

# The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Don McDonald, Publisher

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## Acclamations disturbing

The unusually large number of acclamations for the November 10 municipal elections in Halton Hills is indeed disturbing.

This comment is not intended as a rap on those politicians fortunate enough not to have to brave the rapidly cooling temperatures to knock on electors' doors or going to the expense of getting elected.

However, when one considers that over half the spots on the next town council and all of the town's seats on Halton Board of Education have been filled before the voters reach the polls it is a sorry situation.

Only in Esquesing does the political fight seem to be alive and well.

The mayor's chair was filled without a race.

In Acton there's just one race that all the electors can participate in, that being the battle for the region seat. Both area council seats were won by acclamation by first term councillors.

Esquesing features three way and four way battles for the region and local council seats respectively.

Down in Georgetown an entire ward was acclaimed while in the other ward there's a four man race for local council and a region seat acclamation.

The situation for the public school board is even worse.

In both Acton and Esquesing rookie candidates were unopposed. There seemed to be interest in the race in Acton as three different people announced they'd be running and then backed out, leaving the seat to a novice.

Only one person ever expressed a desire to be Esquesing's first trustee.

In Georgetown a one term trustee who'd represented Acton and Esquesing was acclaimed after the incumbent dropped out.

The school board situation is particularly disturbing.

This body spends more money than the town and region combined, about 60 per cent of the local tax dollar and has been rife with issues and controversies for

a number of years now, yet only three people in Halton Hills were interested in the three jobs.

With the incumbent retired there's a race for Halton Hills lone seat on Halton Separate School Board but the Catholic elector's seat on the public school board for Halton Hills-Milton was once again won unopposed by the same person who has held it since it first went up on the board three elections ago.

Undoubtedly the unusually high number of acclamations will result in a pathetic voter turnout.

But the problem goes far beyond the lack of voters who are likely to exercise their franchise.

Many local politicians and government bodies will conclude they have been doing a grand job the last two years and maybe ignore the few complaints they hear about their performance.

This is a natural assumption.

However, we can't agree the reason for so many acclamations is due to excellence of our local politicians.

We suspect this year's lack of candidates is just another example of people's distaste for politics.

Many feel all their great ideas and ideas will be swept aside by the bureaucratic system they won't be able to bend, let alone break.

And why wouldn't they think that way. Every time voters take something to their elected representatives staff is brought into the picture, more often than not there's then a long delay before the subject is brought up again and then generally the politicians follow the advice they get from their experts.

If a potential candidate decides despite the system they can make a contribution then they must consider the hassles from the voters and scrutiny of the press they'll have to endure.

People are so apathetic and disillusioned even if they were heated races for every post the turnout on November 10 probably wouldn't have been any great shakes anyway.



## Canadians act as though they love the Fall!

Do you like autumn? I do. For me, it's the epitome of all that's best in Canada. You can have your spring, glorious spring with its drizzles and its mud and its chilling winds. You can have your summer, with its particular pests—tourists, bugs, visitors. And you can most definitely have winter in its every possible aspect. Just give me about six months of that September-October weather, and you couldn't drag me out of this country to the island of Bali.

I know that, according to the rhythm of nature, fall is supposed to be a time of dying, of melancholy, of shrivelling on the vine, or preparing for the deep, dead sleep of winter.

Maybe Canadians are just contrary, but they don't react in the way they're supposed to at all, in the fall. Instead of carefully preparing for winter, drawing in their horns, and going around with long faces, they bust out all over as soon as that first nip is felt in the morning air.

Perhaps they're just fooling themselves, but Canadians act as though they love the fall. They come to life. They bustle. They form committees, make plans, have parties. They even start going to church. Perhaps it's just a last hysterical fling, a frantic escape from reality, with the grim prospect of six months' winter ahead, but they certainly burn with a clear, gem-like flame while it lasts.

Where is the sober householder who should be chinking up the nooks and

crannies, putting on the storm windows, getting in his fuel supply and battering down all the hatches for the bitter voyage that looms ahead?

I'll tell you where he is, on his day off. He's standing in ice water up to his nipples, trying to catch a rainbow trout. Or out on the golf course, so bundled with sweaters he can hardly swing. Or he's sitting with a noggin, watching the football game on television. That's where he is.

And where's the guidewife, who should be knitting woolen socks, putting down preserves and canned meat, airing the flannel sheets, patching the family's long underwear, and quilting a quilt?

I'll tell you where she is. She's on the phone, talking about what she's going to wear to the tea. Or she's off in the car to attend a wedding. Or she's out playing bingo. Or she's taking in an auction sale. Or she's sitting around with her feet up, watching the afternoon movie. That's where she is.

It must shake our pioneer ancestors rigid to look down, or up, from their present abode, and see us preparing for winter. About this time of year, grandfather was killing a beef, shooting a deer, salting down a hog, making apple cider, stacking vast piles of firewood and hustling his wheat to the mill.

