

The Acton Free Press

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Don McDonald, Publisher

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Parents must demand bike safety from children

It's an old refrain, but one which certainly bears playing again.

With the arrival of spring, Acton's residential streets have become a nightmare for drivers.

Children are riding their bikes all over the place. Riding with no hands, two on a bike, out from between parked cars, crossing intersections without looking, riding while wearing radio headphones, weaving about, etc., are all common sights on our streets these days. It is especially nerve wracking to drive in areas congested by children or near schools, such as Kingham or Acton Blvd. And with summer vacations fast approaching the problem will at least double.

While it is incumbent on drivers to exercise more caution, remain alert and obey the speed limit; children and parents must also accept some responsibility.

Teachers, police safety officers, and service clubs like the Optimists, who just held a bike rodeo, all have their role to play in reminding children to ride safely and obey the rules of the road.

However, parents also have a role, probably the most crucial role, to play in keeping our

young people safe.

Again we urge all parents to not just mention bike safety to their children, but to spot check the situation to make sure the message is getting through. The next time your child takes his or her bike out for ride try to follow along afterwards and unobserved see that they are riding safely.

If you find he or she isn't operating the bike safely the quickest way to solve the problem is a stern lecture accompanied by a time in the garage for the bike. The message will get across.

Don't assume others have done the job for you, make sure yourself that your child is a careful cyclist.

Children are carefree, not careless, but parental guidance can go a long way toward curbing carefree behavior and promoting careful operation of bikes.

In recent years we've been very lucky here, there hasn't been a bike-car tragedy, though the way some people speed on residential streets in this town and the antics of some kids on bikes, like riding down the middle of the road wearing headphones, it's a wonder.

Let's stop pressing our luck.



On the Leavell

With Helen

It may be a coincidence, but maybe not. Seems federal opposition leader Joe Clark can't make it to Acton to speak at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting. Chamber president Dave Whiting extended the invitation to Clark, and a polite letter from Marjory LeBreton, tour director said "this invitation is most appreciated." But, it continued, "However, I regret to inform you that, much as we would have liked to, it is impossible to include this event in Mr. Clark's calendar because of other commitments."

The invitation was extended at the convenience of Clark. Isn't that like someone saying we should lunch some time and me saying "I'm busy that day."

Clark probably looked at the new road map, saw Acton wasn't on it and thought the letter was a hoax.

Got a letter from a man named John Pengelly recently telling me about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). That's the muscular disease which has struck Acton resident Pat McKenzie.

Pengelly said he was "appalled to learn that so little is known about ALS. I joined the ALS Society of Canada and wish to help increase public awareness of this terrible disease."

Most of what Pengelly told us in the letter was included in the Free Press story about Pat some months ago. But the irony is that most of us had never heard of the disease before Pat came forward and told his story. Now, it seems other sufferers are doing just that.

Pengelly can be reached at P.O. Box 121, Delburne, Alberta.

Kay and Dave Dills recently returned home from the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. They were accompanied by their daughter and her husband, Kathleen and Dave Bledsoe. Dave (Bledsoe) is originally from Knoxville.

Two young Milton men Tim Nivens and Dave Tonelli are putting on a community program on Cable 4. Their program originates from the Acton studios of Halton Cable TV every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and is news, coming events. They also do interviews with interesting people, such as people from the Cancer Society, Meals on Wheels program, etc. They are willing to air, any upcoming dances, etc.

The program is called Keeping in Touch.

Marilyn Briggs, of Mowbray Place, got a special birthday present last Wednesday. She was one of 10 winners in the Global Television contest to meet Englebert (Humperdinck) last night. Marilyn won two tickets to his concert. And with Global entertainment reporter Deborah Burgess, Marilyn and her guest Lynn Foley, Fourth Line, and the other winners and their guests, she will meet the singing star backstage.

Marilyn has promised me a picture of her with Englebert to publish in this column to smooth my feathers. I entered the same contest—but obviously didn't win. Congratulations—and Happy Birthday.

The Acton Pentecostal Church is holding a Vacation Bible School from June 28 to

July 2 in the evenings.

