

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 863-2010

Founded in 1876

Business and Editorial Office
Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing & Publishing Ltd. at 59 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2K2. Telephone (519) 863-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 30¢ each, \$15.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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Too much haste

We're worried that the plan unveiled for a municipal complex last week by Mayor Peter Pomeroy should have appeared at this time, only two weeks after the municipal elections. It suggests the mayor and members of council who are in his confidence deliberately waited until after the election before they revealed it to the public.

We are also worried about the legal implications of making a \$10,000 deposit as an option to purchase the nearly 30 acres of the Stevens' estate in Georgetown as a possibility for the site of a municipal complex.

Although we have been assured by town officials they investigated the legalities before proceeding, we suggest that the intent of The Municipal Act, which says three-quarters of a council must be returned to office before they can proceed with any major move, is intended to act as a curb so "lame duck" councils cannot bind new ones. The deposit makes it difficult for new members of council to turn it down without looking as if they have tossed \$10,000 down the drain.

Judging by the reaction from some members of council the request from the mayor to proceed with a deposit on the property was also unexpected at this time. Only Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson voted against the proposal because she felt there was not enough information about the feasibility of expanding at the present site on Trafalgar Road, a common sense reaction.

We doubt that any councillors have enough knowledge to vote intelligently on the matter unless they are withholding some information from the public.

In view of the backlash which occurred the last time Halton Hills council tried to go ahead with a municipal complex we think the public should know a lot more about any council plans to proceed with another.

We suggest first of all council must prove there is a need for a complex. Then there is time to proceed with plans to select a site.

This whole deal suggests haste and a deal cooked up behind closed doors and we don't like it one bit.—H.C.

Don't need more MPs

Do we need 28 more MPs in Ottawa? We don't think so.

We've published this opinion previously, but in the wake of the announcement of proposed federal riding redistributions it bears repeating.

Estimates are that it costs taxpayers about \$200,000 for each MP, including the politician and his staff's wages, office and material costs, etc. That means if 28 more MPs are added to the House of Commons these extra representatives will cost taxpayers about \$5.6 million.

However, since these extra seats won't be added until Canadians have voted nationally twice more (the redistribution won't be in effect until sometime after 1985), so the cost will likely be much higher than \$5.6 million by then because of inflation.

And what purpose will be

served by adding more MPs? Backbenchers have little enough impact now on the workings of the federal level of government.

Also, we doubt many people in Acton would be able to say, political considerations aside, that service from the present MP has been better than constituents received from MPs who represented Halton riding when it included Georgetown and Erin areas. Since the last redistribution thousands have moved into the riding, but considering the relative small geographic area of Halton; we doubt that the burden has become so great with additional people that Otto Jelinek, or in fact any other MP, couldn't handle the job.

We hope lots of MPs share Jelinek's view that more seats aren't needed and Ottawa rejects this unnecessary extra cost.—G.M.

Thanks parade helpers

Dear Sir:
I wish to say a big "thank you" to everyone who helped to organize and put on the 1982 Acton Santa Claus Parade.

Acton Y's men—organized the parade; firefighters—marshaled the parade; BIA, Acton Y's Men, Acton Y's Menettes, Ladies Legion Auxiliary and private financial supporters; Halton Regional Police, traffic control; plus the groups who entered floats, all those people who marched or were on floats. And of course Ron Douglas (Santa) and Bert Robertson (Santa's driver).

My special thanks go to the firefighters for their excellent turn out and the Acton Free Press for your publicity.

In these hard times the citizens of Acton should be proud of the amount of entries that were in this year's parade.

The date for next year's parade will be the last Saturday in November, 1983.

Bev Jones,
Chairman, Acton
Santa Claus
Parade '82

AN UNBIASED CHRISTMAS QUIZ!

IT WILL BE CHEAPER TO SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS BY:
PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:

A. AN OUTRAGEOUSLY SLOW AND OVERPRICED POSTAL SERVICE.

B. AN AMAZINGLY ARROGANT AND EXPENSIVE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

C. SMOKE SIGNALS ON A CLEAR DAY.

ANSWERS:—THOSE WHO CHOSE A OR B SUBTRACT 50 POINTS FOR TOTAL LACK OF RIGHTGEDUS INDIGNATION.
—THOSE WHO CHOSE C ADD 50 POINTS FOR INTEGRITY BUT SUBTRACT 25 FOR BAD ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTISES.

