

The Acton Free Press

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Let Ottawa's bells ring on

Let the bells ring on. The current fiasco in Ottawa with the Tories refusing to come to the House to vote, thereby delaying Parliament, has upset many Canadians.

Some see the Opposition as the villain because they have ground Parliament to a halt.

Others are unhappy with the Liberals for trying to push a huge bill through the Commons which should be broken up into smaller pieces of legislation, and more importantly are angry with Prime Minister Trudeau and his Grits for the way they have been running the nation as a whole since regaining power in early 1980. Some support the Tory measure because they see it as a way of stopping Trudeau.

We support the Tory move, because in majority government situations there are few tactics the opposition can use to slow the government and force it to listen to their views.

Many will say there are more important things Parliament should be doing, especially considering the woeful state of our economy.

We'd support that contention if for a minute we thought the Liberals actually intended to do anything about the economy.

However, it has been made painfully clear over the past few months that the Liberals are bound and determined to, for the most part, ride out this severe recession on the backs of the struggling businessmen, farmers and unemployed and stick with their high interest rate policy. Oh sure, they made a few changes in the budget, but not enough to make any real difference.

So even if the Commons stalemate ended we doubt Canadians would see the Liberals turn their attentions to the crucial economic matters, so really what are the Tories costing the country.

The best thing for Canada is if both sides come out of this fiasco smelling bad.

Then, if the childishness which has permeated Ottawa for some time now ceases both the Liberals and Conservatives, and particularly their leaders, support, maybe they'd decide it was time for a fresh start.



Our readers write

Rap paying for fields

Dear Sir: I may be crossing bridges before I get to them, but the article regarding charging for playing fields for the different sports activities prompted me to write.

As I understand, X amount of dollars is to be charged because the people who use these facilities should be the ones paying for them. If that is the town's policy then fine—but it must be a complete across the board policy—not a pick as you choose.

Could I suggest the people who never use the facilities of the arena, library and particularly our schools will certainly appreciate benefits of this "use the facilities—pay for them" policy.

I find it hard to believe there will be a charge to maintain baseball diamonds, soccer fields etc. What happened to the portion of our tax dollar that was allocated towards these items? Was it improperly calculated—or used, and if so then who made the error? Should that area not be looked into rather than just ask for more money. That would be nice if we could pull that with our employer. I understand there has already been a lay-off in part-time arena help. Has that been justified.

Another item, I am positive all organ-

izations have their books open to anyone interested in looking at them. I find it amazing the rec. department think they have a right to demand financial statements before issuing permits. What has one to do with the other?

Does this suggest if one group has more money than another—the group with the lesser amount can't afford the use of the facilities, or deserves them more? Or does it mean the group that perhaps worked hard on a fund raising campaign can afford them, or doesn't need them because they can get their own? If this is a case of the more money you have the better you can afford it, then it sounds the same as fix your house and your taxes increase. Let your home stay the same and your taxes won't go up as much. Some encouragement.

After Tuesday night's meeting I will hopefully know more about this proposed charge.

Thank you for taking your time to read this and please, if you feel strongly about this issue, pro or con, take time to write a letter to the editor and let your feelings be known. If you don't do that, please call your councillor rep. It is important to your community to participate.

Marjorie Thomson.

Letter needs signature

This week the Free Press received a letter from a group calling themselves Representatives for Minor Sports of Acton dealing with the same subjects as the letter above.

The Free Press would be happy to publish the letter, however, we need the

signature of at least one member of this group on the letter before we can print it. Drop by the office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to sign the letter.

Once we have the signature it can be published and it will be printed as signed by Representatives for Minor Sports of Acton.

Clergy Comment

by Rev. C. E. Hodgson

Let's take a look today at what it means to be a "believer". In John 20, Thomas stated, "Except I shall see in His hands the prints of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Jesus comes and stood in the midst and said to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger and behold my hands and reach higher thy hand and thrust it into my side and be not faithless but believing."

Jesus said unto him "Thomas, because thou hast seen me thou hast believed, blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed."

According to God's word, they that believe can receive the following things from God:

1. Salvation—Acts 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house."
2. Holy Spirit—John 7:37, 38 "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me as the scripture hath said out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."
3. Healing—Luke 8:50 "But when Jesus heard it, He answered him

saying "Fear not, believe only and she shall be made whole."

4. All Things—Mark 9:23 "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe all things are possible to him that believeth."

5. Desires—Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire when you pray, believe that ye shall receive them and ye shall have them."

6. Signs—Mark 16:17, 18 "And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, they shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

John 20:31 states "But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His name."

John 3:18 states "He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Do you believe? Are you taking advantage of the privileges you have as a believer?"

On the Leavell

With Helen

Halton Board of Education trustee for Acton Arlene Bruce is in popular demand lately as a judge for public speaking contests.

