

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Right on Perrin!

Right on Perrin.

We couldn't agree more with Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe MP and the youngest man ever to serve in the federal cabinet, Perrin Beatty, when he blasts the reigning Grits in Ottawa for blowing \$10 million on advertising its constitutional reform and energy policy plans.

Just a few weeks before the Prime Minister and Premiers of the 10 provinces are to sit down and try and thrash out a new constitution and division of powers in the hopes of keeping Canada together the Liberals have launched a massive electronic and print media campaign telling us we should build a new federalism and frame a Canadian Constitution. Tell us something we don't know already.

Is Ottawa sounding the death knell for upcoming talks by the first ministers and priming Canadians for a national referendum on the issue of constitutional reform?

If that's the case why hold the meetings at all?

Also, if we face a national referendum then why isn't Ottawa saving our money and the lovely shots of geese flying over Canadian waters for that yes or no vote?

Why come out and preach to the citizens now? Unless it is the best kept secret in the world, the citizens aren't going to be consulted on this issue before the politicians try and settle it.

As for the campaign to try and prove they are in control of the energy situation and to promote the central government's energy policies the feds must not know yet that Trudeau and Lougheed failed to reach an agreement so Alberta bumped the price of crude oil on its own. Maybe the Grits in Ottawa won't know gas has gone up in price until October when it's boosted at pumps in the capital and throughout the rest of Ontario.

Beatty has demanded an inquiry into the ad campaign but the man in charge of the advertising blitz, Multiculturalism Minister Jim Fleming has ignored the call. He says the campaign is needed because many Canadians don't know the role of the federal government.

Sure Canadians know what Ottawa does. Waste money telling us about things we don't have any control over at a time when they are talking about ending tax indexing for inflation because of the Liberal created national debt.

Our readers write

Beach patrol performed well

Dear Sir:
Regarding the letter: "Ways to avoid drownings", I beg to clear up a few points as I was also an eye witness.

As I was walking into the water for a swim I heard, or thought I heard, a cry for help so I called the beach patrol (2) and one jumped right in and the other one called for people to form a lifeline which was accomplished I would say within 30 seconds.

With the first beach patrol they started diving while the second beach patrol called for more people for a life line at a 90 degree angle as the girl who called for help did not know exactly where the victim had gone down. Before this line could be formed the first beach patrol came up with the victim, jumped in the canoe and was giving A.R. while the canoe was being rowed ashore. There the second beach patrol took over and some men helped also.

Gwyneth is right when she said that one person (who I took to be a doctor) said that it was no use, but the four people kept on with the A.R. until the ambulance came, (in my estimation at least 20 minutes later).

There were a lot of people giving advice but this will happen in any given circumstance.

As for the rough handling she must not forget that a body limp when there is no life left in it so when they turned him on his

side maybe it looked to her that they handled him roughly.

As far as I am concerned the two beach patrols were well trained, plus there were two doctors within minutes and seemed to know what they were doing.

They are always at the same spot on a picnic table where there is a phone, first aid kit and buoy etc.

The people were very subdued and stayed well away from the area where they were working on the victim.

There is going to be an inquest as apparently the victim had been in the water for at least 45 minutes before his friends missed him and the alarm was raised.

As for the beach patrol even if they sat on a raised chair, with so many people there and his friends who he was playing with not even missing him until at least a half an hour after, then going in the water to look for him and then when they could not find him starting to call for help (told to me by the sister of the victim at the time it was happening), how could they prevent the tragedy.

As for the beach patrol, they did as much and more as "life guards". I have had training in A.R., but could not find anything amiss in what they were doing, my hat is off to them.

Renee Voskamp
R.R. 2
Acton

Need stop signs, not pacifiers

Dear Sir:
I would like to thank you for your editorial. As has been shown by our town council in the past, we are being treated like children. Give us a pacifier of reduced speeds and crosswalks and signs and maybe we'll be happy.

But stop signs is what we need. Instead of asking the engineer, ask any police officer that stop signs do make the public slow down and that is what we need on these streets.

I invite any or all of the town council and their children to come and sit on my picnic table on the corner of Churchill and MacDonald and observe the traffic any

day of the school year. They will see cars speeding at eighty km/hr. when they come down from the top of Churchill Rd. and cars squealing around MacDonald on two wheels.

I was one of the many citizens who petitioned door to door three years ago, have spoken to members of the town council and still they do not listen.

We are fed up. Maybe we the people of Bovis subdivision will remember this in this election year.

Mrs. P. Morgan
200 Churchill Rd. N.

