

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Revive Decoration Day

This is the appropriate time for the community to observe a day set aside to honor the dead in our cemeteries but the annual Decoration Day ceremonies will not take place.

The committee which last ran the decoration day disbanded two years ago through lack of interest and cooperation. Attempts to revive it so far have not been successful.

The Acton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is interested in having Decoration Day revived but the Legionnaires feel the event should be organized as an entire community effort not just through the Legion which annually honors the dead of two wars in its own Remembrance Day services.

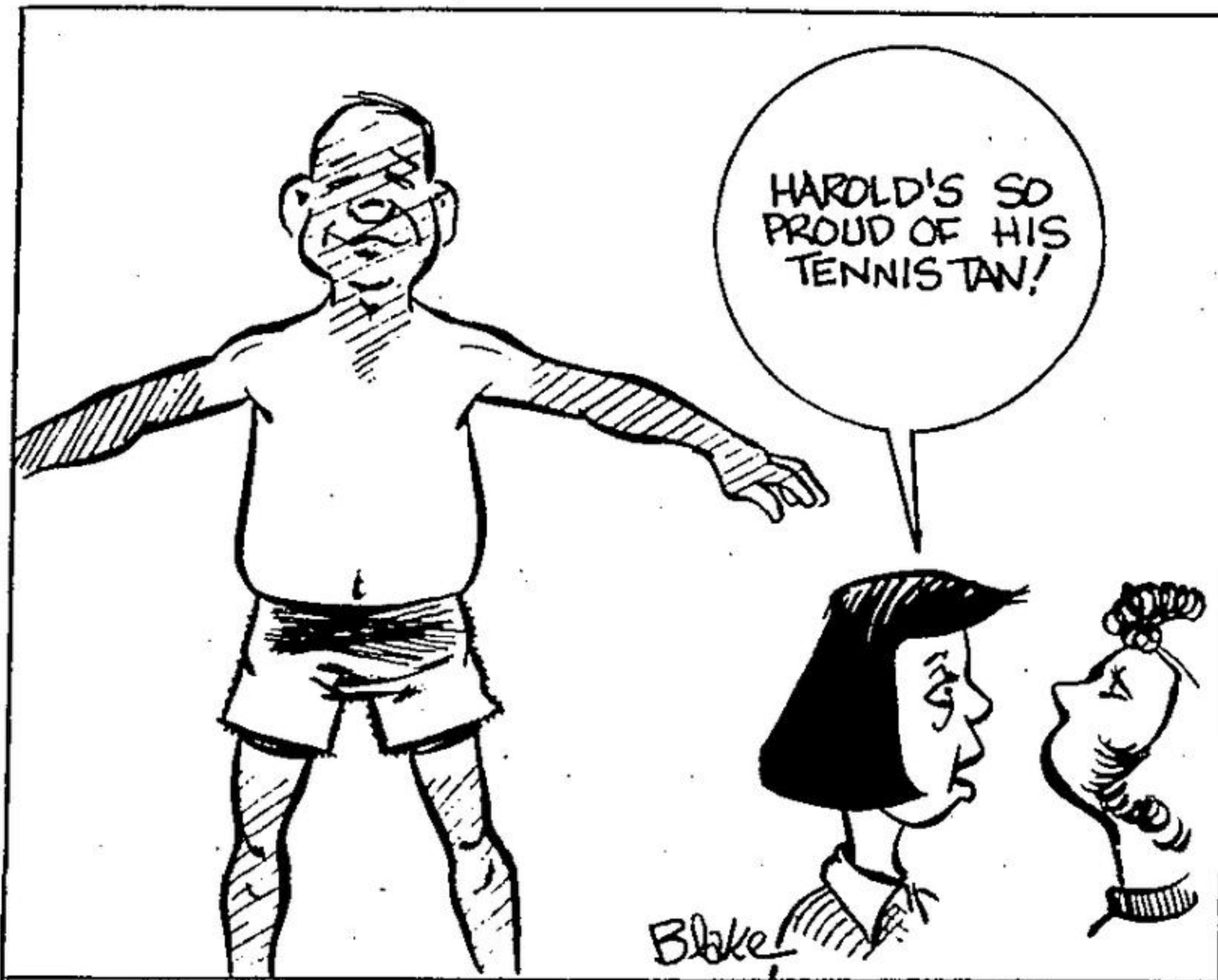
A spokesman for the

Legion, Harry Norton, says they would be glad to assist a committee to organize a Decoration Day parade and service. They realize it is probably too late for this year but if a committee is formed plans can be made to have a Decoration Day next Spring.

There's a lot of work involved in planning the event but it offers a service for those who have relatives, friends or acquaintances buried in our cemeteries honoring those who have gone before and built the foundations for this community.

Mr. Norton says anyone interested in reviving what was a touching and moving day can get in touch with him at 853-0618, and they'll go from there.

Good idea.



Back Issues

10 years ago

May 29, 1974

The threat of a strike by outside workers of Halton Hills eased Tuesday after a day long meeting with Department of Labor mediator J. McGuire.

