

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Bylaw enforcement officer wise municipal investment

A few councillors were sceptical about hiring a bylaw enforcement officer, but Halton Hills' investment is paying off.

Bylaw enforcement complaints are being acted on quicker, there have been more investigations and more convictions registered than prior to when the town hired former Cambridge police officer Jack Lusty to fill the bylaw enforcement post.

Recently convictions were registered against a business for having plumbing installed without a permit as well as not having the work inspected. In another case a developer had left garbage and rubbish on a piece of vacant property and ignored an order to have the land

cleaned up. The convictions brought the town a total of \$250 in fines. Earlier this year Halton Hills secured a number of convictions for sign bylaw violations.

This shows the town has now taken a different view towards bylaw violations.

Citizens and firms are expected to either live by the rules set down by municipality or conform when requested.

Going to court is a last resort for the municipality, but a step the town is prepared to take. And the job of enforcing the bylaws has been made easier with the wise investment in an extra staffer. This position could well wind up more than paying for itself in the long run.

Our readers write

Need designated parking for Canada's handicapped

Dear Sir:
Just a little over seven years ago, my sore knee was diagnosed as Osteogenic Sarcoma (bone cancer) and my left leg had to be amputated. I was left with an eight inch stump and an artificial leg. Chemo-therapy and three lung operations followed but the cure worked, and now my only reminder is an artificial leg and less frequent check-ups.

I have never asked for, or accepted charity. I have my own business and I work hard at it to support my family. But, I am handicapped, whether I like it or not, and therein lies the problem. Normal day to day operations which require a limited amount of walking are no problem. I bicycle, swim, snowmobile and have skied. I ask for very few favors, nor do I expect any.

Over the past few years though, I have been coming to a slow boil. The only time I ever need any consideration, other than a steady shoulder from a daughter, wife or friend is when we attempt to visit shopping malls, the CNE, Ontario Place or any of the hundreds of exhibits or displays in Ontario. If they have special parking for handicapped it's the exception, rather than the rule. To my knowledge Canada's Wonderland is one of the few exceptions.

I have to explain to parking attendants that I have an artificial leg and would it be possible to park close to the entrance. With few exceptions they are extremely polite and helpful, but if there are no facilities there isn't much they can do.

Try and get close to a Blue Jay game. Ontario Place—forget it on a busy day. I notice though, there is preferred parking close to the entrance for someone other than the handicapped in both cases. In an attempt to get into the CNE on August 22, I asked the attendant permission to enter with my vehicle as the only parking was some distance away. He asked me if I could drive. Since I was behind the wheel I replied in the affirmative and he said, "then drive the hell out of here." My apparent sin was asking for consideration because of my artificial leg.

Sincerely,
Lorne Doberthien

That was the final straw as far as I was concerned. It is being drummed into my head every year that if you have a physical problem you should withdraw from society.

This year is designated as the "Year of the Handicapped" but what is the Province of Ontario or Canada doing about it.

In shopping malls, if the mall has wheel chair parking, I continually see people with no handicap use these spaces as if it were reserved for them. Last week I talked to a disabled vet from Texas who said the above violation was an automatic \$200 in his hometown, which the police did not hesitate to enforce. In Ontario the police, to my knowledge are not authorized to fine these inconsiderate people.

Two days later I spoke to a gentleman from England, a leg amputee as well, who, before coming, wrote to Ottawa and asked if he could display a disabled badge in areas he might have difficulty. Except for a few cities who had varying regulations and most of which he would not be near, he was advised Canada had no universal, helpful laws for the handicapped.

Why can't we have a few regulations that would make life just a little bit more bearable for the less fortunate? Why can't we have some designated parking areas, at our major attractions?

Why can't we empower the police to fine those that would abuse this small consideration for the handicapped?

Why can't we establish a tag system that the handicapped can apply for through their doctor so they don't have to describe their problems in detail each time they need special consideration, a universal sign that Canadians can be proud of?

Come on Ontario and Canada—show the way.

A few small concessions to the less fortunate in this "Year of the Handicapped" might make us all a little easier to live with.

