

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Have a Merry Christmas, brother and sister

by Helen Murray
It's going to be a quiet Christmas around my parents' house this year.

With half the family following the Western Dream and making new homes in Alberta, there is going to be an emptiness which will never really be filled again.

There will be no more crawling around on bedroom floors in the dark to find a carefully hung Christmas stocking, and the excited tears of a small child are too far away now to wipe dry.

Gone are the early morning telephone calls to say the kids have awakened, please come watch them open their gifts. Gone will be the squeals of children as they uncover the mysterious parcels.

There will be no more jokes to a pleasantly plump brother around needing a turkey all his own, and the arguments about who is going to peel the potatoes have been silenced forever.

The Christmas pudding will still be cooked, it's a tradition. But the only one who actually ate it is 2,000 miles away.

The Christmas Eve games and talks have gone from a party of 12 to a party of six, and no longer is that extra leaf needed in the dining room table.

The small little arms around the neck and the soft thank you kiss on the cheek from a five-year-old will have to wait for another year, maybe two.

The scattered toys, the soiled dresses, the noise above the

noise are all gone, starting up new traditions in another province.

Things can never stay the same, and changes happen in our lives every week. Yet, why do those changes seem so impossible to handle at Christmas when they involve an absence of people you love.

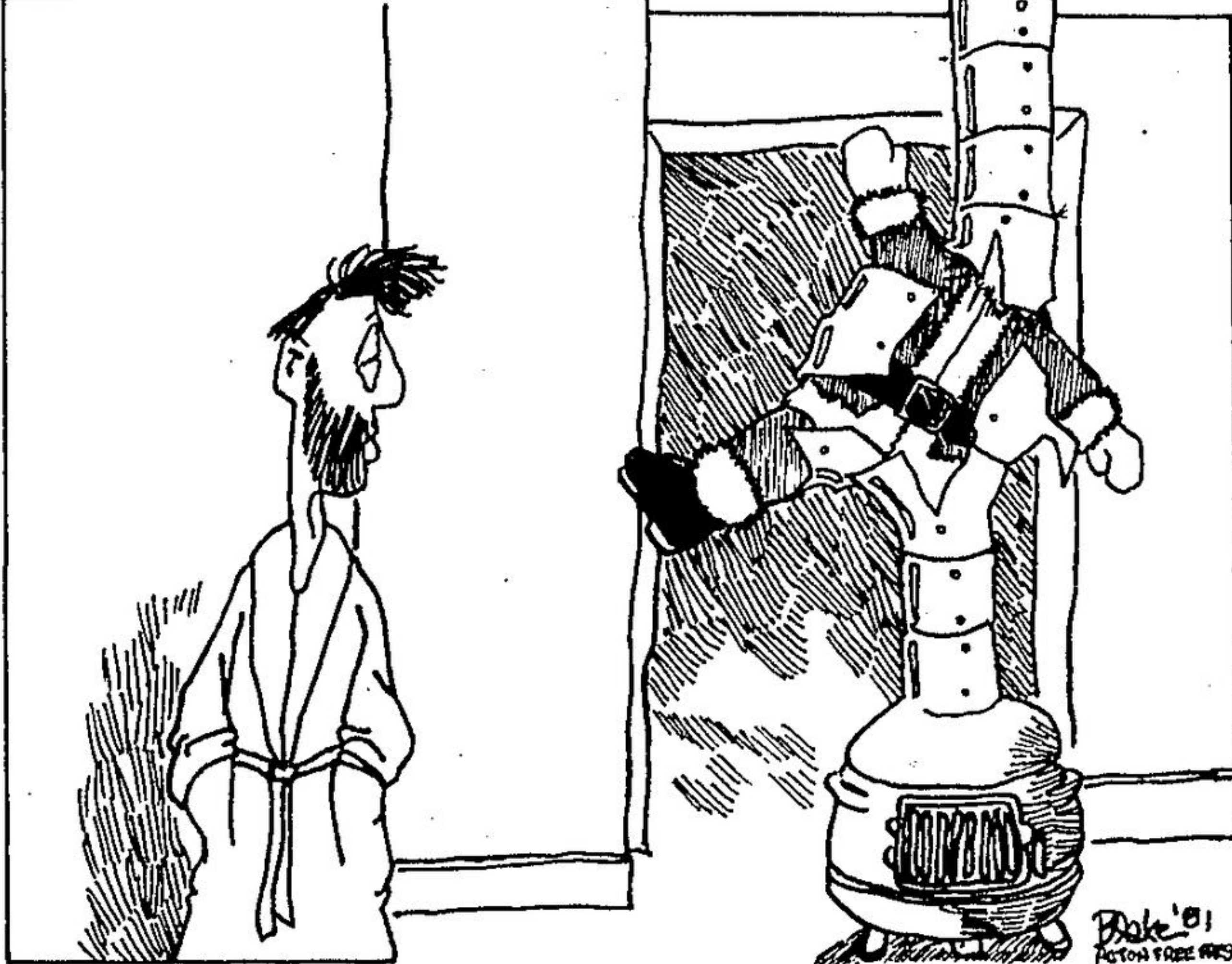
But now as we embark on a smaller, quieter Christmas, in a few years it will be the norm, and we can wonder what will be the changes to disrupt it.

