

# The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010  
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875

Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing at 59 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 30¢ each, \$17.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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

Second class mail registration Number 0515.

**Don Ryder**  
Director of Advertising

**Ken Bellamy**  
Publisher

**Hartley Coles**  
Managing Editor

## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Editor: Gord Murray  
News Editor: Helen Murray  
Sports: Mark Holmes  
Darkroom: Nancy Pundack

## ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Retail Advertising Manager: Bal Cook  
Sales: Kirk Davy, Susan McKinnon,  
Sandra Wilson  
Classified Advertising: Carolyn Artem,  
Debbie MacDougall

## BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING

Office Manager: Joan Shewell



## A job well done

We are often quick to criticize when we think it's needed, but hopefully also equally as fast to throw out bouquets when deserved. And this is a time when the town works department will be presented with a bouquet.

Last week we experienced the worst snow storm in four years. But almost before the white stuff had settled, it was cleared from the roads, allowing excellent access to all parts of town.

And even before we knew it, the high snowbanks disappeared from the downtown core and other heavily travelled areas of town. For the most part this was done under cover of darkness, when the rest of us were sleeping. Many drive-ways in town hadn't even been shovelled yet, but downtown showed little evidence of a "disaster" as Frank Morette of the works staff had labelled the storm.

Even the biggest complainer would have little to gripe about when it came to the works department and

their dedication last week. Even Wednesday garbage pick-up went off as usual, though most of the men had been put on snow detail.

We haven't heard of one complaint from the public about snow plowing, or removal, unlike days following other snowfalls this winter. It could be the town service is improving, or the public is becoming more patient, or perhaps a bit of both. We don't know, but we like it.

And while we're throwing bouquets, let's toss one to the unsung heroes—the families of the plow operators. They are the ones who have to put up with their spouse leaving for work at 3 a.m., and have to try to sleep knowing their husbands are out in terrible weather, travelling slippery roads and may not be home for 24 hours.

It's a fact of life in Canada—the snow is going to fall, and someone has to clean it up. And even though "it's their job," a pat on the back for a job well done is still appreciated.

## Lent starts today

Today (Ash Wednesday) Christians all over the world start observing Lent, the 40 days set aside for penance and self denial.

The custom started in the early days of the Church following the example of Jesus who, according to the Scriptures, spent 40 days in the wilderness in fasting and prayer.

Through the centuries the observance of Lent has led to excesses in mortification and fasting with self immolation practised in countries where emotions run high. Christians in Canada, especially those in the liturgical churches, have always observed Lent with varying amounts of zeal. It was mandatory, for instance in the Roman Catholic Church to fast and observe meatless days during the entire six weeks until a few years ago.

