

The Acton Free Press

Don McDonald, Publisher

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

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Keep Actario going

There's a tendency for people to sit on their tongues when their input is required. Then, more often than not, after a decision is made they complain loudly.

We hope that won't be the case with the Actario committee's call for an important answer.

Should Actario keep running or just die a natural death this September?

For what it's worth, we say yes to an extension of Actario's life, and not just because Free Press employees have been among the winners.

Now, with our endorsement secured, Actario needs only to hear from the important voices, the over 600 people who have bought tickets, the service clubs who helped sell tickets and would benefit from future lottery profits and the downtown merchants who have put up the bonus prizes.

Actario has been a roaring success, we think.

There's plenty of important work it can still fund in Acton.

The small, but energetic and dedicated, group who launched the lottery have proved the formula will work. Actario is running quite smoothly.

More importantly it has raised a large amount of money, likely at the end of this year's series in the neighbourhood of \$35,000 much, much more than could ever have been raised through donations.

There are some who will say it was a flop (mostly those who

weren't in favor of restoring the town hall) just because the organizers didn't sell 1,000 tickets at \$100 apiece or make \$50,000 to \$60,000 profit.

It's possible the targets the committee set were too high.

It's also possible Actario might have been an even greater success if it wasn't designed to fund a project which doesn't have full community support. Listening to residents the past year it appears the community was split on the question of restoring the town hall.

With its attentions turned to other projects, a Leathertown museum, minor sports, library books, or service club causes, Actario might be an even greater financial success.

Or maybe the \$100 price tag was a bit too high in these tough economic times. Possibly the committee should look at lowering the ticket price and at the same time lower the value of the prizes while still maintaining the weekly cash draw, monthly trip draw and bonus prize format.

No matter what further analysis shows is the reason Actario didn't reach its ultimate goal we believe it was a success and ticket buyers, service clubs and merchants will give a resounding yes to the committee's question.

Actario is a great resource for Acton which shouldn't be allowed to just slip into history.

Congratulate Branch 197 on 50 years of service

We'd like to join the growing list offering congratulations to the officers and members of Branch 197, The Royal Canadian Legion, Acton, on celebrating its 50th anniversary this past Saturday.

The Golden Anniversary marks a milestone not just for those involved in the Legion but the entire community.

Ontario Legion president Ric Collins pointed to a lot of truths at Saturday's banquet when he talked about the important role the Legion plays in any community.

Branch 197 certainly has played an important role in this town.

Besides all its good work for veterans and their families the Legion and ladies' auxiliary supports many worthy causes in the community like minor sports, the handicapped, charities and public events.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy maybe said it best when he declared "hats off" to a tremendous Branch 197 which has helped so much to make Acton such a