From the editor's desk

Oops! Argos fooled me

by Gord Murray
Free Press editor

Oops! The Argos fooled me. And I thought I was taking a rough ride before the Tiger Cats were bounced by Ottawa and then the Argos won the Eastern Final!

As I told you a few weeks ago I was a staunch Argo fan for about 15 thoroughly mostly frustrating seasons. At the start of this season I vowed to bite the bullet and not go on the emotional roller coaster of another Boatman campaign, much to the chagrin of several Argo fans at the Free Press. Every week I was taking shots for my lapsed loyalty.

But I stuck to my guns even after they finished first, despite the mounting pressure of supposedly staunch Argo fans coming out of the closet and dumping on me for my lack of faith.

I was sure Hamilton wouldn't let Ottawa be a Cinderella team again and figured there was no way the Boatman could overcome the Oskie Wee-wee Jinx. Of course in the year of the Argos I couldn't get a break, Ottawa beat Hamilton. Then Toronto bombed the capital Roughies.

Where did all these previously quiet Argo fans come from anyway?

I said I wasn't fooled by them this year, I guess the joke was on me.

I don't think I gave into a temptation other Double Blue followers haven't succumbed to, cutting them out of your life for a year. After all, after what Argo fans have gone through everyone deserves a break now and again. I just picked the wrong year to sit on the sidelines, and maybe was a little more stubborn about my season long time out than logic dictated after they performed so well for so long.

Then again, maybe I handled a good Argo year the best way it should have been handled. Waiting all year for them to blunder must have been agonizing.

We've got a guy here at the Free Press, Dave Dodds, who I'm sure bleeds Double Blue. He was telling me he wasn't nervous once the Eastern Final started, it was the pre-game he didn't handle well. Too many butterflies to eat his lunch. What a way to go through a football season!

I was reading an article in one of the weekend papers by a guy who has writ-

ten a book about the Argos between 1952, the year of their last Grey Cup, and their lowest of low points, last season.

Anyway, he had a theory that the old Argo bounce, before 1952 a feared lucky bounce, was back as good luck after 29 years of meaning dismal failure. The author of the story traced the return of the Argo lucky bounce to some fluky catch Martin Cox made last year and followed its resurrection through this season.

Trouble was I didn't know the bounce was back.

After the Grey Cup and all those fumbles Edmonton made and recovered themselves and Minter's bobbed pass reception which was questionably called a fumble, it would be hard to convince many that the Argo bounce is back for good on the plus side.

Now I have until next July to decide if Sunday was a temporary setback for the good bounce or if its resurgence was temporary, before plotting my strategy for next season.

Before I draw the curtain on the Argos for this space for some time, I thought I'd stroll down memory lane a bit more.

I've been going to games for years, I covered them the last time, before Sunday, that they went to the Grey Cup, as well as the dismal next season when Cahill was fired for the first time. I watched from the CNE press box for the Ryersonian and Eyeopener papers at Ryerson, where I was taking journalism. It was a great learning experience, not watching the Argos or writing in school rags about them, but by watching and listening to the veterans who had scribbled about them for years.

Since moving out to this area eight years ago Helen and I have gone to dozens and dozens of games, always sitting in the area behind home plate or the along third base line for baseball. The reason we sat in such lousy seats was simple, they were cheap, just 99 cents at a chain food store.

I firmly believed, and in time Helen agreed, that if you spent more on Argo tickets than parking you really being ripped off.

Of course we didn't go to many games after Labor Day, football in fall, or

worse yet winter, just wasn't acceptable to Helen's book. And besides I couldn't see much point in going to many fall games, they'd already won the Grey Cup early in the summer and lost it by the end of the summer on an almost annual basis—by Thanksgiving at the latest.

I'd been trying without much success to explain the finer points of the game to my wife, mostly she sat the confused and bored, until one game against Montreal when we had seats high up in the end zone. Suddenly, part-way through the second quarter, Helen piped up and announced she now understood what was happening on the field, and yes I was right all along, the Argos were awful. It was a good day for such a revelation, the Boatmen were so bad that afternoon Cahill was fired for the second time. Seems Helen couldn't grasp the game until she was sitting above the action and could see things being played out.

