

Maybe time people take action . . .

Rural Route 4
Acton.
May 27, 1972.

To: The Editor, The Free Press

Okay—let's face it! We're in a mess. The letter in your last edition from Mr. Creighton, the reported comments from a clutch of local dignitaries, not to mention the continuing stream of complaints from readers of the Free Press, all clearly indicate the grip Beardmore has on the community. And it won't do.

Why?

First, in case anyone didn't notice, let's point up the fact that more than one person in Acton holding elected office is on the Beardmore payroll. That's significant. Their loyalties are, at best, divided. Maybe it isn't unfair to suggest that asking some of them to bite the hand that feeds them is akin to requiring Santa's elves to accuse their employer of being drunk and disorderly in charge of a sleigh. Or of asking the Seven Dwarfs to assault Snow White. In some quarters this double allegiance is called conflict of interest. The Mayor however, tactfully describes it as "lack of embarrassment."

Second, Mr. Creighton (the President of Beardmore, lest we forget) reassures us that until the "lagoon" system is cleaned up "we will be unable to achieve the full benefit" of the new flue gas treatment system. An elegant and oblique turn of phrase. However, it still invites two questions, neither of which, alas, I see any elected representative asking on your front page. Why weren't much earlier steps taken to clean up the "lagoons"? (And in that connection, the word conjures up visions of Treasure Island and Tahiti; the real epithet is of course, cess-pits, or effluent disposal ponds). And exactly what are the partial "benefits" we are enjoying? The implication in Mr. Creighton's statement is that somehow matters are improved. That's what a benefit implies. But matters aren't being ameliorated.

No, Mr. Coles, it just won't do. If the residents of Glenlea and other areas want action, it seems they're going to have to turn elsewhere than either Beardmore or council to get it. You see, the Mayor isn't at all embarrassed by complaints (although, as mayor he should be). He even goes further than that by warning us that "there will likely always be a swamp water smell."

Has he stopped to ask himself why there should be, or if Beardmore has any right in law to create anything of the kind? And the deputy-reeve is divinely sure that a misunderstanding has been cleared up. Perhaps he deliberately avoided saying that the air has been cleared. And Councillor Marks is even better off. He is "happy" with this

form of public relations! Sad to relate, everyone, except the hapless correspondents in your columns, is just too happy for words.

Well, maybe the time has finally come for people to take action. Perhaps we're beginning to realize that Beardmore is, in the last analysis, answerable to its shareholders. Not to the population of Acton. And that some of the council have more than a minor allegiance to Beardmore. Maybe we're commencing to recognize that the press release over Mr. Creighton's signature is like many such corporate blandishments. Perhaps we're starting to see that if Beardmore won't come clean, and if council won't squawk, we should do something.

There's an Air Management Branch. There are federal and provincial representatives. There's Pollution Probe. There are your fine columns. There are the major Toronto dailies. The television stations. Radio. And there are petitions to which an aroused body of public opinion may subscribe. Isn't it finally about time we really brought Beardmore to task? Or are we forgetting, under the miasma of effluent and euphemism, that Beardmore is as answerable to the law of the land as any private citizen?

And there's more. The Beardmore Bouquet is symptomatic of a wider smell. Remember, it isn't the tannery, it's the drag strip; if it's not the quarry and the gravel trucks, it's the Esqueting Township "sanitary land fill site." (The latter is perhaps best described as Voltaire once pegged the Holy Roman Empire—neither sanitary, land fill, nor a site.) Well we all know that every self-respecting township dump should have at least two fires a year just to let us know it's there. That every tractor-trailer jockey from Guelph to Scarborough should be at liberty to careen through our village school zones at 60 miles an hour on the wrong side of dangerous gravel roads. That every quarry operator should have carte blanche to rape the countryside with only the barest semblance of control. That every Toronto entrepreneur . . . Oh well, you know what I mean, Mr. Coles.

The fact is, we're in a right royal democratic mess. And it won't do. The Beardmore stink (not "aroma" as you delicately call it) is a symptom. Acton could be a beautiful and tranquil country town—the sort of community Wendy Thomson writes about with wit and eloquence. A good place to live. But it isn't. There's still an outside chance it may be. But first somebody—or a whole lot of somebodies—will have to get together and straighten out Mr. Creighton, and Mr. Duby, and Mr. McKenzie, and Mr. Marks, and . . .

Jim Henderson.



JIM MCNABB of Acton and **Julie Stevens** of Woodstock have maple trees bearing their name at Ottawa. They were two of 285 students taking part in the 22nd annual Adventure in Citizenship program in the capital. As a token of their participation, the students accompanied the Hon. Ron Barford, minister of State for Urban Affairs, in planting a maple tree bearing their names along parkways of the National Capital Region. The program is sponsored by Rotary and the National Capital Commission.

