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, Ontanu, L7J 2M2 Telephone (519) 853-2010 Subscriptions Single copies 30f each, \$15.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

"The Acton Free Press is one of the Metroland Printing & Publishing Ltd. group of suburban newspapers which includes Ajax: Whitby: Pickering News Advertiser, Autora Banner/Newmarket Era, The Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlington Weekend Post, The Erob-coke Advertiser Guardian, The George town Independent, Markham. Thornhill Economist and Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Mississauga News Weekend Edition. The North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Friday Beaver, Oshawa This Weekend, The Richmond Hill: Thomhal Liberal. The Scarborough Mirror, The Stoutfyile Tribune. The Woodbridge & Vaughan News

Ken Bellamy

Publisher

Don Ryder

Director of Advertising

Second class mail registration Number 0:15.

Hartley Coles Managing Editor

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or senaces at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to self, and may be withdrawn at any time

Member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association, and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT Editor: Gord Murray News Editor: Helen Murray Sports: Dan McGilloway

Darkroom: Nancy Pundsack

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT Bill Cook - Retail Advertising Manager, Sales: Kuk Davy

Classified Advertising: Carolyn Artem Debbia MacDougati

BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE Office Manager: Jean Shewell





Must secure siren

We certainly hope the clown(s) who was responsible for the air raid siren wailing away for over three hours on what should have been a nice quiet holiday night in Acton en-

joyed the joke, nobody else did. Actually Acton is quite lucky this little prank didn't result in a community tragedy since there are high voltages up on the siren tower and the person responsible could easily have fried themselves fooling around with the control box.

For many in town the siren meant lost sleep and annoyance. For those living closest to the Eastern Ave. siren it proved to be a major pain in the ear and elsewhere.

We haven't heard of anyone who was worried Russian bombers were about to wipe Acton off the face of the earth, but it did alarm many. Some thought there had been some disaster, such as a train derailment of the Mississauga variety, or a huge fire, etc. Some wondered if the siren they weren't used to hearing meant they should evacuate.

As if the siren wasn't enough to distrub people, firefighters and hydro workers around town

The following letter was filed with

I received Mr. Townsley's letter

There is one point I would like to

make with you-I am physically

disabled, which does not automatic-

ally mean that I am mentally

disabled. I have trouble with my

The letter I finally received from

your department was very polite

and signed by Mr. H. Townsley. The

only problem being that my original

letter was not addressed to Mr.

Townsley, nor was a copy sent to

him. I take it from this, that Mr.

Townsley is the only one in your

department with enough integrity to

answer my letter. I wonder if that

means that the people of Halton Hills

and their opinions mean little to you.

tonight's paper (Free Press-

December 29) Bonnette, Carney say

Need rink ramp soon". First I say a

public thank-you to the two counc-

illors named above for keeping this

issue alive and for their help, past,

Now Mr. Shephard and Mrs.

Sheldon just because people do not

keep knocking at your door, do not

think that everything you say is

taken at face value or entirely be-

lieved. We all happen to know the

steps the budget must go through be-

fore it is accepted-putting some-

present, and future.

I read with interest the article in

December 15, 1982-12 days after it

the Free Press for publication.

Dear Mr. Tom Shepard:

was written.

legs, not my mind.

were pestered by callers wanting to know what had happened and when the sirens would be turned off.

Considering the holiday season and the resultant difficulty in reaching the proper officials for clearance to shut the power to the siren off when normal procedures failed, the length of time the community was forced to endure the noise is understandable.

It is difficult though to understand why such an important cog in our defence warning system can be tampered with so easily. It's astounding to learn that anyone can climb up the tower, simply remove a few bolts on a control panel and flip the switch.

The Department of National Defence is now looking at ways to secure the hatch to the siren platform so only authorized personnel will have access to the switch.

It's high time the military quit depending on luck to keep its sirens from being set off.

We imagine it won't be long before Acton's sleep is again shattered by the siren's wail if that hatch isn't locked .-- G.M.

thing in the budget doesn't mean a

The steps the budget must go

through are: 1. The department

draws up the budget; 2. The depart-

ment submits the budget to the

Budget Committee. 3. The Budget

Committee "trims" unnecessary

items and often sends the budget

back to the department which sub-

mitted it, for more triming. 4. The

department resubmits the budget to

the Budget Committee. 5. Hopefully

Frequently items are cut from the

Say the budget, as you Mr. Shep-

ard have set it up is accepted, with

the ramp money contained therein-

and the tall falls off the Acton ice

machine-and as my letter from

your department, dated December

3, 1982 states, "This late in the year

we did not have sufficient monies in

our budget. As our wheelchair ramp

and security lights had not been

started the monies for them had to

be allocated to the new furnaces."-

Disabled people-you have no

To return to my original point-

rights-sit in your wheelchairs at

the bottom of the stairs in the dark!

