

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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ABC parkettes fine addition to our parks

Recently initial work on two seating areas on vacant parkland on Elizabeth Dr., just down the street from the senior citizens' apartment building, was completed.

Frequent trips by there to get a photo of someone enjoying the two small parkettes has shown it isn't getting much use yet, but the heat and humidity may be keeping those who would enjoy sitting and gazing upon Fairy Lake away. It may also be a case of our photographers not being at the right place at the right time, yet.

In any event we have no doubts these two little additions to our local parks facilities will prove to be popular and will be used considerably in the years ahead.

It's the second project of the Acton Beautification Committee (ABC).

This is a small but dedicated group. We expect big things out of them in the years ahead, especially if a few successful projects prompts other community-minded people to join the fold.

Born out of interest generated by a handful of citizens last fall when a student conducted three seminars dealing with the landscape architecture of Acton, the ABC's first project was the highly successful door decorating contest at Christmas.

The ABC, primarily members Julie Conroy and

Debra Sankey, has been putting together the parkettes for several months. It was a pretty big task, especially lining up the groups and firms to donate materials and labor.

Acton Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Denny's Insurance, Acton Lions Club, Halton Community Credit Union, Toronto Wood Treating, high school teachers Susie Beeber and Murray Swanston and high school students all played vital and generous roles in developing the park to the point it is now, five benches and some trees, shrubs and flowers.

There's still more to be done on the parkettes. The ABC is trying to line up donors for sidewalk slabs they envision patios in a checkerboard design so seniors can play one of their favorite games on a large scale while enjoying the view and fresh air and a windbreak so sitters will be protected from wind in colder weather.

All along the north side of the lake there is lovely parkland, under utilized because there aren't facilities for passive activities.

Thanks to the efforts of the ABC and others in Acton a good start has been made on developing this property more fully as parkland, at no cost to the taxpayers.

Drop by and sit a spell.

The ABC and many others will appreciate it.

Need favorable climate downtown, Leathertown

A good start has been made on revitalization of downtown Acton.

The consultants have been in Acton, done surveys, studied the local economy and market conditions etc.

Now they'll come up with in depth reports and recommendations for revitalization as well as a marketing study.

After that the town, with the support of the BIA, is expected to apply to the province for some hefty grants and loans so the long awaited revitalization will take place.

Even in their initial observations the consultants have made some excellent points.

They have voiced strong opposition to any plans to build a plaza on the fringes of Acton. They issue dire warnings of the consequences for the core area if this happens.

Many people support a plaza on the outskirts of town, not so much for its location, but their simple desire for expanded food store facilities and more shops carrying department store type merchandise. This has been confirmed by the survey of downtown shoppers.

Re-development downtown, such as Leathertown Village and Acton Mews, has been appreciated by residents.

We're sure they will feel the same way about the new IGA plaza to open likely early in 1982. Acton will have an expanded food store shoppers desire as well as some more shops.

They've indicated they want more re-development along the lines of what has already taken place. The Force Electric site should be next, and we have no doubt that as the Leathertown

theme is developed in the years ahead someone will build a small plaza on that property too.

Downtown revitalization and re-development—town hall restoration—the olde Hide House—Leathertown; they are all intertwined and interdependent.

Acton can have the desired commercial services and economic base without becoming a big town and growing substantially, something which doesn't appear to be going to happen.

But the proper climate for commercial expansion in the core area will have to be created. The Hide House, town hall, Leathertown promotions and downtown studies and revitalization can go a long way to creating the proper climate.

But, as the consultants have pointed out, everything else will be a waste if there's commercial development outside the core.

It will be competition which would do irreparable damage to downtown.

The municipality has done its part in turning down the proposal for a plaza on the east side of town.

Unfortunately the appeals system has worked against Acton. This issue has been dragging on for years. Actually it has been dragging on since long before Jerry Sprackman proposed his plaza.

The consultants have made it clear this threat must be buried so downtown property owners and merchants will be encouraged to follow up revitalization of public property (sidewalks, streets, parking etc) with work on their own lands and shops.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Golden wedding anniversary greetings go out to Marie and David Gordon, 9 Wilbur St. who marked 50 years of marriage July 9.

The couple was entertained by about 20 friends and relatives July 12 at a dinner party in Rockwood, and then went home and had another party.

It was a double celebration for Mr. Gordon who turned 77 on July 15.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon have lived in Acton for 45 years and find the people very friendly.

Lots of cards and flowers were received by the happy couple who both enjoyed the day very much.

