

# OUR READERS WRITE:

## Restrictive by-law does favor wealthy

15 Sideroad Rd., RR.2 Rockwood

Dear Sir:

Again I find myself supporting the Acton Free Press against the Canadian Champion, this time on the issue of restrictive building by-laws.

A resident of Nassagaweya, I state uncatagorically that Nassagaweya's restrictive by-law is discriminatory. It does favour the wealthy.

By accident or design, our official plan shows those areas designated for the homes suitable for peasants are actually smaller than shown on our official plan. A person who builds a 2,000 sq. ft. home today will find as many have found out, such a house is far too big when the kids go off to college and Darby and Joan need a P.A. system to locate each other in the empty mansion.

In my opinion the writer of the editorial "Stop Rural Sprawl!" has succumbed to a disease prevalent on this continent, a disease that makes those so written think that if something is bigger it must be better. A house doesn't have to be big to be beautiful. Of course the big argument against smaller homes is taxes.

High taxation is not the fault of the people, it's the fault of the government and the tax

formula, if education costs etc., fall on the shoulders of the home owner. If these costs continue to rise people will move to apartments sooner than shoulder the tax burden and that will mean even fewer people to pay the piper.

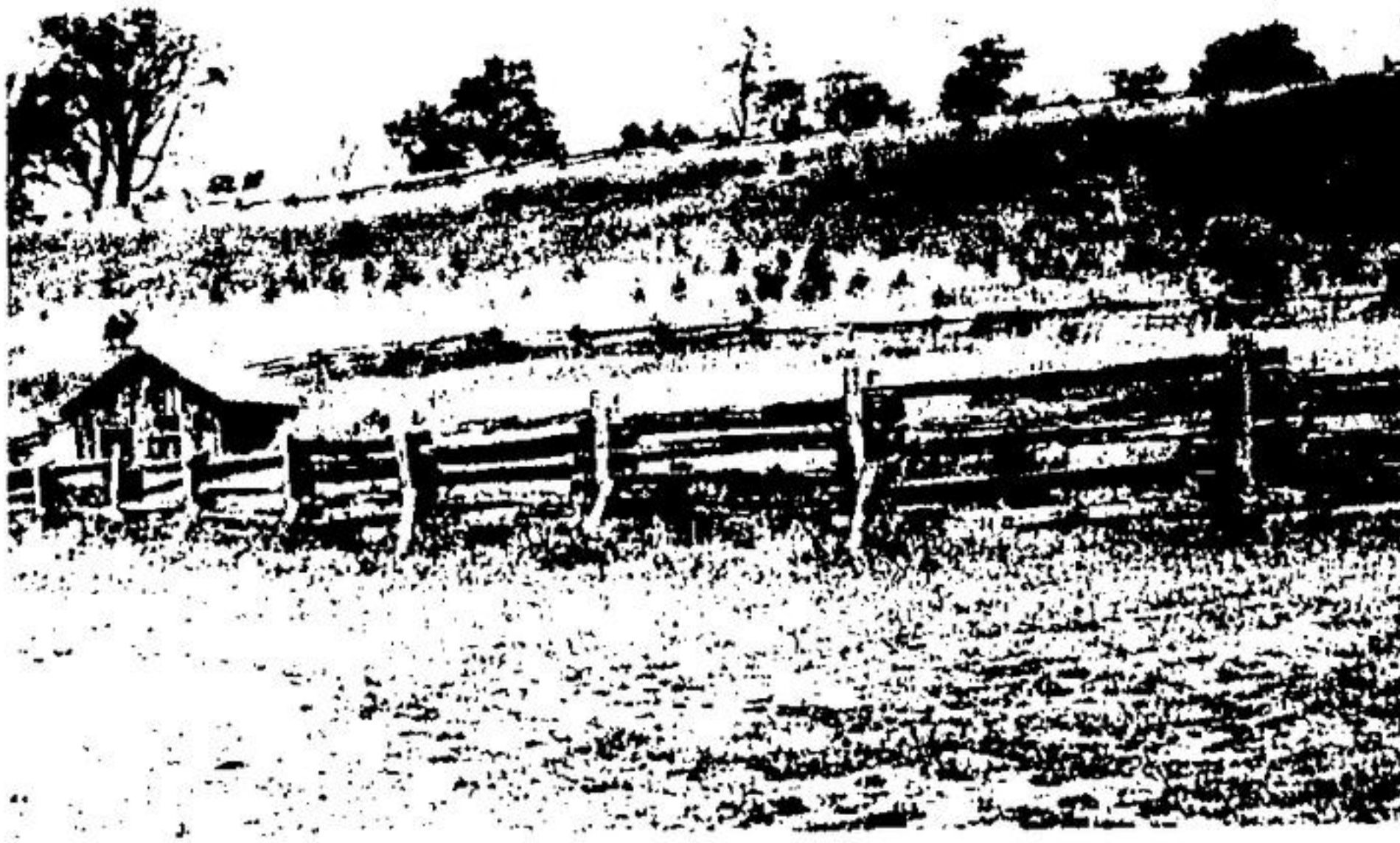
The Acton Free Press is correct in claiming the new standards will create a privileged class. It will be a privileged class who will need fire protection, school transportation, etc., that will be subsidised by the peasant in the village ghettos.