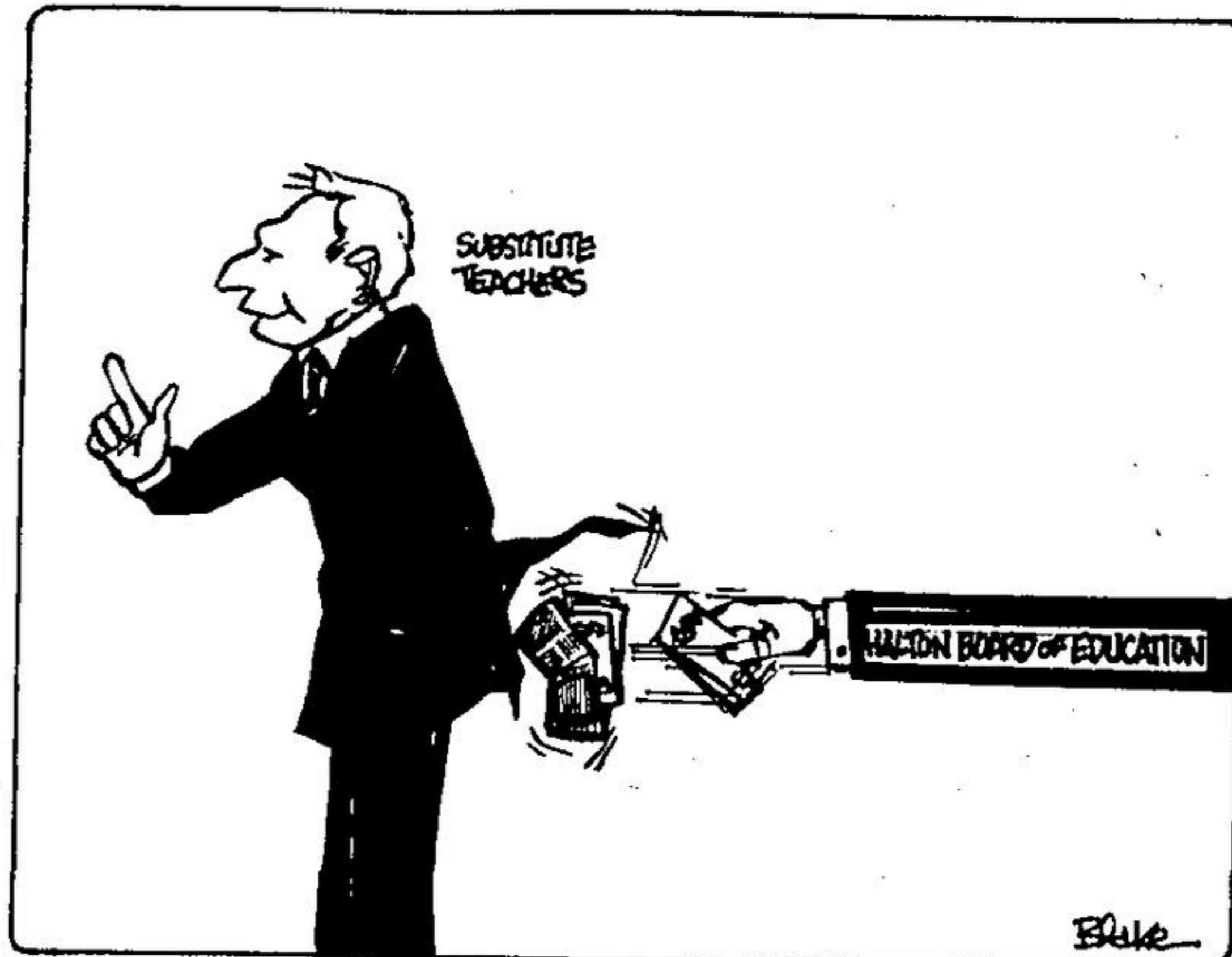
The rules were made in less rigorous times and

climes and the 2nd Vatican Council left it for individual Catholics to set their own standard of penance and prayer.

Human nature being what it is, it is obvious Lent is not observed with the same rigidity it once was, but once again on Ash Wednesday the Church is reminding Christians it is time to think of prayer, penance and self-denial.

The call for self denial is scoffed at by some who want no personal restrictions but it is ironical some of them will go through the same exercises to lose weight or maintain health.

After a long Canadian winter it is often difficult to start a program of self denial but unless medical opinion deems otherwise the observance of Lent can confer both physical and spiritual benefits on the penitent.



## Our readers write

### Trustees confused — substitute

Dear Sir:  
Re: Substitute teachers are upset at pay rollback

It seems that the Board, in its arguments, has strayed far away from what we, the supply teachers were concerned about originally. Our main reason for being upset

was the fact that we were granted a raise and now we are being asked or told to give it back. Clearly they are confused! Would it not be much easier for them to admit to having made a mistake and to leave our wages alone? I believe it would be much simpler and create less

friction if they just left the current levels be and for the next one or two years not grant us an increase. This would allow them more time to figure out how much of an increase to award themselves for driving allowances.

John Hansen

### Follow Bonnette's lead

Dear Sir:

It is about time that someone like Councillor Rick Bonnette came along. Here we have a man who really wants to do something for Acton.

Since the town does not offer its citizens much in the way of services, I'm sure that a VIA trainstop in town would be greatly appreciated by everyone. I believe that it is time

people follow Mr. Bonnette's fine example, stop complaining about not being on the map, instead do something that makes Acton deserve to be recognized!

Mary Kekic

### Would use VIA to commute

The following letter was sent to Councillor Rick Bonnette and filed with the Free Press for publication. Dear Mr. Bonnette:

My husband and I would like to voice our support for reinstating VIA rail service to Acton. We have lived here for eight months and both commute daily to Toronto to work. Given the present schedule of VIA rail trains between Guelph and Toronto, my husband would be able to travel daily on the train leaving Toronto at 4:30 p.m. (arriving in Acton at 5:28 p.m.). Unfortunately, I would not be able to use daily commuter service as I work in the North-west section of Toronto quite a distance from Union Station. However, this would save us one trip to Georgetown (and back to Acton) by car daily which is presently required to make use of the GO commuter

train. We would use the service occasionally when spending time in Toronto (evenings) and possibly an occasional trip to Guelph. Visitors arriving at Union Station would use the VIA Rail service to Acton (several times a year).

