

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Published every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 59 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 25c each, \$12.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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Member of The Audit Bureau of Circulation, The Canadian Community Newspaper Association, and The Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association.

Second class mail registration Number 0515.

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Hats off to Catholic parents

Hats off to the St. Joseph's Parents' Association.

All of Acton should be proud of our Roman Catholic community and the responsible, reasonable and rational manner in which they tackled the job of convincing Halton Separate School Board and the Ontario Ministry of Education of the dire need for a new school here.

It was announced last week that a new St. Joseph's will be built here and open in 1982.

A lot of the credit for this feat must go to people like Vince Whelan, Mike McMahon and the rest of the members of the parents' association.

Looking back over the past few months one has to be impressed with the course of action the parents followed in their battle.

Back in June, after many months of being under the impression a new school for Acton was the board's only priority, the parents learned the bad news that funding for a new school was going to Oakville, not Acton.

Parents justifiably felt they had been misled by the board.

Right off the bat there was talk of boycotting the school. However, the parents quickly calmed down, rolled up their sleeves and buckled down to the tough lobbying job ahead.

Instead of boycotting the school the parents went back to square one, the board, and let them know they still felt Catholic education in Acton was crucial and started working with trustees and staff to persuade Queen's Park to fund a school here.

They brought the board to Acton to explain the situation to the community, so everyone, not just the parents' association, would have a clear understanding of what had happened and what now needed to be done.

Parents enlisted the aid of Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, sent letters to Education Minister Bette Stephenson about the poor

condition of the school and invited her to come here and see for herself, enlisted the support of Bishop Paul Reding and even got a family friend of Stephenson's Terry Grubbe, to go to bat for them with the minister.

When they finally did enjoy an audience with Stephenson parents sent Whalen with the board officials and they were armed with a solid case of funding; a case which was well documented and based on solid research of the needs and deficiencies of the present St. Joseph's.

Stephenson must have been pretty impressed with the parents' case. After months of little response from the province within a few weeks of the meeting the board had the money to purchase the site and a few weeks later the funding for the school.

A few times during their six month campaign the parents became frustrated and overly emotional about the issue, talking of student and tax boycotts, but on balance just did a great job of convincing those controlling the purse strings of their commitment to Catholic education and the need to help Catholic education flourish with a new, proper, school.

Over the years many groups, some right here in Halton Hills, have fought to change peoples' minds at Queen's Park about decisions, without much success.

The fact the St. Joseph's parents were able to accomplish their goal in a mere six months makes the feat all the more remarkable.

Instead of washing their hands in the board and province and giving up on Catholic education here by pulling their kids out of St. Joseph's the parents instead proved that you can cut through the red tape and convince governments that they do sometimes make mistakes which can be rectified.

They are an example to us all that the system can work.



Does anything ever go right? —Smiley asks

by Bill Smiley



Shotgun column coming up. Reason? I've just been through a real 'flu attack, and the little bit of brain matter still alive, inside a body that feels as though the Gestapo had been having a go at it, is not capable of the usual sustained, melodious, incomparable prose essay.

Item. After looking forward to my old lady getting home from two weeks in the north country, after laying on arrangements for her to be picked up at the airport and dropped at our door, after making the house look as though I'd hired an expert housekeeper, I blew it.

I was listening to a particularly noisy TV program. I wandered downstairs about the time she was to arrive, just in time to find her opening the cellar door with an expression the Gorgon would have envied. She'd got in a bit early, rung the doorbell when she found the door locked. No response. She checked the garage. Yes, the car was there; he wasn't off somewhere carousing, unless on foot. Lights in the house all on.

More doorbell ringing. No answer. Finally, she forced open one of the cellar windows and crawled in, dragging her best wicker suitcase behind her, across the woodpile beneath the window. I'd kept the door locked, because I'd become used to doing so while she was away. Hadn't heard the bell. Five minutes after she got home, I was wishing she'd go away for another two weeks.

Day after she got home, I got the 'flu, which she took as a personal affront. Lay around groaning and hawking and spitting and drinking plenty of fluids, until she was wishing she'd stayed away for another two weeks.

Item. Doctors and well-meaning friends urge you to take it easy, that you are not indispensable. Well, they're completely wrong. Some of us are indispensable.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Ronald McDonald coloring books are still on sale through members of the Cancer Society and various stores in town. Proceeds go to help fund Ronald McDonald house in Toronto, a place where parents of children stricken with cancer can stay while their child is a patient at Sick Children's Hospital. Over \$5 worth of McDonald's coupons are included in the coloring book.

You've heard of party crashers, but have you ever heard of parade crashers? If you know Alma Swetman and sidekick Terry Grubbe, then you've heard of parade crashers.

Like me. I took two days in bed, and returned to work to find chaos. Three members of my English staff off sick, one of them for good, eighteen pieces of administrative trivia to sort out, new timetables to be arranged, and feeling like a wet rag that has just been wrung out, eleven-seven essays and tests to mark, and four exams to set.

