

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Feds preach restraint but don't practise it

Well, are you feeling properly greedy and chastized these days?

Last week was the week for economic lectures.

And they sounded hallow indeed.

First, the Prime Minister informed us it was our fault, not his, that inflation is spiralling upwards and interest rates are so high. Presumably since those two economic ills are our fault and not the government's the deepening recession can also be blamed on all Canadians.

Then Gerald Bouey, Governor of the Bank of Canada which weekly sets the trend setting prime interest rate, went to Montreal to lecture us on not asking for large pay demands to keep up with inflation, in effect to lose ground and purchasing power.

Now, we believe in restraint. While we don't like recessions and high unemployment any better than anyone else, we figure until the deficit and government spending are slashed down to an affordable level we aren't going to solve the underlying ills of our economy and will continually suffer soaring inflation, high interest rates and intolerably high unemployment in various degrees. We do support the notion of short term economic pain for longer term gain, but only if economic measures are fair to all.

For these reasons we did see some positive aspects to the recent federal budget, despite the fact it spelled relief for few and disaster for many.

But, obviously the govern-

ment doesn't believe what it is preaching. They really want sacrifice from only the lower and middle income groups, despite the fact they closed loop-holes in the tax system of which the more affluent were taking advantage. Obviously small business, the laborers, farmers, middle income white collar workers etc., are supposed to shoulder the entire load.

Earlier this year MPs voted themselves a staggering pay hike. True they hadn't had a raise for several years and their total raise worked out to about six per cent per year since their last pay boost. However, we don't think they were suffering all that much and could have made do with a much more "moderate" (that's Bouey's word) pay boost.

But the real insult was the news just a few days after his Montreal lecture that Bouey himself had received a \$9,500 a year raise, retroactive to April 1, which gives him a total annual pay of \$104,500.

If the man really believed Canadians should be seeking "moderate" pay increases he'd demand his hike be applied to the deficit, granted that would be like a drop of rain going into Lake Ontario, but it would be a symbolic gesture to the rest of us.

While it may be an extremely simplistic view of what Bouey does, many Canadians must also be wondering how a man who has done nothing more in the public view with the interest rates than follow the Americans up and down the scale can be worth over \$90,000 a year, before his recent raise.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Acton Chamber of Commerce is on its way to an excellent membership for the 1982 season. Already they have 60 paid up, six of which are new members. The new ones are Haefner Siding, Jug City, Invirosearch Ltd., Dr. Richard Jozwick, Country Gentleman and R. Connor Haulage.

The Chamber is giving out gentle reminders of 1981 members to renew their membership.

Through no fault of my own, the 500 Club winners have not appeared in this column in the past few weeks. However, now the bugs in the system have been worked out, and here they are:

November 21, 319 Ernie Waller, 183 Jack Van Kestern.

November 28, 185 Mick Holmes, 351 Pete Hayes.

December 5, 161 Dave Jones, 325 Mick McMahon.

Watch my column weekly for the winners.

Anyone interested can still purchase tickets from Pete Van Dam or Bob Smith. Proceeds go towards the Minor Hockey Association.

Betty Ball of Mississauga was the lucky winner of an Afghan, first prize in a draw held at the Mug bazaar last week. Second prize, a Raggedy Anne doll was won by Marg Auger. The Mug organizers are very appreciative of all

the help and donations received from their supporters.

Jim and Ena Gibson were special guests at the Eden Mills Friendly Seniors Christmas dinner on the weekend. No, they aren't old enough to be members, but it was the seniors' way of thanking the Acton couple for all the help they have given throughout the year.

Sherly Wedemire is in a quandry. Sunday evening a small grey and white cat was found in the Cobblehill and Storey area, and Sherly can't find the young feline's owners.

She's canvassed the neighborhood, and gone to the vets, all to no avail. Sherly says she would love to keep the cat, but already has one—a very jealous one at that, and her husband isn't in favor of two cats in the house. If she doesn't find the owner, or a new home, (for the cat, not her) in the next few days, she will have to put it to sleep. She doesn't have the heart to turn the animal out into the cold, but feels that route is the easiest for all concerned.

The cat is about six months old and has a brand new white flea collar around its neck. It has a small lump on its stomach, but it cannot always be felt.

