

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office
Founded in 1875
Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing & Publishing Ltd. at 59 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 30¢ each, \$15.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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Second class mail registration Number 0515.

We will miss Mick Holmes

The retirement of fire chief Mick Holmes will create a void in Halton Hills not easily filled.

His long standing dedication to the protection of Acton and later Halton Hills has not gone unnoticed, nor unappreciated, as evidenced by the praise being lavished upon him in recent weeks.

Volunteer Acton firefighters, volunteer deputy-chief and later volunteer chief of Acton; first full-time chief of Acton after the birth of Halton Hills; and later Halton Hills full-time chief—it's quite a record of service. Unselfish service which has stretched over 35 years.

The red fire station wagon zooming around town has become a familiar sight, reassuring us and letting us all sleep easier knowing our families are safe because Mick and Acton's volunteers are on the job.

While fire protection is a team effort, that team is only as good as its leader. Mick has been an outstanding leader, both before and after his job as chief became his paid occupation. Mick has fought hard for the volunteers and the betterment of the fire department. He hasn't won all the battles, but more than a fair share, and the department, volunteers and community are all better for his victories. And he's never forgotten his roots, that of a volunteer who must juggle his work, family and community

life around the need to do a crucial job. This awareness has made it easier for Mick to fight for the volunteers with a passion.

Mick's career of service has exemplified the efforts of all the volunteers.

When we honor Mick we also honor all the present volunteers and the dozens who have served the community in the past in this all-important job.

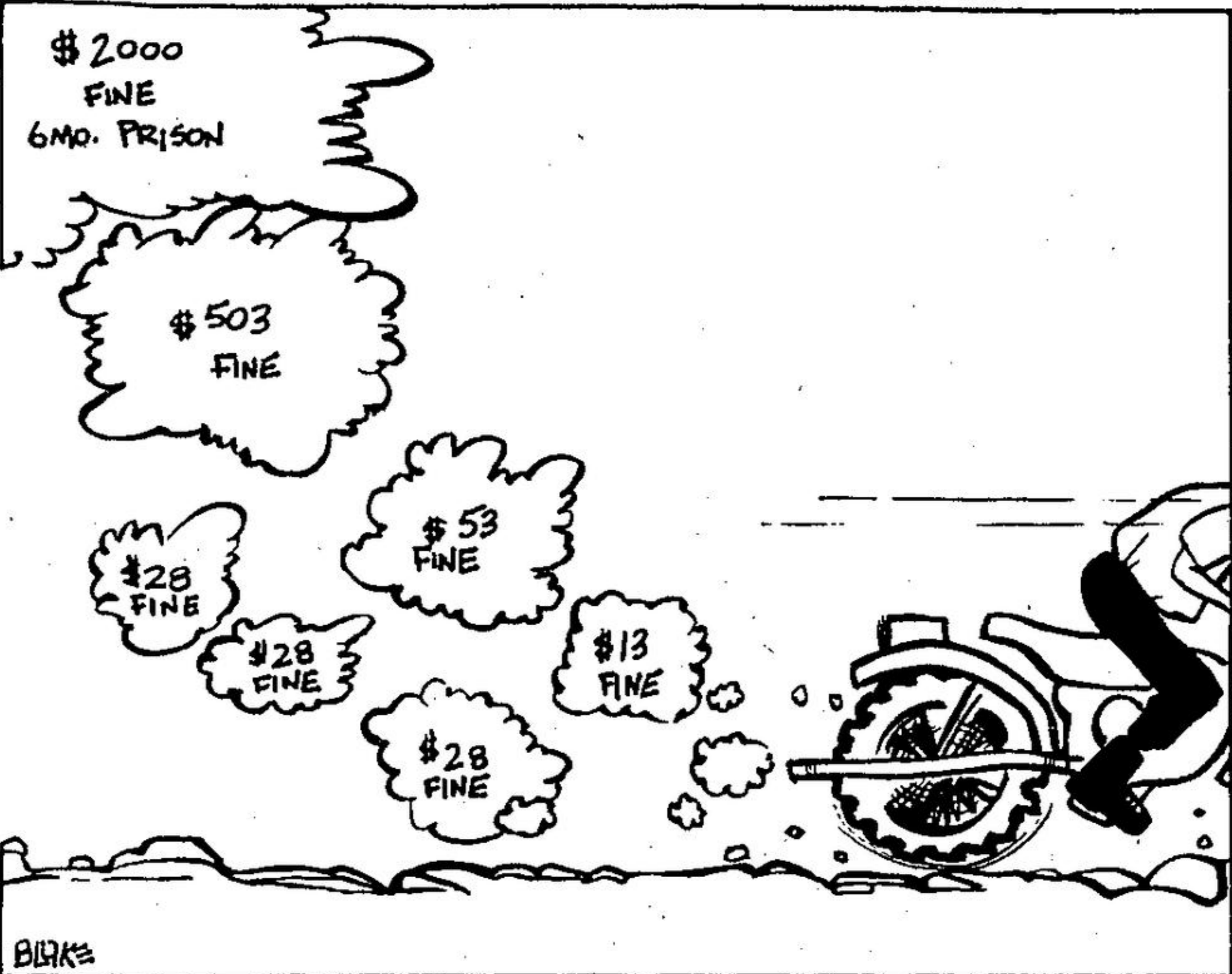
When other communities of similar size are having to move to paid fire brigades, Halton Hills keeps going along admirably with volunteers, saving the municipality and thus citizens, countless tax dollars. It's hard to imagine what kind of financial situation this town would be in without the service of the volunteers. Our tax bills would either be substantially higher or else the level of all services appreciably lower.

