

The Acton Free Press

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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.

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Public considered?

We are becoming increasingly concerned by the action of government offices and utilities to close their doors earlier with the pretext it will speed up service or other such nonsense. Surely they realize many working people—and today it often means both parents in a household—work until 4 or 5 p.m. and the time after 5 p.m. is the only time they have to do business.

The latest office to announce hours will be changed "to speed up delivery of outgoing mail" is the Acton Post Office. The office will close at 5.15 instead of the present 5.45 so mail can be sent to the Georgetown distribution office that much earlier.

We know the problems the post office is having with the speed of the mail

(and it doesn't originate in Acton) but we also know that the office should be considering the public's convenience as well as their own. For instance, surely it would be possible to keep one staff member on duty to sell money orders and stamps until 5.45 p.m. perhaps starting half an hour later than the others.

It is presumptuous to suggest how the staff of the post office should be shuffled to be most efficient but the trend today, in many public institutions is to close early so the staff can enjoy longer evenings. We are all for it until it interferes with the right of the public to have reasonable hours they can do their business.

Oh sure, the public will adjust, but darn it all they shouldn't have to—it should be the other way around.

No conflict

Burlington Councillor Joan Little's call for Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy to resign his job because he secured the Progressive Conservative nomination for the next provincial election sounds like sour grapes.

Little is reported to have said that if he (Pomeroy) was a man of honor he would submit his resignation... if he won't she maintained "perhaps we should ask him." She says Pomeroy should follow the example of his leader, Bill Davis, who resigned because it would have been less than honorable to seek a mandate unless committed to serving a full term. Little maintains there is a conflict between being the Region's chief negotiator with the Province and being a "candidate in waiting" for the election.

Councillor Little may have had a point if she had asked why Pomeroy decided to run for the nomination when he had hardly stepped into the regional chairman's post. It does not

take a long memory to note he also resigned as mayor of Halton Hills after only a few months into his second term. Fortunately there is only a remote chance he would resign as an MPP, if he did win the next election.

But we have to agree with Pomeroy's assessment of the situation when he notes the next election could be called as late as 1986. "I'm no more a PC now than I was before the nomination," he declared, asserting he saw no conflict in holding the two posts. And neither do we.

Politics is often a game of opportunity and since Pomeroy has decided to make a career out of it, it would have been foolish to have waited for opportunity to knock again to gain the PC nomination. He struck when the opportunity presented itself—and won.

Now, of course, he still must stand in front of the voters and seek their support in the next election. Those who oppose this brand of opportunism will have the opportunity to show it in the next ballot.

Alas for poor Acton

Dear Editor:
With apology to Bill Shakespeare.
Alas, poor Acton
I knew it, Horatio
A town of infinite zest
Of most excellent variety
Providing entertainment a
thousand ways
and now a mere fiction remains.
My ire raises at the thought.
Here lived creatively
and individual freedom.

Where now is your jollity,
your songs, your times of
merriment
that gave many love and
amusement?
No one here will mock your grin.
Get you tons of makeup
Myriad of costume
None will breathe life where there
is none.
Even Alexander look'd this fashion
In the earth and smelt so.
Robert D. Rennie

Clergy comment

Choose life

Being the spouse of someone on the police force would be a difficult role these days. I know that if I were wearing such shoes, fearful thoughts would captivate my waking hours. The morning news reports of shootings and deaths would be hard to stomach if uniforms lined the household closets. It does not take much to imagine the anxiety level contained in the voices of spouses or in the officers themselves.

Yes, they have a right to be angry and afraid. I want to hear those feelings and respond sensitively to their pain. Yet, beside these emotions running at peak intensity, I hear also the word of the Lord which addresses every time and place and invites us to make decisions separate from popular opinion or personal preference:

"I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live." (Deut. 30:19)

When someone actively fires a weapon and the death of the recipient results, where was the choice to opt for life? But, lest we forget, in our response to the incident, therein lies the choice.

Rev. Jean Stairs, M.S.B., M. Div.
Minister, Acton Baptist Church



Report from Queen's Park

Legislature back in business

Many people had anticipated that we would be on the election campaign trail by now. However, as you all know, the Premier announced his intention of stepping down and the Ontario Legislature reconvened as scheduled on October 9.

