

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010

Founded in 1875

Don McDonald, Publisher

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Is Acton in Halton riding? Otto Jelinek doesn't act like he thinks it is

Is Acton part of the federal riding of Halton?

By the way our MP, Tory Otto Jelinek, acts sometimes it is hard to believe he thinks we're part of his constituency.

Tomorrow night (Thursday) Jelinek will hold a public forum for Acton and Milton, in Milton.

As if that isn't bad enough, holding a meeting for Actonians 10 miles down the road, he has failed to set a date for a visit to the ward one councillors' drop-in, despite several invitations and his pledge to this newspaper he'd come to town.

Terry Grubbe has contacted his office twice providing dates of drop-in sessions and was told he'd confirm a date for January or February. Naturally our local politicians aren't pleased that after not hearing an answer back they now discover Jelinek is holding an Acton forum in Milton.

Jelinek told this newspaper the reason the Acton forum isn't being held here is because attendance has been very poor in the past. He says he'll be in town to talk to everyone at the fall fair, seven months away. We certainly don't want to be listening to a politician at the best small town fair in Ontario and doubt any other fair goes will want to either.

We agree attendance at last year's forum wasn't exactly overwhelming, but then he picked a night when local members of his own party were busy selecting a provincial election candidate.

Also, we question what kind of a crowd he expects, a dozen or so people should be ample to warrant his coming to town. Considering the weather this winter we think he's taking a real chance expecting people from here to travel to Milton to listen to him.

As for the council drop-in, his office told the councillors he'd come and he personally told

this newspaper he'd come. When are you coming Otto? And if you ever do show up what kind of a crowd are you expecting? All of the other local heavy-weights have shown up. Jack Raftis and Julian Reed drew a dozen or so people maximum and been quite pleased. They've also felt the afternoon was well worth the effort, even though they weren't speaking to a huge crowd, and asked to come back.

When the councillors heard a while ago, through the grapevine, that Jelinek was planning an evening forum they assumed it would be in Acton, and were hoping to get his permission to hold an evening drop-in session then too. Then they heard his forum was in Milton and junked that idea.

In the past there has been grumbling from organizers of some community events here about our MP not attending. Considering he also represents larger Milton and much, much larger Oakville his not showing up for every Acton event is understandable.

However, we firmly believe he should be more visible here than he has been, except during elections and when he's passing around petitions.

In fairness, we give Otto full marks for being here for Back to Acton Days and the Citizen of the Year banquet last summer. People couldn't remember seeing him around town that much since the last election.

At the Citizen of the Year dinner Otto took a lot of "good natured" kidding from the other politicians in attendance about his infrequent visits to town.

What he doesn't seem to have understood was that the jokes had their basis in some truth.

If you want to hear the voice of Acton even if it is just a small voice, then come to Acton, Otto, don't expect Acton to go down the road to you.



On the Leavell

With Helen

It's Scout and Guide week and this week's Real Estate/Business in Halton Hills and Area tabloid section of the Free Press contains a story on the founder of the movement, Baden-Powell. This section also features a few other stories of local interest.

Since the Free Press introduced this section a few weeks ago there has been some confusion in the minds of readers regarding how they receive it.

Every Tuesday afternoon Free Press carriers deliver this section as well as grocery store and other advertising flyers to each and every home in urban Acton. For various distribution reasons this section is not being included in the Wednesday Free Press copies sold in Acton stores or which people receive from their carrier. If you live in urban Acton and do not receive this section on Tuesdays, or the grocery store flyers, please call the Free Press at 853-2010 and they'll be delivered or a copy can be picked up at the Free Press office.

Readers who live in the rural area and receive their Free Press through the mail or buy it in rural stores will find the Real Estate section inserted in the regular Wednesday edition of the paper. For any rural readers who buy their copy of the Free Press in a store in Acton they won't receive this section in their paper, but can pick one up at the Free Press office.

And speaking of the Free Press, the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) just pointed out to us something which may save our readers a lot of money.

Subscribers who head south for the winter (or any other place) can receive the Free Press for just an additional \$1 charge to the post office, rather than paying for an out of country subscription rate.

The memo from E.C. Lydan, executive director of the OCNA says: "Were you aware that any subscriber can lodge a change of address with his local post office at the cost of \$1 which will allow for an automatic transfer of his mail from Canada to Florida or wherever he is for an extended vacation. This would mean that your subscribers who go south for three months do not have to pay more on their subscriptions but simply pay the \$1 to the post office for forwarding their mail."

A former Acton girl has been crowned Coldwater Winter Carnival Queen. Tammy Gould, daughter of Richard and Cheryl Gould, RR 2, Coldwater, and granddaughter of Bert and Eileen Gould, RR 2, Rockwood and Herb and Gladys Price received the honor during the weekend of January 22, 23 and 24. Tammy is 17 years old and attends Parkway (Orillia) High School. She attended Robert Little School while in Acton.

Former Free Press staffer and columnist Jennifer Barr reports she is doing extremely well in her real estate course and is looking forward to the working world of selling homes.

Are there any former Sarnians out there reading my words of wisdom.

