

The Acton Free Press

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Well done, firefighters

Acton Firefighters came through a recent drowning incident with flying colors.

The coroner's inquest into the October 20 death of three-year old Derek Jones recently was a chance to point a finger at improper actions surrounding the unsuccessful attempt to save the boy's life. The firefighters, the first trained help on the scene were in a position to be criticized and maybe even blamed.

However, after about 30 minutes deliberation, the four person jury echoed the coroner's and his solicitor's previous words in praising the rescue attempts, and in noting the men did everything they possible could to save the youngster's life.

Instead, the blame fell in the lap of the municipality for not requiring the townhouse developer to erect a fence between the new homes and the property where the drowning took place.

To hear the testimony of the firefighters at the inquest, one is left very impressed that our volunteers are so capable at medical practices such as CPR (Cardio pulmonary resuscitation), and mouth to mouth resuscitation. The men have shown time and again their proficiency in fighting fires, but when faced with an even bigger battle—that of saving lives, they are equally trained and equally efficient.

Doctors at the inquest testified there was little hope for Derek even when the firefighters fought to save his life minutes after the unfortunate incident in the Campbell pond.

In spite of their failure to revive the boy, the firefighters should be commended for their quick thinking and prompt actions. Anyone new to town who was ever in doubt of a volunteer brigade can surely rest a bit easier knowing we have nothing but the best.

Our readers write

AHS students appreciate Free Press assistance

Dear Sir: Just recently two Acton High School grade 13 students requested a big favor from the Acton Free Press. As part of their geography course a creative assignment was given and as a result the two students wanted a front page of a newspaper published. After talking to them, the Free Press enthusiastically published copies of the students' work.

To most people this won't seem like much, but to the students it was an opportunity to talk to and work with people outside their normal classroom.

Looking at this from another angle, it also allows students to use the community to aid in other areas of education which is sometimes

forgotten. The Free Press could have rejected the idea, but instead they spent the time and the money to publish the pages. This shows great community spirit.

This also demonstrates the bond between the school system and the community. Without such interested members of the town many students would be neglected the opportunity to learn from experiencing.

In this day and age with crime and inflation, it is still nice to think that some people really care about the opportunities for society's young people.

Yours truly,
Heather L. Glenister and
Donna Cavlovic

Town hall will give Acton a heart taxpayer says

Dear Sir: I was not approached by the group whose petition regarding the Town Hall Restoration was published last week, but I would like to take this opportunity to express my opinion on the matter. I too am a taxpayer, and I feel that our money has been well looked after in the past—possibly a little too well, as we find out when catch-up work has to be done to make up for economies of yore.

We really missed the boat when the old Post Office was not bought by the town—a non-move that was made in the interests of economy, no doubt. That would have been the logical building to preserve, being in good condition, and in a prime location. However, having let that opportunity slip by, we proceeded to build an ugly addition to the town hall for a fire hall, when there was land available where offstreet parking could have been provided for the firemen, and downtown congestion relieved. Let's not compound those mistakes by removing the only building left which could be used for some of the amenities which give a town heart, rather than make it just a collection of buildings.

The old Stone School simply is not a

reasonable substitute as a place for seniors to drop-in, or a location for washrooms for the use of our citizens, just to mention two things which are badly needed downtown. It's lovely that there is parking at the school grounds, but is anyone considering the people who do not drive, and could not walk up the hill, through the hordes of children who are often there, to get to the drop-in centre? Or if a mother is shopping with little children who need to go to the bathroom, is there time to rush up to the school?

During the last days and months before the Town Hall was closed, many of our seniors enjoyed a rest, a cup of tea or coffee, and a little conversation, or a card game, at their drop-in centre there. Now, when they go downtown to shop, there is no facility for any of these things. Let's not put a dollar value on everything—let's try harder to find ways in which some revenue can be realized from the uses of the Town Hall, and provide some amenities for people who have nothing to give us in return but their gratitude. We're all going to be in that position someday.