I'm looking at those New Career ads in the paper. Can't seem to find anything suiting a venerable gentleman with no manual or technical or organizational skills. I'm thinking seriously of joining my son when he goes back to Paraguay. Surely I could be of some use down there. I make a fine pot of tea, and could teach English as a Second Language, and I am an expert at dandling babies on my knee.

Item. Budget. Allan McEachen should be renamed Allan Machiavelli. Mackenzie King is chortling in his grave as he watches one of his disciples go through the old Liberal routine: you can fool most of the people most of the time; use the carrot as well as the stick; never let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; learn to speak out of both corners of your mouth at the same time; and energy taxes if necessary but not necessarily energy taxes.

If the average household ran its budget as does the federal government, we'd all be on welfare. And that's just about where Canada stands now. On welfare. Borrowing from one finance company to pay the interest owed to another finance company. Holding out its hands to the poor, with gall in one hand, and vinegar in the other.

Item. The Consti-bloody-tution. Trudeau acting like a near-sighted lion, with his comfortable majority. Joe Clark and Ed

Broadbent waving futile fists in the air. And the provinces, like so many jackals, each striving to tear off a juicy morsel of meat before the lion roars.

Item. I'll never write another ode to October. This has been the rottenest (rotten, rottener, rottenest?) in many a year. Where are the Octobers of yesteryear, with their magnificent colors, their clear blue skies and mellow sunshine, their opportunity to haul out the boat or get in a last few rounds of golf?

It rains. It sneezes. And it's mighty cold, in our parts. The splash of brilliant color has been turned a sort of dun, and the wind and rain have stripped the foliage before it had a chance to show its fancy undergarments.

Item. Somebody is after me. Lost a filling. Twenty-one bucks. Caught not wearing my safety harness. Twenty-eight bucks. Sink plugged. Fifty-two bucks. The Feds are after me for income tax errors. Somebody stole my wallet. Two hundred. Storm windows coming up. Over a thousand, and at the rate we're going, it'll be April before they're on. Brickwork needs about three hundred. Whole house needs painting, inside and out. About two thousand.

Oil and gas bills going up. Corn on sole of right foot killing me. Telephone bills exorbitant. Inflation far ahead of salary increase. Well, I don't have to fill in any more details. We're all in the same leaky boat.

However, the only way to do it is a day at a time. Tomorrow I'll be a day nearer the grave, but I'll have done tremendous things; shaving my face, brushing my teeth, going to work, marking some essays, sorting out a squabble among my Grade 10's. The possibilities are limitless.

Rockwood's Doodles Restaurant was recently reviewed in the Globe and Mail's television guide. In the out of town section of restaurants it described some of the dishes, and atmosphere of the place, mentioning the fireside dining. Particularly proud of the fireside dining are June and Dirk Jansen, who built the fireplace when the restaurant was their home. Maureen McLeod transformed the quaint home into a restaurant two years ago.

Don't forget to enter the Christmas Coloring Contest sponsored by this newspaper. Deadline is December 19, entries to be dropped into the Free Press offices, 59 Willow St. Please include your name, age, telephone number and address.

Getting stocked up on groceries for the coming holiday? Anyone shopping out of town at Zehrs or Miracle Mart is asked to save those grocery tapes for the Friends-in-Deed handicapped organization. When they reach a certain total sum, they get a free wheelchair.

Tapes can be sent to me at the Free Press, 59 Willow St. and I'll forward them.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, December 2, 1970

Council will negotiate a contract for the policing of Acton, and the new contract will include full or part-time secretarial help. The addition of one constable will bring the strength of the Acton detachment up to one corporal and six constables.

Construction has started on a small plaza at Churchill Rd. and Queen St. There will be five stores, the largest Becker's Milk.

Calvin Aitken was presented with an agricultural service diploma at the fair board banquet.

Windows at six Acton stores have been decorated by the high school marketing class. The stores are Dollar Daddy, Gordon's Hardware, Family Store, Esquire Shop, Cameo Boutique and Nielsen's Clothing.

Acclaimed Eden Mills trustees are Rodney Bell, Dave Masson and Norm Marshall.

20 years ago

Thursday, December 1, 1960

Thirteen will contest six council seats. G. Barbeau, C. Bishop, J. Callan, W. Denny, L. Duby, A. Field, H. Lowe, E. McDonald, W. J. McLeod, R. Mischez, J. Newton, E. Pope and F. Toth Sr. All other positions were filled by acclamation following nomination night in the Robert Little school, attended by only 72. Mayor J.H. Goy was returned to office, J. Hargrave is again reeve and H.H. Hinton, a newcomer to municipal politics, is deputy reeve. Also acclaimed were E.G. Tyler Sr. and G. Beatty to the Hydro Commission. Trustees C.W. Bradley, E.T. Marks and D. Manning were returned to the public school board.

