

OUR READERS WRITE:

Takes exception to illustration

294 Arthur St.,
ACTON, Ont.

The Editor,
Acton Free Press

Dear Sir:

As an avid reader of the Acton Free Press in general, and your editorial page in particular, I take mild exception to this week's Minor Hockey Week illustration that bore the caption, "Juvenile Hockey or Juvenile Delinquency". I appreciate the fact, of course, that this illustration is not unique with the Free Press, since it has appeared in other newspapers.

However, in my position as a mother of four grown-up sons, none of whom, in their early years, showed any great desire or talent where hockey is concerned, I would like to state here that "juvenile delinquency" is not the alternative to "juvenile hockey". And in my position as a teacher, I can readily verify this.

While I, in all sincerity, recognize and pay tribute to minor hockey volunteers in Acton and across the country for their part in building "better citizens", let me remind your readers that there are other individuals and groups who also work hard and long to keep boys "out of hot water" without putting them "on ice".

We cannot divide our boys and young men into two categories, hockey players and delinquents, as the illustration would have us believe. Wearing skates and stick-handling down the ice with one's team-mates in the arena does not decide whether or not a boy becomes delinquent, any more than does reading a book alone in the corner of the public library.

Let us not leave non-hockey players out of the picture altogether. But most of all, let us not put them on the right-hand side of it - as in your illustration.

Yours truly,
Mrs. J. T. (Nan) Hurst.

Sour grapes, says reader

81 Main St. N.
Georgetown, Ontario

The Editor
Acton Free Press

Dear Sir:

After reading the "Free Press" on

January 29, 1970, I would like to express to the "minority" who said "no" to the dragstrip in Esqueving Township - "Sour Grapes".

Respectfully,
Mrs. Mary Pearce

Drag strip changes dream home plans

January 27, 1970

Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.

My wife and I wish to make a few comments regarding this new "drag strip" that is under construction between the Fifth and Sixth Lines of Esqueving Twp., just north of Highway 7.

For some time we have been looking for just the right property to build our "dream home" and decided that the property on the Sixth Line in Esqueving Twp. was ideal. We made many trips to this area for this purpose as we wanted to make sure on the property we would eventually select. We noticed with particular interest the homes in these areas are a credit to Esqueving Twp. Making several trips in the spring, summer and fall of 1969 on how we wished to construct our new home, and noticing all the time, the beauty and pride that the landowners who live in Esqueving Twp. put forth into their homes and land.

On January 21, 1970, we were shocked to read in the Toronto Star, about this new "drag strip" that is under construction. Of course, being interested parties in purchasing property in that area, we wanted to find out more about this "drag strip" business. On January 21, 1970, Acton Free Press also had an article on this matter re "Golden Horseshoe Dragway" on the former Matthews property between the Fifth and Sixth Lines of Esqueving, just north of Highway 7.

Quoting from your paper, Mr. Bristow promoter of this drag strip said, "I think

there are some pretty ill-informed people in this township." "There will be no booze or anything like that allowed". Mr. Bristow assured council. Mr. Bristow told council he was sure he had complied with every regulation he was asked to. "When I was out here before you told me we wouldn't be held up too long", he reminded the reeve.

It appears this Mr. Bristow is very sure of himself to make such statements. As far as the "booze" matter is concerned, what we would like to know, will Mr. Bristow or his hired help search each and every individual for "booze"?

We think not. We quite agree with Ellis Taylor that this lovely area will become a sort of "Love Festival". Quoting Mr. Peter Bowman, "people have moved to the area for peace and quiet". "A drag strip would destroy that and cause pollution, traffic congestion and possible vandalism."

To the people of Esqueving township and surrounding areas, our deepest sympathy for the injustice that has befallen upon you.

For it is without a doubt this drag strip will promote much more than air pollution and traffic congestion.

My wife and I have decided we will purchase property in Toronto, as I would be very apprehensive in leaving my wife alone when I am away on business trips.

Yours very truly,
Win. Henderson,
2311 Lakeshore Blvd.,
Apt. 410,
Toronto, Ontario

Help Dr. Green-don't throw stones

107 Elizabeth Drive,
Acton, Ontario

Dear Mr. Editor, Council reaction to Dr. Green's statement that Acton children, 40 percent of them have rotten decayed teeth is comical. This statement was made by a professional dentist who should know what he is talking about, and I daresay he does, more than any councillor. Several comments which council members made, and which you quoted in your paper were entirely on more than any councillor. Several comments which council members made, and which you quoted in your paper were entirely uncalled for.

