

# The Acton Free Press

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## We've lost a friend

The death of Garnet (Pat) McKenzie on Sunday after a long debilitating illness ended the career of a man who dedicated his life to this community and in its service. These are trite words. They can never express the depth or the sincerity of a man who ever had the best interests of Acton and its residents at heart.



He had a long, fruitful career as principal of the Robert Little school. He saw thousands of students pass through the portals of and pursue careers which he helped fashion. The school bore his stamp—strict, fair with high academic standards. It was only fitting that when a middle school was deemed necessary they should name it after him and a fellow principal, Elmer Smith, now deceased.

One can't think of Pat McKenzie without immediately remembering his role in the Acton Y's Men's Club. He rose from president of the local club in 1951-52 to become international president in 1963-64. He made a host of friends around the globe both for himself and wife Mary, and for the Town of Acton, with his gregarious and affectionate love of clean fun and organizational abilities.

His career on Acton and later Halton Hills council was often the centre of controversy. He took a strong stand on the issues he believed in and put his heart and soul into them to see they worked.

Although he had a hearing impairment he was a man of boundless energy, constantly on the move. Pat McKenzie was stricken with a disease that slowed him down physically and eventually forced hospitalization but even there he reacted out and made the public aware of the disease, organizing those who suffered from it.

We'll remember him by the many memorials he left in the form of public works but this writer will always think of him with his cowboy hat on, smiling and stretching out a hand of welcome to everyone, no matter the race, color or creed.—H.C.



## From the editor's desk

### Expos all the way in '83

by Gord Murray  
Free Press editor

Half the fun of going to baseball spring training was writing about it afterwards. And now I'm going to have some more fun, I'm going to give my fearless predictions about the outcome of the looming season.

Of course seeing 13 teams in 10 games hardly gives me what one could describe as a broad picture of the major league scene. I didn't even see all the teams working out in Florida, let alone the six clubs in the Cactus League.

But, since the end of last season I've read everything I could about personnel changes clubs have made and spent a lot of time in Florida reviewing rosters as well as club previews.

So, here goes.

It'll be the Expos from the National League in the World Series this year.

National League East—1st Expos, 2nd Cardinals, 3rd Pirates, 4th Phillies, 5th Mets, 6th Cubs.

National League West—1st Dodgers, 2nd Braves, 3rd Padres, 4th Giants, 5th Reds, 6th Astros.

Now, before I get to the reasons for these predictions, I'll just leave myself an escape clause for the finishers I have wrong. My predictions are based strictly on what the teams show on paper. Injuries, trades and most particularly key performers not playing up to scratch or unknowns coming out of nowhere to play key roles will give these predictions the flush.

The National League east race will feature just two teams the Expos and Cardinals. The Expos have four guys who not only hit well, but with power, namely Gary Carter, Andre Dawson, Al Oliver and Tim Wallach. This club will also boast speed and hitting in Tim Raines and adequate bats in Chris Spier, Terry Francoeur or Warren Cromartie and Doug Flynn. Bench strength is there in guys like Cromartie, Tim Blackwell, Jerry White and Bryn Little. The infield

defence will be sharper with Flynn on hand from the start and the outfield defence will benefit if Raines, Dawson and Francona can be kept together out there all year long.

As for Montreal's pitching, it may not seem that great, but it's certainly stronger than the rest of the division. They have one great pitcher, Steve Rogers, and three other capable starters in Bill Gullickson, Scott Sanderson and Charlie Lea. Ray Burris, Randy Lerch and Dan Schatzeder can fill the role of fifth starter and middle reliever. Jeff Reardon is a superb reliever and hopefully Woody Fryman has a good year left in his aging arm.

Cardinals have hitting and speed but they're weak on the mound outside of the bullpen where Jim Kait and Bruce Sutter operate. Guys like George Hendrick, Keith Hernandez, Willie McGee, Lonnie Smith, Tom Herr and Darryl Potter will hit for reasonable average, but they offer little power. Starting pitching outside of Joaquin Andujar is iffy, but helped greatly by strong defence, especially Ozzie Smith at shortstop. Their speed is tremendous, but they won't steal another title.

Pirates have hitting, especially if Dave Parker rebounds, but they lost speed in Omar Moreno. Jason Thompson supplies power and Bill Madlock hits well, but they don't have an order like the Expos. A fine young catcher, Tony Pena, is handling a poor mound staff, no memorable starters besides John Candelaria and Kent Mutch in the bullpen beyond Tom Tuohy.

