

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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See Julian Reed Friday

Acton often has the feeling it is ignored by the various levels of government and agencies, but it is becoming increasingly evident that politicians are at least willing to listen to us.

This Friday afternoon, for the third time this year, government is coming to Acton to hear the voice of the people of Acton.

Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, who is noted for attending many social functions and events in this community each year and so is accessible to citizens, will be in town to hear Acton's input at a different forum.

The Liberal energy critic at Queen's Park is hoping to hear the views of many citizens on issues such as interest rates, energy, health care, regional government, the last provincial budget, municipal taxation and assessment and any local issues or projects the province can assist Acton with.

He'll be at the ward one councillors' drop-in at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre at the rear of the

Acton Y Building (the municipal office and police station) with Acton's council representatives from 1 to 3 p.m.

These types of encounters are beneficial not just to citizens because they get to air beefs and learn more about what government is doing in their community, but also for the politician because he is more knowledgeable after a session about the wishes of his constituents.

But more importantly these sessions open the door for dialogue and improve communications and relations between the government and the people, as evidenced by highly successful open houses to meet the Halton Regional Police and Halton chairman Jack Raftis held earlier this year.

The ward one councillors' drop-in, while experiencing public participation problems from time to time, has been a tremendous vehicle for bringing local government back to Acton and is playing a key role in also bringing other levels of government closer to the people here.



Back issues

10 years ago

September 22, 1971

Acton's 58th annual Fall Fair set a record at the gate Saturday surpassing large crowds of the last few years and delighting officers and directors of the institution which seems to pile success upon success. An estimated 10,000 people went through the turnstiles. Brenda Bruce was crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair 1971. First runner up was Irene DeVries and second runner-up was Ivy Ann Stull.

After months of negotiations and negotiation breakdowns Halton County Board of Education and Halton Division of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation came to a salary agreement Thursday evening.

Highway 25 will be extended north from Ospringe to meet Highway 89 north of Valley and provide a new direct route from the Niagara peninsula to the Georgian Bay area.

20 years ago

September 21, 1961

Artificial ice and the use of the new Community Centre building for this season were assured on Tuesday when Council in a special meeting accepted the recommendations of the building committee.

Acton Agricultural Society's 48th Fall Fair was a huge success. Over 6,500 patrons passed through the gates during the Friday evening and Saturday show.

Acton Board of Parks Management face a possibility of winding up the year with a deficit budget if all proposed projects are completed. Tuesday evening it was learned a possible \$131,000 deficit near the proposed budget figure would be faced after all expenditures had been made.

Michael Hurst, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hurst Arthur St. returned to London this week to resume his studies in Engineering Science at the University of Western Ontario. During the summer months he was employed at the Provincial Paper Co. Georgetown.

50 years ago

September 24, 1931

With the publication this week of the census figures for Acton the complete tabulation of figures, according to the recent census are now available. Every town in the country except Milton showed an increase in population in the past 10 years. Acton's population is given as 1,850 an increase of 128 in the 1921 census.

Some of the prize winners in the Acton Fall Fair were: Mr. and Mrs. John McGrath Acton won the prize for having the largest family present on the second day. They were there with nine members of their family, making 11 in attendance; Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Swackhamer of Acton were the oldest married couple to register Wednesday at the fair. Some interesting particulars were furnished. Thomas Austin Swackhamer and Frances Catherine Johnston were married at Lynden on April 11, 1877 in the presence of R.L. Patterson and Frances McKenzie. Officiating minister was Rev. D.M. McKenzie.

75 years ago

September 20, 1906

The old Swackhamer homestead at Churchhill has been undergoing extensive improvements during the summer, which has just been completed. The house was built 49 years ago by Eli Snyder.

The Annual Harvest Festival was held at St. Alban's Church Rockwood on Friday evening. The festival was continued at both churches on Sunday.

