

# The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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## Vimy triumph forgotten?

At 5.30 a.m. on Easter Monday almost 68 years ago, 97,000 young Canadians crouched in trenches at the foot of a long, gently sloping hill in the north of France.

The place was called Vimy Ridge.

Four divisions of the Canadian Corps would soon go into battle together for the first time. Three days later, they had won the first major victory for Canada's army in the First World War.

"Our men were splendid," wrote the Canadian Press correspondent in the Toronto Globe, under the massive headline, "Canadians Lead In Triumph."

It was only in subsequent editions, when long casualty lists started appearing in tiny type, that this country learned the cost: 3,598 dead and more than 7,000 wounded.

But what happened to the men who survived that war so long ago? Even 66 years after it ended, the Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs reports 25,000 of the 620,000 Canadians who enlisted are still alive.

Their average age is 88—one is 115—and most are in veterans' or seniors' homes. They are mostly forgotten now, save for those few weeks each November when The Royal Canadian Legion distributes millions of poppies, reminding Canadians of the sacrifices these old men made.

But the 12 million poppies that are worn every fall do more than remind. The money they raise—including \$7.5 million which has been distributed to benefit ex-service personnel and their dependents during the past three years—helps make life for the old veterans a little easier, because it allows the Legion to provide monetary support if they need it.

Most importantly, the poppies prove these men haven't been forgotten. Let's not forget.

## Well done, kids

Except for two or three isolated minor incidents, Hallowe'en damage in Acton and district was slight this year, so surely the young people of the community deserve credit for sticking to trick or treat instead of misbehaving. The temptation is there every year to kick over the traces but it was a fine Hallowe'en.

The local Detachment of Halton Regional Police said they kept the lid on in Acton but it goes further than that. Even window soaping, which is a prank rather than a misdemeanor, was rare. Downtown store windows have been the target of the soapers for decades. The day after Hallowe'en there was hardly any evidence of soaping.

Hallowe'en used to be a traumatic time for residents and merchants. Roving bands of youth would go on a nocturnal rampage under the cover of darkness. Patrols were instituted to restrict the mischief. Often they could only control the amount of damage and there was often some destruction of community property which was mean rather than mischievous.

So we'd like to congratulate the young people of Acton, who are often pilloried for their behaviour. They behaved on Hallowe'en and let the youngsters, who get such a bang out of dressing up and trick and treating, really enjoy the event.

## Clergy comment:

### Spiritual renewal

by Sharon L. Roberts

Last time we stressed the importance in demonstrating the way of Christ as the solution for "The Lost Youth" to overcome their desire to lead unproductive lives. But how do we do this, especially since Christ is no longer living on this earth?

Although Christ has gone to be with the Father, we can still get Christ into our lives. What better way to demonstrate the way of Christ than to be one in Christ! What is even more exciting is this concept is not so ridiculous. Through the repentance of sins and commitment to Christ we become new creatures and are referred "to be in Christ". (See 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 1:30 2:12 and 3:16)

Once we are renewed spiritually or "born again," the Bible teaches we are to seek the things of God and be rid of what belongs to our earthly nature such as greed and sexual immorality. While doing this we are to put on "the new man" for we are now a new creation with God's stamp. This means clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and above all love. (Colossians 3:5-14) In whatever we do, we are to be representatives of Christ.

