

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1876

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.

Ken Bellamy
Publisher

Don Ryder
Director of Advertising

Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Retail Advertising Manager: Bill Cook
Sales: Kirk Davy, Susan McKinnon,
Sandra Wilson

Classified Advertising: Carolyn Artem,
Debbie MacDougall

BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING

OFFICE
Office Manager: Joan Shewell



Big tax increase is looming

Taxpayers in Halton Hills and Eramosa face big tax increases from the municipal level principally because the Province has cut back grants to municipalities.

In Halton Hills taxpayers face a possible 12.3 per cent increase for town purposes alone. Council's finance Chairman Ross Knechtel points out that assessment has risen only 1.2 per cent while the provincial unconditional grants have risen the minimum 2.5 per cent and created a losing situation, since inflation is considered to be around 5 per cent.

In Rockwood, residents face a 41 per cent jump on their sewer and water bills, most of it from the 83 per cent increase in sewer rates alone. Rates are still relatively reasonable with water at \$11 a month and sewer charges at \$13.75 but the increase has been cushioned by \$20,000 taken from surplus funds and another \$9,000 provincial grant which is set up for that purpose.

It was anticipated Rockwood would increase in size after water and sewers were installed but growth has not covered the increased costs since it has been far below the anticipation.

Friend for all seasons

The Red Cross is not a "fair weather" friend. Good times or bad, boom or bust, the Red Cross strives to provide a high level of life-saving programs and health and community services to the public.

Despite inflation, unemployment and recession, the Red Cross continues to work with volunteer donors to ensure that blood and blood products are available when you need them.

Red Cross volunteers continue to help prevent accidents and death through the

teaching of first aid, water safety and health courses. In local and international disasters, Red Cross stands to provide emergency services.

The Red Cross works hard to live up to its aim of relieving human suffering and promoting health. But it can't do it alone. When you voluntarily support the Red Cross in your community everybody helps and everybody benefits.

This is Red Cross Month, the time we can show the appreciation for the work the organization does.

In effect, it means that unless the municipality, the board of education and the region do not cut their spending then the property taxes we pay will continue to escalate well beyond the inflation rate.

If there was a similar drop in taxes at the provincial level it would be easier to understand but provincial income does not decrease, meaning we pay the piper from both ends.

Back in Halton the board of education is toying with an 8 per cent increase from taxpayers because the province has increased grants by less than one per cent and inflation still hovers around five per cent. Remember, the board is responsible for more than 50 per cent of the tax bill.

Halton Region is suggesting they may have to push through a one mill increase because of the reduced grants from the Province. The region says Halton Hills will suffer most with an increase of 10.5 per cent.

All the signs are there—we can expect a whopping tax increase this year with the drop in assistance from the Province the big culprit.

The Acton Free Press is one of the Metroland group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Aurora Banner, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Bolton Enterprise, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlington Weekend Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Friday Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, Richmond Hill Liberal, Thornhill Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune and Woodbridge Liberal. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Limited.



Our readers write

The smoking problem is 90% political, 10% medical

Dear Sir:

The article "Self-help to stop smoking" December 7, 1983 gives necessary encouragement to those who wish to quit smoking but it misses the real story associated with the "Time to Quit" program. Although our letter in response is late due to the article just being brought to our attention, we hope you will publish our reply. The magnitude of the health problem warrants careful, if belated, comment.

Smoking will kill close to 30,000 Canadians this year, over 500 per week. Five hundred grieving families, no less torn apart and anguished because their loved ones died in a terminal cancer ward than on a rain slick highway. More Canadians will die at the hands of the tobacco industry in the next 18 months than were killed during the entire Second World War.

What should be done? Consider this example. In a major Canadian urban area of 2.5 million, a supposedly anti-smoking health agency recently claimed to have serviced 400 smokers in its smoking cessation clinics during a one-year period. Assuming the most optimistic of success rates reported in the medical literature, about 100 people managed to quit smoking completely. Yet, during the same year, it is estimated that 17,000 new smokers joined the market in that same urban area.

One epidemiologist said "this is like bailing the boat while someone else drills holes in the bottom."

The real story is this: The answer to a health problem of this magnitude must be much more than weak-kneed, trivializing "Weedless Wednesdays" and safe, non-controversial health education campaigns. All of these efforts place the responsibility for the smoking problem on the individual, the industry's "blame the victim" strategy. Unfortunately, health agencies and government health departments promote it more effectively than the industry itself.

The "blame the victim" strategy includes the industry line that smoking involves "freedom of choice" and "It's the responsibility of each individual" pitch. Those who use this line and stress the responsibility of each individual to stop smoking imply that 40 per cent of the adult population is irresponsible. After all, they are still smoking.

The annual "kick the habit" ritual ignores the fact that smoking is an individual addiction which, from a disease perspective, has become an epidemic. By definition, drug addiction means that, for many, freedom of choice and individual responsibility go out the window. And, it is ludicrous to treat an epidemic by relying upon appeals to good judgment.

