

# The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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## A new PM

Only in Canada, you say? Where else could someone be a leading candidate to head a political party one day—and succeed to the mantle of the prime minister the next?

John Turner, blue-eyed, steel grey hair and chiselled features, darling of middle of the road Liberals, self-imposed exile from Parliament, on Friday was only the candidate favored to win the Liberal leadership. Saturday night 1,862 votes decided he would not only don the mantle of Liberal leadership, he would also be our next prime minister as soon as Mr. Trudeau hands over the reins.

It took two votes for Mr. Turner to accomplish what many predicted would be an "anointing" rather than a contest. However they hadn't counted on the dogged fight Jean Chretien staged to make the leadership convention a contest. Mr. Chretien's best effort could muster only 1,368 votes while second runner-up Don Johnston came in third with 192.

Mr. Turner's campaign to capture the Liberal crown faltered badly at times during the arduous campaign

to win delegates. It peaked at the right time to assure the prize which eluded him in 1968. He came from self-imposed exile to take the top office in the land.

He's an attractive figure, one whom the majority of Liberals figure can lead them to victory in the next election against Brian Mulroney and the Tories. The party hopes he'll win seats in the West, a wasteland for the Liberals under Pierre Trudeau.

Since the polls are favorable, pundits figure there'll be an election as early as this August with the 27th of the month mentioned as a possibility. Mr. Turner has said he will adhere to the reform principles of the party allowing some fears that he is a small "C" conservative in Liberal clothing.

However, voters will want to compare his election platform with Mr. Mulroney's, which so far has been based on broad principles rather than specific goals. They don't seem too far apart on the issues, suggesting it may be image and personality which decides which man will sit in the PM's chair.



## Back issues

### 10 years ago

June 19, 1974

Halton federal candidates went down Acton's main streets to Robert Little School last night to the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Meet the Candidates night. They were Frank Philbrook, Liberal, Terry O'Connor, Progressive Conservative and Archie Brown, NDP.

Representatives of the Halton Region were on hand at last Thursday's Acton Hydro Commission meeting to discuss the possibility of combined billing of water and hydro as opposed to individual billing from two separate offices.

It was quite a reunion for the former grade 1 students of Mrs. Jane Gamble. After 23 years of teaching at Robert Little School Mrs. Gamble is retiring.

### 20 years ago

June 18, 1964

Open house on their golden wedding anniversary was held for Mr. and Mrs. Elton Cole, RR 2 Acton at the home of their daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Doug Mason, Lake Ave. The well-known district couple were congratulated on Sunday by 165 friends, neighbors and relatives.

What do you do with 30,000 honey bees if you are not in the apiary business. E.E. Barr, retired businessman who lived on Mill St. E. noticed a large swarm of bees coming from his chimney. He informed his neighbor William Middleton who in turn called Colin MacColl, school caretaker and bee fancier. On Saturday Mr. MacColl retrieved a large swarm of bees from a nearby hedge where they were gathered and was pleased to remove the Queen bee.

### 50 years ago

June 21, 1934

At the 60th commencement exercises of the Ontario Ladies' College at Whitby, Miss Beth Harrison of Acton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Harrison won three awards for her year's work.

Miss Annie Smith, R.N. of Acton is still in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph suffering from injuries to her back received in an automobile accident on Wednesday of last week.

Mr. Duncan MacRae, B.A. of Lucknow was chosen for the vacancy of principal at Acton High School and has accepted the position at a salary of \$1,700 per year. School board yearly requirements were only \$8,000, this year, in comparison with \$9,650 last year.

Rev. G.R. Easter now has charge of the service in both Acton and Georgetown Baptist Churches.

### 75 years ago

June 17, 1909

Action was taken at the meeting of Council on Monday evening which will mean much for the moral betterment of Acton in the days to come. A strong committee of leading citizens waited upon the Council to solicit action for the suppression of the all too general profanity and boisterous conduct on the streets and the alleged gambling and other objectionable doings in the park.