So, in bidding Mick a fond farewell as chief we are also thanking all the dedicated men who have ever held a hose in Acton.

What makes this community great is its volunteers, and none are greater than the firefighters.

It's nice to know Mick will remain living in Acton and when the fire siren blows firefighters and citizens will still see him dropping by the scene, no doubt lending a hand in some way, from time to time.

We will miss you Mick Holmes.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Mrs. Thomas Lazenby, of Crewson Corners, is entertaining her younger sister, Mrs. Anthony Cartwright, of Birmingham, England, for a few days.

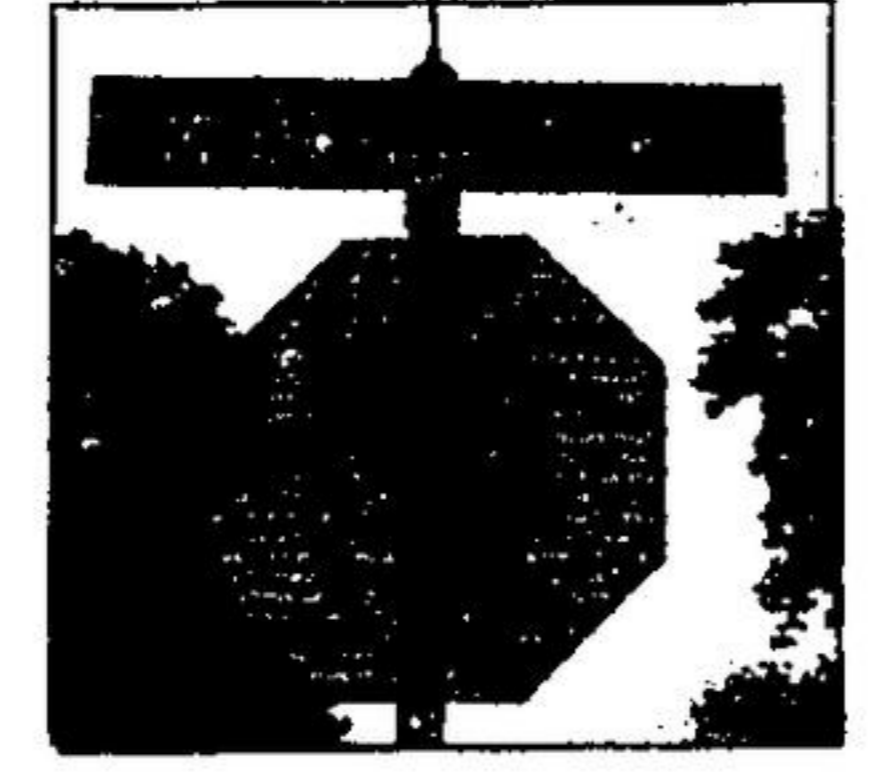
So far the British visitor has seen Niagara Falls, Wassaga Beach, Canada's Wonderland, the CN Tower, Ontario Place, Collingwood, Midland, and the Acton area.