During Question Period on the first day of the Fall Session, Liberal Leader David Peterson questioned the Provincial Treasurer about the financial policies of the Conservative government, particularly as they affected the jobs of Ontarians. He cited the very significant plant closures which have occurred in this province in the last couple of weeks. "Just to refresh his memory," he said. Alcan in Kingston, 485; Wabasso in Welland, 490; Black and Decker in Barrie, 550; and Burns in Kitchener, 600." Some 2,000 jobs have been lost according to announcements in the last two weeks, and as Mr. Peterson pointed out the Treasurer must be "aware that unemployment is up over a year ago."

In spite of his prophecies of an economic recovery, there is no solace for the unemployed in this province. In fact, the unemployment numbers are going up." He asked the Treasurer: "What answers does he have for the over 2,000 people who were laid off permanently...and where is the economic recovery for them?"

Rent control inquiry
Opposition Leaders at Queen's Park have demanded that the provincial government's rent control inquiry be abandoned, in view of the fact that both tenants and landlords are boycotting it. The government established the inquiry on November 16, 1982, and the first phase of its public hearings lasted 76 days. Last April a report on the inquiry was submitted by Stuart



by JULIAN REED
M.P.P. Halton-Burlington

Thom, who heads the commission. However, this has still not been released.

It has been revealed that the inquiry has spent \$300,000 of the \$1.6 billion which was budgeted by the government. Liberal Leader David Peterson maintained that the hearings have become "discredited by the major participants," and asked the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations "What purpose was being served in continuing?"

The Minister has indicated that he anticipates having the interim report of the commission by the end of this month. However, the Opposition has urged that the government take action immediately, without further hearings, and establish a central rent registry, as well as getting tougher with landlords who are charging illegal rents.

Under the current rent control legislation, landlords who want to increase rents more than 6 per cent in a year must show a need because of higher costs at an open Residential Tenancy Commission hearing.

Cancer in the Niagara area

Liberal MPP Vince Kerrio has issued a press statement expressing concern about indications of higher cancer rates in the Niagara Falls region, according to the

Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Health and Welfare Canada. "Special Report No. 5, Cancer Mortality in Niagara County, Ontario" indicates that liver and lung cancers were high compared with provincial rates, and stated that "the liver cancer excess is noteworthy since it has been associated with chemical exposures such as vinyl chloride monomer and arsenic" which are being dumped in significant amounts in Lake Ontario.

The report recommends that "due to the latent period of cancer and the continuing water problem (of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario), continued surveillance is required." Mr. Kerrio commented "I cannot rest easy when our Great Lakes are becoming more polluted with toxic chemicals that you can't see, taste or feel, that affect the people's years, even decades, after."

Education Funding

David Peterson told students at Carleton University that a Liberal Government in Ontario would give \$50 million to the province's universities and colleges immediately and make post-secondary education a priority. Financing cuts are slowly strangling Ontario's education system, he said, and proceeded to deliver a stinging attack on government policy. "They have decided post-secondary education isn't important at the present time," he said. More money could be allocated to colleges and universities, without increasing taxes. The \$50 million could come from reducing the amount of money spent on government advertising and the sale of some provincial landholdings, and could be forwarded immediately to facilitate repair of facilities and the purchase of equipment.

Junior Citizen nominations due

If you know of a "good kid" who deserves an award for community work, bravery or striving to overcome a physical limitation, nominate them for an Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year award before the end of October.

Bicentennial history books, airline trips across Canada, a reception with Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor, plaques and lapel pins are the prizes awaiting Ontario's 1984 Junior Citizens.

"We are seeking to honor Ontario's outstanding young people—not just the superheroes, but also the good all-round kids who are working today to become our leaders of tomorrow," said Dave Wenger of Mount Forest, chairman of the Junior Citizen program.

Nomination forms are available at this newspaper office and the deadline for nominations is October 31.

The Junior Citizen program, coordinated by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association, is sponsored by CP Air, Lieutenant-Governor John B. Aird is the program's patron and additional support is being received this year from the Bicentennial Program operated by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

In its first three years, the program received a total of 428 nominations and organizers are hoping for a new record in numbers nominated in 1984.

The 12 outstanding nominees and their families will be guests of Ontario Community Newspapers Association at its annual convention in Toronto next March, when Lieutenant-Governor Aird will make the presentations and host a special reception for the visitors in his Queen's Park suite. Each of the 12 nominees will receive a CP Air ticket to any Canadian destination, a family portrait with the Lieutenant-Governor, a plaque and lapel pin.

