

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2219
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875

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

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

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
News Editor: Paul Dorsey
Sports: Mark Holmes
Darkroom: Nancy Pundsack, Ted Brown
ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT
Retail Advertising Manager: Bill Cook
Sales: Susan McKinnon, Sandra Wilson, Jamie Frank
Classified Advertising: Jan Bruton, Carol Hall
Circulation: Debbie MacDougall
BUSINESS OFFICE
Office Manager: Jean Shewell
Accounting: Pat Kentner



Bouquets for all

We would be indeed be remiss if we did not congratulate the president, the board of directors, the officers and all those who helped with Acton's 71st Fall Fair. It was a record breaking event with three full days of activities and attracted an estimated 15,000 or more people through the gates.

Weather is always a big factor in an outdoor event and this year it was not ideal but the mixture of sunshine and cloud with some showers thrown in kept the grass green and proved to be attractive to local people and many visitors.

Much credit for the Fair's success has to go to the secretary-treasurer John Rowe who took a month's vacation from his job with Air Canada to keep abreast of all the entries and coordinate many of the events. He recruits almost his entire family to assist him with the Fair including those who now live out of town. We think he and they deserve a special vote of

thanks for their efforts.

It is difficult to pick any highlights from a Fair that has so many successful events through three days of activities. It seems there is something for everyone's taste from the Friday night Miss Acton Fair contest with its attendant high class professional entertainment to the many cattle, horse and domestic classes and the always popular midway.

The tractor and horse pulls are always an attraction and like other facets of the Fair get bigger and better each year, straining to capacity the limited space available in Prospect Park. Somehow through a miracle of organization and hard work the officers and directors, this year headed by Norm Shea, the events are packaged into the time space allotted and improve with age.

To all who volunteer their services each year to make the annual Acton Fall Fair the tremendous success we say a very big thank you.

Too restrictive

Town bylaws and procedures are getting pretty restrictive, when a man who simply wanted to sell french fries and hot dogs from his refreshment vehicle is not allowed to do so.

This man had the permission of the owner to put the vehicle on his commercial lot, but still he was refused.

Arguments about garbage and loss of parking spaces are pretty thin. First as a condition, he would be made to clean up the garbage and secondly the owner of the lot knows whether or not he has sufficient parking spots to allow it. A vehicle such as this would take at the most two spots and probably only one.

Apart from all this, why should we stop someone from trying to make a living, when he would be doing no harm.