Councillor and Mrs. J.H. Denny and Miss Allie Brown left on Monday on a trip to Vancouver and other British Columbian points. They will also visit the big fair at Seattle, Washington and spend time in the Rocky Mountains and at Winnipeg.

Mrs. A.T. Brown, Mrs. William Brown, Mrs. C.C. Speight and Mrs. George Stovel, were delegates to the Women's Missionary Convention at Guelph last week.

### 100 years ago

June 19, 1884

Bower Avenue sidewalk is to be laid from Elgin to Wilbur Street. This sidewalk will be much appreciated by the residents of the north side.

The board of trustees of Acton Public School with the committee of citizens appointed visited the school buildings last Friday to examine the practicability of erecting an addition to the present building. The deputation concluded that this plan would be more feasible than that of putting up a building separate and distinct from the present one in that it would be more economical in the matter of cost and erection as well as heating the various school rooms.

Warm weather is here again. The thermometer is up in the 90s. Tuesday was an uncomfortably hot day. Mr. H. Swackhammer has received his new steam engine. He has had it in operation and it is doing good work.

## History sleuth

# Laurentian honors MacMillan for his contribution to Canada

Hugh MacMillan, bearded sleuth and liaison officer for the Ontario Archives was honored recently with a Doctor of Letters at the convocation of Laurentian University.

Hugh resides with his wife and family in a log home on 25 Sideroad not far from the Guelph Line in a style as close to that of his Nor'Wester forefathers as he can.

He was recognized by the University for the contribution he has made to the cultural, historical and recreational life of Canada, particularly through the development of field work for the Ontario Archives, which has occupied him since 1964.

He travels about 48,000 kilometres annually across Canada, the United States and Europe and has ferreted out rare documents relating to Canadian prime ministers from Sir John A. MacDonalld to Mackenzie King and papers for lesser known luminaries of Canadian history.

Born in Fitzroy Harbour in 1924 son of a Presbyterian Minister from Glengarry, Hugh studies Business Administration at Carleton University, took courses at Ryerson in public relations and creative writing. His interest in history started early and he was the founding member and first president of the Glengarry Historical Society. He started museums at Dunvegan in Eastern Ontario and Nor'Wester-Loyalist Museum in Williamstown.

His chequered career includes a stint as a mate on a coastal tow boat, freelance writer for Vancouver newspapers, public relations promoter and agent for Seal Bros. Circus and the hypnotist The Great Orlando, life insurance agent, logging contractor, farmer and a year as a public relations manager in Toronto before joining the Ontario Archives as the liaison officer, a post he created on his own initiative.

Among other things this energetic local man has done is make a movie, Again the Voyageur and a television series about the fur trade canoes has appealed to high schools which have embarked on special history programs using canoes and costumes of the fur trading era. He also organized the Simcoe Brigade publicizing Ontario's first Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe's canoe trips across the province, then Upper Canada.

The interest in trade canoes and log houses goes back to the discovery that one of his ancestors was a partner in the North West Company, rivals to the giant Hudson Bay Company, and he lives it.