Mr. Thomas E. Donovan of Agra, Kansas, was over on a visit to his brother J.H. Nassagaweya. It is 20 years since he left for the west and this is the second time he has been back.

Georgetown and Acton junior football players tried conclusions in the park here Saturday afternoon. The local players won easily in a score of 5 to 0.

100 years ago

September 8, 1881

The general subject of discussion on the streets on Monday evening seemed to be the phenomenal appearance of the sky. As early as 2 o'clock a yellowish mist was drifting eastward and by 3 o'clock the sun appeared as a blood-red disc in the heavens. As the afternoon advanced the atmosphere continually grew yellower until 4 o'clock a dark cloud appeared in the west which gradually spread over the horizon and in less than an hour all was darkness. About 5.30 the darkness began to leave and the sky once more became red and remained so until sunset when Egyptian darkness again set in. When the lamps were first lit they presented a most peculiar appearance, resembling electric or magnesium light. At intervals during the afternoon showers of ashes fell at different places in this vicinity. The opinion expressed as to the cause of the strange appearance of the heavens was the volume of smoke collecting from the bush fires raging in all parts of the country was hanging over the earth at a considerable elevation and the sunlight shining through this gave that peculiar tint which everyone observed.



Future Miss Acton Fall Fair? Wee Mary Beth Robertson poses prettily with Miss Acton Fall Fair 1981 Cindy McGillaway after the youngster won first prize in the girls' 7-12 month class. Left to right, Miss Acton first runner-up Kymm Lakin, Miss Acton, Cindy, Mary Beth and her mother Jane, and Miss Acton second runner-up Marlene Lott.



Kelly Soutiere was a little restless after winning the girls' 0-3 months category of the Baby Show. Mom Janet kept her in tow.



Adam Youngblut wasn't at all impressed that he won the boys' 4-6 months class of the Baby Show. Mom Leah did her best to hold him in place.

Baby Show entries down

Declining birthrate has been blamed for the drop in Baby Show entries this year, as only 74 babies registered, compared to 113 in 1980.

Kelly Soutiere, of RR 2, Acton, took top honors in the girls' 0-3 months class. Lesley Church of Mississauga was in second place.

In the boys' class of the same age group, Ryan McLaughlin, of Burlington went home with the big red ribbon, while Ronald King of Guelph was second.

Allison Hager, of Georgetown took home the prize for first place in the girls' 4-6 months category, while Rena Halsall of Etobicoke was second.

Adam Youngblut of Acton, was first in the same class for boys, while Michael Smith, also of Acton, was second.

In the girls 7-12 months, Mary Beth Robertson placed first, with Laurie Lynn Patenaude, also of Acton, second.

After a mix up in numbers, it was finally realized late Saturday evening that Robbie Bonus was first place winner in the boys' 7-12 months. The winner had been announced as Nathan Ayres, but it was discovered Nathan was registered, but had not shown up. Jason Calsie was second.

Amanda Beatty, of Tottenham, toddled home with first prize in the girls' 13-18 months class. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs.



Robert Davidson took top honors in the boys' 13-18 months class in the Baby Show. He took first place last year also. Mom Brenda was on hand for both occasions.



Wee Allison Hager, winner of the Baby Show's girls' 4-6 months class is held by Mom Irma.



Robbie Bonus was the eventual winner of the Baby Show's 7-12 months boys' class. The wrong name had been called after there was a mix up in numbers. It was not discovered until Saturday night that there had been an error. Mom Carol is pleased with the belated news.



Wide-eyed Ryan McLaughlin was the winner in the boys' 0-3 months class in the Baby Show. He's with mom Joy.



Amanda Beatty won the girls' 13-18 months class at the Baby Show. Mom Ronda was pretty proud.



Billy and Donald Hillton were the winners in the twins class at the Baby Show. They won last year also. Parents are Bill and Susan Hillton.

Fall fair photos by Dave Dorken, Jennifer Barr, Peter Mills, Helen Murray and Gord Murray