

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Await VIA with relish

As expected, Halton MP Otto Jelinek got a cabinet post in the new Mulroney federal government but it was in fitness and amateur sport, rather than the small business portfolio which he held in the "shadow cabinet." The sports portfolio was not unexpected since much of Mr. Jelinek's life has been centred on sport, particularly figure skating. He and sister Maria were world figure skating champions and he has been an excellent commentator on figure skating for the CTV network for years.

The fitness and amateur sport portfolio will give Mr. Jelinek a higher profile than small business concerns. That was evident the night after his appointment when he appeared with Al Eagleson at the Canada Cup final in Edmonton. The very next night he was again on the tube, meeting Pope John Paul in Ottawa.

We hope that Mr. Jelinek with his busy schedule and his profile has not forgotten the election promise he made to the people of Acton re VIA Rail service. He promised it would be restored here immediately after Canadians elected a Progressive Conservative government.

Mr. Jelinek made the announcement at the opening of the PC office in Acton



on Thursday, July 26, and reiterated it later at the Chamber of Commerce all candidates' meeting after meeting with Mr. Mulroney and Dan Manzankowski, who was transportation critic in the "shadow cabinet." It was the basis of his Acton campaign.

When other candidates fudged and hedged on the issue, Mr. Jelinek forthrightly proclaimed it was a foregone conclusion. That promise made many residents of Acton and area happy that we were going to get action on an issue which turned many away from the cavalier methods of the previous administration.

Now we await the results with much anticipation.

PM material

The other area Member of Parliament returned with a whopping majority was Perrin Beatty. His excellent work when he went to bat for taxpayers with Revenue Canada meant he got the Revenue Canada portfolio as well as responsibility for the post office, a multi-million dollar headache.

Mr. Beatty has been touted as prime ministerial material ever since he was elected to the Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe seat in 1972 as age 22. In 1979 under the Joe Clark administration he also held a cabinet post, and it made him the youngest MP ever to hold a cabinet seat.

However, the shortlived Clark government gave him little room to manoeuvre. It wasn't until he was given the task of heading the task force on Revenue Canada that his abilities came to the fore. He assisted several area people who were having problems with the autocratic Revenue Canada officials as well as coming up with a list of 76 points to remedy the problems.

Mr. Beatty's first priority in his new post, he told reporter Mark Holmes of our staff, is to study the situation Canada Post. Let's hope he can produce as helpful a solution as he has done with Revenue Canada.

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 Week-end Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, 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.



Our readers write

Police attitude is irritating

Dear Sir,
I have never found myself complaining of local services in the past, nor do I expect to make a habit of it. On September 20 at 5:05 a.m. a local officer ticketed several vehicles along my street for parking on a sidewalk. I do not dispute that a local bylaw was broken as I have paid the fine. What disturbs me is the attitude behind the ticketing.

All of the individuals who were ticketed own two vehicles and use one to commute to work, leaving very early in the mornings and returning well after school is finished. Neighborhood sidewalks are almost always clear during the times they are used. I've always felt that bylaws are created to allow enforcement when a situation warrants. Discretion and good judgement are needed as much as the bylaws to maintain an orderly and satisfied community. This situation seems like a senseless and excessive application of local laws.

At a time when the local police force is under close scrutiny in its relationship with local youths, I find myself becoming very unsympathetic to the irritating attitude reflected in this situation.

Steve Brunelle,
Acton.

Clergy comment:

God is there

by REV. ART TRIBE
St. Alban's Church

"The Reign of God may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field," Jesus says in Matthew 13. Later He explains to the disciples that, in the parable, the "man who sowed good seed" is the "Son of Man" (that is, Jesus Himself). The "field", He says, "is the world," and the "good seed," the "citizens of the Kingdom."

Who are the citizens of the Kingdom? A famous track star was asked what he considered to be the most important part of a race. "The start," he replied, "I must be ready." The citizen of the Kingdom knows how to get ready. The citizen of the Kingdom learns to start each day in the quietness of prayer: "Today is God's day. The Loving Presence of Jesus Christ surrounds, guides, protects and blesses me. God's Plan for peace and brotherhood is fully present in all I do this day."