Unemployment rates may be high in some parts of Canada but government statistics would have a hard job convincing plant managers in Acton and area there is no local shortage of labor. Typical of employers in this area who feel this way is Michael Worthington, plant manager of Polypenco Canada Limited on Frederick St.

20 years ago

May 28, 1964

Twenty-two boys and girls received Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Church Sunday. They were: Donna Gorjup, Jean Porty, Donna Drew, Susan South, Darinka Moskun, Barbara Fowler, Joselyne Daigle, Nancy Dowling, Teresa Cunningham, Jeanne Matank, James Lowe, John Timmings, Kenneth Kron, John Cameron, Kevin Marcoux, William McGilloway, Peter Pavli, Robert Vinsky, William Spehar, William Severinski, James McConnell and Mark Rowe.

Robert Earl Holmes, 28, died without regaining consciousness Wednesday morning when he accidentally touched high tension wires while working as a linesman with Oakville Public Utilities.

50 years ago

May 31, 1934

All the members were present at the meeting of the Murray Memorial Committee held on Monday evening in the Council Chambers. The members of the committee are Rev. C.L. Poole, Rev. H.L. Bennie, Reeve E. Thetford, Councillors W.A. Lasby, E. Jones, J.W. McMillan, S.M. Lasby and Mr. G.W. Murray, the chairman.

On Sunday night a large congregation attended a formal opening of St. Joseph's Church. It has been undergoing re-decoration during the last seven weeks and is now all completed.

Acton School pupils had an extra holiday on Friday last, instead of the day allowed for the King's Birthday on June 4.

Mr. Mac Sinclair has purchased three houses of Mr. John R. Watson on Main St. and will make several changes to renovate them.

75 years ago

May 27, 1909

Mr. R.J. Russell, son of Mr. John Russell, Lake Ave., has been appointed inspector for the Beaver Lumber Co., the largest Lumber Company in western Canada. Its headquarters are at Winnipeg.

The first bowling of the season took place on Victoria Day. The greens were in very fair condition and the players enjoyed the renewal of this very popular game.

Prin. Stewart and Misses Hudson, Holmes, Bennett and Nicklin attended the annual convention of Halton Teachers' Institute at Burlington last week.

Citizens are wondering if it was just an innocent game of cards which kept 24 or 25 young men at the drill shed last Saturday on to 3 o'clock Sunday morning. Looks like a gambling bout. Capt. Gamble will investigate.

100 years ago

May 29, 1884

The 65th anniversary of the birthday of our beloved Queen was ushered in by our citizens with repeated volleys of cannon.

Rev. D. N. Cameron, pastor of Knox Church, Acton, received this week a diploma from the Celtic Society of Montreal conferring in the title of Honorary member of the Society.

Mr. John Matthews has no interest in the new residence now in the course of erection of Willow Street as stated in the Free Press last week. The property belonging to Miss A. M. Brown.

Apprentice wanted, to learn the dressmaking, apply at Miss Vansters, Frederick St., Acton. Mr. James McLam is painting and otherwise improving his residence.

Duplication again

The study of the needs of the elderly done by Halton Region has provoked another controversy.

Earlier when it was unveiled after months of study, the conclusions, among others, stated the elderly want to remain in their own homes, and would like public transportation.

After that big surprise, the same study calls for a central information base for the whole region. This would cost a minimum of \$60,000. And we all know after it was established more would be needed.

We are not the only people who think this information base or more property called Statistical Data Base, according to the report, is unnecessary.

The North Halton Contact Centre, Acton Social Services and Information Centre, Information Burlington, have told the region

it is not needed. In fact, it would seem from their titles alone, that they are doing exactly that. In addition Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic fills this need as well.

Now it would seem only logical to leave the existing system alone, especially when you remember some of the agencies listed above are voluntary, meaning you and I don't pay for the services out of taxes.

Experience has taught us that the creation of a new agency by any government is not done by voluntary staff. Quite the reverse they are usually well paid.

If the justification for this Statistical Data Base is the common complaint people don't know where to go to have their problems answered, you can bet your life they'll still say if this data base is set up.

Infilling freeze

The Halton regional plan to freeze all house building in the rural area except estate developments, and farmers' retirement lots, may have an excellent intent, but they are going too far.

Everyone wants to preserve good farm land, but there are places where nothing will grow, as any farmer knows.

Letters Tired of bad press about Hydro

Dear Editor:

As a third generation Ontario Hydro customer, I'm tired of reading bad press about our world-class high-tech Hydro company. The media's negative broadcasting of scheduled maintenance shutdowns at Pickering, and publicizing unapproved price increases is as irresponsible and misleading as the ill-informed fools who climbed Hydro's chimney recently. If their aim is to improve our health and environment, they need not look farther than the millions of automobiles, homes and industries spewing poisonous combustion by-products into our air. The magnitude of this problem is far greater than

what Ontario Hydro could ever do.

Indoor pollution is having an alarming impact on Canadians heating their homes with gas and fossil fueled furnaces. Recently insulated and tightened homes are dangerously ignored by thousands who subject their families to lower oxygen levels, leading to an average of 28 deaths every year by carbon monoxide poisoning mostly with gas and wood furnaces. Where are the protesters to this serious situation, at least with electricity there is no combustion or poisonous fumes.

