

OUR READERS WRITE:

Committee asks for input

Letter to the Editor:
 Since the birth of Halton Hills, Acton and Esqueping residents have been subjected to growing pains which we did not ask for, but were forced to accept. At one time, before Regionalization, a small town "plus" was the availability of your local elected officials. You could stop them on the street whenever a problem existed.
 Unfortunately, the Mayor, Reeve, Deputy Reeve, Town Councillors, Planning Board Members and Parks and Recreation Board Members have all but disappeared from the streets of Acton and the friendly, close contact with these people has been lost in the shuffle. This centralization of the people who assist in running your town has left a gap in our life style that can never be replaced by all the employees built in this new bureaucratic society.
 We feel this is the underlying cause for a degree of frustration we sense whenever a group of our townfolk meet to discuss a situation affecting them. There never seems to be anyone available who can give us an answer—to pass the proverbial buck is commonplace!
 However, if we can refrain from wallowing in our sense of loss of past local Government, and instead cultivate an optimistic approach wherein we work within, not against, the present system, we are certain our goals can ultimately be achieved.

There is a way to maintain our town pride and identity through the local Recreation Advisory Committee of Acton and Esqueping. The members of this Committee are all your neighbors, committed to acting as the eyes and ears of the Councillors on the General Administration Committee.
 To function efficiently, they need your ideas, criticisms and complaints—silence on your part leaves them in a position of operating in a void. Through the Advisory Committee, your input can be discussed, passed on to the proper officials and, most importantly, followed up. Ultimately then, more of your Town's frustrations may be relieved.
 These are new times, utilizing new ways, however, with your interest, cooperation and input to the Recreation Advisory Committee we can try to get a little more output coming our way.

Yours optimistically,
 Recreation Advisory Committee
 (Wards 1 & 2)
 Ed Wood, Chairman
 Maryann Barrow
 Peter Papillon
 Ron Mitchell
 Kerwin McPhail
 Elmer Dunn
 Pamela Sheldon

Asks for used stamps

Dear friends,
 Especially at Christmas time, I think of all the used postage stamps that are needlessly discarded. These seemingly worthless articles, from any country, are sold in bulk by the Scarborough Fathers, to stamp dealers, to help finance mission projects throughout the world.
 In 10 months I have received over 100 lbs. of cancelled postage stamps, in small quantities, in very large quantities, from schools, service clubs, companies, individuals etc. They add up quickly if everyone collects them for me.

It hardly takes a second to rip the used postage stamps off of an envelope leaving a bit of paper around it.
 This can be YOUR way of helping the world's poor without costing YOU a lot of time or money.
 Please send (by "Third Class" Mail) to: Mrs. R. M. Chmay, 230 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, Ontario or Mrs. J. C. Lawrence, 6782 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario.
 Thank you,
 Rose Chmay
 R.M. Chmay

What education is all about

To the Editor:
 I have come to the end of my rope with remarks by Halton Board of Education trustees Ernie Bodnar and Dick Goodin (Ward 3) concerning teachers and strikes.
 Bodnar wants to lock out our teachers when other boards strike, and Goodin calls Metro's striking teachers, "so-called professionals". Perhaps our trustees would better spend their time informing taxpayers as to where our dollars are going during strikes, like Metro's for instance:
 (a) Stanley Hart—provincial fact-finder \$43,000.
 (b) Board negotiating team, including chairman Ross, staying at the finest hotels in the fanciest suites.
 (c) Millions to a Ministry who to this point appear to be virtually powerless—thus useless.
 (d) Thousands, if not millions to the newly formed Education Relations Committee and all their highly paid mediators just chomping at the bit to have any job to do.
 (e) Thousands on plane trips for Ross and his cohorts flitting between Toronto and Ottawa on useless procedures.
 (f) Approximately \$10 million a year in duplication in Ontario bureaucracy.
 (g) Bill Davis and Tom Wells, hiding behind the skirts of the Federal Government when education is a Provincial Issue.
 There are so many "fat cat" bureaucrats in education, frittering away our dollars, taxpayers should be willing to rather put their money where it serves a positive purpose—on our teachers.