The theme is "Happiness Is—Knowing the Lord." There will be crafts, plays, contests, films and other exciting events. Everyone is welcome to join in the inter-denominational event, for which representatives from various churches have volunteered their time to help out.

Bus service will be available. For further information call Pat Lee at 853-2714 or Pastor Hodgson at 853-0481.

Laurie and Julie Pierce, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. William Pierce, R.R. 1 Acton, are home for the summer vacation. Laurie recently graduated from Nipissing University College with her Bachelor of Education degree and is supplying teaching at her home school of Brookville. In September she will head up to Hearst, Ontario where she will be teaching at Clayton Brown public school.

Younger sister Julie is home for the summer from Thunder Bay where she is enrolled in the forestry program. Julie spent a month in Red Lake, Ontario planting seedlings for Forcon Ltd., and is now working for Halton Conservation Authority on the Experience Program '82. She will return to Thunder Bay in the fall. Both girls are graduates of Acton High School.

Mike McMahon has received his Master of Education from the University of Toronto at the Spring Convocation. He has accepted a position with the Halton Separate School Board as head of the arts program at Saint Ignatius of Loyola High School in Oakville.

Eb-Tide Magic Rosa shown by Allstar Holsteins Ltd., Rockwood placed second in the Eastern Ontario Holstein Spring Show in Maxville recently.

Two Acton High School students were selected by National Hockey League teams in the NHL amateur draft last week. One was a pivot, Bob Sweeney, who Boston grabbed in the sixth round. Kevin Houle was selected by Montreal in the eighth round.

The names sound unfamiliar? Well, they should. It's not our Acton High School, but Acton High School in Massachusetts.

The son of a former Actonian, (Ontario), was drafted by Detroit Red Wings. Craig Cox, son of Bob Cox, who left town about 20 years ago, was selected by Detroit in the fourth round. Craig, a centre, plays for St. Albert Juniors in Alberta, outside of Edmonton. Bob Cox, nephew of Grant Withers, John St. South, left Acton for California.

Student Placement Office in the Acton Social Service and Information Centre building is looking for homeowners who need help around the house.

Their office has received many requests from students looking for all types of employment.

I recently risked my fast food generation reputation and decided to make a pie—the second in my lifetime. It may also be the last.

First, I had to borrow a pie plate. Then, I got out my semi-fast-food crust—little bars. I followed directions to a "T", or so I thought. Going by memory only of my mother making her crust, I spread flour out on a board and set to work. With my water added, it was then time to roll the crust into shape. I plopped the hump of dough onto the board and flour and faced the crisis of no rolling pin. Not to be

stymied by such minor inconveniences, I used my good old Canadian know-how and got out a pop bottle.

The dough stuck to the glass, flour flew all over the place and the shape looked somewhat like the outline of the various countries of Europe.

I tried to mould the dough into a circle, but soon enough realized it would not fit into the pie plate anyway. I checked the directions again—it said to crumble the contents of stick into a bowl—I had just plunked it in.

Scrap that lump of mush. I threw it out, into a brand new garbage bag, and started all over.

I crumbled that old stick until it was of the consistency I wanted, but it wasn't easy. It was like playing with play-doh—something I hated when I was a kid.

But alas, there seemed to be a big difference. Putting my trusty pop bottle back to use, I eventually got the dough big enough to cover my pie plate. I managed to transfer it from the board to the plate, but soon discovered not all the surface of the plate was covered. I used my fingers to mould it to shape, but there were still a few spots left undone. What the heck?

Next came the pie filling. I had planned for a pumpkin pie, one of two that both Gord and I like. Just before I opened the can I re-read the directions. It said I needed five ounces of milk. A quick check in the fridge revealed there was no milk. There I was with a pie crust—finally—and nothing to put in it.

The can of raspberry filling was soon brought out, and emptied into the shell. That part was easy. Then I realized I needed a top crust.

Not wanting to go through all that crumbing again, I reached into the garbage bag (there was nothing else in it) and took out my first attempt at a crust. With my hands I moulded it into a circle and put it on the filling.

