

# OUR READERS WRITE:

## Co-operation for centennial

Dear Sir:

With your co-operation, I would like to take this opportunity to communicate with all members of the Acton Centennial Commission.

Due to the great respect for the enthusiasm and dedication of the appointed members on the commission I was truly disappointed with their response (as outlined in the Acton Free Press, July 5) regarding the proposed project for Acton's Centennial celebration. The fact that Council's suggestion was presented to the tribunal and will not be considered is an area of concern, however, it now appears relatively minor.

In all sincerity I am requesting that the Centennial Commission implement a policy of appraising any and all suggestions from organizations and or persons with a more positive attitude and awareness that contributors are only trying to ensure a successful project for our community.

In responding to Council's suggestion by offering a sarcastic reference to Acton's traditional apathy at nomination meetings, to imply more interest in centennial; or that because a resident did not attend this meeting in March, that his only recourse now is to fall in line and keep quiet are examples of petty arguing and narrow minded immaturity, that I believe is not a true assessment of the abilities of members of this commission. Furthermore, the commission know that Council is definitely supporting its efforts. All informed members must be aware of drastic reductions in many budgets this year and yet they allocated in excess of 1/2 mill to establish working capital and all felt this to be a wise investment. In the Commission's reply they say that Council by their "suggestive" resolution has "done nothing but raise doubts of the credibility of the Commission and its efforts". If Council wanted to raise doubts they would not have approved the budget that gave priority over many other much-needed works in Acton.

Members offended to this extent by Council's suggestion, should question their own motives and reasons for such an irrational conclusion.

The fact that John Doe Marks or whoever was not in attendance in March for whatever reason, should not make him or her ineligible to express at this or any other time what he considers to be a constructive suggestion. (Although several errors were presented in their letter I will take the time to clarify only one - Regrettably Marks was involved in a meeting at his home during the March Centennial meeting and picked up his son after skating.)

My main reason for becoming involved in these centennial project discussions is that to date every tax payer in Acton has collectively contributed \$5,000 towards the cause and I expect requests for larger budget allocation in 1973 and 1974 may be anticipated. Regrettably there are not that many issues that must be decided by governing bodies that can go to the people for a direct opinion due to the complex nature of legal or engineering considerations, however, the personal performance of a recreation facility or whatever is relatively simple, once financial restrictions are considered. I strongly hope that the Centennial Commission will solicit more opinions before making a final decision.

I can appreciate the Commission's frustration in seeing only a handful of persons actively concerned with their efforts in March and it must be encouraging to see many more citizens participating now. Although many may not be enthusiastic about Birthday Parties, I think we all realize that this is an excellent opportunity to improve our town's services in some area.

In addition to a prerequisite of constructive dialogue between all concerned, nothing less than our total community's endorsement of the project and complete co-operation with our very able Centennial Commission, will ensure success.

P.E. Marks,  
Councillor,  
Town of Acton.

## Doesn't like O.M.B. ruling

"Spirit Valley Farm"  
Rockwood, Ont.,  
July 7, 1972.

The Editor,  
Acton Free Press,  
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

When the Ontario Municipal Board gave their ruling last month to approve the million-dollar water and sewage system in Eramosa Township they put their final stamp of authority on a scheme which, despite two years of discussion, still leaves some very vital questions totally unanswered, and ignores the reasoned objections of Rockwood ratepayers who must foot the bill.

As one of those Rockwood people who sought answers and raised objections from the outset, and became more directly involved as an Eramosa Township Councillor, I must accept the O.M.B. ruling but I do not like it. I believe that the Board's decision of June 19th ignores some fundamental objections and skirts around others.

Those who opposed this project and those who simply questioned certain aspects of the plan worked diligently and intelligently to get basic information from Ontario Water Resources Commission. Time and again they phrased pertinent queries in polite but clear terms. And time and again OWRC answered with polite evasions. The O.M.B. have, in fact, confirmed these polite evasions. This letter will change nothing, but as one who made a commitment to Rockwood residents and Eramosa Township ratepayers to voice their doubts and questions on the water-sewer scheme I feel bound to state my disappointment—and theirs. You may be stuck with the plan but you do not have to like it.

Our brief to the O.M.B. raised basic objections. The million-dollar system is predicated on urban-scale growth of this community—growth and change that neither residents want nor the Ontario Government's Toronto-Centred Regional Plan anticipates. The repayment plan is based on the premise that all home-owners will hook up and others will move in to fill the gaps. A survey has shown that many homeowners just cannot afford to hook into a system they will be obliged by law to at least partially finance. We questioned the basic premise that the system will solve the community's pollution problems. The plan, in fact, has been designed to serve some of the population but ignore others simply because their locations create engineering problems that OWRC cannot resolve. We questioned the morality of dumping our treated effluent back into the Eramosa River to the discomfort of downstream residents. But the plan will do just that. We

questioned the costly duplication of services and the equity of by-passing a regional conservation area at the sole expense of local residents. But O.M.B. has confirmed this plan without meeting these objections.

