The Acton Free Press

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Don McDonald, Publisher

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When it comes to blunders Halton region takes the cake

The same people who gave us an accumulated \$1.1 million deficit for 1980 this year delivered Acton residents at least seven days of off colored, ill tasting, smelly water (some residents have reported having poor water coming out of their taps past last Wednesday night).

When it comes to blunders, Halton region takes the cake.

In fairness we must congratulate the region for having apparently solved its treasury department, budgeting and auditing woes.

But as the long list of blunders regarding Acton's water supply between October 21 and October 28 clearly demonstrates the region still isn't a government that has done much to earn the respect and confidence of the people.

In fairness to the region, much of the blame for Acton's brown-yellow (and in some cases green) water fiasco must be dumped on the doorstep of the Ministry of the Environment who didn't bother coming to town to explain their imcompetence and the consulting firm of R. V. Anderson. They are the ones who decided what course of action the region should take to put the Prospect Park well back into operation and then kept telling region staff the problems of clothing being stained etc., by the water would clear up quickly.

However, region staff must be faulted on two gigantic points.

First, they should have informed the councillors and the citizens of Acton that changes were going to be made in the water coming out of our taps and outlined the various possible results of the chemical treatments they were introducing to the system.

Secondly, when it became apparent after just a couple of days that there were substantial problems with the water coming from the Prospect Park well they should have ordered it shut down, rather than waiting seven days

and hoping and believing the consultant and province were right that the problem would go

away. To add insult to injury when Acton's regional councillor Dave Whiting and Mayor Peter Pomeroy and others from Halton Hills raise the roof over this matter down at the "Green Monster" they're accused of grandstanding by the guys in the south.

Now residents have been told there will be compensation for clothing damaged by the yellow-brown water. Compensation will also be examined for other things like plumbing bills and aquariums full of dead fish.

In addition Halton Hills councillors, at the urging of irrate citizens, will raise the Issue of reducing water and sewer bills for the month of October because people wasted water running it hoping the color would disappear.

Compensation and reduced water bills will be little comfort to residents, except ease the strain on their wallets.

Also, in a way compensation and reduced water-sewer bills will hurt us all too.

Region expenditures will be up because of compensation and revenues from bills will be down.

That will knock some holes in the region water and sewer accounts. They'll be plugged by reduced spending in watersewer system maintenance. The money for that work will be recovered next year through higher water-sewer rates.

You either pay now, through replacing damaged goods and paying the full October water bill, or you pay later through higher water-sewer rates.

About the only consolation is that by paying for this series of blunders through increased water-sewer rates next year Acton gets to share the penalty for these mistakes with everyone in Halton.

Ultimately the region won't be compensating Acton for this mess, Acton will be partially compensating itself.

WATER LOOK BROWN AND YELLOW TO YOU?! action from Roses

On the Leavell With Helen

Erin District High School paid tribute to one of its graduates on October 23. At the school's commencement exercises a period of silence was observed in memory of 1976 graduate Colleen Oates, who was brutally murdered in Acton the day before.

Happy anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Fletcher, who recently were guests of honor at an open house marking their 35th wedding anniversary. Lorne is one of the Free Press's newest columnists, writing "Outdoors".

The Friends-in-Deed handlcapped group is still saving Zehrs and Dominion store tapes, to purchase a wheelchair. We don't encourage people to shop out of town, but if you do, why not help put something back into the town with the cash register tapes. Tapes can be dropped off at the Free Press, and I'll pass them along.

The deadline is closing in on registration for a Halton Parents' Professional Development Day in Burlington November 21. The purpose of the day is to acquaint parents about how to have some influence oniations are holding the workshop-type Registration deadline in November 9. For more information, call trustee Arlene Bruce.

The Hallowe'en mess started early this year. I noticed Thursday morning someone had been throwing eggs at the municipal office door. I wonder if having the police station in the same building had anything to do with the pre-Hallowe'en tricks?

Heather MacLeod submitted the following poem to me for publication: You cry

Because you can't stand to see yourself Caught up in the past You're tangled into a web In the midst of it being spun You must move ahead Or give in to fate

Lorna Clark at the town office sure did have a pleasant surprise recently. Lorna was in Cornwall to help celebrate the first birthday of her granddaughter Stacey (Susan's daughter). She was feeling pretty disappointed because her son David, who she hadn't seen in three years while he lived in the Yukon was heading out to Europe for another year, and she wouldn't be seeing him before he left.

While she and Susan were watching television on the Friday night, David called from Toronto-he had decided to drop in for a visit afterall. He arrived in Cornwall the next day and had a great visit with his mother, sister, and niece who he had never met,

A press release from the Ontario Lottery Corporation describes Acton as "known throughout the province for its tanneries and leather products." The release announces the Wintario draw being held here November 28 at Acton High School.

There's a new pastor at Acton Baptist Church, Jean Stairs. She'll be moving into town later this week.

500 Club winners for this week are: 155 Bern Van Fleet and 211 George

Bernice Crispin, 17 Vimy St., was the winner of the \$800 bingo jackpot at the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded's weekly bingo at the Norval Junction Friday night.