There will still be midnight mass, and Christmas morning with its gifts, but the telephone call will be across the country instead of a couple of blocks away, and the thank yous will be by letter instead of in person.

The turkey will be the same, maybe a little smaller, but just as good, and there will be more dressing to go around. Half my family can sit around the table in Ontario and observe Christmas knowing the other half is doing the exact same thing in Alberta.

We may never be together on Christmas day again, but we will always have our memories of what it was and can always be together in our hearts. We can rejoice in the fact we are only a phone call, or a plane ride away.

To my brother and sister and their families, and to all the thousands of other brothers and sisters far away, Merry Christmas and think of us on Friday. We will be thinking of you.



On the Leavell

With Helen

A special event took place Sunday at the home of Barbara and Robert Barnhart.

Their two sons, Bruce, 2, and Brian, 1, were baptized in their Berry St. home by Rev. Geraldine Smith from Brampton. Forty-eight friends and relatives came from as far away as Belleville, Inlington and Orangeville to witness the occasion.

Barbara and Robert have just moved here from Hillsburgh and are not yet oriented in the community and opted for the home service, a nice touch to a special time.

500 Club winners this week were 07, Jim Lindsay, and 206 Jack Plink.

A former employee of Pinwheel Production in Acton is making a name for himself in the world of small ceramics.

Richard Ogner, who used to work for Peter Saxon, in the Hinton Building, has work for sale at Bendelco boutique. Polywog Studio, as his business is called, has items specially made for Acton. They are tiny figurines with "I love Acton" on them, a great last minute gift idea. He also has tiny mice, cats, seals, mushrooms, pigs, turtles and figurines for plants. His work is also selling in Niagara Falls.

In the what-ever-happened-to department, former Free Press part-time reporter Jennifer Alton (nee Rowe) has entered the world of advertising.

Jennifer started her newspaper career by writing a high school column in this newspaper. In grade 13 she worked part time at the Free Press for her Walkabout, and so impressed the bosses she was hired part time for several months before entering the Sheridan College Journalism program.

The Georgetown Independent was Jennifer's first full-time posting as reporter-photographer. Now two years later, Jennifer, recently married to Acton's Ford Alton, has left her job as reporter for the quieter pace of the advertising department on the same paper.

We wish her well in her new endeavor.

And speaking of former staffers, we got a Christmas card from former sports writer Diana Waltmann this week. Diana left in July and was replaced by Dave Doran.

Diana writes to say she is doing public relations for Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, and loving every minute of it.

Seems the Region of Halton is having a difficult time learning just what towns are under its jurisdiction. I'm referring to their letterhead, which was kindly shown to me by our regional councillor Dave Whiting.

Dave was amused to see the turn of events with the new printing of their stationery.

On the old paper, there is an Oakville

number listed for Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Toronto. Across the bottom there is a Milton number for the combined Halton Hills communities, an Acton number for Guelph residents to call and a Hamilton number for Hamilton.

Then comes the new stuff with the Oakville number at the top, under the address. Across the bottom is a Burlington number, a Halton Hills Acton number, a Halton Hills Georgetown number, a Milton number and an Oakville number.

It was mighty nice of the region to recognize us—for a change.

And, to further prove the region is indeed thinking of Acton, and forgetting about Georgetown, a letter to the regional councillors from chairman Jack Rafits has a Burlington number, Halton Hills with an Acton number, a Milton number and an Oakville number. No mention of Georgetown.

That's progress for us—but I don't know what it means for Georgetown.

Kaye Roszell won the Gingerbread house draw the Opti-Mrs. held on the weekend. The draw was conducted at the Actario draw.

