

OUR READERS WRITE:

Cure worse than disease?

March 26, 1976
169 Longfield Rd.,
Acton, Ont.

The Editor,
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ont.

Dear Sir:
At the risk of appearing unconcerned about public health and safety, I wish to voice a strong word of caution regarding government plans to launch massive chemical spraying programs to control mosquitoes in Ontario this summer.

For weeks now, the media have been sounding the alarm about the threat of a possible outbreak of encephalitis in Southern Ontario, transmitted to humans by disease bearing mosquitoes. Medical authorities advise that the disease organism is found in the blood streams of birds, which are bitten by mosquitoes, which in turn come in contact with humans.

The way to avert this anticipated epidemic, according to our Department of Health authorities and our politicians is to carry out a massive spraying program across all the entire lower portion of Southern Ontario from Windsor to Oshawa and beyond.

I feel it is very much in the public interest to ask some serious questions about this proposed program. There has been literally no word at all from authorities in the biological science or environmental sector presenting their views on this awesome proposal. Is it because biologists and ecologists condone this chemical blitzkrieg? I doubt it.

Has the scientific community at last developed a completely selective chemical pesticide that will wreak havoc with one isolated segment of the insect world and leave all other species of wildlife unaffected? I do not believe that is the case, nor do I believe that environmentalists have wholeheartedly endorsed any pesticide that can be used on such a wide scale without creating potential hazards to other wild life and ultimately to human life as well.

Consider for a moment the scale of the recommended spraying campaign. Thousands of square miles, of all types of terrain, containing potential mosquito-breeding water, lie in the area designated by health authorities to be subjected to chemical spraying. Every expanse of stagnant water, from the quiet back waters of Acton's Fairy Lake to the marshes of Long Point's bird sanctuaries, to the quiet streams and ponds that dot our landscape, yes even the farmer's rain barrel, is a potential source of the mosquito nuisance. Are they all to be sprayed? The thought is preposterous yet pertinent.

Furthermore, just what is this chemical that is to prevent the outbreak of encephalitis by wiping out mosquitoes? The aftermath of large scale DDT sprayings in past years proved one thing—that mosquitoes developed resistant strains and came back in even greater numbers, while other species of wildlife suffered biological damage. DDT was heartily endorsed by many experts of the day as having no adverse side effects. Of course the chemical companies enthusiastically supported the claim.

Admittedly, scientists have produced many improved types of pesticide in recent years. But is there one that can be sprayed from one end of southern Ontario to the other, over many hundreds of square miles of life-bearing water, with a guarantee that there will be no adverse side effects? If so, following statements from public officials recommending the use of this chemical in a spraying program, I believe the public has a right to hear some more specifics about this chemical pesticide.

So far, the only publicized comments have been related to the cost of the spraying program. How much will the province pay? How much will local government have to pay? Not once have I heard or read of an official asking "Is such a program really safe," or "Is the threat of an anticipated outbreak of encephalitis really as grave as we have been led to believe?" Indeed, serious enough to warrant spraying Southern Ontario's water table with chemical pesticides? Pesticides that eventually wind up in our drinking water? Health officials' death of approximately half a dozen people in Ontario from encephalitis in 1975. Government agencies advocate spending a million dollars in 1976 to head off an increase in this figure. If the same rationale was employed when dealing with other health hazards, government should be spending hundreds of millions of dollars combating other established health hazards that kill thousands in our country each year, i.e. traffic deaths, alcohol related problems, heart disease etc.

Hopefully, the media will provide us with some response from the environmentalist community substantiating the alleged harmfulness of such a chemical spraying program.

My point is this. If and when a pattern of increase in encephalitis is indeed established in Ontario, then steps to prevent it should be taken. And then, only when the public can be guaranteed that the possible dangers from the cure will not be worse than the disease.

Sincerely,
Norm Elliott

Successful Heart campaign

60 Grant Blvd.,
Dundas, Ontario,
March 23rd, 1976.

To the Editor,

Dear Mrs. Dills:
Mr. Victor Bristow turned in Acton's Heart Fund Canvass yesterday and it was almost \$1,000.00 over last year. In fact the total was a beautiful \$2,700.00 for heart research. Mr. Bristow is a wonderful leader and I am sure he would be a success in anything he undertook. However, he said he could never do it alone. The people of Acton

certainly did their utmost to help raise money for research. Vic told us of your wonderful co-operation and your generous support of his campaign.

