

Let's get started!

Letter to the Editor,
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir,

In reply to the letter from "Willing to Work" and your editorial comment of the week before, I would like to say I too am fed up with Regional Government. With everyone so dissatisfied, why can't something be done? It doesn't seem to be a very democratic Province to me.

I think a Poll in the Free Press would be a good start as more people would likely put an "X" on a ballot than write a letter. If enough results were obtained, we could see about an organization as suggested. Has anyone thought about a ballot in the Georgetown paper as well.
If everyone just sits back and cries about it, nothing will be done. As we all know, it takes a bit of co-operation to accomplish anything worthwhile.
Let's get started.

Signed,
Fed Up Too.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Waiting for snowplows

February 7, 1975.

Dear Sir:

I would like to bring to your attention a situation which, to me, seems rather serious.

After a snowfall, whether light or heavy, Acton always seems to be "snowed in" for several hours until the snowplows, sanders, etc. get back from clearing the roads of Georgetown.

When we were not a part of Halton Hills, Acton seemed to manage very well, the roads being cleared as soon as there was enough snow for this to be done. It was only a small town, but, strangely enough, all of the necessary services were done rather promptly and very well.

Now that the town has expanded and become part of the town of Halton Hills, a person would be led to believe that any service would be done more efficiently. Unfortunately, the situation is just the

reverse and the roads are unfit for any sort of vehicle, except snowmobiles (which are not permitted on the roads anyway).

One of these days, someone will get seriously injured or even killed; then maybe something will be done about this problem. That is why I bring this to your attention. If you could possibly do something about this situation very quickly, I'm sure that it will be greatly appreciated. You never know — you might even save a life.

Thank you very much for taking time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Eunice Gibb,
Grade 9 student,
Acton High School

(Letters also sent to Mayor Tom Hill and councillor G. W. McKenzie.)

Hopes for better policing

February 4th, 1975.

The Editor,
The Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

It would appear to be certain that the Regional Police will replace the Ontario Provincial Police in the Acton and rural areas of Halton Hills. We can only hope that with this transition there will be an improvement in policing the rural area in particular.

The existing force, based in Milton, lacks the necessary staff to work efficiently. I am not criticizing the quality of the police work, but the availability of the police officers. When a rural resident makes a call to Milton and if a police officer is available, he usually must travel several miles to investigate. Common sense should dictate that as well as a detachment in Milton to cover the southern part of Halton Hills, a convenient depot in the Acton or Georgetown areas should service the northern rural areas.

While Georgetown seems to have patrol cars "coming out of the woodwork" the rural population is painfully neglected. I suppose the argument is that the "built-up" areas require more policing. But it makes

me angry while driving through Georgetown, to see several patrol cars within a mile and half stretch, while we have virtually none.

Considering the lack of staff and the distances that must be travelled, the O.P.P. should be highly commended for arresting those responsible for removing mailboxes. I am in favour of retaining the O.P.P. but would like to see the force strengthened and more conveniently located.

This particular area has been plagued by dog poisonings (over an 18 month period), an arson attempt and several other crimes (break-in of a private residence, indiscriminate use of fire arms by trespassers, destruction to private property, etc.)

Our taxes are high, yet we have to spend additional money on various means of security, some monies spent on a continuing basis. It would be reassuring to know that more police were available to patrol our roads on a continuing basis. Protection of one's self and property against crime is one way, but with a larger police force, perhaps these criminals would be apprehended.

Yours truly,

"Rural Resident"

Appeal for funds

Having formed the Speyside Area Ratepayers Association last fall to fight Consolidated Sand and Gravel in its bid to open a new 600 acre quarry operation south west of Speyside the group now finds itself in need of funds.

As always in this type of situation it is the large corporation that has the advantage. It can afford to hire the most expensive lawyers and pay for expert witnesses to bolster its case. Indeed most of these expenses can be written off against company profits.

The Speyside Area Ratepayers Association hired Greg Cooper, a Toronto lawyer, to represent it. Mr. Cooper is legal committee chairman for the Sierra Club of Canada and he has had considerable experience and success in taking on large corporations when the environment is at stake. Mr. Cooper represented the Association ably at the O.M.B. hearing held on Nov. 4th 1974, to hear Consolidated's appeal against the "rural" zoning designation placed on their Speyside property holdings by the Esqueving Council. This hearing was adjourned pending a ruling from the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

The Ontario Municipal Board has now set aside two weeks in March for the continuation of the hearing and in addition Consolidated seems to have deliberately adopted tactics designed to deplete the Speyside Association's funds by calling for "hearings of discovery" prior to the O.M.B. hearing proper. All of this means that the Association will be faced with a bill of

around \$7,000 for legal fees.

