

OUR READERS WRITE:

Better way to cut costs

21 Storey Drive
Acton, Ontario
March 4, 1977

Letter to the Editor:

As a parent, a taxpayer, and a part time teacher living in Acton, I would like to comment on the fact that I will now be paying more for education. I wouldn't object to this increase or any future increases in my taxes if I thought that I was getting the best value for my money, but I am not.

In recent years, the boards of education in this province have decided that the best way to cut costs is to cut down on the number of teachers. In many classes today, teachers face between 35 to 40 students per class.

I think there is a better way to cut the steadily increasing cost of education. Let's cut down on the number of administrators. I know that this suggestion would never come from any board of education, but while we the taxpayers, are paying these administrators ridiculously high salaries, what are they actually doing for the education of our children. If we got rid of some of the excess personnel at the administration level, I'm sure we would have plenty of money to improve education at the student level.

Perhaps a volunteer parents organization could be set up to look into this matter, keeping in mind the basic purpose of education. Let's get a better value for our money.

H. Coleman



BLACK DIAMOND presents Cloud Nine and Silver Bullet with trophies following the latest CB's event. In English this means: Harold Smolkin (centre), 1st vice-president of the Acton Hillbillies C.B. Club congratulates Gary Foster (left) and Brad Cripps of Acton on winning first prize at the Fergus C.B. Club Transmitter hunt held in Fergus recently. This exercise is designed to instruct users of citizen band radios in searching for weak transmitter signals in emergency situations.

Acton

Industrial land zoned residential

Halton Hills council endorsed a planning board recommendation, Monday night, and approved the rezoning of 12.5 acres at Main and Wallace Streets, Acton. The plan, by North Halton Real Estate, calls for 15 single family homes, 32 semi-detached homes, and 60 townhouses.

Council, after a long debate approved the rezoning, from industrial to residential but made it clear they were not approving that particular plan, which many claimed had a higher density than desirable.

Councillor Les Duby explained the homes already there were not a non-conforming use, and would prefer to be zoned residential.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said while he had respect for the planner, who was opposed to the rezoning, he felt the opinions of the people in Ward One should be considered. "We have lived there a few years at least."

A debate about the meaning of "approval in principle" developed, with Councillor Pete Pomeroy explaining he wanted the developer to know exactly where he stood.

Councillor Peter Marks said he favored the rezoning but would like a lower density plan.

Councillor George Malby said it would give Acton an opportunity to take advantage of the OHAP plan.

department had indicated it should be residential.

"In three years the delay has cost us \$75,000 in interest alone, and the bank is not willing to wait any longer."

Duby explained the town had owned the land for 10 years and tried unsuccessfully to entice industry.

"If we approve in principle we are approving the fact the land should be residential, but not saying this exact plan," stated Councillor Walter Biehn.

The rezoning was approved with only Councillors Mike Armstrong and Marilyn Serjeantson opposed.

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C.B. club meets in scout hall

A highly successful meeting of the Hillbillies' CB club was held on Sunday, February 17 at 7 p.m. at the scout hall.

The socially-oriented program, which is aimed at family participation, started with the harmonious vocalizing of Art Daigle followed by the introduction of those attending, organization of future activities and finally a very responsible discussion of C.B. etiquette conducted by Orville Boughner who did a superb job.

They unanimously agreed upon suggestions for improving C.B. operation involved two things. The first is to leave a three second delay between transmissions to allow operators to break the channel and the second is to ensure that channel control remains with the two people talking, who should acknowledge all breaks.

During the meeting, two trophies were presented to Gary Foster and Brad Cripps who came first in the transmitter hunt in Fergus on February 20. A large transmitter hunt is being planned by the club to be held in four week's time, details to follow.

The next meeting will be held on March 20. All families in the surrounding C.B. community are more than welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. A minimal donation will be requested to defray expenses. Anybody interested in joining the club may call Black Diamond at 853-1531.

Fashions for Spring

ARRIVING DAILY!!
Don't Miss Our "Fashion Musical" March 28
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124 Mill St. East - Acton - 853-3910

The travelling tailor

Again this year Catherine Graham of R.R. 1, Limehouse, has sent The Free Press a contribution for St. Patrick's Day.