Phillies are very old, Pete Rose, Tony Perez, and Joe Morgan will make them respectable at the plate, but if their old bones break this club will be in real trouble. Bo Diaz behind the plate has an old pitching staff to work with and no-body on the mound outside of Steve Carleton is going to worry anybody. Garry Matthews, Gary Maddox and Mike Schmidt can hit well, but they too are getting older and may start to fade.

A rebound by George Foster would help the Mets escape the basement, especially if Tom Seaver and Mike Torrez can pitch anywhere near old form. They don't have much pitching and the defence is no great shakes either. Mets also aren't a young club. Dave Kingman can supply power but no other hitting and there isn't much long ball behind him if Foster doesn't regain form.

Cubs have some hitting, Bill Buckner and Leon Durham, along with new third sacker Ron Cey. But their pitching is awful after ancient Ferguson Jenkins and they have just too many bad spots in the lineup to escape the cellar unless Mets are even worse.

Dodgers will miss Cey, Steve Garvey and reliever Terry Foster, but as usual their farm system is churning out hot prospects. Possible bullpen trouble, defensive problems at the infield corners and the lack of a first string catcher is all that will keep the western race close. They have fine hitting in Steve Sax, Bill Russell, Ken Landreaux, power from Pedro Guerrero and Dusty Baker and a little speed. Their pitching with Fernando Valenzuela, Jerry Reus, Burt Hutton, Bob Welch, Steve Howe and maybe Pat Zachry is about the best around.

Braves have no pitching besides Phil Niekro, though free agent Foster joining Gene Garber in the bullpen will help. However, they'd need tremendous hitting from the whole order especially sluggers Dale Murphy and Bob Horner, like they got last year to repeat and lightning doesn't often strike twice.

Padres are a young and upward moving club, they'll contend with Dick Williams managing. But to win they'd need their young stars to progress as much as they did last year, particularly the pitchers, and it won't likely happen again. Garvey will give them needed stability and savvy, but he can't take a team which doesn't  
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## Back issues

### 10 years ago

March 23, 1973

Steve and Keith Parry are credited with the rescue of three young boys from Beaver Meadow swamp. The children, all aged eight, were playing on the ice of the swamp when the ice gave way, dumping them waist deep in water. One escaped and went to the Parry residence on Hwy. 25 to seek help. Angus Gregg, a Rockwood resident, returned from a "flying safari" to Africa this week.

Acton Rotary Club celebrated its silver anniversary with a dinner at the Legion Hall, attended by 140 people. Charter members in attendance included Alf Long, Les McSwain, Pat Clemons, Rev. Lt. Col. John M. Anderson, Frank Oakes, Wesley Beatty and Fred Wright.

### 20 years ago

March 28, 1963

Acton's 1963 budget shows a mill rate hike of eight mills, the highest increase in the history of the town. The rate was established by Acton's finance chairman, J. Bert Wood, at a special council meeting Wednesday. Town budget is set at \$591,000.

Les Duby has been chosen to serve as mayor for the remainder of the 1963 term. The position became vacant after the resignation of George Barbeau last week. Tony Hurst, a 13-year-old Robert Little School student, has topped the local public speaking finals, winning the B.D. Rachlin trophy.

### 50 years ago

March 30, 1933

Miss Laura Reid was elected president of the Baptist Young People's group for the upcoming year. Vice-president is Mr. Stanley Cripps and secretary-treasurer Mr. Charles Leggborough.

The Midget Hockey League culminated its season's activities last week with a banquet and social evening at the Legion Club Rooms. Chairman for the evening was Mr. B. Bayliss. League winners, Barr's Parkview, received the Patterson Trophy presented by Reeve E.T. Thelford. Harvey Hassard played piano to accompany community signing.

General warning has been issued to merchants and citizens to watch for counterfeit coins rumored to be circulating in the area.

William John Stuckey, a cabinet maker and woodcarver whose works grace several churches in Acton and Grand Valley, has died at his Willow St. home at the age of 75.

### 75 years ago

March 26, 1908

Postmaster and Mrs. Matthews completed half a century of wedded life together. They have been prominent among the foremost citizens of Acton. When he was a lad of nine his father moved to Acton, the families of the Nicklins, Laabys and Moores coming from Pilkington near Elora at the same time. He went to clerk in the store and post office of his uncle, the late Robert Swan, who was Acton's first postmaster. Mr. Matthews has been postmaster for 53 years.

The millinery openings are in progress this week. The ladies of Acton and vicinity will revel in viewing and admiring the pretty new creation of spring hats and bonnets.

Knox Young People held a very enjoyable social. The orchestra played. Among the musical numbers were quartettes sung by Misses Mabel Chapman, Bessie Husband, Ida Graham and Gertie Johnstone.

### 100 years ago

April 5, 1883

A meeting of citizens and farmers was held to take into consideration the feasibility of the erection of a roller flour mill in Acton.

