

OUR READERS WRITE:

School closure concerns ratepayers

Dear Sir:
If ever a small community needed the help of belonging to a large area that time is now for Norval. The Halton Board of Education pays no attention to a small group the size of Norval but they would have to listen to the Town of Halton Hills. If enough support against the closure of Norval Public School came from Halton Hills it could mean the difference of winning or losing the battle.
Norval ratepayers are fighting with their backs to the wall but there is the possibility that they will go down to defeat unless help comes from all of Halton Hills. What can you do? Take up a petition in your neighborhood signed with as many names as possible stating that you support the Norval Ratepayers in their objection to the closure of the school and their decision to sell the property. Send a copy to W. J. Priestner, Chairman, Halton Board of Education Central Administration Bldg. 2050 Guelph Line, Box 5005, Burlington, and a copy to Box 1, Norval. But time is running

out. The next school board meeting will be on Aug. 22, so letters must arrive before that date.
The only action that the school board will pay any attention to at this point is for a large number of ratepayers to voice their opinion. Numbers is the only thing that will carry any weight. After all, the trustees are elected by the people but they only listen to majorities. Your voice as a Halton ratepayer is needed now to save Norval School and community.
Don't just say "I'm sorry about Norval School and I sympathize with the people there in their fight but I don't think they stand a chance to win". Norval could win but only if they get the necessary support from the rest of the ratepayers in the county, especially from the Town of Halton Hills. This is your fight too. If you don't have time to start a petition, a letter from you will do—every vote counts. Canada is still a democratic country.

Dorothy McLean
Norval Ratepayers.

About noise in Everton

Everton, Ontario,
July 25th, 1974.

Acton Free Press,
To the Editor -

Dear Sir:
I was first amazed, then angry when I read that Eramosa Township Council had received a complaint because somebody kept five dogs in the Hamlet of Everton. The owner of the dogs was named - the complainant was not.
Now the reason that Don Hilliard's dogs bark is simply that he obeys the local by-laws and keeps his animals penned. They most certainly are not guilty of upsetting garbage as was suggested. From my own observation this nuisance is caused by dogs owned by other residents who largely ignore the Township ordinance regarding uncontrolled dogs.
It seems to me, that behind all this piddling buffoonery is hidden a personal vendetta. Noise alone cannot be the cause, for the noise caused by 40 to 50 snowmobiles roaring through the place in the winter, and of the various motor cycles, trail bikes, "hot rods" etc. is far more offensive - and audible - than anything that five dogs could produce.

There's a good deal more danger to life and limb from these operators too. I submit that this is, of course, a problem not of dogs, but of people.
This small and formerly pleasant community has in the past few years expanded beyond all reasonable expectation. The population has changed in character. We have many former city-dwellers with their urban customs and values, and we have the long established residents who remember things as they were, and perhaps find difficulty in accepting the changes thrust upon them.
Both must make adjustments in their outlook toward their new neighbours. No mention has been made of the sudden increase in the number of children who roam unsupervised and evidently without parental guidance regarding their behaviour. A few good healthy voiced watchdogs would hardly be amiss when those youngsters' thoughts turn to wreck and plunder which they cause in carefully tended gardens.

Let the who is without fault cast the first stone.
Yours
William K. Petrie.

For employment, but not smell

The Editor,
The Acton Free Press.

This is a "Counter Attack" on the last issue pertaining to the Beardmore abuse and odor problems. As a new resident and home owner for the past year I was misled when I purchased a home in Acton (in pertaining to the odor) but I think Acton could become the best little town for its environmental and country living.
I travel 35 miles to work, to give my family a better way of living than in the city. But even friends from the city are sickened by the smell when they visit. I am sure this applies to all newcomers to Acton and I am pleased that somebody is finally doing

something about this problem. I am all for Beardmore as a beneficial and productive plant but as a subdivision of Canada Packers and such a large Company they could put more effort in eliminating that "odor" and making Acton a small free and healthy place to live.
As I quote I am for the employment in Acton but not the smell.

Yours sincerely,
A new Resident of Acton
P.S. It has its amusing sides: when we retire with open windows and blame one another for the "fresh pure air".

