

**OUR READERS WRITE:**

**Something positive in education**

The Editor  
Acton Free Press

January 12, 1976

After over-exposure in the press of the negative stance of the Renaissance Committee it was refreshing to come across something positive about education in general and the Acton High School operation in particular. If one read only the former, he (she) could become apprehensive about the competence of our educators and the criteria on which their programs are based.

Therefore I commend to interested persons the Acton High School COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER. Two issues have been produced (Oct. & Dec.) so far and they contain first hand information about real classroom operations.

Newsletters like the above and more letters to the Editor from concerned people with unbiased viewpoints and a pragmatic understanding of our public school system will help to neutralize the shrill judgments of small groups with tunnel vision. After their smear campaign of many months against individual educators it was ironic to hear the Renaissance Committee cry 'foul' in their paid ad last week (Free Press - Jan. 7th).

For myself, the more space they use up in the press, the less credible their rhetoric becomes. One begins to wonder what ulterior motives are behind the "Tempest in a Teapot". Could it be that Ken Campbell wants you and I to finance a separate school system for himself and his followers?

E. B. Comfort,  
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Acton, Ont.

**Christmas Seals down \$10,000**

The 1975 Christmas Seal campaign is down \$10,000 from last year and "it's mainly due to the mail strike" according to sponsoring Halton Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association officials.

Postal workers were out on strike and mail wasn't moving in November when the Christmas Seals are always mailed to homes and businesses.

When the postal workers went back to work it was too late, too close to Christmas and this year's receipts are showing it, said Association treasurer Mrs. M. E. Lunau of Oakville.

Last year at this time the Association had collected \$70,000 from 12,655 donors, Mrs. Lunau reports. This year there is only \$60,000 and 2,400 fewer contributors, she pointed out.

The Association got its seals to North Halton homes when a one-day suspension in the postal strike was ordered by the government to get pension cheques delivered. Post offices in Oakville and Burlington had partial staffs back to work before that, however people couldn't mail their donations to the Oakville address. So the TB-RD group placed ads in area papers urging donors to send a cheque to the Toronto-Dominion Bank. And many did, the treasurer said.

The T-D Bank at 283 Lakeshore Rd. E., Oakville is still accepting Christmas Seals donations and Mrs. Lunau said anyone who has not yet contributed can send a cheque there.

Mrs. Lunau said the shortage of funds will mean cut-backs in respiratory disease programs, although the Halton Association has not yet decided which programs will be chopped. Cuts will likely have to be made in the summer camp for asthmatic children, or the RD screening in Halton industries, Mrs. Lunau said both are important—last year's industrial screening program referred 25 per cent of those checked to their doctors for chest ailments.

**Band coming**

Appearance of the Carlton Show Band at the community centre in June is being arranged by the Lions club. They have sponsored the group here before, with great success.

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**Meeting planned**

**Interested Citizens push for independent line study**

Chairman of the Interested Citizens Group Bill Mann claims Dennis Timbrell in his news release concerning the proposed Bradley-Georgetown transmission line misrepresented the true facts by saying this study was in response to complaints of residents in the area, inferring that he was giving the citizens exactly what they had asked for.

Mr. Mann replying this week to the Environmental Hearing Board report, goes on to say the Interested Citizens Group he heads has never asked for a study of the restricted area between Points 33 and 95, but have always requested an independent study of the total corridor.

"The first request was as early as July 1973," he says. "This point was confirmed in the Environmental Hearing Board report where it was noted that not one citizen, organization or group opposed the decision taken by the Independent Citizens Group."

Meetings  
Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Energy, released the report by the Environmental Hearing Board relative to the proposed Bradley-Georgetown transmission line last week. The report was the result of a series of meetings held from July 15, 1975 to August 7, 1975, at Hillsburgh on a restricted portion of the proposed line.

"It is gratifying to learn that the Environmental Hearing Board in their report confirmed the Interested Citizens' Group's long-term contention that there were other alternative routes outside the study area which would transmit 500kV power from the Bruce Generating Station to the 500kV grid system," says Mr. Mann.

Contention  
"It is the Interested Citizens' Group's contention and evidence was given in this regard that a shorter, more direct route is available with less environmental impact on people, less utilization of

prime agricultural land, eliminating the critical escarpment crossing at Limehouse, transmitting power closer to the source of requirement, and at a much lower cost," Mr. Mann says.

"As one example, the Bruce to Essa Corridor which was restricted from consideration because in Dr. Solandt's opinion "It would not be easy to find a socially and environmentally acceptable route for the Bruce to Essa line because it might have to traverse some of the most popular scenic and recreational terrain in Southern Ontario," now appears to be a reality as the Ontario Hydro are currently expropriating property between Bruce Generating Plant and Owen Sound—the first leg of this corridor."

"Evidence was also given that Dr. Solandt did not make a detailed study of the Bruce to Essa possibility and was just stating an opinion only."

"Why does the Government continue to ignore these facts?"  
The Environmental Hearing Board in their report and after reviewing all the evidence submitted obviously agreed with the Interested Citizens Group that their terms of reference be expanded and made a special appeal to the Minister of Energy that this be done, but it was the Minister's decision not to alter the Board's term of reference. Why?"

Will pursue  
"The Interested Citizens' Group intends to pursue this issue with all their physical and financial resources until we have received as every other area has, and that is, an independent study of the total corridor. The Government constantly says that time is of the essence and that there is no time for the study. The true fact of the matter is that the delays have been incurred by the Government and Ontario Hydro and not the citizens as we have been requesting this study since July 1973," Mr. Mann continued.

"The Minister of Energy has given the Hydro approval to begin work on the sections of line between Bradley Junction and Colbeck and between Limehouse and the Milton Transformer Station. We do not recognize this authority and in view of evidence to date we are recommending all citizens effected to advise

the Hydro accordingly and not to enter into right-of-way discussions and to refer any expropriation papers to their lawyers."

Mr. Mann reports that the Interested Citizens Group is "gathering strength and support." A general meeting will be held Tuesday, January 20 at 8 p.m. at Ospringe public school.

**"We've been had" on hydro corridor—Reed**

Energy Minister Dennis Timbrell has been accused of disregarding the serious concern shown by Mr. Caverly and the Environmental Hearing Board over the difference of opinion between Ontario Hydro at such an advanced stage of the decision-making process over the proposed Bradley Junction to Georgetown hydro corridor.

In a press release this week, Julian Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington, said the concern expressed by the Interested Citizens has not had a public forum because the Ministry of Energy has disallowed their debate. "Until their case is properly heard, this whole procedure will be nothing more than sham," Reed said. "Unless hearings of this kind are conducted in the early stages before money and time are committed to such projects, we will be doing no more than paying lip service to public participation."

Reed noted Mr. Timbrell had given approval to Hydro to begin work on sections of the line between Bradley Junction and Colbeck and between Limehouse and the Milton transformer station in spite of repeated requests from concerned citizens for a totally independent study based on premises never allowed consideration or debated at the hearings in Hillsburgh conducted by the Environmental Hearing Board. The Halton-Burlington MPP said the energy minister also has not taken into account the Premier's request to former Minister of Agriculture Bill Stewart to look into the matter, and "whose reply has not been forthcoming."

"We've been had," Mr. Reed says, charging it is general practice with the incumbent government to deal with situations after the fact, when hands are tied

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