

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

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, \$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.

Don McDonald, Publisher

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 Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.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 0615.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Editor: Gord Murray
News Editor: Helen Murray
Sports: Diana Walimans
Contributor: Jennifer Barr
Darkroom: Lynda Hill

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

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

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Manager: Marilyn McArthur



Make yourself heard Acton see Jack Raftis at drop-in

Is a new day dawning? After years of being ignored, put down as nothing but a bunch of chronic complainers, is Acton suddenly going to be listened to by the senior level of local government?

Regional government has from the start been given a rough ride here, with considerable justification.

Early on, Acton's colleagues on Halton Hills council learned Acton should be listened to, that our comments and input were important.

However, getting the message across to the upper tier, the region, took a little longer.

The regional police were for a long time the victims of local wrath against the region, partly of the force's own doing and partly because cops were the most visible symbol locally of the region.

Finally we complained long and loud enough that the police started to listen. There were some changes made and a dialogue began which still continues and the result has been greatly improved relations.

This Friday Acton has another opportunity to be heard by the region.

Just as they were instrumental in bringing the police to Acton for an open house, Councillors Terry Grubbe, Dave Whiting and Rosa Knechtel have arranged to Halton's chairman Jack Raftis to

visit Acton Friday afternoon to meet taxpayers and listen to their complaints and concerns.

Raftis is a former Burlington councillor who has shown sympathy for north Halton positions since assuming the top post in Halton.

Local councillors, working to keep their drop-in viable, are hoping for a good crowd Friday afternoon at the Y building so the exercise of bringing the chairman here will be worthwhile and can be repeated in the fall.

Taxpayers meeting the police proved beneficial.

Coming out and talking to the chairman can prove just as beneficial.

Taxpayers will have the opportunity of learning about the region deficit, rising taxes, water and sewer rates, future growth of the Acton, industrial development efforts etc.

At the same time Halton's top dog will learn a bit about what makes us tick, what we'd like to see the region doing, how it could serve Acton better etc.

Ignore the inconvenience of meeting politicians on a Friday afternoon and come to the drop-in armed with lots of questions just like you did on a Friday morning in February to talk to the police.

Make yourself heard again Acton, all the way down to the "green monster" in Oakville.



On the Leavell

With Helen



Teamwork is such a necessary part of our everyday lives, but you never really know how much you depend on others until a crisis comes up.

Last week, here at the Free Press, we had a bit of a crisis when our main computer typesetting machine broke down, and couldn't be fixed until Thursday, a little late to be putting together the Milton Canadian Champion, the Georgetown Independent and the Free Press.

Because this particular machine had broken, we had to scramble around and find a replacement. The closest one we could find was in Listowel. So off went Reta Rowell, and myself, chauffeured by Bob Dyc, to produce the type from there. Bob Wenger of the Listowel Banner has our great appreciation.

We got back to Acton about 1 a.m. Tuesday morning and handed our work over to Joanne Duval and Mark Dills who worked until about 4 a.m. doing their bit with it.

The next day (actually just a few hours after she climbed into bed) Reta headed back up to Listowel to produce more type for the computer which was running okay. Meanwhile, here in Acton we made do with extremely old equipment which had been in storage for at least five years. This method was considered antique, but last Tuesday, when our great "advanced technology" was sitting useless in the corner of the room, our old typesetting machine was worth its weight in gold (and boy was it heavy).

Everyone pulled together and worked until they dropped and we eventually got all three papers out as well as some commercial jobs. We don't know how we got through last week, but it wouldn't have been possible without teamwork.

We all seemed to unwind at the Free Press golf tournament on Friday. In spite of pouring rain shortly after tee-off, we all had a great time. June Jansen deserves a big pat on the back for organizing the day.

Got a postcard from my mother in Florida last Thursday, June 11. It had been mailed June 3. She wrote it just after she got there, and I received it just before she got home. I think pony express would have been faster.

"Microscopic creatures coming down from the sky". Sounds like a Sci-Fi movie doesn't it. But according to Dr. David Turner of the Laurentian University in Sudbury, "there exists a school of thought in the sciences which maintains that colds and some types of epidemics are related to microscopic organisms bred deep in space."

If you think that is eerie, continue. "And keeping with this theory the germs are coming to Earth via meteors shooting across the sky" in order to catch a disease, you must be at the right place at the right time—so that you can breathe in the dust-encapsulated germ before it reaches the ground."

Dr. Turner says even a cold virus may be caused from a miniature creature from outer space.

Somehow knowing about these "creatures" and the fact there isn't much can be done to protect oneself, has just made my day. Thank Heaven I have stopped trying to get a drink from the sky during a spring shower.

Twenty-seven visiting farmers from Belgium visited the old Hide House this weekend, one of their many stops on a Quebec-Ontario tour of agricultural spots.