It is Mrs. Cartwright's first visit to Canada and she is enjoying it very much. Earlier this week she attended the graduation ceremonies of her sister's granddaughter at Waverly Rd. School in Guelph. They have no such tradition in England, Mrs. Lazenby said, and the visitor was very interested.

Mrs. Cartwright is here for three weeks.

David Waldie, formerly of Acton, now of Collingwood was in town on the weekend for the annual Legion Beef Barbecue.

Also in town at the barbecue were John and Alix Sullivan from Memphis, Tennessee. They recently purchased a home in the Hillsburgh area and were sampling a bit of Canadian hospitality before they actually moved in.



Residents of McDonald Blvd. are very pleased now that they have a new street sign. As you may recall a new sign was spelled McDonald, angering all local homeowners.

Pat and Mary McKenzie recently had visitors who were on their way to the Niagara-on-the-Lake convention of International Y's Men's presidents. Mr. and Mrs. Jason McCoy, Canton, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson, Steubenville, Ohio; and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stowe, Lansing, Michigan; all past presidents, dropped in to say hello.

Janet Rowe, daughter of John and Helen Rowe, Longfield Rd. is settling into her new job at Fern Resort in Orillia, where she will be spending the summer. Even though she's only been working a few weeks, Janet is already known as the Salad Queen. She is in charge of the salads for the 300 or so guests vacationing there each day.

Last week was Senior Citizen's Week, and the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and

Commercial Relations has prepared a Seniors' Survival Guide. It contains a summary of Ontario's top ten scams that seniors should be on the lookout for. It also contains pamphlets that explain the schemes in detail and offers advice on how to avoid being ripped off.

Copies of the kit are available free of charge from the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Consumer Information Centre, 555 Yonge St., Toronto. Or call toll free 1-800-268-1142.

Some of the scams outlined in the pamphlet are: the foreign land sales deal, with property in Florida or Arizona for sale; the phony bank inspector scam, where people are asked to withdraw large sums of money from their account and present it to a "policeman"; the food freezer plan, where you have to buy a freezer or microwave, or are purchasing a lot more meat than actually needed; the free trip scam, where for the cost of handling you have won a three-day trip to Las Vegas; what you should know about rent review; the pigeon drop, where you get a chance to split a large sum of money with strangers, but only after presenting your own sum; pyramid schemes, a chain letter with money; and home repairs, where unheard of pests invade the home.

Hubby Gord just can't get away from Acton.

Regular readers of this column may recall last October when I reported on Gord's trip to Cooperstown, New York to the baseball hall of fame. He was looking at an exhibit when former Free Press editor, and Acton resident Hartley Coles and wife Irma stopped him and said hello.

Well, last Tuesday, Gord was on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in the middle of a 41 gun salute. He didn't know what it was for and was asking around. None of the other tourists seemed to know, until a female voice behind him said, "Why don't you ask me, Gord?" He turned around to find another former editor of the Free Press, Kay Dills. She explained the salute was for the birth of Prince William of Wales.

Kay and husband Dave were in Ottawa for Canadian Community Newspaper Association business, which they have become very involved in since their retirement in November of 1978.

A fond farewell and wish for a happy retirement goes out to Halton Hills fire chief Mick Holmes.

Mick and I have become good friends in

the eight years I have been calling him once a week, and I sure am going to miss him. He knew he could trust me as a reporter, and I knew, in turn, that I could trust him to give me whatever information he was able to give.

Mick and I have joked about funny things over the years, and shared a few sad moments too. He became more than just a news contact for me. He became a friend, and one I hope to keep for a long, long time.

The theme of the McKenzie-Smith Middle School graduation ceremonies last week was Stairway to High School. It brought back memories for most in the audience, myself included.

Those memories, of finishing up grade 8, aren't that long ago, but admittedly most of Thursday's graduates weren't even born when I graduated.

But it was the next day when I got my hometown paper and saw a little feature that the memories really started to come back. It was entitled (high school) "Student of Yesterday". I was shocked to see the picture. The student of yesterday was someone who was only two years ahead of me in school. I could see him labeled as student of yesterday, but certainly not yesterday. What made matters even worse was the 14-year-old picture was how I remember this man. I probably wouldn't recognize him now.