The Acton BIA and Chamber of Commerce-

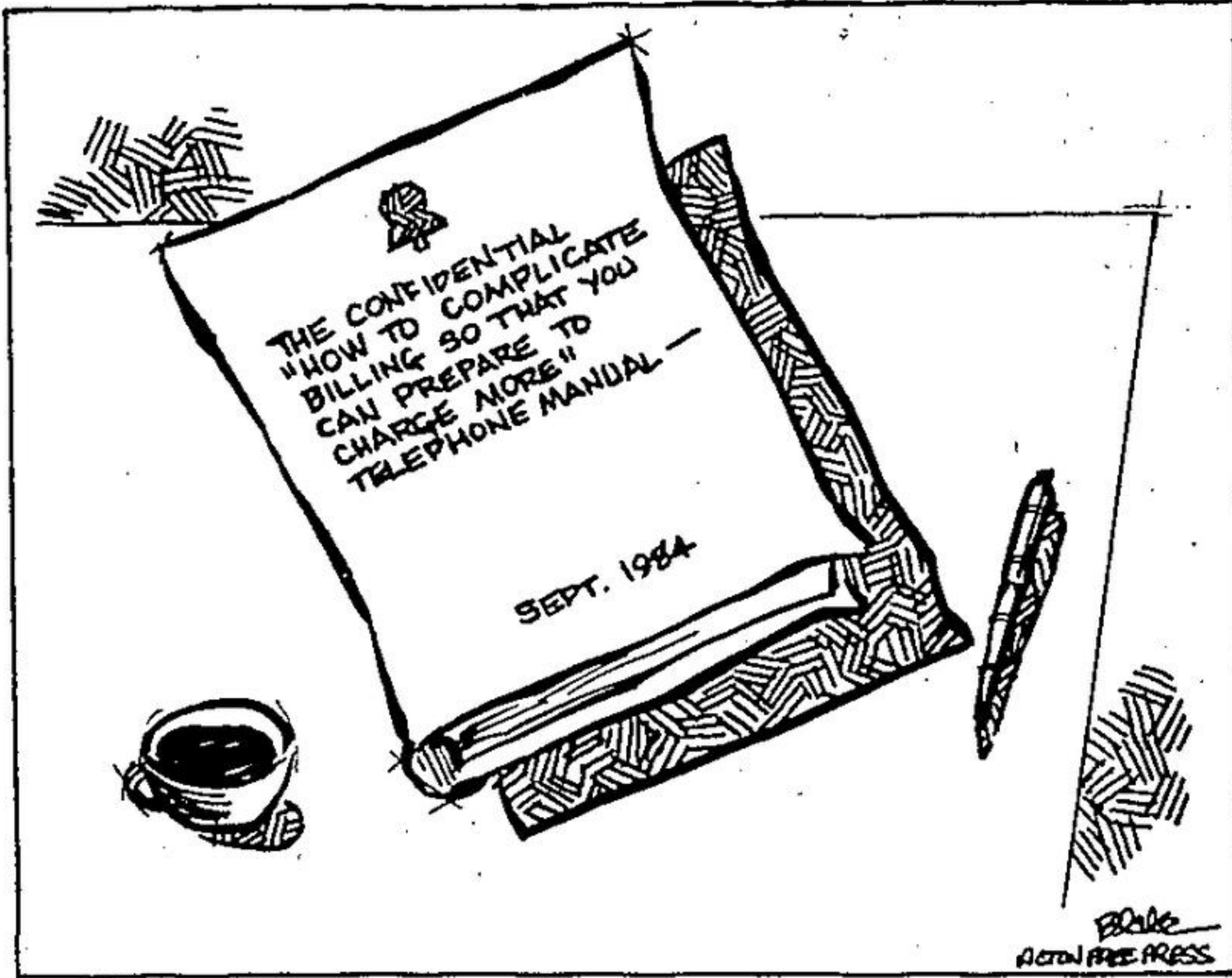
were "negative" according to the report. Too bad.

What would have happened to all these success stories of millionaires who started peddling their wares from a barrow, if they had been stopped at the beginning.

Almost all big textile owners are said to have started peddling from door to door, and who doesn't recall the scrap man calling from his wagon?

Even Benny Stone of Smith and Stone started by selling from a freight car of a train.

Perhaps it's time we took a common-sense look at the multiplicity of regulations, which are compounding over the years and hamstringing the very private enterprise, Chambers of Commerce and politicians have been holding up as models for other countries.—A.C.



Our readers write

Acton people friendly, helpful

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the people of Acton before the paper changes from its present personality.

In the 22 years of being in and around Acton we have never met such friendly and helpful people. From people we just knew casually, to our very dearest of friends and neighbors, we "Thank you all" for making our lives much more pleasant and meaningful.

We thank our doctors, firemen, police and, of course, the services

that went with them, for without them when we needed them, we would have been lost many times.

Our neighbors and friends, the "Aitken" family, had a lovely open house garden party for us before we left and also performed all sorts of little tasks for us to help us on our way. We can never thank them enough, especially Elva Pearen who we will miss very much.

Thank you to the Ladies' Fair Board and Greenock Women's

Institute, of which I was a member for many years, for their farewell gifts and thoughtfulness through the years.

We will miss you all and think of you during our retirement with the fondest of memories.

Farewell, good luck and God Bless you all.

With fondest memories,
Eleanor and James McCulloch,
Fanny Bay, P.O., Fanny Bay,
Vancouver Island, B.C.

Caring people

Dear Sir:

One of the first questions I was asked when I began the training course for the North Halton Distress Centre was "Why do you want to become a volunteer?"

I knew the reason was because I wanted to help others but that didn't mean I was without some doubt about my abilities. I questioned, like most new volunteers, whether I would know what to say to someone who was lonely, abused or at the point of despair.