The VIA rail service would be a good sales point for real estate in the area as well and would be most

useful for those of us who would prefer to seek employment near Acton (such as in Guelph) without having to purchase another car.

We most emphatically support reinstatement of VIA rail service to Acton.

Yours sincerely,  
David and Julie Philip

### Just a thought:

Age is a quality of mind;  
If you've left your  
Dreams behind,  
If hope is cold,  
If you no longer look ahead,  
If your ambitious fires

Are dead,  
Then you are old;  
It is not by the gray of the hair  
That one knows the age of the heart

—Buliver.

## Coles' slaw

### Even in retirement Trudeau is a contradiction

The announcement by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau last week that he would retire as soon as the Liberals could elect a new leader led to varying reaction from the public. Some cheered. Some jeered. Others were sad. I had a different reaction.

It made me think of the time back in 1938 or '39 when King George VI and his Queen Elizabeth visited Canada. All the public school kids in town were assembled and taken to Guelph Junction by train to see their majesties who were scheduled to stop in Guelph at the main station and take a short tour. Then they would stand on the back of the royal coach as it wended its way slowly through the enormous crowds of children and adults at Guelph Junction, a couple of miles down the track.

We waited for hours in the boiling sun for the royal couple to appear. A train appeared and everyone thought this was it. But it was just the guard train sent ahead to clear the way. It stopped. Shortly afterwards a portly balding man stepped down from one of the coaches and started shaking hands.

A ripple went through the crowd. Who was it? They wanted to know. Someone from our class, more up on current events, said: "It's Mackenzie King, the prime minister."

The scant recognition paid our prime minister of the time, always makes me wonder what the reaction would have been if the prime minister had been Pierre Trudeau instead of Mackenzie King.

Communications today are much more sophisticated and the general public is much more aware of their public figures so it is not a fair comparison but somehow I doubt if the figure of Mackenzie King could ever have cut the swath Pierre Trudeau has in Canadian history.

It should really have been no surprise that he picked February 29 to announce his retirement. As Iona Campagnola, Liberal party head says, we should have known he would pick that day. As far as I'm concerned all this babble about wandering through a blizzard to make a decision is sop for the dailies, always looking for the unusual angle. But the leap year date is a symbol of the contradiction Mr. Trudeau has left us with about himself (Lower case 'h' please).

After 16 years in power Trudeau is a virtual institution in Canada and whether you liked it or not a symbol of Canada to the outside world. He was and is despised, admired, loved, hated, maligned, praised, lampooned, pitied and the subject of just about every other possible emotion.

Mr. Trudeau has been blamed for almost every disaster that has



by Hartley Coles  
Managing Editor

occurred within his time of office ranging from unemployment to the last snowstorm which dumped tonnes of snow on us last week. And yet asked how much power a prime minister really has, Trudeau is reported to have replied: About 10 per cent. The other 90 per cent is locked in the system.

He has been praised as the savior of Canada, and the destroyer of confederation, completely opposite reactions to policy. It makes one think that where he was concerned any stick was good enough to beat the dog.

Even within his own party Mr. Trudeau precipitated different reactions. It has been said he was

the biggest asset for the Liberals, but also their biggest liability. And one can't help thinking he, like Rhett Butler really didn't give a damn.

The dashing figure with the fresh rose in his lapel, the swinging image, glamorous companions, the marriage and subsequent break-up with a western beauty captivated us. Used to more pragmatic politicians who oozed respectability and respect rather than charm and that much misused charisma, Canadians conferred an image on Trudeau he could't possibly live up to even in his best days. When the Trudeau mania died down and we found out he was human like all of us, there was disappointment, a turning away which was shown in the election of 1978 which he and the Liberals lost.

Fickle as we are we put him back in power on the first opportunity, only months later, explaining that the much touted arrogance had been tamed by defeat. But our love-hate relationship continued. Polls show although he is considered as the best man to lead the country the electorate wanted a change.

Who then is this man who had such an effect on the country? He is still a contradiction. He is the man who brought our constitution from Britain, gave us the Charter of Rights. He is the man who almost single handed stood up to Quebec

Premier Rene Levesque and his separatist minions and made sure Quebec would stay in Canada.

