

# The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Don McDonald, Publisher

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## Municipality also must invest in Leathertown

Like local merchants, Halton Hills has a golden opportunity to cash in on Leathertown now that there is a guarantee of at least some and possibly a lot of tourists coming to town to the old Hide House and Plainsman smorgasbord restaurant.

And like the merchants, the municipality will have to invest time and money to be ready for the tourists.

The town and BIA have taken a major step with the downtown refurbishing study which is underway and the two are expected to follow-up on the study by applying for a provincial grant and loans for revitalization projects on public lands in the core area.

However, both the town and merchants must invest time and money in developing Leathertown.

While the merchants have the opportunity to replace local shopping dollars going out of town with tourist dollars coming in, the municipality can help bolster local business and thus raise more commercial tax dollars by investing time and money in fully developing the recreational potential of Prospect Park and other open space around Fairy Lake.

Prospect Park is a stop on the Leathertown walking history tour.

Halton Hills should start a feasibility study to look at

increasing recreational attractions around Fairy Lake.

There could be canoe rentals, bumper and paddle boats, a weekend fishing derby, expanded snack bar facilities, a winter carnival, winter sports equipment rental, a slide ride. The list of possibilities is endless.

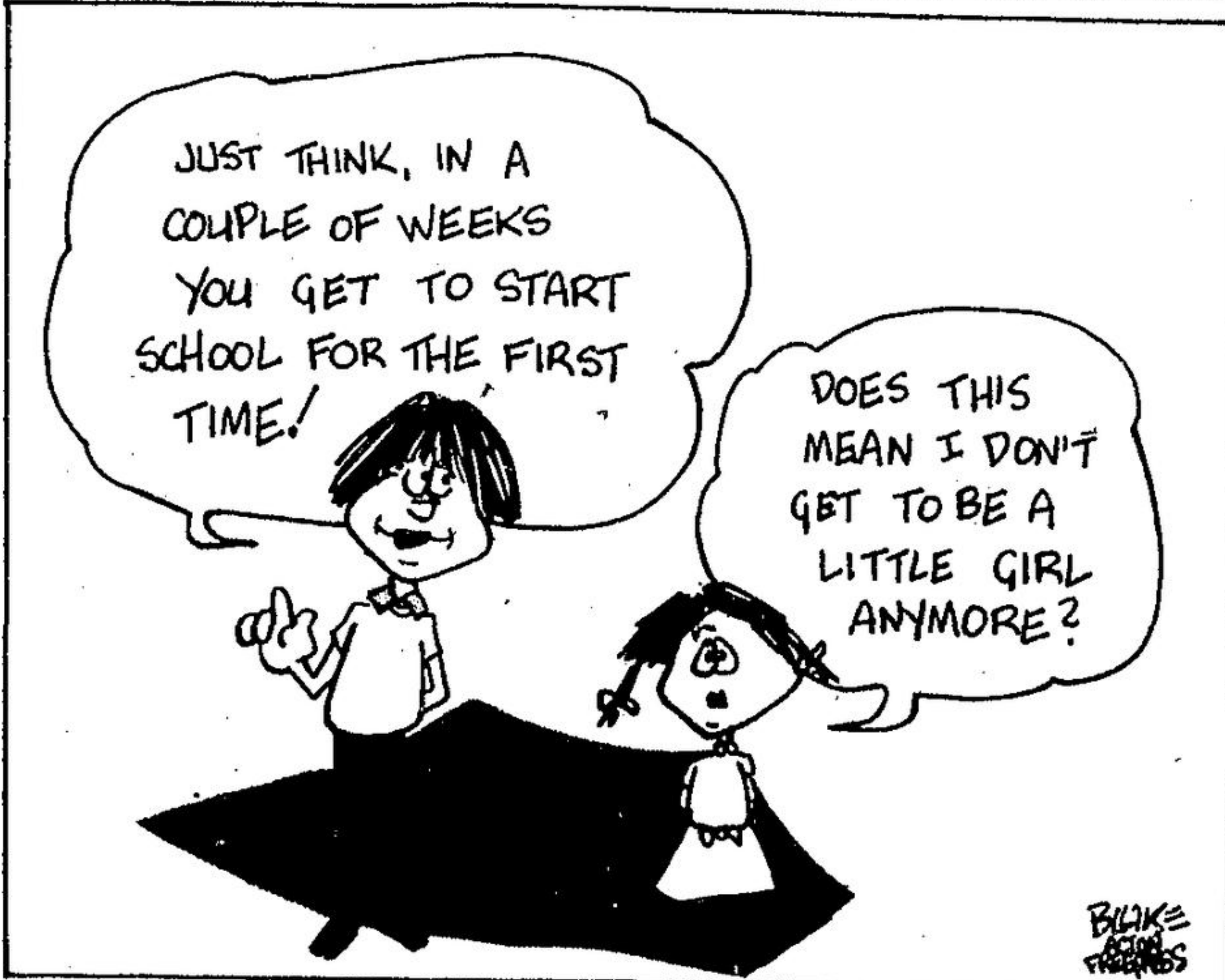
Such development at the park and other spots around the lake could pay off in a number of ways.