The tour was arranged by Rick Bonnette and Jack Pouwels of Acton Travel. The farmers landed in Montreal where they spent a few days visiting the city and area farms. A short stay in Ottawa followed before they went to Brantford, Niagara Falls, Wallaceburg, Delhi. A stop at the Agricultural Museum in Milton was the highlight of the entire trip for the group consisting mainly of men. They then headed to the Hide House where they purchased cowboy hats, vests, boots, etc.

Another such trip is planned for July and one in September. Belgium arrangements are made by Jack's brother, who is a travel agent in that country.

Sad farewells go out to Dave and Alma Swetman who are pulling up their Acton roots and moving to Guelph next week.

The couple are best known for their shoe store, Swetman Shoes which they owned for about five years before selling last year. Dave is a member of the local Rotary club and Legion, and both take an active part in the annual Back to Acton festivities.

We'll miss you both and wish you well in your new home. Get well wishes also go out to Dave who has been under the weather lately.

Summer vacation will soon be here. For the driver, that is the worst possible news to hear. That means instead of having a bit of reprieve during the day from youngsters racing around on their bikes and playing in the streets, they will be out all day, and night.

I was driving up Kingham Rd. one day last week and one little fellow on one of those very low plastic trikes was riding down the middle of the road, oblivious to the traffic around him. Traffic stopped dead while he peddled on. Whose responsibility is this?

Another time on the same street, two small girls darted out in front of my car. Had I not been going ten miles an hour I would surely have hit them. They didn't look, just ran. I stopped the car and told them to watch where they were going—a nearby adult glared at me as if I had no right driving on that street while her daughter wanted to suddenly run across the road, three feet in front of me.

Last week, two pre-schoolers were playing in the Free Press driveway, again on those low trikes. Investigation revealed they were not waiting on a customer in the building, they were just playing in the driveway because it was there. Cars are constantly coming in and out of the driveway, and the last thing some people are waiting for is miss-placed kids. I very nicely told the children to go play in their own yards. The cute little girl with braids turned to me and retorted "Well, if we have to." The last I saw them they were riding down the middle of Willow St.

Kids will be kids, but I draw the line at them blaming me because I got in their way while they are playing chicken in the middle of the road.

In my seven years (next month) in Acton, there has not been one local child killed on the streets in town. I'm really surprised by that. It is only extremely good luck, and maybe several very good drivers, who have kept that statistic at nil.

The arrival of summer also means people will be travelling. Let us know where you've been.

And in the Just-What-Everyone-Wanted-To-Know department, did you know there is a birth control pill for dogs on the market.

It's been manufactured by the Veterinary Division of Glaxovet Canada Division.

Ovarid Tablets (that's the name of them) provide a modern alternative to spaying. A press release states:

"The problems of looking after a female dog in heat can be minimized by starting her on a prevention course of Ovarid Tablets when symptoms appear. Usually signs will disappear in about four days; male dogs will lose interest in her and she will cease to be so excitable. Even if she is mated (what a nice way to put it), Ovarid can normally be relied on to prevent conception."

Isn't that all very handy. Only problem is: how is the dog going remember to take her pill in the morning?

Poor council timing on municipal building issue

The debate is barely underway and already there is a dark cloud hanging over the municipal complex issue.

Halton Hills council is guilty of poor timing when after hearing a proposal for a rental municipal building beside a Georgetown shopping centre it was decided to set up a special committee to look at the entire issue.

After lying dormant for about five years the municipal complex issue cropped up in April when council decided to include \$1 million for debenturing in the five year capital forecast to possibly be added to the nearly \$600,000 which has already been set aside in a special fund for a central town building.

Since then, at least in public, council hasn't discussed the municipal building issue.

Then out of the blue a Georgetown development firm popped up with a plan to build a municipal complex beside Guelphview Square at the corner of Guelph Street (Highway 7 and Mountainview Road).

Several councillors described the proposal to have Halton Hills put up \$800,000 for interior finishing, plus pay \$400,000 a year in rent, plus pay water, heat, hydro, taxes etc. as innovative.

We view the proposal as preposterous.

The site is prime commercial property, there are sure to be traffic problems (the corner is already extremely congested) renting quarters should be the last

option examined and any site in Georgetown will decentralize town operations to at least a small extent since the works yard will likely have to stay on Trafalgar Road, (unless a new yard is built in Georgetown or the Acton yard is used for more than predominantly storage).

Council's special building committee will start by framing terms of reference. Presumably they'll justify if indeed there is actually a need for a complex.

That seems to be a logical, reasonable approach.

One which should have been taken several weeks ago if councillors really believe a central building is needed.

After council approves the terms of reference the committee will start looking at the various site and building options, including the rental building in Georgetown idea.

We and many taxpayers are waiting to be convinced there is a need for a complex.