The O.M.B.'s decision last month, in fact, dealt only with one question—the matter of discharging the effluent downstream on Eden Mills—which had not been answered at their earlier hearing last January. Says O.M.B. "The proposal is a provincially-owned scheme and it would appear to be unrealistic to think that the operation of this plant would be carried out with only the interests of the Village of Rockwood in mind. The interests of Eden Mills and all others affected would be considered in setting both the ambient standards for the river and the effluent standard of the plant itself." I find this disarming philosophy wishful thinking at best; a sort of divine faith in the good intentions of public utilities to overcome engineering unpleasantness. But it does not answer Eden Mill's concern. Faith in the divine intentions of provincial authorities never eliminated a bad smell.

Dealing with the additional costs of by-passing the conservation lands, the O.M.B. decision states "It is dangerous to evaluate a project by attacking a number of specific rates for various items. An estimated cost can only be ascertained by preparing an estimate for the whole work. One item may be priced at a low rate but may be compensated by a correspondingly high rate for another unit of work. In any event if approval is granted, tenders will be called before the work commences. Should the tender prices indicate a cost substantially greater than \$1,391,000 it would not be within the ambit of approval given to the application."

With due respect, as a professional engaged in landscape architectural planning, I believe it is dangerous not to attack the various items that make up the total cost of a project. One item may not be priced low and another may not be high. And as one of those who will be paying for this scheme for years to come I find little comfort in the O.M.B.'s assurance that it is not approving a cost "substantially greater than \$1,391,000."

From where I sit, another half a million dollars would be "substantially greater." The O.M.B. may look down from an exalted governmental height and say "what's a million!" I wonder if the OWRC and the OMB are really talking the same language as the taxpayers whose monies they commit. There is an obscurity, a vagueness, a phrasing in the subjunctive tense, an indulgence in "ifs" and "maybes" and, overall, an aura of divinely good intentions, almost divine wisdom, which I cannot buy.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard Strong,  
Councillor,  
Township of Eramosa.

## Acton boxla grads strengthen Thistles

Dear Editor  
Acton Free Press  
July 5, 1972.

The Fergus Thistle lacrosse club would like to inform the people of Acton that they have supplied the Fergus Thistle's with two fine lacrosse players in Bob Turkosz and Paul Cooper.

Turkoz played the first three games of the year before being injured in a freak accident. He missed about five weeks of action before returning to the lineup again. In his first three outings he picked up seven goals and five assists for 12 points. In his return from injury he scored four goals against Aurora on June 29 and tallied four more in the upset game against Brampton. He also picked up two assists for a grand total of 22 points in five games.

The Thistles hoped at the start of season to have Bob come to Fergus to play and were delighted to have him make the decision he did.

Cooper, while not being a big scorer, plays a solid game on defence. Paul picked up his first goal on July 4 against Brampton and has six assists for a total of 7 points.

Manager T. Marten says Turkosz and Cooper have to be the most well-mannered pair of players he has ever had on his team. No matter what decisions are made they are willing to give 100 per cent of an effort.

The Thistles hope to have other players come up in the future from the Acton Ram's.

Yours truly,  
Fred Hillier  
Fergus Senior Lacrosse Club.

# Athlete of Year, Jim Day practices craft near Hornby

By Jennifer Barr and Wendy Thomson

At the age of 13, Jim Day, unhorse son of horse-loving parents decided he wanted to compete for Canada at the Olympics—and started riding.

Twelve years later, in May of this year, he was acclaimed Athlete of the Year by the Olympic Committee, along with show jumping team-mates, Jim Elder and Tom Gayford.

"My parents taught me, but I didn't really want to learn," Jim remembers ruefully. "I just had to figure it out for myself."

### High hopes

Now a boyish, reserved, twenty-five with a charming smile, Jim has high hopes for this year's Olympic Equestrian Team, trials for which start in late June.

"Steelmaster", "Scorpio", and Sundancer" will carry their master over the trial jumps but Jim has most of his hopes pinned on "Sundancer", a tall elegant chestnut gelding of seven, who moves like a gazelle.

Past winner of the Rothmans Grand Prix, a member of the Olympic show jumping team that won so dramatically in Mexico in 1968, and competitor several times in Europe, the championship rider has perfected a form over fences envied by all who see him.

Day gives exercise instructions to a rider on "Sundancer". He feels that, at seven, the horse is just coming into his prime and abhors the practice of jumping a horse before four. However, he does try the yearlings free jumping in the special jumping lane.

If they haven't got the necessary desire and ability, they go to the track.

"There's no sense waiting until they're four before you find out if they can jump," says Jim. "It's too late for the track then. But many a young horse has been ruined by carrying a rider over jumps too early."

### Post Script

Since this feature was first written, Jim Day has successfully competed at Montreal in the Rothmans Grand Prix and once again won with "Scorpio".

Throughout torrential rain, battling a greasy course and slippery saddles, Jim rode well, scoring only eight faults on three horses all afternoon, a fine performance by one of Canada's foremost riders.

Does he always use Thoroughbreds for jumping?