MEANDERINGS by Mabel Barkman Have you ever noticed how often you use a fork in cooking?

Several years ago I read an article by a lady saying she used a fork more than any other utensil in cooking. I found this almost true. What better to stir rice when it is cooking in boiling water, or macaroni. When browning onions, peppers, bits of bacon, etc., a fork is a necessity. To test when vegetables are done a fork is nearly always used.

The new Teflon pans can now tolerate a fork thank goodness and we can stir away to our heart's content. Scrambled eggs can be made easily with a fork both for beating and cooking. If the toaster doesn't work the old method of bread on a fork over the burners works well and gives a new taste.

I even have an excellent chocolate cake recipe that suggests I stir everything with a fork not a spoon. The best meringue ever made for a lemon or cream ple can be made with a fork and a ple plate. More air seems to get in the egg whites this way. You are all probably cooking with forks but have never realized before how necessary they are.

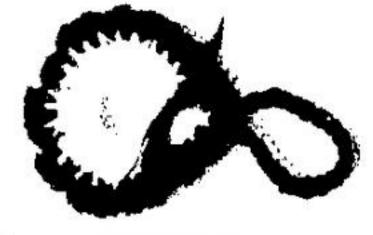
CRAFTY IDEAS by Joan Williamson

Helen called me tonight and gave me a gentle reminder that we'd run out of columns and Christmas was coming. So, after a ten minute search of my workroom (referred to as the Sargasso Sea in my house), I came up with a crochet pattern for a little wreath which can be adapted by using a bigger frame, larger hooks and wool, to any size you require.

For this one, which is about right to decorate a gift or hang on a tree, you start with a curtain ring - one of the little white ones that come packaged to use for cafe curtains, some white and green wool and a scrap of red ribbon. Start with white wool.

Attach the wool to the ring and with a 3:50 mm hook, make 30 sc into the ring, covering the plastic. Join to the first stitch and chain one. Make two sc in the same space as the joining stitch and continue around the circle, marking three se in each stitch. Join to first stitch and switch to green wool. Make one sc in each stitch around circle. Join to first stitch and make a hanging loop by chaining 20 sc. End off. Sew loop end to edge of wreath. Add a red ribbon

You can develop this wreath in size by using larger centres. The plastic lids from coffee cans or shortening tins can be used by trimming out the centre. Use rug weight wool or heavy craft wool and a larger needle to produce a wall size wreath with the same simple pattern.



Back 1SSUES

10 years ago

November 3, 1'71 Announcement was made this week that J.H. Creighton of Acton had been elected president of Beardmore to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of Norman J. Braida. Also announced was the election of Peter F. Dunham as vice-president and general manager of the company.

A 20-mile walkathon for UNICEF Saturday in perfect fall weather brought 110 public school students over the finish line. Most of the 150 walkers completed the 20-

Tampa, Florida, here she comes and Mrs. Alice Duby has left for three weeks in the sunny south as a guest of her cousin Miss Ada Barrett, Happy flying Mrs. Duby, we'll look forward to your southern

It's holiday time for Mr. and Mrs. Max Milne of Guelph Street when they are spending a few days with their daughter and son-in-law Mr. and. Mrs. Lloyd Hunter of Brantford.

20 years ago

November 2, 1961 A former Actonite and army corporal James O'Rourke stat loned at Calgary was one of the lucky ticket holders on Henry VII the horse that tied for first place in the Cambridgeshire handicap last week. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Rourke of Acton, the lucky ticket holder for the Irish Sweepstakes is expected to enjoy \$101,000 his portion of the prize money.

A 17,000 square foot addition to the Micro Plastics plant is scheduled for completion by late December. Jack Reid, general manager reported today that actual construction of the addition will begin within the next few days.

C.D. Anderson will be the new manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia Branch here in Acton, succeeding W.A. Woodburn, who goes to the bank's executive office in Tor-

Mrs. E.G. Franklin and daughter Janice are home again after visiting relatives in England.

Mrs. Stella Adamson of Galt was the guest of Mrs. M. Taylor.

50 years ago

November 5, 1931

On Saturday as G.W. Masales was coming to town with several cans of milk, he narrowly escaped serious injury in a collision with a car, driven by William Graff. Mr. Masales was proceeding south along the Second Line and Mr. Graff came west along the siderciad. Both met at the corner, where the view of the intersection is not the best and NIr. Masales with his truck was hit broadside, and the load of milk and vehicles upset. Fortunately he escaped Mr. Chas. Symon was home from Tor-

onto for the weekend. Mr. E.J. Moore of Toronto spent the

weekend with his mother at Moorecroft. Councillor C. H. Harrison left Monday for a business trip to the Western Provinces and the coast. He will be away about three

75 years ago

November 1, 1906

Chicken thieves have been busy on the outskirts of town. Mr. Hugh Mann had over 40 of his flock stolen, Mr. James Quantic half a dozen and Mr. W. Landsborough three of his prize white wyandottes. They allege the thleves have not been long in this country.