Yours truly,
Renee Watson

Jelinek bill to stop strikes in Post Office

Halton MP, Otto Jelinek, last week presented a private members' bill to eliminate strikes and lockouts in essential transportation and communication services controlled by monopoly corporations engaged in business under federal jurisdiction. The primary reason in introducing this bill was to prevent regular and lengthy postal disruptions, resulting from strikes, such as the one that held the public at ransom for over one month last summer, Jelinek said. "Although personally opposed to the right to strike in all essential services, a view which is shared by the majority of Canadians" (Halton - 94 per cent Nation Wide Gallup - 73 per cent), Jelinek stated that, "by narrowing the legislation to focus on

the most damaging service sector, namely the Post Office, it will eliminate disruptions resulting from strikes and walkouts in that service where the effect, in both cost and inconvenience, has become most acute." He sighted, as an example, the \$3 billion loss that was incurred by the small business community as a result of the last mail strike alone.

"Any government that demands monopoly control over a service sector must at the same time be prepared to accept the obligation to deliver that service without disruption," stated Jelinek. "Therefore, and in view of the uncontestable public support for this legislation, I hope it will receive full support when debated in the House."



On the Leavell

With Helen

Carol Roach was the lucky winner of the Co-op Nursery Christmas Draw on December 5. The Mill St. resident won a Christmas food hamper.

500 Club winners this week were 44 Andy Wagner, and 328, Mike McMahon.

Birthday greetings go out to Leather-town Association chairman Chip Petrillo who celebrated his 30th birthday on Saturday. Now Chip has entered the club started by Gord Murray and Bert Hulaman.

Chip isn't doing too much dancing for his birthday though. A home accident resulted in a broken foot. Hope it's feeling better soon.

Acton is certainly getting on the map lately, what with Wintario coming to town and various other news events.

But it was Acton's Laurie Pierce who helped make one of the biggest advances for publicity for Acton—and she didn't even ask for it.

Laurie recently graduated from Nipissing University College in North Bay and was valedictorian. School officials were so impressed with Laurie's speech they changed the format of their brochure and put in Laurie's speech and her picture. Brochures are not changed that frequently, so the Acton High School graduate's picture and story, mentioning Acton, will be around in all high schools in Ontario for some time.

Here's Laurie's speech, which will be read by thousands in the next few years. Her first words about leaving home and university could apply to most people, at some time in their lives.

"I am of the opinion that a university education is something more than mere training; it is an experience. For me, this experience began with leaving home for the first time and wondering 'Will I be able to cope?' High school teachers stressed how much harder university is, that there would be a greater amount of work and the standard of work expected would be much higher. It didn't take long to realize that university is indeed different from high school. The regimentation, discipline and supervision aspects of high school are gone, replaced by more freedom. University is an adult education environment; high school was an adolescent one. The university is an autonomous institution—autonomous from the government, other pressure groups and from our parents. Here you find a great diversity of people, of different types, different classes and different ages, who all have one thing in common. They are all trying to learn.

"Going to university has had a great impact and influence on my life. It has given me a greater awareness of my own values, of the value of education, the knowledge and understanding of social and political issues and of the variety and types of people found there. It has broadened my outlook and made me a more liberal and tolerant person.

"I think it has made me much more mature, and I feel I know myself much better..."

About the actual university, Laurie went on to say, "...A university education is an experience and I am glad I obtained that experience at Nipissing University College."

"I am from Acton which is a small town about 35 miles southwest of Toronto, and the question I have been constantly asked for the last three years is, why did I decide to go to university in North Bay when I could have attended any one of the larger universities in southern Ontario. Actually, I had originally planned to attend either Wilfrid Laurier or Waterloo, until my Grade 13 Geography teacher told me about Nipissing. He said it was a small university in North Bay that was offering several scholarships and that I should apply. So I did, and about three weeks later, I received a letter offering me a President's Scholarship which would cover my tuition and residence fees. The Scholarship was enticing, but I was apprehensive about going so far away and leaving my friends and family. So I went for a visit in May before making my final decision.