Sincerely,
Lorne Doberthien

\$200 fine not sufficient

The following letter from a British Columbia reader of the Free Press is in reference to the August sentencing of a Burlington man Walter Valente who was convicted of careless driving in connection with a car-bicycles accident in 1980 in which three women, including former Acton and Esqueving resident Lorraine Robertson (nee Lavigne) died.

Dear Sir:
I was very upset to find out that the Burlington man who was responsible for the death of three people was only fined \$200.

There must be something wrong with our judicial system! How can a driver who has demonstrated total neglect and ineptitude towards the safe operation of a motor vehicle, and who has killed three people and injured two others, be granted retribution by merely slipping the court \$200 and promising not to drive for a year.

Had this driver been intoxicated at the time he would have been given a jail sentence. But what is the difference? One is not fined for drinking the

alcohol—one is fined because he/she cannot safely operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Obviously any individual who speeds 25 miles over the speed limit, has been previously convicted four times, has had his licence suspended twice and most importantly caused the loss of human life, should not be treated differently than the impaired driver. He might not have been impaired by alcohol but his judgement was obviously impaired by something.

It is great that Canadian courts are beginning to clamp down on impaired driving. Now why can't they become a bit more realistic and clamp down on careless and reckless driving, as statistics prove they account for a significant amount of injuries both permanent and fatal? I'm not saying jail is the answer because it's not, but some form of harsher retribution must be instituted in cases like these so motorists become more aware of the consequences of their carelessness.

2nd Lt. D. S. Cooper,
Naval Officer Training Centre,
Victoria, B.C.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Congratulations to Charles and Margaret Wright (Chuck and Peggy) of Churchill Road, who became Canadian citizens at Brampton Court House September 16, together with their daughter Crystal, son-in-law Michael (Mick) Davis, and their two granddaughters Julie and Lesley Davis. The Davis family now live in Mississauga, but lived in Acton for several years when they first came to Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Patterson of Bryson City, North Carolina visited recently with Mrs. A.C. Patterson of Limehouse. They also spent some time with other relatives in the Acton and Rockwood vicinity.

Ann Dodds, of McDonald Blvd. was in the mood for throwing bouquets last week. She called me up to tell me how pleased the ActVan Advisory Committee is with the efforts of the Friends-in-Deed Handicapped group selling draw tickets to raise money for ActVan. The tickets are for a steer hide rug, with the proceeds going to the ActVan operation. Mary Daigle is the hard worker who arranged everything. Seems the handicapped members of the organization made themselves comfortable at the fair and sold tickets while they froze. They proved they could help themselves.

They will also be at the Georgetown fair this weekend selling the tickets.

Keith Lamont called the office last week to tell us about his Suffolk ewe who had five lambs recently. That's very rare, according to farmers. Twins are normal, and triplets are unusual, but five are rare.

Keith, of Thistlestone Farm, RR 2, Acton, says it is the first time any ewe of his has had over three lambs at one time.

A sad note though. One of the lambs died an hour after it was born.

Remember Vic Cummings, one of the

judges from the Miss Acton Fall Fair Contest. Vic is a television personality on Channel 11 TV. He was one of the most popular people at the fair and was inundated with requests of autographs following the Friday night show.

Cummings earned himself some die-hard fans the next Monday when he mentioned on afternoon television how he was in Acton on the weekend and said hello to many of the girls he met.

And speaking of the fair, did you know people came from as far away as England to attend?

Free Press employee Jennifer Barr got a visit from her aunt and uncle, Jack and Barbara Whiteside, who live near London, and who she hasn't seen in 25 years (she was a baby at the time). Also visiting with Jenny were her parents Ron and Fay Whiteside of Kingston. All the Whitesides report they enjoyed the fair better than any other Canadian experience (I wonder what they meant by that?)

Acton people won prizes recently at the Halton Flowing Match at the farm of H. Craig Reid, RR 6, Milton. In Class 2A, Phil Shea came third, and in Class 8 Keith MacKenzie placed second. Bert Davidson, Acton, and George Readhead, Milton won first in the Class 9, and Henry Stanley, Rockwood and Lloyd Pickering, of Oakville placed second.

Now if someone will just tell me what these classes represent, we will all know what the local people won.