There was a time when teachers, along with parents were recognized as knowing what was best for our children in the educational process. Now, programming various philosophies, and overcrowded classrooms are thrust upon teachers, to their frustration and the suffering of our children, by all administrative levels. Criticism aimed at Metro teachers is unfortunate and unfair.
 I wonder why teachers haven't said to hell with it all, long ago, and get a job as a sanitary engineer, with less frustration, shorter hours, and more pay for their efforts! If that doesn't work, they could always run for board trustee. The hours are definitely shorter, work load is less, and the money the same as some teachers who have spent years getting degrees. And, of course, there is always that possibility of receiving 175 per cent pay hikes such as Halton trustees received, without the disadvantages of a nasty old strike!
 The anti-inflation review committee (headed by Darcy McKeough) suggests we could do away with 200 jobs in the Ministry and never miss them. I suggest, throw out twice that many and direct those dollars where they will do positive good—on our teachers.
 Bureaucrats in education would like us to forget that in the last analysis, kids and teachers is what education is all about!
 Christine Louth,
 Chairman: teacher relations,
 H.E.A.L.
 Halton Hills, Ont.

Santa's Seatbelt Problem

Poor Santa's having trouble. Since his seatbelt came unstruck, they locked him in the jailhouse. So, now we're out of luck.
 They caught him bobbing in and out. Picking up the Xmas lists. He forgot the rub around his tub. So, they hit him with both fists.
 While Santa's waiting sentence we are trying to bail him out. The grabbing claws, make nonsense, laws. We could all do well without.
 Grandma made us put a seatbelt. Around the little pole. Where Granpa waits, and meditates,

Let's he fall down the hole.
 The powers that be decided. We must obey their call. And strap our backs, inside the hacks. We have no choice at all.
 At ninety miles per hour. On our air-polluted treks. If we stop quick, we all must stick. In case we break our necks.
 So, let's all rescue Santa. From the folk, with sharpened claws. They THINK it's best for all the rest. So, they PASSED the SEATBELT LAWS.
 Victor Smith
 R.R. 2, Rockwood.

Lucky winners

Acton Minor Ball December winners are Clare Mathies \$100 on Ticket No. 1177, J. MacDonald \$10 on Ticket No. 723, R. F. Woodward \$10 on Ticket No. 696, Ken Hullford \$10 on Ticket No. 341, Roy McArthur \$10 on Ticket No. 011, and Colin Foster \$10 on Ticket No. 248.

Local organizations are keeping Santa Claus busy visiting their children's parties.

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Pet of the week

STANDING AS TALL AS HE CAN IS Tiny, a Toy Manchester Terrier, who at one foot two inches is every other inch the equal to his larger namesake. Not deterred by his size, the black and brown six-year-old likes to chase tomcats, says Tiny's half owner Tim Garton. Tim and brother George "Joeko", who also claims 50 per cent of Tiny, live on Elmora Drive.

Local merchant preference Sykes

Should Halton Hills ask for outside tenders on such items as firefighters' uniforms?
 Not if Councillor Ernie Sykes has anything to do with it.
 Sykes told other members of the finance and personnel committee of Halton Hills Council that uniforms for firefighters in Fire Area 2 were being purchased from a St. Catharines firm because there was a \$10 saving on each one and he said it was unfair to local businessmen such as Henry's clothing store who knew the problems, accepted the inconvenience of measuring firefighters individually, often with two or three fittings.
 "To go out of town for \$10 is false economy," Sykes said.
 "I wonder if the other merchants in Halton Hills had a chance to tender on the uniforms?" wondered Councillor Pat McKenzie.
 Sykes didn't know but he told the committee emphatically that local merchants should have an edge on others from out of town when it came to accepting tenders and he had a sympathetic audience.
 "We get excellent deals locally. I question the wisdom of going out of town for suits that are \$10 cheaper," agreed chairman Harry Levy. "The suits could be worth \$20 less than what we could get them for here."
 "Has it gone through?" Levy asked.
 "Yes," replied Sykes, noting the purchase was controlled by the purchasing procedure by-law and the purchasing agent was authorized to do it.
 The purchasing by-law is good but on occasions like this it could go wrong, acknowledged Levy.
 Clerk Doug Pritchard suggested the committee should first consult the purchasing agent before they drew any conclusions, a suggestion Levy agreed with. "He may have done it right and we may