"After driving up the narrow and winding Gormanville Road, that looked like it hadn't been paved in years and, seeing nothing but trees, I began thinking that Nipissing might be some hick, northern institution. But behold, behind all those trees were very impressive buildings and some very friendly people. It didn't take me long to decide that this was where I wanted to go to school."

"When I came up in September to register I was scared and nervous just as many other students are when they

leave home for the first time and go away to school. Being totally immersed in an environment where I knew absolutely no one was a very frightening experience. However, it didn't take long to feel informed. My professors were all very informal and friendly and as I lived in residence I got to know many people.

"When I look back now I realize that the size of Nipissing is what I like most about it. Because classes are small you get more individual attention, you get to know your professors and you get to know other students, all three of which are a rarity at a larger university. "It is also much easier to take an active part in student-oriented activities and clubs. If I had gone to a larger university, I probably wouldn't have acted in three drama club productions, or have been student representative on the Awards Committee and most likely I wouldn't be standing on a stage giving a valedictory address as I am today."

MEANDERINGS by Mabel Barkman

Rainbow Chocolate Roll

This is a very easy Christmas cookie to make and it looks very pretty on a plate mixed with other cookies.

Melt one square of chocolate in a saucepan over low heat. Cool a bit. Beat one egg and add to the chocolate with a cup of icing sugar. Cut 20 to 25 colored marshmallows into three pieces each (use scissors) and add. Also add about three quarters of a cup of walnuts or pecans. Mix all together well. Take a large piece of waxpaper and sprinkle it generously with coconut. Place the chocolate mixture along the coconut so that by means of the waxpaper you can roll it into a long roll. It can be a bit sticky but after it is refrigerated for a day you can slice it with ease.

Clergy Comment

by Lieutenant Lorne Fritchett

(Luke 2:16-20) What a day of celebration! What a glorious reason to celebrate! For unto us a saviour is born, Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11) 'Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to all men' Pealed the angelic chorus. The shepherds came to call and went away rejoicing. Three rich wisemen came to see and returned praising God.

What a marvellous sight. The first Christmas. Yet, can it be, after one reminds himself of this magnificent scenario, can it be that some people might celebrate a Christless Christmas?

How awful is the thought, but how much more awful is the reality. Somewhere between the turkey and the tinsel, between the baking and the booze, some people have lost the baby Jesus! Yet, they still celebrate. Perhaps, for some, Christmas is a cue to pull out all the stops, an excuse to congregate and celebrate. So they plan and prepare. They bake and buy. They decorate and dust. There's hustle and bustle at every corner of their lives. Then the big night arrives, Christmas night. Everybody hugs everybody else and exclaims "Merry CHRISTMAS." They play CHRISTMAS music. They have gifts which are wrapped in CHRISTMAS paper. Yet, if one were to walk in on such a Party and suggest the reading of the Christmas story from the Bible, would there pervade a sense of

uneasiness? Supposing one suggested a time of prayer and thanksgiving unto God for sending His Son Jesus Christ into the world, would this spoil the party? Would some of the guests think this person ill-mannered? Yet, this is a CHRISTMAS party.

I would estimate that thousands of Canadians, as in other years past, will engage themselves in just such a party. The probable reason for this is that instead of celebrating 'Christmas' some people just celebrate 'mas'. There are 'mas-ive' parties, mas-ive expenditures on gifts, food and decorations. Also, 'mas-ive' sales of spirits, which replace for some the true Spirit of Christmas. This is all done to 'celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ!'

Let me finish with these questions. Supposing somebody who knew nothing of our reasons for celebrating in December month came to observe the season at your house. Would they be just thinking that Christmas was just a national year end holiday with no spiritual significance? Or would they leave your home knowing that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour, the Son of God? Finally, if Jesus Christ were to physically visit you for your Christmas party, would He recognize that you were celebrating His birthday? Merry CHRISTMAS, and may this season hold a spiritual blessing for each and every one of you.