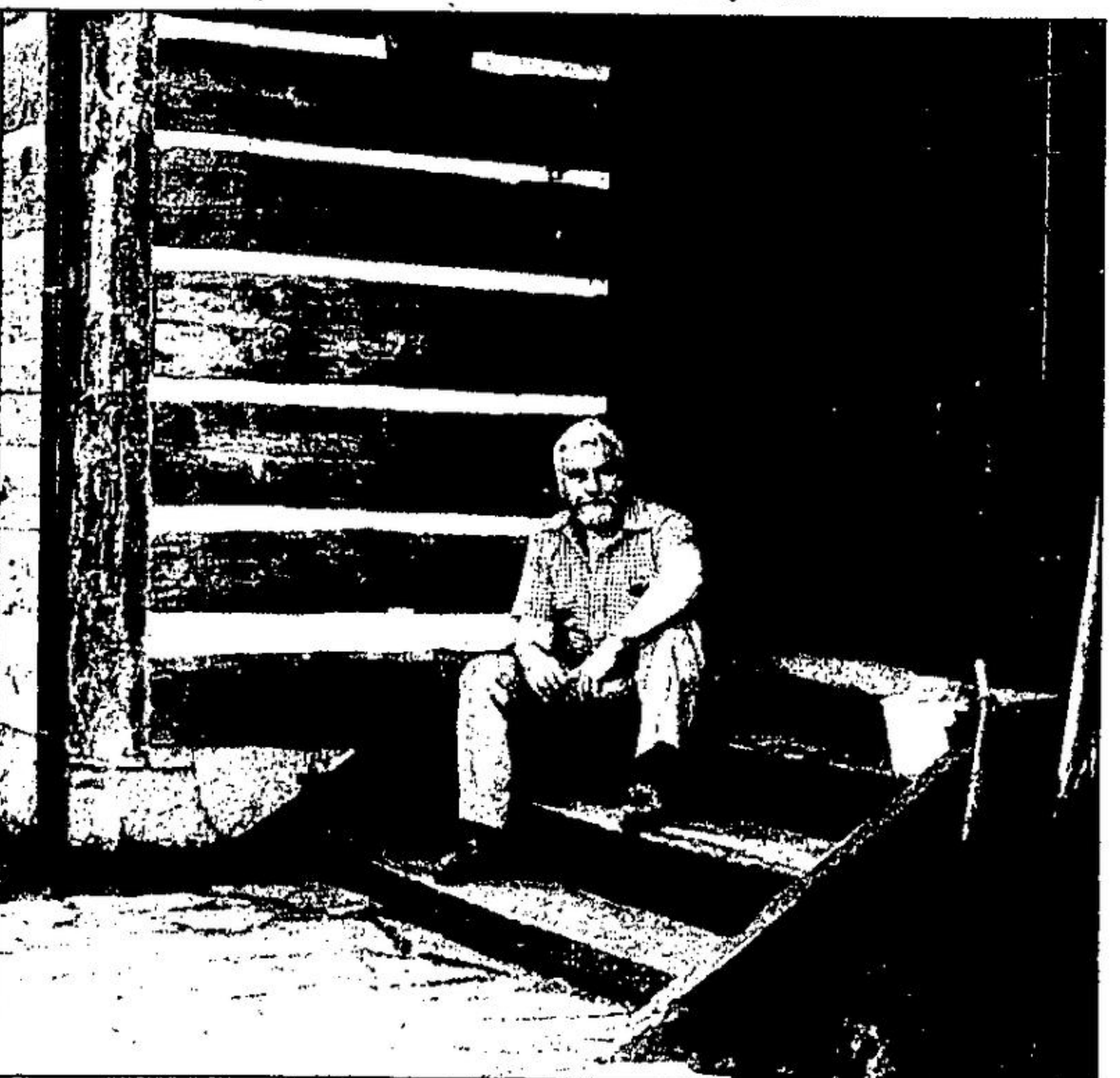
He built the log house where he and wife Muriel raised their four youngsters on a hill overlooking part of the old Township of Nassagaweya that hasn't changed much since the first pioneers hewed homes and settlements. His home was constructed from logs taken from four old barns dating back to 1820. Its interior belies its ancient appearance and a companion "trading post" alongside is the repository for some of the huge freight canoes he constructs.

Following the building of his own log house he organized the first log building course to be held in Ontario.

In collaboration with Frank Rasby he's writing a book, The History Detective, relating some of the humorous and bizarre stories uncovered in his relentless search for manuscripts.

A recent article about MacMillan in Air Canada's magazine Enroute suggests he is a man born too late and has spent much of his life turning back the clock.

