

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875

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Don McDonald, Publisher

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Police—Acton relations have made great strides

If Lorne Doberthien's attitude is representative of most residents, and we suspect it is, then Acton-Halton Regional Police relations have taken a giant step forward.

Certainly calls of complaint to our newsroom and letters to the paper about the police have certainly dwindled since the highly successful open house the police held here in early February when over 250 residents took the opportunity to get to know the cops a little better, and the force got to know Acton better.

Sunday the bonds of blossoming friendship between residents and the police were further strengthened when Chief James Harding made an inspiring speech about his force's determination to become part of the Acton family and his officers again mingled with residents at the police service at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Back in November when out of utter frustration Doberthien wrote to this newspaper and the chief with a long list of complaints and suggestions that vigilantes might be needed in Acton he had very little good to say about the force.

Today he and many of his fellow citizens are becoming friends of the officers assigned here. Certainly Doberthien and Harding have become close, with the Chief continuing to use Doberthien to feel the pulse of the community.

Five months after the open house it is obvious the police weren't just paying lip service to Acton when they said they were going to try and get to know us better.

The officers' faces are becoming familiar. The odd time there's a stranger in a cruiser, but generally it's the same guys you see driving

around town or more often than in the past, out walking the street.

It's hard to say if there is less crime now.

That might have been asking for too much too soon, especially since the region again, because of the soaring taxes resulting from the deficit, kept police spending increases below Harding's target.

Occasionally a resident will complain still about loitering downtown, speeding on residential streets etc.

These are valid complaints.

We can't offer any solutions though.

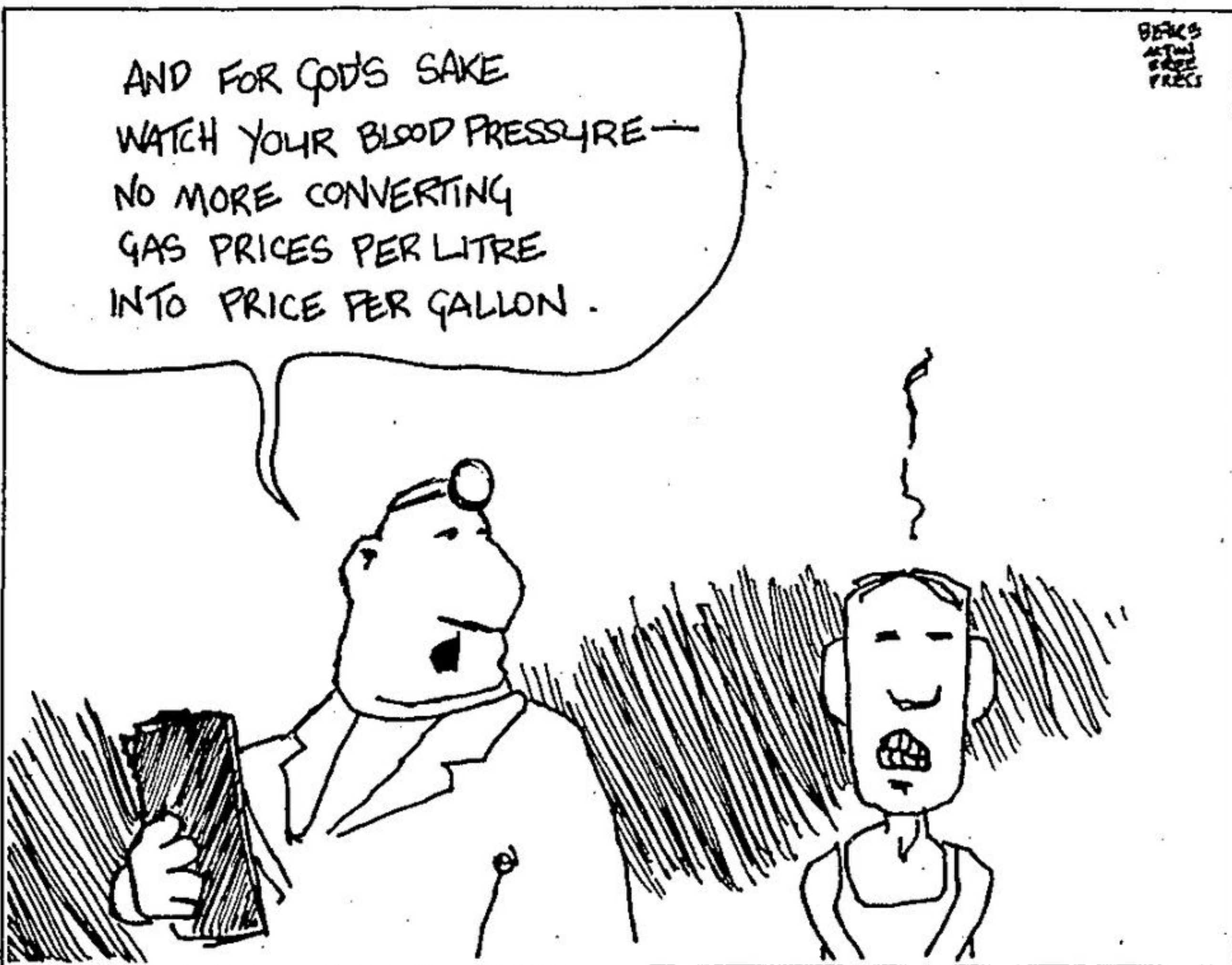
Until the day comes that there is enough money in the police budget to have three or four officers assigned to Acton each shift those that are on duty, two per shift, will have to continue to concentrate on the major crimes like break and enters and vandalism.