Why was the money for ramps not

applied for and received during the

Year of The Disabled, when it was

available? Whose neligence was

This could go on and on!

it is accepted.

-Our readers write-

Reader raps Shepard

over handicapped ramp



From the editor's desk

This game's no trivial matter

by Gord Murray Free Press editor

We've discovered a new board game this holiday season and I can recom-

mend it highly. Entitled Trivial Pursuit, Helen and I have been playing it quite a bit lately since two couples we know both got the

game. You'd be surprised how much triva, or in many ways somewhat useless information, you don't know.

But, if you can remember the answers to the thousands and thousands of questions in the game, you can also learn quite a bit. We've played the game several times

with our friends, we even found a way to conveniently keep it for the weekend and introduced it to another couple we know, who also found it a lot of fun. Here's how it works.

Trivial Pursuit is played on a board in the design of a wheel. All the players start in the middle, move down a spoke of the wheel, and then move around the rim on the wheel. .

Questions come in six categories; geography, entertainment, history, arts and literature, science and nature and sports and leisure.

Using a die, the players move around the board. There are squares all around the rim, as well as on the spokes. When a player lands on a square, each square is for a different category, the player must answer a question. A correct answer earns another turn. There's also "roll again" squares.

As a player moves his playing piece around the wheel rim a player is aiming first to land on one of the six major squares, one for each category.

Once you land on a major square you try to answer the trivia question from that square and then fill a spot on their playing piece with a color coded plastic chip. Unce all the playing piece spots are filled with a correct answer from the major square of each question category, the player tries to roll the die and reach the centre of the wheel.

You have to roll the exact number of squares to reach the middle, or keep

Once your playing piece is dead centre your opponents get together and select what they consider to be your weakest trivia question category and you have to try and answer a question from that category. You have to just keep trying to get to the centre and successfully answer the question from the category you have the most trouble

with until someone wins. The game can last quite a while as you struggle to land on the major squares and answer the questions correctly. Along the way you wind up being asked a lot of other trivia questions too. You can play with several individuals

or in teams. Education or smarts doesn't seem to have a lot to do with success at this game, I've noticed. The best educated of the players I've encountered, a gal working on her masters degree, is far

from the hot shot at Trivial Pursuit. It does appear though, especially for the entertainment category, that if you've seen a lot of old movies, as well as television shows and remember who sang a lot of old music, you'll do better.

In fact I've noticed the oldest player we've tangled with, a fella in his mid '30s, consistently wins. Age seems to be a slight advantage.

Of course he owns a game and has more spare time than the rest of us, so we suspect he may be sneaking looks at the question cards and is memorizing the answers.

He says he left the game with us for the weekend so I could finally win and also rib me about memorizing the

answers too. I'm told the game was developed by a couple of Canadians and besides the regular trivia questions they also have an extra set of questions and answers ready for when you have played so much you learn the questions and answers. This extra set of cards has six question categories all based on the Silver Screen.

I imagine it won't be long before extra sets of cards based on history, geography, sports, literature, etc. are developed.

By the way Helen and I are no great shakes at the game yet.

Anyway I picked out a few cards at random and decided to share some Trivial Pursult questions with you, just in case you're interested in buying a game. I'm told it costs about \$25 for a game, a small investment considering the hours of family fun which it can produce. The answers appear at the bottom, upside down so you'll be more likely to try and answer the questions

In what state is Mount McKinley? 2. What was the shape of Lolita's sunglasses in the 1962 film? 3. What phrase did the Nazis adopt in the 1920s to label their new order? 4. What nationality was Aladdin? 5. What are love apples? 5. What's the most popular card game in the English-speaking world? 7. What country is saddled with the 10 coldest major cities? 8. What was Mae West's last film? 9. Who took 18 days to write the Declaration of Independence? 10. What feminist wrote Sexual Politics and Flying? 11. How many feet make a mile? 12. What two teams joined baseball's American League in 1977? 13. What's the largest city in China? 14. Who sang about Desmond and Molly Jones? 15. What does blizkrieg mean? 16. How does James Bond like his martinis? 17. What Roman god is January named for? 18. Whose famed jaw did Ken Norton break?