Gord got home just as I took it from the oven—he had already eaten supper and didn't feel like dessert thank you very much.

I let it slip about getting the top crust from the garbage, and that was it for super sensitive stomach. He wouldn't eat a bite. Of course, if looks were everything, he had probably prejudged it anyway. It sat there for a few days until I threw it out.

Naturally, with my luck, the raspberry filling had stained parts of the plate, and I ended up buying my neighbor, Jean Huisman, a new plate.

Figure that pie cost me about five bucks to make, not including the hydro for the oven and the hot water from me washing my hands every few minutes (I hate dirty hands). I have since bought homemade pies at bake sales—it's the only way to go!

MEANDERINGS

by Mabel Barkman
The Tyranny of Grass

Once I read that a man believed that it hurt the grass when it was cut and therefore he would not cut his grass but let it grow tall and free from pain.

When the thought of cutting grass every four or five days for the whole summer comes to me, I wish sometimes that I had a similar conviction. Whenever I see a little tool hop out of my way, I consider how useful he is in the garden and wonder how many I have murdered in my progress through the grass.

I get great ideas of having sheep or goats to eat up the grass so that it would serve a useful purpose and then I shudder at the yearly upkeep of those animals.

No matter how many ideas I have of not cutting the grass, I still feel I have to mow week after week after week!

Back issues

10 years ago

June 14, 1972

David S. J. Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Arthur Harris, Rockwood, graduated on June 5 from the College of Education University of Toronto with his Bachelor of Education degree.

Over 500 friends turned up at the Acton music centre Sunday afternoon to honor Father V.J. Morgan on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Monika Heptner and Janice Ellerby, two pupils of Faye Pink, performed at the Young Artist Recital held at the Heintzman concert hall in Toronto, on June 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Reed spent a few days visiting their daughter Mrs. Blain Edmondson and family at Burlington Ontario.

Georgetown celebrated 50 years a town July 1 weekend. The town was incorporated in 1922 and will take on this era theme during the celebration.

20 years ago

June 14, 1962

Allan Lauder was sworn in as president of the Acton Lions Club at the regular dinner meeting of the club Monday evening. He succeeds Ray Arbic as Lion chief.

Miss Ruby Clark left via plane last Thursday to visit friends in Winnipeg, Edmonton and on the west coast.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mainprize returned home last Thursday. They have been visiting friends and relatives in the West.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Armstrong and Bonnie and Mrs. Isabelle Winfield spent the weekend at the cottage at Wasaga Beach.

Mrs. John T. Davidson who has spent several months with her daughter and son-in-law in Victoria B.C. returned to the home of her son, Mr. Charles M. Davidson, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Walker and family moved from town Wednesday. They are living in Etobicoke.

Mr. F.E. Rawlings, a resident here for many years, celebrated his 92nd birthday last Friday in Guelph.

50 years ago

June 8, 1932

Acton will adopt daylight saving for July and August, the same as last year.

J.B. Mackenzie and Son have commenced erection of a new theatre in Seaford. According to announcement in the Huron Expositor it will be a modern and very fine edifice.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ferryman, of Brougham, formerly of Acton, celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary last week.

Miss Margaret McMillan has returned after several days visit with her aunt, Mrs. Neil McMillan, in Waterdown.

Mrs. M. Standish is visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. Croft, Rockwood. County Councillors, raise their salaries, will now receive \$6 per day for meetings and mileage one way.

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Babcock on June 1. The President Mrs. Gamble, presided.

75 years ago

June 13, 1907

Acton's public park is a beautiful place at this season of the year, and many of our citizens enjoy a quiet walk over its grassy acres with the lakeside beauties in view. But there must be something done about the disgraceful scenes. Last Sunday no less than four drunken men were seen lying at different points in the park, and at the west end a group of young fellows were playing cards in plain view of citizens and children strolling past. These things ought not so to be.

Rev. John Milne, of Ballinacross, occupied the pulpit of Knox Church last Sunday, in absence of Rev. Mr. Wilson at the General Assembly at Montreal.

Acton Fire Brigade is making preparation for a grand demonstration on Dominion Day. The programme is crowded with attractive events and includes fire brigade races with big prizes, open races and a series of athletic contests.

