

OUR READERS WRITE: The Ould Lammas Fair

The cake and the icing

25 Ridgepoint Drive,
St. Catharines, Ont.
29 Feb. '76.

Dear Sir:
As a parent of one of the hockey players you hosted this past weekend, I wish to thank you and commend you for the efforts.

The facilities were first rate — the meal was enjoyable and charmingly served — the arena facilities more than adequate — the handling of the draw quietly efficient — the refereeing let the kids play hockey, not shinny.

These aspects do NOT happen by accident. The time and efforts of a good

number of people over a period of time are involved.

Perhaps the "icing on the cake" was the warmth and interest shown throughout the town itself, as we visited between games.

Please convey the appreciation of the players, coaches, and parents of Merritton to your branch and community at large. You have every reason to be proud of your community.

—Good Show —
—Mission Accomplished!

Sincerely,
John A. Ashley
(ex Troop Officer,
L & SH (RC))

Acton has a big heart

79 Superior Drive,
Sault Ste Marie,
Ontario.
March 5, 1976.

Editor,
Acton Free Press
P.O. Box 630,
Acton, Ontario.

Sir,
The Coach, Manager and parents of the Sault Ste Marie Pee-Wee Legion hockey team, which played in the recent Acton

Tournament wish to thank all concerned for the wonderful reception and support given to them during their visit.

A special thank you goes to the Acton Legion Branch 197 for sponsoring a well-organized tournament and to the parents who billeted the Soo hockey team.

Congratulations to all for a job well done!
Acton may be a small town, but it sure has a big heart!

Terry Devon,
Coach.

Why close hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Frank Miller,
Queen's Park, Toronto.

Dear Sir:
I am writing an open letter to you with copies to Premier Davis, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed and the newspapers of the Halton Region on the subject of the closing of some Ontario hospitals and the cuts in expenditures.

My first question is, why did you close 10 hospitals in Ontario? The closing of a hospital seems to be a drastic measure, done when all else fails, therefore what were your preliminary measures to closing the hospitals? What money saving programs were instituted previous to the closings?

Before closing the hospitals studies must have been done to determine what hospitals could be closed down without any drop in efficiency or degree of service to the community. I would like to know who conducted the studies, when they were conducted and where I can get a copy of the reports. In case studies were not done, I would like your reasons for not conducting them and how you could make a proper judgement without proper information? Eeny, meeny, miney, mo, is not exactly the most efficient way to decide.

Will the closing of certain hospitals increase the efficient use of monies in the hospitals still in operation? What happens in the future when more cuts in budget are needed to keep health costs down? At the present time the most vocal dispute is being made over the closing of Doctors' Hospital in Toronto. Doctors' Hospital attends to the needs of many ethnic groups in the downtown area, but while Doctors' was closed neither Toronto Western nor Mount Sinai hospitals, both in the immediate vicinity, had budget cuts. Why?

As a member of the provincial legislature and a representative of the people of Ontario, I would have assumed it was your job to work for better health care, not try to lessen the availability of hospitals. During the recent hospital workers' strike the ministry of health stated that hospitals were essential services. Now that money is tight hospitals become money-wasting institutions of which a few are picked to take the full brunt of your budget cuts.

If I was to consider the health ministry as a person you are just lopping off an arm, a few fingers, and maybe a leg because the heart is too weak to pump blood to the whole body. You are chopping budgets here and there instead of across-the-board cutbacks which would save money at all hospitals. Not only would you not need to close any

hospitals, but every hospital in the province would have to tighten up. What good is it to cut the grass in the front yard while the back yard grows to three feet high?

During your search for more money did you ever investigate other government departments to see if they were holding the line on expenditures, for example the Royal Commission investigating violence in the media?

I am seventeen years old and live in Halton Hills. If there is an emergency at my home the members of my family would be treated at Milton District Hospital. In the future if it is found that, by your method of cost cutting, more hospitals have to be closed what will be the future of the smaller hospitals like Milton? If Milton's hospital was closed the people of the Milton area would be forced to travel to Georgetown, 15 to 20 minutes; Guelph, 20 to 30 minutes; or to Oakville, 30 to 40 minutes away.

I realize that people in other parts have to travel even farther than this and I feel sorry for them, but I am personally concerned with Milton. If someone has a weak heart, is a cancer patient or is bleeding seriously that extra few minutes could mean their lives. This is why I would like to know what the criteria were for the closing of the hospitals and I am sure the other members of our community would like to know as well. That is why I am going to send this letter to the local newspapers—with your answer as a follow-up.

Thank-you,
Alison Brown,
R.R. 5, Milton

Again this year Catherine Graham of R. R. 1, Limehouse has written an interesting letter to the paper to coincide with the celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

The Ould Lammas Fair

On the last Monday and Tuesday of August, the tranquility of the little town of Ballycastle in Co. Antrim, is broken by crowds of people who go there to enjoy the "Ould Lammas Fair." Ballycastle is a seaside resort in the northern part of this county, and of course Antrim is a well-known part of Ireland for it was here that St. Patrick tended his sheep on Slemish Mountain.

Fairs in Ireland were traditionally held each month. This was a day's outing we all looked forward to. Here on the stalls you could find almost everything for sale — linen, china, ropes, and of course second-hand clothes.

The latter stalls have disappeared entirely. People won't buy this type of merchandise anymore.

The monthly fairs are held no more, as they go to larger centres now, but the Lammas Fair still continues. Perhaps this is due to the fact that a famous song was written about it by J. H. McCauley and of course it is the peak time for tourists. Whatever it is, it is still going strong.

It dates back 350 years and used to last for a week. There was dancing in the streets to the tune of the old-time fiddler. That has also changed, as the fiddlers lead a more

sophisticated life these days in the ballrooms. Sheep and cattle are still sold there.

