

Challenges citizens to gripe

It seems there are a lot of people griping about Regional Government. At least they haven't taken that away from us—the freedom to gripe. The word dictatorship keeps coming to my mind these days. I know we are very fortunate to live in Canada and you can't beat Acton for a small friendly town. It's the greatest as far as I am concerned.

But what are "they" doing to "our" Town? Every week there is a new way to stab us in the back. Last week's Free Press mentioned the suggestion that we limit mourners at the graveside. Now really! It was had enough that cemetery prices went up simply to conform with Georgetown. Just wait till our next tax bill comes out in May.

Some people say you can't fight City Hall. Hamilton tried and failed so what can we do? This is a defeatist attitude. At least we can have the satisfaction of putting up a fight.

I challenge every irate citizen to write a letter to "Honourable" George Kerr and tell him exactly how you feel about Regional Government. This would at least let him know how many votes he will not get in the next election. I agree that we may not be able to fight Regional Government but we can have it without Georgetown. There is no way any high-minded politician could persuade me otherwise.

Please join me in writing to:
Hon. G.A. Kerr, Q.C.,
Solicitor General,
4th Floor,
Hearst Block,
900 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ontario,
M7A 1Y6

Yours truly,
Marjorie Loutlet.

Butter prices not world's cheapest

The Toronto Globe & Mail on Saturday, March 30, reported Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan as saying—"price increases for dairy products will not unduly hurt food shoppers. Consumers won't be affected very much." After announcing that butter prices will rise to 83¢ a pound... Domestic dairy product prices were the cheapest in the world.

Whether the price of 83¢ lb. is a proper one is for the consumer to decide, but I am

Re: Regional Government Halton County

Dear Sir: This may be one of many letters you will receive if everybody would express their feelings on the so-called Town of Halton Hills. If ever there was a divided "town" this is it. How any of your learned colleagues could visualize a "Town" comprising two self-sufficient established towns is beyond most people's imagination.

You are familiar with this area or should be. Surely you were consulted by Mr. McKeough when Acton was "set-up" and I remind you, you are representing Acton as well as Georgetown.

Georgetown, being the larger, has naturally more representatives and, therefore, are ruling the show. For instance, the town office is in Georgetown—the clerk, treasurer and general supt. were appointed from the Georgetown staff, also the recreational director. You are probably familiar with the fire chief episode—Georgetown's chief lost out on a vote so they made two chiefs. Economically speaking, does that make sense?

Acton has their own Community Centre quite sufficient for Acton's needs. Why should we help pay for a million dollar complex in Georgetown—Acton built their own library a few years ago—why should we pay for one in Georgetown—Acton was operating their cemetery at much lower rates than in Georgetown but our rates for burial plots have been raised to conform with Georgetown's (who incidentally operated at a deficit last year). Our dog tax has been raised to conform—our "ice-time" rates for the arena are going to be raised to conform. Clubs in Acton (Figure Skating club for example) will not receive a grant in future. There are just so many ways in

concerned with the truthfulness of the last sentence "domestic dairy product prices were the cheapest in the world." This is a statement that the Minister cannot prove.

When in New Zealand in October, my wife and I enjoyed fresh dairy butter (not cold storage) at 33¢ lb. and no one could imagine the New Zealand government would subsidize their farmers by 50¢ lb. to make this possible. The Minister is incorrect in his statements.

Yours truly,
G.A. Harrap

Principal explains request

I wish to correct the report in the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, March 20, 1974 of the visit of J. W. Singleton, Director, The Halton Board of Education to Robert Little Public School, on March 12, 1974.

In the report it is stated, "The press was allowed to take pictures but asked to leave for the discussion at Mr. Singleton's request." This implies that Mr. Singleton asked the press to leave and this he did not do. It was I who invited the Free Press to the school to give Mr. Singleton's visit press coverage. This I did without prior consultation with Mr. Singleton. On his arrival at the school and on being informed of the presence of the press, Mr. Singleton simply expressed the opinion that the presence of press reporters might inhibit an open, frank exchange of viewpoints between the teachers and himself and, as this was to be the format of his visit, the effectiveness of the program would be lowered. I had not foreseen this but on reflecting on this view, I

concluded with it. Having reached this conclusion, I explained the reason to the reporters for not having them attend the discussion and stated that I would provide the press with a resume of the meeting. I suggested that if they wished to do so, they might take any photographs they wanted prior to the commencement of the discussion session. This was, in fact, what was done.

In conclusion, it was I who invited the Free Press to send a reporter to the school and it was I who asked the reporter to leave. I trust this will clarify the matter and place the responsibility where it rightfully belongs on me and not Mr. Singleton.

Thank you for publishing this clarification and for your interest in providing press coverage of activities here at Robert Little School.