So much for memories of school days gone by.

MEANDERINGS

By Mabel Barkman
Now if I can only spell it!

One of the most versatile vegetables today is the zucchini. In preparation for a lot of them in the garden in late summer, I have been trying them in various ways. The ones in the stores now are not too expensive.

Sliced, dipped in egg and crumbs with added salt and pepper and grated parmesan cheese, and then fried brown on both sides, they make a tasty and very quick vegetable for supper. Chopped and fried with onions and mushrooms and then with the addition of one's favorite spaghetti sauce, they make a good covering for pasta. Grated and browned with a bit of onion and mushrooms, and added to beaten eggs, they make a tasty omelet. Many people make delicious bread and muffins with them.

Perhaps in time the zucchini will become as popular as our staple, the potato.

Our readers write

Angry with bank

Dear Sir:
I am writing this letter with the hope that you will publish it so many other people will be aware of this situation. I was, up until today, doing business with the Bank of Montreal. When I went in to update my savings account pass-book, I found that they had closed my account because:

- 1) It had been inactive for a minimum period of three months.
 - 2) and that the balance was less than \$30.00 (\$20.16) actual balance.
- This money, I was told, was put into a revenue fund without written notice of the Bank's change of policy and has to be signed for to receive it.
- I have now closed up all of my accounts and will be switching to another

bank that isn't more concerned with new accounts than their older ones. I also think that the Bank should send written notices to any other accounts that may be in this same situation.

Thank you,
Julie Parsons
138 Longfield Rd.
Acton, Ont.

Editor's Note:
Due to customer-bank confidentiality, Denis Savole, manager of the Bank of Montreal was unable to respond to these charges when contacted by the Acton Free Press. He did, however point out he was not made aware of the problem by the customer and felt if customers have complaints they should speak with him.

Dancers disappointed

66 Cobblehill Road
Halton Hills (Acton)
Ontario L7J 1N9
June 23rd, 1982

Dear Sir:
I am writing with a great deal of disappointment, concerning the very poor coverage of the Acton School of Ballet and Dance presentation of "A Bit O' This and A Bit O' That" dance display which was held at Acton High School on Thursday, June 17.

Those children put in a lot of hard work during this first year to make the show even remotely possible, and they achieved not merely a good show, but an overwhelming success story. All the credit should have been given to them.

The school is designed for the

children of this community, to provide entertainment for the people of this community and also to provide those who want it, with a healthy alternative to the sports activities already being offered in Acton.

Therefore, I feel that the children who took part in the show should at least receive an apology from the Free Press, for the lack of coverage and encouragement, they so richly deserved.

Thanks Kids! You really did me proud, and the feeling you put in my heart will stay with me forever.

Yours sincerely,
Liz Chalmers
The Acton School
of Ballet and Dance

Pictures disappointing

Dear Sir:
Thank you for publishing my thank you note to Liz Chalmers for the Acton School of Dance recital.

I am sorry that the Free Press did not feel the event deserved more coverage than four bleached-out, overly cropped photos.

At a time when Acton does not even make the map, I would think that all the support in the world should be given to a person who provides our children with an opportunity to discover something more than empty store fronts in our town.

Yours truly
Pat Trotter

Back issues

10 years ago

June 28, 1972
Hundreds of railroad buffs gathered from all over Ontario to the grand opening of the Halton County Radial Museum on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. J. Frank has returned home after holidaying with friends at Parry Sound, Little Current and Manitowaning.

The Innerkip home of David and Evelyn Ketchen was the recent gathering place for the family of Lillie and John Root (MPP for Wellington-Dufferin) for the celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Acton's school creek is beginning to flow at a normal rate of speed again, as a result of efforts of 10 Acton High School students who have now completed a week and a half cleaning debris from the creek bed on the first leg of a summerlong cleanup project.

New minister of Trinity United church will be Dr. W.C. Orlons, who will come here at the end of July from Fredericton, New Brunswick.

20 years ago

June 28, 1962
Tom Shields took over the reins for the Acton Rotary Club when outgoing president Dave Manes handed over the gavel during the annual induction meeting.