Is there a real "freedom of choice" as the industry suggests? Not really. Should responsible adults give 12-15-year-old children a freedom of choice involving a drug dependency that will cut, on average, five years from their life expectancies and cost these children \$100,000 in today's dollars over the period of their shortened lifetime? And yet 12-15 is the age at which most smokers become regular tobacco users.

The answer has to be a massive societal shift of responsibility from the individual to the industry that creates the problem and to governments which sit idly by. There must be a de-emphasis on campaigns which deal with smoking after the habit is started (tertiary prevention) and upon curative medical research to cure folks after tobacco diseases hit.

Thus, the answer lies in medical advocacy, a widespread and angry demand for a legislative response to the tobacco industry. The Lung, Cancer and Heart organizations Canada-wide must call for bans on tobacco advertising. They must support clean indoor air legislation and put their human and financial resources behind drives to reach these objectives.

Yours sincerely,
GARFIELD MAHOOD
Executive Director

Back issues

10 years ago

March 13, 1974

Acton Legion may find it hard to believe Halton Hills is all one town in light of a recommendation made by general administration committee Monday night. The committee gave their okay subject to council approval to the portion of a subdivision adjacent to a new Legion Hall which lies within the old boundary of Acton, but rejected the part of the subdivision in the formerly township of Esquesing.

An Acton district girl, Kris Kindvik, 19, of RR 2, Acton, won acclaim recently when she won out in racing competitions held at the Smuggler's Notch Ski area in Vermont, U.S.A. and was a leader in the race to qualify for the Schlitz/Nastar finals to be held at Snow Valley, Idaho on March 29-30.

A coroner's jury has ruled that the three construction workers discovered dead at Acton quarries February 6 died of carbon monoxide poisoning as gas leaked into their mobile home.

20 years ago

March 12, 1964

J.B. Mackenzie and Sons Ltd. submitted the lowest of six tenders for the construction of a new 10-room high school addition, school board members and architect Don Hallford opened the sealed bids Thursday evening of last week.

Gr. 8 pupil Bob Bonnette from the Robert Little Public School will represent Acton in the Halton County Public Speaking contest at Oakville Friday. Finalists from both town schools competed Wednesday morning at Robert Little School.

Snow plows and sanding trucks worked around the clock Tuesday in an attempt to keep highways clear and safe for driving during the year's worst snow storm.

50 years ago

March 8, 1914

The Young People's League of the United Church presented a fine play in the Town Hall, George in a Jam. The president, Miss K. Savage, acted as chairman and the orchestra, under the direction of Chas. Mason, gave several selections. In the cast were Harold Swackhamer, Mrs. Roy Johnston, Jean Lambert, Jack Reid, Kathleen Savage, Ruth Gibson, Mrs. J.J. Stewart and Gordon Cook, with Mrs. J.C. Matthews directing. There was a full house. It will be repeated again this evening.

The Junior Oratorical Contest was held at the high school. Winner was Norman Braida with an address on Sir Wilfred Laurier and second was Hazel Wilson's oration on Sir Adam Beck. Others who competed were Jack Graham, Kathleen Chapman, Hazel Wilson, Theresa Campbell and Jean Bennie. Taking part in a debate on dictatorship were Jack Skilling, Ada Sprowl, Velma Blair and Howard Norton.

75 years ago

Messrs. Beardmore and Company have generously offered, if a local company is formed which will erect a covered rink at a cost of \$4,000, to contribute \$2,500 toward this amount, if \$1,500 in stock is subscribed for by other citizens who may be interested in the scheme.

The proprietor of the Dominion Hotel would like to see the cost of his electricity to drop below eight cents. Many of the town's people feel the same.

Mrs. Robert G. Brown has purchased the double tenement on Church St., West of Main St. from Mrs. Helen D. Gordon, of Guelph.

The Bishop has appointed Reverend R.F. Kelleman, of Passiac N.J., to the rectorship of St. Alban's Church.

100 years ago

March 13, 1884

Messrs. W.H. Storey and Son of Canada Glove Works are now manufacturing a superior line of purses for ladies and gentlemen, and ladies' hand satchels. None but first-class goods will be turned out.

The Salvation Army made their first church in Guelph to crowds of an immense size. The Army claims the work done by them is in no way antagonistic to the churches, as their endeavor is to reclaim the fallen sinners. We are of the opinion the Army could do good work for the cause of God in Acton if they would secure the Congregational Church and send a detachment of officers here to conduct services. (This is what subsequently happened. The church referred to is now St. Joseph's.)

Altogether too many boys have the run of the streets day and night. The G.T. Railway has raised the price of a ticket from Acton to Guelph to 70 cents. The grasping monopoly.

'Coles' slaw

Irish people contributed much to Canada

Recently, Gordon Sinclair was interviewed on CFRB, with Toronto's bicentennial the subject. He recalled early incidents of his life in the city and noted that the Irish people of Toronto made a large contribution to the city.

On the threshold of St. Patrick's Day perhaps it would be opportune to trace the history of the Irish in Canada. For instance, some historians think Irishmen (St. Brendan) landed in Canada centuries before the Norsemen, Christopher Columbus or the French, maybe as early as 545 AD.

