

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Don McDonald, Publisher

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Editor: Gord Murray
District Editor: Eric Elstone
Sports: Diana Wellmann
Rockwood News: Jennifer Barr
Contributor: Helen Murray
Darkroom: Lynda Hill

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office



ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Manager: Bill Cook
Sales: Jennifer Barr
Classified Advertising: Pat Kentner
National Advertising Sales Rep: Dan Poyntz (416) 363-1051
BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE
Office Manager: Rhona Thornhill
Shirley Jaccue, Carolyn Artem, Marilyn McArthur

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Manager: Marilyn McArthur



Published every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 69 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 25c each, \$13.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

The Acton Free Press is one of the Inland Publishing Co. Limited group of suburban newspapers which include The Ajax/Whitby/Pickering News Advertiser, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, Burlington Weekend Post, Etobicoke Gazette, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist and Sun, The Milton Canadian Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket/Aurora Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, and The Stouffville Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

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

Second class mail registration Number 0515.

Acton should be proud of its response to police

Friday was a day to be proud to be a citizen of Acton.

Well over 250 residents of all ages, from all parts of town, dropped by the Acton Legion in the morning and afternoon to show Halton Regional Police and in fact everyone involved in regional government that we aren't just a bunch of "belly-achers."

Police and residents in attendance, including politicians, were staggered by a tremendous community response to the force's open house.

We demonstrated we are willing to back up our complaints and concerns with a little positive action and are willing to meet regional government half way. We further proved we do appreciate it when regional government, in this case the police, give us the special attention and consideration we need and deserve considering our size, our lifestyles and the uniqueness of this little town in Halton.

What began as barb trading between Chief James Harding and community spirited local businessman Lorne Doberthien a couple of months ago has ended on a very positive note which could have tremendous implications for the force and the community in the years ahead.

Chief Harding says his goal is crime prevention.

He sensibly suggests his force should be preventing crime, not simply reacting to it. It's preferable to reduce the number of victims of crime than to just go on investigating crimes after the fact, tracking down those responsible, arresting them and then hopping the courts and penal system ultimately solve the problem.

But the police realize all the programs in the world won't make crime prevention work without strong support, involvement and communication from the community.

Since the controversy erupted in November the force has started listening to Acton's concerns and responding with changes, like stabilizing the personnel here and going to special efforts to com-

municate with us, such as Friday's open house.

But it goes much further than that. From the top to the bottom of the force there has been a subtle change in the attitude towards Acton and in Acton's attitude toward the police. Acton and the police are getting to know each other, and liking very much what we're discovering. There were signs Friday of a genuine affection developing between the people and their police.

Friday may have even been the beginning of something of a lasting love affair between Acton and its police.

And this fresh new attitude could make crime prevention work, and work extremely well.

If all the good things that happened at the Legion Friday are built upon in the weeks and months ahead by the department and the community, Acton could be a model a few years down the road.

The force has some excellent crime prevention programs, so good Halton's displays and literature are the first to be sent to the Ontario Police College for study by the instructors and policemen of the future.

Half the battle in crime prevention seems to be getting the public's attention and interest.

Well, maybe half the battle has been won. We have the police department's attention and they now have ours.

And the whole thing sort of snowballs. If the police eliminate some crime through crime prevention there are more happy businessmen and residents because there are fewer victims. Also the police then have more time to spend working on solving what crime will inevitably continue. This makes them look even better to the community and thus the community will help out with crime prevention even more. And so on and so on.

Important first steps were taken Friday towards achieving Harding's long term goal of 50 per cent of the force involved in crime prevention, the rest in more traditional police functions. At least in Acton.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Local Cubs are revving up for the Kub Kar Rally this Saturday at the Legion. The father and son do will attract Cubs from throughout the North Halton district.

Hey kids, start collecting your pledges now for the annual Rotary Skate-a-thon March 15. All money raised goes back to your school and the Rotary Club, which in turn uses the money for the good of the community.

And folks, when a boy or girl comes to your door asking for pledges, please be generous.

Eleven new members were recently welcomed into the Acton Chamber of Commerce. They were: Olympia Drive-In, Standardbred, Desmond's, Hornby Box &

Pallet (Acton) Ltd., Yvonne Rosenquist, Holly Industries, E. F. Knight Stables, Acton Steel Limited., Freezer Frezzy, Wilson Car Sales and Queen's Tire Service Ltd.

