

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Support council action

We'd like to applaud Halton Hills councillors for getting tough with the Yugoslavs and using the only lever they had to try and keep the noise down at picnics this summer in advance of the events, denial of liquor permits.

The neighbors had a legitimate complaint the past three summers. We've been on the Third Line when picnics have been in full swing and know the noise level is not just annoying, but intolerable. When you can stand in a home with the windows closed a half mile or more away from the source of the noise and not be able to carry on a normal voice level conversation, you know the situation has become ridiculous.

Polite requests, appeals to reason, negotiations, legal charges, and threats didn't work in the past, the Town had only one weapon left, rejection of the liquor permits.

We agree that denying liquor permits doesn't attack the central problem—noise, but laying a charge for excessive noise after the fact does the neighbors precious little good, nor would making the Yugoslavs post a bond.

Some councillors fear that by denying the permits the municipality is encouraging the Yugoslavs to go ahead with their picnic and simply bring their spirited refreshments with them, thus breaking the law. If that is the result then so be it. We agree with other councillors that knowing they are breaking the law they may keep the noise down so as not to risk a visit by the police. We expect, especially since people will be driving afterwards, that the

police will enforce the liquor laws.

But this raises another question. Why are some councillors presupposing the Yugoslavs are being forced to bring their own liquor by the Town's action? Can't they hold a picnic without liquor? Every weekend hundreds and hundreds of other families from outside our community visit conservation areas. Prospect Park and other picnic areas and many, many don't feel the need to bring along liquor. Admittedly some people bring along liquor, but the vast majority don't.

Also hundreds of people prove every weekend out here that an afternoon in the country sun and fresh air doesn't have to be an excuse for a big bash, but instead a quiet family time.

With this latest Town action, Yugoslav community officials were once again suggesting Halton Hills' stance is based on prejudice.

Well, we've agreed with the councillors' tougher stand, it should have come sooner, and we know our position hasn't a thing to do with national origin, cultural heritage, or language and we've seen no evidence from councillors that their motive is discriminatory either.

If it was a local church group, the Legion, the employees of a local industry or simply one large family that was gathering in the same spot repeated weekends throughout the summer and making life miserable for the neighbors of their picnic grounds, we'd feel just the same and look for the same types of actions we've seen from council.

Back on map, barely

We're back on the map, but just barely.

The Tory Ontario government heard public outcry from here after the last official provincial road map came out and Acton was left off the main map altogether and given a less than significant status, in relation to our size, on a detailed blow-up.

Now, we're a dot on both the main map and detailed map of the Golden Horseshoe.

