

OUR READERS WRITE:

Arena situation explained

The Editor,
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.

When no explanation was given concerning the motion introduced and withdrawn in council concerning the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena I can understand the concern expressed in your editorial last week regarding the needs of the Acton area.

The new arena in Georgetown as it now stands was financed by reserve funds from Georgetown and Esqueving, lot levies collected in Georgetown, provincial grants, a winter works subsidy and approximately \$110,000.00 from direct taxation in Halton Hills.

The old arena in Georgetown, like Acton's arena, needs extensive repairs in the new future. If it can be proven that it is

more economical to build a second arena at the Gordon Alcott site which was planned for future expansion and sell the old building and lot for commercial purposes Council may consider the recommendation in the future.

Never has anyone considered a third arena for the Georgetown area. As our area in Acton grows and progresses a second arena will be needed in the future. When that day comes I hope we can make satisfactory arrangements with the Halton Public School Board, as the town of Milton did, and build on the site for the new High School.

Yours very truly,
G. W. "Pat" McKenzie
Regional Councillor for Ward 1.

A shade of doubt

by Peter Cavandish

Don't you believe in Santa Claus?
Little girl, as you sit and dream
Of gay ribboned gifts and things,
A time of excitement, 't would seem.

Don't you believe in Santa Claus?
With his sack full of toys and joys,
Who comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve,
With gifts for all good girls and boys.

Don't you believe in Christmas time?
With its beautiful lights, and a tree
All dressed up with candles and bunting and lights.

The most presents you ever did see.

Dolls and toys in a glorious array,
All wrapped in bright tinsel and string,
The most glorious things you wished for to play,
And asked Mr. Santa to bring.

Yes! You believe in Santa Claus
And his kindness and love every year,
For he never forgets the ones who were good
But remembers each one, never fear!

Never forget Santa Claus, little girl,
As the years go by one by one,
For Santa Claus is indeed a real fact
Since the day that the world first began.



SUNDAY SCHOOL cheque for \$50 was presented by treasurer Lorraine Jones to Ralph Denny during the church service at Trinity Sunday morning. The cheque from the Sunday School is toward the mortgage fund. Thermometer at the front of the church records the growth of the fund.

Reed appointed Hydro committee

Julian Reed, Liberal M.P.P. for Halton Burlington, has been appointed to the select committee on Ontario Hydro, and will be serving on this committee in an ongoing capacity.

Mr. Reed said he welcomed the "challenge of dealing with one of the most complicated and critical issues with which we are confronted at this time namely the wide-ranging effects of Ontario Hydro's expansionist policies. The funding of Hydro's plans for future expansion can only be described as placing an unreasonable and unnecessary

burden on the taxpayers of Ontario, and the corporation must be challenged on the methods used to calculate projected increases in consumption. There is also a great need to investigate the manner in which the product of Ontario Hydro is priced and the corporation's attitude to conservation, methods of delivery, as well as alternatives which are available," he told this newspaper.

"The people of Ontario cannot afford Hydro's capital investment requirements of considerably more than \$20 billion over the next 10 years," he claims.

Reed sees Peterson diamond in rough

Rookie MPP Dave Peterson of London will have at least one supporter during the first ballot voting to determine who the new leader of the Ontario Liberal Party will be, when delegates flocked into Toronto for that convention next month.

Halton's rookie MPP Julian Reed made his preference for Peterson known during an interview at the Halton-Burlington meeting to elect delegates to the convention Jan. 23-25.

Reed spoke to the riding faithful for a few minutes, but would only say at that point that he felt many of those running were capable of being the next premier.

"Diamond" Reed said he saw Peterson as a "diamond in the rough."

"That's the kinda guy I like. I like a person that has depth, a person that can grow with the position. I think it is better that way than to go for someone already recognized as a leader, like say John Turner," he explained.

To date there are about eight in the race for the Liberal leadership. Some Liberals have said the convention will have to choose a man who can lead the Liberals out of the wilderness in Ontario.

Peterson, a lawyer; Mark McGaugan, a federal M.P.; Dr. Stuart Smith, a rookie MPP and a psychiatrist from Hamilton; and Albert Roy, a lawyer from Ottawa in his second term all attended a fund raising dinner in Oakville last week.

Chose draw winners at Legion

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197 made their Beef Draw at the Legion hall during Saturday evening's dance.

First prize winner was Edna Grahame, 247 Mason Blvd., who with ticket number 0871 won a half a side of beef.

Mrs. W. Wilson, R.R. 4, Rockwood, won the second prize of a hind quarter of beef with ticket number 0868.

Dora Ryder of Bower Ave won third prize with ticket number 0269. She won a front quarter of a beef.

\$2 gone

L and I. Ford was broken into and \$2 taken, according to police. Entry was gained on the weekend through a side window.



