

The Acton Free Press

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Happy Passover and Happy Easter

While Christians celebrate the feast of Easter to commemorate the resurrection of Christ from the dead, the Jewish people celebrate Passover, known as the Festival of Deliverance. It celebrates the Exodus of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the land of Israel.

We are apt to forget Jesus was a Jew and he celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples the night before he died on the cross.

Passover is the central event in Jewish history and generations of Jews faced with the same journey from oppression to freedom find great meaning and joy in the observance of their deliverance from the bonds of the Pharaoh in Egypt.

As a result of the dispersion of the Jews after the Roman conquest and the razing of the temple in Jerusalem the Jews centred their religion in the home, making the table an altar. Out of this focus on the table grew a symbolism of food which is most striking at Passover.

The feast served at Passover is called the Seder—a banquet patterned, some authorities say—on the banquets of the Greeks and Romans, dominant cultures in the first century A.D.

In a prominent place on the table is the Seder plate which holds symbols of the holiday.

Matzah—the unleavened bread baked in such haste for the journey out of Egypt that the loaves did not have sufficient time to rise. It has the texture and taste of a cracker.

A roasted lamb shank bone which recalls the ancient custom of sacrificing a paschal lamb at

the time of Passover. Green herbs, usually parsley—a symbol of spring, the season of rebirth and renewal.

Maror, the top part of the horse-radish root—a bitter herb which symbolizes the bitter condition of slavery in Egypt or anytime and anywhere in the world.

Haroset, a delicious combination of peeled and chopped apples, chopped walnuts or pecans and ground cinnamon bound together with sweet red wine (recipes vary according to the tradition of the household, and proportions are always according to taste). This represents the mortar used in the construction labor that the Jews performed for the Egyptians.

A roasted egg—the traditional symbol of life, found in many cultures, and the festival offering.

The basic culinary rule for the preparation of Passover dishes is the absence of any leavening (or rising) ingredients.

All breadstuffs, commercial and homemade, are prepared with leavened flour, so special recipes were devised over the centuries which make use of ground meal made from matzah, nuts and potato flour. The only rising agent used in recipes is the egg.

So while Christians celebrate Easter with food such as ham, hot cross buns, colored eggs and display symbols such as rabbits, chicks and flowers, Jewish people have a different tradition one which preceded the customs which have grown up around Easter.

So this week it's Happy Passover to our Jewish friends and Happy Easter to those of the Christian faith.—Hartley Coles.

Smith should follow Cassidy into retirement

The decision of Ontario New Democratic Party leader Michael Cassidy to step down next year and give a new leader three years to whip the party into shape before facing the Tory's Big Blue Machine again must be commended.

The same can't be said for Liberal Dr. Stuart Smith's announced plan to try and retain the leadership at a convention next year.

A major reason for the longevity of the ruling Tory government, the longest in modern Canadian history, has been the lack of a real alternative for the crucial premier's job from the two opposition parties.

Cassidy saw the support his predecessor Stephen Lewis worked several years to build crumble in just one election.

He wisely heard and needed the voice of Ontario voters and decided for the good of his party, and in fact all the people of the province, to step down and give someone else a chance.

In two elections Smith hasn't been able to move his party at all. The Liberals have made no significant inroads into Tory territory. The Grits made only a minimal breakthrough in urban areas and not likely because of Smith but simply because of Cassidy's weakness. Smith's been found wanting by voters twice now.

Near the end of the present government's term Premier William Davis may well step down to make way for a fresh face, a new leader to carry the party for about 10 years.

What Ontario voters will need then is three brand new alternatives for the top political job in the province.

We're not convinced Smith will be able to hold onto his leadership at next winter's convention, despite claims the caucus is behind him. However, a fight for the leadership, even if Smith did win, would certainly do tremendous damage to the Liberals, damage which could simply throw a future election to the Tories or even drop the Liberals to third party status.

It only took Cassidy one vote to get the message.

Smith shouldn't wait for a third message.