While on the topic of Actario—it didn't take long before my \$100 investment in Actario started to pay off. I won some merchant vouchers a few weeks ago—only the second week of the year long draw. It sure beats last year when I had to wait several months before winning the vouchers.

The odds of winning are terrific. Why not buy a ticket? If I can win, so can you.

There are still openings for the National Breast Screening Clinic at Mount Sinai Hospital on January 19. So far 24 women between the ages of 40-59 have signed up, and there are still openings for six more Acton women.

Transportation will be provided. For further information contact Rena Arbic at 853-0744.

The lady whose name and number Mrs. Arbic lost has not yet got in touch with her. If you were the person who left your name and number with Mrs. Arbic's daughter, who subsequently called you back from St. Joseph's church, please get in touch with her.

The Optimist Club held a Yule Log draw Saturday during Actario also. Richard Furlong of Milton won 10 logs and Gail Shaw of Georgetown won six. Gord Toth of Acton won three.

Theta Phi Sorority also held a draw, this one for \$100 worth of groceries at IGA, Marilyn Murray, 73 Roseford Terrace, won the groceries and Heidi Coleman, 21 Storey Dr., won second prize—a Christmas turkey.

MEANDERINGS by Mabel Barkman

It's for the birds!
Want to make a fun cake? Then make one for the birds. It could be their Christmas treat. Get a large bowl and into it put a cup of flour, white or whole wheat, a cup of rolled oats and then anything you have around the house that you think birds would like—a handful of peanuts, raisins, bird seeds, walnuts, etc.

Now add two teaspoons of baking powder to make it rise, but no salt. Melt any fat you have, probably two or three heaping tablespoons and sprinkle in the mixture. Then put an egg or two in a cup of milk, sour or otherwise, beat with a fork and add. Mix it all up and if a bit stiff add more liquid. Grease a cake tin, dump in your mixture and pop in the oven.

Bake at 350 degrees until it is solid when touched, about half an hour. Take it out and let it cool. Break it into pieces and put in the feeding station.

Outdoors

BY LORNE FLETCHER

A few hardy anglers are trying their luck on the larger rivers that have extended seasons for rainbow and salmon.

Water levels have receded to a decent level due to cold, stable weather conditions. Reports are that it's slow fishing with very few large 'bows hooked.

I am hoping the weather will warm up a little before December 31 so that we can fish with less ice in the rod guides.

Interest in ice fishing is warming up. The ice should be good around Nipissing by the year end.

Snow on small lakes in the northern areas often makes for poor ice, often all winter. Large lakes like Simcoe, Nipissing receive more wind scouring action which moves snow around. They usually have the safest, strongest ice.

No fee is charged to place your own ice hut on any lake but they must be registered with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Also a number must be applied to the hut.

Those contemplating building an ice hut should remember first build

Our readers write

Photograph town hall then knock it down

Dear Sir:
People in Acton who believe the old town hall is worth keeping would be wise to get a photographer, take a few shots for records and then knock it down.

This would not be hard to do, as the structure is in bad shape.

In 1950, the last year I belonged to the Acton Volunteer Fire Department, this

building was checked very closely and found to be not worth repairs.

A good, sound building was destroyed, namely the old Post Office, and could have been a good town building.

Yours truly,
W.H. Peel,
London, Ont.

Have special Acton day at Jack Tanner's Table

Dear Sir:
It would have been a nice gesture on the part of the manager of the old Hide House to set aside a special day for only Acton residents to be the guests of Jack Tanner's Table, at discount prices.

There are so many people who would enjoy a night out who couldn't afford it otherwise.

An interested citizen,
Doreen Heppburn

Free Press stories on TV

Dear Sir:
May I extend my sincerest thanks to you for sending me The Acton Free Press during the past year? Together we have teamed our talents and resources to create and present a pioneer venture in the field of communications. The audio-visual weekly capsule on CKCO-TV of grass-roots stories about people in the smaller centres of South-Western Ontario is, I believe, a first of its kind.

asparagus license; an oyster shucker finding a 'pearl'; how weekly newspapers co-operate during times of stress caused by mechanical failures; how popular trains were in 1881; and how an unusual highway accident filled a car completely with aromatic manure. That, I believe, is quite an impressive list of events recorded, and my congratulations to your news-room staff.

Yours Faithfully,
Arthur Carr

Since its inception in October of 1980 "Country Editor" has used stories from your Acton Free Press about a 99th birthday party; John Kitely and the

P.S.—Then there was the story about burglars who stole a parrot.

