

Our readers write

Don't despair on town hall

At the risk of seeming to be a perennial gadfly on the subject I would like to comment on the current red herring in the Town Hall tale. The Industrial Safety Branch of the Ministry of Labour was asked to inspect the old Town Hall and rule on its safety for occupancy by employees of the Municipality, is the police. The inspectors paid their visit and ruled the building should not be occupied until certain parts of the structure (the roof) can safely support loads likely to be applied to them. Newspaper reports then noted the Town Halls was, at worst, condemned, or at best, unsafe. Those who would like to tear the Hall down undoubtedly said, 'Aha, I told you so!'; and those who would like it preserved were discouraged by another setback.

However let's look at the facts of the matter. The Dept. of Labour did direct that the building not be occupied. This judgment was based solely on a report dated Jan. 25, 1978, by Alan Zeegen, Consulting Engineers, the designers of the new Fire Hall addition. This report made comments only on the Town Hall roof structure and must have led the inspectors to believe the roof might collapse. The best they could do for an actual inspection of the roof was look at it from the outside since the only access to the inside was eliminated by demolition of the old stage area. Their solution was to adopt the Engineer's report. This was the Dept. of Labour's "inspection" if it can be called that.

They stated that the building should not

be occupied until it is brought up to recently introduced safety standards. These new standards which have resulted in demolition of many arenas would also condemn most old buildings. The Engineer's report did not make any recommendation but it would certainly be possible to bring the roof structure up to current building standards.

What do I personally think? Well, here are my opinions for what they are worth. I think the roof is in no danger of imminent collapse. It certainly has put up with a lot of neglect and doesn't seem to have sagged or settled. Is the building safe? It won't collapse overnight; that is certain. It was well made to begin with and there doesn't seem to be much seriously wrong. There is a problem with the brickwork over the front door where there is a possibility of some of it coming away. The Dept. of Labour inspectors didn't see this fault which to my mind is considerably more hazardous than the roof. This hazard was reported to Council months ago. A good carpenter with a couple of 4 x 4 posts, some pieces of 2 x 4, and a plate could probably eliminate the hazard temporarily in half an hour.

To all supporters of the Town Hall restoration I would say don't despair. The building can be restored and this current flap over its state is really only a question of whether the roof meets current standards or not.

George Elliott
Chairman
Town Hall Restoration Committee

Band story clarified

March 8, 1978
Acton High School

Dear Editor:
I would like to express my thanks to you and your staff for the excellent coverage that you give to events at the high school. You have done much to keep the community informed and we appreciate this.

For the record, though, I must set straight some details of the concert held at the high school and featured so prominently in the Free Press. The group giving its world premiere was the Acton High School Stage Band, the second band formed at the school. As indicated in the article, this band

specializes in popular, jazz and rock music.

The first band formed at the school, the Acton High School Concert Band has been performing for three years and, as the larger of the two bands, takes on a more ceremonial role, performing for Commencement, the official opening, etc. Both bands will be performing for the public on April 15 and details will be available soon. I hope this will clarify the situation. Again many thanks for your support.

Sincerely,
David Sale
Arts Dept.

Guides say thanks

March 13, 1978

Dear Free Press,
On behalf of the second Acton Girl Guides, we would like to thank you for being so kind for taking the pictures of us at the sleepover on March 3, 4 and 5 at the Scout

Hall and when we had international day and for putting in all those columns.
Thank you.

Lisa Kueter
and the second
Acton Girl Guides

Interested in band?

Dear Sir:
Royal City Crown Defenders Flute Band require Flautists or trainees or experienced drummers.

This band meets in the Orage Hall at 385 Waterloo Avenue, Guelph, every Sunday at 2 p.m.

The band is formed from a number of Canadian, Ulster and Scots men and women who wish to promote Orange music

in Ontario. We hope to make a trip to Ulster and Scotland in 1979.

Anyone interested in the above band please write to Tom Plunkett, Secy., 167 Country Club Drive, Guelph N1E 3K8 or phone 823-2569.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,
Tom Plunkett
Secretary

Military artifacts wanted

Canadian War Museum,
330 Sussex Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario.

K1A 0M8.

Editor
Acton Free Press
Dear Sir or Madam:

The Canadian War Museum seeks to strengthen its collection of military artifacts and at this time especially wishes to acquire uniforms, weapons, medals, military books, insignia and photographs concerning the military history of North America from 1804 to the present. Artifacts relating to the allied and enemy forces from the First and Second World Wars, and from

peace keeping assignments are also of interest, as are the common everyday items used by Canadian military personnel in the war zones, in rest areas behind the lines, and at home.

These are for display, future reference and research in the Canadian War Museum in the national capital and other allied Canadian military museums. The Canadian War Museum would be pleased to hear from you if you are able to assist in this requirement.

Yours sincerely,
L. F. Murray,
Chief Curator.

Awards for writers

The Board of Trustees of the Louise Plumb Fund wish to announce that the second annual Louise Plumb Fund Award is now being offered to beginning writers in Ontario. The address for further information is P.O. Box 4396, Postal Station C, London, Ontario.

This award is in memory of Dr. Louise Plumb who was a founding member of the London (Ontario) Branch of the Canadian Authors' Association.

Word length for fiction or non-fiction must not be over 2000 words. No more than three poems may be submitted.

Awards in each category will be \$100, \$50., and \$25.

Holy Week services

The Editor
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ont.

Dear Mrs. Dills:

Your brief comment on the editorial page of last week's Free Press re the omission this year of the customary interdenominational Holy Week services for the "first time in twenty years or so," seemed to suggest to me a sense on your part of sincere regret. With that feeling I am in complete agreement.

