

# The Acton Free Press

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## Town snow plowing policy is long overdue

Council has directed the engineer to come up with a policy position paper on winter maintenance and the level of service to be delivered.

Such a policy is long overdue.

In fact it is surprising it hasn't been done before.

Annually there are complaints both in town and in the rural area about snow plowing and removal service as well as sanding and salting.

To be fair to the works staff there are also annual bouquets for a job well done.

One reason there have been complaints is that the town has never had a set policy, despite the fact Halton Hills is now in its ninth year of operation.

The suspicion has persisted in Acton since day one of Halton Hills that Georgetown is plowed before Acton.

Frankly, we don't believe it. Reporters from both the Free Press and our sister paper the Georgetown Independent have gone out during storms and after and found town crews out at exactly the same time.

Yet annually there are complaints and grumbling about streets which aren't plowed as quickly as people think they should be and sidewalks which are snow covered or icy. Many grumble, few bother to ask their councillors about the problem.

And when they do receive complaints, councillors must scramble to obtain answers

from town staff, not quote policy, because there isn't a policy. There's procedure and sort of a policy based on what has been done every year, but nothing nailed down which the politicians and staff can quote or the citizens can become familiar with.

Yet snow problems are problems which touch the lives of just about every citizen, something which can't be said for many areas of municipal operations and services.

Hopefully after the position paper is completed and council discusses it, adjusts it and approves it, everyone will know where they stand.

Citizens will be able to determine the level of service that should be available and decide if they are in fact receiving it.

Councillors will be able to decide what level of service we can afford now and after hearing from the public establish if residents are willing to pay more for extra services like sidewalk clearing.

The policy paper should once and for all in writing set how much snow must fall before the plows are out, two inches is the rule of thumb.

It will also set down which roads and streets are the highest priority. Every street in the municipality should be classified in priority groups for plowing, sanding or salting and snow removal, so everyone knows exactly what kind of service they should expect and how fast they'll receive it.



BILKE  
ACTON FREE PRESS

## Back issues

10 years ago

January 12, 1972

H.H. Bert Hinton will seek the Progressive Conservative federal nomination for Halton riding. Mr. Hinton announced this week he has decided to stand as nominee with the support of Acton and Esqueping PC associations.

Acton firefighters' prompt action fighting a fire at Highway Garage, Main St. N. last Wednesday night averted what could have been a more serious blaze. Flames erupted at approximately 7.30 p.m. while a youth was filling a tractor with gasoline and firefighters fought the fire for an hour before bringing it under control.

A head-on collision at the brow of a hill on Churchill Road N., sent three persons to hospital last Wednesday afternoon about 3.30 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Severino Braida were surrounded by family and friends at an open house and dinner when they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last Saturday. They came to Acton in 1927.

20 years ago

January 11, 1962

Reeve Wilfred Bird of Esqueping Township, a five year veteran of County Council work, was chosen Warden of the County on Tuesday afternoon by his fellow County councillors.

The ultimate construction of a night harness racing track at Campbellville at an estimated cost of \$3,000,000 was announced Wednesday by officials of the Jockey Club Ltd. of Toronto.

Beginning his 13th year on the Acton public school board, Tom Watson was chosen Tuesday evening during the inaugural meeting to head the 1962 board as chairman. This will be his fourth term as chairman. Vice chairman of the year is Cliff Bradley.

Believed to be Acton's oldest resident, Mrs. Peter Savers celebrated her 96th birthday quietly Sunday when a few friends and relatives dropped in to offer congratulations and best wishes.

New Year's baby at the Georgetown hospital came to former Acton residents Mr. and Mrs. John Big Canoe. Little Elmer Leslie, the first baby born in the hospital in 1962, weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces.

50 years ago

January 7, 1932

One of the worst ice storms of years visited this section of the province on New Year's Day and wrought damage to the telephone, telegraph and Hydro lines, at \$400,000 and inestimable damage to fruit and shade trees and ornamental shrubbery. In Acton the Hydro power went off on Friday morning, but it was in order during the night again.

Last Wednesday evening a surprise party was given Miss Dora Lambert by a number of her friends and relatives at her home on the occasion of her going away.

The inaugural meeting of the 1932 Acton Council was held on Monday evening with Councillors W. McArthur, E. Jones, John Nicol, and George Cowie present and Reeve George Barber presiding.

75 years ago

January 10, 1907

When Rev. J.C. Wilson, pastor of Knox church, announced a congregational social he never imagined how much it had in store for himself and his beloved partner in life. Mr. Wilson was presented with a fur-lined overcoat and Mrs. Wilson a dinner set of Limoges china, as expressions of the love of the congregation.

Acton's Property owners have voted in favor of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission five to one. Seventy voted for the bylaw and 15 against.

Mr. W.H. Grant, a native of Acton, eldest son of the late Alexander Grant Esq., who has been with Messrs. McKenzie and Mann for a number of years, has been pleased in connection with the construction of the Halifax and South Western Railway.

Mr. W.R. Roche, of the Acton House, has purchased from the Robert Holmes estate the brick residence in which he resides for \$2,100. (This is the father of author Mazo de la Roche.)