With your personal and unselfish assistance you are making it possible for the Ontario Heart Foundation to continue the fight against Canada's number one health enemy — heart disease.

Thank you very much from us and a big thank you from Mrs. Victor Bristow, Acton's Heart Fund Chairman.

Sincerely,
Dave and Lenore Stewart.

Motivated by devotion

Tara, Ont.,
March 22, 1976.

Editor,
Acton Free Press,
Acton (Haltoun Hills).

Dear Sir:
We have returned home after spending the weekend with relatives near Acton. While there we were privileged to have been guests of Mrs. Katharine Kelly, a long-time personal friend, and toured the newly-renovated Haltoun Hills Rest Home.

The amount of time, trouble and labour expended on this project is in our opinion

most worthwhile and a wonderful asset to Acton and district.

The residents are not only very well-cared for, but also are in the most tastefully and well-appointed surroundings. They are made to feel they are really and truly cared for, both by Mrs. Kelly and her well-trained and courteous staff. It would be very self-evident to any visitor entering the premises that Mrs. Kelly's forte is "People". I just hope that Actonians see what a wonderful place she has provided for her residents, and appreciate the devotion that motivates her.

Sheila O'Rourke

Did you go to Adam Beck?

Adam Beck Public School, located at 400 Scarborough Road in the east end of Toronto, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

In order to make this event a success, we are trying to locate all former students and teachers and ask them to contact the school

at the above address.

Yours very truly,
Esther M. Richards
Publicity Chairman

Pet of the week



SAGE REALLY needs gloves in this weather and seems to have found himself a cosy pair. The ten week old half Beagle puppy belongs to the Olinoski family who live on the 4th Line Nassagaweya just below Highway 7

Lottery winner

J. Post of 47 Frederick St. S., Acton won \$1,000 in the March 4 Wintario Lottery draw held in Barrie, according to the Ontario Lottery Corporation.

Red Cross exceeds target

Money the local Red Cross collected in Haltoun Hills for relief work in Guatemala helped push the Canadian Red Cross over its target of \$500,000.

J. G. M. Clark, chairman of the Red Cross national executive committee, stated he would like to be able to thank every person in Canada and especially the media for helping to push the total past \$520,000.

Mr. Clark said it is amazing what people will do for people they don't even know. He said further that the total is impressive, considering new budgetary restraints hitting

the same week this campaign was on.

"It shows that Canadians

still put a big priority on human life, and that's what Red Cross is all about," he said.

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Tues., April 13 - Classes 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Wed., April 14 - Classes 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Thurs., April 15 - Classes 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

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Size	Price*
A & B 78-13	15.95
78-14	17.95
78-14 & 15	17.95
78-14 & 15	19.95
78-14 & 15	19.95

*A charge of 12.00 per tire will be added if your trade-in is not retreadable.

Deluxe Champion DLC 78 RETREAD \$15.95

The wide, 7-rib tread offers good control, handling and traction plus full road contact to extend tire life. This is your best Polyester value! Polyester is a very strong long lasting tire cord material. Yet it gives a smooth ride even in the coldest weather.

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Size	Price*
A 78-13	142.95
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78-14	49.95
78-14 & 15	53.95
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Size	Price*
A 78-13	142.95
B 78-14	48.95
78-14	49.95
78-14 & 15	53.95
78-14 & 15	61.95
78-14 & 15	66.95

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Fire chiefs vacation at same time

Two weeks of the vacation time of both Haltoun Hills Fire Chiefs' will overlap, but Haltoun Hills administration committee recommended approval, since the committee agreed the two fire departments are separate entities.

Police Week May 9 to 15

Theme of this year's Police Week, running from May 9-15, will be the same as last year's, "Police Protect People."

Chief Kenneth Skerrett, Haltoun Region Police, told the

we're hung up on this because we have two separate fire departments, but I'm sure the Chiefs have competent deputies."

Chairman Les Dudy agreed, saying if either chief fell ill, the deputy would take over.

Morrow said, "Maybe

police commission detailed information about the week's programs haven't come yet from the Ontario Police Commission but he has received some information about planned activities in Oakville and Burlington.

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