A few weeks ago Arlene, a former school teacher, helped Sally Smith and Elsie Syme pick a winner in the Optimist Club Oratorical Contest, and last week was a judge with Rev. Art Tribe and Pastor Jean Stairs for the Acton-Milton schools' public speaking contest in Speyside.

Congratulations to Mrs. W. Featherstone of Milton, whose quilt was sent by the Acton Agricultural Society to the annual fairs' convention. It was one of 15 finalists in the Canada Packers' Quilt competition last month. There were about 235 entries from fairs all across Ontario.

Dr. George Elliott has a small piece relating to the history of the town hall in the most recent issue of the Halton Arts Council's Calendar of the Arts booklet.

Students at Acton High School are working hard on a musical, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, which will run April 22, 23 and 24. Tickets go on sale next month.

They used to call him shut-out, but no more.

John Arnold, once famous for not catching many fish, has turned the tables on his buddies and just about every weekend this winter has come home from ice fishing trips to Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay with the biggest catch.

This past weekend was no exception. Friday and Saturday, John, Keith Andrews, Bill Cook, Steve Papillon and John Guy Jr., fished at Warton and Owen Sound. Arne (John) or Gray Fisher as he is also known, was the success story catching two Splake while the other four were shut-out. Well, Steve did snag a smelt, but I'm told that doesn't count.

Free Press publisher Don McDonald, and wife Lynda, Georgetown independent editor Hartley Coles and wife Irma, and Gord and I attended the annual Ontario Community Newspaper Association convention (OCNA) on the weekend in Toronto.

Former Free Press staffer Murray Scoyne and his wife Doris, now of Ridge-town, were on hand, as was former sports editor Denis Gibbons.

Staying in the same hotel—the Westin, were the Montreal Canadiens hockey team. We had breakfast at the table next to Larry Robinson, and watched a lot of pretty young girls followed a Lafleur around.

But the highlight of the weekend, at least for the Acton group, was the Friday evening presentation of a special award to the former owners of the Free Press. Jim and Dave Dilla, and wives Shirley and Kay were presented with the highest honor to be bestowed by the OCNA—the President's Award, for outstanding service. It was an exciting moment for all, and their former staffers were very proud of

them. No one knew more than our group just how well deserved that award is, and we are glad to have been associated with them.

The Dills sold the Free Press, and their two other papers the Canadian Champion, Milton, and the Georgetown Independent and their printing plant, to Inland Publishing Company Limited, in November 1978, who in turn sold us to Metrospan last February.

Monday was International Women's Day, and the Federation of Women Teachers of Wellington County support the women's movement in their endeavor for "equality in the workforce; equal pay for work of equal value; equal access to jobs, universal accessible quality; childcare and an end to sexual harassment in the workplace."

The theme of this year's Day was: Women's right to work, right to choose and right to independence.

We got our copy of the Induslink this week. That's Induslink's in-house newspaper. In it were pictures of Acton's Alex Morrison, Elizabeth and Zlatko Zakac, and Halton's Jack Champoux, all

at the annual management planning session and dinner held in Toronto in December.

MEANDERINGS by Mabel Barkman Cheap Tricks

The other day on the radio someone suggested that one shouldn't throw away perfume or cologne bottles when they are finished. Just put them in drawers and they will keep clothes smelling nice for quite awhile.

I didn't throw away a blue shaker dusting powder container when it was finished. I just added some cornstarch and the starch absorbed the scent and is every bit as nice as the powder. Even nice for babies.

One day a catalogue had a scent impregnated fluff—so it went into the drawers too.

If you have J-cloths, soak one in fabric softener and add to dryer—just as effective as the expensive ones you buy. Store hand soap in drawers too or in the linen closet.

I still think clean fresh air is the best sweetener but when the temperature is way below freezing, I don't mind reverting to something else for a few months.



Publisher Don McDonald and editor Gord Murray were presented with an Ontario Community Newspaper Association award by association vice-president William Pratt, centre, Saturday.

Free Press earns 371 of 500 marks in competition

The Acton Free Press collected 371 points out of a possible 500 in eight judging categories to place third in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association class three better newspaper competition.

All papers entering the six classes in the general excellence competition were required to submit the issues of March 4 and July 1, 1981 for judging. The dates of the papers which were to be judged weren't revealed to the newspapers until long after they had been published.

Publisher Don McDonald and editor Gord Murray were presented with a plaque for placing third for general excellence or best all round in class three, circulation 3,001 to 5,000. C, as three drew the most entries in the competition, 33.

The two papers which finished above the Free Press, the Arnprior Chronicle and Bradford Witness, earned a total of 396 and 383 marks respectively.

