

The Acton Free Press

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Founded in 1876

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Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing & Publishing Ltd. at 59 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 25¢ each, \$13.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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Second class mail registration Number 0515.

Leathertown strides

How did you greet the news last week that Leathertown has branched out beyond the boundaries of Acton?

We suspect the reaction of many readers was ho-hum.

But we also figure there were a lot fewer ho-hums last week than there were seven months ago when Leathertown was officially hatched.

We've made no secret of our virtually unqualified support of the Leathertown concept and the people behind it.

The reasons are simple. We think it's a whale of an idea for putting Acton on the map as well as bringing new shoppers and businesses to town.

But we also had no illusions that it would be a long, slow process.

And we knew a lot of Acton people wouldn't be convinced of the importance or success of this venture until there are many tourists here shopping, shopping, shopping.

Leathertown is like a big house which will be built the hard way, one brick at a time you might say.

But, considering the fact that anything done by a committee of volunteers with local funds is sure to find things slow going, we think Leathertown is moving at a pretty fair clip.

To have a display at the Eaton's Centre so soon after its inception shouldn't be greeted by ho-hum.

It should be greeted by cheers and a big pat on the back for everyone involved.

Look at the list of accomplishments in a little over half a year.

The logo has been adopted and is spreading around town. It's on leather fobs. It's on T-shirts. It's on letterhead of a few businesses. It's on shopping bags. It's on the flag and masthead of this publication.

There's a major research project underway to gather Acton's leather history, the first big step towards developing a

museum and walking tour. The three students doing the research are uncovering fascinating facts and creating interests in Leathertown among many residents through displays, fact sheets and interviews with longtime Actonians. A couple of Leathertown displays in Acton Family Cleaners' windows in the spring stirred interest among Actonians in our heritage.

Now city folk are learning about Acton as Leathertown, reinforcing what they've already heard about the town through olde Hide House advertisements.

Sometime this year or next Wintario draw television viewers will learn a lot more about Acton.

A pretty impressive list of foundation bricks for Leathertown, we think.

It confirms our belief that we backed a winner at the start of the year.

About the only negative note sounding for Leathertown is that it's being carried by just a few people. Chip Petrillo and a few other people are shouldering the entire load. Some people who have voiced great support for Leathertown, even attended a few meetings, have been a little slow off the mark in the work department.

With a lot of other volunteer groups lack of workers would sound the death knell.

