

The Acton Free Press

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Traffic congestion

Anyone who has tried to manoeuvre a vehicle from Bower Avenue onto Mill Street and then turn left at certain times of the day may experience more than a little frustration. The volume of traffic has increased by leaps and bounds especially since the opening of the old Hide House. It has created some real traffic problems.

Last Friday about 3.30 p.m. a CN freight was shunting on the Mill Street crossing and there was almost chaos. School was let out at about the same time. Children were riding bicycles merrily down the street two and three abreast, school buses added to the traffic volume as well as scores of children pedestrians.

At this juncture, with traffic stretched half a mile on either side of the crossing, an ambulance pulled up. The train crew cleared the tracks as soon as they could to let traffic through. The ambulance did not have its lights flashing indicating

there was no real hurry. But the question is posed, of course, what if it had been an urgent matter?

Traffic had the ambulance blocked in so it would have been virtually impossible to turn around if it had been urgent.

It was not a typical situation but one that does happen rather frequently.

The town's traffic engineer might be able to figure out some realistic solution to the congestion. Experiencing it first hand is the only way to really comprehend how frustrating it is for drivers trying to turn east on Mill St. from any side street running off Bower.

Long freight trains and even heavy weekend traffic can create similar situations for the unwary motorist caught in the traffic jam.

The situation is compounded at times when school is let out and children, unaware of the increased danger, take chances both on foot and cycling.

D-Day-hope, anxiety

Gord Murray talked with veteran John Goy this week about the D-Day landings and the story brought back many memories of a day when relief was mixed with anxiety. Those with sons, or relatives overseas with the Canadian forces worried for their safety but the invasion also broke the suspense which had built up knowing it would happen some day.

The D-Day invasion proved to be the beginning of the end for the Nazis but the price was 340 men killed and 575 Canadians wounded that first day. Casualties among the flower of Canada's youth continued

to mount as the invasion went inland.

Practically every week The Free Press carried pictures of local boys killed in action or wounded both in the European theatre or the Italian campaign.

It was an anxious time and one we would not relish repeating. Victory after victory followed that first day on the beaches of Normandy and the length of the war became shorter and shorter. The war ended less than a year later with the surrender of the Nazis and Hitler's suicide but it will long remain as years of hope as well as tragedy.

Overpaid at Region?

Are regional councillors overpaid?

In comparison to local councillors and school board trustees the answer is a definite "Yes".

If the amount of money spent by a government level reflects the amount of responsibility, the higher regional salaries are unwarranted.

It should be pointed out the higher salaries are not the fault of the present regional council. They were set at a higher level when regional government was established in 1974.

Halton Hills spends approximately 30 cents of each tax dollar, and a local councillor receives \$6,922.

Halton school board spends 54 cents of the tax dollar and a trustee receives \$7,200.

However, regional council spends only 16 cents of the same tax dollar and regional councillors are paid \$13,615.

Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller gets \$17,490, School Board Betty Fisher \$10,800 and Regional Chairman Pete Pomeroy \$45,000.

It is difficult to determine the amount of work involved in each post, but the regional chairman's post when originally set up by the province was considered a full-time job.

We are not urging a jump in pay for local councillors and school trustees to catch up with the region scale. But rather are calling for a roll-back of the recent regional increase, and a freeze at that level for some time.



From the editor's desk

I saw 'hell on earth'

I think I have a better understanding of what the expression "hell on earth" means now.

I recently had to go to Canada's great white north on emergency family business and part of my travels plunked me down in a lovely little hell hole called Rankin Inlet on Hudson Bay.

Let me regress a bit first and tell you I spent four days in Yellowknife, which is on the west side of the Territories, and they're having a lovely, welcomed, early spring. My brother told me before I went up to bring spring clothes, it was nice and warm. They were having an early spring after the easiest winter he had experienced in five years.

Therefore, you can understand my surprise when as we flew over the lakes and rivers, even Great Slave Lake, and saw much, much more ice than open water. Dave said later it takes a while for 40 or more feet of ice to melt. Well, I was glad I'd brought along some winter clothes as a precaution. You see, I've never been up there in winter, only early summer, and each time they've told me it would be warm and then there's a cold snap, mild to those hearty folk up there, but a wee bit chilly to we southerners. I wasn't taking any chances.