I'm fed up with those who continually attack our own 100 per cent

Ontario owned energy company. Hydro is 100 per cent efficient, abundant, renewable, sold to us at cost. It keeps billions of dollars in our province and we elect officers to help run it. I just do not understand why everyone is so blind to this sleeping giant we already own. Give some equal space to promoting Ontario Hydro Corporation. For it benefits us all to go Electric. Lets listen to the talking furnace and help stop the fossil fuel pushers from taking billions of dollars out of our province.

A third generation happy Hydro customer,

Yours truly,
Gord Hamilton.

Gananoque is celebrating

To the Editor:

The Gala Gananoque Heritage Days Festival Committee of Gananoque, Ontario, is seeking old friends of the town and former residents, to specifically invite them to return and share with us the mammoth celebrations we plan this June to observe Ontario's Bicentennial and the town's own heritage. This invitation applies to new friends as well.

To create a celebration of some size and scope, the Festival Committee has set aside three different weekends in which visitors and residents alike can kick up their heels and enjoy themselves. The first weekend, June 15 through

17, has the theme of a Town and Country Weekend while the second weekend, June 22 through 24, is entitled Festival of Friends. The third weekend, called Salute the St. Lawrence, will focus on the St. Lawrence River and the fun it provides to the people who live in or visit this area.

The second weekend in particular has been deemed as a homecoming weekend. It is a time when we would welcome former residents and new friends to the Gateway to the Thousand Islands. Powwow, historical exhibits and re-enactments, as well as other events that focus on friendship and fun.

We would welcome anyone to attend. Better yet, people can consider themselves welcome at all three weekends. The first weekend features a three-day bluegrass and country music festival starring Tommy Hunter, Sylvia Tyson, Family Brown and J.D. Crowe and New South. The third weekend will feature an estimated 1,000 boats in a giant cavalcade throughout the islands.

Further information can be obtained from the Gananoque Chamber of Commerce, 2 King Street East, K7G 1E8. Telephone is (613) 382-3250.

Yours sincerely,
Barry Grills,
Publicity Chairman

Coles' slaw

We're trying to improve

A frequent topic of discussion around the newsroom of this and other newspapers is the frequency with which we are asked to take photos of official openings. It usually consists of a picture of the mayor or someone he deputized, with the principals involved. Invariably they are cutting a ceremonial ribbon to officially open a business or building.

Some newspapers completely refuse to cover such events. Others will bend and take a photo of something else interesting about the opening, refusing to photograph the ribbon cutting. But most newspapers are like us; we continually send someone out to take that same old picture time after time, simultaneously moaning and groaning about duplication.

It is great stuff for politicians. They get constant newspaper exposure and keep their faces in front of the public without it costing them a cent. The business or place involved always appreciates the publicity, too, since it is usually only a one time shot for most of them. We news hounds, however, are skeptical about the whole process. The pictures are so similar we feel the real story gets lost with a ho-hum picture.

It's the same story in the world of sports. We get continual requests from leagues



by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

and teams to attend and photograph their kick-offs or ceremonial throw of the first ball. For league conveners and organizers it is great stuff. They revel in it. But sports writers and photographers fall to appreciate the significance. They'd far rather have a good action shot or a write-up of a league game than the standard opening shot and who attended. Maybe we tend to get cynical after a few years in the newspaper business but most of us don't feel these opening shots and write-ups help anyone very much. We ask writers and photographers to come up with some new angle. But when they do we often hear complaints that we never used the most important picture—you know, the one where they are cutting the ribbon or kicking the first ball.

Similar sentiments are expressed at anniversaries and other special personal events. We try to make the picture a little different from the usual one of cutting the cake or holding hands. People appreciate the try but they almost invariably request that we use the traditional one—the one cutting the cake or blowing out the candles.

Then, of course, there are the cheque presentations. Another pet peeve of newspaper staffs. Organizations want to let people know they have raised money for some worthy charity or building fund. They usually request the traditional cheque passing picture where the cheque is usually so small no one can decipher the amount on it anyway.

There have been different wrinkles in this cheque passing ceremony such as mammoth sized cheques which require five or six people to hold. Perfectly legal and effective but after that has been done four or five times within a two month period the novelty wears off and the photo loses its punch.

Don't get me wrong. We still want to know about official openings and the hoopla that goes with them. However, if you've got a new angle for a photo let us know. We want to make our pictures interesting as well as technically good. Just a thought.

Clergy Comment

Theological

Every time we read in the newspapers and on the radio about the various religious groups in our area, we are struck by the diversity of their beliefs and practices. It is a testament to the richness of our cultural and spiritual heritage. As we move forward in the 1980s, it is important that we continue to foster a spirit of understanding and respect for all faiths. Theological discussions, while often complex, provide a valuable opportunity for us to explore the common ground that unites us as human beings. We must remember that at the heart of all religions is a search for meaning, purpose, and a connection to something greater than ourselves. Let us strive to build a community where these shared values are honored and nurtured.