

Who gets stuck with the bill?

In May of 1973 a Free Press editorial warned residents of Acton and Esquesing they could end up helping to pay the bill for a new \$1 million Georgetown recreation complex if the proper safeguards were not included in the bill implementing regional government.

Recent events indicate the forecast in the editorial is now coming to pass. Only the \$1 million recreation complex has escalated to \$2 million and a \$250,000 addition to the library in Georgetown has been added.

Councillor Les Duby of Ward One (Acton) this week voiced his fears about residents here having to pay for another quarter of a million dollar library facility when they have only three more years to pay on their own library.

He speaks fairly when he says they must be paid for by the

benefitting municipality as understood when promises from Queens Park were being laded out regarding regional government.

Unfortunately his voice may be one in the wilderness. There are other members of council who feel all capital expenditures should come out of a common pot—and they may be in the majority.

Although the town of Georgetown approved the two projects before January 1, 1974, the final approvals were left to the new council of Halton Hills. Some councillors are alarmed to think the \$2 million needed for the new arena-theatre proposed opposite the Georgetown plaza, could cost as high as \$5 million before the debenture payments are completed.

Obviously the taxpayers of Acton and Esquesing who had no

such ambitious projects on the drawing boards will suffer, although it certainly is true some parts of the former township would benefit from the new facilities.

But where do you draw the line? And who draws it?

That may be the argument which breaks the camel's back and adds more than a few mills to the tax bill of Acton residents who will never benefit from the new arena-hall or the library because the Acton facilities exist and are paid.

It is time we let our representatives know we support them in their determination to keep costs where they belong—in the benefitting wards of Halton Hills.

These projects should be financed as local improvements without involving those who will never benefit from them.

Free Press Editorial Page

B2 The Acton Free Press, Wed., Feb. 20, 1974

Is Canadian hockey outdated?

Two well-known hockey enthusiasts, Lloyd Percival, who publishes "Sports and Physical Fitness" and Howie Meeker, former NHL star, who now conducts a hockey school on television, have expressed fears that Canada's national game may soon be a sport in which Canadians can no longer excel.

Their remarks were occasioned by reactions of some professional coaches and managers to the suggestion that North American hockey trainers should pay more attention to the Russian-style game. A coach who recently took over an NHL team explained his philosophy by saying that what is needed is not "fancy European concepts" but a better job of "playing the game our way."

Meeker is of the opinion that coaches and players in minor hockey are well aware that new methods and techniques are required but the establishment is not coming up with the answers. "They're hungry for knowledge, but the vehicle through which such information is given to them just isn't good enough. Hockey Canada and the CAHA are trying—but

there's no way that weekend clinics once a year are going to get more than 10 percent of the message across. They're a waste of time."

The Canadian hockey proponents who would like to see considerable change in the way our teams play the game point out that the Russians are developing players who are actually standouts and insisting on tremendous physical condition, fast and agile skating, presumably because these abilities are more effective in winning games than are weight and the ability to hit the opposition hard and smash in a cannon-ball slap-shot.

Percival's publication also carried in its latest edition an in-depth commentary on the role of parents in the minor hockey field, which pointed out that some parents do more harm than good when they follow the oft-repeated admonition to "take-not send" their boys to the arena. The article mentions the interference with good training which is created by the irate mother or father who keeps insisting that their son has to be given maximum ice time regardless of the strategy worked out by the manager and its attendant need

for specific players at any given time.

Mention is made, too of the terrified kid who is actually afraid of his father's contempt should he fail to make a good showing on the ice.

No doubt the great majority of parents are intensely interested in the opportunity offered for their youngsters and their love is sufficiently forgiving to let the boy know that his best effort is all that mother or father expect, but anyone who has attended a minor hockey game has seen those occasional odd-ball parents who become screaming banshees, demanding blood from the opposition.

The one important purpose of minor hockey is to teach youngsters the merits of co-operation with their fellows, the value of discipline and obedience—in other words, those aspects of a fast and exhilarating game which will build character and courage. Winning at all costs is not—or should not be—the number one objective.