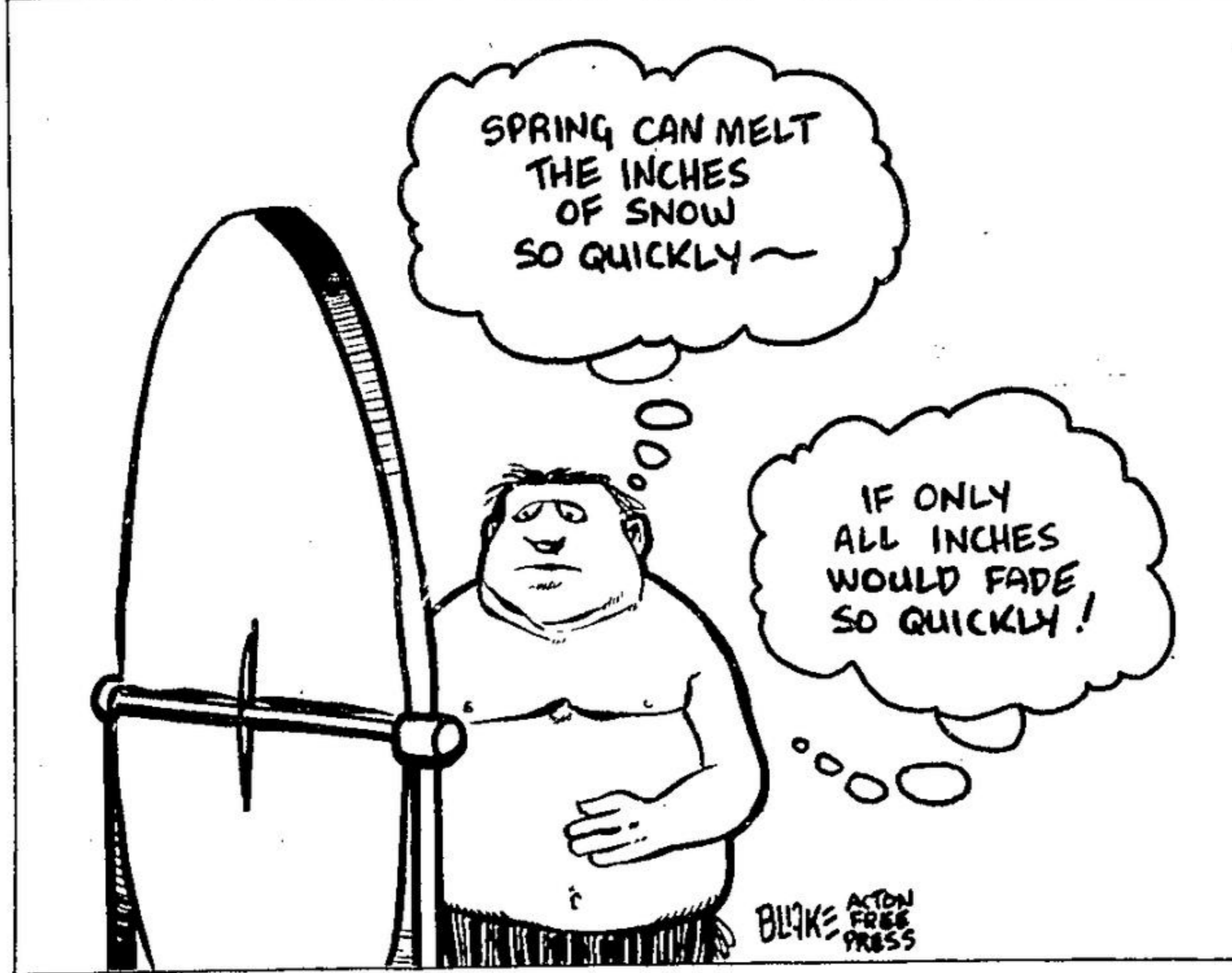
tremendous community.

Collins is correct when he says associate members, the future of the Legion, unless, God forbid, there is another war, have a great responsibility and trust facing them.

The Legion must survive and remain strong in this country. It is essential to our communities, nation and citizens.

The Legion is an eminent institution. Our society has seen many institutions weakened in the past couple of decades, the Legion shouldn't be allowed to join the list.

Charter members and World War I veterans like Fred Wright, Jack Milne, Billy Middleton, Bob Turner and Jim Ingles performed a great service to not just themselves and subsequent Legion members when they got together to found and build Branch 197, but also to the countless Acton citizens the Legion has helped over the past half a century.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Spring is a great time of year. Not only is the weather better, but folks you haven't seen all winter start coming out of the woodwork. However, one person I haven't seen lately is Harold (Pop) Maine.

A note dropped off at the Free Press claimed Pop had moved to Calgary, but there wasn't a name on the short letter for me to verify the news. A phone call to his home reveals that his phone has been disconnected.

Pop is very well known in Acton, more particularly for his baseball coaching. If he has indeed moved out west, he will be sorely missed by all his friends and ball players. Tom Roduck and I will miss his coffee—he's a great gofer. Let me know if he hasn't moved.

With Actario and the 500 Club offering travel prizes, winning trips seems to be old hat around Acton. However, at least two Acton and area people will take an old hat any day.

Don Ryder, former advertising manager of the Free Press, recently won a trip anywhere in Europe Air Canada flies.

You know those contests on box tops and other barely credible places? Well, Don sent in one box top from Kimberly Clark from a box of tissues. His name was drawn, he answered the skill testing question correctly, and although he has had no official word, will soon be winging his way overseas. He hasn't decided yet where is

going. Andrew and Katherine Cislak, R.R. 2, Acton, recently won the top prize in the United Co-op store home-heat promotion program—a trip to the Caribbean. Congratulations to all.