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Let's talk about horses

by Jennifer Barr

Liberals select delegates

Halton-Burlington Liberals selected eight delegates and eight alternate delegates to help choose a new leader for the Ontario Liberal Party. That convention will be held next month in Toronto.

The majority of those elected as delegates or alternate delegates come from the Esqueving-Georgetown area. Of the 16 delegates or alternates elected to represent Halton-Burlington at the convention, two are Miltonians, three are from Acton, two from Burlington and the balance from the Georgetown-Esqueving area of the riding.

Elected delegates are Nancy Dunlop of Georgetown, Bob Burnette of Georgetown, Grant Casely of Georgetown, Alice Walker of Georgetown, Isobel Harmer of Burlington, Edith Hillman of Esqueving, George Henderson of Esqueving, and Laurie Reed of Milton.

Alternates include Al Harmer of Burlington, George Hurt of Acton, Dolly Moulden of Esqueving, Bill Coates of Acton, Al Wilson of Milton, Jean Servos of Georgetown, Carol Lawson of Acton, Bill Manderson of Georgetown.

MPP Julian Reed and riding president Frank Allen are delegates to the convention by virtue of their positions.

Bonus this year none next

After this year, there will be no more Christmas bonus for town employees.

This Christmas, as in years gone by, all town employees who have worked for more than one year will receive a \$30 bonus, while employees with less than a year's service will receive \$20.

The recommendation to cut out future Christmas bonuses was made in finance committee, and passed unchallenged at council, Monday night.

alking to a placid affectionate donkey. Considered stupid Donkeys are generally considered stupid and stubborn by non-donkey-lovers. On the contrary. According to my own observations and every piece of donkey literature I've ever read, a don-



avid horse-nut this side of the Appalachians until I received my first donkey as a Christmas present some years back. After a few months of living with a baby donk, I fell so completely for the whimsical creatures, horses have forever taken a second place.

Better pet Horses and ponies are definitely here to stay as rural pets and a sports medium. But donkeys could fill such a valuable place given a chance.

For very small children, a donkey is a better pet and riding mount than a pony. Most small ponies are mischievous and some are downright mean. A donkey has a sense of responsibility particularly where little ones are concerned. I've never known a nasty donkey, when treated kindly, but I've known many a pony of questionable temperament who lived the life of Riley. A donkey is easily and rapidly trained, but a pony has to be expertly handled.

key is much more intelligent than a horse or pony and it is this that presents the problem. A horse can be bullied if necessary, but a donkey sure can't. If he sees no good reason for doing something he just won't—very sensible. But there's no more willing creature if he likes what he's doing. My first donkey, Anna-Belle, loved parades and stepped out brightly enjoying herself—until some jeering spectator would yell "Look at the jackass", then down would go the ears and she'd want to go home, please. I don't blame her either. Mind you, I'm writing this before the Acton Santa Claus Parade. Our baby BoJay, the yearling donk, is going to make his parade debut on Saturday. Next week's column will probably be headed "Donkeys are stupid and stubborn!"

GO train

The Go train to Georgetown was delayed last week by the bus-train collision in Scarborough.

For the neophyte country dweller who knows little about ponies, a donkey is a far easier and safer pet to get for the kids. There's also the added bonus of having an endearing animal with a real sense of humour. There's nothing better to ease the tensions of the rat-race life than

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Environmental input sanctioned by region

It was a bad day for environmentalists Wednesday. In a prepared speech, Milton Mayor Anne MacArthur told Halton Regional Council she was fed up with inflated charges and countercharges from environmentalists.

She was commenting on a proposal from the region's planning committee to have a committee of environmentalists identify environmentally sensitive areas of Halton. The work is planned in order to have specialized input into the regional official plan.

Mayor MacArthur argued that committee would be biased because of the makeup

of the committee. She argued for and won the support of council to include sportsmen, industrialists and developers on the committee.

"If they (the environmentalists) are so concerned about the environment, let them argue with the people they say are messing it up," she said.

Burlington Mayor George Harrington amended the original motion to delete references to social, cultural and recreation environment.

"We're all concerned about the things that crack in the night. I suppose this idea has some feasibility. I don't have time to count frogs and ponds,

but I suppose someone should," he said.

Oakville Councillor Mac Anderson said he'd vote against both the amendments and the motion. "This will cause delays and then you'll have a study to see why there are delays," he chided.

Harrington couldn't resist one more quip. "Mr. Chairman, through you to my learned colleague, there is an adage in the political world that says you clean the body before you slit its throat."

Translated, that means Harrington wanted the amendment restricting the work of the committee

passed in case the main motion did pass. Halton Hills Councillor Ite Morrow echoed sentiments of one segment of council when he said it would be folly not to accept expertise from the special interest group but that the committee's job should be kept simple.

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