This "bibulous, bowlegged, gingerbearded raconteur, of 59," as Enroute describes him may well live in the past but his contribution has helped us understand the present.



Hugh MacMillan outside his unique log home.

## Thanks for cooperation

Dear Editor,  
On behalf of the Girl Guides of Canada, Halton division, I would like to extend our most sincere appreciation to you for your support and cooperation during the 1984-85

season.  
Next year we will be celebrating you. 75 years of Guiding in Canada with many special activities in the works. We look forward to your continued cooperation in the future. Thank

Yours in Guiding,  
Esther Sharp,  
Public Relations advisor,  
Halton Division

## From the editor's desk

# Goodbye, Acton!

Ten years ago Sunday I arrived in Halton Hills fresh out of college and ready to take on the world. Jim and Dave Dills welcomed me with open arms, confident their choice for a junior reporter at the Georgetown Independent would be worthy of their employment.

I can honestly say I served them well, so much so that four years later they made me sports editor. Two years later, Inland Publishing the new owners promoted me to editor of the Acton Free Press, a position I held until yesterday, 10 years and two days after my journalism debut.

Now another family has welcomed me with open arms. The Claridges of Orangeville have made me feel like that excited young man of a decade ago with a new job in a new community. Today (Wednesday) is my first official day as editor of the Caledon Citizen in Bolton.

In addition to the editorship, I am also editorial consultant to the Orangeville Citizen, Shelburne Free Press and Economist, Beeton-Schomberg Record Sentinel, Tottenham Times and Innisfail Scope.

It's great to work for a family again. Already Helen has been offered baby clothes and other infant paraphernalia, and we both feel as if we have been adopted. It's like we've gone home again.

As anxious as I am to start my new life, it is with deep regret that I leave Acton. The people in this town have been tremendously supportive especially in the past few weeks of personal hardships in my life. The loss of my father last month only confirmed to Helen and me how warm and special Actonians are. And the many well wishes on the birth of our daughter two months ago showed us how well known, and hopefully well-liked we are.

Right now we are in the process of moving from the Hills of Halton to the hills of Caledon, where we are going to try our hand at rural living. It's going to be different for both of us, but since Ainsley was born April 18 we have had nothing but change. For two people who avoided change for 10 years, I guess you could say we are going for broke.



by Gord Murray  
Free Press editor

It's a bit scary, no, maybe terrifying is a better word, to start a new job in a town where I know absolutely no one. But sometimes a person has to stray from the secure and put down roots again in order to have fun in life again. I hope you understand.

To leave without thanking a few of the special people who made my life easier over the last third of my life would be terribly remiss. However, there is not the space in this newspaper to name everyone. Those of you I do not mention will know how I feel about you—the news contacts turned friends, the friends turned family, co-workers—I'll miss you all.

To the Dills—thank you for the chance to show my stuff. I'll always respect and love you.

To my mentor Hartley Coles who was always more than a boss—words cannot begin to describe my appreciation of your great patience and understanding. Your knowledge of both newspapers and human frailties has surely sustained me throughout the past several years.

To Anne Currie, news editor of the Independent—thanks Mom. I love ya.

Bill Cook, you'll be a friend forever.

Those outside the newspapers walls, John Goy Sr., Lorne Doberstein, and the Dawkins, you've taught me a new meaning to the words hard work. Next time you're in Caledon East, drop in.

And finally, to my daughter Ainsley, thanks for teaching me that change isn't all bad. Goodbye Acton.

## Always need for blood

When you go away, the need for blood doesn't. Donating blood takes only a few minutes of your time—but it can mean a lifetime for someone else. . . someone who is a victim of an automobile or burn accident, or who faces open heart surgery, or who is being treated for cancer. They all count on volunteer community blood donors for the blood transfusions they need.

Please give blood at a Red Cross blood donor clinic before you go away and come home to a community that's alive and well.