The pranksters were out on Hallowe'en as usual and enjoyed the usual program of senseless and more or less destructive pranks. A few joyously went about "the fun of doing good" and found more genuine fun in that than in doing evel. There were a number of happy little Hallowe'en parties which the participants fully enjoyed.

St. Joseph's Church and the Disciples Church are being installed with fixtures for electric light.

The first train over the Grank Trunk Railway Passed through Acton 50 years ago on Sunday.

Mr. J.B. Mackenzie is moving into his new residence at the corner of Church and Next Mionday will be Guy Faulkes Day.

100 years ago

November 3, 1881 There are 169 persons employed in manufacturing leather and leather goods in Actori.

On Friday afternoon a large snow plough passed through Acton for the west on the GTR to be in readiness for the first big snow storm.

Mr. Abram Stauffer has purchased from Mr. W. H. Storey the vacant lot on Elgin St. opposite Mr. John Kenney's property. The family of Dr. Forster arrived

yesterday. We trust they will be pleased with our little town and will soon be comfortably settled in their new home. Marshall's hotel, Hornby East, was

consumed by fire last Wednesday night. The fire was discovered in the roof of the kitchen. There is some insurance on the furniture.

A number of young men in town forgot them selves so far as to carry on their all Hallowe'en pranks Tuesday night.

Reed endorses parking education issues and decisions. The Halton Council of Home and School Association and its member assoc-

measures for disabled Dear Mr. Lorne Doberthien:

Our readers write

I was most moved by your letter concerning handicapped people and the

problems faced by them in public places. I feel that acknowledgement of Year of the Handicapped would be well served by the establishment of an identification system for handicapped people which would allow them access in public places, without having to go through the embarrassing process of describing their particular handicap each time they proceed to park a car or obtain access to public facilities.

Such a system is already in use in other parts of North America and in Ontario we have an adaptation of that identification system through the Medic Alert program. So its accomplishment is neither unique nor difficult. I propose to present a Private Member's Bill in the provincial Legis-

lature outlining just such an identification program. Unfortunately my ballot number is 54 and, therefore, don't expect to have the opportunity oto debate such a Bill until next Spring.

In the meantime, we shall prepare the necessary wording and watch with interest the kind of response you receive to your letter from various levels of government. I am hopeful that every member of the provincial Legislature will cross party lines and join together to support such a Bill when it is presented. If the government chooses to take some affirmative action in the meantime, I will support them whole-

Congratulations for bringing this matter to our attention and giving us the opportunity to do something about

Sincerely, Julian Reed

Interest rates meeting set for Milton tonight

In answer to "A concerned - must join together to be heard. homeowner" wondering if others are in his position regarding mortgage

Region. I urge Mr. Solowoniuk to attend the meeting on mortgage and interest rates being held at E.C. Drury School this Wednesday, November 4 at 8 p.m. We

renewal, not only are there others in an information meeting on what we can Acton but the problem of high mortgage do to cope with present situations, rates are affecting the lives of thous- reasons for the present interest rates ands of homeowners in the Halton, and a firm commitment on where we go from here.

Burlington

The meeting on Wednesday night is

Yours truly Barry Quinn

Clergy Comment

by Pastor John Cooper What a blessing to be able to communicate! And newspapers, written wordpower, are the lifeblood of our communities.

This is more than a tradition that must be carried on to coming generations. From a biblical and Christian view point it is a gift of God and a calling to perform. God has not merely acted in history; He ordered a word-record of His activity. When the Church wandered from the written Word of God, she was called back to her Savior and Lord. . . she was called back to her roots, roots recorded in the written Word

of roots often and in varied ways. As plants cannot do without roots, people cannot do without means of communication. . . people churches and people in society. Messages by word of mouth, nonverbal communication, actions that speak louder than words, and all finally recorded, "written-up" or. . lost, precious life and reality, like lost seed, no longer able to give

The Word of God uses the picture

All have roots, many or few, good or bad. Show me a person without roots, and an individual with trouble will begin to be recorded on "police blotters" and social worker's resumes.

need to know its roots and the roots from which it is trying to cut itself. The sec-it-flash-by media has its "stop action" and "instant replays." God graciously and understandingly ordered a written Word recording His busy schedule, listing many generations, and detailing His communion with His people. Western history records the in-

The Now generation has a great

vention of movable type in the shadow of the Church. We can also read of the Church's calling, since the Reformation (Oct. 31) to print the Scriptures in the language of the people. In democracles, "word-power"

has caught on and "children" of the Church use the power of the press. Newspapers must be here to stay. Truly, "the pen is mightler than the sword." The late Marshall McLuhan

wrote: the medium is the message. But behind every successful TV presentation are reams of written know-Thank you God for gifted writers.

Thank you God for the gift of

Thank you God for a free press in

Canada and Western Democracies.

Thank you Lord for the Word made flesh. Thank you Lord for this opportunity by The Acton Free Press.

writing and printing.