Explore possibility Planning Council

A North Halton Social Planning Council has an effective role to play in North Halton, members of various groups and agencies agreed at an exploratory meeting in Hillcrest Church. About 25 people attended the Thursday meeting organized by Halton Human Services Council.
 While there was general agreement about the need and desire to have such a body, there was reluctance by those attending the meeting to become personally involved in leading the new body.
 People in police work, people with backgrounds in family court work and social work and many representatives of voluntary groups attended the meeting.
 Good idea
 Milton doctor Rick Edwards, a member of the Human Services Council, convened the meeting and spoke briefly about why he felt the idea would be a good one.
 The basic role of a Social Planning Council would be to co-ordinate social services in a community and instigate new services where gaps exist.
 Peter Marks of Acton said there is little co-ordination between professionals in the social planning area in the north.
 He pointed out social planning councils existed in Oakville and Burlington and they are better off in the context of social services.
 Money, power
 Helen Horn spoke to the group concerning her experience with Social Planning Councils in Peel Region. "Money and power are the things you have to be conscious of. With the terrific speed of urbanization, the problems are monumental and difficult. You have to isolate what you can do from what you cannot," she said.

Peel runs a social Planning Council in conjunction with the United Appeal.
 The meeting broke up into different groups and discussed societal problems, their causes and their cure.
 Calls for those interested in serving on a steering committee or an executive body did not attract more than a few people.
 The selection of a steering committee was deferred until a meeting Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. Those attending the meeting hoped others would become interested in the project and attend the next meeting. That meeting is tentatively slated for the Hornby Community Centre.

GIFTS

from Santa

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<p>Maxwell House</p> <p>COFFEE 1 lb Bag \$1.59</p>	<p>Royal Oak 40 oz</p> <p>100% RECONSTITUTED</p> <p>ORANGE JUICE 39¢</p>	<p>Kleenee 200's</p> <p>FACIAL TISSUE 55¢</p>	<p>Libby's 14 oz</p> <p>DEEP BROWN BEANS with PORK 39¢</p>
<p>Chef Boy Ar Dee 29 oz Twin Pack</p> <p>PIZZA \$1.25</p>	<p>Bright's 48 oz</p> <p>FANCY</p> <p>TOMATO JUICE 49¢</p>	<p>Magic 5 lbs</p> <p>INSTANT</p> <p>SKIM MILK POWDER \$2.99</p>	<p>Mazola 32 oz</p> <p>OIL \$1.49</p>
<p>Heinz 10 oz</p> <p>VEGETABLE of TOMATO</p> <p>SOUP 4/89¢</p>	<p>Maple Leaf 28 Oz</p> <p>MINCEMEAT \$1.19</p>	<p>Gaines 84 oz</p> <p>TOP CHOICE BEEF</p> <p>DOG FOOD \$2.49</p>	<p>Old Time 16 oz</p> <p>SYRUP 65¢</p>
<p>Post 13 oz</p> <p>SUGAR CRISP 95¢</p>	<p>Bick's 32 oz</p> <p>SWEET MIXED or TOM YUM</p> <p>PICKLES 98¢</p>	<p>MIX 'EM or MATCH 'EM</p>	
<p>Bick's 12 oz</p> <p>GHERKINS 69¢</p>	<p>Dr. Ballard's 26 oz</p> <p>ALL FLAVOURS</p> <p>DOG FOOD 3/\$1.</p>	<p>FRESH PRODUCE</p> <p>California Size 16 1/2's</p> <p>ORANGES 49¢</p> <p>Canada No. 1 Ontario</p> <p>CABBAGE Large Head 29¢</p> <p>Canada No. 1 3 lb Bag</p> <p>COOKING ONIONS 49¢</p> <p>Canada fancy 3 lb Bag</p> <p>McINTOSH APPLES 69¢</p>	
<p>NUTS FOR CHRISTMAS</p> <p>Beaver 1 lb Bag</p> <p>MIXED NUTS IN SHELL 79¢</p> <p>Beaver 2 lb Bag</p> <p>MIXED NUTS IN SHELL \$1.55</p> <p>Beaver 1 lb Bag</p> <p>IN SHELL</p> <p>JUMBO WALNUTS 75¢</p> <p>Beaver 1 lb Bag</p> <p>PECANS IN SHELL \$1.19</p> <p>Beaver 1 lb Bag</p> <p>ALMONDS IN SHELL 95¢</p>		<p>Clover Leaf 6 oz</p> <p>FLAKED</p> <p>WHITE TUNA 69¢</p>	
<p>WOODLAND MARKETS</p> <p>ACTON ONTARIO</p>			