Back issues

10 years ago

December 15, 1971

Acton Customs Officer Murray Harrison uncovered a large cache of drugs described as Morocco "Keef" from a parcel at Acton post office this week. It is believed the packages have a street value of \$5-10,000.

Acton High School's Friday Drama Night was a great success for local amateur actors. The show consisted of three performances - The Witches; My Proud Beauty; and Overtones. The Witches was directed by Sue Powadiuk and performed by Michelle Roy, Barbara Pratt, Sue Powadiuk, Janice Gibson, and Fran Buttery. "My Proud Beauty" was directed by Rosemary Lowe, narrated by Tamie Thompson and starred Joachim Zinke, Barry Breen, Lynn Marshall, Janice Hillman, Susan McPhail and Henry Van Stralen. Geoffrey Sansom produce and directed "Overtones", which starred Barbara Pratt, Bonnie McKenzie, Glynis Johnson and Yvonne LeRoy.

20 years ago

December 14, 1961

Lifting the receiver of a beige telephone, Mayor Johnny Goy this afternoon (Thursday) dialed 853-1000 to place the first call on Acton's new dial system. On 2 a.m. this Sunday, the pleasant voices of phone operators Mrs. Margaret Ford, Mrs. Beatrice Chew, Miss Sylvia Magee, Mrs. Merv Harness, Mrs. Phil McCristall, Mrs. F.P. Miller, Mrs. J.P. Skippen and Miss Martha Turkosz will be cut off and replaced with intricate equipment at the Bell Dial Building on Church Street. The new system will also end long distance charges to calls between Acton telephones and those in Rockwood and Georgetown.

An estimated 500-800 youngsters were the first to try out the new artificial ice surface at the Community Centre. The crowd was so enthusiastic about the new surface they skated the ice right down to the painted hockey lines and had to be stopped.

50 years ago

December 10, 1931

Maurice E. Starkman, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Starkman, formerly of Acton, was recently called to the Bar before Mr. Justice Riddell at Osgoode Hall in Toronto.

Next year's council for Acton will be George Barber Reeve, and councillors Cowie, Jones, Nicol and McArthur. They will take their seats at the inaugural meeting which will be held on January 4, 1932.

George W. Irving died at his home in Esquesing Township last Thursday after a lingering illness. He was in his sixty-fourth year.

On Tuesday morning when Mr. Willard Britton was feeding his stock he took the lantern to the feed barn where it was set down on top of the bin until he secured the chopped feed. In some manner the support of the bin lid gave away and the lantern, Britton's farm is at lot 23 first line Esquesing just below Mr. J. Riddick's.

75 years ago

December 13, 1906

The rink committee is getting the rink at the power house in shape as quickly as possible.

St. Alban's Men's Institute meets for the present at Matthews Hall with between 40 and 50 members. An orchestra has been formed at the church.

A special meeting of council was called to consider Reeve Swackhamer's report of a meeting with the Hydro-Electric Power Corporation. He spoke in favor of the proposal of Hon. Mr. Beck which would provide Niagara power for Acton with a power line passing through the town. The power would be available 24 hours a day at about 60 per cent of the present cost. Acton is on the list for 800 horsepower of current. Of this The Messrs. Beardmore and Co. will take 600 horsepower for their works. A bylaw was introduced.

The seventh annual ball and supper given by Acton Fire Brigade was highly successful. Supper was served at the Dominion House and The Acton.

100 years ago

December 15, 1881

A number of young men of our village have formed themselves into The Acton Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, for public speaking and general mental advancement.

A public festival will be held in the temperance hall, Crewsons Corners, in aid of the building fund of the Methodist church there.

Something Nice for Xmas at Hughes and Griffin shop - 1 case of black shawls, 1 case of heavy counterpanes, slipper patterns, collarettes, fur caps, silk necklaces, French and German wool hose, roll ties, Japanese silk handkerchiefs.

A child of Mrs. Garvin died of diphtheria. Mr. D. Henderson is removing with his residence on Bower Ave.

Frost and sleighing would greatly assist the merchants to dispose of their large stocks.