It would add more attractions for tourists to the list that includes the Hide House, Plainsman, walking history tour and museum. Tourists will stay in town longer and spend more if there is lots to see and do.

This would strengthen and likely increase the local business district, thereby improving the local commercial assessment levels and tax totals. This would pay off for Acton homeowners in the long run.

Also, much of the operating costs associated with increased and commercialized recreational activities could be offset by admission and rental charges, so there wouldn't be that great burden on ratepayers.

Like the merchants, Halton Hills has a lot to think about regarding Leathertown in the next little while and hopefully will realize they must spend money to make more later.



BLAKE ADAMS

## Back issues

### 10 years ago

August 25, 1971

Acton's oldest citizen, prominent Orangeman and the town's oldest merchant, 101-year-old Charles Kelley Browne died in Guelph General Hospital Monday morning after surgery and an illness which hospitalized him a week.

Boating at the extremity of Fairy Lake, near the waterfowl refuge, will be forbidden and fishing will be banned within a radius of 50 feet from the sanctuary.

Mrs. Ken Mackenzie and Mrs. Stan Norton enjoyed a motor trip to Ottawa with Miss Margaret Mackenzie, who is working for the summer with the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

At one o'clock Sunday afternoon Acton Citizens' Band is in competition at the main band shell of the CNE. Eight bands are entered in the town and village of the competition—more than usual.

Any suggestions Acton's pollution control plant is giving off bad odors are ill-founded according to Reeve Frank Oakes.

### 20 years ago

August 24, 1961

Beginning October 1, garbage will only be picked up once a week, following council's decision Tuesday evening. Explaining the reason for the move Mayor John Goy told council the expense was too prohibitive for a two-day a week collection and also noted Monday appears to be the big day.

James Ironside accompanied by his chum Randy Lidkea determined to make sailing history when they launched the Ironside craft Christened Halfload into the swirling waters of French River Sunday August 6 and set out on their 80 mile voyage to North Bay.

Miss Esther Taylor left by jetliner from Malton airport Saturday evening for a ten-day visit to the place of her birth Plymouth England. This was her first trip by air and she phoned her mother a few hours after landing and reported a pleasant trip.

### 50 years ago

August 27, 1931

In a window dressing contest sponsored by Lux products, Nelson and Co. of Acton won a cash award.

The Ladies' Aid of the United church held a sale of baking and candy and afternoon tea on the church lawn. The lawn was lighted in the evening by a string of colored lights and a radio provided musical selections.

The School Trustees felt the public should know teachers' salaries: continuation school Miss Farrington, principal \$2,200; Miss Margaret Smith B.A. assistant \$1,400; Miss Meryl Stevenson, assistant \$1,400; Public School Miss M.Z. Bennett, principal \$1,500, Mrs. M.R. Moore \$1,100; Miss Daisy Foster \$1,025; Miss Martha Orr \$930; Miss Isabel Anderson \$850; Miss A.W. McMillan \$930; Miss M. Harbour \$930; Miss M.A. Odbert \$930; Mr. George T. Mann, caretaker \$1,200.

### 75 years ago

August 23, 1906

Acton Bowling Club showed fine playing at home and elsewhere, winning three victories in one week. The men who played a Toronto team at the Rushmore Bowling Club were jubilant as they returned home on the train. They had played a close game and been royally entertained at the Gladstone Hotel.

The congregation of Rockwood Presbyterian church have taken steps to secure an enlargement and remodeling of their church, with an addition to the front surmounted by a tower.