—Wingham Advance-Times

Mini-Comment

Acton is in the same situation, with our two public school bearing names of revered citizens. Let's hope we could name our next school ourselves. It doesn't take much thinking to produce suggestions already.

Wanting to make phone calls to Georgetown, we arranged to get another telephone book, which arrived this week. The book that includes numbers for the other part of our new town is called "Halton and Peel Regions" and includes, says the type on the cover, Brampton, Caledon, Halton Hills, Milton, Mississauga and Oakville. Halton Hills—good. So we look

up a Georgetown number. Inside the book there's no listing for Halton Hills. Not even a clue in between Grand Valley and Hillsburgh. The numbers are all listed in the old way, under Georgetown.

Okay. We move on to Milton, our next phone call. No Milton. But at least there's a clue. Just before Mississauga, the book tells us, Milton—see Campbellville-Milton. Sure enough, there are our Milton friends under the Cs!

Just as well we aren't in that Halton book. Even ostracized in the Waterloo book, at least Acton comes under the A's—and first in the book!

OUR READERS WRITE:

Dear Sir,

This is an open letter to Halton MPP Terry O'Connor regarding the National Heritage "rip-off". Come off it, Terry! Heritage is another ripe fruit picked off the political plum tree. Previous plums were picked by Fidinam and Moog, not to speak of windfalls that fell into the laps of Bales, McKeough, Yaremko, McNichol. The big "Blue Machine" has turned out to be a big "Green Machine" working at full capacity to further the finances of the party elite and the party bag-men. For lesser fry it grinds out jobs as Regional Chairmen, seats on the Niagara Escarpment Commission, in general, jobs for the boys.

Getting back to National Heritage, apart from the financial finagling of the company, I question the claim that no other company could build the fort. Had the job been subject to tender, other teams may have been assembled, for instance our Mennonite craftsmen may have shown interest.

As taxpayers we have the right to an honest job for an honest dollar with no strings attached.

William A. Johnson
R.R. 2, Rockwood.

Erin & Erin Twp.,
Concerned Citizens Assoc.

(There follows a copy of letters sent to Mr. W. G. Davis, Premier of Ontario (M.P.P. Peel-North), and John Root, M.P.P. (Wellington-Dufferin, and interested parties.)

Dear Sir:

As you are aware, there is a major confrontation between commercial gravel companies and the citizens of Erin Village, Erin and Caledon Townships.

As our Association feels you are abreast of this situation because these potential pits will have a great effect on your constituents in Caledon and Belfountain and points south, we request that you inform us as to your position on this controversy.

We realize you are not our elected representative but would hope you would back your electorate who have indicated to us, by means of their Rate Payers group, a very strong opposition to commercial gravel pits.

Yours truly,
W.D. Wright,
Chairman.

WINTER TIME WESTERN style looks warm and friendly in the abandoned movie-set town established on a district farm where shades of cowboy days are offset as tracks of modern automobile tires can be seen running through the village in-

stead of the typical horse shoes. Vandals have been a problem in the make-believe stores and owners of the property have had to board up some windows.

Bill SMILEY



I've just been reading a book about the Battle of Britain, written by Peter Townsend. He was a World War II fighter pilot and was in the battle himself.

He's also the chap the royal family wouldn't allow to marry the then Princess Margaret, because he'd been divorced. He was probably lucky. Later she married that pipsqueak photographer called Jones or Smith or something. He is now Lord Something-or-other. His wife is Princess Northing-or-other.

Anyway, it's an excellent book, for anyone interested in battles that have changed the course of history. Townsend has consulted a mass of material from both German and British records, and gives a balanced picture of the B. of B., looking at it from both sides of the English Channel.

By the way, is anyone interested in the battles that changed history, besides me and a few history buffs? There are quite a few of them, and one must wonder what would have happened to history if the battles had been lost, not won.

At least one of them has probably affected you, personally.