It is interesting to note that on the evening of Jan. 27th both the Town of Halton Hills Council and the S.A.R.A. executive went through the same soul-searching process i.e. whether the cost of legal counsel could be justified. The Speyside Association executive voted unanimously in favour of retaining Mr. Cooper and fighting Consolidated to the bitter end.

The council passed a motion to defend Halton Hills planning policies at the O.M.B. hearings in March. This motion was opposed by the three Georgetown councillors who were against committing the Town to a possible \$30,000 expenditure for legal fees and expert witnesses.

It should be realized that the Speyside Area Ratepayers will argue their case on social and environmental impact issues which the town will not cover in its defence. It is therefore very worthwhile and, we feel necessary to be represented, and represented by able legal counsel at the O.M.B. hearings.

However, the group has a long haul ahead of it to raise the necessary funds. We appeal to all those people who are interested in saving what is left of the Niagara Escarpment in North Halton. Any donations however small will be welcome.

Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Speyside Area Ratepayers Association and should be sent to Mr. J. A. Sheldon, President of S.A.R.A. R.R. 3, Milton.

W. A. Dale
V. Pres. S.A.R.A.



Pet of the week

Ruff loves everybody, but not everybody loves Ruff. When he stands up he's 27-and-a-half inches tall at the front shoulders and some people feel timid when they see him coming.

Not Christine and Ray Homeniuk, who have watched him grow up to his present height and age one year. Ruff is part St Bernard and part Golden Lab.

Welfare frauds small in Halton

Welfare frauds in Halton total less than one-half of one per cent, social and family services administrator Rennie Vivian told the finance committee of Halton regional council last week.

Oakville councillor Carl

Eriksen interrupted Burlington Mayor George Harrington during a committee meeting to find out how many frauds exist in Halton "before we get into a welfare witch hunt." Harrington was asking Vivian for statistics on welfare cases in Halton.

Bus brakes suddenly

On Jan. 29 a bus driving through town was forced to brake sharply to stop, when a car ahead stopped to make a turn. There were 15 people in the bus and two of them reported injuries. Patricia Woloshyn, R.R. 2, Rockwood, was treated at Glendale

medical centre. The other passenger, apparently injured was Lyndon Meikle, Toronto.

Driver of the car was Bertan Bigelow, 6 Mill S. Bus driver Robert Harper, Stratford, informed Acton OPP.

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Legion Notes

by GARY DAWKINS

Only a small crowd was in attendance Saturday night to enjoy the music by Larry Willis and his records. Next week, the dance will feature "The Mystics". Tickets are presently on sale for the return of Willy Staebel (Oktoberfest Band) on Saturday, February 22. A large crowd is anticipated, so pick up your tickets early.

In the games room, Kay James, Gord James and Jessie Price looked after the regular Saturday evening. Winners for the ladies were: first, B. Green, second, J. Taylor and M. Hall had the hidden score. A. Hall was first for the men, B. Rody second and W. Lamb had the hidden score.

Initiations again highlighted the general meeting this month. Altogether 14 people were initiated, 10 as associate members and four as ordinary members.

The Firemen A team led all other teams this week, picking up eleven points in the Industrial Cribbage League. Present standings are: 230 Club 127, Hi Tones 121, Firemen B 116, Campbell Const. 111, Firemen A 107, Legion A 105, La Tones 104, Disston Saw 99, Real Club 95, Legion C 95, Ink Spots 92, Can Dos 83.

In darts, the Heads had a perfect night, capturing all seven points. Standings are: Bull Winners 71, The Dicks 66, D. Gees 61, The Lions 59, Feathers 58, Conroy's Kids 56, Moon Beams 55, The Stripes 55, The Heads 53, Kniek Nucks 49, Old Balls 47, Yogi Bears 45.

During the past week in the

Grimsby has silent sirens

Last month, while Acton and most of southern Ontario was awakened by sirens, Grimsby slept peacefully.

There are three emergency siren locations in Grimsby, but apparently none of them were set off.

John Rhodes, co-ordinator of the Emergency Measures Organization said that the sirens should have sounded. He also said that he heard no sirens at his residence in South Hill.

Just what Cupid Ordered!

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