Summer vacation ended for rural schools last week. Miss Minnie Bennett returned to her school at Hornby; Miss Myrtle Matthews to Caledon East; Miss Myrtle Watson to Meadowdale and Miss Margaret Johnson to Speyside. Mr. John McMurphy commenced his duties at Trafalgar. Mr. W. Hurlburt renewed his work at Lorne school.

### 100 years ago

August 25, 1881

Townhall bylaw tomorrow. A letter to the editor opposed the bylaw, pointed out many who signed the petition asking for a Town Hall did not know what they were getting into. The \$5,500 cost in 20 years will amount to \$17,500 at six per cent interest. Repairs will be required. The salary of a caretaker must be paid. The grounds must be fitted up. An expensive fence must enclose it. Ere long a fire engine must be got, which to be of any service will cost 10 or 12 hundred dollars. Also, an additional school room must be built. We are told we must have a lock-up, and as soon as it is known that Acton has got a "House of Refuge" the class that deem it beneath them to provide for themselves will turn their footsteps toward Acton, and will not hesitate to commit some act which will entitle them to lodging and we will have to foot the bill. Now we ask seriously of the ratepayers of Acton, are you prepared? Will you put your neck under such a yoke from which you will not be relieved during your lifetime? It is in times of prosperity we ruin ourselves by going into reckless extravagance, to gratify our vanity.

## On the Leavell

With Helen



Acton native Rick Rocher returned home to La Pas, Manitoba on Monday after staying the summer with his family. He is entering his third year of teaching in the west. Rick says that in a few years he would like to return to Ontario, but for now he is having a great time and making lots of new friends.

Rick was a former playground supervisor, an Ontario Scholar and was on the Dean's List at the University of Guelph.

Former Actonian Margaret (Peg) and John Valby of Winnipeg also returned home to Manitoba after a month's stay with Peg's sisters Oral Norton, Audrey Grischow, Acton and Catherine Bell of Guelph. They spent two weeks at Stokes Bay with Catherine and Doug.

Former Free Press dark room technician Ken Bustin recently won second prize in the Blue Mountain Blue Grass Festival near Collingwood in the amateur banjo class.

A special service took place at Limehouse Presbyterian Church on Sunday when a set of collection plates was dedicated in memory of the late A. C. Patterson, former elder and Clerk of Session.

Mrs. W. J. Henry (nee Joy Patterson) and family Tanya and Todd of Elsa in the Yukon, who are on a month's holiday here, were present at the service along with other friends and relatives.

I saw an almost familiar face in Shopper's World while visiting relatives in Brampton recently. I say almost familiar because I never actually saw the real face, I just knew who was under all the clown makeup. It was Acton's Steve Saxon in his

Chuckles the Clown get-up. Steve was walking around the mall entertaining the youngsters, as part of the mall's grand opening of a large expansion. Steve rents himself out as a clown.

Acton's ambassador to Japan, Denise Dilbey left Friday for a year in that country thanks to the Acton Rotary Club.

Denise turned 17-years-old a few days before she left and will be totally immersed in the Japanese culture, just as Australia's representative to Acton, Jenny Numon has been immersed in Canadian culture. Denise's year away from home might be a little tougher than Jenny's however, having to learn a new language and such a vastly different lifestyle.

Oh, how the Toronto Sun loves our Miss Acton Fall Fair.

Last Tuesday, 18-year-old Lisa McGrath became the third Miss Acton in a row to be featured as a Sunshine Girl. She was preceded by her sister Cathy and Victoria Leniky.

Speaking of Lisa, it certainly is obvious how much attention I pay to the television set. A few weeks ago I mentioned how I had seen Lisa on television in the CHUM radio commercial and said she was in a bumper car. Well, I've since seen the commercial again, and she is not in a bumper car, but a full size car. She's also seen two other times in the same commercial.

Don't worry, I've since got new glasses.

Speyside's Lloyd Sankey, who last week, as reported was chosen to design the new Canadian Embassy in Saudi Arabia was on CKO All News radio Friday afternoon discussing his latest project. He explained the new building will have a 3 m. high fence, half of it solid, and half of it visually open. This fence will hopefully offer the ultimate in security, which is on everyone's minds lately because of the American hostage taking.