REACTION—Hydro chairman

Says empire building

Halton County's Technical Co-ordinating Committee recommendations concerning regional government for Halton were no sooner released than charges of empire were levelled.

Give bulk to region

(Continued from Page B1)

Recreation eventually TECO says recreation should eventually become a regional responsibility. Halton Region Conservation Authority should eventually be abolished the report says. Public cemeteries would best be dealt with locally according to the report.

Local municipalities should not be in competition with each other and business and industrial development should be a regional area of concern.

Social and family services should continue to be operated from a regional level. Transportation should be left local but reviewed within two years to see if it should be turned regional.

The scheme would see the region collect and levy most of the taxes and take care of capital financing. "The region should assume responsibility for all capital financing with the region and would assume responsibility for all debts as yet unpaid for those functions assigned to it." Dog licences, lottery and local business taxes would be the only taxes levelled at the local level under the proposals.

Receives medal

The annual St. John Ambulance Review was held at the Rebecca Street arena in Oakville on Thursday, May 25. The remaining seven members of the former Acton St. John Division who now belong to the Milton division attended and took part.

Mrs. Robert Hart received her 12 year service medal. Acton members attending were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hart, Mr. and Mrs. George Hargrave, Mrs. Joyce Carpenter, Mrs. Doris Cooke and Miss Bella-Mae Roszell.

Milton Hydro Commission Chairman Bill Rowney suggested it would appear the committee is empire building. He was commenting on the recommendation that hydro become a regional responsibility. A report established by various hydro commissions in Halton recommended strongly that hydro be left at the second tier of a two tier system and not become a regional responsibility.

In their report hydro commissioners argued costs would go up and efficiency down if hydro was dealt with on a regional basis. TECO disagreed with that recommendation.

County meeting TECO's report will go before Halton's municipal councillors at an all-councillor meeting in Milton Saturday and if eventually approved, on to the provincial government.

Rowney said it was obvious that if local commissions were abolished top level regional staff

people would have to be hired at an expense to the ratepayers.

"I can't understand why it has worked so well for so many years and now, all of a sudden, it isn't any good."

No answers

Rowney said the questions of good management had not been asked and no answers provided. He indicated a lot more study in the area of hydro should be undertaken. "They haven't said what they'll do, how they will do it, what saving will be realized or how that saving will be effected."

Rowney indicated the men who submitted the hydro report had over 80 years of collective experience on hydro commissions. Three of the senior members alone have over 40 years.

He suggested the hydro group with its experience would be in a better position to recommend the fate of hydro than TECO. "How can they be expected to know as much as the hydro group, they have never had the exposure."

ACTON COUNCIL BRIEFS

Acton council dealt with a variety of matters at its last regular meeting. Councillors learned of some decisions via the minutes of the committee meetings.

Council agreed to proclaim June 4 both Decoration Day and John McCrae Memorial Day. The actual date for John McCrae Memorial Day is June 11. Representation was made at a meeting of the administration committee when the Acton branch of the Legion requested the proclamation.

The council chamber chairs were arranged in triangular formation as council continues to debate which seating arrangement is best. Councillor Elliott is accumulating prices on new tables and chairs. \$1300 has been budgeted for more furniture. The matter was again discussed.

The purchase of 1800 feet of plastic pipe for installation at the cemetery was approved at a cost of approximately \$90.

The public works and utilities committee of council had made a tour of the town roads May 8 and some repair work was ordered.

A letter was received from the Department of Transportation and Communications informing council they are scheduling traffic counts at the highway connecting links to review the signal times and subsidy agreement.

The bridge leading to the library will be painted and maintained.

To remedy a drainage problem on the road at Building Products two fire hydrants will be relocated back of the property line. The department will pay half the cost.

A letter was received from R. V. Anderson Associates Ltd. requesting assistance in compiling supporting evidence in favor of a grade separation on No. 7 and No. 25 highways. Information on accidents will be sought from the police.

Question value of Addiction Research

May 19th, 1972,

Dear Sir:

So the Addiction Research is going to help us in Acton. That scares heck out of me!

We've had "help" before with a drug education program, supposedly for parents. Many were discouraged early because they could barely understand the language used. Toward the end it was more of a talk group for a few young people. These kids needed professional help but instead they talked and the adults seemed to think it was the "IN" thing to listen. Those that were left that is.

To me, it was almost a sick situation on both sides. We also had "help" this past summer and managed to make headlines on the Peel-Halton section of the Star discussing our high rate of delinquency!

I seriously question my tax money supporting some of the functions of A.D.R., particularly our youngsters being counselled by people with quicky courses in social work or by other mixed up youngsters hired by the Addiction Research. Their standard line is to help our youngsters understand what is wrong with their parents, Acton and society in general. We can live without such help.