My answer came the first time I picked up the phone. The caller, with gratitude in his voice stated that it must take a lot of training to do our job. "No", I replied, "It just takes people who care."

That is the key. We may not have all the answers but concern and understanding are what counts.

Have you considered joining our fall training session beginning October 23? Care enough to phone us at 877-1211 for an application form.

Don't let doubts stand in your way.

One who cares.

Clergy comment:

Peaches and men

By CAPTAIN WILSON PERRIN

September is the time of the ingathering of the fruits of the earth. Some call it the "Golden link between summer and winter". It has been also called "summer's last smile".

Whatever words we use to describe this time of the year one thing is for certain, God's Promise is once being carried out. In Genesis 8:22; says, "while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (kjv)

Many will be going out to the fruit orchards gathering up some fresh produce to preserve for the winter.—Let me share a story that comes to mind this time of year: "A farmer, who had turned his attention to the raising of fruit, said to a friend, as they sat at a table, 'I have cut down over 50 peach trees to-day.' 'Why is this?' 'Because the fruit was not good. The peaches were too small.'

Afterwards, walking through the orchard, the friend saw where the trees had stood, and also the spot where, after being cut down, they had been burned. This procedure brought to his mind at once the Saviour's parable of the fruitless fig-tree. (See St. Luke 13:6-9)

Oh! if God dealt with men as they deal with trees in the orchards what a fearful destruction of our race would take place.

God gives opportunity for everyone to show our love to Him and to bear fruit for Him.
God's Word reminds us 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' (kjv)

Coles' slaw

Take it from me — the Fair's better than ever

As an old Acton Fair goer and one who because of other employment has missed the annual spectacular intermittently I have to say it gets bigger and better every year, especially the Friday night performance.

My memory goes back to the nights when there was only a sand floor in the arena and the Friday night performance was primarily devoted to jumping horses. It was not so long ago. There was usually an entry or two from Acton or district among the classy steeds. He was usually the crowd favorite, even if the horse he rode had a touch or two of draft in its makeup and his attire lacked some of the sartorial splendor of his opponents.

There weren't so many amusements to dissuade people to stay away from the Fair in those days. The TV screen was still down the road so just about everyone and their uncle came to the arena show. In those days too, the Fair was primarily agricultural. There were more working farms in Acton and area with lots of dairy and beef herds and local farmers entered their prize Jerseys, Holsteins, Short-horns and Herefords as well as grade cattle and barnyard fowl for the verdicts of the judges.

But I have to say after seeing last Friday night's performance at the arena that the Fair sure

has become sophisticated. The talent which strutted up on the stage was about as good as you would find anywhere in a nightclub circuit and maybe even Las Vegas. The Miss Acton Fair contest ran smoothly and those who would rather spend time looking at the hundreds of exhibits or having fun on the midway had their choice. At the same time there was a horse pull underway on the old racetrack which brought some of the finest looking draft horses in Ontario to Acton for the competition.

I can remember when the track used to be used for harness racing at the Fair when it circled the park. Some of the race track buffs, lacking a parimutuel betting booth, passed money amongst themselves in lieu of a booth.

Gambling and betting was frowned on in those days. Even the thought of a tent where beer was served at Acton Fair would have brought down the wrath of the authorities and many of the leading citizens of town and country.

But in my eyes, and those of many other kids at the time, those who used to run the Fairs used to be pretty stuffy. For us the size and quality of the midway used to be the prime consideration for judging the Fair. Some years it looked as if the



by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

directors and officers didn't want to be bothered with a midway at all. All they'd have would be a merry-go-round and maybe a couple of small children's rides and some fish pond booths. Once you'd been on the rides you had to be happy with the other mundane pursuits. Kids being kids, there was lots of grumbling that always made the parents unhappy too.

What a change there has been in the last few years. This year, for instance, there was an excellent midway with rides for all ages and tastes.

Although there were fears when it was introduced that the beer tent would become a hangout for those considered to

be the riffraff it has become a regular feature with only spots of trouble at times. Those who get thirsty now for a brew can just duck into the tent instead of trotting downtown to slake their thirst.