Also, in fairness to the police, until the laws in this country are changed dealing with things like loitering, and the courts become tougher, it won't matter how many officers we have roaming around, crime will only stop while the eye of the law are bearing down on the offenders.

Speeding on residential streets continue to be a problem. Traffic slows down if there is a cruiser around. When they set up traps and nab some speeders it stops for a few days then speeding resumes.

But we do perceive there have been great strides made in recent months towards good relations.

We hope Doberthien and Harding and other community leaders have more public-police activities in mind for the future to continue the friendship process.



On the Leavell

With Helen



Well, I just couldn't stay away. Beginning Monday I resume my duties in the news room of the Free Press, after an absence of a year-and-a-half.

I left the post after more than five years in the news room to have a rest, to learn something new, and to expand my knowledge of newspapers.

Now I find myself missing the "action", but more importantly, missing the people. Through this column I have kept many of my news contacts, but many I haven't seen since December 1979. I hope to get around to see many of you, or at least phone. But if I don't reach you, give me a call.

I feel as if I've done more flip flops than the last two federal governments, but no one can predict the future. I had no idea how much I'd miss everyone.

This column will continue so keep calling with tips on personals, anniversaries, vacations, visitors' birthdays or tid-bit news items.

Hubby Gord and I have already been tagged Mr. and Mrs. Free Press. Some ask if we bleed ink when we've been cut—I'm beginning to think so.

Sad to see Free Press district editor Eric

Elstone go. We all wish him luck in his future endeavors.

Steve Goy says he's done his good deed for the year. Steve was following the fire truck one day recently and a bottle of oxygen fell off the back. Steve stopped and picked it up and returned it to the rightful owners.

That same thing happened to me once while heading out to a fire. Boots, helmets and rubber coats flew off the back, narrowly missing my car. I had no choice but to stop and pick them up. However, there was no sense keeping the stuff. The boots go up to my hips, the coats are far too heavy and I really don't want to spend more tax dollars on the stuff being replaced.

Colin "Tip" Baker retired as foreman at Polypenco recently, after working there for 14 years—the firm's entire time in Acton. Hope you enjoy your retirement.

But you didn't know that Elizabeth Smith, sister of jam genius E.D. Smith, lived in Acton for a while back in 1878.

It's true. Elizabeth was born in Winona and became a teacher at Dufferin School in 1878. According to a book Woman With a Purpose, written from excerpts of her diary, Elizabeth obtained a Third Class Teaching certificate and gave music lessons in the Speyside area.

While teaching at Dufferin she studied for her examinations hoping to enter medical school and later become one of Canada's first women doctors.

But a stint in Acton was in her stars. Because of her talent for music, she was asked to be organist at St. Joseph's Church for a few months. Despite being a member of the Church of England, Elizabeth agreed. She spread herself around to the

various churches and taught an adult Bible class at the Presbyterian Church. She could not attend her own church as the closest Anglican church then was in Milton.