The most memorable Argo game was my first date with Helen. We were both taking journalism at Sheridan in Oakville. I had seasons tickets with my Dad, the only year I had seasons tickets.

Anyway, he couldn't make it to the Eastern semi-final, so I gave Helen his ticket.

It was a tremendous game, two quarters of overtime before Toronto finally lost. And it was cold and snowing, and Helen was far from impressed. She was so disappointed when she learned football games aren't called because of snow.

She drank gallons of hot chocolate, complained continually about what a silly date it was and couldn't we please go.

Between the first and second overtime quarter we went to get more hot chocolate, there was a crushing crowd in the concessions area and I lost Helen, though I could hear her howling "Gord, Gord!"

I've never lost little Helen in a crowd again. I learned that Argos game that looking at all those knees causes her to fear she'll be trampled in crowds.

The more I think about it, the best Argo memories I've collected didn't happen on the field.

Back issues

10 years ago

November 25, 1972

Acton Rotary Club and Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion combined efforts again this year to stage a Christmas dinner and entertainment for members of Acton's Golden Age Club. Mr. Nino Braida was presented the Agricultural Service Diploma by former 4-H member Russell Murray and this year's top 4-H Member Cathy Lasby.

Bovis Homes intends to build 318 new homes at the Acton Meadows subdivision and the model homes can be seen on Wallace Street.

The first 76 unit phase of Kingham Hill Estates on Acton's southern boundaries is partially ready for occupancy. Forty of the condominium townhouses are sold.

Nassagaweya Council has added its voice to the proposed two-phase increase by Bell Telephone.

20 years ago

November 25, 1962

Opening night of the popular Lion's Minstrel Show nearly filled the Robert Little auditorium last evening and sell-outs are predicted for tonight's show.

There are 18 candidates seeking 11 seats as voters go to the polls on Tuesday, December 4.

The new public school in Limehouse, picturesquely located on a bluff in the village, will be officially opened tomorrow night, Friday.

Four Acton Y's Men played in the Y's Men's bonspiel in Midland last Saturday, Walter Dubois, Don Heit, John Cutting and Effe Somerville.

Friends of Miss Sarah Sinclair were glad that she was able to return home after a stay at St. Joseph's Hospital.

The new shopping plaza in the Glenlea subdivision attracted many customers this week as a Barber Shop, Beauty Salon and Smoke Shop opened their doors.

50 years ago

November 24, 1932

Mrs. John Leishman, who has been in the Hospital in Guelph for the past month or so, was able to return home this week. Friends wish her a speedy recovery.

Specials this week at Patterson's Meat Shop are: sirloin roast 17 cents a lb., side bacon 15 cents a lb., 2 lbs. of homemade sausage 20 cents a lb. and choice rib roasts 14 cents a lb.

The Bower Beauty Parlor will be open again for business on Wednesday, November 30. Phone Mrs. Ada Near, Bower Ave.

Skating on Corporation Pond and Fairy Lake has been quite popular the past week.

The walls are up and the roof is now being put on the addition at the Mason Knitting Company plant in Acton.

75 years ago

November 28, 1907

Messrs. H. Jeans, G. Agnew and James Smith assisted the 20th Regt. Band at Col. Allan's funeral last week.

For Sale, 12 farms in the county of Halton ranging in price from \$2500 to \$6000. Apply to, W.H. Denny, Acton, Ontario.

Herb Fyfe is likely to be on one of the big hockey teams of Toronto this coming season.

Miss Bessie McKeown, who has been a very successful teacher at Dublin School the past three years, will terminate her engagement at the end of the year.

The fine Johnstone block which has supplanted the old Ransom Adams residence at the corner of Mill and John Streets, is about completed.

Color-Sergeant Jos. Lynd, F. Company, 20th Lorne Rifles, has captured the best shot medal for 1907 by his splendid shooting at Camp Niagara, last June.

Wanted, Experienced Cook. Biggest wages paid, apply at the Dominion Hotel.