Regardless if it is intentional by deciding to set up a study committee after hearing the Georgetown rental proposal council has put itself in the position of appearing to jump at the first chance to locate a complex in Georgetown.

The committee will have to turn over a lot of stones and come up with a long, long list of alternatives to be examined fully in public view if it wants to dispell the impression to grab at the first proposal in Georgetown to come along.

Our readers write

Congratulations from BIA

Dear Sir:
As the Chairman of the Acton Business Improvement Area I speak for all our members, and it is with a deep feeling of pride that I have the pleasant task of saying to you "Congratulations—well done."

It isn't everyday that our local community paper wins an award of such merit. We

are very proud of your achievement and its national recognition.

Again, to you and all your staff that makes our community newspaper possible, "Congratulations—well done."

Sincerely,
Acton BIA,
Larry Greaves,
Chairman.



Becky Armstrong, Martha Armstrong, and Angela Courtline concentrate on their drawing at the monthly Acton Library craft club which will run twice a month this summer.



Jenny Quinn and Jenna Woodburn are budding artists at the Acton Library Craft Club.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, June 2, 1971.

Two high school students, Pat Dunn and David Tomlinson, have been chosen to participate in this summer's Young Voyageur program. They'll visit Quebec for 10 days.

The first political nomination meeting ever held in Acton was a shoo-in for George Kerr, the Minister of Energy and Resources Management. About 400 in the high school applauded mightily as Kerr accepted the nomination. Burlington Teen Band played.

The famed Jimmy Galloway and his Metro Stompers combined with the Rev. Gordon Turner to present a service of celebration at the United Church.

Robert Radford, Vivian Nicholson and Nancy Winter have graduated from University. Raymond Saitz, George Beshiri, Rinke Duker and Roger Gray graduated from Sheridan. Janis Baker graduated as a nurse.

Phil Morris and Maureen Gerth won championships at the Halton-Peel track meet.

Wellington-Dufferin MPP John Root officially opened the softball season at Osprings.

20 years ago

Thursday, June 15, 1961

Rev. H.B. Stokreef received the flags at St. Alban's when the First Acton boy scouts dedicated their flags. Flag bearers were David Ryder and Bob Watson. Laurie Duby, president of the Alta. Boys' Association and a Rover Scout, assisted.

Three flags were dedicated for the Scouts and cubs at Ballinacred United church. Boys taking part in the ceremony were David Swindlehurst, David Greygoose and Mervin White with leaders Mike Norton, Fred Roden and John Handcock. Mr. Beaton gave a fine address.

James Ridd was ordained as a Baptist minister Tuesday. He is planning to enter the mission field.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Waldie celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Rev. Donald West is the new rector of St. Alban's church.

The Rev. Ken Griffiths was ordained at Ebenezer church.

50 years ago

Thursday, June 18, 1911

The annual competition for early potatoes is on but this year it would appear that Mr. George Roszell has walked away with the honors.

Sunday was a red letter day for Rockwood United Church. The much-needed addition is almost completed. Rev. T. Albert Moore was the anniversary preacher.

The United Farmers Clubs held their annual picnic at Edgewood Park, Eden Mills.

Over 400 sheep were dipped in the community dipping tank at Osprings last week.

The people at Limehouse are complaining of men who are fishing on Sundays. High school department examinations are being written this week.

Three or four garden parties are scheduled for the district this week.

Miss RM Stephenson and Miss Margaret Smith have been hired for the High School department.

75 years ago

Thursday, June 14, 1906.

Dame fortune has not favored our lacrosse players. They lost to Guelph Shamrocks Saturday. Acton team: Statham, G. Hynds, Nicklin, Graham, Marshment, Ramshaw, McEachern, Taylor, R. Hynds, Wilson, Malone, Abraham, McIntosh, E. Ryder.

Lightning struck Mr. William Sprowl's barn and it was completely destroyed, with wheat, oats, barley, a fanning mill, rack litter and harness. The loss was about \$2,000, insured for \$1,200 with Halton Mutual.

Dr. Forster, specialist in the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, will be in Acton from today until next Wednesday, and may be consulted at the residence of Mr. A.T. Brown.

The new naphtha launch on Fairy Lake was launched and is being well patronized. A trip by this medium gives an idea of the beauties of our pretty expanse of water and its surroundings.

W. Hawes, gardener, has now got the bowling green in fine condition.

100 years ago

Thursday, June 16, 1881

Wouldn't it pay some of our enterprising businessmen to organize a telephone system in town?

It costs Acton people only 30 cents a night to have the new street lamps lit and extinguished. It costs Milton a great deal less than that. There a man carries a lamp of his own, or goes it blind in his nocturnal rambles, or stays at home.

Prospect Divisions Sons of Temperance held their annual tea meeting in the Grove at Brookville. Addresses were delivered. Acton Brass Band furnished music. A concert was given in the Union Hall in the evening.