100 years ago

January 12, 1882

One of the saddest accidents it has been our lot to chronicle is the loss of three fingers of the six year-old son of Mr. James Butler. The little fellow got his hand caught in the planing machine in the factory where his father was working.

Mr. Thos. Moore has purchased the stove factory on Main St. south of the G.T.R. tracks and intends doing a large business in staves and shingles.

A drunken Indian wandered into Mr. Wm. Hemstreet's residence Saturday night. Constable Hemstreet allowed him to warm his benumbed limbs at his hospitable hearth and gave him something to eat, by which time he was sober enough to depart.

Working men form the backbone of the nation, and boys should learn useful trades.

## Our readers write

### Too cold for mail service?

Dear Sir:  
I find it appalling that though we have to pay .30 cents to mail a letter—a ridiculous increase, by any standards—we are getting nothing for it.

A call to the post office today (Monday) yielded the information that there would be no mail delivery: "They said it was too cold to go out," whoever answered the post office phone told me. Whatever happened to the old saying about "neither rain nor snow, nor sleet nor hail" etc.? Or does that only apply to the warm weather?

My God, if the whole town decided it was too cold to go to work, where would the town be? I saw people walking to work this morning, children waiting at

stops for buses, or even walking to school. I presume the teachers are at school and the stores are open, and I don't see the streets littered with the frozen bodies of people who couldn't make it.

Meanwhile, we, who are paying dearly for mail service, are getting no service today. Why are we paying .30 cents per letter for this? Perhaps the carriers should give some thought to the idea of giving up their routes, if they can't perform the job they are paid to do. I only hope this cold weather doesn't last, or the town mail may become a thing of the past!

"Disgusted"  
(Name withheld on request)

### Don't need town hall to reassure us, reader says

Dear Sir,  
Mr. Petrillo is amazed at the people of Acton. So am I.

Nearly four hundred of the "silent majority" finally spoke out. There were many proposed uses for the old town hall, none of which justified the estimated cost. I haven't been a taxpayer for twenty-five years without learning that estimated costs and actual costs are not usually the same thing. The only reason to preserve this old building seems to be because it's there.

So Georgetown got a new library and cultural centre. So what! Are we going to play "keep up with Georgetown" now? That would be a very childish and

expensive game.  
George Elliott commented "what a pleasure it was to work in a community which appreciates its history." C'mon, George. We don't need to spend \$400,000, label a building "Our History" and run down and touch it everyday to reassure ourselves it's still there.

Three students compiled a list of historical sites and buildings this past summer. Perhaps this paper could reprint the list for the benefit of those residents who feel "our history" will be demolished with the old town hall.

Yours truly,  
Pat Harris  
10 Rosemary Rd.

## Paper helps make Acton active and healthy-Chamber

Dear Sir:  
As the New Year begins the Acton Chamber of Commerce would like to express its appreciation to the Acton Free Press and its staff for its conscientious effort to keep our town aware of community events, accomplishments and plans.

By keeping its readers aware and informed through the course of 1981, the Free Press has assisted in making our area an active and healthy community. Co-operation and involvement have

been the key factors stressed by the Chamber of Commerce in the past years. In these areas the Free Press has more than played an important role.

1982 promises to be a year of changes and growth towards progress in our town. Your Chamber of Commerce looks forward to the challenges of the new year.

Sincerely,  
Janet F. Fleming  
Secretary



### On the Leavell

With Helen

Sympathy of the community is extended to the family of Norman Newman, RR 4, Acton, who died last Thursday. Mr. Newman came to the limelight several weeks ago as he and his wife Mabel celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

It's my fault—I was told about it when it happened, but forgot to put it in this column—but better late than ever. Some 50 people gathered at A.C. Stewart Hall, Knox Presbyterian Church over the Christmas holidays to celebrate the 88th birthday of Molly Fulton who was visiting from Liscomb, Nova Scotia. Mrs. Fulton is well known in Acton, being the mother of Renee Watson.

Renee's entire family was on hand for the party, coming from as far away as North Bay and Tillsonburg.

Pat and Mike Hirlie have a small problem, and it's round and furry. The Brock Street couple have been adopted by a stray Grey Tabby cat, and with three cats of their own already, they can't keep the newest addition. They would like the owner to step forward to claim it, and failing that, anyone who may want a kitten is welcome to come and get it. It was found in front of the Donut Shop on January 2, and is about one-year-old. She can't tell if it is male or female.

The Le Leche meeting, scheduled for Monday night was cancelled due to the cold weather. It has been rescheduled for January 18, at 8 p.m. and will be held at 128 Elmwood Drive.

This meeting, will be the first of a series of four gatherings, and will deal with the advantages of breast feeding. The entire series will be held at 128 Elmwood Drive.

For further information, call 856-9935 or 878-4803.

Congratulations to local skaters Susan Kinal and Kevin Parker for their great work during recent competitions (see sports page). Both have worked extremely hard to get as far in the skating world as they have and should be very proud of themselves. Acton certainly is.

The sacrifice the two have made over the past years is overwhelming. Anyone who devotes as much time and effort to anything is sure to lose out on other things.