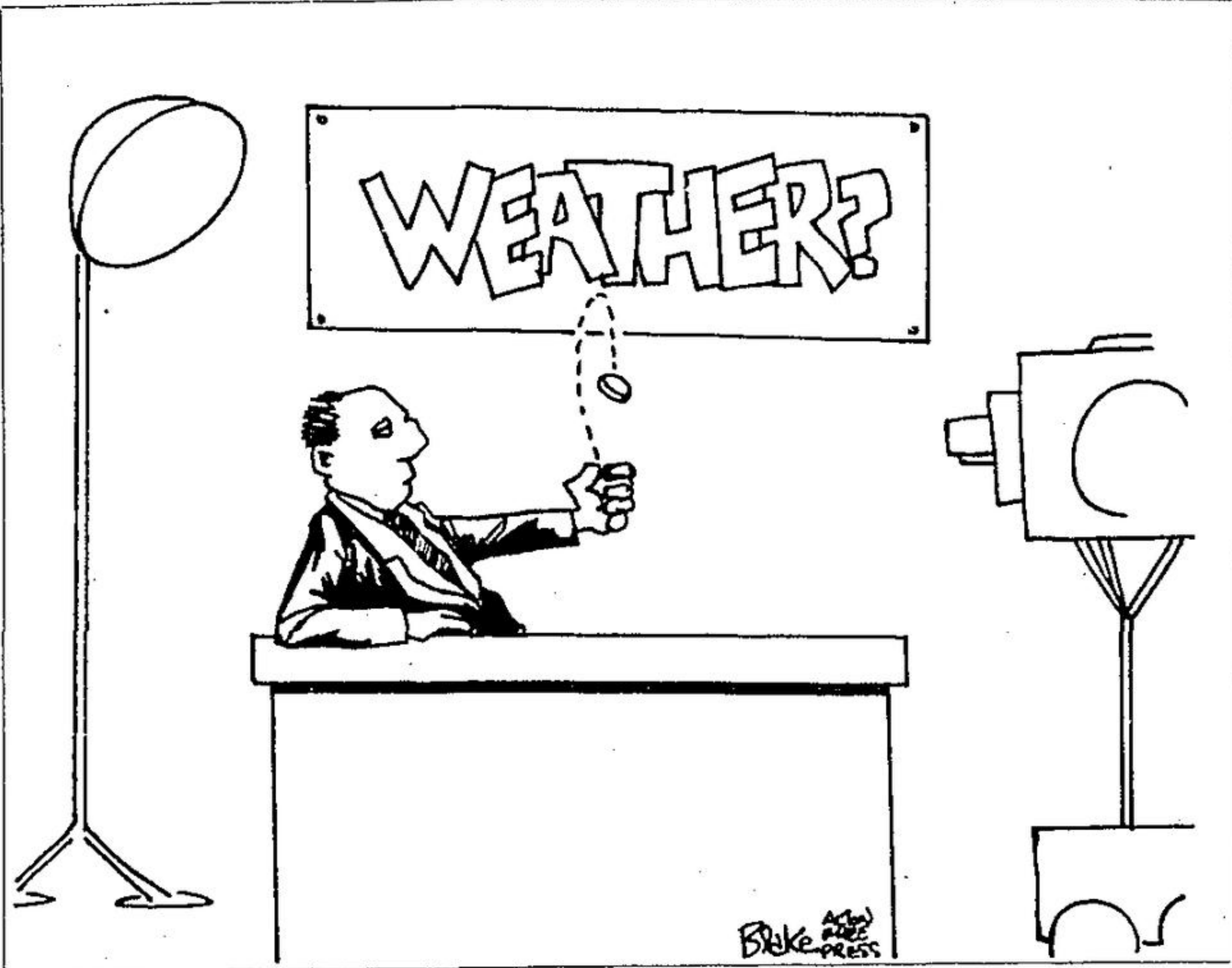
He should step down now so the field will be opened up and the party and voters of Ontario can get a good, long, look at the alternatives for his job.

If there does not turn out to be a leadership race and not a coronation of Smith we hope Halton-Burlington MPP and dynamic Grit energy critic Julian Reed decides to toss his hat in the ring.

He's never expressed an interest in the leadership that we've heard, but it is something he should consider.

A personable, attractive, intelligent, sincere and concerned individual like Reed would make an excellent candidate for the premier's job and we think he would do well in both urban and rural areas.

He's proved his political mettle, bucking the Tory tide in the last vote.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Well, many Actonians have finally got their way! According to a map in the new Halton-Peel telephone book, Acton is not part of Halton. We have finally escaped from the region. Trouble is, we aren't part of Wellington County either, according to the map, so where does that leave us?

The map was sent in by a reader. On the cover of the Yellow Pages, there is a map of Halton-Peel. Acton is conspicuously missing. Oh, don't worry, Ma Bell, in all her infinite wisdom, managed to get Halton Hills (Georgetown) on the map.

There's an old saying that Mothers know best. Maybe Mrs. Bell is trying to tell us Billy Davis has finally granted us freedom from the shackles of regional government. The anonymous reader asked if the people who voted to put Acton in the Peel-Halton phone book were happy with the change.

Al Russell, Acton's infamous balloonist, was part of a feature story by CHUM radio's Jeannie Becker early Sunday morning as he received a bit of free publicity for his Halton Hills Balloon Port. It was a good little feature and should stir up a lot of interest in the Balloon Fiesta this weekend at Blue Springs Scout Reserve.

A long standing battle will continue tomorrow with practically no way of solving it.

Tomorrow is Sandy Tonon and Dave Blaschuk birthdays. Both will be 33 and both live on Norman Ave. The two neighbors have been arguing for years about who is older. When they were younger, they both kept assuring the other he was the oldest, and this demanded more respect. However, now that they're in their thirties, each has decided they suddenly want to be the youngest.

Betty Fudge, owner of the Book Nook has this suggestion—she uses plastic nets that onions come in and puts the socks in there. She ties a knot in the net, throws them in the washing machine and then in the dryer. Very good idea, except it is almost as organized as pinning them together.

One person swears it's not the dryer that eats the socks, but the washing machine. She has actually found socks right inside the workings of the machine. She had the

machine taken apart for some reason or another, and there, clinging to the outside of the inside drum was a bunch of socks. She regularly checks there now.

