

# The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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## Road map an indignity

Acton has suffered a number of indignities since Queen's Park imposed regional government.

But being left off the Ontario road map in one spot and relegated to being no more than a speck, similar to a hamlet like Speyside or a dozen others in the area on another is the grand-daddy of them all.

Not because it is such a big burning issue, but because it could so easily have been avoided.

We've had a lot of fun this week digging the story out, dumping the bomb in the laps of startled Ministry of Transportation and Communications staff, collecting comments from councillors, the mayor, Julian Reed and Jim Snow. We've got some pretty creative quotes out of the deal.

In addition, it's been humorous to see Big Jim and his staff with so much egg on their faces over such a minor thing. Anytime you can get something on the fat cat Tories at Queen's Park a journalist has to enjoy himself. Not that we set out to make them look so foolish, they did it all themselves with their actions and explanations.

And there's a bright side to the whole fiasco too. Because Julian raised it in the Legislature Acton has received a lot of publicity the last couple of days in other print publications and on the air waves. We're better known for being left off the map probably than we would have been being put on it.

## Go to Meet the Force

We've written a lot about the importance of improving police-community relations during the past couple of years so we won't dwell too long on the crucial need for residents to attend next Tuesday's Meet the Force Day at the YMCA.

Suffice to say that last year's open house produced great strides in improving relations in the past year.

Equally suffice to say there's a way to go yet and another successful open house would be a big plus.

A visit to the open house would be worthwhile for anyone to simply pick up some information about Neighborhood Watch and business security measures.

With the economy in such awful shape there would seem to be no question crime will become worse. Theft, burglaries, shoplifting and vandalism all increase in hard times.

The police can't do the job alone. They need all the help they can get in preventing and solving crimes.

The demonstration of the use of the defensive baton or

However, while this issue may seem a little funny outside Acton and certainly not a crisis in Acton, it does point to something much more troublesome.

Halton Hills is a political-administrative entity and nothing more. Halton Hills doesn't now and won't for a long time if ever, mean anything to a tourist or a long distance traveller.

Coming through Halton Hills one sees numerous hamlets and two significant towns. Tourists can only be left in confusion as to just what Halton Hills is. This confusion is confirmed by comments from visitors to town yearly.

Yet, the province, in apparently an effort to justify their creation, insist on calling us Halton Hills and making our real name, Acton (or Georgetown down the road) more of a footnote.

The map and reasons the staff gave for our status clearly demonstrates that we must keep up our guard if we intend to preserve our name and identity because Queen's Park is going to keep trying to chip away at us until we are a melting pot called Halton Hills. Thankfully most councillors are not trying to brew a Halton Hills stew.

Lastly a question from some residents. If we don't exist anymore as Acton, as evidenced by the map, but income tax returns are addressed to a community called Acton, do people living in a place that doesn't exist still have to pay taxes to Queen's Park?

nightstick should also be interesting and worth a visit to the Y next Tuesday morning or evening.

Police are far from perfect. There are residents still grumbling about tickets being given for parking on town streets overnight this spring inadequate speed limit enforcement, youths loitering downtown, vandalism, etc.

Some of these kinds of complaints the police, with the community's help, can do something about. Others are in the domain of the councillors (ie. the overnight parking problem) and they'll probably be at the open house too and can answer questions.

Instead of grumbling, go to the open house and talk to the people who can do something about your concerns.

Some problems may not be solved, others may be quite easy to remedy, but regardless, you'll have gotten it off your chest and participated in making Acton a better place to live.

What have you got to lose, except not knowing your police better?



## On the Leavell

With Helen

A reluctant and sad farewell is bid to Ron and Lucille Cooksley who are moving to Edmonton tomorrow.

Ron has been working for six weeks now for the Alberta provincial government with the Ministry of Tourism and Small Business. Lucille saw the movers off earlier this week and spent a few days with Marguerite Taylor before joining her husband.

For many years Lucille and I had a standing joke because she looked an awfully lot like the late Charlotte Holmes. Whenever I was talking to Charlotte or Lucille I kept calling both of them by the wrong name.

We all wish the couple good luck in their new life.

Maybe now others will have a chance to win the quilt competition at the fall fair with Lucille gone.

The annual general meeting of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded will be held at the North Halton Golf and Country Club, Georgetown, next Monday.

The Tweedsmuir Histories of the now defunct Acton Women's Institute are now available for perusal at the Acton Library in book form. They are available on microfilm at Queen's Park.