Yours sincerely,
Hazen Allen,
Principal.

Denies "bully" tactics in schools

The Editor, Dear Sir:

I am concerned with the letter of March 23 from Rev. K. Campbell in which he refers to bully tactics in the schools. "Bully tactics are all too prevalent in response to any parent who does dare to disagree with the system."

There are channels which are normally used and being responsible for the day to day operation of the schools, I would hope that no parent would hesitate to discuss problems with his child's teacher, with the principal, with the assistant superintendent responsible for the school or with a trustee. Thousands of parents have followed this route with good effect. Teachers hope to earn the confidence of parents and they value satisfied customers. A number of parents with memories of their own school days may well be somewhat reluctant to approach educators. They need never hold back.

Mr. Campbell accuses the Director, Mr. Singleton, of "bullying him" in a meeting in the Board Office. I was present at that meeting and did not detect any bullying. In retrospect, it seems fortunate that there were others present with independent judgment.

At one point in the discussion, the views of the Rev. Bruce McLeod, Moderator of the United Church, as expressed in the press, were mentioned. Mr. Campbell countered that these particular views of the Moderator were "totally irresponsible". Evidently Mr. Campbell has a special meaning for some of his words. I can only conclude that with Mr. Campbell there is no room for honest disagreement or difference of opinion.

John K. Graham,
Superintendent of Academic Operations.

OUR READERS WRITE:

which we will be paying more and receiving less.

We do not have a local telephone number for the Town office. If we want to call, we go through the switchboard in Georgetown. Yet this is costing \$700.00 a month and they say the system is obsolete already and are considering a much more elaborate and expensive one.

May I ask why the area representatives' proposals for Regional Government were ignored insofar as this area was concerned, while Milton got their every wish?

I could conceivably favour Regional Government if we did not have two towns so far apart—both in mileage and in ideas. Georgetown is "big Town" and expensive—Acton is "small Town" and conservative (not a capital "C" these days, I assure you).

Why not a Region with Acton, part of

Esqueing that borders on Acton, and part of Nassagaweyn (that part Milton didn't want).

I feel quite confident this would be much more economical for the taxpayers of Acton and more self-satisfying as we do not wish to be conformists.

Comparing previous budgets, surely it would appear that our elected representatives in the past were quite capable of maintaining a standard which was acceptable to all citizens of Acton without an excessive tax burden.

On second thought, maybe Georgetown aren't satisfied either. It really hadn't occurred to me before that they might find Acton a "drag".

Yours truly,
Marjorie Loutlet

Principal disputes Campbell's points

The Editor: Mr. Campbell alleges in his letter of March 27 that he had "found an intimidating committee waiting" rather than an individual as he had expected on two occasions recently. One of these occasions was a meeting with me. The other was a meeting with Mr. Singleton.

On both occasions I was present for the entire meeting. No threats were expressed or implied on either occasion. Opinions and information were exchanged and there was argument by all parties with conviction but not with anger. All others present were there to receive or give information and thus make the meetings more informative. Mr. Campbell did not seem timid, defensive or subdued.

I was disappointed that Mr. Campbell referred to this treatment at the Renaissance Committee Rally on March 28. He did this apparently to justify the badgering of Don Gentlemen at the meeting by a member of the Renaissance Committee, and he refused to allow Mr. Gentlemen to respond.

Mr. Campbell stated that he went to each of these meetings expecting to meet with only one person. This is not true. I had told

Mr. Campbell two days before his meeting with Mr. Singleton that I would also be present.

I am glad that I was able to correct this misinformation at the meeting. I strongly object to dishonesty or misrepresentation by anyone, especially anyone who seeks to influence education. Let us retain our moral values in any debate about education.

There is need for substantial improvement in education. The concerns and convictions of all need to be considered. Responsible reasoning and dialogue can help. Anything less can only damage our schools.

All school principals that I know are keenly interested in knowing directly and fully about concerns of students and parents. This information is essential if we are to perceive and respond to vital student needs. I hope that distortion of our intentions does not inhibit anyone from coming directly to me or to any other school principal. Communications between parents and school need to be improved, not destroyed.

Yours truly,
K. N. Craig,
Principal.

Post comes through

Complaints about the postal system are frequent but an R.R. 2, Rockwood, resident, Bill Johnston, (famously known as "Wicked Willie") is singing their praises.

Not long ago, Rockwood Postmistress, Marg Cox received a letter addressed to:

"Uncle Bill, R.R. 2, Rockwood, Ontario, Canada." A postmistress's job is to know area residents but the term "Uncle Bill" could have meant a number of people. The letter might have even ended up in the dead letter section. However, Mrs. Cox penned a note saying "Hi Bill. Is this you?" and popped the letter in the Johnston mail box.