Another point worth noting is if taxes continue to rise, people who scrimp and save and stretch their budgets to build houses that conform with these by-laws will find their sacrifices have been in vain, for on retirement, although they find themselves mortgage free, they won't be able to afford the taxes.

The people of Esquesing do well to examine their proposed by-law word for word. In Nassagaweya we found the original draft of our zoning by-law allowed a veterinarian to practise but forbade a doctor.

We made a grave mistake in omitting from our by-law legislation curbing the activities and expansion of Quarrying.

William A. Johnsonson.



ALONG THIS RIDGE on Spirit Valley farm splendid Spanish-looking horses. Indians lived two residents of the valley are supposed to in the area at one time and an Indian burial have seen a tribe of Indians mounted on ground is nearby.—(Staff Photo)

## Mahoney family has anniversary

Several Milton and Acton residents were among 72 descendants of the late Richard and Blanche Mahoney who celebrated 50 years of summer cottaging at Ye-Noh-Am Cottage on Little Doe Lake near Katrine recently. A family picnic was

held at the cottage. Among the celebrants were seven surviving children of the Guelph family, 13 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren. They attended from Guelph, Eden Mills, Peterborough, Milton, London, Newmarket, Acton and

Toronto. It was in 1921 Mr. Mahoney and his children built the large cottage, using logs that were cut on the property.

Attending from this area were Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Hutchinson (Mary) of Milton, Mr. and Mrs. V. I. Nelmarkka (Joan) and three children of Peterborough, Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Pickett (Edith) of Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Vaughan (Blanche) and three children of Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pickett and daughter of Toronto, Dr. and Mrs. T. Brian Moore (Anne) and four children of Acton, Mr. and Mrs. Peter McDuffe (Mary) of Milton.

## B.C. woman wins contest

MacLean's Magazine editor Peter Newman picked Joan P. Stuchberry's article on "Our Hometown Paper" as the winning entry in the Canada-wide contest which several Free Press readers entered. The winning entry came from Granthams Landing, B.C. and was entered through The Peninsula Times, Sechelt, B.C.

Judge Newman said: "I have gone through the entries to the "Our Hometown Paper" contest and have picked the entry from The Peninsula Times as the winner. Believe me, it was not an easy choice and I was frankly amazed at the high quality of the contributions. It also gave me a chance to read some of the weekly newspapers being published in Canada and I am now convinced that much of the best writing being done in this country is appearing in this little known media."

to advertise and compete with all their services.

It must beat the drum for progress with anticipation of better things to come; praise the organizations, it helps them try a little harder, followed by constructive criticism to help them correct their faults.

An editor is an author who must write a best seller every week or go out of business: a kind of "Don Quixote" who must romp on his horse and ride off in all directions at once in order to meet his press deadline, a modern day martyr indeed, who is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

## Playground happenings

Frances Barends won the smartie guessing contest at Friday's summer playground '71 penny carnival.

Big event in this week's playground schedule is the pie eating contest, slated for Friday afternoon.

The annual windup parade takes place Thursday, August 26.

## Rockwood needs village constable

The Editor Acton Free Press,

Dear Sir:

Good-day Sir! I have an astounding proposition to make in your delightful paper, viz—"Rockwood needs a policeman!" Not one of those O.P.P. men who flit from place to place sometimes effectively, but an honest-to-goodness village constable.

