

The Acton Free Press

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Applaud church help to services centre

Churches have always been involved in social issues and worked with the poor and disadvantaged of our society. However, they haven't always been as visible and vocal on the social front as they are becoming today, nor has their scope of influence and efforts been as great.

Over the years many of the chores the church performed and roles it filled were taken over by government.

In these tough economic times, churches are finding they must take some responsibilities back from government.

Churches of all denominations in Canada have gone through many changes in the past 20 years or so and the increased role in the affairs of the day have, like the others, modernized religion, made faith more appealing to the masses, brought more minority groups into the fold and made the church more interesting and relevant to Canadians of the 80s.

This period of transition and change in Canadian churches hasn't always been smooth sailing. Traditionalists don't care for changes in doctrine, church rules and procedures, worship services, etc. The great visibility of churches and comments on issues like economic policy and the anti-nuclear movement, have won the churches many friends, but also produced critics who say separation of church and state should be greater.

But, the appeal of organized religion being on the upswing in Canada would appear to be preciously for the reasons mentioned above, a more relaxed and relevant institution which is taking a more public role in areas of concern to our society.

This week in Acton we have a perfect example of the role beyond faith and the church which our religious institutions can and should be playing.

Acton churches are making donations and pledging to raise more funds, to keep the Acton Social Services and Information Centre financially healthy and growing. In addition, there are indications the churches will make the centre

part of their budget in future years, and will consider the centre a permanent aspect of their mission work.

This is an outstanding development.

The centre, formerly known as the Acton Community Centre, has proved to be a tremendous asset to this community. Citizens from all walks of life receive services and assistance from welfare, children's aid, student job placement, parole, etc. at the centre. The centre runs Meals on Wheels and Block parents. It's the home of councillors' drop-in. The centre, with other agencies, puts on immunization clinics, well baby clinics, special programs and services for our seniors, and much, much more.

Since the birth of the centre it has been steadily moving ahead, ever increasing its role in the community and expanding its list of services. It moved to large quarters to be more accessible and visible, as well as more efficient. It is a unique operation, an example of what can still be accomplished in this community by concerned, caring citizens, even under regional government.

The region has been fairly generous with the centre over the years, realizing it could never offer Acton the same array of services at such a low price. But there comes a point, because of necessary restraint, when the region can't do it all.

Regrettably business, industry and the citizens of Acton haven't been as generous towards the centre in the past. Fund raising projects and drives haven't produced the funds needed. Maybe it has been because of the economy, or maybe those who don't need the centre aren't as concerned or aware of its work as they might be.

The marriage of the centre and churches is a stroke of genius. The board of the centre, Acton clergy and the lay people of our churches are to be congratulated on this wise move.

Clearly if there is any sector of the community which is and should be concerned with the needs of Acton and area's poor, disadvantaged, demented, elderly, etc. it is our churches. —G.M.



From the editor's desk

Super channel is super

This is a totally unsolicited endorsement of a product available in town.

I'm speaking of Superchannel, the Ontario, and I believe Alberta, regional Pay-TV service. You know those commercials with Leslie Nielsen saying Superchannel believes they are quality Pay-TV at its best? Well, I'm a believer now, it's true. For a little over \$18 a month (including the fed's latest tax bite) Pay-TV, at least this channel, is a good deal.

About six weeks ago I was reading the TV guide which comes with one of the weekend papers and there was a comment column which got me thinking. The writer suggested he'd been hearing from a lot of people running Pay-TV down, and most were people who had never seen it. He reviewed the complaints he's heard about Pay-TV: poor reception, too much repetition of movies, nothing new ever, too much money, etc.

We'd been like that. I can recall many conversations with other non-Pay-TV subscribers in which I went along and said it was no good, a rip-off, nothing ever new or anything I wanted to see, etc.

The writer of the column I read noted he had all three services and enjoyed them thoroughly. He also calculated between movie rentals which he reduced and going out to the show less, he was more than saving enough cash to pay for Pay-TV.

His column had me thinking. Something I detest others doing, judging something they know nothing about, I was just as guilty of too. I suggested to Helen sometimes we sign up for a month and try one of the stations, I figured First Choice.

A few days later someone mentioned Halton Cable was allowing subscribers to take all three channels for free for one week.

Not being one to pass up a no obligation freebie, I called the next day. By that afternoon we had free Pay-TV and the salesman even hooked everything up so it would go through our VCR, we could tape Pay-TV when we

weren't at home or were asleep. (I don't mind mentioning we have a VCR again even though it has been suggested it's a good way to be burglarized.) There's lot of neighbors around our place and there's so many wires for cable, converter, VCR, descrambler, etc. I'm sure any thief would pass it up, it would take too long to disconnect it all even if he just ripped away. (Besides, it's security marked.)