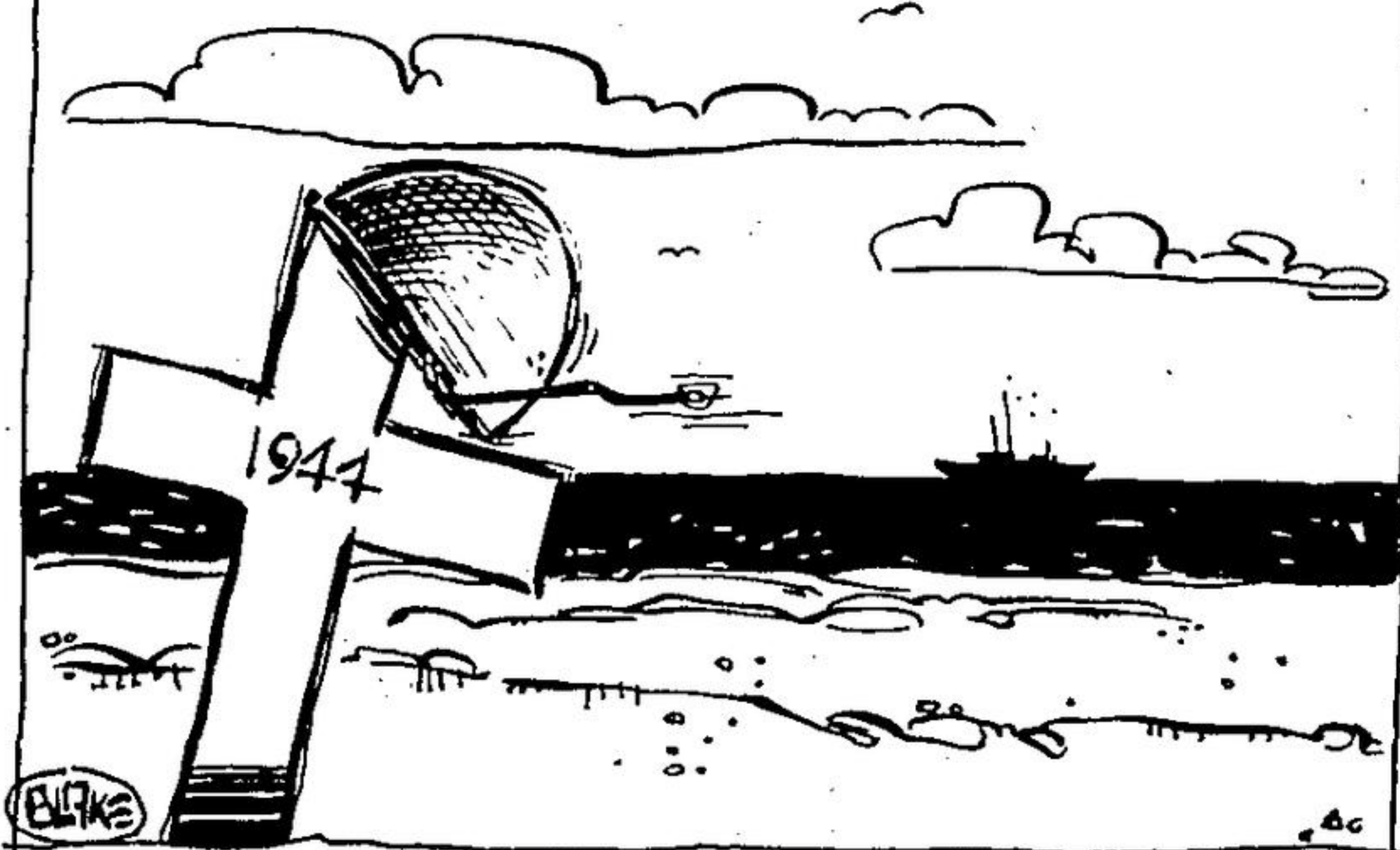
It sounds like a tough act to follow, doesn't it? It also may seem a bit confusing, for what does being a Christian have to do with any of it? After all, there are many philanthropists of this world who portray the characteristics of a good Christian and their efforts have met little success!

The Bible addresses this question in Colossians 2:20-23. Paul is wondering why the Christians in Colosse are still following the world's idea of being saved through obeying various rules and doing good works. The Living translation says, "These rules may seem good, for rules of this kind require strong devotion and are humiliating and hard on the body, but they have no effect when it comes to conquering a person's evil thoughts and desires. They only make him proud."

So what do we do? Simply this. While we focus our eyes on things above we ask Christ to help us live as we should." (Romans 13:14) Jesus said "For men can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven." (John 3:6 Living Translation). This is what the kids need!

Sharon Roberts is a member of Evangel Tabernacle and this article was written in conjunction with Rev. Paul Johnson, the pastor.

## LEST WE FORGET...



## Our readers write

### Mr. Haverty relying on myths

To the Editor:  
Last week a letter-to-the editor headlined "Teachers flirting with Marxism" and written by John Haverty attracted my attention. It provides a fortuitous opening for dispelling some myths.

The author assumes that the government of Nicaragua is Marxist. I would be interested in his definition of Marxism. For me it implies, among other things; public ownership of the means of production (including land), atheism, a one-party system and a disregard for the value of the individual vis-a-vis the state.