John Milne was acclaimed Nassagaweya reeve. A. R. Service and John Robertson will run for deputy-reeve. Councillors by acclamation are Charles Thompson, William Coulter, and Dr. Young.

Ted Tyler Sr. was re-elected president of the Chamber of Commerce. Popular Acton merchant Ralph Pallant was killed in a car-truck accident.

50 years ago

December 4, 1930

That dangerous double crossing on the Third Line, where both the radial and the steam lines both cross the road, was the scene of another accident when the west-bound radial hit a truck driven by Fred McDowell.

The Community Christmas Tree this year is being arranged by the Lady True Blue Lodge for Christmas Eve.

In a recent reorganization, Col. A.O.T. Beardmore was elected president and Capt. Gordon T. Beardmore vice-president of Beardmore Leathers. Both are sons of Alfred O. Beardmore Esq., who was for many years a resident of Acton.

The program given in Limehouse United Church by Dr. Agnew and his wife and friends was much enjoyed. They presented a Chinese market scene.

The pleasures of the road have now given way to the comfort of enjoying the radio.

75 years ago

December 28, 1905

Detective Grey was in town investigating those three incendiary fires. A barn belonging to Duncan Mann on the third line was destroyed.

A second fire destroyed the old freight shed, the last landmark from long-ago days from the G.T.R. station. The old station building was torn down in June and the old dwelling where Baggageman Laird lived for 30 years collapsed during the progress of removal. Nothing remains now but the old well, and it has a new pump.

The third fire was in a stack of hay at the farm of John Mann.

The fires showed ex-chief Harvey's suggestion for an additional fire tank on Guelph St. would facilitate the work of the firemen.

100 years ago

December 2, 1880

Mr. John Moore, proprietor of Rockwood mills, has just received a new turbine water wheel.

During the past weeks posters have been issued stating that 50,000 bushels of peas and oats and 100,000 telegraph poles are wanted at Acton station. This will circulate considerable cash among the farmers in the vicinity.

Several persons were noticed last week driving without bells on their horses. Cutters, sleighs, etc. slip along so noiselessly it is necessary to provide against accident.

Messrs. Garret and Smith announce by poster that they will hold a shooting match at Nicklin's Mill on Christmas Day.

Our citizens have no excuse this year for leaving town for the buying of Christmas presents. A complete assortment is available at home.

The Queen has applied to Parliament for 40,000 pounds to help the Prince of Wales pay off such of his debts as are considered pressing.

Our readers write

Thanks Wood's efforts

Dear Sir:
I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank regional councillor Ed Wood for the two years of hard work and service that he has given Acton since his election in 1978. I would also like to extend my personal thanks to Ed for taking his time to show me around the Regional Administration Building and introducing me to the Regional Staff. Ed's assistance and advice

over the past couple of weeks has been invaluable and I am looking forward to his co-operation over the next two years.

While I am most happy to have won the November 10 election, I do regret that a person of Ed's calibre had to lose, but there can only be one winner in our system.

Thanks very much Ed.
Dave Whiting,

Claim Legion discriminates

Dear Sir:
I would like to question the recent decision made by the Acton Legion executive to discriminate against their Affiliate Membership.

It has been the policy in past years for a letter to be sent to all Affiliates advising them of the deadline date for membership renewal. This year the executive chose not to send this reminder in an attempt to weed out members. Instead of publicizing this policy change via the Newsletter or mail the executive chose to quietly post a notice on the Legion bulletin board.

As a result 33 Affiliate Members had their memberships terminated... quite a wedding out! Unfortunately the only crime

committed by these 33 Affiliates was "not noticing the notice". I wonder how many Members and Associate Members would have been found guilty of the same crime had they been subjected to the same treatment? I wonder why this "weeding out" campaign was directed only at the Affiliate Membership? Is the Affiliate Member only granted "third class citizenship" in this organization? Are we not considered or realized as an integral part?

I think it's about time the executive started to consider it's Affiliate Membership and realize that without it the Legion would have to look to another war to get and keep members!

Signed ANGRY

Parade helpers thanked

Dear Sir:

This letter is to express my appreciation to all those people who helped to organize and put on the 1980 Acton Santa Claus Parade: Acton Y's Men—Organized the parade; Fireman—Marshalled the parade; B.I.A., Acton Y's Men, Ladies Legion Auxiliary, Scout and Guide Mothers—Financial Supporters; Halton Regional Police—Traffic Control; Plus all those groups who entered floats—all those people who marched or were on floats. Also thanks to the Acton Free Press for

your advance publicity of the parade; and of course Ron Douglas (Santa) and Bert Robertson, Santa's Driver.

The reason for the Parade is to show the children of Acton that Santa is alive and well and knows where Acton is. I think we did this.

Just a word on the future, Santa will be here again next year—put a note on your calendar for the last Saturday in November 1981.

James G. Rivett,
Chairman,
Acton Santa Claus Parade 1980.