It must rot his celestial socks to look down and see his grandson hunting deer for a holiday, buying his pig pre-cooked at the meat counter, and laying in his fuel

supply by picking up the phone and calling the oil dealer.

And what about Granny? In her day, fall was the time when you worked like a beaver, making sausage, spinning wool, putting eggs away in waterglass, filling the root cellar, making candles and soap.

She must do a little quiet cussing, in the shadow of her halo, when she sees her granddaughter facing up to the rigors of winter: racked by the dreadful indecision of whether to buy a home freezer or a fur coat; torn by the dilemma of whether to have the cleaning woman come once or twice a week.

But, of course, that's looking at only one side of the situation. Granddaddy didn't have to worry about anti-freeze, atom bombs, income tax or payments on the car. He didn't need suppositories, diets and a new tail-pipe every time he turned around.

And Granny didn't have to cope with a kitchen full of machinery, kids who were smarter than she was, and the late movie. She didn't need sleeping pills, cigarettes or psychology.

Say, come to think of it those were the good old days. They didn't have much, but what they had was their own, not the finance company's. No auto accidents, no alcoholics anonymous, no aspirin. Let's stop worrying about the hardships of our pioneer ancestors and get back to sweating over our own neurotic chaos.

The number six must be in Cathy Forbes' stars. Cathy was born on the 16th day of the sixth month of 1958. She married on the 20th day of the sixth month of 1976. Her first baby Lisa was born on the sixth (of February) and now her second daughter Sheri Lyn has been born on the 28th (of September). Congratulations Cathy and husband Hugh of Kingham Rd.

Seems everyone and everything is on the go these days. Mr. and Mrs. James Atkinson of 37 Young St. visited Calgary recently to see sons William and Rick and daughter Joy Zeigler. They have 13 grandchildren. With them on the 18-day stay was Pep, their nine-year old dog. Pep flew in the plane with them and was given his own chicken dinner. Now that's service.

Want to win a trip to Hawaii, or maybe Florida. The 500 Club tickets are now being sold throughout town with the islands as first prize and the peninsula as second prize, to be drawn May 23. Each Saturday, starting this weekend, until May 23, there will be five draws for \$30. The Club is sponsored by the Acton Minor Hockey Association.

Bumped into Gloria Tomlinson the other day. She's the owner of Honey Pot Nursery School in the Glen Lea Plaza. Miss Gloria, as she's known to many youngsters says there is still plenty of room in her classes, and inquiries are welcome.

## Our readers write

### Cancer Society grateful

A Letter to the People of Halton Hills: Once again the Halton Hills Unit and Acton branch of the Cancer Society wish to express their most sincere thanks to you, the people of Halton Hills, for helping us raise an unprecedented figure of \$100,669.16 in our 1980 campaign.

We are extremely proud indeed of our most successful campaign ever. We have surpassed our objective of \$38,000.00 by \$62,669.16. The amount raised consists of the following combined figures: In Acton, \$14,034.18 from the campaign and \$6,920.92 from the Marathon of Hope fund which totals \$20,955.10; In Georgetown \$40,081.29 from the campaign and \$39,632.77 from the Marathon of Hope fund, which together total \$79,714.06.

Our overwhelming success is due to the great commitment of hundreds of dedicated volunteers on the campaign team under the very capable leadership of Claudette Smith in Georgetown, and Arlie White in Acton; and also due to everyone contributing so generously financially. Halton Hills now has a very impressive record for raising \$3.00 per capita, which gives us the distinguished honour of being number 1 in the Central Counties district for per capita donations. What an impressive record! Central Counties include Oakville, Mississauga, Applewood, Erindale, Milton, Dufferin, North Peel and Bramalea, and Halton Hills.

May we also take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, and for "going

wild" as Terry asked us, in order to raise money for cancer research. Terry touched our hearts and our pocketbooks. The response from our community was totally overwhelming to a young and courageous man who humbled us all by his total commitment to the fight against cancer.

Very special thanks and appreciation must be extended to Gord Murray, Editor of The Acton Free Press and his staff for their continued enthusiasm and support of all our activities throughout the year. And especially for their tremendous coverage of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. Your contribution in communicating with the people of our area has been a very large contributing factor in our outstanding achievement.

The Cancer Society offers many services to the public, as a result of the funds made available through the annual campaign. Anyone wanting information on coping with Cancer programs, transportation or other assistance for a cancer patient, educational material, or speakers is certainly encouraged to contact our office, located at 5 Wesleyan Street, Suite 203, at 877-1124.

Thank you again Halton Hills for your financial help and support in the fight against Cancer.

Please pray for Terry.  
Mrs. D. Butwell  
Publicity Chairman  
and Yvonne Courtine  
Publicity Chairman  
Acton Branch.



### On the Leavell

With Helen

The winner of the door prize, a macramé owl towel holder, at the Acton Arts and Crafts Exhibition on Saturday, was Dawn Welch of Cobblehill Rd.