Thanks Good Samaritans

Dear Sir:
I would like to publicly thank the two gentlemen who helped me on Friday, August 15. My car stalled at Jeffrey Avenue and Elmore Drive and being a hopelessly helpless female when it comes to the inner workings of a car, these two gentlemen came along and spent a good 15 minutes trying to get my car started again. They were successful. One man

works for Marshall Construction and the other man, I believe, resides in Lakeview subdivision and he also drives a gold Cordoba. The Lakeview resident also speaks French so Merci beaucoup pour votre aide — and to the construction worker, Thank you for your help! It was very much appreciated!

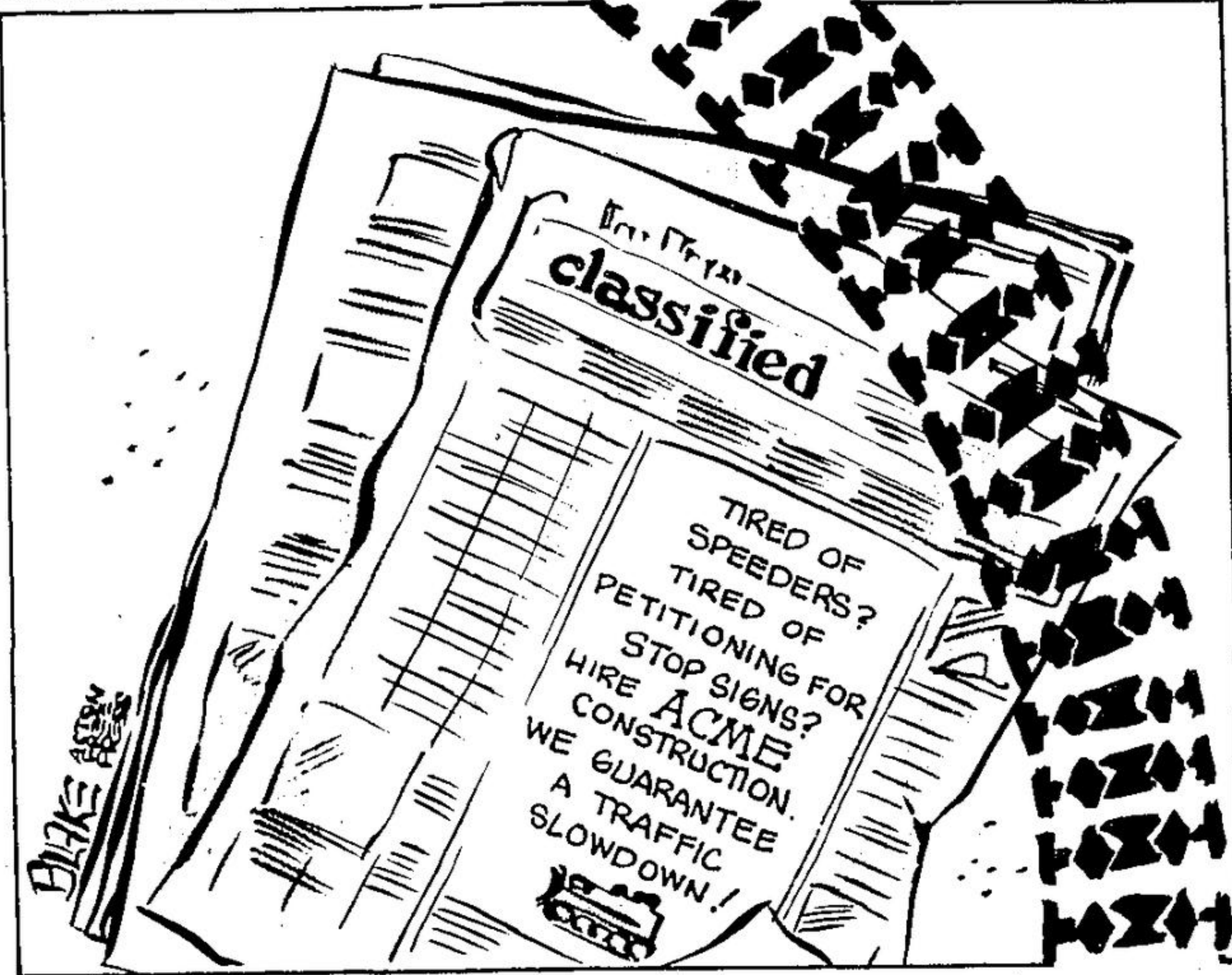
Nicole Marsh
171 Tildey Avenue

Thanks for Bennett story

Dear Sir:
I was so pleased to see the write-up that was in last week's paper of my sister's 100th birthday. Thank you very much. I knew there was to be one in the Kitchener paper and hoped there would be one in the Acton paper.