Councillor McKenzie's statement baffles me, "Poor public relations on his part (Dr. Green's I presume) to release something to the Hamilton Spectator." Could we not remind Councillor McKenzie that the truth should be publicized or is it the case of just tell the public what they want them to know?

Reeve F. Oakes' statement is also baffling. "I object to fireside chats by public servants," unquote. I fail to see what this statement contributed. Could it not be classified as to what he was referring to?

This was followed by our Mayor's statement, "I hate to see Acton described as the Dogpatch of Kentucky." Mr. Duby should be reminded that as mayor it's part of his job to make sure that Acton is not referred to in this way. It can only be improved with guidance and leadership, which is definitely lacking.

Mr. Marks made a wonderful contribution by calling Dr. Green a "Grandstander" which I feel is insulting and uncalled for. Dr. Green was perfectly correct in calling this area a poor socio-economic area; how could it be anything else, the way the town councils of

Acton have crumbled away during the last 10-15 years?

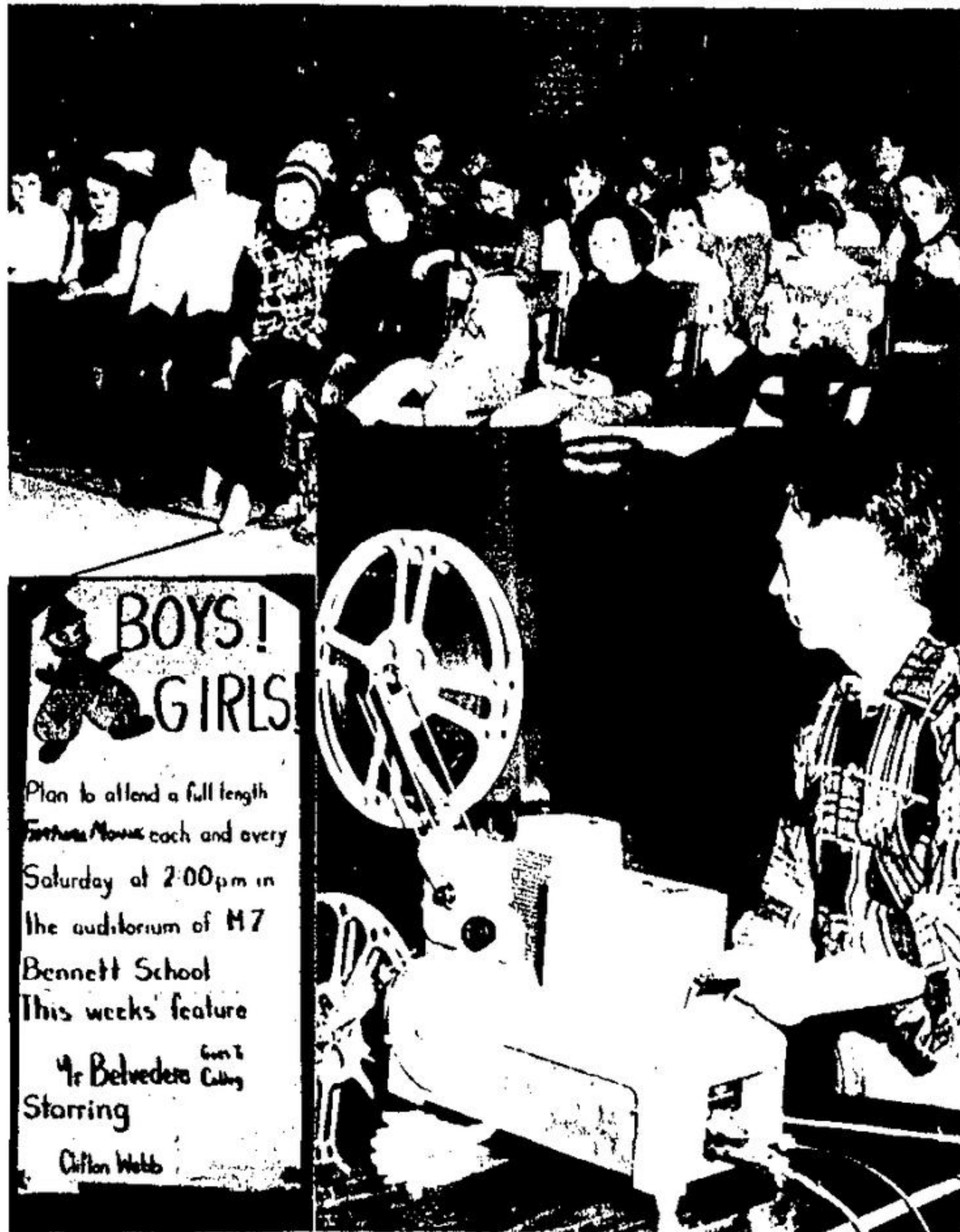
Perhaps, if council could devote time to get the machinery moving to clean the town up, especially the downtown area, including sidewalks which are a disgrace, spend some time discussing the drug problem with school kids at our schools, and if this is not enough send a few delegations to Toronto to get some action on the senior citizens' homes and other zoning by-law problems, which this town seems to abound in. Then council would be achieving something worthwhile.