On the topic of vacations, Pat and Ed Wood spent last week in St. Petersburg, Florida, visiting with Ed's parents. Accompanying them were sons Chris and Daniel, and Ed's sister Heather Rogvaldson.

Debbie Wagenaar of R.R. 3, Acton left last week for Laer Army Base in Germany for a two week visit with her parents.

John Mowatt has offered a good idea for having the Acton pages in the new telephone book handy. He puts leather book-marks on Page 204 and Page 215. Good idea! Anyone have any over suggestions? By the way, thanks for the nice book-marks John.

Seems I've stirred up a bit of controversy around town, and I can't even put my two cents worth in, mainly because I wasn't around at the time in question. Matter of fact, I was living in Ottawa, dirtying diapers.

Last week, I reported on some Acton relatives of newly re-elected Premier Bill Davis. My source, Kay Dills, herself used older residents of town as her source. One bit of information was that Frank Prouse, a Davis relative, had a car dealership where L and L Ford stands now.

Well, Ted Tyler is willing to take bets that Mr. Prouse's business occupied the site of Achilles Motors, clear on the other side of town. Ted is positive because it was Ted himself who sold the property to Mr. Prouse, in 1955 he claims. Mr. Prouse lived in Brampton just before he moved to Acton, according to Ted.

However, everyone else I have talked to, including noted life-long Actonians insist

Prouse was at L and L. They are adamant, and so is Ted.

And then someone decided he ran his business from both sites at one time or another.

Ted says Prouse ran a GM dealership from the corner of Highway 7 and Churchill Rd. At the same time, someone by the name of Gardner also operated a GM dealership from L and L he says.

If anyone else wants to get into the act, let me know, or call Ted and place a bet. I can't help settle the matter. I was a toddler living 400 miles away. But I bet there are a lot of people out there with their own versions.

Get a new bike for Christmas? Make sure you purchase a Town of Halton Hills licence for it. They are only \$2 and are good for as long as you own the bike.

All serial numbers are recorded in a computer in Montreal. If your bicycle is stolen, police essentially trace it the same way as tracing a stolen car—by the exclusive plate number. If the bike has a licence and is found in Canada, there are excellent chances it can be returned to its rightful owner. All for two bucks. Licences can be purchased at the municipal office, during regular business hours.

Monday's attempted assassination of U.S. President Ronald Reagan emphasizes the importance of giving blood. Reagan received five units of blood (approx. 2 1/2 quarts) before he underwent surgery.

What better advertisement for giving blood than that? The Acton Branch of the Red Cross Society just held a blood donor clinic last Thursday, but please remember this for the next clinic. In the meantime, canvassers were knocking on doors for contributions to the Red Cross. If you missed them, it's not too late. Call Henry Kroes. Please give generously and remember, the Red Cross played an important part in saving Reagan's life this week. It could be your life next week.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, March 31, 1971
There was considerable sea sickness among the Acton group on the Mediterranean, teacher Keith Black reports. Allerelles Hercules, a Siberian husky, was judged best Canadian bred puppy at the Sportsmen's Show in Toronto.

Acton Legion Bantams copped the four-town tournament here before 400 cheering spectators. Players are Pete Pavil, Tim McIntyre, captain Charlie McRae, Mike Ferguson, Billy McGilgalloway, Byron Timbers, Terry Webster, Paul Daley, Ken Withers, Wade Knight, John Ashley, Terry Holmes, Kevin Marcoux, Charlie Bennett, Chris Tennant, George Artem, Bernie Taylor. Manager is John Toebes and stick boy John Toebes Jr.

Mrs. Laura McEachern was presented with a silver pin by the Scout and Guide Mothers, to thank her for 20 years' service. Parents are urging the school board to keep Campbellville school open.

20 years ago

Thursday, March 30, 1961
Acton United Church is filled each evening this week for Holy Week Services. A different choir is singing each night. The guest preacher, the Very Rev. Nimmo, died while on his way to Acton Tuesday. Ministers of the participating churches are taking over.

The men who are in town converting telephones for the dial system find about 20 per cent of the people are paying for colored telephones.

Following a cancellation of the Avro Arrow, 16 men intent in staying in Canada convinced themselves of the potential of a vertical take off and landing plane. Now tests of the gyroplane produced by Avian Industries show that it is ready for approval.