The citizen of the Kingdom is like the lovable mystic, Brother Lawrence, who said, "The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees."

The citizen of the Kingdom is like Saint Teresa who had a wonderful vision of God's Presence when she said, "God walks among the pots and pans, Lord of all pots and pans and things, since I've no time to be a saint by doing lovely things, or watching late with Thee, or dreaming in the dawnlight, or storming heaven's gates, make me a saint by getting meals, and washing up the plates, warm all the kitchen with Thy love, and light it with Thy peace; forgive me all my worrying, and make my grumbling cease. Thou who did love to give men food, in room or by the sea, accept the service that I do... I do it unto Thee."

Wherever you are, whatever challenges you meet, whatever trials you undergo, whatever relationships you enter into, God is there. You are never separated from God. When we accept this truth we open our own life up to its full possibilities; we open the way to full expression of God's life in us; we open the door to the inexhaustible Source of abundant life.



Back issues

10 years ago

September 25, 1974

An all-time record attendance of 14,000 was rolled up on three days when Acton Fall Fair, co-inciding with the town's centennial, produced its biggest and best show ever. Karen Hillman was crowned Miss Acton Fair.

On Monday at 10:12 a.m. Georgetown and Acton firefighters raced to the Toronto International Dragway to combat a fire in the concession booth.

Despite persistent rumors, Halton regional police will not be taking over in Acton January 1. The talk has been going the rounds for three months or so, but Regional Chief Skerrett says "it isn't so. Just rumors."

20 years ago

September 24, 1964

Over 1,500 patrons who crowded into the arena Friday night sat tensely on their seats eagerly awaiting the announcement of the winner of the 1964 Miss Acton Fair Contest. Cheers broke the silence when Miss Nettie Tryssenaar, 17-year-old Township contestant, was named to wear the crown and robe as queen. Her runner-ups were Linda Ferguson, and Janice Tozer. Altogether 6,000 patrons attended the two day fair.

Mr. and Mrs. A.G. MacTavish, Winter Haven Florida, won a free subscription to the Acton Free Press when they were the fall fair visitors from the greatest distance.

50 years ago

September 29, 1914

Ideal weather and attractions at the Acton Fall Fair drew crowds that taxed its capacities. The area was jammed with record crowds on opening day and attendance on the second day stood between 5,000 and 6,000. The full program of events pleased all the visitors, many met old friends and a visitor from Scotland won a prize.

The equipment at the plant of Acton Creamery under Mr. M. Nixon has been modernized and improved.

Fire completely destroyed the comfortable home of Mrs. Scott McLean and her children, on the "Check Line" in Esqueving township and robbed them of all their household goods except a few kitchen utensils.

An explosion in a gasoline shed at the plant of Beardmore Leathers Limited on Saturday evening gave the fire brigade a run. The blaze was brought under control quickly and damage was confined to the small storehouse.

When a branch of an apple tree on which he was climbing broke, Bobby Pearen, son of Dr. and Mrs. P.W. Pearen, was thrown to the ground with such force that both his wrists were broken. The lad is recovering satisfactorily.

75 years ago

September 23, 1909

St. Joseph's rectory has been repapered and decorated throughout and is now very attractive and comfortable.

George Stovel, shoe merchant is having an addition of 12x16 building at the rear of his shop on Mill St.

Mr. James H. Reid who sustained so serious a fall in the silo at Mr. Robert Johnson's farm is gradually recovering.

Mr. John Cameron's pretty new bungalow on Main St. is being pushed toward completion. Its artistic design is much admired.

Messrs. Beardmore and Cox, recently purchased the Burns farm, adjoining their other property. This is the farm Mr. Arch. McPherson has had leased for so many years.

100 years ago

September 25, 1834

To judge from appearances, a number of young men and boys of our village have formed themselves into some kind of club and we regret to notice have selected a corner of Main and Mill streets as the place and Sunday afternoon as the time for holding their meetings. Under circumstances we cannot wish the club an increase of membership.

A telephone line is about to be erected between Guelph and Toronto taking in most of the business towns along the route and Acton is to be one of the favored places. Our businessmen will then be able to converse with their customers in Toronto as well as along the line.