We wound up taking Superchannel. It has most of the same movies as First Choice and many the other service didn't have. It also had the sports I wanted, baseball, as opposed to tennis and boxing, neither of which I care for much. In addition it had more concerts, such as Hall and Oates, Sheena Easton, Kris Kristofferson, Rita Coolidge and Joe Cocker.

We might have taken C channel too, but it was going out of business.

I've now seen the three services available here as well as The Movie Channel, Showtime, Home Box Office, a sports network and a music channel south of the border. Superchannel is by far the best I've seen.

OK, so it's a good deal for someone like me who, admittedly watches far too much TV. I like to watch early in the morning before work, after work, late at night after meetings, etc. Often I'll spend a day off watching five or six movies. I probably spend 30 to 40 hours a week in front of the tube, though increasingly in the past year I've watched less regular TV (it's so bad, few quality shows, and far too many commercials) and more rented video movies and even discs a few times, and now Pay-TV.

Most people don't spend that much time watching TV. I get more than my money's worth from Pay-TV. I tape an average of 10 programs a week from Pay-TV.

I figure if your family watches 10 or more hours of TV a week, and you've got to include renting movies or discs as time spent in front of the tube, you'll get your



by Gord Murray
Free Press editor

money's worth too. (I know people here in town who rent five or six movies most weekends for viewing Friday and Saturday night.)

We still rent tapes any may rent discs again if there's something in town on disc I can't get on tape just then.

Where Superchannel is paying off is I'm taking chances on movies I might not likely rent that are turning out to be pretty good flicks, several have been Canadian too. Titles like Inside Moves: Come Back to the 5 and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean; Liar's Moon; St. Helens; McVicar; The High Country; The Sea Wolves; This Time Forever; and some more. We also watched the big name or star cast films like Das Boot; Poltergeist; Stir Crazy; Stripes; The Stuntman; Breaker Morant; Whose Life Is It Anyway; Paternity; Author, Author; Wrong is Right; The Man Who Would Be King; Cannonball Run; and other films featuring big names like Al Pacino, Sean Connery, Burt Reynolds, Peter O'Toole and Richard Dreyfuss. And that's all been so far this month.

I'm also glad I saw some movies on Superchannel which I never rented, like Cheech and Chong's Nice Dreams; Shivers; Your Ticket is No Longer Valid; Swamp Thing; Oh Heavenly Dog (Helen watched all of it) Silent Movie; The Rubber Gun; and some more. I'd have felt I'd wasted my money if I'd rented them. I turned most off shortly into the film.

And it's true there were June titles we'd seen in the theatre, on regular TV or rented in tape, such as Papillon; S.O.B.; Ordinary (Continued on page 12)

Back issues

10 years ago

June 27, 1973

Free Press readers will be able to take part in naming the new town to be created with regional government. The town, comprised of Acton, Georgetown and Exquising, will be named by the people, with the most appropriate suggestion chosen by a committee, it was decided at a joint meeting of the three councils this week.

Three proposed routes for an Ontario Hydro 500 kV transmission corridor pass through the north Halton area. The proposed routes were revealed this week at Queen's Park. The final route will be selected following a series of public meetings.

M. Z. Bennett School said goodbye to 55 Grade Eight students this week. The students graduated in a special ceremony last Thursday. Robert Little School has graduated 65 Grade-Eighters. Top students at Robert Little were Fred Allen, Marvin McNabb and Matt Spehar.

Six Acton students started work on an Opportunities for Youth program to recycle garbage. The youths, Corie Maxwell, Cathy Ashley, Heather Cormack, Sean Aherne, Glen McKenzie and John Tobin will collect waste paper and glass throughout Acton for recycling.

20 years ago

June 27, 1963

M. Z. Bennett School has picked up the trophy in the first inter-school field day Tuesday afternoon with Robert Little School.

Four playground leaders from Acton this summer ended their training in Brampton. They are Donna Landsborough, Hermina Bessem, Jill Hurst and Don Price. The four leaders work under the direction of Recreation director Jim Casburn.

Smoke and burning rubbish, has been reported blowing about close to the Glenlea subdivision.

University of Toronto student Brian Barbeau has learned he has been elected a "scholar of the college" at Trinity College. Brian earned first class honors in commerce and finance at the university last year.

50 years ago

June 22, 1933

The businessmen of Acton petitioned council for an early closing by-law. The present by-law had been passed in 1883 and not changed since. It set early closing hour at 7 p.m.

Over 200 applications were received for the position of principal and two assistants for the high school. Mr. A. D. Herbert B.A. of Mimico was hired as principal at a salary of \$1725. Miss Dorothy Kidd is assistant at \$1200 and Miss Hazel Bell at \$1000.

Players and officials of the Baseball Club elected Lorne "Minute" Walters captain and Dave Ainslie coach.

The 28th annual W.C.T.U. convention of Wellington county was held in the United Church, Rockwood.