Michael West, son of Ernie West, formerly of Acton, now of Waterloo won a gold medal in Vancouver for his swimming achievements recently. He went on to Tokyo and won one individual silver and one silver on a relay team. Michael swims for the Region of Waterloo swim team. He is the nephew of Wilma Chapman, Rockwood.

There sure are plenty of draws at the fair. Here are just a few of the winners: The Rotary Steer draw was won by Wm. D. Manes, of Guelph, who had the choice of taking the meat, or the money. He took the meat.

In the L'Arche Auxiliary draw, Hartley Coles, ticket number 893, won first prize of \$100, and Paul Nolan, ticket number 612, won second prize \$25.

Don Harding, 1083, Acton, won the microwave oven in the Lions Club draw. Brad Mainprize, 1340, Acton, won the gas barbecue, Dorothy Succes, 0917, of Brampton won the quartz electric

heater, and L.G. Matthews, 0943, Toronto won the electric blanket.

In the Acton Social Services and Information Centre, (formerly of Acton Community Services Centre) draw, for numerous prizes, winners were, Nancy Card, Victoria; Lorne Smith, Acton; Pat Little, Acton; Betty Balkind, Toronto; Dave Dills, Acton; P. Balkind, Acton; and D.R. Thompson, also of Acton. Ticket pullers were Terry Grubbe, Dave Whiting, Marlee Wedge, Ron McKnight and Don McDonald.

Edith and Lloyd Hillman of RR 4, Acton were hosts recently for Edith's Weir Family Reunion. Some 65 took part in hay rides, sports, games, bonfires, etc., for the day long event.

A handy easy-to-read telephone directory for senior citizens which lists telephone numbers for health services, pensions, and financial aid, government information, transportation, home support services, advisory and counselling services and housing and accommodation in Halton, will be distributed to senior citizens all over Halton.

This directory was developed by the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee of Halton on which Marguerite Taylor, Acton, sits, with the assistance of the Halton District Health Council. Funding was provided by the Federal Government through a New Horizons Grant. The distribution of these directories has been a service of the Letter Carriers' Union of Canada.

The Canadian Cancer Society is in dire need of volunteer drivers. Anyone who can spare a few hours a month to drive patients to Toronto hospitals is asked to call Susan Sait at 853-2873.

The name Leathertown sure is catching on. In the September-October Halton Hills Arts Council Calendar of the Arts there's an entire page devoted to Acton, entitled "Here's to Leathertown." The start of the Acton School and Dance under new management is mentioned as well as the fall fair and the Acton Arts and Crafts show and sale October 31 at St. Alban's. There is also a section dealing with activities at Acton Library.

There is also a short mention of the Leathertown Committee's research of Acton's "cultural and architectural history."

Lost
by Heather MacLeod

No words
To describe
What I feel
Inside
A blindfold
Draping
My thoughts
Somewhere, out there
Is tomorrow
But I am lost
In never-ending
Today's

MEANDERINGS
by Mabel E. Barkman
Stove Pipes

Two years ago we acquired a new "old-fashioned" cook stove. We have discovered the best way to get the creosote out of the stove pipes is to take them apart, put them outside in a safe place, stuff them with newsprint and set fire to them. The creosote bubbles up like honeycomb and can then be brushed away with a steel bristle brush.

I checked with the fire department concerning this method and was assured it was a very good way to clean the pipes and would not damage them. However, the pipes should be cleaned every two or three weeks in the winter by lowering weighted chains or something heavy down the chimney, because creosote builds up fast.

Outdoors

BY LORNE FLETCHER

laws now have teeth in them. Respect those round, red spots on fence lines, they emphatically mean no entry. Most farmers will allow you in if you only ask.

Hunters should have a good, productive time this fall as good rainfall the past summer has produced lots of cover for game. We have observed plenty of rabbits and deer signs are plentiful.

Get your licences early as supply seems to run out every year. Gord Clow of Maple Rock shooting range has licences for most types of hunting in Halton Hills.

Longbow and crossbow hunting has become very popular in this area because seasons are usually much longer and make for many quiet hours spent in the field.

Good fishing!



Back issues

10 years ago
September 29, 1971

Esqueving reeve Tom Hill urged Esqueving township council to seriously consider building an arena in a central site in the township and operate their own minor hockey program.