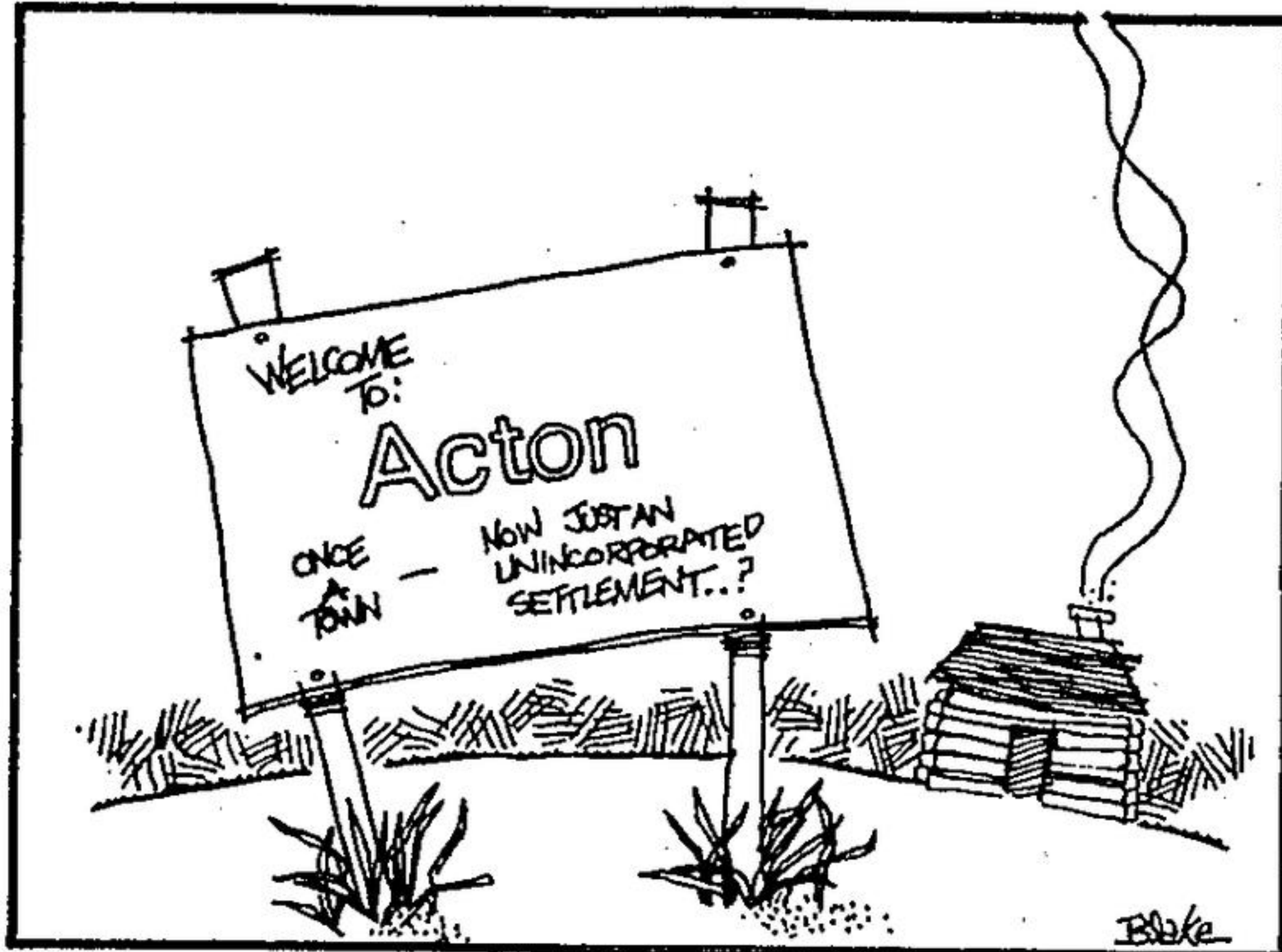
The provincial map makers adjusted their criteria to put us on the main map, but that's all.

We still don't rate pink

shading to designate us as a built up area like Georgetown. Georgetown is still designated the capital of Halton Hills despite the fact the main offices are in Esqueping. Acton is still designated in type and dot size as an "unincorporated settlement," no bigger or significant than Limehouse, Ballinafad or Speyside.

Part of the wrong against Acton has been righted, but a big chunk of our treatment on the map remains insulting.

We suppose Acton should feel fortunate to get any consideration from the government



Our readers write

Unfounded charges in editorial

Dear Sir:

Your March 21 editorial "Dreams of Power", made some unfounded charges against Ontario Hydro.

First of all, since 1979, our rates have actually fallen by over two per cent, when inflation is discounted. Over that same period, natural gas costs increased by nearly 28 per cent, after inflation.

In comparison to other locations electricity in Ontario costs the average homeowner, who is a

customer of a municipal utility, \$47 per month for 1,000 kilowatt-hours. In New York, the same amount of electricity would cost \$176; in Detroit, \$109; Halifax, \$65; Vancouver, \$48 and Regina, \$42. Few locations in North America have electricity costs lower than those enjoyed by you and me. And, our aim is to keep our average rate increase during the '80s at or below the rate of inflation.

Your next comment was directed at Ontario Hydro's building

program. Contrary to your statement, 'Hydro never seemed to slow down its expansion', we have continually reviewed our building needs and have cancelled, deferred and made other adjustments as necessary. No new generating station has been committed beyond our Darlington plant, which was planned back in the early 1970's.

Yours truly,
H.K. Wright,
Director
Central Region

What others say:

No magic cures

The Milverton Sun

Results of the most recent Gallup poll on public support for the federal political parties shows the Progressive Conservatives at an all-time high, chiefly at the expense of the Liberal party. The showing of the NDP is even less encouraging for their prospects.

There is a common denominator; discontent across the nation with the performance of present-day governments as far as the economy is concerned.