With little delay, Bill was able to read a delightful letter from a niece in England. It was postmarked Hull, Yorkshire, March 26, 1974, taking

only four days to reach its destination. Mr. Johnston works at Dantur in Georgetown.

Booth wants lower limit

Councillor Roy Booth called for a reduction in the speed limit on Highway 7 at the western approaches to Georgetown, last week at the general administration committee meeting.

He claimed the 60 mile an hour speed limit should be cut before the junction with the Seventh Line to give motorists time to slow down before reaching the curve and the entrance to Hyland Avenue.

Cancer campaign starts this month

Six hundred canvassers will be out in force during April to help the fight against cancer.

Halton Hills unit of the Canadian Cancer Society is aiming for \$15,500 this year, and hoping for the same result as last year, when for the first time they achieved their goal.

Heading the campaign is chairman June Magnuson, with Ray Steele industrial chairman, Jean Chappell, township area chairman, Barbara Skinner west end chairman, Ken Faulkner commercial chairman, Pam Stopper east end, chairman

Hire 9 planners

Authorization for the hiring of three planners, two assistants, two draftsmen, one stenographer and one clerk typist for the regional planning department was given during a Regional Council meeting.

Procedure rules set

Halton Regional Council may soon adopt rules by which its meetings will be governed. The council's administration committee approved a procedural by-law including 45 rules by which the council and committee meetings will be run.

Until now no set of rules have been followed. The rules include everything from when and how delegations should be entertained to the election of a chairman.

By-law change One of the unusual aspects of the by-law is that a non-vote will be declared as being in the affirmative. Generally non-votes are considered to be negative.

The by-law insists all members shall vote unless they have declared a conflict of interest. In that case the member cannot vote or take part in the discussion.

FOR THE PERSON WHO WANTS EVERYTHING



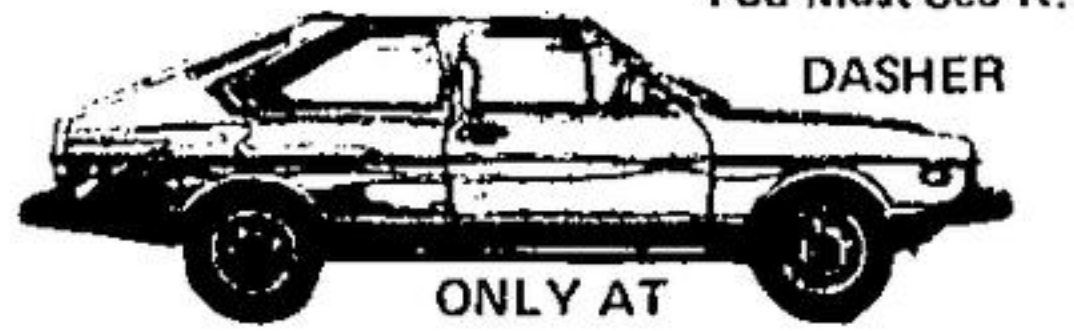
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Planning Department

Site Plan Review Committee

The Planning Committee is seeking applications for appointments to this Advisory body. The four successful applicants will be residents of the Town of Milton and employed full-time in an architectural or related engineering profession.

This body will advise the Planning Committee with regard to structural appearance, landscaping and general site design for any specific project referred to it.

Apply to: Planning Director, 251 Main Street E., Milton, Ontario L9T 1P1

PARENTS EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING

"1-day refresher workshop" SATURDAY, APRIL 6th, 1974 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

LOCATION: Harrison Public School (maps available when registering) REGISTRATION: Recreation Department Office in Cedarvale Community Centre, week-days from 9-5 p.m. up to April 5th, 1974.

COST: \$7.00 per person or \$10.00 per couple TOPICS: to include—Actual problems; role playing; new "time concept"; a look at values.

INSTRUCTORS: Mrs. Dolores Holehouse & Mrs. Jean Harrison.

WHAT TO BRING: a lunch, coffee & dessert will be provided.