It was quite warm the night we arrived. A cold front rolled in during the night and while the next three days were sunny "summer for hours longer than we're used to even with Daylight Saving Time because they're getting into their long-n-g days now" but it was quite breezy and there was a bite in the air.

Anyway, Helen and I must have looked like quite a sight to the locals, all bundled up when we were downtown when the guys are wearing light weight suits and jackets and the gals summer dresses.

We also saw a good number of people in shorts and T-shirts. I think as soon as it gets over 50 degrees Fahrenheit they become beach bums up there.

Anyway, that was the kind of weather we had at Yellowknife and sets the stage for what I discovered on the east side of the Territories.

Rankin Inlet was a short stop on the way back from Yellowknife to Winnipeg and a connecting flight back to Toronto.

As we flew east across the north it wasn't long before we started to encounter the real north. Barren wasteland. Snow and ice for miles, as far as the eye can see in every direction. Not a tree or anything else green anywhere in sight either (At Yellowknife the sad looking grass on front lawns was starting to green up a tch, buds were forming on trees, there's precious little snow left and it looks like spring even though I didn't think it felt that way).

The only break in the all white and very forbidding terrain was the odd rock protruding.

As the landing time for Rankin drew near, I started watching for the community. I looked and looked. Nothing. Then, all of a sudden there was this large rock sticking up from the white sea with buildings on it. The only color was a few green painted buildings.

Then we were landing, on a gravel runway. You may recall I'm not the calmest flyer and I was more than a little disturbed when I went up north last summer and found I was travelling from Winnipeg and back on a 25-year-old plane with four props. You can imagine what a white knuckle flyer thought of landing in the same plane on a gravel runway than ends where the ice starts again.

All you could see on all sides of the inhabited rock was snow and ice, right to every horizon.

It was sunny out though so I decided to venture from the plane to the shabby little terminal. My brother warned me it would be quite cold, and it was, below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. He didn't mention the wind.

It was blasting so strongly I was literally carried to the terminal.

A family friend who lives there



by Gord Murray
Free Press editor

told me they're having spring too. He also told me about the winter in Rankin. For example, for 22 days after a storm began on Boxing Day he didn't see the house across the road even once because of blowing snow.

What struck me most, besides the weather, was the extreme isolation. No roads out, only planes, and nowhere to go, nothing to see, outside the community of 1,000 people.

I wondered how people ever ended up there and my brother reported it began as a mining community. When there was a mine fire and it wasn't reopened years ago the community remained because the government kept the native peoples coming to Rankin for medical and other services. It's pretty much a government town these days.

Now, if you want a really clear picture of what the place is like and you watched a TV movie earlier this year about the race between two explorers for the North Pole you'll have a good idea. The flick (I can't find anyone who can exactly remember the whole name, it was Byrd and Perry, Quest for the Pole, I think), was shot in Rankin in early summer. It sure looked white and cold on T.V.

Anyway, I was glad I saw the real north, (every Canadian should sometime) and just as glad to get away from Rankin. It was so depressing, even for a half hour.

I've been north three times now. I think that's enough for any lifetime.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) gives drinkers best chance

by Hugh Westrup

Members of Alcoholics Anonymous seem to have a better chance of beating their drinking problems than alcoholics who don't join AA, according to a study by the Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Commission of New Brunswick.

Preliminary findings from the study, conducted by staff psychologist David McTimoney, indicate that AA members do less daily drinking and less morning drinking and are more likely to be employed.

"AA members also reported fewer memory lapses, fewer hallucinations, fewer quarrels and less drinking on the job than those who didn't attend AA," says McTimoney.

McTimoney surveyed 103 alcoholics who had sought help at detoxification centres in the province. Each client was encouraged to join Alcoholics Anonymous and was required to attend one AA

meeting at a government treatment centre. Forty-one clients joined AA and 62 did not.

McTimoney examined the progress of all 104 clients over a 12-month period following the dates they checked into the government treatment centres.

McTimoney says both the AA members and the non-AA group did less daily drinking and less morning drinking over the course of the year, but the improvement was greater among the AA group.

Employment increased among the AA members, but decreased among the non-AA group. "Not only were more AA people employed, but fewer of them were missing days of work," says McTimoney.

