

OUR READERS WRITE: 200 pre-1890 buildings on file

There is an education in the system

Dear Sir:

April 20, 1972.

This letter is to the people who believe that all students are "useless young adolescents". Believe it or not, there are students who go to school to learn, not just to "serve their time" as some people believe. There is an education to be had in today's school system. The point is that the student himself must want to get it. No one likes to be force-fed anything, no matter if it is from receiving an education to being shipped off to the armed forces.

In answer to Mrs. Atkinson's letter, no, we are not in public school. There is no way that would enable just the teachers to move from class to class at the end of each period. Once a student gets into Grade 11 there aren't many with the same timetable. There cannot be a typewriter in each classroom, nor can there be a sink and a gas tap for

biology or basic chemistry.

There are students left in the high school who don't smoke pot or get drunk every weekend. Yes there are, for I am one of them.

If the student has enough guts and responsibility to learn the basics which continue until after Grade 11, there will be a practical and interesting education waiting for them in Grade 12 and 13.

If the student cannot pass Grade 11, then there is something definitely wrong. I was surprised myself at the quality of Grade 13, but now I am glad, for I enjoy school, not endure it.

If the parents who are reading this wonder what happened to their child, it might just be that they didn't have the encouragement or understanding from the people that counted the most, their parents.

—A Gr. 13 A.H.S. student.

About 200 buildings in Acton have just been added to the Canadian Inventory of historic buildings. This is part of a country-wide survey and it puts information on Acton's oldest structures in a computerized system at Ottawa.

Dave Sorenson and Gerry Gibbons, two graduate students, have been threading their way through town for the past few weeks amassing the data on their pre-designed sheets. They were listing here all the structures built before 1890.

Oldest building in town, as far as they could determine, isn't recognizable as such now. It's the well-kept white frame building at the south-east corner of Mill and Church Sts., part of the original Adams farm (Acton was once Adamsville). It is dated about 1835.

Mostly frame

Most of the old buildings here are frame, but the surveyors said they recorded several good old stone buildings, mentioning particularly Fryers' home on Main St. N.

Asked by the Free Press which buildings, from their experience, were worth preserving, they had to think over their lists for a few minutes.

Town requests O.H.C. study

Acton Council has decided to petition the Ontario Housing Corporation to initiate an early study on the needs of additional senior citizen units in town.

Councillor Peter Marks said last week he doesn't think there's anything premature about requesting the study. He pointed out it would still take time to have land re-zoned later.

Councillor Norm Elliott agreed.

"I think it's desirable for council to be on top of the senior citizen question at all times," he said.

Acton's first 12 senior citizen units were completed last fall on Cobblehill Road.

Crosswalks to be repainted

Street markings at Acton crosswalks are to be repainted as quickly as possible.

Police made the recommendation to Acton Council's public works and utilities committee, after Councillor Norm Elliott charged at a recent meeting that local crosswalks leave a lot to be desired in the way of safety.

Councillor Orval Chapman said last night (Tuesday) that although other changes were discussed, repainting of the markings was the only positive recommendation brought forward.

Decoration Day

A meeting of the Decoration Day committee is being held in the library tonight (Wednesday). Anyone interested is invited to join the group to plan this year's event, which will be on Sunday, June 6.

However they came up with three suggestions.

First, the old Grindell home, sheltered by trees on Main St. S. Originally a farm house, it has had alterations made to it over the years and is still close to its original state.

Second, the town hall. They determined it was structurally sound. "It could be a centre of things," suggested Dave Sorenson.

Third, the early town houses on Bower Ave., which were built by Acton Building Association about 1885 to remedy a housing shortage.

These semi-detached houses display some of the fancy brickwork that is a fascinating part of old buildings in this part of Ontario.

Also typical of this area are window panes arched at the tops, sometimes set into a door.

Change partner

Mr. Sorenson started with another partner, Lou Mulligan, a couple of weeks ago. However Mr. Mulligan left to continue post grad studies. He was replaced here by Gerry Gibbons, who had just been doing the same work in the Port-Hope Cobourg area. He naturally found all the buildings here "younger," and said his dating was thrown off a little at first.

The couple approached many home owners or tenants during their survey tour, and said they had excellent co-operation everywhere—almost. At just one home did they find a refusal to answer questions.

Mr. Sorenson has already surveyed Brampton, Streetsville and Georgetown, where he found consistently old buildings in all states of repair.

They moved on to Milton

Monday and expect to go to Glen Williams after that.

The young men are working under the National Historic Sites service of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The department hopes to cover the whole country

in 10 years. They came up from Toronto each day.

They were required to state if any buildings had historical significance but they didn't find anything for the history books in Acton. William Lyon MacKenzie didn't ever hide out here.

The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, April 26, 1972

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Teacher comments on letters

Dear Sir:

As a teacher and parent I would like to comment on the recent letters from Mr. Bray, Mrs. Atkinson and Mrs. Smits. I agree with Mr. Bray when he says a child should be able to show a sense of responsibility. This is especially essential at secondary level because if a child of that age cannot be responsible to himself he never will.

I agree with Mrs. Atkinson to the extent that I feel more trades should be taught to prepare students to do something useful in society.

I disagree wholeheartedly with Mrs. Smits because she is trying to blame the school for "disrespectful, ignorant educated clowns." I feel that a child's behaviour is a reflection of his home environment. If you have instilled respect and good manners in

your child from infancy the school is not going to affect him that much.

At my school we try hard to reteach and reinforce good manners and respect for others as this is important to our modern system. When a child is disrespectful the teachers are as disappointed as the parents.