If the Persians hadn't been slowed down at Thermopylae and trounced at Marathon, they'd have wiped out the Greeks. Think what that would have done to the restaurant business in Canada. Not to mention Jackie Onassis' \$20,000 a week in spending money.

If Drake and his fleet had not beaten the Armada, half the people in Canada would be talking Spanish, eating garlic and going to bullfights.

How would you like to be out at a bullfight this afternoon (it's 15 below outside).

sitting in the shady side of the arena, and shouting "Ole", at a bullfighter and a bull frozen, literally, into the classic stance of the bull-ring?

And what about the battle of the Plains of Abraham? If the Lameys hadn't won that one, I'd be happily back in Ireland right now, cutting peat in a bog, instead of sitting here wondering how in the name of energy I'm going to meet my fuel bill.

Go farther back. If Joan d'Arc (later St. Joan), hadn't lifted the siege at Orleans, there'd be no French, no Separatist Party, no Canadian problem.

Another dandy was the Battle of Culloden, where Bonnie (retarded) Prince Charlie was beaten by the English. Instead of the Scottish invading England in kilts, they were forced to invade with their brains, and they took over the financial affairs of the British Empire. Which, as we all know, are somewhat less than remarkable.

Back home again, there's the Battle of Queenston Heights, which nobody knows much about except the residents of Queenston, and few of them. But this produced a great, pure, Canadian image, Laura Secord chocolates, without which Canada could probably not have maintained its integrity, nationality, and rotten teeth.

The Yanks have theirs. The Alamo, for example. One of the most stupid affairs in history. If anyone ever tells you that you are going to fight to the last man, throw away your gun and begin running in all directions, preferably at once.

There was, of course, the Charge of the Light Brigade, which didn't change the

course of anything. But it did serve as a lasting memorial to the utter stupidity of the British ruling classes. And from that war we did get the Cardigan sweater and the Raglan coat. Not to be sneezed at. Or on.

Perhaps you have sensed my purpose in this little essay. Or, perhaps, like me, you haven't.

Well, like, it's been a bad day, y'know, and y' take an' put your average Canadian up against something, and he'll come up with something, eh?

Oh, yeah, I remember, I was wondering what would have happened if we'd lost the Battle of Britain. It would have been a Jolly Good Show.

Hitler was prepared to make generous terms, and divide the known world with Britain. Pretty good deal, I'd say.

But the obstinate, stupid British decided to fight. And even worse, they won. The Luftwaffe did not destroy the R.A.F., which had the privilege of being attached to me (or was it the other way around?) during the war.

Result, Britain is sliding down the sluice into economic anonymity. Germany is master of Europe, financially.

It pays to lose wars. Germany and Japan, the big losers in W.W. II, are riding an incredible winning streak in peacetime.

Italy won a short war in Abyssinia, bombs against arrows, machine-guns against spears. She's in her usual mess.

France "won" two wars and is in chaos. Britain "won" two wars and couldn't borrow a quarter for a pint of bitter.

America "won" two wars and the dollar is about as healthy as a wet tissue.

Maybe we should have lost the Battle of Britain.

"You see things as they are; and you ask 'why?' But I dream things that never were; and I, ask 'why not?'" —George Bernard Shaw.

Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 18, 1954

What may have been a hold-up or intimidation attempt by two unidentified men was foiled Monday night by Mrs. Anna Coulson, owner of a general store in Eden Hills, and her son-in-law Jack Chamberlain. After the two intruders were frightened away empty-handed by the screams of Mrs. Coulson and the quick action of her son-in-law, police were notified.

At a meeting of the local Retail Merchants' Association Monday night the question of changed hours of business was aired by 24 of the association's 35 members. According to president C. W. Bradley, "There's a lot of divided opinion on the subject." Some prefer Saturday night closing and others favor Monday closing, while the third group like the present hours.

Questions and answers regarding drainage problems in Warren Grove were given further attention by members of Acton Council and a four-man delegation for the subdivision Monday night when it was re-emphasized that the projected sewage system there is "strictly a sanitary sewer" and that cellar drainage cannot be guaranteed for all homeowners who dig basements. Forming the delegation were R. Braida, W. Duval, D. Dills and L. Masters.