Notwithstanding American rhetoric (and Mr. Haverty has fallen into the trap of parroting it) an examination of the facts reveals the following; means of production is 60 per cent privately owned, there is complete religious freedom (more below), six political parties will participate in the Nov. 4 elections and the participation by individuals in political decision-making is uniquely high—much greater than in Canada.

Mr. Haverty reveals abysmal ignorance of Nicaraguan history by such rhetorical phrases as "democracy-seeking contras"—does he not know who the contras are? Does he not know that they are the defeated remnants of the old National Guard of the hated, corrupt and cruel regime of the Somoza dynasty (1933-1979)? Even president Roosevelt said of Somoza, "He is a son-of-a-bitch—but son-of-a-bitch."

It is, of course, right to assume that the contras will not receive any of the "Tools for Peace"—they are not even in Nicaragua and are receiving tens of millions of dollars

in military tools from the U.S.A. They are in Honduras (a few in Costa Rica) from where they launch armed incursions into Nicaragua—made possible by American expertise, money, equipment, logistical support and CIA intervention. The latter, including the mining of harbours is one of the poorest kept secrets of American gun-boat policy in Central America.

Mr. Haverty also uses the term "godless regime." Nicaraguans, in comparison with Canadians, are a very religious people. Last March I attended services in packed sanctuaries and the visible signs of Catholicism are everywhere. Several priests have important government posts. They are Ernesto Cardenal (minister of culture), Edgar Parrales (OAS ambassador), Fernando Cardenal (minister of education) and Miguel D'Escoto (foreign minister). In regard to the Pope's stance with respect to the revolution, 600,000 followers came to see him in Managua in 1983. The pope repeated Christ's mandate for the church to opt for the poor and the oppressed and then chided those priests who chose to obey him by supporting the masses in their liberation struggle.

But, yes, the church in Nicaragua is bitterly divided between the hierarchy (for which Archbishop Obando y Bravo is the spokesman) and the priests, religious and delegates of the Word who have identified with the masses rather than the elite who fear that the sharing of power will mean loss of privilege. Though some foreign priests deemed to be subversive have been repatriated,

none have been assassinated as they have been by the right-wing regimes in El Salvador and Guatemala.

As far as press censorship goes, La Prensa is still publishing though its publications have been restricted four or five times in five years. During Somoza's dictatorship, the same paper was completely closed down from 1974 to '77 and its editor (Pedro Chamorro) was assassinated on Jan. 10, 1978.

A large part of Mr. Haverty's letter dealt with to-day's horrible state of affairs in Ethiopia. I share his concern and a few years ago spent two years in East Africa in response to a need for teacher-trainers. But helping 40,000 families in Nicaragua who now have their own land for the first time but who need tools so they can feed themselves does not preclude the possibility of being good neighbors to Ethiopians. If Mr. Haverty is ready to organize local support for starving Africans he has my whole-hearted support and no questions asked about the colour of the politics involved.

As one of the 'local peace activists' (HAND) referred to, I cannot resist the temptation, in the context of people dying from starvation, to quote an undisputed statement.

"The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for EVERYONE in the world has been estimated at \$17 billion per year. It is a huge sum of money... about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks."

Respectfully  
Eldon Comfort  
R.R. 4 Acton

## Teaching not confined to 32 weeks at colleges

Dear Sir,

While Mr. Norm Williams certainly has the right, indeed the responsibility, to inform the public about the government's stand in the current community college faculty strike (Globe and Mail ad, Oct. 23), I suggest he also has the responsibility to do so accurately.

His contention that faculty teach but 32 weeks of the year is wrong. Many do teach classes in May and June. Some also teach weekends to accommodate the desires of the colleges to keep their numbers up by attracting students who work Monday to Friday.

As well, the strong inference in the ad that those who do not teach during those months do not work either is also very misleading.

Much of those two months is spent on professional development in seminars, panels and conferences designed to update teachers in techniques and issues in their field. This time is also spent actually working in the industry, again to keep current in the subjects we teach. As well, during those months, contacts within the industry are maintained and developed so we can offer better internships to our students in their final semester.

Were Mr. Williams in trouble with the law, I doubt he would hire

a lawyer who has not kept up with developments in the law or who does not take the time to prepare his case.