The transportation system being what it was over 100 years ago, Elizabeth could not get home to see her family often—perhaps two or three times a year.

The book describes her loneliness while here, virtually cut off from her old school chums and her family.

From Acton she went to teach in Nelson Township Aldershot and Hamilton before finally gaining entry to The medical college in Kingston. There were only two other girls in her graduating class in 1884. In 1886 she wed Adam Shortt who was one of the few supportive male students while she was in medical school. He went on to become a professor at Queen's University, she to become a lecturer in the Women's Medical College. Elizabeth died in 1949, after living a full and rewarding life.

It's kind of nice to be able to say Acton helped get her started in her career of service to people.

Sorry to see Doug Magwood and Sean Briggs being transferred out of town.

Mr. Magwood replaced Gary Dawkins as principal of M.Z. Bennett, Mr. Dawkins went on to head of the McKenzie-Smith middle school before his untimely death two years ago.

Mr. Briggs was the first principal for St. Joseph's Separate School opened a few years back. It was thanks in part to Mr. Briggs' hard work and devotion that the school broke all expected enrolment figures, which eventually led to a new school being planned.

They both were invaluable to the Free Press staff in the coverage of their schools. We will miss you.

Wintario draw here a gem of an idea

The Acton Chamber of Commerce and Leathertown committee have hit upon a gem of an idea for promoting the town which should also be a fun event for residents.

It's by no means set yet, a lot of arrangements will have to be ironed out before the idea of bringing the Wintario draw to Acton is brought to maturity.

But it is certainly an idea worth pursuing vigorously.

It would be great publicity for Acton as Leathertown since some history of the community would be mentioned on air. Best yet it would all be free publicity for Leathertown on a provincial scope.

The Wintario draw could also prove to be a brief boost to the local economy, with crew in town for a day or longer and spending money.

And the draw would be great fun for local residents who would make up the audience, some getting on the scene long enough to push the button and start the balls tumbling.

The Wintario draw was well received by all when it was held in neighboring communities like Georgetown and Erin and undoubtedly would prove to be a bonus for Acton too.

There are a number of reasons to think our chances of bringing the draw here are good. Our high school auditorium would be an excellent setting for the draw. The Wintario people like to take the draw out to small towns around the province and the list of possible new locations to hold a draw must be getting shorter and shorter since the draw's been running several years. There's been some big local winners in Wintario and other lotteries the province is involved this year and that's always a plus for the show.

An added incentive to make Acton a draw location will be if the municipality is successful in securing Wintario grant funds for the restoration of the town hall.

We urge the Chamber full speed ahead with its bid for the draw and wish them good luck.

Our readers write

Paint—don't shoot deer

Dear Editor:
This is my way of responding to the "Proposed Deer Hunt of 1981." There are other ways of capturing or "shooting" deer, as sport or recreation. "Limehouse Ladies," you are not alone:
Captured in the artists' eye,
The deer maintains his silence.
And all the while a breeze blows by,
As the two stare in defiance.

Time stood still in the forests' charm,
As the sun gleamed through the trees.
Both understood there was no harm,
In moments, as brief as these.

Then instinct caused the deer to flee,
Beyond the rivers' tip.
Leaving behind the artists' seige—
of his brush and oil kit.

Forever more this picture holds,
This moment's secret lie.
Of deer and man, the story's told,
Captured, by the artists' eye.
D.A. Mezure

The nostrils of the deer did quiver,
His ear twitched at every sound.
The artists' hand began to shiver,
From the beauty he had found.



Children in the Kindergarten class at Limehouse School decorated the squares on this quilt sewn together by volunteer mothers. The quilt will be raffled off at this Saturday's flea market at the school from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Holding the quilt at the top are Claire Kilmer and Michael Denny. At the left is Gavin Morris and Lisa Sanderson stands at the right.



First Acton Troop Scoutmaster John Sharples has been appointed District Commissioner for North Halton. The rural Acton resident says he is "terrifically torn" about giving up the Acton troop but looks forward to the new challenge. Sharples has been with First Acton for eight years.