Saturday evening the Stewarttown Hall was packed as the Esqueving WI celebrated its 50th anniversary. The WI was first organized June 24, 1912, on the lawn of Mrs. J. H. Tracy.

Mrs. Mabel Symon left via plane on Thursday to visit with friends in Regina. Mr. and Mrs. Vic Bristow and Bonnie spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Les Dudy and family at their cottage.

At the International Y's Men's convention in Banff last week, G.W. McKenzie was named to the high Post of president elect. He has a year to make plans for his term as president of all Y's Men's Clubs throughout the world.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Calder and family moved from their home on Church St. to Georgetown this week.

50 years ago

June 23, 1932
The third annual re-union of descendants of Major George Thompson and his brother, William Thompson, well known pioneers of Esqueving Township, was held in the park at Georgetown on Wednesday, about 175 attending.

Rev. Dr. T.A. Moore was a guest at Moorecroft over the weekend. The Acton Farmers' Clubs extended an invitation to all farmers to attend their annual picnic, to be held in Stanley Park, Erin, on Saturday, July 2. Ladies provide lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Mason are on a ten-day trip to Montreal and other eastern points.

This week's specials at Patterson's - 2 pounds of Lard 18c, Side Bacon 14c a pound and fresh Ham 13c a pound.

Mrs. Arthur Swakhamer and Mr. Harold Swakhamer, Mrs. and Mrs. G.A. Dills, and Mr. Hiram Swakhamer, attended the Manton-Ramshaw wedding in Burlington on Saturday.

75 years ago

June 27, 1907
Work has commenced on the rebuilding of the Dominion Hotel which will make it one of the most commodious and best appointed hotels in the county. It will have spacious halls, wide stairways, large bedrooms, be heated with hot water and be well lighted with plate glass windows in the front. The present building will be faced with brick and a third story added.

There passed to his reward George Washington Adams, who was one of the first children born in Acton, on July 4, 1832. His father was the late Rev. Ezra Adams, one of the early pioneer ministers of the Wesleyan church. He was one of 10 children.

The new 10.34 a.m. train is a flyer. It is timed to land Acton passengers at Union Station in exactly one hour and one minute.

100 years ago

June 22, 1882
The Canada Glove Works are making shipments daily to Winnipeg and other western points.

When the whole of the foundation of the town hall was almost completed it was found the mortar had no more strength than mud, and the entire foundation had to be taken up and rebuilt properly. The expense, about \$75, will be a severe lesson to the sub-contractor and we have no doubt the building will now proceed in a workmanlike manner.

During the past week a black bear has been seen several times in the vicinity of Crewson Corners. It is many years since a bear was seen or heard of in this section.

A number of young folks tripped the "light fantastic" at the drill shed Friday night.

Four lazy, greasy men and a couple of bears were in town last week. Such specimens of humanity should be shown the back door of the country.

Clergy Comment

by Rev. C. Hodgson

"This is the day that the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it." Summer is upon us. Isn't it nice to see the flowers, the sun, feel the gentle breeze and the rain drops, smell the roses and hear the laughter of children.

Have you ever paused to say "Thanks" to God that created you and gave you these things to enjoy. In this day and age when so many people struggle to make ends meet, it is nice to find someone who wants to help you instead of tear you down. Do you realize that God has given us many things - and sometimes we never thank Him for them - He gave us legs to walk with, a nose to smell with and most important of all, He gave His only Son so we could have forgiveness from all sin and have an abundant entrance into Heaven. Have you ever given God a chance to show you how He can help in your situation? He has control over every circumstance, and has power to help.

How about you? Have you ever thought of giving? But, you say, "I have nothing to give - I don't make much money and can't give to anyone else." How about a cheery smile to someone that is sad? How about sending a card to someone in hospital? How about spending time talking to that elderly person that lives nearby and seems to be alone? How about being kind to that neighbor down the street? How about saying you will babysit the next-door-neighbor's children while she does the shopping? You will be giving of yourself and you will receive a blessing. The Bible states "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Also, it states that if we even give a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, we shall not lose our reward.

Let's take some time to be "givers", let's take time to help one another, time to say "Thanks" to God for our health, our strength, and appreciate what He has done for us. We are a blessed people, let's share our blessings with others.