Saturday Bill McCanish made his last run on the railway. He is a native of Limehouse who spent his boyhood and early years in Acton and district. Mrs. James Wilds of Acton is a sister and greeted him when the train pulled in to Acton, with her son D. F. Wilds. He has had 47 years in railroading. Joanne Julian and Norman Turner were married in Thistleton United Church. Mrs. Ralph McKeown, Edith Turner, Ralph McKeown, Ian Bahisali and Dr. J. R. Julian were in the wedding party.

Shella Paul placed second in the Kiwanis festival in Toronto.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 21, 1924.

The success of the fancy dress carnival and moccasin dance at the skating rink on Saturday evening must have been gratifying to the management as it was enjoyable to the large concourse of character delineators, skaters and spectators. After the judging there was a jolly skating party. Best costumed boy, Martin Beardmore, Gordon Cooper; girl, Ivy Little, Phyllis Cook; comic, H. Hall, George Mason; couple, Eva Johnson, Dr. Johnson; Miss Hunter, Geo. Bishop; lady, Laura Scott, Jessie Anderson; gentleman, Ed Gamble, Geo. Lantz; costumed dancers, Olla Armstrong, Fred Somerville; Stella McLam, Geo. Bishop; race winners, Bert Smethurst, Arthur Henderson, Addie Hurst, Lucy Goldham, John McGregor, Alf Beshop, Jean Kennedy, Viola Rumley; obstacle race, J. McGregor, A. Cook.

One day last week while descending the stairway at the high school Eugene MacPherson, son of Chief MacPherson, fell and twisted his ankle. He is a prisoner in the house.

The women are as usual setting the pace for the men in the matter of getting ready for the expected referendum on the Temperance Act. A very interesting and well-attended meeting was held in Knox Church for the purpose of re-organizing the Women's Christian Temperance Union. A large number enrolled and officers are president Mrs. (Rev.) W. H. Howard; treasurer Mrs. H. P. Moore. Another meeting was held at Moorecroft. Aggressive efforts will be made to have the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of the community organized for the campaign.

"Scars of Jealousy" at the Wonderland tonight under the auspices of the Women's Institute. Melodrama of the South. Romance, love, thrilling and educating.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 16, 1899.

The cold snap of the past two weeks was the coldest weather ever experienced in these parts. On Saturday the thermometer dropped to 32 degrees below zero. Cellars that the frost was never known to enter before has frozen vegetables etc. during the past week.

The wiring for electric light is proceeding rapidly. The sole leather tannery was completed Tuesday. The light was turned on at the Methodist church Thursday evening and is now being utilized every evening for the special services. The contrast between this and the former coal oil lighting is great and an excellent test of the improvement is the fact that a hymnbook with the finest print may be read any place in the church with ease.

Rev. Thomas Wilson of London delivered an illustrated lecture on "Cannibalism in the South Seas" in Rockwood Presbyterian church Tuesday evening. The lecture was interesting as well as instructive.

A couple of young fellows who went to Georgetown one night last week lost their horse at Silver Creek and came home without him. He was found comfortably housed by a humane farmer at Ballinafad.

The librarian's report showed 138 members. New books will be purchased to the value of \$150.

The Halton Rifles will have new equipment, a russet-colored valise to replace the old knapsacks and belts of the same color. The 20th Lorne Rifles is one of the rural corps to which the new equipment will be issued.

Mrs. Crawford, wife of the pastor of the Disciples' church, has been very ill. Much sympathy is felt for them, strangers in a strange land, having but recently arrived from Ohio.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS
PHONE 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 19 Willow St. Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the CNRA and the CMAA. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$6.00 in Canada, \$8.00 in all countries other than Canada. Single copies 15 cents. Second class mail registration No. 6515. Advertising accepted on the condition that in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with indicative allowance for signature, will not be charged for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is strictly an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.
David R. Dills, Publisher
Hester Coles, Editor
Don Ryder, Advertising Manager
Copyright 1974