George Pope, 84 years of age, who has for some time been unable to work and has had to seek asylum in the Conroy Jail, having no means of support, has died.

The opening concert given in the new town hall Thursday was attended by between 300 and 400 persons. There were many visitors present and the universal opinion respecting the new hall was that it was second to none in the province as far as beauty and acoustic properties were concerned. The concert company disappointed the audience. The ball at the close of the concert was, as far as attendance and receipts are concerned, a consummate failure.

St. John's fine new church in Rockwood will be opened in the fall. It is one of the finest country churches we have ever seen.

### Coles' slaw

## The Thorn Birds afflict me like the afternoon soaps

by Hartley Coles  
Managing Editor

Has The Thorn Birds affected your life? It has mine.

My wife and I drove to Michigan last weekend to visit a sister and brother-in-law who live in that state, where care packages are arriving from Germany and Japan. The unemployment rate there is somewhere around 16 per cent, but there was no evidence of suffering. Gasoline prices are only \$1.05 per American gallon. There's bargains galore in the store.

But by Sunday afternoon my sweet, adorable, beautiful, loving wife had itchy feet. "Let's go," she said. "I've got to get home by 8 o'clock so I don't miss any of The Thorn Birds."

It's about a three hour drive from Mount Clemons, where we were, to dear old Acton. I estimated we'd be home somewhere around 7 p.m., staying under the speed limit and stopping for the border check. My estimates are often optimistic.

We hit the border around 4 p.m. and, of course, stopped at the Can

Am store to admire the many bottles they sell at bargain prices. We decided our short stay did not permit bringing home the contents without a customs wrangle so a half-hour was wasted.

Although new Highway 402 has speeded up traffic it still takes the best part of an hour and 15 minutes to reach London. By the time we reached Cambridge on 401 it was 6 p.m. We stopped to eat while she repeatedly consulted her watch. Just after 7 p.m. we hastily left Galt and headed home on the last stretch. No problems until about three miles out of Acton. Then we hit fog. Dense, woolly stuff that makes you slow down to a crawl. The wife pulled the watch on me again. I sped up. She suggested my speed might wind us up in the ditch, or even worse cause us an accident which would cause us to miss the opening sequences of The Thorn Birds.

With the help of my guardian angel and a horseshoe I carry in the trunk in the event angel's looking somewhere else, we arrived in the driveway at about

7.45. Almost 15 minutes to spare.

Lot of time, I muttered as we hastily unloaded the buggy, unlocked the door and transported luggage into the house. Not at all, she said. "I want to be all unpacked and settled before it starts," she said, giving no quarter.

And she was. At 8 p.m., comfortably ensconced in her favorite viewing spot with no bars to pleasure.

At this juncture the phone rang. It was someone reminding me I had arranged a meeting that night. I went out while the Thorn Birds flew over from Australia and took over the house for the night. But the producers weren't satisfied. The series keeps going again Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, all evenings I'm tied up with this job. So I just see snatches of this TV epic.

Someone suggested I shouldn't be so cheap. "Go on out and buy a VCR and tape the episodes so you don't miss any," they said. But I'm a traditional type. There's lots of other things I'd rather see than The

Thorn Birds. Besides I feel the tube has taken us over too much already. I'm on the side of those who want to be released from the bondage of that shimmering 24-inches of screen, to enjoy other pursuits.

I know I'm in the minority but to me most of the programs are not worth watching, let alone relaxing with. Instead of transporting me into realms of pleasure, they afflict me with indignation. It annoys me that I'm so unmotivated as to sit there rivetted to the screen.

After all, I could be tearing the paper off the bedroom walls as my wife has suggested for the last six months. Or even cleaning out the basement which has an unmistakable odor of must permeating the air that could be those two old turnips I've been meaning to move for the last six weeks. Or maybe it's just the squash that's looks ready for the compost heap. Or it could be just my imagination conjuring up reasons for tearing away from the boob tube.

In any event this person

probably won't be able to discuss The Thorn Birds intelligently with anyone, even though I read the book because I'll only see snatches of it. I'm not concerned. To me it has all the appeal of one of those afternoon soaps, outside of the scenes where there's some real adventure in them in the Australian Outback.

I'm probably like most men who've watched their wives take over the TV for this and other similar antics. I'd just as soon see a good hockey game even though you have to twist a lot of dials to get one of those these days.

However, we may get our own back. The NHL playoffs start next week and I can already hear the mutterings from the distaff side: "Hockey, hockey, hockey. Nothing but hockey on the tube."

When that happens forget about the wallpaper, the musty cellar, the world of soaps and concentrate on the happenings that make the real world go around.