Anyone who knows whose cat this is, please call Sherly at 853-0740.

And from the La Leche League: Mothers interested in information about breastfeeding are welcome to attend the next meeting of the Acton La Leche League. The topic of the meeting to be held Monday at 8 p.m. is "Nutrition and Weaning". Babies are welcome too. For further information call 856-9935 or 878-4803.

Jack Tanner's Table at the Old Hide House opened Friday night with a party for invited guests only.



Outdoors

BYLORNE FLETCHER

Ho, Ho! Oh, No! It's that time again. Time to elbow one's way through the ever maddening crowd of Christmas shoppers. It's not easy finding the right gift at a reasonable price.

If one has sports oriented persons on their list, especially those hoping for fishing tackle, caution should be exercised. Be careful of those smooth advertising promotions on television and radio, you seldom see them in the papers but they saturate the air waves.

Most of these tackle, rod and reel combinations and pocket rods, etc., are made from cheap, low impact plastic with no parts available. Many never make it to spring time or water.

Good books on outdoor sports are usually much appreciated, the little shop in Acton Mews is usually well stocked.

Late fall splake fishing has just opened in Georgian Bay areas with fair reports from Owen Sound and Menford.

Trotting has been the best bet with silver and blue spoons such as Little

Cleo and Owens 377. A hot little plug called AC Plug has been producing well, much like a small rappala, so far it's available only in the Owen Sound area.

As cynical as I am about poor service in large stores around Christmas when clerks have no idea what they are selling, I have just found out that Christmas has another, and better side. I had on the past weekend the opportunity, to take in a Christmas play at the Evangel Tabernacle Pentecostal Assembly here in Acton. It was a wonderful Christmas play, with a cast of over 100 children, very good costumes, exceptionally well versed performers and a very direct Christmas message. It was obvious the teachers and others had put in a lot of hours of hard work at many rehearsals. Special credit should go to Pat Lee of Acton, Betty Phillips of Rockwood and Yvonne Daws of Guelph for a program like this which makes one appreciate the wonderful world we live in.

Remember, Acton needs you, shop locally.

It was a great night and showed the kind of class an operation of its calibre has. The people were friendly, the food delicious and a beautiful atmosphere which would put any city restaurant to shame.

The staff was cheerful, friendly and helpful and showed no sign of opening night jitters.

Hats off to all involved in Jack Tanner's Table. Acton has waited a long time for a place like this, but the wait was well worth it.

Darlene Watkinson, an E.C. Drury High School student and Acton area resident spent a Saturday morning with me recently to learn about photography. Darlene would like to take pictures for a living and decided to concentrate her school "walkabout" on that.

What better way to learn than to observe a professional, right?

Well, we got to my first assignment and my flash was dead, just barely enough juice to get through the picture. Then a quick trip home to get the backup revealed it too was dead, but we didn't know that until we were in Brookville. We made do with what little power we had then headed back home to pick up the first flash which was charging. It wasn't ready—naturally.

The entire morning went like that. Darlene wasn't even with me when I messed up two pictures in the afternoon and had to retake them. It was just one of those days.

Not everyone gets to spend a few hours with a "professional". I think she learned more about professional messing up and professional panicking than anything else.

Those days of course only come about twice a year—and that's twice too often. In spite of everything going wrong, Darlene said she learned a lot about how to compromise when taking a picture. She learned from a pro.

These walkabouts are great for the student. If a student is really serious about his or her future, experience gained during a serious walkabout can save years of time, and maybe even schooling, if they find out the job isn't all they thought it was.



Darlene Watkinson

Back issues

10 years ago

December 8, 1971

Liquor lounges in Acton? The votes will decide. At the next town election in December 1972, voters will be asked if they favor the sale of liquor here on licenced premises. The liquor vote discussed before by council passed unanimously Tuesday on motion of councillors Bill Coates and Norman Elliot.

A group of Robert Little students raised \$869.79 for UNICEF during a recent walkathon. Top walkers were Sherry Trotter, Heather Reed, Rick Van Fleet, John Watson, Cindy Arnold and Kelly Payne.