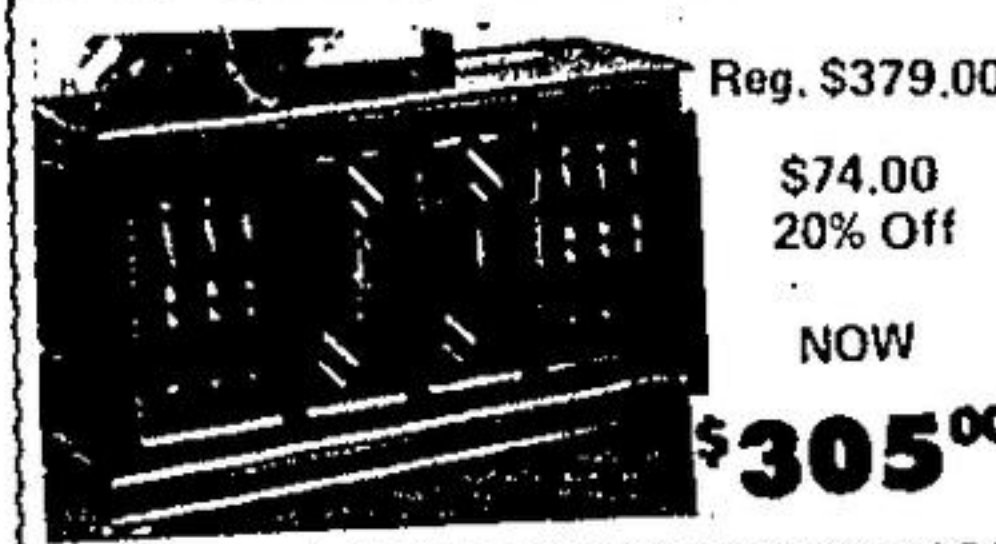
FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact the Recreation Department.

877-5185 Ext. 47-48

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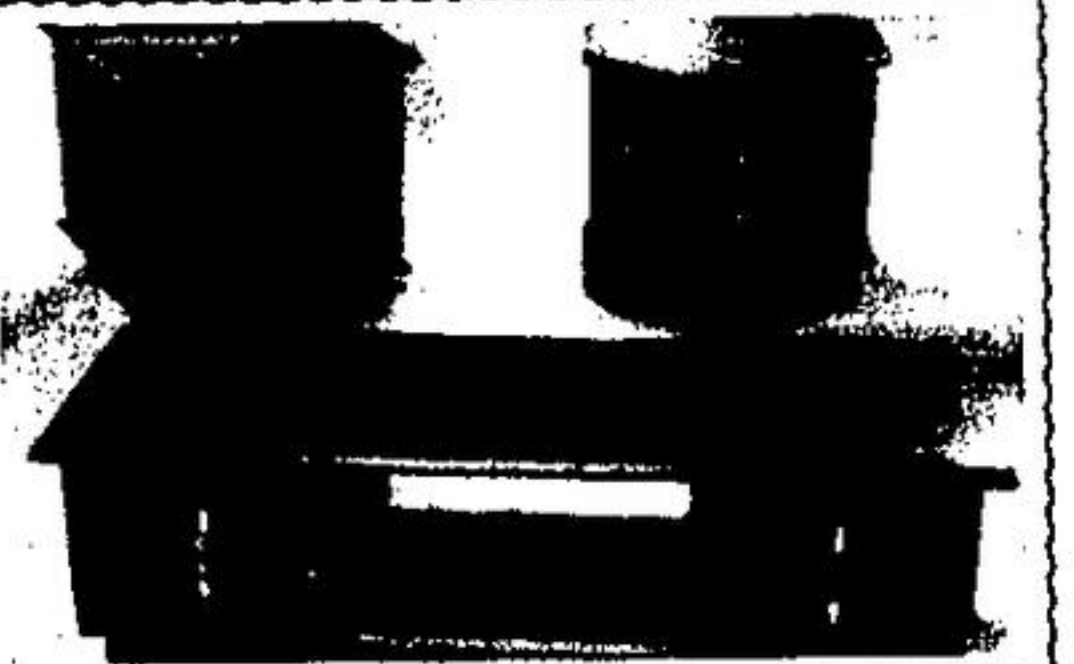
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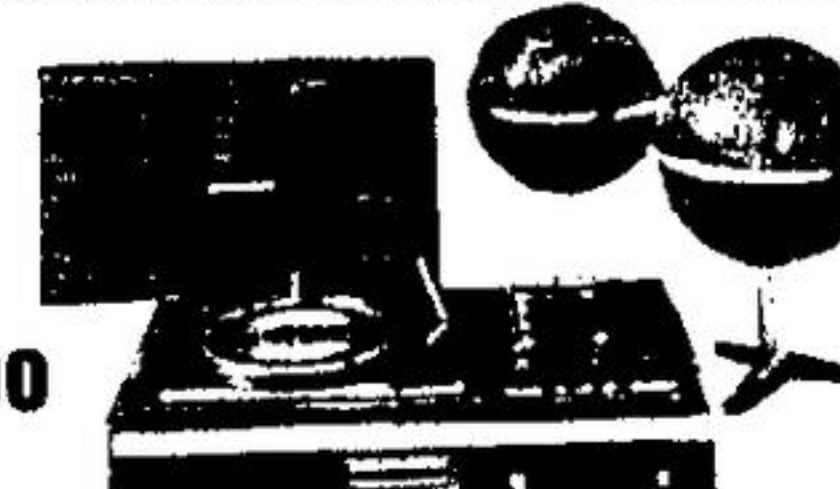
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