Obviously a great many Canadians believe that a change of government would be the magic formula for a return to "better times". That's exactly what their mothers and fathers thought in 1931 when they threw out the Liberal government and waited for the Conservatives under R. B. Bennett to work the miracle which would end the Depression. It proved to be a long wait and it wasn't Bennett who worked the miracle—it was Adolf Hitler.

A new government under Brian Mulroney will be no more successful in its efforts to turn the economy around overnight. The ills which we have experienced for the past several years will not yield to magic; they will require time and patience. It is the Canadian people who must affect the cure.

Give to Cancer drive

Dear Sir:

Many of you in the community have been affected by cancer either directly or through family or friends. April is the month that the Cancer Society appeals for funds to assist in the battle against cancer—a battle which goes on not just in April, but all year.

Through the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, many research grants have been offered to prominent doctors and scientists for research into both the cause and cure of cancer. Funds from the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope are used explicitly for research, leaving other areas of the Cancer Society in need of funds.

The Canadian Cancer Society provides many services to the community mostly through the hard work of dedicated volun-

teers. The main services provided by the Cancer Society include Education and Patient Services. The Cancer Society seeks to educate the public about cancer through films, displays and brochures. Patient Services provides support and essential services to the cancer patient and his family. These services include home nursing, homemaking services, mastectomy visiting, dressings, and volunteer drivers who provide transportation to and from treatment centres.

Help the local Cancer Society to prove that Cancer Can Be Beaten through your generous contributions to our campaign.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jayne Telford
Publicity Chairman
Acton Unit
Canadian Cancer Society

Clinic success

The following letter was passed on to the Free Press for publication from Blood Donor clinic chairperson Alice Schreiber. She credits the donors themselves for making it a successful clinic.

Dear Alice:
I would like to extend congratulations to yourself and all the volunteers involved in the Acton blood donor clinic on Tuesday March 27, 1984. I'm sure everyone was very pleased to collect 119 units of blood especially taking into consideration the reduced number of hours the clinic was open.

Again many thanks,
Janet Wells
Assistant Area Manager
Central Ontario BDR

Coles' slaw

John Turner may win but Jean Chretien the best

The struggle to replace Pierre Trudeau as leader of the Liberal Party of Canada started on the heels of his resignation. Most of the spotlight has been on John Turner, heir apparent since Mr. Trudeau and he agreed to disagree. Mr. Turner slipped back into private business and little was heard from him except when it concerned the board rooms of the nation. Or is it the bored rooms of the nation?

Some Liberals obviously believe that Mr. Turner only has to be anointed, that he belongs as leader of the Liberal party. They thought public opinion polls which show the government in an unfavorable light would flip flop as soon as Mr. Turner assumes the leader's mantle.

Some had second thoughts recently when the heir apparent suggested it was up to the provinces not the courts or the federal parties to adjudicate language disputes. Mr. Turner later said he was

misunderstood but he had already made points with the Canadian west and probably lost points in Quebec. This observer feels he meant every word he said and only backedpedaled to make political hay but that's because I have another favorite to lead the Liberals, whether they win or lose the next election. He's Jean Chretien, the kid from Shawinigan, who has been suggested as a candidate for the leadership because he is a Canadian of French extraction.

It has been the tradition in the Liberal party to alternate between English and French speaking leaders and some Liberals feel the policy is etched in stone, much like the 10 Commandments. I think they are nuts. They should be electing the best leader with no concerns about language or race. The reason I like Jean Chretien is because I think he's about the only one in the bunch running who understands the ordinary



by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

Canadian, his likes, dislikes, and hopes for the future. He may talk in a patois sometimes difficult to understand, he might come from Quebec, he might be linked to Trudeau and you could name a dozen other things about him and

I'll still say he's the best man for the job.

Mr. Chretien appeared at Acton High School a few years ago to talk to the students. I happened to be there out of curiosity because his brand of politics has always fascinated me. I wasn't disappointed. He made a strong impression on the students—and me.

Just before he spoke in the bear pit at the school I was standing in conversation with teacher Alan Eastwood when a familiar face came up to us and shook hands—the mark of a politician. It was Mr. Chretien, boyish, ordinary but with the mark of a man who understands, who was as much at home with us as he would have been in Shawinigan or Montreal.