Please do something about smell

188 Churchill Road South,
Acton, Ont.
July 29, 1974.

What a weekend! First of all, on Saturday night, one of the warmest, most humid nights of the year, we were unable to leave our windows open at night because of the dreadful stench sweeping through this area. This continued on through the night, and to some degree all day yesterday, Sunday, July 28.
I was interested to read the readers' letters last week, in praise of Beardmore, the one lady obviously doesn't get the smell like we do down this end of town, and the other letter, in my opinion, should not have been printed, if the writer did not wish anyone to know he or she was. It is because of negative thinking like this that problems like the one we are suffering now do not get settled.
Because Beardmore have been in this town more than a hundred years, or so I am told, is no excuse for them to pollute the air we all have to breathe, and the officials who tell us we don't have to live here are not helping to solve the problem either.
People have suggested that there are other causes for this odour, if that is so I should be very interested if they would tell us what they are, and why they are not attended to also.
Some of you have suggested that the Water Pollution Control plant just south of us could also be responsible. Well, I can agree with Mr. Seren—engineer for the Environmental Control at Oakville—that this is not so, at least it wasn't this week.

end, because my husband and I walked down there to see if we could detect any odour, and there wasn't a suspicion of a bad smell down there, only the smell of wild flowers, once we got past the third apartment building—Valley View I believe it is called.

For the past two years we have been in constant contact with Mr. Barr, Inspector for the Environmental Control, at least that was his title when he first came to visit us. I believe it is something different now, but he doesn't seem to have solved anything by his frequent visits. I got a little tired of the same old story about lagoons having to be cleaned out and filled in, the cause of the trouble, according to him.
I remember very well an article printed in the Free Press some time ago, when Mr. Braid was president of Beardmore, saying that when the equipment they were installing was working properly the only smell we would get would be one of fresh leather, which really wouldn't be too hard to bear. As a matter of fact, in January of this year that was what we could smell, so what has happened since then to make the old terrible odour return?

Please Mr. Beardmore, or Canada Packers or whoever this tannery now belongs to, please do something about it. We like living in Acton, have been here almost eight years now, and our moving away from here wouldn't solve anything.

Mrs. Margaret E. Wright

Offer two scholarships

By Norman Bird:
The Halton Federation of Agriculture is offering two annual scholarships of \$100 each to assist worthy students from the Region of Halton beginning agricultural or family and consumer studies at the University of Guelph or similar studies at one of the Colleges of Agricultural Technology in Ontario.
These awards are available to male or female students and will be made on the basis of agricultural background and academic standing as well as participation and achievements in 4-H, Junior Farmers and other community activities.
One of the scholarships will be made available to selected

students entering the first semester of the B.Sc.(Agr.) or B.A.Sc. program at the University of Guelph. The other will be available to a selected student entering the first semester or term of the Associate Diploma in Agriculture program at the University of Guelph or diploma programs at any of the four Colleges of Agricultural Technology in Ontario.
Further details and application forms are obtainable from the office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 181 Main Street, Milton, L9T 1N7.
—Next Monday, August 5 is Civic Holiday.



By Wendy Thomson



People's reactions to Gord's "Holiday away from home" are really interesting.
Men ask "Have you heard from your husband yet?" while women inquire, "How are you managing?" I'll answer both those questions now.
Yes—I've heard from Gord. At the end of the first week, he sent a message down from somewhere in the Rockies by Pony Express, to say he was alive and well. Although he's not officially with the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies this year, he's staying at the trail ride camp, so he's with our guide friends—Mike, Steve, Del, etc.

The following Saturday he managed to get down to Hanf and phone. The whole week had been rain and, or snow, he was mud to the tailbone, and was in a great rush to ride out again. Nobody was in camp and it couldn't be left empty for long because Alfie, the wolverine got into stuff.
The third week was good and Gord sounded happier when he phoned the twentieth. He was still in a rush though. Alfie had left, but a few days later out of the bushes popped not only Alfie, but Ralphie and Mabel as well! A whole wolverine family!

Also on the scene are two coyotes. And the packers have spotted bears on the 14 mile ride into camp. All in all, it sounds like Gord is having an interesting time.
And so are we. Life at home has the usual ups and downs. As long as it even out (more or less) I can't complain. Sometimes, though, one thing after another goes wrong.

Last Saturday I drove into Guelph to rent scaffolding to paint the house. Everything was closed.

Sunday morning I got up early to do away with two of Cock-eyed Cat's three new kittens and found that something had eaten Robert, one of David's pet ducks. Alma, the other one, was still crying pitifully when we left to pick raspberries. They were picked out and closed.

On the way back, I found a home for Alma who, when introduced to the rest of the flock, ran after David begging him not to leave her with all those funny things that swam and QUACKED. She got left, anyhow. At home, I discovered the bottle of chloroform for the kittens had been knocked to the floor and melted a big patch of the tile.