Another anniversary celebration in Acton took place on Sunday. Tom and Renee Watson reached 35 years together on Sunday, but celebrated with a family reunion on Saturday. Congratulations, and best wishes.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lazenby of Crewson's Corners certainly have a house full lately and they are enjoying every minute of it. Visiting them from Birmingham, England are Mrs. Lazenby's aunt and uncle Mr. and Mrs. Harold Shingler, and two friends Mr. and Mrs. Jack Prechard and their two daughters Julie and Patricia.

The visitors were taken to the CN Tower, Ontario Place, Niagara Falls, and Parry Sound. They are now staying at the Lazenby's trailer at Wasaga Beach for two weeks before heading home to England.

So far the weather has been beautiful and the British visitors have been enjoying themselves immensely.

They return home August 2, but not without a party given by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Chapel, Kingham Rd., Mrs. Lazenby's daughter.

Western travellers Shirley and Brydon Hunter and daughter Stacy, of Longfield Road, enjoyed a month-long

holiday along the Trans-Canada Highway to Vancouver Island, and the Pacific Rim.

On the way home, they travelled in the southern areas of the provinces, parallel with the American border. They even dropped down to Montana and visited Glacier National Park and Logan's Pass.

They returned as far as Manitoulin Island and spent a few days there visiting relatives. They got home from there on Wednesday.

David and Kay Dills enjoyed holidaying with a group of people particularly interested in military music. They travelled together in Belgium and France to see battlefields of both world wars, military cemeteries and monuments such as the famous Canadian memorial high on Vimy Ridge.

There are about 160 cemeteries in the Ypres area containing the graves of Canadians killed there in World War I. With considerable difficulty, the Dills were able to locate in the Belgian countryside the gravestone of Kay's uncle, Warren Brown, who was killed in 1916 at the age of 23. A student of engineering at the University of Toronto, he was a son of John and Mary Brown of Acton, and his name is on the town cenotaph.

In England a highlight was attending the British Army Benevolent Fund military pageant at Wembley stadium. For the first time, four Canadian bands took part, making a total of 1,800 bandmen and bandwomen playing together. Prince Charles took the salute, with Lady Diana Spencer present in the royal box, quite near the group of cheering Canadians.

Anyone interested in seeing recipes, craft ideas, or household hints in this column. If you are, let me know. No, they won't be my recipes or ideas. I'm strictly from the electric can opener generation, and prefer buying other people's work at bazaars.

The family of Michael West is very proud of him right now while he is swimming in Germany on the Canadian National Swim Team. Michael is the son of Judge and Mrs. Ernest West, formerly of Acton, and nephew of Wilma Chapman of Rockwood. Although Michael has lived his entire life in Waterloo, his parents are well known in this area. His father Judge West sits in Peel.

If you want a job done, it's faster, and better to do it yourself. That's what Ted Tyler learned Saturday.

Several weeks ago Ted said he went to Student Manpower in Georgetown looking for some highschool students to clean school buses for the summer. The job would take about six weeks. After waiting and waiting for someone to be sent to him, Ted got impatient and took matters into his own hands. While making the announcements at the weekly Acton draw Saturday, he asked for interested students to step forward. Within five minutes, the position was filled.

Pat Nellis was in to see me yesterday to tell me about her seven-year old nephew Jeffrey Arney of Guelph, who won a Royal Wedding contest in the Toronto Sun. The kids were asked to give a rendition of the royal couple in color. Jeffrey's parents went out of their way while in Toronto to drop off their son's entry at Sun offices. It could not be mailed because of the mail strike.

When they opened yesterday's (Tuesday) Sun they saw Michael's work staring at them. He won first prize in the seven and under category. He has won a passport to Canada's Wonderland, a souvenir of the wedding, Sun T-shirt and a Sun-Blue Jays visor.

Jeffrey is the talented son of Dorothy (Graham) and Russell Arney, and the grandson of Kay and Hugh Graham formerly of Acton. He's the nephew of Pat and Lloyd Nellis, R.R. 1, Acton.

So far I have only heard from three interested people wishing to take an adult gymnastics class this fall at Acton High School. Including myself, I still have to find 16 more people before the Halton Board of Education will even look at us. They estimate minimum class size at 20 people, it will cost \$25 for 10 weeks, at two hours a week.

Call me immediately if you are interested. The Board must know by this Friday in order to have time to hire staff, book gym time, and advertise.