Through the official languages act he enabled French Canadians, co-founders of Canada, to deal with their national government on the same basis as their English speaking brethren, a measure which made some unhappy.

Trudeau was an impressive spokesman for Canada in the international arena and he and his government made Canadians more aware of foreign domination of their economy. His appointments reflected his commitment to creating opportunities for all Canadians regardless of race, religion or culture.

Future generations will look back at Mr. Trudeau's shimmering intellect, his ability to bring out the best and worst in us, and wonder what he's all about. His liabilities have been well known such as the decision to impose wage-price controls, the infamous Foreign Review Board or the energy policy which devastated the West. The decisions he and his government made were bones of contention especially geographically. It heightened the contradictions about Mr. Trudeau held across the country.

I suspect he will go down in history as a contradictory figure, respected and revered by some and disliked and scorned by others.

## Back issues

### 10 years ago

March 6, 1974

If the town of Halton Hills and the Acton Lions can come to some amicable agreement at a special meeting, another \$15,000 in government grants may be available for the Lions swimming pool project in Acton.

What it is like to make a speech is how Tracey Tyler, 12, was the top contender in the public speaking contest held last Thursday afternoon at M.Z. Bennett Public School. Other participants were Grant Clarke, Janet Rowe, Darlene Roach, Gord Chafe and Shelley Young.

Halton Hills council turned thumbs down on a new area program co-ordinator for the recreation department Monday night rejecting an administration committee recommendation.

The firing of 65 truck drivers at Dufferin Quarry last week has led independent truckers to boycott a number of quarry farms in the Halton-Peel area.

Long time staff member at the Robert Little School, Mrs. Jane Gamble is retiring at the end of June.

### 20 years ago

March 5, 1964

Tears of happiness were shed in the fogshrouded airport at Malton Tuesday evening as Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fedirko were reunited for the first time in 35 years. After trying for the past 12 years to get his wife out of Russian-occupied Ukraine, Pete Fedirko's efforts were rewarded as his wife stepped down from the plane shortly after it landed in Malton.

Monday evening High School Board members finalized a 1964-65 teacher salary schedule after it had been accepted by staff members. Minimum salary is \$4,700, up to \$9,600 maximum. The principal will be making \$11,000.

A leap year baby—a daughter—was born at Guelph General Hospital to Mrs. Wayne Scott, 141 Popular Ave., the morning of Saturday, February 29. The family has three other children. Dr. Brian Moore delivered the child who'll only have an official birthday every four years.

### 50 years ago

March 1, 1934

Five of the unemployed men of Acton have been put to work on the second line road project. They are taken to work and brought home again by Chief MacPherson and meals are eaten in the building at Speyside formerly used for a Sunday School.

The Acton Junior hockey team won the coveted Smith trophy from Georgetown for this first time in five years. Norm Morton chalked up four of the counters. Acton players are Byrne, E. Marzo, Tyler, Mooney, Morton, Marshall, I. Marzo, Lantz, Molozzi, Gibbons. Jack Morton is manager.

Georgetown Council is considering appointment of a permanent Clerk and Treasurer for the town, a combined office.

### 75 years ago

March 4, 1909

Signs of spring have begun to manifest themselves as March came in like a lamb.

Miss Luella Z. Drake, lady baritone, of New York, who is spending the week in town, sang, with fine effect, the well known "Sparrow Song" in the Methodist Church on Sunday.

The cities are evidently getting rid of their tramps for the country is being visited by them in large numbers. Hardly a night goes by that the cells in the town hall are not occupied by them.

Seven weeks ago today Mr. George Dillis was seriously injured in a train accident in Guelph. After being carefully nursed back to health Mr. Dillis was able to return home on Friday.

### 100 years ago

March 6, 1884

An immense quantity of brick and stone has been delivered for the new Canada Glove Works factory to be erected next summer.

We are pleased to learn that Mr. Elam Livingstone, for many years an Acton boy, is carrying on a very successful lumbering business near Blyth, Ont. Elam always was a steady boy and "minded his p's and q's."

Within the past six months 31 new families have moved to Acton and taken up residence here.

Mr. W.H. Storey, of the Canada Glove Works, informs us that orders are pouring in so rapidly for spring goods that the firm is obliged to keep the entire staff at work until nine p.m.