I was talking to a member of the Friends-in-Deed handicapped group recently who said how nice it was to finally have a ramp at the post office. Now, she suggested, wouldn't it really be nice to have such a ramp at the Acton Medical Centre. People restricted to wheelchairs can't even go the doctor or dentist in town because

### MEANDERINGS

by Mable Barkman

Rollkuchen

We had a Russian Mennonite supper one evening last week—watermelon and Rollkuchen. The watermelon is easy. Make up a platter of cold mouth-watering pieces.

Now for the rollkuchen! Put a pot of oil on the stove and heat it to doughnut temperature. In a bowl put two heaping tablespoons of sour cream, two or three eggs and beat together. To a cup of flour, add half-a-teaspoon of baking soda, two teaspoons of baking powder, a pinch of salt and a tablespoon of sugar. Beat all together and keep adding flour until you have a ball ready to roll out.

Sprinkle flour on the board and rolling pin, knead the ball a few times on the board and then roll out very thin. Take a knife and cut in rectangles. Fry in the hot fat and they should puff up like pillows. Turn over when brown on one side. Some puff up in different places. Take out with a slotted spoon and put on paper towelling to absorb any excess fat.

Eat both watermelon and rollkuchen alternately and you are in for a great treat. Any leftover rollkuchen can be served with jam for breakfast.

## Our readers write

### Teacher says farewell

Dear Sir: Saying "Goodbye" is part of the job for teachers. Each year teachers say "Goodbye" to their class or classes and wish them well. One never does get used to it. There's such a mixture of emotions—and always sadness. This year I find it particularly difficult because I'm saying "Goodbye" to a whole town. After 15 years in Acton I have chosen to move to Milton to a new shop in an area of increasing enrollment. And as I leave I am compelled to reflect on Acton and the hundreds of

former students, now aged 10 years to 30 years who have shared a part of their lives with me.

I am profoundly grateful to the people of Acton for making these years possible. I will miss Acton very much and the kids of Acton even more. The memories from these years will be with me always. They are part of the experience that I take to Milton and I thank you for them.

Yours truly,  
Doug Hines

### Child Evangelism program a great success

Dear Sir: Since your newspaper has such a wide circulation in this area I should like to use this column to thank my helpers in the recent summer work of the Child Evangelism Fellowship group, and also inform the inquirer about the past week. First of all my heartfelt thanks to the households which lent us their back yards in which to conduct the five day clubs. You encouraged us, welcomed the children; and even offered your homes for indoor shelters, when it was wet. Also, of course, my own gratitude goes to the merchants who so gladly give me freedom to put up advertisements in their windows. To those who were curious about the outdoor meetings I can say that the student teacher was very much pleased with the response. There were about 40

children in total in the four clubs each day. Some enjoyed it so much they followed from one club to the next.

Over 30,000 children are reached each summer in similar clubs all over Ontario.

There is a definite Bible teaching in every aspect, whether it is a song, lesson, game, or missionary story. The attendance at clubs is free, as all expenses have been paid by individuals from all church denominations. The children are encouraged to attend their parents' church, or sent to a nearby one.

Anyone interested in this work may contact me. I will also gladly include your church in the next year's planning. Every call will be welcomed gratefully.  
Mrs. S. Drijber  
Box 43 Rockwood