To Susan and Kevin, keep up the good work. No matter what the future holds for you in your individual careers, Acton will always be proud of you.

Thanks for jobs well done.

Sure was a lot of fires on the weekend. One of the calls gave me a real scare. Saturday night I was barbecuing a nice big roast on my new gas barbecue. I went outside around seven to check on it (only 10 minutes after it was put on) and found the meat in flames, turning on the spit, getting blacker by the second. I quickly shut off the gas flow into the barbecue and was in the pro-

cess of blowing out the flames on the roast when the fire siren started blaring away. My heart dropped to my toes as I envisioned the bright red truck roaring up my driveway and the firefighters hosing down my roast. I thought maybe a neighbor had seen the flames and called them.

In true reporter fashion, Gord tore from the house to investigate the fire. It was a car fire, on the other side of town, and my roast was safe—at least from a ton of water being sprayed on it.

But all turned out well for our supper. The beef was delicious after all, the juices had been seared inside the charcoal exterior, and it cooked in its own juices.

Next time I plan to deliberately burn the roast, to get the same results. Watch—when I do it deliberately, it will be terrible.

### MEANDERINGS

by Mabel Barkman  
Stuffed Mushrooms

I was reading last week about what is in (in food) and what is out. Apparently "stuffed mushrooms" are out.

I have always been told not to believe everything you read, so here is a favorite of mine.

Remove the stems and chop finely. Saute chopped stems and a chopped onion in a little butter. Then mix with a third of a cup of walnuts, two tablespoons of bread crumbs and one tablespoon of parmesan cheese.

Cool the mixture a little. Beat an egg white until frothy and stir into the mushroom mixture. Spoon it into the caps, mounding high. Put on a cookie sheet and bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes. Sprinkle with more parmesan before serving. These can be served with a main course as a garnish or as an hors d'oeuvre. I'm sure you will enjoy them.

## Clergy Comment

By Rev. Chuck Beaton

I came upon a touching and powerful story, recently, written by George Perkins, one of the members of our Trinity United Church congregation. As I read it, I could not help but recall the apostle Paul's words, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ". We are called, as human beings and as Christians, to make life easier, richer and more caring. Here is George's true story:

Amid all the doom and gloom, the violence and sex that is seen, read and heard today, there are still true stories of compassion, empathy and wisdom. Here is a true case I came across a couple of years ago.

During a business call, the personnel manager in a large firm told me of how a foreman on an assembly line came to the Personnel department for permission to fire a worker. Despite repeated warnings, Mary habitually came in late—both in the morning and also after lunch. Her absence held up the whole line. The other workers grumbled at losing their production bonuses and most of them were now so angry, they wouldn't speak to Mary. The foreman had twice been called on the carpet to explain the low production and high defects on his shift. He had just traced the defective workmanship to Mary and he demanded the permission to fire her immediately. Even the shop steward had agreed to firing Mary.

Steve, the foreman, was so angry that the personnel counsellor asked him to sit down and discuss the problem. After hearing the story in detail, the counsellor asked Steve why Mary had suddenly started to turn up late. Why was she making errors when she had previously been such an excellent worker? Steve said he didn't know and didn't care—all he knew was that Mary had to go!

The veteran counsellor agreed to let Steve fire Mary, but with one restriction. Steve had to first find out from Mary why she was late every day and then he could fire her.

Steve stormed out of the office, muttering to himself about all this g.d. foolishness. Half-an-hour later, he shuffled back into the counsellor's office to sheepishly say Mary was still on the line and he didn't want her fired, but could he please

shift her to a better-paying job?

Steve explained that, when he confronted Mary and demanded to know why she was late every day, she had burst into tears. Finally, she had told him that her husband was at home, alone, all day. He was dying of cancer of the spine and couldn't feed himself. Every morning, she got up and looked after him. She bathed him, shaved him and fed him. She administered his medicine and helped make him as comfortable as possible in front of the T.V. By the time she grabbed a quick bite, she often missed the bus and was late for work. At noon, Mary rushed home to feed him and do what she could to make him comfortable. The bus schedule got her back to the plant a little late for the end of the lunch hour break. She apologized for her errors, but said she just couldn't seem to concentrate on her work like she did before he took sick. The other workers were mad at her so she hadn't told anyone else.

There were tears on Steve's cheeks when he finished telling the counsellor about Mary and, between them, they quickly found a less demanding job for her.

The personnel manager told me how, within a week, there had been tremendous changes on Mary's assembly line. As the story became known, her fellow workers had banded together to help Mary. They watched her units like hawks and every error was quietly picked off the line and subtly corrected without her knowledge. The workers immediately beside her casually developed some "spare" time to help her out with a few extra units, here and there, so she constantly "bonused". Workers on the opposite shift found excuses to drop in on her husband and visit, while Mary was working. There was always someone, morning, noon and night, to give Mary a lift to and from work.

The morale in the plant had never been as high and production had hit new peaks, as the workers made sure that Mary bonused. The personnel manager ended his story to me by shaking his head and saying, "and it all came about because someone cared enough to ask why before they fired."