On Tuesday, May 25, the Halton District Curator of the Tweedsmuir Histories, Mrs. Ismay Bird met with five of the members of the now disbanded WI and the Librarian Betsy Cornwall to formally place the Acton W.I. Tweedsmuir History in the library as permanent material.

These books are not to be removed from the library.

Don't forget Decoration Day this Sunday.

The parade forms up at 2.30 p.m. at the post office and heads to the cemetery. Several organizations and individuals will be taking part in this special day.

Dennis Devine is trying to kill two birds with one stone.

Dennis called me this week to tell me he has been inundated with requests from local youngsters for jobs. He has also had many requests from townspeople who need people to help them out around the house.

Dennis, owner and operator of Garage Arcade, says in light of the requests, and the fact he is at the arcade seven days a week, from morning until night, he is in a perfect position to match up the requests.

Anyone who may have an odd job to be done, Dennis will be able to find someone to do it—cutting grass, cleaning, painting, anything the youngsters, of all ages, are needed for.

Dennis stresses he is not in competition with the Manpower's Student Placement Centre. He is a non-profit individual who just wants to match up jobs with workers as a community service.

Senior Citizens, business people, industries, etc. can call Dennis at 853-3272.

On popular demand, the Halton Board of Education will offer German classes for elementary school children in Georgetown

through the Heritage language program were told. Classes are designed for pupils with little or no knowledge of the language and will be held Saturday mornings starting in September. A local resident hopes Actonians will enroll their children. For further information call 853-1508, 877-0379 or 877-6188.

This Sunday afternoon, from 4 to 7, is the got-luck supper for Anne Dawkins at the home of Doug and Carla Wood.

Anne lost all her possessions in a fire which levelled her Fifth Line Nassagaweya home in April. The Woods are putting on the supper as a chance for people to give Anne something. She has already received a lot of help, but after losing your home there is always something you need.

The Woods live two doors north of where Anne lived, on the Fifth Line.

Ken Grubbe, of Acton, recently returned home from a visit with his family in Gulfport, Mississippi, near New Orleans. He combined the trip with business in another nearby state.

In the its-a-small-world-department: I got a call from my sister Alice Roe in Calgary this week wondering who lived next door to me. When she didn't get the answer she wanted, she asked who lived at 56 Greenore (we live at 55). Seems she was visiting a friend in the townhouse two doors down and saw a letter on her table. She noticed the return address of Acton. When she took a closer look, she saw the address of 56 Greenore Crescent. She quickly told her friend, Wendy Levesque, my address. Seems it's Wendy's brother, Roland Wright, who lives at 56 Greenore.

The way Greenore is set up, 56 is down the street from me on the curve of the crescent, and not across the road as it should be. We are across the road from a swamp while the Wrights are beside it.

A story in the Toronto Star May 23 may have had a familiar by line for Free Press regular readers.

The story was the edition with all the Susan Nelles acquittal news, and was about the price of justice for the innocent. It was written by Michael Moldaver.

Moldaver's name has almost gotten to be a household name in Acton. He was Cosimo Mercuri's defense lawyer in the now infamous Dominion Hotel Fire Trial in March and April.

We were scooped on our own scoop. Free Press editor Gord Murray spent all day Friday and Monday on the telephone trying to find out why Acton was left off the new Ontario road map. He called several politicians, including Julian Reed, MPP and Jim Snow, Minister of Transportation and Communication, for quotes, and possible explanations.

Seems Julian was so perturbed by the whole thing that he brought the matter up in the Ontario Legislature on Monday afternoon, in hopes of getting some answers to Gord's questions.

It must have been a slow day at Queen's Park because the story was picked up by television and radio stations across Ontario, and was also put on the CB wire to go across Canada.

Before we knew it, our "scoop" turned into a national story, all because Gord was talking to Julian on Monday, two days before our paper went to press.

But for the record—it was the Free Press who broke the story.

And you would think if the electronic media were going to steal a story, they could at least get the characters right. CBC radio show Metro Morning, yesterday (Tuesday) said Patrick Reed, MPP

for Halton-Burlington got up and spoke on the matter. Patrick???

We were struck by garage sale fever last weekend and boy, did it ever pay off.

We sold everything from bricks to fly swatters. Seven families participated in the sale.

I couldn't believe the crowds which came to our humble driveway as early as 9 a.m. It was incredible how people just swarmed in.