In the meantime—my black sock has disappeared—again.

They say they have proof, and too many well known Acton people have verified it. Frank Prouse had his GM dealership at both the present sites of Achilles Motors and L and L Ford.

Someone says there were advertisements in this newspaper, way back when, announcing the move of the business.

So I guess that solves the mystery of where Frank Prouse's business was.

Now what an I going to write about?

Had a very upset lady in to see me last week. She didn't want her name mentioned (which isn't unusual). She was angry at the people who insist on crossing on a flashing green light.

She is so upset with these people she actually went to the police and asked about it. They said it is indeed against the law for a pedestrian to cross the street on a flashing green light, even if there is no walk sign.

There is certainly nothing more annoying than being in the middle of the intersection, with great hordes of traffic looming in your direction, and having some joker cross the street, almost always trying to move slower than a turtle. When that light stops flashing, a lump comes to your throat as you pray that big transport truck is going to wait for you to turn.

So for all your pedestrians, it is against the law to cross on a flasher. If you expect the driver not to break the law and knock you down, why don't you not break the law and stay on the curb.

There Mrs. W. We both got that off our chests.

And finally from someone who should know about the cogs of the government wheel, Lorna Clark of the town offices had an amusing run-in with the feds recently.

Lorna called the tax office in Hamilton last Monday asking for an "interpretive bulletin". Well, the always complained about post office delivered the booklet the next day, showing great efficiency. Unfortunately, the wrong booklet was sent out!



Members of the Halton Regional Police, including some of the players from the Acton team, celebrate the Dirty Dozen's victory at the Al Ruelens Memorial Volleyball Tournament in Milton Friday night.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, April 14, 1971

An impressive record of service backs Ted Tyler Sr.'s nomination as Citizen of the Year. Presentation of the plaque will be made at the Chamber of Commerce dinner April 24. Former mayor, reeve, deputy-reeve, councillor, hydro chairman and commissioner, he has rolled up terms extending 22 years. Ron McKnight will receive a special award for the contribution to sports.

Venturer leader Kevin Conroy, Terry St. Pierre and John Van Der Kooy vanquished all opposition in the Crazy Boat Race on the Credit River.

Council agreed to spend \$3,500 to move the cemetery gates from Main St. to the new entrance on Cobblehill Rd.

Attendance was good at Holy Week inter-denominational services last week. Guest preacher was Rev. William Bothwell.

20 years ago

Thursday, April 13, 1961

Two Acton men were hospitalized and \$5,000 damage resulted from an early morning fire at the Station Hotel. Fireman Did Price rescued one of the men from a second storey window.

Wellington D.D.G.M. Dr. A. J. Buchanan paid an official visit to Walker Lodge, his mother lodge.

An enthusiastic group of people met in the school in support of the Community Centre Fund.

A festival will be held to raise \$3,500, Acton's quota for the new North Halton School for the Mentally Retarded. The Scottish Dance Club is receiving assistance from many other groups.

50 years ago

Thursday, April 16, 1931

A special section of four pages is devoted to the Acton branch of the Legion.

Acton Branch will be just four weeks old on Saturday but in this brief period they have shown much activity. Acton Post will be presented with their charter next Tuesday night. The organization now has a membership of 37.

Daylight Saving Time will operate for only July and August in Acton.

The meeting of the Duke of Devonshire chapter was held at the home of the Regent, Mrs. McCleary, Church St. It was decided to hold a bridge soon.

75 years ago

Thursday, April 12, 1906

Prospects for a very enjoyable season are anticipated by Acton Lawn Bowling Club. At the annual meeting a cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. W. A. Storey for the use of Franklin Square for a bowling green. William Hawes, an experienced gardener, has been engaged to putting it in first class shape. A new water-roller has been ordered. James McIntosh is president.

It is reported that the larger locomotives will cut the time between here and Toronto by 20 minutes.

The last meeting for the winter of the band of literary ladies known as the Tennyson Club was held at the manse.

100 years ago

Thursday, April 7, 1881

A very large and influential meeting on the Scott Act was held in the Presbyterian church. Rev. J. Coultis declared the passing of the Act would ensure total prohibition all year. The licensing of rum sellers is a failure. There is a class so weak the community must protect it by legislation. We can't tell who among our friends may be drawn into the whirlpool of intemperance. The vote will be taken on the 18th inst.

Our population is now 1,100. Complaint was made at the last meeting of the Board of School Trustees that the instrument used by one of the teachers for punishing the children, was too cruel for this civilized age.

Always Be Faithful

VI McDowell of Acton contributed the following Easter poem.

If God's tears fell like rain drops,
Then no world there would be,
Caused by all the heart ache,
That He must foresee.

So please don't make that rain fall,
Let His Son come shining through,
Remember that He loves You,
So be faithful and be true.

Always try to do what He would want You to,
Then your heart will feel like magic,
And you'll know that it's God and You,
The two of you together,
Can make it more than one,
And you can always weather,
What ever troubles come.

For God is like the Son,
He warms you through and through,
And if you believe Him,
He shines right down on You.

So always remember,
And try to understand,
That God's the One and Only,
Who can take You by His hand.