of Zehr's tapes. Mrs. Somerville has been saving the tapes for over two years to be given to the Friends-in-Deed handicapped group. When \$250,000 worth of tapes are

saved (Zehrs and Dominion), they will receive a free wheelchair. I haven't added up the total of the tapes, but it looks to be a few thousand dollars, a small, but helpful step in the quest for the chair. Thanks again Mrs. Somerville. In the meantime anyone else with tapes

can send them to me, care of the Free Press. Pop Maine (Harold to those who don't know him too well) was recently reunited

with his sister, who he hadn't seen in 41

Pop and his wife just got back last Thursday from a trip to Keene, New Hampshire, where a family reunion reunited him with his sister Florence Butnam of West Swansey, New Hampshire. The reunion, which attracted 62 family members was the first one but definitely not the last. The next one is scheduled for three years from now.

Three generations gathered from Oregon, Texas, Alberta, Brampton, Keen, Winchester, N.H. and Acton. Pop was the oldest, at 76 years old, with three months

the youngest. Pop's son Melvin, from Gibbon Alberta (near Edmonton) visited Acton for a while

It's a little late to write for more in-