It was good way to see people I hadn't seen in a while there was Mrs. Haugen and Carol Clark and her mother Dot Redekop, and Did and Emily Price, and a score of other people I knew.

Not many people noticed the sign I made up, "This sale is On the Leavell."

A family moving in next door must be wondering what kind of neighborhood they live in after the chaos that prevailed most of the day.

There are only 12 days left till the Mayor's Road Race in Georgetown to be held on Sunday, June 13. Register before this Friday and save \$2 on your participation fee. There will be raffles for running shoes, t-shirts for sale, and an inexpensive Pancake Breakfast following the race.

Anyone not running is still encouraged to cheer on the runners and have breakfast. For further information, call the recreation department at 877-5185, ext. 19 and 60.

The 62nd annual convention of the Hamilton Diocesan Council, of the Catholic Women's League will be held this weekend at the University of Guelph. Acton is a member of this diocese which has 99 councils and represents a total of 15,000 ladies.

This year the theme will be "League Ministry to God and Canada" in the school, in the church, in the workforce, in the family, in the community, in the past, present and future.

### MEANDERINGS

by Mabel Barkman

Everything Old is New Again

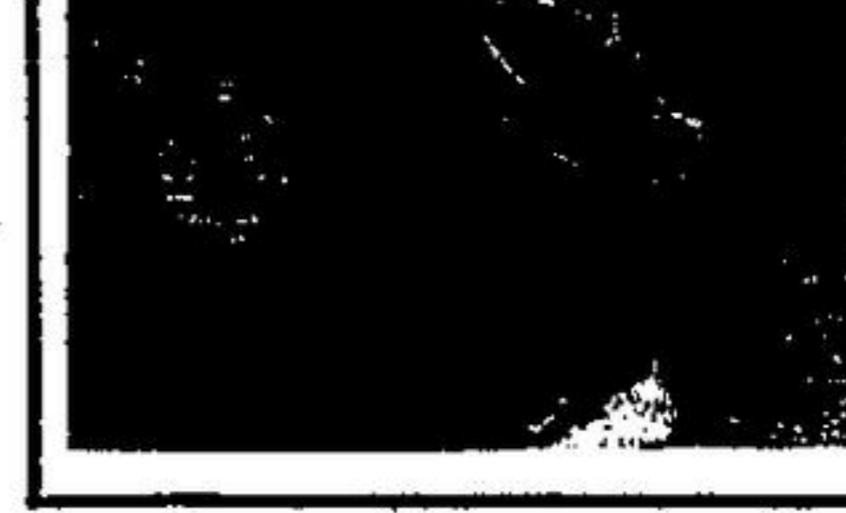
About ten years ago when we moved to the country I cooked on a rangette.

When I got my electric range, I put the rangette in the garage and it has served many useful purposes. I boil down maple sap there as it is a steamy business. I render fat to make soap and save on electricity.

If a vegetable such as a turnip is a trifle smelly, I cook it outside of the house. If I have company and need an extra oven, I use it and it seems to bake a ham or cook a turkey better than the oven range in the house.

The first little rangette I had served us for four years when we were first married and I never forgot how useful it was.

Since it is too warm now to use my wood stove, I shall use the rangette to conserve electricity and also because I like its performance.



## Back issues 10 years ago

May 31, 1972  
Approximately 100 Disston (Canada) Ltd., employees, members of Local 23650 of the Saw Workers Union, began a legal strike against the company Monday.

Miss Joanne Landsborough received her Honors Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Waterloo at convocation attended by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Landsborough and brother Ralph Friday, May 28.

The number "7" sweater worn by lacrosse star Bob Turkosz during his juvenile and junior boxla career in town was officially retired in a memorable ceremony preceding Monday night's Ram-Rexdale Junior "C" game.

The annual St. John Ambulance Review was held at the Rebecca Street arena in Oakville on Thursday and Mrs. Robert Hart received her 12 year service medal. Mr. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hargrave, Mrs. Joyce Carpenter, Mrs. Doris Cooke and Miss Bella-Mae Roszell were all at the meeting.

## 20 years ago

May 31, 1962  
Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Robertson of Toronto were recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. Anderson.

John Goy Jr. established a new Ontario record at East York Stadium last week in the Junior Pole Vault with a jump of 10 feet 5 1/2 inches.

Dave Dodgson, postal clerk at the Acton Post Office resigned his position Saturday for another job with a stockbroker firm. He will be replaced by Miss Alice Pilkington in two weeks.