In Guelph signs are posted saying "contact the local health unit for help with alcohol and drug problems." I checked on this and although the unit does receive advice from A.D.R. their addiction program is run by the health unit. They employ an especially trained public health nurse as community co-ordinator and a qualified social worker. Both are responsible to the medical officer of health of Wellington county.

I would feel safer if our own county health unit did the same thing.

If any of my youngsters ever need help with problems I hope they steer clear of personnel from the Addiction Research Foundation!

Sincerely,
"A Concerned Mother"

P.S.—Just found that the community co-ordinator in Guelph was an Acton resident. She went to the University of Toronto for post-graduate work sponsored by the Halton County Health Unit. When she finished university in 1965 the health budget wasn't allowing them to hire nurses even though they had sponsored some. She moved from Acton to take a position with Wellington county.

emissions from Beardmore's and we have still to face the really hot and humid summer months. Do you really believe that we won't have this problem next year? Come now, you must surely be aware of one of life's realities, one law for the rich and one for the poor.

Don't waste your time phoning Beardmore's. The number to call is Air Management Control, 1-416-822-2566. You'll be apt to get a better reaction from the people there.

I've listened to Beardmore's alibis for years; oh yes, they are very nice gentlemen and so sincere about their efforts to resolve the pollution problem.

Know what? My well water is rotten, too. Too much salt. (Beardmore's again, according to the O.W.R.). Anyway, we could make out with water from an unpolluted well, but it's surely hard to get a decent night's rest with that rotten odor.

And yes, if the water being sprayed out on the fields is so pure, how come the air stinks so much when the sprays are working?

Yours truly,
Shella O'Rourke.

Still have to face the hot summer . . .

R.R. 4, Acton
May 27, 1972.

Editor of the Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir:

M. Wilds' letter to the editor certainly was well expressed. We've been protesting for years without avail, evoking only a raised eyebrow or an amused, "Oh, are you still on that tannery kick?"

I just wonder how long we could get away with spraying our sewer's contents on our property before we would be ordered to "clean up or else". Yet, here's Beardmore's, allowed to extend the time ordered by the Ministry of Environment, apparently indefinitely.

Every day they polluted the countryside should carry a heavy fine, and I wonder then how long it would take to clean up their lagoons.

The company didn't install that fancy equipment because of their concern over the people of Acton and district but because they were ordered to do so. Maybe heavy fines would sharpen their endeavors to hurry up the process.

This has been a terrible month for odor

Air Flight Insurance
Accident & Baggage Insurance
Trip Cancellation Insurance

TYLER TRAVEL SERVICE
ACTON, ONTARIO

Acton 853-1553
Milton 878-3519
Toronto 364-1034
Agent for

Voyageur Travel Insurance Ltd.
Underwritten by Lloyd's of London

A-B SUPERMARKET

9 MILL ST. ACTON 853-0650

MEAT DEPARTMENT SPECIALS		
Grade "A" Fresh CHICKENS 45¢ lb.	Large Sizes 3 lb. & up CHICKEN -IN-A-BASKET 49¢ lb.	
Schneider's 1-lb pkg. RED HOTS 69¢ lb.	Schneider's BOLOGNA 1-lb. pkg. 69¢	
Town Club No. 1 SIDE BACON 79¢ lb.	Hershey's 2-lb. Tin INSTANT CHOCOLATE (Save 32c) 75¢	
Pantry Shelf—48 oz. Tins ORANGE JUICE 3 for \$1 (Save 29c)	Libby's—14-oz. Tins PINEAPPLE 4 for \$1 (Save 24c)	
Salada Pkg. of 60 O.P. TEA BAGS 69¢ (Save 26c)	Sunbrite 1-lb print Parchment Wrap MARGARINE 4 for \$1 (Save 18c)	
Pantry Shelf 28-oz. Tins (Save 22c) TOMATOES 3 for 89¢	Pantry Shelf—6 oz. Tins (Save 32c) TUNA 4 for \$1	
Heinz—14-oz. Tins (Save 45c) NOODLE NUMBERS 5 for \$1	Carnation 12-oz. Pkg. (Save 14c) INSTANT POTATOES 49¢	
FRESH PRODUCE DAILY		
U.S. No. 1 Large Head LETTUCE Size 24's 2 for 49¢	Canada No. 1 Produce of U.S.A. NEW CARROTS 3 lb. Bag 39¢	
Ont. Fancy C.A. 5 lb. Bag. McINTOSH APPLES 69¢	PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 31, JUNE 1-2-3	
Grade "A" LARGE EGGS 2 doz. 79¢	Jergens—Bath Size (Save \$1.55) LOTION MILD SOAP 10 for \$1	
Crown Brand 2-lb. Bottle (Save 10c) CORN SYRUP 39¢		