This fair has always been associated with two things more than anything else, "Dulse and Yellowman." For the benefit of those who are wondering what dulse is, well it is a sea food, gathered locally and dried. It has a salty tang and it is not everyone who could acquire a taste for it. In other words, there would be little chance of you getting addicted, but even if you did, no harm would be forthcoming as sea foods are really health foods.

Yellowman is a homemade sweet, the recipe handed down from generation to generation. It is made in large slabs as hard as granite. You have to have a good strong instrument to break it into mouth-size lumps. Good to give to a noisy child to keep them quiet for quite a while. To come away from "The Ould Lammas Fair" without a sample of the latter two would be quite unthinkable. I will close with a verse from McCauley's poem.

At the Ould Lammas Fair boys, were you ever there?

Were you ever at the fair in Ballycastle, O?

Did you treat your Maryann to dulse or yellowman

At the Ould Lammas Fair in Ballycastle, O?

Catherine Graham,
R. R. 1, Limehouse

Why do you disagree?

The Hon. Stuart Smith
Leader, The Liberal Party of Ontario,
Queen's Park, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Smith:
First may I congratulate you on your election to the leadership of the Liberal Party of Ontario. We wish you well in your service in this vital position of leadership in Queen's Park.

I note from a report in today's Canadian Champion, (Mar. 3), that you are quoted as having said of the Renaissance Committee that while admiring the determination of their efforts, you "disagree with almost everything they stand for."

Renaissance as a non-sectarian, non-partisan citizens' committee stands for parent-power which apparently isn't the popular thing to agree with when you're talking to a teachers' union. Renaissance was established to provide a place of honorable independence for parents and taxpayers to stand, in seeking to exert their civilizing and appropriate influences in the decision-making processes of our public educational system. While it is understandable that the reactionary bureaucrats would "disagree with almost everything" Renaissance stands for, it is hardly appropriate for the leader of the Liberal party to find himself on the side of such a repressive establishment!

Renaissance seeks to be a voice representing the civilized concerns of the silent majority and the civil rights of the silenced minorities. As its founder and former chairman, there are many groups whose views I don't personally agree with but whose right to be heard we've championed. A review of Renaissance recommendations to the Board and to the Ministry confirms that Renaissance has "pointed the way to a sane and satisfying new day in public education" and that there are an increasing number of respected voices joining the chorus we started to sing two years ago calling for enlightened reforms in an

educational system controlled by the wisdom of adulthood and the moral guidance of parenthood.

I think you should be aware that Liberal MPP Julian Reed, whose battle for the civil rights of parents over the closing of the Norval school was supported by a vigorous Renaissance campaign, won his riding by about the slim number of votes represented by the number of Renaissance members in his riding.

So it's hard to imagine how you could really mean what you said about disagreeing with "almost everything Renaissance stands for" and in fact we'd be interested to know specifically at what points you disagree with us.

Sincerely,
Ken Campbell,
Milton.

Courses for staff costs \$640

Fees for courses totalling \$640 for town works staff were approved Monday by Halton Hills works committee.

Gord Fendley and D. Swackhamer will attend the C.S. Anderson Road School for three days this May at

Guelph University and the town will pay registration fees totalling \$90 for each man.

John Dunn will go to a two day garbage collection and disposal workshop for two days in April in Chicago

which will cost the town about \$300.

Both engineer Robert Austin and deputy engineer Ted Ballinger will attend two days of the urban drainage seminar in Toronto later this month.

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Rose Brand Pickles 2 \$1	Whole Mushrooms 49¢		
FAIR EASY Soft Margarine 35¢	York or Alymer CHOICE CUT 14 oz. Can GREEN OR WAX BEANS 23¢	GRAIN OF GOLD SLICED	White Bread 3 \$1
Play IGA Bingo	Babies Only Please Bathroom Tissue 95¢	POWDERED	Tide Detergent \$2.13
ON Global Television Network	THIS WEEK PLAY RED BINGO CARDS. CHECK DARK BLUE BINGO CARDS!	CARNATION	Coffee Mate 1.09
monday thru friday- 3:30 to 4:00 pm	PRICES EFFECTIVE WED THRU SAT, MAR 10-13. WE RESERVE THE RIGHTS TO LIMIT QUANTITIES.	IGA	Salad Dressing 89¢
saturday- 7:30 to 8:00 pm		Maxwell House	Coffee 1.49

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Please be generous with your contribution to the RED CROSS. If not canvassed by March 13th, please forward donation to: GEORGETOWN & DISTRICT RED CROSS BRANCH, P.O. Box 106, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4T1. Include address so that a receipt can be issued.

HELP US HELP

to give: FREE services as: Loan of hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches, etc., Home Nursing / Teen Home Nursing and First Aid courses, Water / Ice Safety, Blood Transfusions, Assistance in Minor Disasters and Emergency Welfare Aid (drivers etc.), Services for Seniors (Involved in "Meals on Wheels" program), Red Cross Youth, Arts & Crafts and others.

KEEP THE MAILED RED CROSS INFORMATION SHEET HANDY BY YOUR PHONE

If not received by mail, phone 877-1332 or 877-4527 and sheet will be mailed to you.

The President and Board of Directors of
The Children's Aid Society of the
Regional Municipality of Halton

cordially invite you and your friends to
attend the

ANNUAL MEETING

on Tuesday, March 16, 1976 at 8:30 p.m. in the
Auditorium, Halton Centennial Manor, Ontario
Street (Hwy. 25), Milton, Ontario.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
MR. H.H. DYMOND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Because of budgetary restrictions individual invitations will not be sent.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Mr. G. G. Heym Councillor M. A. Powys
President Secretary