Evidence has been uncovered to show Irish settlements existed in the St. Lawrence valley between 875 and 900 AD.

Dr. Gustave Lanctot of Montreal, retired Dominion Archivist, reported that peaceful Irish Celts living in Iceland were driven from their homes by barbaric Norsemen in the tenth century. Those Irishmen loaded their belongings on a flotilla of small ships and, sailing west, apparently drifted with prevailing winds along the coast of Labrador and into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They may have landed on one of the Magdalen Islands and were believed to have moved later to Cape Breton Island.

Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one of the most eloquent of the Canadian Fathers of Confederation, wrote in a history of his country that the first Irishmen who founded permanent homes in Canada were Catholic patriots who were originally banished to Barbados by Oliver Cromwell in 1666. Irish state papers show that as early as 1585 ships were plying between Ireland and Newfound-

land and it is probable that some of the fishermen remained as settlers.

In Nova Scotia, a substantial proportion of Irish were among those who founded Halifax in 1749 and ten years later almost a third of the 3,000 inhabitants were of Irish origin.

Irish settlement in Upper Canada did not begin until the end of the eighteenth century, after the Irish rebellion in 1798 and the great famine of 1822. Thereafter Irish immigration was heavy, many people travelling under group settlement plans. North-of-Ireland immigrants arrived in substantial numbers as early as 1817 and settled at various points in Ontario including Prescott, Kingston, Cobourg, York (Toronto) and London. Most of the newcomers were rural in background and in Canada set to work clearing and tilling the land and building roads, sawmills and homes.

In the eighteenth century some 400,000 Irishmen were serving with the armies of France. On June 26, 1758, an entire Irish Brigade landed at Quebec city and proceeded to march to Montreal.

John O'Farrell, a Quebec lawyer and one time president of the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Montreal, stated in 1872: "It is generally known that long before Wolfe scaled the heights of Abraham, a large Irish settlement had been established in Canada. They intermarried with the French and the Franco-Irish element was still further increased by the absorption of the Irish Brigade, many of whom were rewarded with



by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

grants of farms in Lower Canada." In their attempts to flee their famine ravished homeland in the 1800's, the Irish like many other immigrants suffered great privations and hardships on their journey to Canada.

The average passage to Quebec in the mid-1800's was 45 days but some immigrants, whose ships were driven by contrary winds, barely survived a terrifying voyage of four months.

The 1830's and 40's saw severe outbreaks of typhoid fever, cholera and measles among the passengers. One Irishman, referring to the numerous burials at sea, said, "it was nothing but splash, splash, all day long."

At Grosse Ile, thirty-three miles east of Quebec city, a quarantine station was established in 1831 where vessels were inspected before being allowed to proceed upriver. A monument on the island commemorates the burial of 3,624

victims of typhus who "flying from pestilence and famine in Ireland in 1847, found in America but a grave."

In the later nineteenth century and twentieth century, a higher proportion of Irish emigration went to the United States and the proportion in the Canadian population declined. By 1961, the people of Irish origin were about 14 per cent of the total in Ontario and the same in the Atlantic provinces, almost 10 per cent in the western provinces and about 2.5 per cent in Quebec.

Today, Canadians of Irish origin are active in all phases of Canadian life so that it is difficult to assess accurately whether they have any preferred occupations. Irish music and Irish stew have warmed the hearts and stomachs of generations of Canadians, and the "wearing o' the green" on St. Patrick's Day is certainly not confined to those of Irish descent.

In the United States the "Irish cop" has become a stereotype and there is some evidence that Canadians of Irish origin have a leaning towards police work too.

The people of Irish descent who have made an impact on Canada are legion. Perhaps one of the greatest lasting contributions was made by Sir Guy Carleton, later Lord Dorchester, the first Governor-in-Chief of British North America. It was on his advice that in 1774 the Quebec Act was passed, permitting the retention of customs and institutions greatly treasured by Canadians of French origin.

Another Irishman, Lt. James Fitzgibbon, was victor at one of the decisive battles at Beaver Dams in

the War of 1812. Robert Baldwin was joint premier with Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine of United Canada, 1848-51.

Starting with Thomas D'Arcy McGee, the eloquence of Irish-Canadian politicians has never ceased to reverberate through Canada's House of Commons.

Joseph Gibbons, longtime mayor of Georgetown was of Irish extraction from Acton.

In the field of commerce, a large Canadian department store chain and mail-order house grew out of the small general store founded by Timothy Eaton of County Antrim and from the Georgetown district.

Colonel R.S. McLaughlin of Oshawa is considered the major founder and developer of the Canadian automobile industry. His grandfather, John McLaughlin, had come from County Tyrone in 1832.

Toronto-born Morley Callaghan is one of Canada's outstanding writers. His short stories have been recognized as some of the best written by a Canadian.

Through the Church and other societies the Catholic part of the Irish community maintained a considerable degree of identity. The Protestant Irish also found means of group expression, notably in the Orange Association of British North America, established shortly after North-of-Ireland immigrants had settled in large numbers.

With the generations born in Canada, both Catholic and Protestant Irish have worked together with other groups to build the Canadian nation we know today.