Mrs. Jessie Kentner is visiting her sister, Mrs. Bertie Smith, in Bowmanville. The new liquor store on Queen Street has the roof on and workmen are starting on inside construction.

## 50 years ago

May 26, 1932  
Mr. and Mrs. James Dobbie, Mr. and Mrs. W.D. McArthur, Miss Dorothy and Lucy visited with relatives in Kitchener and Waterloo this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Sward and babe, Miss Hay, Mr. J. Lyle and Mr. P. Henderson, of Hamilton, spent the holidays at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mackie, Church Street.

Mr. and Mrs. George Holloway, Mr. Jas. Holloway and Percy Collier, of Owen Sound, visited Acton friends on Sunday.

The annual Decoration Ceremony and Church Parade of the IOOF will be held on Sunday, June 5.

## 75 years ago

May 30, 1897  
Mr. Gibbons has changed the name of the Albion Hotel to the Station Hotel.

The pupils of the public schools are enjoying three holidays this week, The Teachers Convention yesterday and today, and Victoria Day tomorrow.

The famous Onondaga Indian lacrosse club, relatives and friends of Longboat, the champion runner, played Acton in the park Saturday afternoon, Acton winning by one goal. About 400 spectators were present.

The Victoria Day holiday was loyalty and enjoyably spent with numerous picnics and fishing excursions, and an abundance of flags and bunting. Acton Citizens' Band serenaded numbers of our citizens during the forenoon. The 24th of May will always have a warm place in the hearts of Canadians.

The bowling green was opened for the season. A new lawn will add four rinks this year.

Snow fell May 27.

## 100 years ago

June 1, 1882  
The foundation of the new school house for S.S. No. 12, is completed and the brick work will soon be commenced. Mr. John Cameron will do the carpenter work.

Mrs. W.C. Moore and two daughters left last week to visit friends in Red Rock, and Bradford P.A.

Mr. John A. Hobbs, who has been employed in J.E. McGarvin's drug store for the past two years, left last week for Nelsonville, Man.

Mr. John Hutchinson, of Buffalo, N.Y., formerly of this village, is visiting his Acton friends. We are informed that Mr. H. intends returning to his native country, and has accepted a position in Berlin.

Mr. Geo. Coulson, of Rockwood, left on Monday for a trip to Brandon, Man.

Elmer Roszell doesn't know exactly what this is, but he thinks it's a stubborn cabbage. Elmer's mother, Winnifred Roszell, of RR1 Elmhouse found this "thing" in her backyard. The base of the mysterious plant-object looks like it was a cabbage at one time, but then another thick offshoot is sprouting leaves. Elmer, of Acton, thinks it was a cabbage which his mother tossed out. He figures raccoons must have taken it from the garbage and abandoned it in the yard. Meanwhile, the cabbage, though three quarters gone, decided to keep on growing, in any direction it could.

## Clergy Comment

by Father Ralph Diodati

Peace is one of the richest themes in the Bible. The term is used in various forms almost four hundred times in the Old and New Testaments.

In Old Testament Hebrew, the main word for peace is shalom. Shalom is a state of wholeness or well-being that can be thought of in both the physical and spiritual sense, and which refers to individuals, families, or nations.

In the New Testament, the Greek word for peace is used to mean the absence of war or strife, the right relationship between people and God, and the serenity of mind and heart.

So, when Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers," He was drawing on a very deep faith heritage and applying it specifically to His followers. It is not hard to see why "grace and peace" became one of the standard greetings in the letters of St. Paul.

When we observe what is the situation in the world today one wonders if any of us is listening to the words of Christ. With the Falkland situation, the

Middle East, we can see many examples of man's inhumanity to man.

War seems to be ever present in our history. But we should not make the mistake of just feeling sorry for those nations at war. Sometimes this is a convenient way of forgetting to reflect on our own personal lives. There is no better way to make this world a better place than to begin with ourselves and be courageous enough to change those areas of our lives that need change.

We who are followers of Christ are called to be peacemakers in a variety of ways. Pope John Paul II has called upon us to pray for peace between nations and to speak out against the arms race that threatens all peace.

We are called to seek to bring peace to our families and neighborhoods by courageously striving to resolve deep-seated conflicts. Finally, as peacemakers, we must seek to be at peace in our hearts in our relationship with God. It is in seeking peace on all levels in our lives that we seek and find that wholeness that leads to the happiness of being true sons and daughters of God.