The Canada Gloves works made a large shipment of gloves, mitts, etc. to Victoria, British Columbia this week.

Coles' Slaw

by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

Called the eloquent champion of the little guy in the courtroom and other public platforms, Arthur Maloney died last Thursday in the stone farmhouse near here he renovated as an oasis from the pressures of a thriving law practice in Toronto. It was during the time he served as Ontario's first Ombudsman between 1975-78 that he achieved more distinction.

He was considered one of Canada's greatest defenders during his 41 years as a criminal lawyer, the advocate who won lost causes. If a murder defendant was represented by Arthur Maloney his chances of evading the hangman's noose were considerably improved over being represented by other lawyers although ironically he lost his first murder case and his client was hanged. He defended more than 125 accused murderers in his career.

Mr. Maloney became a passionate mover behind the abolition of capital punishment and fought for 30 years for its removal. Capital punishment for convicted killers ended in 1976. Ironically again, there are many calls now for reinstatement of capital punishment following the slaying of police officers.

Arthur Maloney left a legacy for all of us

Premier William Davis, a staunch friend of Mr. Maloney's, has called for rethinking on the issue.

Mr. Maloney sought the quiet Nassagaweya farm and home more and more often after he suffered the first of two strokes in January of 1980 but continued his law practice, his duties on the Law Society of Upper Canada and numerous lecturing and speaking engagements until last March. He was only 64 when he died of cancer, with his wife and two children at the bedside.

The youngest of 10 children Arthur Maloney was born at Eganville in the Ottawa Valley. His father was a physician and the MP for Renfrew South for 12 years. His late brother James was an MPP representing the same area in the legislature, so politics must have been in the Maloney blood. He also served as Tory MP for a Toronto riding.

His ties with the Conservative party were lifelong and his passionate defence of John Diefenbaker when Dalton Camp was after his scalp will go down in history as one of the famous Canadian quotes. It stemmed from an incident where the Chief, as Dief was called, walked into a Tory assembly and met silence. When it was Mr. Maloney's turn at the mike he rebuked the



ARTHUR MALONEY

crowd, recalling Mr. Diefenbaker's courage before Mr. Krushchev at the United Nations and his framing of the Charter of Rights.

It was then he spoke those celebrated words: "As far as I am concerned, when John George Diefenbaker enters the room, Arthur Maloney stands up."

But it was his ability to listen to ordinary people and his solicitude for the poor and disadvantaged that made him popular with the public. As Ombudsman he was willing to go to bat for some unpopular causes and it caused some friction among some prominent Conservative politicians, when Mr. Maloney showed he was no lackey to political interests.

I recall a trip to the Legislature with then Free Press reporter Eric Elstone when the contentious 500 kV hydro line question was being debated. We were not happy with the information we received in the Legislature so on the chance Ombudsman Maloney might see us in his office at the corner of Queen and Bay Streets we trooped over. We were two country bumpkin reporters and when we told the receptionist and Mr. Maloney's fieldman, Ken Cavanagh, a former radio and TV personality what we wanted we were ushered right into Mr. Maloney's presence.

He listened to our complaints which followed a lunch with then energy minister Dennis Timbrell

and told us he would look into the matter. Later developments including a letter to Mr. Timbrell proved he was a man of his word. Mr. Maloney showed us around his office which it was rumored was just the beginning of a personal empire at public expense. Few knew he was making \$125,000 a year when he quit to take the ombudsman's office at \$63,000 per annum. The critics multiplied when his budget grew to \$4.2 million a year and included a staff of 200 people.

My fine impressions of Mr. Maloney were echoed by our receptionist here, Becky Newby, who remembers being hosted by the eminent lawyer at his stone farm home on the Guelph Line when she was taking law as one of her subjects in Grade 12 at Acton High School. She recalls how he was such a cordial host and the tour he gave of his 200 acre farm and home, which is a showplace of the district. She came away impressed.

It has been said that the further one goes into the governments and bureaucracies the more cordial and refined the brass is. That may not be true of all organizations but it was certainly correct in any organization Arthur Maloney headed. He never seemed too busy to listen to those with problems.