A Sarnian is a person who lives in Sarnia (or used to). Well, if you are, and I know there are at least two in town, the City of Sarnia is having its 125th anniversary this year and the mayor and council have appointed a committee of interested citizens to encourage and assist in coordinating community wide events through the year. The celebrations began on New Year's Day and will continue until New Year's Eve, next December.

One of the events scheduled will be a Homecoming Week, and that's where I come in. It is my duty to inform the Terry Grubbes and Sally Smiths (former Sarnians) that from July 26 to August 1 is homecoming week, and you are expected to be there. There will be a regatta on the St. Clair River and a Garden Party to wind up the week.

Anyone interested in further information can write Terri Hunge, co-ordinator of the anniversary committee. My only address for her is City Hall, Sarnia, Ontario.

At least one contributor of stories to the Free Press has expressed concern over his work being edited.

Any and all work handed into the Free Press is subjected to editing either by myself as news editor, or the editor Gord Murray or both. It is checked for newspaper style, readability, content, spelling and grammar. Some mistakes slip by us, but we try our best to catch them all.

Anything that goes into this column, whether attributed or not, is my ultimate responsibility. If there is an error, I am to blame, whether someone else's name is on it or not. Therefore, I cannot allow grammatical or spelling errors to deliberately go by me in the interests of making something sound "cute".

If I must change the tenses because they change in the middle of a sentence, I must. My journalistic training and instincts will not allow me to let them pass.

I also will not accept responsibility for

errors on my part made when deciphering handwriting. Everyone thinks their penmanship is readable. Even I do, and take my Mother's word for it it is not.

So next time you are upset because a word has been changed in your copy, anywhere in the Free Press, not just on this page, please understand. We are not mind readers.

I have seen people with confidence in my life, but never as much as when talking to Brent Racette, a Toronto Argonaut football player.

Brent, and fellow Argo Rusty Browne, work in the off season (and as much as they can during the season) at the D and G Care group home outside of Acton.

Brent and I were talking about football, and his ill-fated team. Although months away from the start of the season, Brent made a prediction that the Argos would be in the playoffs next fall. He doesn't think they will win the Grey Cup, but he's already pencilled the team into the playoffs.

MEANDERINGS by Mabel Barkman A Pot of Garden Salad

This time of year I get the urge to grow green things in the house.

Some houseplants have died off and the pot with garden soil looks very bare. The fastest growing, useful plant I have found is pepper grass or cress. I notice the stores are featuring their seeds now and you can probably buy a package. My seeds were left over from last Spring.

I take a fork and work up the soil in the pot. Then I scatter the seeds and barely cover them. I water them well each day and keep them in a sunny window or under a bright light at night.

When the cress is about two inches high in about five days, I snip it all off with the scissors, wash in cold water and add to a lettuce and tomato salad. It's fun to experiment with different seeds and I'm sure the children would enjoy it for a hobby.

Clergy Comment

by Rev. Ralph C. Diodati

The prophet Joel speaks of "The Day of the Lord". What does this mean? We hear it quite often but do we really know what it means? It would be a mistake to think that it refers to our own personal death and the life hereafter.

Our faith is something more than just waiting to die and pass from this life to the next. St. Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians says, "The Day of the Lord is now—Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation."

Basically what Paul is saying is that the life we are now living must have some meaning to it. I must become involved in this life so that the world in which I live is a little bit better because of my being here. There should be—because of my life—a little bit more kindness, a little bit more sensitivity and compassion, a little bit more love in the people and situations I touch.

In order for this to happen, we must first of all be reconciled, as Paul states in his letter to the Corinthians. We must ask forgiveness from God and His people. We must be people who have asked for and received forgiveness before we can truly be forgiving people. This is an important goal we can use for Lent. For many of us, to break down and

forgive will require what Joel calls rending the heart. It means a drastic turn, a tearing apart of what we want to hold onto. It is necessary for us to do this throughout life if we want to turn our hearts to God again. Or, to put it in the words of Joel, "Return to me with your whole heart."

The Gospels have given us three traditional penances to practice to make our hearts belong to God. We are called by Matthew's Gospel to pray, fast, and give alms. Each practice must be exercised in conjunction with the other two. The three can teach us many things. Fasting can teach us discipline and self-denial for God. Giving alms can awaken us to God's presence in all people, especially the poor. It can also make us thankful for the many blessings and luxuries we all share. Prayer, united with fasting and alms-giving, allows us to keep firm purpose, so that we are not doing these things solely for our own gain, or our own rewards and accolades.

"Return with your whole heart. Rend your hearts" (Joel). "For now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation" (Paul). "Pray, fast, give alms" (Matthew). This is our goal—to be forgiven so we can forgive.

Back issues 10 years ago

February 23, 1972

Whither the new international airport? According to the Toronto Star a confidential Ontario government map pinpoints the location as immediately south of Claremont in Pickering township about 30 miles north east of the Toronto City Hall.

A full second floor on an east end plaza, to be used as a medical centre, was proposed to planning board at their meeting in the council chambers last Thursday. The medical centre would be located above the Queen St. plaza where the Red and White Store was located formerly. This area would become a branch of Acton Pharmacy.

Officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs described predictions that Halton County would have regional government by 1973 as pure speculation. "It is news to me" Ron Furrow of the Department of Municipal Affairs told this newspaper Tuesday. He said there was no legislation being prepared for either Halton or Peel regarding regional government and he knew of no plans for preparation.

20 years ago

February 22, 1962

Acton Firefighters Saturday evening completely fulfilled their pledge to the new Community Centre when a cheque for \$200 was handed over to Mayor John H. Goy. Retired bank manager William K. Graham, Knox Ave., received a pleasant surprise Sunday afternoon when he was greeted by many friends and relatives on his 75th birthday.

Donald Groh began his duties Wednesday morning as curator of the Halton County Museum at Kelsco. Mr. Groh has been employed at Doon Museum.

In the final ballot at Acton United Church Sunday morning the new name Trinity was preferred over the present name. This was the third ballot of members and adherents to determine the church's name.

50 years ago

February 18, 1932

At a well attended meeting held last Friday in the Town Hall of the competitors and those interested in the Field Crop Competition of 1931, ten prizes were awarded as follows: Leslie Pearen, Acton; Arthur Swackhamer, Acton; Robert Tuck, Eden Mills; Basil Johnston, Acton; George A. McPhail, Acton; Robert Kerr, Acton; R.N. Brown, Acton; Arch McNabb, Rockwood; Hugh M. Reid, Acton; Wallace Swackhamer, Acton.

The havoc wrought by the big ice storm early this year has brought home to many how essential the conveniences of everyday life have become. The rural telephone users who have been denied this service now fully appreciate what is in everyday life.

Mrs. M.R. Moore was a representative from Acton at the Musical Festival-committee meeting in Milton last week.

75 years ago

February 21, 1907

The Toronto Lime Co. at Limehouse has ordered a second gasoline engine from T.J. Speight, Georgetown, for the rebuilt draw kilns near the station.

The engine house at "The Dolly" was destroyed by fire and the engine will have to be rebuilt.

The switching off and on of all the tannery lights, from their own dynamo to the corporation wires, night and morning, when the tannery engine is shut down, is most trying to all lamps in use throughout town. The voltage thus suddenly increased is especially fatal to lamps. The Fire and Light committee must make some different arrangements.

The Georgetown Conservator has suspended publication. It was established in 1902 by S. Charters of the Brampton Conservator, in the interests of the Conservative party. There was not room for two good newspapers in Georgetown.

100 years ago

February 16, 1882

About 3 o'clock on Monday morning our citizens were aroused by the unwelcome alarm of fire. The large frame building on Main Street, known as the California House but now occupied as a dwelling, was enveloped in flames.

In a very short time the residence of Mr. Thomas Ebbage, north, and the stable and sheds south of the burning building were on fire. Mr. Ebbage's furniture was removed but the effects of Mrs. Garvin were destroyed. The house and shop across the street, belonging to Mr. Arch McNab, very narrowly escaped destruction and was only saved by the persistent efforts of a number of citizens. The lawn of Mr. C.S. Smith and the Public School grounds were covered in cinders.

The old hotel property destroyed was built about 35 years ago and is the last pile of old wooden buildings in the village, and our little town is now devoid of the old rickety buildings many of which are so frequently seen in small towns.

Every person in town is talking about the necessity of organizing a fire company.

Our readers write

Fans should be ashamed Sabre supporter says

Dear Fellow Fans:
Last night in Oakville (Sabres vs Oakville) Tuesday, February 18, I was ashamed to be called a hockey fan.

I have been associated with hockey for over 10 years, and the last three years with the club, Acton Jr. Sabres. I have seen a lot of hockey games in nearly every arena in this area. I have traveled with my son's team to more games than I can ever remember, but in all that time I have never witnessed such a demonstration of poor sportsmanship, rudeness, bad language and utter disrespect for fellow human beings.

If you are a true fan then you are here to cheer your team on not to bad mouth the players or other fans.

My husband and I have run the booster club for the benefit of the team and have had many enjoyable nights, but what happened on Saturday, February 13 was, to say the least, very disappointing and I presume this feeling was carried over to the Oakville arena.

There are a lot of very good athletes playing hockey for our team, they needn't be ashamed of their game or their conduct, but there sure are a lot of fans that should be ashamed to even come to another game, because our boys on the team need support not poor sportsmanship from the fans.

Patricia Kilton
Mother, fan and Executive

Reader expresses concern for group home youths

Dear Sir:
I am writing to the people that are thinking about writing off the D and G farm house for violent prone kids and yes to the public too.

People are thinking about shutting the doors in these kids faces and sending them to the streets.

I think in my estimation you are sentencing these kids to a life of what even a mad man isn't even fit for. You are sending the anger, their pain and most of all the untold horror that is inside of them to the streets.

Stop for one moment and think what if someone abandons Sheila Bell what do you think she would do? I think her own instinct would lead her to violence. And Brad General, he is already angry and on the road, what length will he go to survive, theft, stealing or maybe murder. Well, consider both sides of the story before you sentence these kids. I ask one simple question. Is this the systems of justice or injustice?

Rocky Bartholomew,
13A Mill Street East,
Acton