Police score big in spot checks

Look out!
The Halton Regional Police Traffic Bureau's Alert Team may stop you in the next two weeks, as they have stopped 1,570 other unsuspecting drivers travelling along Halton roads during the past two months.

Breathalyzer tests have resulted in 10 impaired driving charges laid and 13 charges of driving with more than the legal limit of alcohol in the bloodstream.

Staff Inspector Ray Andress said charges have not increased with the approach of Christmas. "There doesn't seem to be any set pattern," he said.

A team of four police officers from the department's traffic bureau sets up a spot check at any point in Halton where complaints have occurred, Andress explained. "They could be anywhere."

Back issues

10 years ago

December 22, 1971

Acton's snowmobile by-law will be reviewed by the administration committee of council, as a result of a discussion at Tuesday night's regular meeting. The present by-law, which permits snowmobiles use of town streets up until 11 p.m. at night came under fire from Reeve Frank Oakes who claimed "As soon as the snow comes we can't sleep at night!" Oakes said he isn't against snowmobiling, but charged snowmobiles should not be playing around on town streets.

Acton children raised the impressive sum of \$1,843 for UNICEF on Hallowe'en, Mrs. Margaret Wilson reports with pride this week.

Acton public school teacher Gary Bateman wants smaller primary classes in a bid to head off student learning problems. Mr. Bateman, a teacher at M.Z. Bennett public school, said one of the biggest problems is difficulty in reading. His comments came during the report of a sub-committee which examined class sizes in the county and came to the conclusion the size of at least grade one classes should be reduced. This year county schools have an average of 29.2 pupils in Grade 1 to 5 and 32.6 in Grades 7 and 8 according to figures released by the board.

20 years ago

December 21, 1961

An Acton man is \$850 poorer as the result of a fast, smooth talking stranger who promised to recover \$1,700, the amount paid for aluminum storm windows. The stranger arrived at the local man's door and enquired if the resident was satisfied with the installation of the recently installed windows. When the Acton man said he paid \$1,700 for the windows and believed he had paid too much, the stranger said he too had been taken in by the same company. The stranger said he had engaged a lawyer to investigate and promised to return the \$1,700 upon payment of \$850. Police are investigating and warned all other residents to be cautious regarding the dealing with strangers. If in doubt of the legality of any transaction with strangers the police should be contacted.

50 years ago

December 17, 1931

Yesterday was Mr. John Kennedy's 70th birthday and his fellow workmen arranged a presentation in order to show this old employee of the esteem in which he is held. Mr. Kennedy has been an employee of the Beardmore and Co. for over 40 years.

The official opening of Norton Motors new garage and service station last Friday evening was an event that attracted people from the whole countryside to join in congratulating this Acton establishment on their new quarters and participating in the "House Warming".

At noon yesterday the Fire Brigade were given a run when a chimney on Mr. John Bruce's house on Bower Ave. took fire and for a few moments looked serious. No damage to any extent was done and it was not even necessary to use the chemical extinguishers.

75 years ago

December 20, 1906

The Methodist church was well filled on Christmas evening for the Sunday School entertainment. Carey Bros. presented a program of moving pictures, illustrated songs, etc.

St. Alban's Sunday School entertainment in the town consisted of drills, dialogues, music etc.

Lehman's Hotel was the scene of a jovial gathering of about 50 members of the I.O.O.F. lodge.

The Post Office deserves the most sincere thanks of all citizens. They give a splendid service under the circumstances.

Teachers coming home for the holidays are Daisy Nicklin, Edith Nicklin, Myrtle Watson, Myrtle Matthews, Marie Good- eve, Margaret Johnston, John McMurchy, Minnie Bennett, Bert Mullan, William Mullan and Miss M. McDonald.

The tanneries close this Saturday until Wednesday for Christmas holidays.

100 years ago

December 22, 1881

Hail, joyous merry Christmas, all hail! Our streets are filled with pleasure and our houses with laughter.

The plans, specifications etc. for the new town hall have been received by council from the architects. The drawings present a very fine appearance. Acton will have a town hall to be proud of.

The annual anniversary and Christmas tree, in connection with the Sabbath school of the Methodist church, was well attended. The program was much enjoyed. Rev. Mullan of Fergus addressed the children. Santa Claus distributed gifts.

At St. Alban's church there was a program with addresses. Rev. Pigoot acted in the capacity of Santa Claus.

Mrs. Chas. Knees of the Cordovan tannery treated his employees to an excellent Christmas supper.

The butcher halls in town are especially decorated with Christmas meat and fowl. Mr. W.C. Robinson's is the best.