8'ilA bammadaM ,81 war, 16. Shaken, not stirred. 17. Janua. Shanghai, 14. The Beatles, 15. Lightning Mariners and Toronto Blue Jays. 13. 10 Kate Millett. 11. 5,280. 12. The Seatle Union. 8. Sextet. 9. Thomas Jefferson. Tomstoes, 6. Bridge, 7. The Soviet The Third Reich. 4. Chinese, 5. Here are the I. Alaska, 2. Hearts. 3.

Back issues

10 years ago

January 10, 1973.

Buy-a-brick donations have been pouring in this week adding new names to the growing list for Acton's Centennial Project.

Pierre Berton's latest book on railroads in Canada, The Great Railway Illustrated, contains two pictures from the collection of an Acton man, Ed McKnight.

Acton Snowmobile Club president Ron Holloway and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Johnston officiated at the ribbon cutting ceremony Sunday, at its new headquarters on land owned by the Johnstons near the First Line.

Tom Watson, of Acton, was elected vice-chairman of the Board of Educa-

Mrs. Anne J. MacArthur was elected Warden of Halton County last week. Mayor Les Duby received a wooden gavel made especially for him by Tom

Ware, who also produced the gavel used by Acton's first Mayor Amos Mason. Vera and Ernie Parker were honored at a surprise party attended by 40 friends and relatives Saturday night on their 25th wedding anniversary.

20 years ago

January 10, 1963, A spectacular \$25,000 blaze levelled the barn on the Twin Lakes Resort at Speyside early this morning, claiming

10 horses and a show dog. The Twelfth Night Yule tree burning ceremony staged by the Acton Chamber of Commerce, Saturday, was one fire enjoyed by the Acton fire-

fighters. Paul Nielsen, local clothing merchant was named 1963 president of the Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday

night during the inaugural meeting at the Dominion Hotel. Music supervisor Glenn Banks is home from hospital but still not back to

Robert Little School. Mrs. Joseph Kentner was visiting

with her sister Mrs. Harry Smith, in Bowmanville.

When Dr. Harry Harley M.P. was in town Tuesday he was taken on a tour by Liberal Association president Roy Goodwin.

50 years ago

January 5, 1933. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Williams celebrated their Sixty-third wedding anniversary at their home on Lake Avenue on December 28.

At a meeting last evening the Acton Midget Hockey League was formed. Mr. Ben Bayliss was chosen president and W.D. Talbot was made Secretary-Treasurer. Boys between the ages of 12 and 16 inclusive, are eligible.

Miss Frances Hurst returned to Metcalle after spending the Christmas holidays at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Dills and family

spent New Year's with relatives in Toronto.

Miss Violet Crossman was home from Toronto for the holidays visiting

- 75 years ago

January 9, 1908.

W. Roat, proprietor of the unlicensed hotel at Eden Mills, was fined \$20 and costs for selling liquor on Christmas night. Inspector Oakes did the business.

Mr. R. Sinclair has just moved into his commodious cement block house on Willow Street. He and his sister will be very comfortable in their new home. Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Gamble enjoyed a call from Mr. Wm. McTavish, of

Midland, during the hollday week. Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Waldie and son, of Milton, and Miss Hawkins, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. White,

Lake Avenue. Miss Myrtle Watson has been engaged to take a position on the staff of the Georgetown High School at a salary

of \$600.

100 years ago

January 18, 1883.

A number of very large pine logs have passed this office on the way to Mr. Thos. C. Moore's shingle factory during the week.

Mr. John Nelson has got comfortably settled in his new store in Rockwood and business is coming in faster than he is able to attend to it.

Mr. A.W. Green has been appointed trustee for the creditors in the estate of Messrs. Allen and Jenner, glove manufacturers, assigned. Mr. Thomas C. Moore intends

erecting a two-story brick front to his residence on Main Street next summer. A big sleigh load of young folks went

to Georgetown on Friday evening to attend a skating carnival in that village. They say they had a jolly time.

The anniversary of the opening of the Congregational Church, Georgetown, was held last Sunday.