The commissioner of the Americas for the Salvation Army, Norman Marshall, received a pleasant surprise during his visit to Acton Thursday. During his visit he met a second cousin he had never met before. Bob Marshall, of R.R. 2 Acton made a special effort to attend the luncheon held at the Acton legion in his cousin's honor. However, they met on the main street, while the commissioner was taking a picture of Mill Street, where his father once owned a store.

Bob explained Norman's grandfather and his grandfather were brothers, but the other Marshall family moved to Georgia years ago. Bob does not recall ever meeting his cousin Norman, but both instantly recognized the other as being a Marshall.

It was on a trip to Florida three years

## Waltmann strikes out

Dear Waltmann—  
You hate baseball,  
Don't watch it.  
You like Pejoratives,  
Knock yourself.—  
Excluding tobacco spit, genital feel,  
Could you emulate  
A Pete Rose or a George Brett?—

Conservative, egocentric, baseball sports  
A vast hereditary fandom.  
For the baseball misanthrope (A La  
Waltmann)  
Solace beckons.  
The hockey wars, mercifully, Have begun.  
Joe Hursat,  
Acton.

## Back issues

10 years ago

October 28, 1970

Next Saturday in Ottawa Governor-General Michener will confer the rank of Serving Sister in the Order of St. John on Mrs. Marie Hargrave of the Acton Brigade. This is the first high award of this type for Acton.

Scout Apple Day raised \$402.58. Scouts Steve Papillon, Barry Allen, and S. Conroy and cubs C. Conroy, B. Waites and S. Scott will receive prizes for their top selling effort. Dave Muckle, chairman of the group committee, paid tribute to Kevin Conroy and Murray Harrison for their long hours of work.

Night school classes are being revived in Acton, under the county board of education. Members of the former local night school committee met with board officials to discuss courses, among them Mrs. J. Creighton, who was chairman of Acton night school committee when classes were at their height. These classes drew 200 each year, but then interest waned. Since then the Y board has offered a few classes. The oil painting group continues meeting together each year.

Bob Laughlin has resigned as vice-chairman of the parks board.

20 years ago

October 27, 1960

James M. Rudd was inducted as the new minister of Acton Baptist Church.

Jean Hart received her All Round cord in Guides, presented by Capt. Mrs. T. Watson.

Council approved the proposed site on Bower Ave. for a new post office. The former Storey Glove Company building stands on the site, owned by S. Smallwood. Councillor H. Lowe voted in the negative in view of the fact local political parties appeared to have a strong influence in such decisions and council was only considered when approval of selected sites was sought. Mr. Lowe and councillor E. Pope opposed granting the approval.

Two dance bands attracted the largest crowd ever, when Acton Lions Club staged their regular Teen Town dance in the Legion auditorium.

50 years ago

October 30, 1930

On behalf of the veterans, Mr. J.P. Scarrow asked council's permission to have the guns at the soldiers' monument repainted.

A Boy Scouts citizens' committee was elected: Rev. P.A. Sawyer chairman; W. Coles secretary, executive members Mrs. A. Mason, Messrs. J. Ramsden and J.P. Scarrow. George Mason is Scoutmaster.

Thieves dug up about 50 bags of potatoes at the farm of Matthew Job.  
Canada will change the color of her postal stamps. The one cent stamp will be green, two cent red, five blue and eight orange.  
Trainer Eccleshall will hold the first training sessions for the hockey boys of both teams Monday.

75 years ago

November 2, 1905

The constable controlled the Halloween pranks pretty well.

Although the meeting arranged by the Board of Trade to promote a cheese factory in this district wasn't particularly well attended, enthusiasm was not lacking and good practical information was imparted.

Three times since New Year's has the grim visitor entered the erstwhile happy Kaley home. In January, Miss Annie, a daughter just budding into mature young womanhood, departed this life. About three weeks ago Mrs. Kaley died after a brief illness and last Thursday John, the fourth son, passed away after a lingering illness from consumption.

For some time a number of boys have amused themselves by playing pranks on Charlie Lee Sney, the Chinese laundryman. However, on Sunday, he was hurt, and his attacker was charged and fined \$3.15. The law of this country is framed to give protection to all law-abiding citizens within our borders.

100 years ago

October 28, 1880

In rainy weather on some of our streets are observed unsightly pools of stagnant water. There are also a large number of broken or rotten planks in the sidewalks. More sidewalks are necessary on some streets which are almost impassable in bad weather.

Officers and members of Victoria Lodge I.O.G.T. in Rockwood gave an oyster supper in honor of Mr. R.E. Nelson, who is about to take up his abode in Acton. The members of the lodge marched in full regalia to his residence, taking well-filled baskets of provisions.

Grand Demonstration at J.D. Williams Store, Guelph. We shall make our magnificent and unparalleled display of original Paris and London millinery, plumes, mantles, etc., under a Daily Gaalight Illumination. Our spacious showrooms will be arranged to exclude all light from without and scores of gas jets will pour forth a brilliancy that will rival the celebrated electric light. This will be the grandest display of millinery ever made in Guelph.