As a closing thought the way in which Mrs. Smits describes the new trend of "learning by discovery" I don't feel that she understands it at all. A child remembers something he has discovered for himself much better than something he is told. He also experiences more satisfaction. I'm sure the child experiencing this new method of learning will be well equipped to work out problems for himself when he is older. So parents, please work along with the school not against it. Remember it's there to help your children.

Peg Graham

Some people just like to complain

Box 1163,
Acton, Ont.

Dear Sir:

After reading those letters of complaints in the paper, about the Legion minor hockey and Acton high school, it is fully apparent that some people just like to complain.

If the people are as concerned as they make out to be they wouldn't just be printing

it in the paper. They would offer their assistance or go and talk over their problems with the people concerned.

That's what's wrong with some people. When they have something on their mind, they're the first to say it, but when it comes down to doing something about it, they just haven't got enough ambition.

Ron Loutlet.

Student doesn't appreciate labels

Acton, Ontario,
April 24, 1972.

Dear Sir:

I was left speechless last week after reading the letter submitted by Mrs. R. Smits which was condemning the present school system.

I am no lover of the present school system but I feel it is gradually improving. I, as a student though, did not appreciate being labelled as a "disrespectful, ignorant, educated clown." It would take a disrespectful, ignorant, uneducated clown to make a statement of that type about an entire generation.

I couldn't agree with Mrs. Smits more that we are not prepared properly as future citizens. But how would you suggest we deal

with the "trying, confused society" of wars, vast supplies of nuclear weapons, and polluted environment which our older generation has dumped in our laps?

Don't try to tell me that the Armed Forces will bring us "useless young adolescents" to our senses. The young people of today are not satisfied to be seen but not heard. We see the world and society we are inheriting and we don't like it.

Am I, as an adolescent, disrespectful and ignorant if I protest against the war in Vietnam or support an anti-pollution movement?

If you think so, then nuts to you! This is a member of the "Sesame Street crew" signing off.

Sean Aherne.

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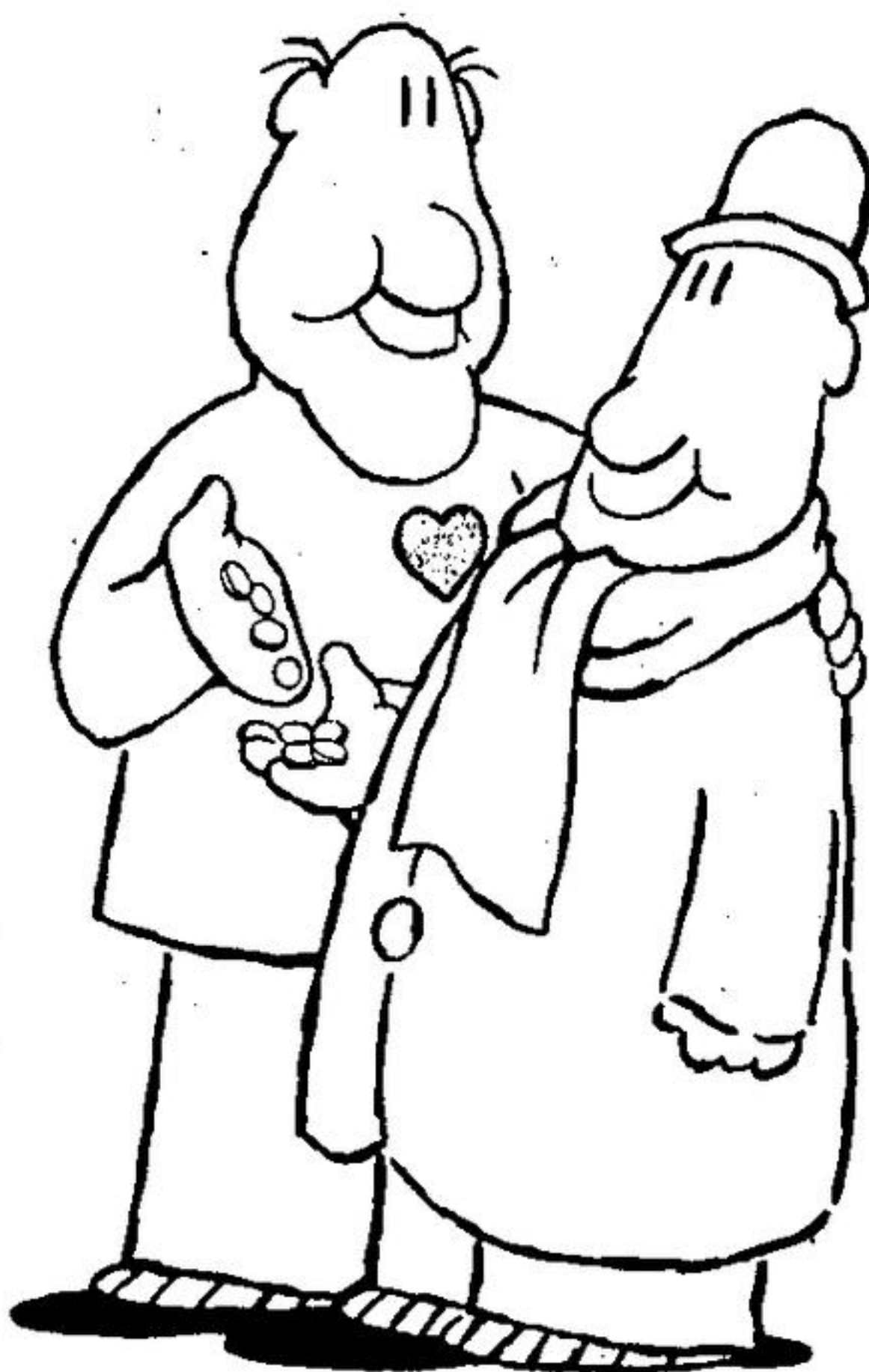
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