My assessment of him squared with even what our Member of Parliament, Otto Jelinek said in a conversation with Gord Murray and me last week. Otto said he and the Tory party were worried when

Mr. Turner announced his candidature for the Liberal leadership. However, he (Turner) has stuck his foot in his mouth so many times since, Otto said that they hope he does lead the Liberals in the next election. He figures it would ensure a Tory victory.

The candidate he thinks would lead the party and be a threat to the Tories? Jean Chretien, he says, a man he respects and admires as much as he could any Liberal.

One could hardly call Mr. Jelinek a neutral observer but his insights into the political scene are often accurate.

I'll go along with his observation that it should be the "best" man (or woman) who leads a national party not one based on an English-French speaking rotation.

Besides, if Mr. Turner is anointed as Liberal leader and faces Mr. Mulroney I think voters will have a hard time figuring out which one is not the Conservative.



10 years ago

April 17, 1974

Thursday night outside workers of the Town of Halton Hills members of Local 73 Canadian Union of Public Service Employees voted 100 per cent in favor of a strike if it becomes necessary.

A "good all-round student" at the Milton School for the Deaf, Thomas John Rae tragically lost his life when struck by a train near his Churchill Rd. S., home Wednesday.

Barbara Rennick has been named principal of North Burlington's Kilbride School. Mrs. Rennick has served as vice-principal at Robert Little school in Acton for one year.

Monday night's televised Olympic lottery brought shouts of excitement to the home of Gail and Bob Jarrett, 158 Tyler Ave. when they won \$1,000 in the draw.

20 years ago

April 16, 1964

Retired 25 years ago as principal of Acton public school, Miss M. Z. Bennett yesterday (Wednesday) housecleaned all day before accompanying the man who succeeded her as principal, G. W. McKenzie to the Chamber of Commerce banquet at his request ostensibly to hear a former pupil speak. Then her host rose and began to speak about her and at the conclusion of the citation, 110 in St. Alban's parish hall rose in a standing ovation for Acton's seventh Citizen of the Year.

For the first time in Acton's council history, a woman councillor acted as chairman. Tuesday evening councillor Mrs. George Fryer wielded the gavel for the committee of the whole session.

50 years ago

April 12, 1934

Rev. H. Brillinger, Rector of Wainfleet, Darn City and Maple Leaf Park for the past two years has been appointed to the parish of St. Alban's Church, Acton and St. John Church, Rockwood.

Fire Chief R. M. McDonald and C. W. Wilson were present at the town council meeting on behalf of the fire brigade to request some equipment for the members of the fire brigade. Five pairs of rubber boots, a coat and hat were required. The total cost was \$30. The officers of the brigade were authorized to purchase this equipment and if possible, purchase it locally.

Among our oldest subscribers is Mr. George Wilds, of Acton, who was in renewing his subscription the other day. Mr. Wilds is 79 years of age and is still active and never misses a day at his regular employment.

75 years ago

April 15, 1909

A farewell banquet to Mr. W. Stark was tendered by the members of Walker Lodge A.F. and A.M. on Monday evening. During the Lodge meeting Mr. Stark was made the recipient of a beautiful Past Masters jewel, the presentation being made by P.M. Dr. Lawson.

During the gale last Wednesday evening a good deal of consternation was caused by the report that little Winnie Pearson, daughter of Mr. Walter Pearson, Wellington St. had not reached home after the Sunday School banquet in the Methodist Church. She had been with some of the other scholars and was delayed considerably after her sisters in reaching home, hence the alarm.

At the service in the Congregational Church, Churchill on Sunday afternoon, Rev. B. A. G. Willoughby announced that he had tendered his resignation as pastor of the churches at Georgetown and Churchill.

100 years ago

April 17, 1884

The first day of May has been set aside for the first time as Arbor Day, to be observed by our citizens for the planting of shade trees.

Council approved 157 rods of new sidewalks (made of planks) at an estimated cost of \$112. Five new culverts at \$10, two new crossing at \$2 each, and seven new street lamps at a cost of \$4.25 each.

The Lord's Army arrived in Acton on Good Friday commencing their bombardment with a meeting in the Congregational Church, which they have rented, followed by four meetings on Sunday and a hallelujah breakfast and knee drill. One evening the Army paraded to the Methodist Church where a congregation of 800 was gathered. The officers are a fine looking lot of men in their military dress. They take the cake from the Salvation Army in this respect. There are now nightly parades with drum, flag and vocal music.