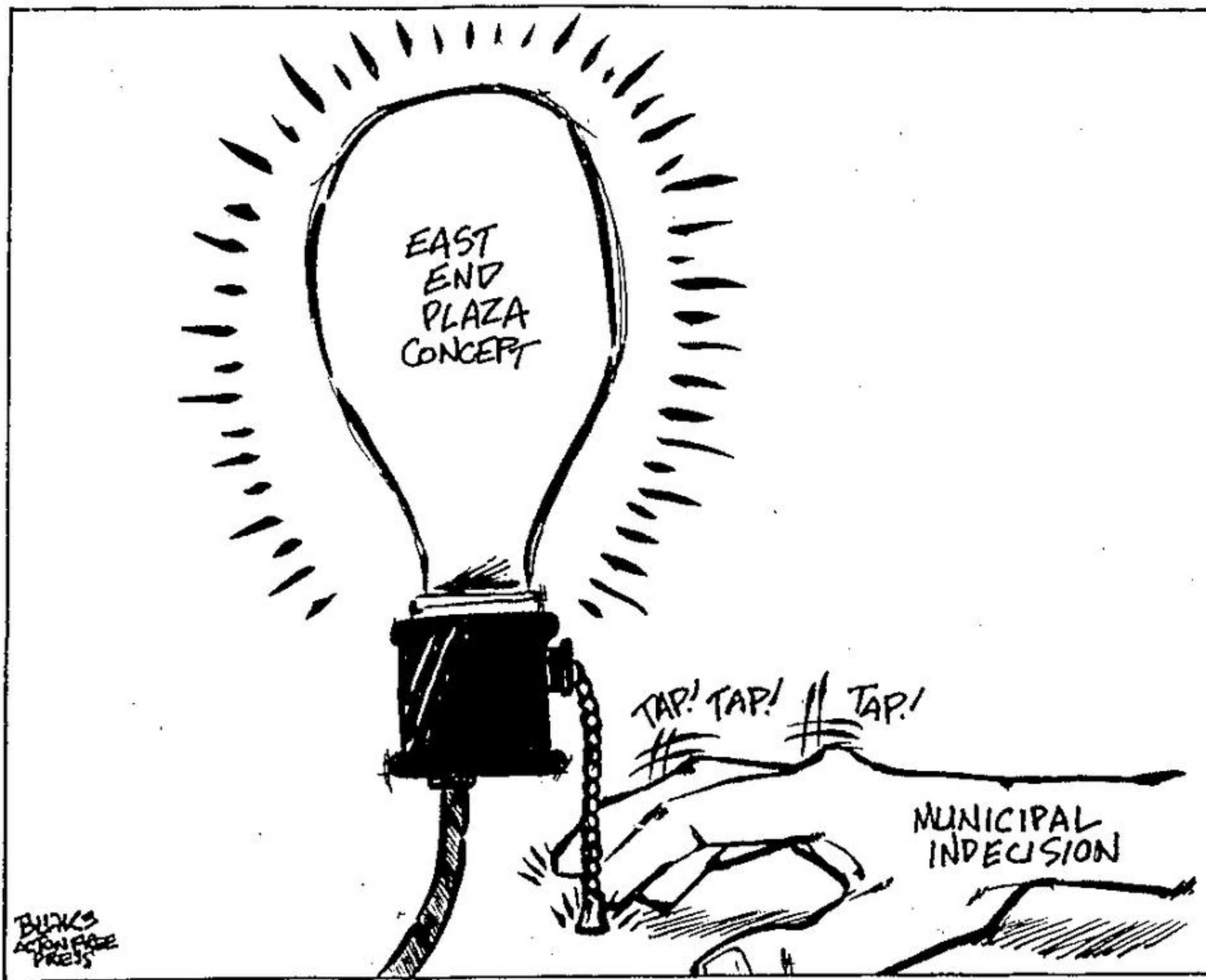
But not with Leathertown. The handful of movers and shakers on this venture will do it all themselves if necessary.

It just means putting each block in place will take a little longer.

But then we're optimistic that as the blocks pile up more and more Actonians will climb on the bandwagon.

Why not be one of the leaders and not just a follower? Climb on now.

The more hands on the bandwagon the less work there will be for everyone.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Seems some ducks, presumably from Beardmore, have adopted a Church St. E. family.

Mrs. Elsie Halladay says a duck made a nest in her shrubs, just a few feet from the front door a few weeks ago. Eggs were laid, and after awhile, eight young baby ducks were hatched.

That was Tuesday. Since then, she says, it has become a common sight to see the mother duck leading her children across the street, probably to a neighbours who is feeding them. Residents in the area have taken to stopping traffic while mom and the kids go for an outing.

Mrs. Halladay says she has set a plate of water out so they can either drink or bath. She has also been feeding them.

As cute and adorable as the critters are, Mrs. Halladay hopes they don't make a habit of nesting in her shrubs. The eggs were kept a secret from the neighbourhood kids, and so far they have been pretty reasonable about not bothering them. But still, they are a bit of a bother.

It's been quite a while since I mentioned Speyside resident Pierre Pilote in this column. For those who have lost track of him, here goes:

Pierre will be lacing up his skates next month to play in a pre-expansion NHL old timers game in Markham. Members of the original six NHL teams will play an 18-games series to be filmed by Special Event Television

Inc., for airing across the country next winter.

There's a lot of familiar names listed, many a newly-formed hockey nut like myself, have never heard of. There's plenty of infamous names on the roster also.

The series will pit each team against its once-rivals and advance to semi-finals, finals, and a Stanley Cup-old timers' style that is.