Were Mr. Williams ill, I doubt again he would consult with a doctor who has shunned refresher courses in medicine or who offers him a diagnosis without first conducting a thorough examination.

How, then, can Mr. Williams, in

good conscience, send the young people of this province into classes taught by teachers whom he believes need neither the time, resources nor opportunity to prepare good classes, evaluate themselves and their product and keep up to date in their field?

Yours truly,  
Tina Ivany,  
Teaching Master,  
Humber College.

## Nuclear threat

Dear Sir,

This letter touches upon the most fundamental issue of our time, human survival.

Today, the terrible threat of nuclear annihilation hangs like an ominous cloud over the heads of all human beings living on this earth. No danger of this magnitude has ever confronted human kind in all of recorded history.

The arms race has now reached terrifying proportions and the foolish game of One-Upmanship now being played by world leaders is dangerous in the extreme. For some quite unfathomable reason it seems to have escaped the attention of present world powers that nuclear weapons as a means of

defence or offence can never be used. To do so would spell the end of man's existence upon this planet and the continued presence of these deadly weapons poses a constant threat to man's survival.

We stand today at the very edge of this awful abyss. One moment of panic, one error in judgement, one act of carelessness, one accident, can unleash a nuclear nightmare upon this world.

How do we save this world? To whom do we turn? What must we do?

Time is running out!  
Yours sincerely,  
Hec. Rutherford,  
Hedley,  
British Columbia.

## Back issues

10 years ago

Nov. 6, 1974

Four people died in a three car collision Friday evening on Halton Rd. 1, just north of 25 Sideroad. It was two and one half hours after the rending collision that Roy's Auto Collision was able to attach chains to the crumpled cars and tow them away. Two Guelph residents and a Burlington couple died. A third car was involved but the passengers escaped uninjured.

A stupid prank is how Acton police described the phoning of a bomb threat to the Bank of Montreal last Friday.

Acton trustee Tom Watson insisted Halton Board of Education take whatever steps are needed to provide more crossing guards in Halton Hills, particularly in Acton.

20 years ago

Nov. 5, 1964

Blinded by dense, toxic smoke, fire victim Bert McMullen, 60-year-old war veteran, left finger marks on smoke covered walls in his efforts to reach safety when he was trapped in a burning house last Thursday.

Acton District High School girls may soon be wearing a uniform type of school garb. Parents relish the thought of outfitting a daughter at an approximate cost of \$30 per year.

Sparked by the Acton safety council under leadership of Constable Ron Rupert, town workmen are this week laying six foot sidewalks of fine white lime chips for public and high school students along Acton Blvd.

About 100 youngsters roamed the village of Limehouse on Hallowe'en. Some wore unusual disguises but everyone was pleased that they were well behaved.

50 years ago

Nov. 8, 1934

Mr. Charles Tyler, at Crewson's Corners, has a fine Plymouth Rock rooster that performs a task not unusual to the type. It has mothered four fine guinea hens and has made a good job of the task.

Official word was received this morning of the appointment by the Civil Service Commission of Mr. Wm. G. Middleton, of Acton, to the position of customs officer for the local post, succeeding Mr. R.M. MacDonald, who retired owing to ill health.

The social night of the Acton Branch of the Canadian Legion last night at the town hall drew a record crowd that taxed the capacity of the hall.

75 years ago

Nov. 4, 1909

The farmers have been busy hustling in the turnips and other root crops this week.

The programme of entertainment to be given in the town hall next Tuesday evening in aid of St. Alban's Church, promises to attract a full house. It includes an overture by the orchestra and a laughable farce in one act.

The burning out of a smoke stack at the Canada Glove Works on Monday evening about 8 o'clock caused quite a flurry among the employees who were working overtime for a few minutes. No damage was done.

100 years ago

Nov. 6, 1884

Coal is \$7.50 per ton in Acton. Messrs. Worden Bros., Acton, have opened a barber shop in Erin.

Mr. Maurice Moore, of Rockwood, while engaged in cutting wood with a circular saw, was unfortunate enough to get his hand and the saw in too close a proximity, resulting in the loss of the middle finger of the right hand.

Several fines have been imposed during the week for violation of the cow by law. Acton streets are not a cow pasture, as the Georgetown Herald would lead its readers to believe.



A simple poppy reminds us that we enjoy the longest peace in history. Someone paid the price, remember?