"I try to. If the horse has got papers and doesn't make it jumping, you've still got something to sell. If he's just a half-breed, you're stuck with a big nothing."

Jim prefers to use geldings but will ride a stallion if he's got the right attitude.

Why not mares? "Mares are too bitchy" he chuckles, with an apologetic grin.

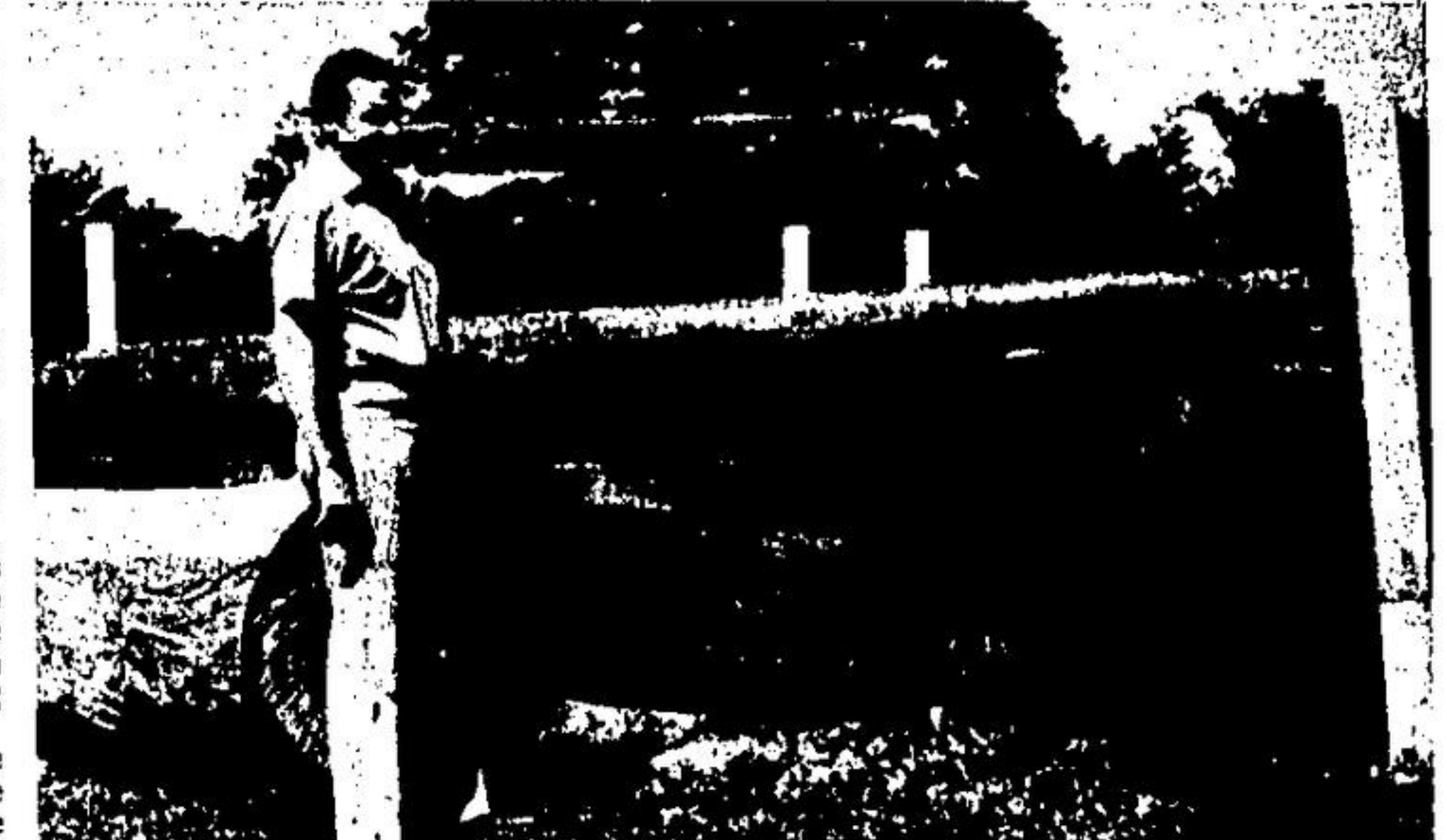
But where can a young rider like Jim Day, who has already reached the top go? Jim will always be part of the horse world. "Horses are my life," he states emphatically. Without doubt he will continue to be a valuable rider for Canada and an inspiration to up and coming equestrians.

Immediate plans include the Olympic Trials and the possibility of competing in Three Day Events for the team as well as jumping.

As for the future: "We shall just have to see," smiles Jim.



EQUESTRIAN JIM DAY fondles Sundancer, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Graham, an elegant chestnut gelding, on which he is pinning his Olympic hopes this year. Trainer Hugh Graham is astride Day's favorite, Hugh



ANTHONY PRATT, WHO came to Sam-Son Farms from Britain via the United States, raised steeplechase-type encumbrance. Mr. Pratt has a riding school at the farm.

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At the jumping paddock, Jim