Some of the names taking part in the series besides Pierre's will be Ted Green, John MacKenzie, Derek Sanderson, Pat Stapleton, Dennis and Bobby Hull, Chico Maki, Jim Pappin, Norm Ullman, Yvan Cournoyer, Henri Richard, Andy Bathgate, Rod Gilbert, Brian Glennie, Johnny Bower, Eddie Shack, Ron Ellis, Sid Smith, Dick Duff, and Billy Harris. I won't admit which ones I don't know. Pierre will play for the Chicago Black Hawks.

Reg and Bev Landriault and sons Greg and Phillip recently vacationed at camp Wawanaisa. With them to share this holiday were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kasper and sons Christian and Denny from Ruthford, N.J. Bev reports the fishing was good, and the waterskiing, swimming and sailing were great.

"You've cursed at them when they held you up as they paddled with their babies across Fairy Lake on a spring day, and now you're feeding them to death."

Sounds like an excerpt from a Free Press story, doesn't it?

Actually, it's part of a story in the Newmarket Era last week. Seems Newmarket has a Fairy Lake and ducks, and the same situation as Acton's Fairy Lake and Acton's ducks.

Over (or is it up) in Newmarket the South Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority has warned the townspeople that feeding the ducks is not only spoiling their digestive system, but is

also spoiling them not to gather their own food. Come winter, when they must fend for themselves, they find out they don't know how.

That problem sure does sound familiar doesn't it. Not too long ago a similar controversy arose in this town. Things have died down now, and the ducks and Esther Taylor are content. But look out Harold, winter isn't that far away!

And in an effort to add to improve upon (if that's possible) and expand this column, household hints will be offered by Mrs. Mabel Barkman, called Meanderings.

We'd like to know if you like these columns within columns (but give them a couple weeks' chance to prove themselves). Call me with your opinion.

Meanderings by Mabel Barkman Pigtales

You probably see them at the meat counter and pass them by. Your mother never cooked them so why should you. Treat them like barbecued spare ribs and you're in for a treat.

Buy a couple of packages, wash them off—put them in a roaster with a little water (or do on a barbecue this time of year), add a few onion flakes and simmer about an hour and a half. Take out and leave for awhile until easy to handle. Take off liquid and put in fridge so fat hardens on top and you can remove. Take paper towel or whatever and remove as much fat as from the tails as possible, even cutting a bit of it off. Make up a marinade of the liquid plus some honey, garlic, salt, chili sauce or ketchup and soy sauce. Pour over tails and leave until ready to use. Turn on Broiler and broil until brown and succulent.

Serve with fried rice and you will find that fingers work well in eating these delicious tails.

Children riding carelessly

If Acton gets through this summer without a serious bicycle accident then it will be some kind of a miracle.

We've preached previously about parents teaching their children to ride their bikes safely. It doesn't seem to have done much good, but we feel we must remain on the soap box about this problem.

Children weave all over the road. Bicyclists have been seen here riding down busy streets two, three or even four abreast. Bicyclists darting out from between parked cars are a common occurrence. They ride against traffic, ignore stop signs, ride on sidewalks.

One youngster was spotted riding all over the street on Kingham Rd. last week. He couldn't hear the horns honking

because he was wearing headphones from a radio.

Motorists look nervous, tense and irritable.

Most drivers fortunately exercise caution while driving in residential areas, through there are still some who race around on Acton streets like they were practising for the Indy.

We're really pressing our luck here.

Odds are careless driver and careless child on a bicycle are going to come into crunching contact one of these days this summer. Then everyone will be sorry.

Parents should be drilling in to their children the necessity of obeying the rules of the road and riding cautiously.

What others say:

Productive farmers

The Glengarry News pays tribute to Canadian farmers. It states: If Canada's manufacturing sector could perform as well as its farming sector we wouldn't be teetering on the brink of recession.