On behalf of Minnie Bennett I wish to thank the Halton Board of Education for the beautiful flowers sent to her on her 100th birthday.

Margaret Bennett Terry,
Brantford.



Don't go back to old home town

by Bill Smiley



By Bill Smiley

Summer begins, and the school teacher, along with his students is reasonably ecstatic. Two whole months free to loaf, swim, golf, fish, play tennis, scuba dive, or whatever turns you on.

And suddenly, before you've had a chance to hit a ball or catch a bass, it's the middle of August. You haven't been anywhere special, you haven't done anything special, it's rained four days out of seven or been so blasted hot all you could do was lie around and gasp, and there you are, a couple of weeks away from facing about 160 kids, fit as fiddles and ready to make you skip academic rope.

Lucky is the teacher who has no friends or relatives. He or she can go to Europe, take a course in anything from primitive sculpture to basic Russian, or just lie around in the backyard watching the bumble bees trying to have sex with the hummingbirds.

But most of us have relatives, and some of us even have two or three friends, and therein lies the sudden disappearance of the summer holidays.

A couple of days here, a little jaunt to see some relatives there, and suddenly it's last summer.

My wife is at the moment packing bags for the eighth time in five weeks, and she swears that after this brief expedition up north to the cottage of friends, she's going to pile the suitcases in the backyard, sprinkle a can of gas over them, and have the first big barbecue we've had time for since the end of June.

I spent one week loafing. But I have such a gift for loafing that it seemed like only three days.

Then it was a punishing trip up north to pick up the grandboys. Their mother in-

sisted that I not spoil them, or try to entertain them. I did both and we all loved it, but it took its toll. On me.

Next thing I know, my brother wants a reunion, because he's leaving the country. Thomas Wolfe wrote a great novel: "You Can't Go Home Again." Well, you can, but I wouldn't advise it. If you haven't been back to your old home town for many years, don't go.

Progress puts its ugly finger on the most cherished memories of childhood, and you'll find that the tree-lined, sleepy little town in which you grew up not only makes you sad, but a little angry, with all its new motels, sleazy eating places, and fine old homes turned into apartments or nursing homes.

I went looking for a corner where I had kissed a girl every night for two years. As I slowed down, trying to identify it with the big maple gone, replaced by a pizza joint, a dry-cleaners, and a fish-and-chips boutique, a kid came up from behind, slammed me in the rear, and ran off in his souped-up Zilch, hurling obscenities. I was wishing I had a .44 and I'd've put two slugs through his gas tank.

I drove down the main street, and it could have been Main Street, Anywhere. Like North Dakota. That was the street where I hustled deliveries for my Dad, when he had a shoe store, and he'd give me a dime, and I'd go to the matinee, watch Tarzan beat the crocodiles (almost) across the river, and go back next Saturday afternoon, wondering if he'd made it. He always did, thank goodness.

My brother and I played golf, badly, at the local course. I felt completely out of my element with all those old, white-haired, wizened people until I got to the bridge, spanning the river. The bridge was

new, but at least I remembered sitting on it, watching the ladies pound their golf balls into the river. We dived for them, and sold them back for a dime.

If I'd had time, I'd have driven around the three-mile circuit Jack Pope and I worked every Saturday morning, looking for empty beer bottles in the ditches. We made a fair buck in those days, probably splitting thirty-five cents when we turned in our goods to M.K., an elderly Jewish gentleman, much more scrupulous of his business dealings with us kids than most trust company executives would be.

I saw my sister, who, as was always her wont, tried to stuff more food into me than a healthy alligator could handle.

I drove out to an incredibly romantic place my Uncle John had bought as a farm. He couldn't make a nickel from it, but it had a huge stone house with a butler's pantry, and about 14 outbuildings: stables, sheds, barns, the lot. After explaining my safari to a surly chap from eastern Europe, he said, "Sorrigh, sorrigh." So much for memories.

I wasn't all gone, of course, to be fair. Some of the old stone houses and hotels are still there, turned into artsy-crafties or modern eating places.

The old, smelly river-cum-canal is still there, weed-infested, tranquil, full of suckers and pike, a relic of the war of 1812-16.

But don't go home again. Crowning blow was when my wallet was either lost or lifted, and I've been cancelling credit cards, getting new licenses, and weeping over my cash and my OHIP number ever since.

Stay home and be happy with your own rotten place and all its problems.

At least three Acton people were among 14,000 disappointed Alice Cooper fans last Tuesday.

Rick Dodds, Mike Currie and Richard Pappilon watched from high in the stands as rioting broke out which resulted in several people being rushed to the hospital, and over 30 charges laid.

The fans had been kept waiting for two hours with promises the rock performer would soon be on stage. At ten o'clock it was announced the performer would not be appearing, and all heck broke loose.