Vacations are nice, but especially so when one is spending it with family and friends for the first time in five years.

Just ask Kathy Sharpe and husband Joe Scanlon, who are visiting the area from Spain. With their two children Justin and Jessie, they visited family in Creemore and Toronto, and more locally spent a few days with Acton residents Bob and Janet Fleming, Cobblehill Rd. It was their first visit since they moved to Jalón, in the province of Alicante, Spain, five years ago. Hope they had a wonderful vacation. They head home soon, ending a seven week holiday.

Members of the Xi Epsilon Chi Sorority enjoyed an old fashioned sleigh ride recently at the home of Sue Robbins near Rockwood. Afterwards, the ladies went skating.

Meanwhile the Sorority is planning a breast examination clinic for early spring. Details will be announced in future issues of the Free Press.

Plans are currently under way for the World Day of Prayer service to be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church on March 6. The theme this year is "The Earth is the Lord's."

The service which will be conducted around the world was prepared by Native American Indian Women who represent Indian tribes from throughout the United States—south, north, east, and west who work in their homes, their communities, their churches and some at the national level of American Indian Affairs. It has been said the Native American people were the first ecologists. Their reverence for nature and their relation of kinship with all creatures of the earth, sky and water enable them to teach us how to live justly, respectfully and in harmony with our world and each other.

According to Hopi Indian belief, there is only one race, the human race, which is divided into two major groups—light and dark.

To the dark skinned people was given the gift of perception, the gift of knowing. To the light skinned people was given the gift of recording and the gift of doing. Only when the two people come together at the centre and share their gifts would each receive a Greater Gift than either alone can ever give.

Therefore, Native American Indian women invite their sisters—dark skinned and light skinned—to come together for prayer lifting their voices in praise and prayer to the Great Spirit."

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, February 10, 1971

There is no longer a St. John Ambulance brigade in Acton. The 23,432 hours of volunteer work over 13 years are over, and the nine remaining members expect to join the group at Milton. Mrs. George Hargrave, who added up the statistics, says there have been 50 men, 39 women and '75 cadets registered, 2,578 cases and 281 trips to hospital. Their ambulance and all their supplies will be transferred. They were the town's Citizens of the Year in 1968.

A Bible stand for the communion table at the United church was dedicated in memory of David Lidke.

After many years on the Y board, Elmer Smith has become an honorary member. David Swetman is the new chairman of the board, Pat McGrenere is vice chairman, Marie Tremills secretary and John Last treasurer.

20 years ago

Thursday, February 9, 1961.

The operetta Sunbonnet Sue is capturing the hearts of parents and friends at the Robert Little school. Those with leading parts are Gay White, Ray Hibbard, Mary Grischow, Bernice Frueler, Anne Bennett, Wayne Rogers, Margaret Mackenzie, Vivian Smith, Jane McCrae, Linda Gervais, Phillip Marzo, Fred Landry, Margaret Lindsay, David Ryder, Kathy McKenzie, Tony Hurst, Bev Seynuck, Karen Gervais, Judy Duby, Nancy Rognvaldson, Theresa Marzo, Michael Wolfe, Donna Sterritt, Bernice Benton, Bobby Bonnette, Bob Coleman, Bill Briggs, Ruth Everdell, Meri Harris, Karen Perkins, Lynda Stevenson. Costume director was Mrs. J.W. Wolfe. Glenn Banks directed.

Acton Rovers, led by Ron Smith, won three prizes at the weekend Moot. Taking part were Dave Peal, Pete Newton, Bob Hinton, Rickie Currie, Brian Otterbein, John Leatherland, Bill Henry, Norm Elliott, Ken Gardner, Paul McGeachie and Randy Lidke.

50 years ago

Thursday, February 26, 1931

The meeting called last Saturday of ex-servicemen in the Council Chamber was well-attended. Comrade Padbury outlined the problems of the ex-servicemen and the work of the Canadian Legion. He has been a member of the Committee on Rehabilitation, Handicapped section, and secretary of the advisory board of the Canadian Legion. It was decided unanimously to form a Post here. President is W.J. Gould, 1st Vice-President J.M. McDonald, 2nd Vice-President B.G. Arnold, secretary-treasurer F.L. Wright, advisory committee Rev. H.L. Bennie, Comrades F. Roney, W. Eccleshall, A.E. Padbury, W. Britton.