I doubt very much if there is any more drinking now than there was when many people carried a "mickey" in their pocket and ducked behind the tents to take a nip, or give one to a buddy. Or went downtown to the old Dominion House or Station Hotel where the affairs of state were discussed at some length. Kids who were looking for an extra quarter from their fathers knew they'd be a soft touch after a brew or two.

There wasn't much money around in those days and what there was usually was already spoken for by the grocer, the butcher, the milkman and the baker. People had to count their pennies but they always seemed to be able to come up with the extra when Fair day came around.

There were those lucky kids who got a whole dollar to spend. They were the envy of the town. Most of us had to settle for a quarter and then have to resort to sponging more from parents who often didn't know where next month's rent was coming from. When I see the amount of

money kids today have to spend at Fairs and the other carnivals I turn green, not from envy but with wonder whether they'll be able to appreciate the true value of a buck when they get a few years behind them.

No, I wouldn't want to go back to those good old days some people refer to lovingly. There was too much real poverty around although it was tempered by the fact that nobody knew they were poor because nearly everyone else was in the same boat—sinking.

I'm glad the kids of today can have more money to spend at the Fair and other things, too. I just hope their parents and their grandparents don't spoil them and I include myself in that category.

We want to give our kids and our grandkids the best of everything but one thing my own childhood taught me and that is the most valuable thing you can give your progeny is love, the more of it the better. If you've got lots of that commodity then the amount of money that is available is only a temporary problem although it may seem terrible at the time.

So here's to the future of Acton-Fall Fair and the pleasure and competition it provides for the kids and adults of Acton and area and many visitors each year.

Back issues

10 years ago

September 18, 1974

The band played and 300 people watched with pride when Legion president Bob Angell and provincial president B. Jeffries cut the ribbon to officially open the new half a million dollar Legion building in Acton.

Legionnaires will be appearing next Monday at Halton Hills committee meeting to present their plan of subdivision for the Legion property.

The familiar red light at the Mill-Main corner that signalled the police will soon be disconnected. Halton regional police commission voted to install a telephone line that will link the Acton OPP office with the OPP office in Milton.

20 years ago

September 17, 1964

Acton public school board at their regular meeting last Thursday agreed in principle to permit the location of the new Centennial Library on the Robert Little School grounds.

Post office patrons in Acton will have an added convenience beginning Saturday, October 3. The wickets will be open to the public for the first time until 6 p.m.

Many called Sunday to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Orwell Johnston, RR1 on their 40th wedding anniversary. Tea was served to guests in the afternoon and evening.

50 years ago

September 13, 1934

Those who would be present at the opening ceremonies in connection with the Acton Fall Fair this year must come early as Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, will officially open the fair at one o'clock.

A special meeting of council was held last evening to discuss the construction of a swimming tank in the new Y.M.C.A. building.

W.J. Young, ninth line Erin, is suffering two fractured ribs and many painful bruises, the result of being tossed by a bull he was loading into a shed on his farm.

Practically all is ready for the twenty first annual Fall Fair at Acton next Tuesday and Wednesday. The directors and officers have worked diligently and believe they will offer to the public a fair for 1934 that will surpass any of their previous efforts.

75 years ago

September 16, 1909

Mr. James R. Anderson has purchased from Mr. Henry Arnold his coal and wood business and takes immediate possession.

Mr. James Quantie, Queen St. has been effecting many improvements to his residence during the summer. It has just been repainted and presents quite a handsome appearance.

Many of the wells in town and country have gone dry as a result of the continued drought.

Mr. and Mrs. James Smith of Toledo Ohio were guests of Mrs. C.S. Smith, Fairview Place during the week.

100 years ago

September 18, 1884

A very interesting thanksgiving service was held in the Methodist Church last Sunday evening. The church was unusually well filled.

Leap Year is fast slipping away girls! You will have to put in good solid work now or many of you will be left single another four years.

While boarding the train in motion at the GTR depot on Monday evening Mr. Charlie Moore of Limehouse, eldest son of Mr. John Moore, met with a severe and painful accident.

Acton needs 25 more dwelling houses forthwith. Capitalists to work.

Large numbers of our citizens have visited Toronto Exhibition last week.