The three Acton fellows watched the whole thing from a distance, but once the tear gas was shot into the mobbing crowd, they decided to make a hasty exit. Sounds like a smart idea.

For those of you not familiar with Alice Cooper, no he is not a she, he's a he, who is known for his outlandish and violent stunts on stage.

If you want to get in on the ground floor of the Acton lottery, you had better act soon. The first draw of the contest is rapidly drawing near and there are still plenty of tickets left. Odds of winning either a monthly draw of a trip for two, or a weekly draw of \$350 are very good, and money raised goes towards restoring the town hall.

Back issues

10 years ago

August 26, 1970

Residents of Rockwood are reacting strongly to the waterworks and sewage distribution and treatment proposed for the village. A delegation told the trustees the cost is too high at this time. Eden Mills residents are also alarmed.

Nassagaweya has not agreed to regional government for Halton, but is not opposed to seeking clarification on the position of Burlington. Reeve Anne McArthur told county councillors.

Bank manager Ted Pratt welcomed guests at Open House at the Bank of Montreal, following renovations. Nearly 650 square feet of floor space has been added.

Grand opening of the Relaxo laundromat, in the new building on Main St. S., is scheduled for Saturday.

Acton Rams sidelined Hurons and proceeded to the Ontario finals. Ram marksmen were Bob Turkosz, Bob Gowland, Fred Barens, Fred Flisnik, Paul Cooper, Mike Marcoux.

Scotch Block dam may be completed before winter. It is expected to end water shortages for people in the area of the 16 Mile Creek. Cost is \$1,000,000.

20 years ago

August 25, 1960

Mrs. Chris Britton has received the appointment of assistant postmaster at the Acton office.

Distinguished guest Lord Peter Baden-Powell visited the Blue Springs scout reserve last week.

Acton Women's Institute entertained residents of Halton Manor in the park. The Lorne Scots band provided music. However it began to rain, and with the kindness of the fire department, the visitors were taken to their hall where supper was served.

A five run spurge earned Acton Merchants a draw in the first game of the Halton County Senior B finals. Acton team: Anderson, J. Lindsay, Paul Lawson, H. Townsley, T. Barrager, B. Bruce, Pete Lawson, Don Lindsay, B. Dore, J. Cunningham, Jim MacGregor, P. McCristall.

Claude Cook spoke to the Rotary club and took them on a tour of Beardmore's.

Members of the North Halton Go-Kart club take part in trials at Limehouse each weekend. It's fun for the whole family. Archie Chase Jr. is a regular winner, at seven.

Calamity Corner, the intersection of Queen and Young, had another accident Saturday. Cons. Bruce Kressler investigated.

50 years ago

August 31, 1930

Acton gave the largest Conservative majority recorded in years in the election Monday and Dr. Anderson carries Halton. The Free Press, with co-operation of the Bell Telephone Company, had two lines from central and a radio installed to supply the Dominion returns. A.T. Brown had two sets receiving returns at his drug store and other groups gathered at W.D. Talbot's shop and Cox's garage. Acton Citizen's Band gave a concert on the lawn at Sunderland Villa (now the funeral home) across from the Free Press and the throngs downtown awaiting the results were in regular holiday mood.

One of Acton's leading citizens passed away in the person of Mr. Peter Smith. He was superintendent of the Acton and Bracebridge tanneries for years and much of the success of these industries was due to his abilities. He was the first curler to put stones down when Acton's new curling rink opened last year.

Dr. McCullough of Rockwood has sold his practice to Dr. K.B. Waller.

Teams and wagon and helpers are requested to come to Fairy Lake for a bee to make the beach safe for children. A bright little chap, Wallace Gidney, drowned there this week.

100 years ago

August 28, 1880

Acton is certainly getting its full share of the unwelcome attention of burglars, robbers, etc. It is only a few weeks since half a dozen burglaries were committed and now another even more daring has taken place. The residence of Mrs. Edward Moore was ransacked from garret to cellar.

Thursday last, the day proclaimed by the reeve as Acton civic holiday, was observed in such by the majority of our residents. The excursion to Toronto took quite a few people away. Most shops were closed and many citizens donned their holiday attire and sought pleasure nearer home. The event of the day was a baseball match between the citizens north and south of Mill St.

If we are to judge from the number of cows on the streets at night, the new Cow Bylaws are more honored in the breach than in the observance.

On Thursday last a couple of shoe blacks from Guelph, aged about 11 or 12 years, came to town. They spent their earnings in cigars and by the time the train for Guelph arrived one of them was so drunk he could not stand. The agent locked him up in the luggage room until the morning.