Betty Cook and Gordon Campbell wrote the top essays on the schools' trips to Toronto.

The firemen have a new alarm system, with six phones in the homes of firefighters. Chief Jack Newton is confident in the new system.

50 years ago

Thursday, April 2, 1931
County council has slashed salaries and allowances by about \$4,000. The cost of living has been coming down and the salaries were cut accordingly. The warden will be paid \$2000 per annum, clerk and deputy treasurer \$1,200, jailor \$900, matron \$200, turnkey \$750, caretaker \$200 per annum.

Daylight Saving was opposed in a petition presented to council by a delegation of merchants, Messrs. E. J. Hassard, J. R. Kennedy and M. McLean. They say it is detrimental to business in Acton, and the farmers also object to it.

Bannockburn WI had a box social at the home of Mrs. H. Anthony. Ilean Claridge, Margaret Brown, Jean Orr, Lizzie Orr and Messrs. W. McIntyre and W. McDonald took part in the program.

A young chap, out of work and travelling through the country, took possession of St. Alban's offering box. Chief McPherson arrested the man. In court, a Toronto man offered him a job.

75 years ago

Thursday, March 29, 1906
The metre system was adopted by council, thus dispensing with the public meeting. The bylaw requires that all consumers who have four 16 c.p. lamps or six 8 c.p. lamps or their equivalent must have metres installed before the first day of October.

Acton Council was asked to support Toronto Council in asking the Legislature to establish a government power plant at Niagara, to produce cheap power.

A full column is devoted to the suicide of a young man.

The three nights engagement of Prof. Green and his biography and vaudeville entertainments by the Fire Brigade was very satisfactory. The moving pictures and illustrated songs were the best ever shown in town.

The millinery openings are taking place this week.

100 years ago

Thursday, March 31, 1881
We advocate the erection of a Town Hall which would meet the public requirements for the next twenty years, and in a style creditable to our industrious and enterprising town. Speak your opinions!

Messrs. Alex Grant and D. Maloney were brought before Magistrate Smith and fined 50 cents each for allowing cows to run at large within the corporation.

Oyster cans, old boots and bones are beginning to show up in the back yards rather badly.

Mr. James Matthews has rearranged the post office and moved the telegraph department. About 50 new boxes are added and 10 lock boxes. The west half of the building is to be fitted up as a confectionery store and ice cream parlor.

The Georgetown Herald calls the Milton Champion a "whisky soaked sheet."

Our readers write

Acton Optimists explain why Scout not speaker

Dear Sir:
Re: Mrs. J. Robinson's letter
Further to your letter of March 23 published in the Acton Free Press, we regret that this matter has been allowed to be aired in this manner, thus giving our club a public black eye.

We find it especially regrettable that because of lack of communication along proper channels, i.e. through the President of the club, and because of our busy schedule of service to youth in the community, we were unable to welcome your son to speak to our group.

However, as was explained to your son, we had speakers previously engaged for all meetings until May 26, when he would be welcome to speak if he so desired, or that if we should have any cancellation of speakers, we would indeed be happy to accommodate him at that time.

However, through the efforts of a member of the Optimist Club of Acton, it was arranged that your son could speak to another Halton Hills Optimist Club, namely

the Georgetown club, and thus receive credit for his scouting award. Now we find that because of this effort, Optimism has been chastised for discouraging local youth, whereas entirely the opposite is the case.

The Acton Optimist Club with 18 members, does many things in the community for youth, including: youth appreciation week; respect for law week; bike safety week and bike rodeo; oratorical contest; sponsoring a soccer team; sponsoring a softball team; a soap box derby; sponsoring blood donor clinics and plan to sponsor a hockey team.

We hope that this short explanation of our position will erase any negative thoughts you may have concerning Optimism in general, and the Optimist Club of Acton. Our sincere apology for any misunderstanding.

We remain yours in service,
Sincerely,
David Hall,
President.



Giving the gift of life
Mary Rouse, Wynford Pl., has her blood checked by clinic assistant Deirdre Rooney during Thursday's blood donor clinic at the Legion.

Clinic assistant Deirdre Rooney takes a sample of Peter Homer's blood during Thursday's Red Cross blood donor clinic. The clinic was sponsored by Glenlea Drug Store and Dr. Richard Telford, the chiropractor.