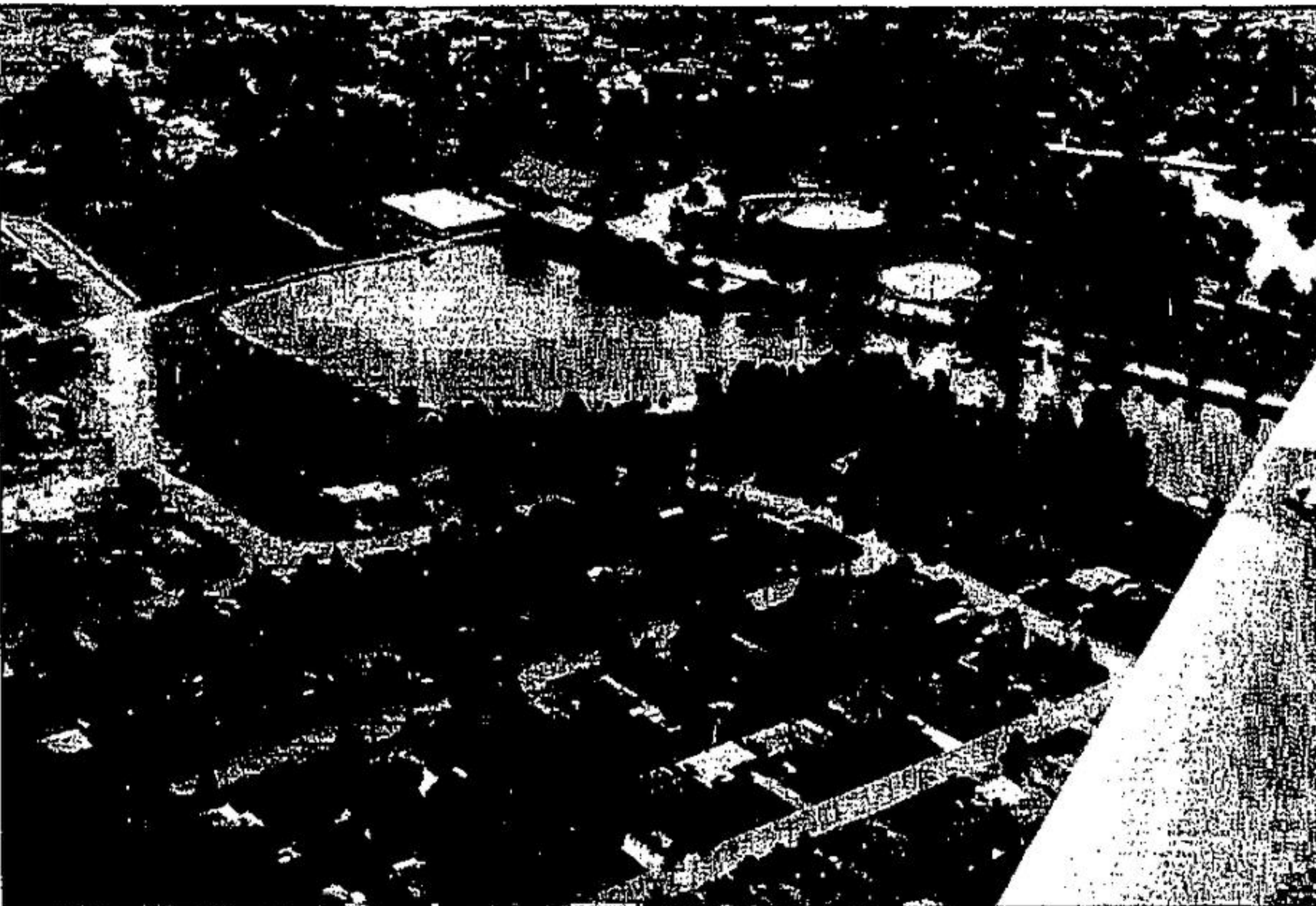
Canadian farmers are among the most productive in the world. We have only three per cent of the world's farmland and yet we produce up to six per cent of the world's oats; 17 per cent of the flaxseed and two per cent of the world's meat and milk products.

In addition, we export more than 70 per cent of our grain, the highest percentage in the world.

Each Canadian farm worker now produces enough food to feed 53 people. Only 20 years ago the figure was 29 people.

The importance of farming to our economy cannot be over-emphasized. One of the challenges of the future will be to keep this industry alive in the face of mounting energy costs.