100 years ago

June 15, 1902

Ratepayers voted down the proposal to lend \$6000 at 6 per cent for 20 years to Mr. Tolton, for the erection of a roller flour mill in Acton. We honestly believe the village would have benefited.

Prof. Smythe's oratorio of Joseph, in the Drill Shed on Friday, was attended by a large audience, but the drill shed is very unfit for the purpose.

Many of our residents are responding to the appeal made here Tuesday by Mr. Jacob G. Ascher, secretary of the Jewish Emigration Society, giving to assist Russian Jews.

A large number of our citizens went to Guelph to hear Sir John A. McDonald. There is nothing new to report about the strike at Canada Glove Works. The strikers have not been asked to return and their places are being filled with other operatives as fast as possible. The strikers are leaving Acton for employment in other glove factories.

Our readers write

Greenore residents want a park not more houses

Editor

Acton Free Press

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are letters that we have sent to the various town departments and we would like you to file them with the other articles on the construction of semi-detached houses on Greenore Crescent. As you already know we have drawn up a petition which is against the construction of these houses, but we cannot reach all of those people who may be interested in signing it. We would like some sort of article printed in the Acton Free Press with regards to the letters that have been sent to the town expressing our concern that the area be developed into a park. If this is permissible could you state in the article that if anyone would like to sign our petition they can do so by contacting us at the following addresses: Jim Lepki, 47 Greenore Crescent, Ph.: 853-2025; Don Robinson, 49 Greenore Crescent, Ph.: 853-1236.

Subject: Construction of semi-detached houses on Greenore Crescent in Acton.

Dear Mr. MacLean:

As per our phone conversation on May 31 regarding the proposal to build five semi-detached homes on the marsh side of the street my neighbor and I have started a petition opposing the construction of these homes and asking that the area be developed into a park. We would like your department to inform us as to what progress has been made on this matter and to keep us up

to date on any developments in the future. I trust your department will keep us informed individually by letter. Confirmation of this letter being received would be greatly appreciated.

Parks and Recreation Department

Dear Sir:

We would like your department to keep the enclosed letter on file. We feel that your department should be informed as to the concerns of the residents of Greenore Crescent in Acton and area. We would like the proposal to build semi-detached houses on the marsh side of Greenore Crescent to be refused and the area be developed into a park. We would like your department to look into this matter because of the lack of space in this neighborhood for our children to play. We would also appreciate confirmation of this letter being received and we hope to receive any comments your department may have regarding this matter.

Dear Mr. P. Pomeroy:

These are copies of letters sent to two of our town departments. They show our concern over the matter stated in them. To follow later to your office is a petition that we are working on and to date 97 percent of people talked to have signed it.

We hope you will aid us on our endeavor to stop the construction of these semis, so we may have a place (park area) for our children to play, other than the street.

We Thank You.

Vandals hit ball park booth

Dear Vandals:

Thank you for breaking into the Minor Baseball Booth Friday night. In the very short time it took you to break in and steal approximately \$150.00 worth of chocolate bars, potato chips and licorice, you effectively wiped out the two weeks of volunteer work which it would take to realize \$150. profit.

I would like you to know that the booth is operated by volunteers, to aid Minor Baseball in Acton and without it

quite likely there would be no Minor Baseball in Acton!

It appears you have extra time, why not put it to good use, helping rather than ruining.

The grass shears and pen knife you left may be claimed at the Police Station if you wish them.

Thank you again,

Eimer Dunn

President,

Acton Minor Baseball Association

Too much American music

Dear Sir:

The report in the Free Press of the visit of the Central Band of the Canadian Forces said it was a great success. All the performers were great. I feel programming was not.

The first half was all American from Strike up the Band to the Stars and Stripes. The second part was more varied. Two numbers from European

opera, modern tunes from a movie, and an old "French Canadian March".

At the end, not part of the programming but a supplement marches of the Lorne Scots and the RCAF March Past were played.

The question I will ask is "Do we not get enough U.S. American music on the TV and radio without getting it live?"

George Robertson