The Free Press picked up a total of 65 of a possible 100 points for the two front pages submitted. The highest mark for front page was 82 and this

publication placed 14th in this category.

Second place for overall composition and layout of the paper went to the Free Press with a mark of 42 out of 50. The highest mark was 43.

The Free Press editorial pages received a mark of 34 out of 50. The highest mark was 46 and this paper was ranked 13th in this category.

Free Press sports pages took second spot with 43 points out of 50. The top mark was 45.

Photographs in the two issues of the Free Press submitted were given a mark of 35 out of 50. The top mark was 42 and the Free Press stood seventh in this category.

Local advertising marks earned the Free Press second place. This newspaper was given a mark of 64 out of 75 for local advertising, the highest mark was 65.

The Free Press stood third for classified advertising with a mark of 21 out of 25. The highest grade was 23. News and features writing earned the Free Press 87 out of 100 marks. The top mark was 84 and this newspaper was ranked tenth in this category.

Back issues

10 years ago

March 8, 1972

After placing first at Erin last Friday, Acton Junior Farmers now proceed to the provincial zone drama festival finals April 1. Their play Good Night Please was judged best of three in Erin District High School. Mrs. Carol Hyde best director, Janice Swackhammer best actress and Rick Britton best actor—all with the Acton cast.

Marilyn Ann Cox, R.R. 3 Milton, graduated recently from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Arts degree. A 1966 graduate of Acton District High School and a 1968 graduate of Hamilton Teachers' College, she majored in Psychology and Sociology at University. Attending convocation were her husband, William B. Cox, and her parents Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Kirkwood, R.R. 4 Acton.

What would you like to see Acton do for a centennial project? You'll get a chance to voice your opinions at a public meeting in the community centre Sunday, March 19 at 3 p.m. when the Centennial Commission airs the subject. "It's about the only time available," said commissioner Jack Carpenter.

20 years ago

March 8, 1962

After spending the past 54 years cutting hair, Harry Mainprize, well-known Acton barber, retires Saturday evening at six o'clock. He has barbered in Acton the past 42 years, for 40 of which he has operated his own business.

The well-known barber regrets retiring in the sense he will miss the friendly chats with the many friends he has made. He will not be idle, however, as both he and his wife intend to take in the sun of St. Petersburg, Florida, until May and then travel to the Muskoka area where they spend the summer.

Fifty years ago this week James Symon stopped travelling to operate a hardware store in his home town. And today the business is still in the family. Half a century later owner Mac Symon and his sister, Mrs. Marguerite Taylor welcome many friends and customers in Symon's Hardware store right next door to their father's original location.

50 years ago

March 3, 1932

Acton Relief committee received a donation of \$25 from the senior chapter of the I.O.D.E. and Lakeside chapter is holding a concert of local talent tonight to raise funds for relief.

Members of the Public Utilities Commission are to be paid \$25 each per annum, council decided on a recorded vote. Councillor Jones felt that in view of conditions councillors should share in the cutting of expenses, but his motion did not find a seconder.

Council accepted \$200 from the estate of James Albert Murray, deceased, giving in return an undertaking to maintain in perpetuity two plots in Fairview cemetery. The damage to the park by drawing ice over the ground when soft it is to be repaired.

75 years ago

March 7, 1907

The kitchen and woodshed of the house at the corner of Mill and Frederick, the site of the new Johnstone block (now Acton Home Furnishings) has been torn down. Workmen are preparing to remove the main building intact to Frederick St.

This was the first house erected on Mill St. after it was opened, built by the late Extra Adams, a nephew of the founders of the town. The lot formed a part originally of the farm of the late Refus Adams, whose farm house stood in the rear of the present residence of Mr. D. Henderson MP (now Freeds). This was the home for many years of Ransom Adams, a familiar and well-known character back in the 60s and 70s. When the late W.H. Storey and D.W. Campbell, executors of the estate 27 years ago, collected the contents of an old chest in the house they aggregated between \$40,000 and \$30,000. Many borrower called here to pay loans with interest at 10 to 15 per cent.

100 years ago

March 2, 1882

Arbitrators have divided the property of Acton school division between the new rural school and Acton Public School amicably. Messrs. E. Matthews and John Watson Jr. intend leaving in a few weeks with a car load of horses and carriages for Manitoba.

About 50 new tenement houses are needed in Acton. Common buildings are now renting for \$7 and \$8 per month.

Very little has been said during the week about organizing a fire company. Some fine morning when our citizens find the town in ashes, they will probably wish they had taken our advice in the matter.

The special meetings which have been in progress at the Brick Church (M.E.) about a mile west of the village, under the ministry of Rev's Clark and Leak of Georgetown, were brought to a close Wednesday. Over 50 persons have been at the altar of prayer, and of these 35 have joined the church.