An additional 12 top-ranking nominees will receive an airline ticket and a certificate, to be

presented by their local newspaper publisher. All the young people nominated in 1984 will receive a Bicentennial book. Groups and individuals can be nominated if they have performed single or continuing acts of courage, shown ingenuity, resourcefulness, fortitude or selfless service.

Nominees may also be involved in worthwhile community service, have overcome disabling physical or psychological handicaps, or have performed acts of heroism—perhaps endangering their own lives.

Any nominee from previous years who continues in their noteworthy endeavors is eligible to be nominated again. A Junior Citizen can be aged 6 to 18 years and any citizen resident in Ontario can submit a nomination.



Good news

No gas rate hike

Here's good news. Union Gas Ltd. has advised the Ontario Energy Board that it will not seek a rate increase in 1985, but will cover higher operating costs through its own financial restraint and revenues from increased natural gas sales. It's the second consecutive year Union has decided not to raise rates.

Back issues

10 years ago

October 23, 1974

A fire this week ended a month long record of no alarms in Acton. Acton's new \$300,000 swimming pool ran into another snag when final inspections showed the present sewer system would be unable to handle the pool's backwash.

A special council meeting was held and a motion passed which will prevent new industry, of a noxious nature, coming into Acton.

A baby staying with her parents as guests, woke around four a.m. and gave warning that the house was on fire. The stone walls and roof were all that was left of the farmhouse owned by G. Franchiro on the sixth line near Limehouse. No one was hurt in the blaze.

There is no ice yet in the Acton arena.

20 years ago

October 15, 1964

Halton EMO co-ordinator Bruce McGregor is looking for five men from Acton to work as an Acton division of a Halton Auxiliary Police Force.

Halton County's population is now 13,368, according to figures released this week by Halton County Assessor Ford Rogers. This year's figure is an increase of 5,257 people or 4.7 per cent over the 1963 population. Acton's population is 4,295.

After an inquest into the death of Mrs. Harriet Walter of Toronto the jury asked for a speed reduction on Hwy. 25 south of Acton but turned down a proposal for mandatory breathalyzer tests in serious accidents. Mrs. Walters was killed in a two car collision just south of Spey-side.

Apparently the Mill and Main St. intersection doesn't need a traffic light, despite congestion, said a Department of Transportation letter to Acton council.

50 years ago

Oct. 18, 1934

On Saturday evening this week thieves broke into and ransacked the CNR station here. They secured seven cents from the stamp box for their trouble. An unsuccessful attempt had been made to open the safe.

The entire grounds of the Government building has been covered with a new cement surface with the exception of the block in the front corner where a pool of water generally remains after every rain.

Residents of Nassagaweya reported seeing two groups of deer quite frequently these days. It appears the animals may decide to stay in the area as they are becoming quite tame.

Thieves who perpetrated a \$14,000 tobacco robbery during the week travelled through the section of country about Acton abandoning the big carrier on the roadway near Fergus.

75 years ago

Oct. 14, 1909

Owing to a very simple, yet unavoidable accident at the power house Sunday all the area churches were without power after the opening of services.

Respecting Halton County Fair the Canadian Farmer says: "There was an absence of all fakirs. The only stands were for refreshments, candies, fruit and one or two baseball games."

On Tuesday afternoon an auto passing through town going east met Miss Janie Given of Erin at the corner of Young and Queen Streets. The auto driver, who didn't see Miss Given, quickly came along side the young woman's horse and startled the beast. Miss Given was thrown to the ground but luckily no bones were broken.

100 years ago

October 16, 1884

One day last week Mr. A.J. Mann threshed for Mr. John Lawson, lot 26, con. five Esquesing, 1400 bushels of wheat, oats and barley in ten hours with a steam thresher. This is considered an extra big day's work.

Mr. G. Wells has sold his residence and land adjoining on Mill Street to Mr. Robert Wallace and first purchased double brick tenement house on Main street known as the Kennedy property.

We believe Acton Cornet Band stock is just a little below par at present.

Mr. Jos. Fyfe is adding a good sized brick woodshed to his residence.

Grape vines may be pruned as soon as leaves fall.