One of the most striking differences between the two groups was religious participation. At the time they joined AA, 38 per cent of the group said they were active church-goers. By the end of one year, 51 per cent said they were.

But only 24 per cent of the non-AA group initially were active church-goers, and this number dropped to 16 per cent by the end of 12 months.

"I expect this difference is due to the fact that Alcoholics Anonymous has a definite spiritual base to it, even though it doesn't preach a specific religion," says McTimoney. "If you look at a piece of AA literature like Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions you find many references to God and to 'a power greater than ourselves'."

McTimoney says AA may attract people with a spiritual bent, or may be influential in turning people towards religion.

Each client in the study was initially given a medical and a psychological examination, both of which are routine procedures at the government treatment centres. After the tests, clients may be put on drug therapy or a special diet, or may be advised to seek counselling. (Canadian Science News)



10 years ago

June 5, 1974

A strike by outside workers in Halton Hills has been averted. Local 73 of Canadian Union of Public Service Employees last Thursday voted 85 per cent to accept the latest town offer of a 40 cent pay hike from April until October of this year and a 45 cent an hour boost from October on. This brings the basic laborer's rate in October to \$4.06, the amount the union originally demanded.

Acton's July 1 Centennial Days celebration are moulding into shape.

A Speyside resident won the nod to represent Halton NDP in the July 8 federal election. Archie Brown defeated 43-year-old student Don Wackley during a meeting in Milton Thursday night.

20 years ago

20 years ago

June 4, 1964

Word has been received this week that E.A. (Ted) Pratt will take over as manager of the Acton branch of the Bank of Montreal within a couple of weeks. He replaced William MacKay who is moving to Toronto.

A staunch Orangeman and probably Acton's oldest resident, Charles Kelly Browne is celebrating his 94th birthday today (Thursday) and is greeting old and new acquaintances in his confectionery and tobacco shop on Main St. N.

Grade 13 reunion for the graduating class of 1959 was held Saturday afternoon at the high school. The reunion was the first one attempted and co-ordinators Marilyn Young and Mrs. James Zehr (Shirley Mason) were quite happy with the turnout.

50 years ago

June 7, 1934

Acton's Pioneer Cemetery which for years has been a neglected spot was seen on Sunday afternoon in a renovated state that has been the dream of many of the ancestors and friends for years.

Five Acton residents are in the Guelph General Hospital as a result of a head-on collision between two motor cars on Saturday evening on the Main Street of the Village of Erin. The injured are: Reeve E. Theford, who suffered a broken right jaw, broken breast bone and several fractured ribs; Mrs. E. Theford, a broken ankle and severe cuts on the face and head; Mr. Howard Allison, driver of the Acton car, a broken knee cap and head injuries; Mrs. Allison, head injuries, which rendered her condition very critical; and little Marjorie Norton, six-year-old daughter of Mr. William Norton, lacerations to her chin and throat and injuries to her mouth, when several teeth were broken.

75 years ago

75 years ago

June 3, 1909

Mr. N. Forbes has about completed the foundations for the commodious bank barns for Messrs. Alex McDonald on the second line, opposite Lorne School and Mr. Thos. P. Watkins of the first line whose barn was destroyed by fire last summer.

Rev. J. Gott, pastor of the Baptist Church has been in poor health this past week or so and unable to take his work. The pulpit was occupied last Sunday by Mr. H.P. Moore.

Mrs. Robert Agnew and Mrs. George Hynds and Master Joe left on Tuesday on a two months trip to Manitoba.

The carpenters and plasterers are busy finishing up Mr. Sayers house on Church St.

It is hinted that wedding bells will ring joyously and frequently in Acton and vicinity this month.

100 years ago

100 years ago

June 5, 1884

The Lord's Army meetings have not been very well attended during the past week. Capt. Carrie seems to have failed to a considerable extent in winning sympathy and confidence of the people.

We have examined the plan showing a number of improvements which are proposed to be made to St. Alban's Church. The plan represents the present building, raised several feet, veneered with brick, the tower on the south east corner of the building extended to the south west limits of the lot, stained glass windows on Willow street and the entrance through the tower on the West Bower Avenue side of the building.

Mrs. S.A. Secord's flower garden is now in all its glory and beauty.