Apparently, the "reason" given has been the steady decline in attendance during the past few years. Since when was the Church called upon by Her Lord and Master to give way to numbers? Did He not state "Where

two or three are gathered together in My Name there am I in the midst of them?" We may not always succeed in getting crowds to follow our lead, but certainly it is up to the Church to try to accomplish that goal. We are defeated only when we admit defeat.

Incidentally, the observance of Holy Week services in Acton goes back much further than twenty years. They were held in the forties, when I was privileged to serve as minister of what was then Acton United Church. Of course, we did get large congregations then.

Yours most sincerely,
A. Walter Fosbury.

Thanks for support

Dear Ms. Dills:

"Heart Month" in Canada is now over and on behalf of the Canadian Heart Fund, Ontario Division, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your support during our financial campaign.

Our objective this year was \$5 million and although all returns are not in, we are quite hopeful that our objective will be attained.

Without your willing co-operation in communicating our needs to the public, the Canadian Heart Fund would not be able to express such an outlook.

April, 1978 has been declared "World High Blood Pressure Month" by the World Health Organization in co-operation with the International Society and Federation of

Cardiology. The theme for this international Society and Federation of Cardiology. The theme for this international project is "Down With High Blood Pressure". At the end of March, we will supply you with an educational media kit on high blood pressure and we hope you will make extensive use of the material.

Thank you again, for your past support—as always it is truly appreciated. With best wishes.

Yours very truly,
Canadian Heart Foundation
Ontario Division
Esther M. Richards
Director of Public Relations

In the garden

I'm thinking now of gardening,
And basking in the sun,
While I fix this tear, in my underwear
That shoveling snow has done.

My back flaps, lost their buttons,
And the knees are kinda thin,
This detergent soap, with other dope,
Has nearly done 'em in.

I have some seed now started,
Some plants are peeking through,
In my garden plot I find a lot,
Of little things to do.

When I'm busy picking up the stones,
And pulling out the weeds,
I don't worry then, about money men,
With all their human greeds.

'Cause I'm living close to nature,
With mosquitoes, bugs, and worms.
Away from the bungle of the concrete
jungle,
Not worrying about their germs.

I can lower my head, and pray instead
To the ONE who calms our fears,
Who puts the flowers, on this earth of ours,
And He's done it all these years.

I'm sure if I, but do my part,
As I make my tea and toast,
There'll be a place, out there in space,
When I give up my ghost.

Victor Smith
R.R. 2, Rockwood.

Invitation to Belleville

Dear Editor
The Citizens of Belleville extend a friendly invitation to all former residents to join with them for their Centennial celebrations and especially Homecoming Week starting July 30th. Homecoming Week will feature exciting parades,

moonlight cruises on the beautiful Bay of Quinte, ethnic feasts and band concerts. Of course, it will also be a time of reunion and family gatherings.

Yours very truly,
J. Ben Corke
Mayor

TOY HYGIENE

FOR EASTER

- KELLYKINS RABBITS
- DAKIN RABBITS, DUCKS & LAMBS
- EASTER BASKETS & NOVELTIES
- EASTER BOOKS

KIDS!!
WIN A FREE
KELLYKINS RABBIT

- DRAW AND COLOUR YOUR OWN EASTER BUNNY
- PRIZES FOR BEST, MOST IMAGINATIVE, MOST COLOURFUL, BIGGEST, CUTEST AND SILLIEST
- NO HELP FROM ANYBODY!

DROP IN ENTRIES BY
11 A.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 26th

Mountainview Rd. & No. 7 Hwy. 877-8800

Wintario for Erin

Wintario has sent a cheque to the Erin Agricultural Society for \$25,694.10 to help pay the cost of repairing the coliseum last year.

Sid Spear

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AND

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Letters show need for hostel

The formation of the women's hostel steering committee has generated several calls and letters from abused wives to the committee's chairman, Gloria Hincks, said the letters are further evidence of the need for a hostel in the Halton area.

The committee has been awarded a grant of \$750 from the Secretary of State. This grant will be used to further its work, including the development of workshops and a questionnaire for a public survey.

At its monthly meeting last week, the committee looked into the availability of office space for four summer students it hopes to hire to do research. Office space in Milton or Georgetown would

be preferred. The group hopes to receive grants from Young Canada Works and the Secretary of State for employing the students.

Volunteers to serve on the committee are needed. The group meets once a month at the Halton Health Unit in Milton. Anyone interested is asked to come to the next meeting April 11 at noon or to call Gloria Hincks at 639-6254.

Rising

As the snow recedes a little from the foundations of houses, spring plants soon start to grow.

Salvation Army

THRIFT STORE

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THURSDAY PICK-UPS

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Thanks

The Management and Staff of the 'DOMINION HOTEL' wish to thank everyone who made our '1st ANNIVERSARY' celebrations such a huge success.

We enjoyed the 'Anniversary Weekend' and feel our many customers also did and we look forward to the coming years!



The winners of our Anniversary Door Prize, a beautiful house plant, were Mr. & Mrs. Amie Neault of 340 Lansdowne Ave., North Bay.

COMING EVENTS

'SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT'
Saturday, March 25
Trophies for first and second
• DOUBLES ONLY •
Registration 12 Noon—Games Start 1 PM

'ENTERTAINMENT'
Thurs.—Sat.—Sat. Matinee
March 23, 25
Thurs.—Fri.—Sat.—Sat. Matinee
March 30, 31, April 1
'POPEYE'
'A terrific one man show'

Dominion Hotel

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