Back issues 10 years ago

Wednesday, June 9, 1971

Friends held a surprise party for Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rachlin for their 40th wedding anniversary and 40 years in business in Acton.

A presentation of an engraved plaque was made at the United Church to Mr. and Mrs. Alf Long who have moved to the Guelph district.

The relocated gates at Fairview cemetery were rededicated during Decoration Day service. Three W.I. members active when the gates were built in 1833 were there, Mrs. R.L. Davidson, Mrs. Wilds and Mrs. Wilderspin.

The new training lodge at Blue Springs scout reserve was officially opened.

The new Scotch Block dam has created a lovely lake in Esqueving.

First Communion was held at St. Joseph's in the afternoon for the first time.

20 years ago

Thursday, June 5, 1961

Acton's four census enumerators are Mrs. Gordon Beatty, Mrs. Edgar Lidkea, Miss. Ella Jany and Miss. Elizabeth Jany. The Esqueving enumerators are Mrs. Erma Sargent, William Cromar, Harold Moyer, Roy Smith, Fyfe Somerville and Mac Sprowl. Nassagaweya enumerators are Bill Cahoon, Burt Watson and Bill Price.

Grade 13 students enjoyed a graduation banquet and dance. They are Doug Ruddick, Doreen Gordon, Jean Moffat, Susan Wilson, Mardell Marshall, top student Ilene Varey, Barry Kirkness, Bob Hinton, Frank Mariscak, Paul Elliott, Don Lindsay, Ross Swackhamer, Laurence Duby, Stewart McDonald, Bruce Andrews and Denis Gibbons. Special honors were given to Bruce Andrews for sportsmanship.

A parade was followed by a brief service at Fairview cemetery for Decoration Day. Pastor James Rudd was speaker.

Bill Graham and W.G.O. Oakes, who tend the pioneer cemetery, placed a wreath there.

Elizabeth Force won a skating gold medal, passing her eighth test.

50 years ago

Thursday, June 11, 1911

Ontario Memorial plant has been sold to Kilvington Bros. of Toronto. For the past two years the plant had been operated by a group of local businessmen who were interested in keeping industries in an active state in the community. They found, however, that their own business activities would not allow the dividing of their attention.

Miss Helen Coxe has completed her course in Household Economics at the University of Toronto and will graduate.

Last Sunday was the annual Decoration Day and church parade of Acton Lodge I.O.O.F. Graves were decorated at the cemeteries.

Muriel McComb graduated in nursing at Guelph.

Messrs. F.E. Holmes and Gordon Cooper are the census enumerators.

One of Tyler's trucks has been newly decorated.

Acton Legion laid a wreath at the Soldiers' Monument in Rockwood Sunday.

75 years ago

Thursday, June 7, 1906

Advertisement - Under Strictly Waterproof Tents - Banks Baird's magnificent scenic Production of Uncle Tom's Cabin. Travelling in our own Pullman sleeping and Dining cars. (Illustration of Eliza crossing the Ice.) Magnificent Transformation Scene of 15 minutes duration, Eva in Heaven. The most beautiful stage picture ever painted, St. Clair's Residence by Moonlight. Realistic scenes of Mississippi Levee. We Carry Every Particle of Scenery. 5 man-hunting Siberian Bloodhounds. 5 Trained to Participate in the Drama. 35 People 35. Among the scenes will be The Thrilling Floating Ice Scene. Also Cotton Fields and Plantation Scenes. Baird' Military band and Orchestra. Street Parade at 4 p.m. Admission 25 cent and 35 cents. Evening Performances Only, rain or shine. At Acton Friday evening, June 8.

100 years ago

Thursday, June 9, 1881

The cheese factory at Limehouse is now running at full blast. Mr. J.B. Bessey is the proprietor.

Mr. J.E. McGarvin has erected a private telegraph wire from his drug store to his residence. As he thinks there is no person in the world like his own little wife he has connected the two places so that at any moment he can sit down and have a chat with her.

The Messrs. Speight are doing a much larger business this season than for several years past. They have completed a number of Market waggons and buggies, which show most creditable workmanship throughout. They are all very tastefully painted by Mr. James Scott.

The school board is negotiating the purchase of the site adjoining the school property with Mr. C.S. Smith for \$150.

The work on the new Presbyterian church in Erin is progressing favorably.