I as a member of this community, accept Dr. Green's statement. However, your paper didn't help the situation too much as your headline states 40 percent of Acton children have decayed rotten teeth, whereas it was explained in your third paragraph that in Acton 35 per cent to 40 per cent of children examined had decayed and rotten teeth. This third paragraph makes a very large difference as the overall percentage of children, if every child was examined, would probably drop to around 15 percent to 20 percent at the most which is acceptable.

Dr. Green reported the situation as he saw it, which is his right and privilege to do; perhaps if we had a few "grandstanders" around town who were not afraid of making their opinions known to the public, we would have a thriving, clean, progressive community to be proud of instead of environment that is so evident.

In closing, most councillors agree that we have a dental problem here in Acton. Would it not be a step in the right direction to help Dr. Green and his group instead of being so petty in throwing stones at him?

Yours truly,
Iain A. Williams



ACTON LIONS CLUB movie matinees every Saturday at the M. Z. Bennett school draws enthusiastic audiences each week. The Lions are sponsoring the movies as part of their youth program. Admission of 50 cents goes back into the youth kitty. Projectionist is Lion Vic Bristow. (Staff Photo)

Shirley Jocque heads 4-H club

January 26 was the first meeting of the Acton 4-H Club. The project for this club is "Separates for Summer". One of the members suggested that the project be named the "Acton Separatists", but due to the political overtones they decided to use another name, "The Acton Sew 'n' Sews".

The officers for this club are as follows: president, Shirley Jocque, vice-president, Dorothy Newton, secretary Lynda Sayers, Treasurer, Shirley Sayers, press reporter Corie Maxwell, telephone committee Martha Long.

Other members are Mary Ann Freuler, Alice Leblanc, and Beth Thompson. Mrs. McNaughton is leader and Shirley Sayers is her assistant.

At this meeting they discussed the types of materials, colors and patterns for "Separates". They took notes on these things and talked about Achievement Day.

NOT FOR REGULAR USE - While it may be all right to take a laxative occasionally when required, remember that you should not use a laxative indefinitely without consulting a doctor. Chronic constipation may indicate a very serious disorder needing early medical attention, says the federal health department publication on drugs, "Handle With Care".

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Inviting Davis, McKeough discuss future of region

A suggestion from trustee Bob Edwards asking both Darcy McKeough, Minister of Municipal Affairs and William Davis Minister of Education to meet with member of the Halton County Board of Education was discouraged by the Board at their meeting Thursday.

Mr. Edwards reasoned that by having them together they would get one story rather than just part from one or the other. Past chairman Fred Armitage agreed both men should be invited, but not together. They'll be meeting with each other but they'll fight their battles in the cabinet" he noted.

discussion on the Ad Hoc Committee on Regional Government report. The committee headed by Bill Lawson of Esqueving is expected to present a brief on Regional Government at the next meeting Feb. 5.

Two pessimists met at a party. Instead of shaking hands, they shook heads.

ROBERT R. HAMILTON
OPTOMETRIST
116 Mountainview Road 5
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