Not that we are any worse than any other community, but we would feel safer with our gardens, our water, and products and installations in our homes, if we had a police officer.

I am not expecting this suggestion to be enacted, because we are already in debt for a most expensive school, two fire-halls, and what not. However, it might be wise to keep the idea in view.

Yours truly, Millicent Milroy, Rockwood.

## Council confident no plant upset

Following is the text of a letter replying to one from R. H. Drinkwater, published in the Free Press August 4, 1971:

Mr. R. H. Drinkwater, Acton, Ont.

Dear Bob:

In reply to your letter of August 2, the following information may be of interest to you. I fully realize you did not ask for a reply, but for assurance that remedial action would be taken.

I don't make a practice of replying to letters to the editor of the local press. However, since the problem you discussed affects a large area and population, I felt a direct reply was in order, so that you will be aware of discussions which are taking place, and conclusions reached.

We (members of council) are firmly convinced that there has been no upset in the operation of our new pollution control plant, which could cause it to omit odors beyond an acceptable level.

After discussing the problem with management of the Beardmore plant, I

would like to report the following: Beardmore Company are confident (in spite of the prevalent odours, which are admittedly unpleasant from time to time) that they are satisfying the requirements of the Department of Energy and Resources Management, and the Pollution Control Service, in their efforts to overcome their specific odor problem.

There has been no change, apparently, in the regular effluent control operation. This is still being continued. However, in the process of construction on the new and costly plant, which they hope will minimize—if not eliminate—the odor problem, periodic upsets occur in the process of drying up and filling in existing filter beds.

Construction is proceeding at a good rate, and all indications confirm that the new operation should be in process by October.

I trust, as an experienced councillor, you will accept this as an honest and reasonable reply to your query.

Yours truly, Leslie A. Duby Mayor.

## Writer doesn't like "Roses" article

R.R. 4 Acton, Aug. 12, 1971.

Acton Free Press, Editor,

Dear Sir:

The spread on your page 13 August 11, edition of the Acton Free Press titled "Everything's not coming up roses" surely wasn't researched by any resident on our stretch of Highway 25 south of Acton.

Some of the comments were amusing especially the old story of the lady changing her baby with such disastrous results.

But one comment pointing out "That at one time there was a strongly held belief that the smell in Acton was good for the health, people pointed with pride(?) to Beardmore employees who lived well beyond the normal life span." Man, they weren't living, they were just suffering a little longer and maybe the tanning process prolonged the agony.

Oh yeah, another quote "on another occasion—probably nine-tenths of the year—a traveller would have a problem discerning any more than the usual aromas associated with a bustling small community." Well sir, we have the smell from the first of May till late in October and that's more than one-tenth of a year.

Sure it's the "bad" days that people remember. We can put up with the bad days, it's the rotten nights we have to worry about.

Now, on to the remarks about the perfume dispensers—we had one last year, great ugly thing it was too! But not this year, no sir! Any one with a grain of intelligence could see through that psychological gimmick. Since when could a few ounces of perfume dissolved in 45 gallons of water even begin to combat the

stench of millions of cubic litres of polluted air?

You might as well throw a peanut to an elephant and expect him to live on it for a month. Anyway, I'm here to tell you that I was NOT one of the "people moved in amongst these odd-looking machines with a pleasant snuff smelling orange blossoms." That's a smear of what the town disposal system handles.

And how about that nonsense of the "advantages to the smell blah blah." "Weary fog-bound travellers need no neon signs to identify the precincts of the community." How about that! Oh boy, who wrote that article anyway. On our stretch of highway 25, the evaporation from the sodden fields where the sprays are continually working help to create fog; and it's a wonder the same weary travellers don't go off the road when they hit that smell.

And something else not mentioned in this "Roses" article. Not one word about the depreciation of property. NOT ONE WORD! I had two properties to sell, and as soon as prospective buyers heard "tannery" mentioned it was "Good-bye Willie!"

One final word, about that second last paragraph of that article about the farmer? Not all the manure is on the fields. That writer used up quite a heap himself.

Yours truly, Sheila O'Rourke

Editor's note—Enough said from all sides on this issue. The "Roses" article drew broadsides from both ends of the argument, proving we were really straddling a fence.

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