The Women's Institute is endeavoring to raise funds to have an entrance erected at Fairview Cemetery.

The school board discussed the advisability of starting music classes in the school. Rev. P.A. Sawyer of Acton has commenced a series of lantern slide shows on the life of Jesus, in Rockwood.

75 years ago

Thursday, February 8, 1906

The business at the G.T.R. depot for January broke all previous records. Agent Holmes informs us he handled 500 cars of freight, including hemlock bark, hides, leather, live stock, turnips and general merchandise. The cash receipts exceeded \$500 a day.

At the meeting of the trustee board of the Methodist church a resolution was passed instructing the Treasurer to pay the balance on the mortgage indebtedness, \$526.60, and secure a discharge. The board then arose and sang with fervor "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow."

Candelmas Day was bright. The bear would have no difficulty in seeing his shadow.

Beardmore and Co. have put on two new wide-tired wagons and will have eight or ten others supplied with wide tires. This will be of great benefit to the new roads.

100 years ago

Thursday, February 24, 1881

Mr. James Moore is now turning out a large quantity of russet leather of the very best quality, which would compare most favorably with that manufactured in any other tannery in Canada.

What the Free Press would like to see: more school accommodation; the Scott Act carry in Halton; the Congregational church occupied; some of the bad boys made examples of; less cruelty to animals by the horse traders; a new town hall worth \$4000 or \$5000 on Mill St.; the men who make their money in Acton spend it at home; ashes sprinkled on the sidewalks for the benefit of pedestrians; a town containing less poor people than Acton, in comparison to the size; half a dozen manufactories which each employ as many persons as the Canada Glove Works; the editor of the Georgetown Herald get married and settle down; a few more enthusiastic business men in town; all the business men advertise in the Free Press.

Our readers write

Thanks to all

February 9, 1981,
Editor,
Acton Free Press

Dear Sir:

I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to two groups, The Halton Region Police and the Citizens of Acton.

It was my letter of frustration that sparked the controversy or perhaps brought the recent conflict out in the open. I felt a certain responsibility and hoped it would end well.

On Friday February 6th the citizens of Acton had a chance to meet Police Chief Harding and his men. We found them very receptive to our concerns, and I believe they (the police) found that Acton has a large number of nice people who are willing to stand behind them.

The bottom line was expressed by a young couple as they concluded their visit. They suggested to Chief Harding that perhaps Acton could now forget about the OPP and make an effort to support their own local policeman. I second that suggestion. I feel that the police are now giving us eight hours work for an eight hour shift and we will benefit accordingly.

There will always be misunderstandings and problems, but this exchange has opened up lines of communications that were not there before. The misunderstandings can be put into proper perspective and hopefully not fester into unmanageable problems.

Thank you Acton. I think we can all be happy with the results.

Sincerely,
Lorne Doberthien

Successful concert

The Editor
Acton Free Press
Acton, Ontario

Last Wednesday night's performance in Acton High School by the Tapestry Singers was a tremendous success and it was the direct result of splendid efforts by a variety of people. We would like to publicly thank some of them.

Dave Sale, Chairman of Acton High School assisted in co-ordinating the entire evening and also looked after the moving of the Arts Complex Model several times. A special thanks also to the Acton High

School teaching staff, especially June Levy, and the secretarial staff who typed and printed the main parts of the program.

Larry Greaves, owner of Stedman's in Acton, allowed the Arts Complex Model to be displayed in his window along with explanations which served to increase the awareness among people in Acton. His participation is very much appreciated.

Comments from people who attended this excellent concert praised the auditorium facilities and we eagerly anticipate another evening there.

Halton Hills Art Council
President, Gretchen Day



Deputy Chief Bob Middaugh listens to residents' views of police work in Acton.

Police listen and explain



Acton resident Inspector John Barratt chats with citizens at Friday's police open house.



The Force is with us. Halton Regional Police turned out in numbers for their open house Friday with more than 200 members of the community turning out. Police Chief James Harding learned first hand of issues in the community. Many residents offered to help officers with crime prevention.