Halifax was inundated by newspaper people last week for the annual Canadian Community Newspaper Convention. Attending from Acton were: Don McDonald, publisher of the Acton Free Press, and his wife Linda; Gord Murray, editor; Hartley Coles, editor of the Georgetown Independent, and wife Irma; Kay and Dave Dills, editors of The Publisher, a nation-wide monthly newspaper for our industry.

Back issues 10 years ago

July 21, 1971
Joseph Roger Lapointe died as the result of a bullet wound in the head, an autopsy performed by Dr. Waldorf has revealed. Police said the bullet was from a small calibre firearm. Acton firefighters recovered Lapointe's body from the front bedroom of the burning Spanish-style bungalow south of Acton shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday July 10.

Halton's Dairy Princess was unanimously acclaimed this year and she's Pat Murray, 16, of RRI, Acton. Pat entered the contest last year, but was too young to enter the CNE competition.

Steve Marshall is working for the summer as a groom at Nelson White's stables and is at the Greenwood race track, Toronto, now. Steven, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Marshall has his groom's license. Nelson White is one of the top ten harness racers in the jockey club circuit.

20 years ago

July 20, 1961
Acton's newest industry, scheduled to go into operation September 1, will coat and finish paper, plastic, leather, straw, reconstituted leather and other products. Frank Heller, president of Frank Heller & Co. Limited announced this week. Starting with an estimated eight employees, it is anticipated employment could eventually be provided for up to 25.

Marianne Freuler required three stitches in her foot as a result of stepping on broken glass in the Acton park wading pool last Friday afternoon.

Faced with a fire caused by searing lightning and the phone out of order, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. McIsaac of RR 4, Acton hastily put the fire out themselves one night last week. The incident which might have proven much more serious happened about one o'clock Friday morning when they were asleep.

A happy anniversary dinner took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shortill on Sunday, July 16. The occasion was in honor of Harry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shortill of Ballinacraig. Guests included Mr. Matt Shortill, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Shortill, Danny, Karen and Mark of Ballinacraig, Miss Lillian Shortill and Miss Margaret Wegg of Toronto and Miss Ine Oaks of Mimico.

50 years ago

July 23, 1931
Acton pupils of Mr. E.H. Leason of Guelph who were successful in their June musical examinations were Margaret Waldie, first class honors in Elementary Theory; Beth Harrison Elementary Theory; Harry Hassard and Margaret Harrison honors in Elementary Honors Piano; and Helen Ostrander, Junior Piano.

On Monday afternoon little Jack Chapman, the eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Chapman, of Toronto, who is holidaying at the home of his grandparents here, had a narrow escape from drowning in Fairy Lake. He undoubtedly owes his life to the prompt action of Mr. J.S. Davison, manager of the Bank of Montreal, going to his rescue and pulling him to safety.

75 years ago

July 19, 1906
The results of the Entrance Examinations held in June in the High School Department of Acton School were recently released. The result is highly creditable to Acton School and maintains the high standing of former years. One of the Acton pupils, Miss Amy Speight, took the third highest marks in the county. Thirty-one candidates wrote at Acton.

The Acton Bowling Club is represented at the Ontario Bowling Association's tournament at Niagara-on-the-Lake this week by one rink consisting of W.S. Chisholm, A.J. McKinnon, H.P. Moore, and W.J. Gould, skip.

There is a very general feeling that council should put down cement pavement on the north side of Mill Street from John to Main St. as close to the new street line as the building will permit.

100 years ago

July 21, 1881
A Few Church Don'ts: Don't go to sleep. Don't bring the baby. Don't sit on your new silk hat. Don't sing if you don't know how. Don't put counterfeit coin on the plate. Don't stay home on collection Sunday. Don't read your book during the sermon. Don't go in late if you have squeaky boots. Don't take a sneering fit if you can help it. Don't try to make children sit as still as Egyptian mummies. Don't be an active talker in church matters unless you are an active worker. Don't keep your religion in the pocket on your Sunday coat. Don't pull a pint of peanuts out of your pocket with your handkerchief. Don't think everybody went to church just to see what you've got on. Don't get red and give yourself away if something in the sermon hits you in a sore spot. Don't give your umbrella to a bevy of pretty girls and go home in a drenching rain. Don't do any inward swearing if a fly plays hop-scotch on that bald spot. Don't stare at every girl in church out in countenance because some girls like it.



Chris Hill and Glen Bossert get into the bubble-gum blowing competition at Acton Library.



Laura Masales, 9, tries to blow the tiniest bubble possible at the bubble-gum blowing contest at Acton Library.