In the need for a bit of adult company, I drove to a neighbour for coffee and ended up holding the end of a rope while a calf had salt rubbed in its pink eye. The final touch came after helping them bring in a couple of loads of hay. From riding the clutch of their old truck while they loaded, I developed a stitch and once I stood up, couldn't sit down again.

That was gone Monday morning (thank heavens) when I headed back to Guelph for the scaffolding. The rental place was open but didn't have any.

However, I just happened to find the last two sections somewhere else. Just as I signed for them, someone else called trying to locate some. I finally did something right!

But as the truck was loaded, the man throwing the stuff in noticed a few wisps of hay in the back and said brightly "Oh-do you have horses?" I'm still feeling extremely touchy about being horseless and it's like having a sore toe and having people keep stepping on it.

Also, on Monday, I did away with three of Tansycat's four new kittens.

Now what happened Tuesday? Oh yes—we are insured with a company who seems bound they're going to ignore our prompt payments, and I was notified our car insurance was just cancelled. On Wednesday, I was hoping desperately that they

Golden anniversary celebrated

It took three years of dating before Jim Van Fleet popped the question to Mabel Thompson 50 years ago.
Last Friday July 26, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Van Fleet celebrated their golden anniversary.

The couple came to Acton 27 years ago. Before that time they had lived in Losville, where they were married, then in Ash, Hamilton and R. 5, Milton, where the couple took up farming. Mabel took care of about 2,000 chickens while Jim looked after the cattle.
For the first few years in Acton Jim Van Fleet did carpentry work and later was employed at Micro Plastic's as a night watchman. He retired in 1965.

Family
The couple have two sons, Don Van Fleet of 43 Willow Street, Bern Van Fleet of 35 Nelson Court and four grandchildren.
On the Friday night of their anniversary Mr. and Mrs. Van Fleet were taken out for dinner by their two sons, daughters-in-law and two grandchildren, Randy and Rick.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Fleet enjoyed a "wonderful affair" at St. Alban's Parish Hall on Sunday run by their daughters-in-law, Annetta and Georgina, in honor of

their 50 years of wedded life. Pouring tea on Sunday were Jim Van Fleet's sisters Hazel Smith, Florence Nevilles and niece Hazel Hood, all of Milton; Mabel Van Fleet's sister Mrs. George Orchard of Orlia, her sister-in-law, Mrs. Gordon Thompson of Lovellville, their friends, Mrs.

Wilfred McDonald of R.R. 5, Milton and Mrs. Alex Mitchell of Acton.
Mrs. R. Swindlehurst of Ballinacoff, Mrs. Paul Wilson and Sherry of R. R. No. 1 Lamelhouse served.

Acton.
Shelley Wilson looked after the guest book.
The anniversary couple received congratulations from Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Premier and Mrs. Wm. Davis, Robert Stanfield, the Honorable George Kerr and Governor General and Mme. Leger.



"A WONDERFUL AFFAIR" was the term used by Mrs. Mabel Van Fleet to describe the anniversary celebrations held at the Parish Hall last Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Van Fleet have been married 50 years as of last Friday.

Free Press Family

Soil, crop members tour Oxford farms

By H. J. Stanley
Sixty members of the Halton Soil & Crop Improvement Association and the Halton 4-H Field Crop Club travelled to Oxford County on Tuesday, July 23.
At the farm of William Orth, Burgessville, members inspected his apple orchard, dairy herd and corn fields. Lunch was eaten at Southside Park in Woodstock.

On the John Hart farm, Woodstock, everyone was impressed with his grain drying and handling system.

The next visit was to Max MacKay's to inspect four free stall dairy barns. The final stop was at the feeder hog and beef feedlot enterprise of Richard Hiscocks at Lakeside. Richard was a high school teacher until this year.

Free Press Personals

Roy Lambert of Drayton, formerly of Acton, was honored by the Texaco company for 20 years of service in the trade recently. He went to Drayton in 1949 and operated a garage which was destroyed by fire in 1954. His business then relocated where it is presently.

Verna Faulkner from Halifax visited with the Mowat's during Acton's centennial year.

Mr. and Mrs. Armand Hradka, with Gary and Teresa, from Kingston, are visiting relatives here.
Over 100 attended a fair board barbecue at the home of Marg and Mel McCullough on Saturday night, and it was so successful they're thinking of making it an annual affair. Steaks were barbecued and other good things brought by many of the members. Jesse McEnery entertained with his violin and Earl Burt played the guitar. There were a couple of draws for centennial silver dollars. The board has held dances but the summertime get-together is a new idea.