75 years ago

June 25, 1908

During the progress of the disastrous thunderstorm Monday evening no less than five large fires were visible from Acton. One of these was at Limehouse when one of the finest barns in the county, owned by James Lindsay was totally destroyed.

Acton Baseball team is at the head of the league, scoring its third successive victory Saturday against Brampton. Carroll was on the rubber for the locals and the other players were Holmes, Schnuskey, Wilds, Ryder, Taylor, Arthurs, McIntosh, Williams and Hynds.

Complaints are made by frequenters of the club house of indecent exposure and profanity at the "swimming hole" at the park. There may be cases in court over the conduct of these hoodlums.

100 years ago

July 5, 1883

Our town presented a very quiet appearance on Monday, the anniversary of Confederation. The picnic at Rockwood under the auspices of the Sunday schools of St. John's and St. Alban's churches on Monday was largely attended.

The volunteers of the 20th Battalion, Lorne Rifles returned home after their 12 days outing at Niagara. During their inspection there Gen. Luard found they had not been provided with tunics since 1879 and they should have them at once. He enquired as to the cost and quality of their new tartan trousers and found they were much more durable than those usually used. He asked Col. Allan to have the pipers play him a tune and then rode away, saying they sounded better at a distance.

Coles' slaw

How do you take the bark out of a dog?

How do you take the bark out of a dog?

Since this scribbler wrote a column about stoop 'n' scoop and loose goose several people have said I've been aiming at the wrong target—I should have been after the barking dogs which make life miserable for their neighbors.

Really, I have no specific targets in this space, but I can understand the irritation which goes with dogs that bark in the night or when you're trying to relax in your back yard. It is even more galling when you realize the pet's owners could shut the barking off merely by taking it inside where it is probably yapping to be anyway.

However, I can also understand how darned hard it is for a pet owner to hear his dog start to bark every time he or she ties it outside. Sometimes dogs will have all the admirable traits, good company, loving companion, fun for the kids and pleasant disposition. Set them outside and they'll bark at the sun, the moon, the cats in the next block, the worms in the garden and the starlings flying overhead.

So how do you cure the mutt of

barking when you take him outside? I've been told there are several cures including one where the owner throws a pail of ice water over the dog every time he starts to bark. After several baptisms the mutt is supposed to get the message—no more barking.

That cure is also supposed to stop all brands of pooches, including Heinz 57s, from chasing cars and trucks, the mailman, and the paper boy. But everyone I know who has tried it has failed. The pooch was either too stupid, or too stubborn. When the master was around with the ice water the dog would obey. Let him or her go out of sight. Presto!—the dog'd bark at the moon, the stars, the leaves, the girls in their shorts, their slacks and their jeans, and the kids eating jelly beans on their way home from the jug milk store.

It is easier sometimes to peel the bark off a tree than take it out of a dog. What then can the neighbor who is bothered by a barking dog do? Well, he has a few options. He can tell the neighbor quietly he would appreciate it if when his dog



by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

starts to bark that he takes him in. If they are anxious to get along with the neighbor and the dog, they can put up with it and imagine the barking is really Beethoven's 5th Symphony played by a 90-piece orchestra replete with violins and tympanis.

Or if they are really in a foul mood they can yell at the dog and tell it to shut up or they'll call the police, the dog catcher and the bylaw officer all at the same time. Falling that maybe the only

other solution is to have a big row with the pet owner who is so inconsiderate. A real growling match.

Now I realize there are people out there who delight in letting their dogs bark but I think the bulk of the people in this town and district want to get along with the people next door, in back, and over on the next block or rural route. Most, when they realize their dogs are bothering their neighbors will bend over backwards to stop the mutts from yelping.

Those who don't give a darn are a different breed of cat. Sometime they have to be hit over the head with the fact their dog is bothering someone before they'll do anything about it.

Now I don't mean you should take his or her dog and hit the owner over the head with it. But you might borrow another barking dog and let your neighbor have some of the same medicine from your side of the fence. If he complains you have a good opening to begin the conversation.

Now you may think this is all a shaggy dog story. After all, who am I to tell anyone how to handle a

yapping dog situation. There's only one dog within hearing distance of our house. He is quiet and well mannered. When he does let off a loud woof he's chastised almost instantly. He hangs his head and slinks away in disgrace, thinking no doubt of a woof's paradise where he could bark constantly without reprimand.

My beef is with those Mourning Doves which sit on the hydro wires just outside our bedroom window. They start to coo when Old Sol first peeps his head over the horizon. They're still at the billing and cooing when the sun sinks down in the west.

For years I thought the noise was caused by owls whom I could never locate. (There is a resemblance to the hoot of an owl.) One day I spied these grey-pigeon-sized birds emitting the eerie cooing and they've been increasing in volume and numbers since.

There's no sense phoning my neighbors. The dog catcher would laugh. There's no bird costaller either, so I guess I'll say one thing—they sure are better than a yapping dog.