100 years ago

December 7, 1882

Hughes & Griffin sell men's Fine Straw Hats at 40 cents and upward. Fine Christy Stiffs at \$150—newest styles. Suits and overcoats at extremely low rates and made in latest style. Be sure to call and see them. J. Fyfe, Acton.

Mr. George Hynds tells you in his mammoth advertisement where to get Christmas presents cheap.

Mr. James Moore's fine new residence on Frederick Street is almost completed and is certainly a credit to the architect and builder, Mr. John Cameron.

Mr. John Nelson, Rockwood, whose store and residence was burned down a few weeks ago, has purchased the store nearly opposite the post office in that village.

Since the arrival of sleighing the grain market has been a little more lively, but prices remain the same.

Coles' slaw

There's a treasure house of stories out there to be told

People have called or buttonholed me about how they like to see articles in this column about some of the happenings of days gone by. A neighbor was more abrupt. Annoyed because I wasn't home when she raced miles in her car to give me a scoop on a threatened homicide, she said she would like to see something besides slats and taps when she read this column.

Since it is called Coles' Slaw which is made up of just about any ingredients the writer wants to put in, that's the intent of this pillar—to muse over anything which strikes the fancy.

Anyway, last week's column about the demolition of two houses on Church St. to make way for a parking lot produced some surprises. Jessie Shortill of Georgetown called to say that the Walters family, of which she is a member, believes the George Walters who built and resided in the home where the bakery was located was a great grandfather of Harvey Walters

who also lived there until his death a few years ago.

The Walter's family knew they had descended from a man who came from Miramichi, New Brunswick, and he had first come to Acton. They have identified his grave in Fairview Cemetery.

Harvey Walters, of course, married Lucy Edwards of the bakery family, and was a well known plasterer in Acton and area. His brother, Lorne "Minute" Walters, a popular athlete in Acton where he played robust hockey for the Tanners. Both came here from Georgetown where the Walters family moved after first settling in Acton. It was coincidence that Harvey should live in his grandfather's house.

Others who mentioned stories about Jack "Dang" Kentner, many of which can't be printed here, but Bob Marshall, who also suited up with the Tanners, recalls that "Dang" wouldn't change his hockey underwear when the team was on a winning streak. Some of

his team mates were glad when they lost a game.

Of course, many athletes are superstitious. When I covered sports it was unthinkable for any other player to hit the ice before the goalkeeper, who carried a puck in his glove and let it slide to the ice. Woe to the player who failed to observe the proper order of appearance.

Others have also told me that Jack Kentner had all the attributes of a great hockey player but that older brother Joe was pound for pound one of the best players in Acton. Clarence and Fred were also good players, a trait that seemed to be part of the family.

Jack Jr., killed in a tragic truck accident while still a young man, was a skilled hockey player who also made his mark in baseball. He hit a tremendous home run in the 14th inning of an OBA playoff game against the Sunderland Tigers in Toronto's Viaduct Park one sunny afternoon in a game that

many believe led to the Ontario Baseball Championship for Acton in 1947.

Fred Kentner Jr. also inherited much of the family talent for hockey. He played with Washington in the U.S. and in the Scottish League in bonny Scotland before returning to the home hearth.

It was a pleasant surprise to see the farm of the late Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Bennett has been bequeathed to the Queen through the Ontario Heritage Foundation for use by the public. The Bennetts were public spirited citizens and this last gesture, will never be forgotten.

Of course, everyone is asking what the Ontario Heritage Foundation is going to do with the beautiful farm, Scotdale where so many champion Shorthorn cattle were bred. It is in the manner of an English manor house and adjoining estate, occupying some of the

choicest farm land in the area.

The farm is located on Trafalgar Road about midway between Ballinafad and Silvercreek and extends from the Seventh to the Eighth Lines. It has such a picturesque setting the Carlsberg Brewing Co. made commercials there with their famed draught horses

When Jennifer Barr interviewed the Bennetts two or three years ago for one of her personality articles she was struck by the gentility of both Mr. and Mrs. Bennett. She noted they took an active interest in the children of the people who worked for them and in the swans and other birds on the ponds within their estate. She felt they were one of the most gracious couples it had been her pleasure to interview.

I hope the Ontario Heritage Foundation can find some useful purpose for Scotdale so the public can enjoy the farm which gave the Bennetts so much pleasure while they lived.