When I was growing up in Ireland my family had an old maiden aunt living with us and she often spoke of the travelling tailor adding, of course, that he was before her time. I have often thought about her stories and decided to look into them. I have come up with the following.

In the far off days of 18th century Ireland there was a great deal of excitement when the travelling tailor made his rounds. His visit was also a social event because the tailors were renowned for their wit and story telling.

The tailor carried with him the tools of his trade; needles and thread, a pair of scissors, a flat iron and a burnt stick-end to mark material. If the house where he put up was without a table large enough for his work he would not hesitate to take the door off its hinges and make use of that. (I presume the weather would have been favourable.)

In those days sewing was all done by hand because the sewing machine had not yet been invented. The tailor would remain in one area anytime from a week to a month, depending on the work available. As a rule he only sewed for men (no fuss from the

women's libbers in those days) because there was always a local lady who sewed for the women. These women were known as dress-makers and my aunt Margaret was one of them.

My father had his suits made by Mr. Campbell, the local tailor. The material was almost always navy blue serge. The suits were only worn on special occasions such as going to church or on a visit and were well taken after. A suit then could be expected to last ten years.

I wonder what the old folks would say if they could pay us a visit and take a glance at today's styles. I think they might just shake their heads and beat a fast retreat.

Before closing I will say a few words about the sewing machine. Its emergence has a very interesting and somewhat turbulent story, too long to relate. The first aid to hand sewing was made in 1755 by an Englishman. There were many efforts made down through the following years to invent the perfect machine but it was Singer, an American, who in 1851 patented his. In 1860 thousands were manufactured in the U.S. and they were made available all over the world. I have an old quilt made in the early 1800's, machine sewn.

Electricity and the electric sewing machine has been a boon, not only to the homemaker but to industry as well for the making of garments.

Catherine Graham

Other things over-used

Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

I have been asked to write my honest opinion on "tobacco". All right, I will, whether folks like it or lump it.

Tobacco, as your readers know, is an important agricultural crop in Ontario. "Country Life" says the farm income of this product was in 1975 about one hundred and ninety-five million. That is an amount not to be overlooked. It represents much labour and wages for the working men and women of this province. They depend on it for a livelihood.

I have always said: "If a man does

nothing worse than smoke, he is well away." If a man can't sit down after supper, and soothe his tired nerves with a smoke, after an exhausting day, it is just too bad. Is our freedom vanishing?

Some people try to downgrade tobacco, and upgrade many harmful things which I will not enumerate. We all have some little weakness. My own is chocolates. They are not a necessity, but I like them. The same holds good for tobacco. It is the over-use of many things that causes criticism, not just tobacco.

Yours truly,

Millicent Milroy.

Skate-a-thon a success Rotary president says

Last Sunday's Skate-a-thon was a great success, says Rotary club president Don McDonald. More than 200 youngsters joined 2 local celebrities at the Acton arena to skate away the afternoon while raising money for Rotary Club service work and public school activities.

"I was very pleased with the turn-out," said Mr. McDonald, who pointed out that the annual Skate-a-thon is the club's major fund-raising event.

Last year the event took in about \$5,000 and although some students were away with the flu he is confident that this year's total will be about the same.

Each participant is responsible for gathering his own sponsors. The proceeds will be split evenly between the Rotary Club and the public schools involved.

Co-operation The students involved were all from grades four to eight and McDonald had praised the school staff responsible for the organization of school teams saying their help made his job easy.

Little, M. Z. Bennett, Speyside, Limehouse and Ospringe public schools tried for 60 laps around the rink while the less supple celebrities went 20 laps. Those taking part were Don McDonald from the Rotary Club, M.P.P. Julian Reed, Gary Dawkins, principal of Acton's new middle school; councillor Les Duby, Halton sheriff Mac Sprowl, District Commissioner for the north Halton boy scouts Murray Harrison, Louis Charlebois from the Acton Chamber of Commerce, George Gray from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, George Hargrave from St. John Ambulance and Acton old-timer Sonny Townsley.

The prizes for the student who collects the most in pledges and for best school will be awarded when all of the donations have been collected.

Charged

A young Acton man was charged under the Narcotics Control Act last Wednesday.

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