Mr. and Mrs. Boris Sheen are home again after a month's holiday in the Ukraine.

Ethel and Herman Bessen had a very popular booth at the arts and crafts show in Bracebridge. Many from this district with cottages in the area attended.

Many are on holidays this week, and the town is quiet.
Please let the Free Press know of any visitors or trips of particular interest. This is a column to share with friends.

Several Acton area golf enthusiasts travelled to Mississauga to watch the Canadian Open last week.

Man revived

Lifeguards at the Kelso Conservation area pool were quick to save 39 year old Bill Lacy, when he surfaced unconscious after striking something while diving. He was revived by the resuscitator say Milton OPP.

Pet of the week



... AND THIS little pig stayed home. Petunia likes to stay home and engage in her favorite pastime of tunnelling through hay. Petunia is six weeks old and lives at R. R. No. 2 Acton, home of Patrick and Erica Barr. She is very talkative and enjoys "barking" at the horses and chasing a puppy, all of whom reside at the Barr farm also. As you can see she has just come up for air after burying herself in the hay.

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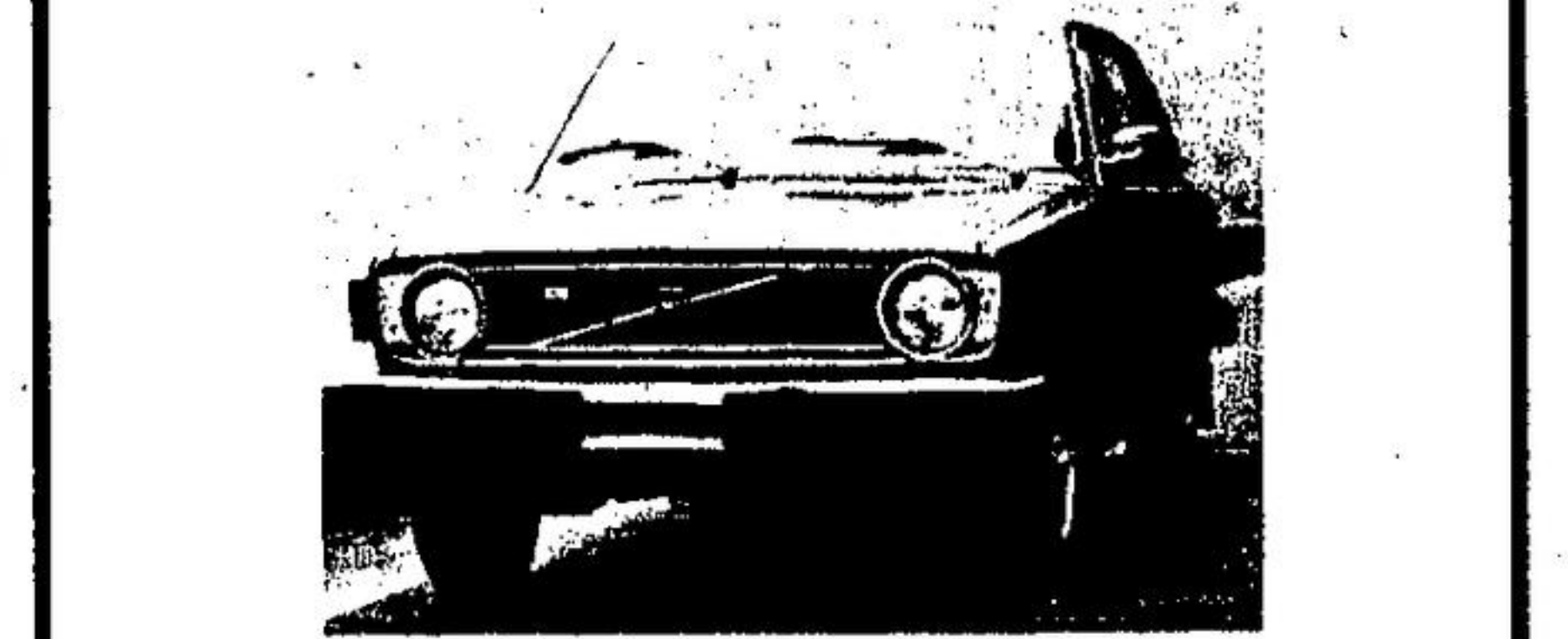
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