The old stone school was once a beautiful home Coles' slaw

During the discussions, to use a charitable word, about the fate of Acton's old town hall, some residents repeatedly brought up the presence of the old stone school as a building better preserved and worthwhile saving than our red brick town hall. And it is a beautiful building which has been a continuation school, high school, an adjunct to the Robert Little public school and St. Joseph's school in a span which takes in over a century of use.

The old stone school was originally a beautiful residence known as Fairview Place, which Acton's Early Days describes as "the stately ancestral home of the Sidney Smith family." It was built by Sidney Smith about the year 1865 and the old Haiton Atlas contains a drawing of the home as it looked then surrounded by sweeping lawns, gardens, terraces, orchard, rockery, lily pond and groves of evergreens and other

trees on four acres of Eden. Scottish stone culters built the home. cutting stone for the walls, sills and lintels for the home which rose tier after tier of stone blocks fashioned by the hands of those skilled artisans. These Scottish masons were famous throughout this neck of the woods for their fine homes and buildings as is still in evidence in some of the fine stone barns in what used to be Nassagaweya township

Anne Dodds

and around Eden Mills. The cities of Guelph and Galt and small towns such as Preston and Hespeler also contain many of the buildings these artisans constructed. They look as strong now as they must

have when they were first built. The worst enemy of these buildings through the decades has been fire. Many of them have been gutted by roaring flames which consumed their dry wooden interiors and left stone walls still standing like derelict fortresses.

It was fire which also determined the fate of the old Sidney Smith home, back in 1926. Flames broke out on the last day of March in that year where a grandson of the original owner and his mother lived. It made the beautiful home, one of the village showplaces, virtually uninhabitable.

Acton's Early Days records that it was great blow to Mrs. Smith and the home was never rebuilt in her declining

years. After a few years the property was acquired by the old Acton School Board and the fine old residence was trans-

formed into a Continuation School. For those of you who may not know what a continuation school is, it is the

equivalent of a high school without grade 13 or fifth form as it was known in those days. It was a "continuation" of public elementary school. When this scribbler first attended Second Form in the old stone school the principal was Malcolm "Duff" Leitch of many memories. He had a staff of two teachers to help him teach the four grades. Miss Sedgwick and Mrs. Gould. Later Pat Baker replaced Mrs. Sedgwick. There were others to.

It was during the war years and many of the male teachers had joined the army or air force and some of the younger female teachers had boy friends in the forces. One teacher in particular had a sweetheart in the RCAF. He was a flying instructor and he used to buzz the school in a Harvard trainers, the principal plane used to train pilots. He later married the teacher and went on to become one of Acton's smartest businessmen.

Guess who? I'm not telling. While that old stone school was still the residence of the Smiths they had the first private waterworks ever installed in Acton. Mr. Smith had cor 'derable business foresight and he unied viating that one of the condition the stream known as the . All Creek through his property would allow him to

install a half-inch pipe from the old dam that used to stand beside the building where The Free Press is located now. and supply the hydraulic ram on his premises.

It was done and the Smith home. bath, conservatory and stables were supplied with water at practically no expence without interruption for over 40 years. Think of that when you get your water bill from the Region now. And weep.

The creek which still flows without interruption through the property now was once deeper and the home for many speciments of piscatorial splendor ripe for anything. It was also deep enough at the point where it crosses Main Street for a swimming hole. Boys used to cool off there in "nature's free garb" as Acton's Early Days delicately describes swimming in the nuce.

The reason for this exercise about the old stone school and some of its history is the fact that Halton Board of Education has decided it once again is redundant. They have offered it to the Town of Halton Hills for sale. The Town as you may have read on the front page of this issue, is interested in its purchase. And it is possible the people of Acton may achieve the best of what

many have hoped for these many years-the preservation of both the old town hall and the old school. The windows of that old school are

boarded now and its desolation makes

the shoool grounds around the Robert Little school look deserted. You can still see the shape of the terraces which used to lead up to the building when it was the home of the Smiths and a showplace of the village. The winding walk which threads its way up the school hill and has been both

a joy and a long walk for thousands of students for over a hundred years is still picturesque as it winds through stately evergreens.

Sometimes if you sit there on the grass and have the faculty of remembering you can hear the voices of the thousands who have passed through these grounds, their cries at recess and envision their hesitant steps as they were towed there on the first day of school. And you remember when school was let out at the end of June and the winding walk was full of rejoicing children looking ahead to two months of freedom from books and teachers?

I do.