Mayor Duby said Acton is going to be getting a domed stadium. The mayor said the stadium will be constructed in the works yard to cover sand and salt.

20 years ago

December 7, 1961

When the votes were counted after the municipal election Tuesday incumbent Jack Hargrave was re-elected as reeve. W. H. Denny received the nod as deputy-reeve, Ray Arbie and Gord McCutcheon were elected to the hydro commission, Bill Benson, Tom Watson and Vic Bristolow were elected to the public school board and Les Duby, George Barbeau, Frank Prouse, J. Bert Wood, Ham Peal and Frank Toth Sr. were elected to council.

Shorting Bell Telephone wires sent firemen dashing to the fire hall four times last weekend. Fire chief Mick Holmes contacted Bell workers and has been informed the trouble should not occur again.

Saturday there was another work bee at the arena when white paint made the building look newer. Stout planking has made the seating sturdy again.

Life memberships were presented to William Chisholm and Jack Newton during Acton Firefighters Ladies night Friday evening. Both men have been chief and have served on the brigade for a number of years.

50 years ago

December 3, 1931

When Clerk H.N. Farmer closed the nominations for council at 8:00 p.m. the following had been nominated for the various offices of the municipality. For Reeve—Charles H. Hansen, A. Mason, E.T. Theftford, George Barber. For councillors John Nicol, James K. Gardner, James Chalmers, J.F. Davison, W.J. Alvins, Evan Jones, W.D. McArthur, Alex McDonald, Albert Ritchie, V.B. Rumley, W.R.E. Blair, Dr. E.J. Neilson, C.R. Harrison, C. Hansen, E.T. Theftford, C.A. Conway, George Cowie, School Trustees J.M. McDonald, Miss A.F. Havill, E.J. Hassard, W.R. Norton, W.E. Graham, Dr. A.J. Buchanan, N.B. Thompson and J.F. Scarrow. Public Utilities Commission L.G. King.

Miss Emma Robson visited with friends in Toronto and Aurora last week.

Mrs. H.P. Moore spent last week with friends in Toronto.

75 years ago

December 6, 1906

Scores of young folk are enjoying skating on Fairy Lake. The rink committee is getting the rink at the power house in shape.

Before deciding on Christmas presents... The cushion top! Give your friend a reminder of you. Spaces are left for your friends' names. 25 cents each. C.F. Goodeve, Mill St.

The report last week of the death of Chas. Valantyne, of Georgetown, formerly of Acton, has proved to be untrue.

About 40 men were in attendance at the opening of the Young Men's Club. They enjoyed themselves reading, writing and playing games. The rooms were opened with prayer and a brief address by Rev. Barker. At nine o'clock there was a genuine surprise when the young ladies of the Epworth League, numbering 35, under the leadership of Miss Bertie Speight and Miss Bertie Smith, marched in, with baskets of dainty refreshments. Various speeches were made and the ladies were called on and delightful responses were made.

Xmas cards, Xmas post cards, Acton souvenir calendars, 25 cents, at Hunter's Druglist.

100 years ago

December 8, 1881

Rockwood now sports a tonsorial artist. A couple of lazy vagabonds visited our town with a performing bear.

Rev. John Chauncy, a colored divine, held a sclipcion exhibition at the Temperance Hall.

Mr. William Stephenson, formerly of Acton, has just invented a new steam plow, which he will introduce in the north-west, to be used in breaking prairie. The engine is 40 horse power and the machinery weighs seven tons. After the plowing season is over the engine may be used for threshing, grinding wheat or sawing lumber.

Several of our village merchants have dressed their windows very tastefully. A syndicate of Rockwood citizens has erected a set of hay scales to oppose the exorbitant prices charged at the public scales.

Mr. Edward Nicklin was elected to fill the vacancy on council.

Old paper discovered

Dear Sir: Today I found one of your papers that was published the year of November 19, 1903 Volume XXIX—No. 21. I just wanted you to know its been in circulation a long time. I now have it framed.

so long ago and how times have changed that will never be again.

Yours truly
Helen J. Sampson
829 Store St.
Monroe Michigan 48101

Editors Note: The Acton Free Press was first published in July, 1875. Every issue published is on microfilm at our office and at the Acton Library.