Plans for an exclusive estate development on the former Olen property on 25 Highway near Speyside were unveiled by Messrs. Boyd and Fitzpatrick of Cameron Heights Development Ltd. to Esqueving Council Monday night. Fifteen \$70,000 homes are planned for the property on the bend at Speyside.

Twenty of the 22 riders who started on the Calvinist Cadet Corps bikeathon Saturday finished the 40 mile course and raised \$377.33 for the corps. Ron Kulken, Ed Ensing and Jack Vos were the first to cross the finish line and 17 others weren't far behind.

20 years ago
September 26, 1961

Miss Minnie Zimmerman Bennett was honored during the morning service at the United Church Sunday when a desk-table was dedicated in her honor. The memorial table and book contained within was purchased by the friendly Circle Group in honor of Miss Bennett.

The switchover to dial system in Acton is fast becoming a reality and workmen from the Northern Electric Co. are busy installing new equipment in the new building on Church St.

Mrs. Norm Robertson, a regular winner at Halton Fall Fairs in domestic science, baking, etc. classes received 43 prizes for 50 entries at Georgetown fair Saturday.

The top 10 students at Acton High during 1960-61 school year in grades 9-13 as well as runners-up were: Mary Moffat, top grade 9 student; Ross Hughan, runner-up; Joan Cook, grade 10, runner-up; Mary Beth Elliott; Jean Hart, grade 11, runner-up; Fred Dawkins; Elizabeth Force, grade 12, runner-up; Lesley Anne Doby; Doreen Gordon, grade 13, runner-up; Irene Vorey.

50 years ago
October 1, 1931

An enjoyable evening of euechre was held at the Lakeside Chapter IODE at the home of Mrs. R.P. Watson Tuesday night. Mrs. Russell Salmon was the winner of the first prize and the consolation went to Miss Muriel Odbert.

Rally day was observed in the United Church Sunday School last Sunday. The scholars of the Sunday school met with the congregation at the morning service. The theme of the programme was "Stories for Jesus" with Scripture readings given by Helen Lamb, Margaret Arnold, Isabel Switzer, Elwood Johnson, and Norman Gibson and hymns sung by the Sunday school. Mr. A.T. Brown the Superintendent had charge of the service.

75 years ago
September 27, 1906

Mr. Jas. L. Warren brought the Free Press last week a stalk of field corn which measured 13 ft. 3 inches. This is about the tallest which has yet appeared. It almost equals Mr. John Harvey's fish pole variety which made a showing a couple of years ago.

Two rinks of Acton bowlers went up to Galt on Monday and enjoyed a splendid afternoon's sport with the club there. The Galt club though not large is one of the oldest in Canada and their green is an excellent one, perhaps the best Acton has played on this summer.

Bowlers were Geo. Hynds, A. Lehman, A.E. Nicklin, A.J. McKinnon, E.J. Moore, C. Henderson, J. Holmes, and A.M. Smith. Mrs. Isaac Francis and Miss Ada Francis were in town this week attending the wedding of Mrs. Francis' niece Miss Lizzie Creech, daughter of Mr. Robert Creech, formerly of Acton.

Mr. Ed Dunn of London spent a few days last week with his brother Mr. John Dunn, Main St., Acton.

Miss Clara A. Moore visited friends in Knatchbull last week.

100 years ago
September 29, 1881

Mr. Wm. Smyth and family who have resided in the vicinity of Acton for the past 15 years left on Wednesday morning for Stewart Bay Muskoka where they have taken up considerable land. We are sorry to lose Mr. Smyth and his estimable family from our village and they leave a large circle of friends here.

The public meeting of rate payers to select site etc. for the new town hall announced to be held last evening in Matthews Hall was, owing to unavoidable circumstances, postponed until Wednesday evening, October 5th.

A Peterborough youth was fined \$7.50 for swearing on the streets. Acton youths beware.

Mr. W.J. Robinson, butcher, has a new sign over his shop, Mr. Peter McCann was the manufacturer. Mr. Alex H. Brown has been confined to his room for nearly two weeks but we are happy to be able to state that he is recovering. Mr. W. H. Storey is indisposed.