### Questions value of Leathertown tour

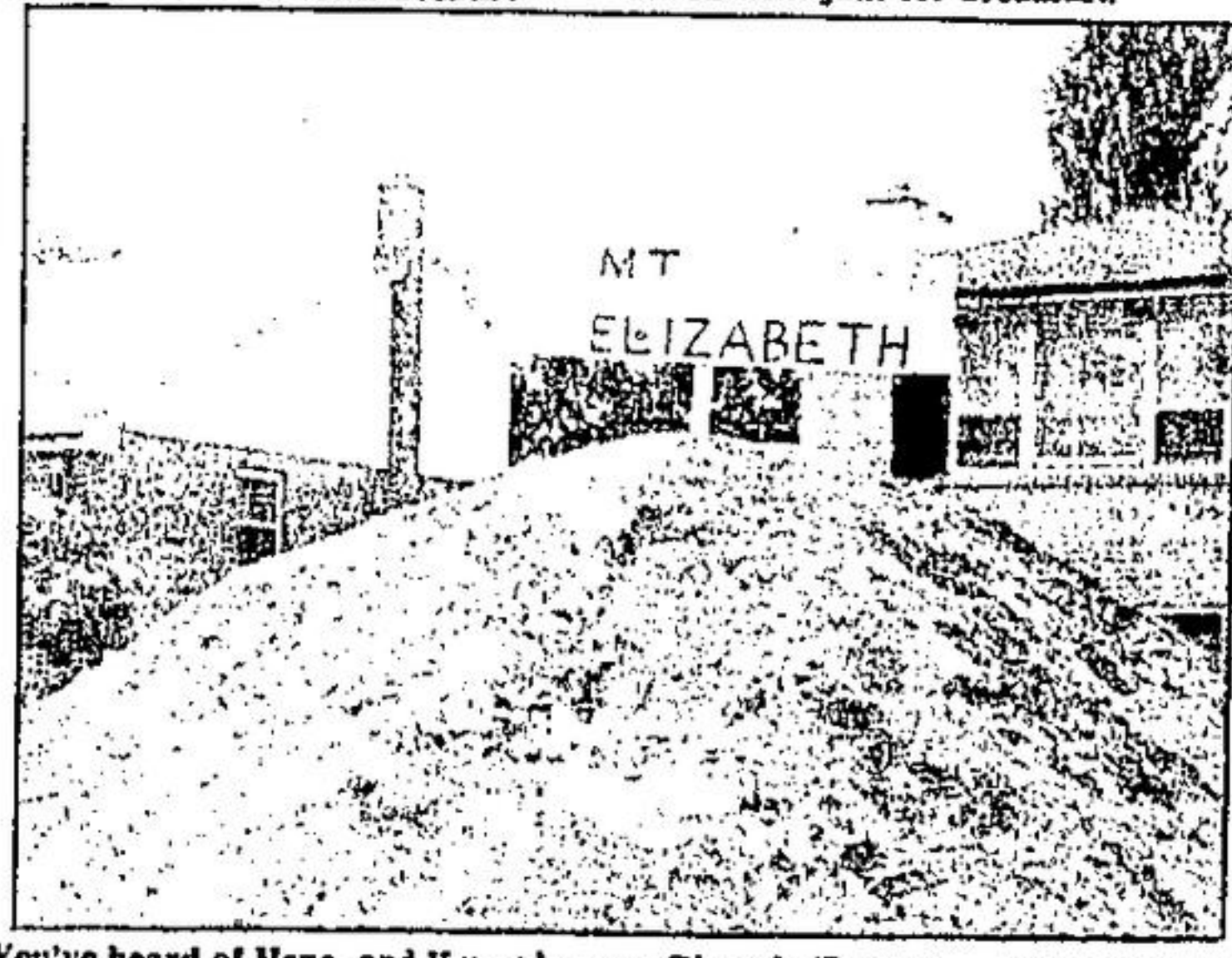
Dear Sir: I have been an Actonian all my life, and would like to see nothing better than the Leathertown program be successful in its bid of drawing in shoppers from outside of town. However, I question the value behind any walking tours of Acton, as it is mapped out on the front page of your Aug. 18th issue. Site No. twelve, for example, is an eyesore and should be tidied up to impress visitors, not assault their senses. Furthermore, I doubt

families of the deceased in Fairview Cemetery would find any joy in the fact that perfect strangers are roaming all over the peaceful place, kicking up the dust, making noise, and littering as they proceed.

I am all for an improvement of Acton's tarnished image, but feel some consideration should be taken in mind for residents and visitors alike.  
Yours sincerely,  
Nurman Paulsen



No Tiny Tim this one... David Cohen of 290 Peel Street is awarded the distinction of being the first 1981 gardener to bring an overgrown tomato to the Free Press office. This beauty, grown from seed, is credited to the green thumb of his wife, Margaret.



You've heard of Hope, and Kennedy, even Blanc in France... well now, there is Mt. Elizabeth, right on our doorstep. Well, not exactly our doorstep, but certainly the Hurley family's doorstep on Elizabeth Drive. This summer's construction work in Lakeview subdivision has left a mess in the area, including this huge pile of dirt on their front lawn. The family christened the hill Mt. Elizabeth, elevation 8 ft. Their sense of humor is still strong despite two months of dust and inconvenience.