Alternatives to petroleum products are already being explored and there is every indication that farmers—no strangers to innovation—will develop a solution to that problem also.



Birdseye view of Acton—Fairy Lake and the Lakeview subdivision as seen from George Gray's little two seater Piper Colt. Acton arena and Prospect Park can be seen upper centre, the new seniors apartments are upper left. Photo by Jennifer Barr.

Back issues

10 years ago

July 27, 1971

The speed limit in highway 7 between Acton and Georgetown will definitely be increased from 50 to 60 miles an hour.

"The OWRC has never given any indication that the pollution control plant was not operating efficiently," councillor Greer said when he spoke on the subject of the odors in the east end of Acton. "We are doing what we can to find out if the odor does come from the pollution control plant."

In an effort to minimize noise emanating from their quarry at night, Indusmin have ordered improved mufflers for their trucks and will install them as soon as they arrive.

Exhausted but with a wealth of new information, H.H. (Bert) Hinton returned Monday night from a trip to Europe highlighted by a conference in Moscow.

Reeve Tom Hill told the Free Press last week Esqueing Council has instructed its solicitor to write operators of the Toronto International Dragway to inform them they feel staging of the Canadian Hell Drivers Monday night represented a change in land use. Reeve Hill said the dragway operators have a licence for drag racing only.

20 years ago

July 27, 1961

Eighty-six years ago this week, the United Church building was officially opened. This week, the condemned structure is being demolished.

The demolition is to be completed by August 19 and land utilized for parking lot immediately. Plans for the future call for the erection of a new Christian Education Building where the old church stood.

Implementation of the Community Centre building program moved three steps closer to realization by the action of Acton Council on Tuesday evening.

An omnibus looking steel truck with bullet-proof windows, numerous locks and driven by armed guards, made its appearance in Acton Tuesday and was met by curious stargers as it drew up at the Bank of Montreal. Today (Tuesday) the Brinks Truck Express Company, begins serving the Bank of Montreal.

50 years ago

July 30, 1931

Mr. and Mrs. R.T. Barnes and children of Toronto spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Landsborough. Little Miss Florence Barnes, who had been spending the holidays in Acton, returned home.

A busy time has been had at the play grounds of Acton the past week. A week ago Monday, in the Scotch Doubles Tournament the Beardmore Challenge Cup was won by skip E.J. Hassard.

James Barker, aged 17, employed by T.E. Squires, Middle Road, received severe head injuries on Monday night when knocked from his bicycle on Colbourne Street, Oakville, by a truck driven by Ryden McMurray, Dartnell Avenue, Toronto. After investigation, police state that a charge would be laid against the driver.

Mr. and Mrs. R.P. Watson and Tommy spent the weekend in Toronto.

75 years ago

July 26, 1906

During a thunderstorm on Monday last week, the barn of Mr. Fred Denny, Lot 2, Co. 4, Erin, was struck by lightning. The end of the building and roof were torn out but the building was not fired. Damage will not exceed \$25.

The Free Press still has the pleasure of returning lost purses; two more were given to owners this week—one belonged to a young lady visitor and among its contents was a cigarette.

A man from Brampton was in town on Monday investigating the prospects for opening a billiard room here. He did meet with much encouragement. When the council a few years ago refused to grant a licence to a well known area resident and property owner, it is not likely they would grant a licence to a stranger who has nothing at stake in this town.

100 years ago

July 28, 1881

On Thursday last two large excursions passed through Acton over the G.T.R. for Toronto. The first train was composed of eight passenger coaches containing the school children of Stratford. The second train contained nine coaches under the auspices of the Preston Brass Band.

Our village has increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to divide it into two polling subdivisions. The division has been made and Mill Street is chosen as the line whereby the two wards are divided. It is a singular coincidence that the wards thus divided each contain exactly the same number of electors as well as jurors.

Acton, as a market for produce of all kinds, and as a place for purchasing goods at the most reasonable prices, is daily growing in favour with the farming community and we may see many customers here every week who have heretofore purchased their supplies in other towns which are nearer to their homes.