

Our readers write

Points of clarification

12 Chelvin Drive,
Georgetown, Ontario,
May 19, 1978.

To the Editor,
Acton Free Press,
Dear Sir:

I would like to make some points of clarification about the article printed in this week's Independent and Free Press about the Big Brothers' Association of Halton Hills.

For four years, Mike Lawrie, a Georgetown resident, headed the association, interviewing, selecting and matching both Big and Little Brothers. When he had to leave our community because of a job transfer the control of the Association fell to three interested men. They felt that a larger executive would provide more continuity and more stability to the organization in the event one or more of them were unable to fulfill their obligations. As a result a number of interested persons, myself included, met at their request to set goals for the Association, form a Board of Directors, incorporate as a non-profit organization, establish an interview and matching committee, and organize a fund raising program. This had been done, hence the release to the press.

I want to make it clear however, that the Big Brothers' Association in our community has never failed to establish itself but has in fact worked diligently over the past five years to provide guidance for fatherless boys in our town. The work done by our association is confidential and as a result does not receive a great deal of publicity. I want to assure you though, that much work by our Association has been done in the past and we anticipate even greater involvement in the future.

I would like to pay tribute to the Optimist Club of Georgetown for their financial assistance over the years. They have provided money for the Association to be able to cover administration costs and to send some of our Little Brothers to a Big Brothers' camp each summer.

In addition I want to extend a special thanks to those Big Brothers in our community who have continued to work effectively and responsibly with their Little Brothers during the re-organization of our Association.

Yours very truly,
Larry B. Cigien,
Vice President,
Big Brothers' Association of
Halton Hills.

Save the escarpment

Acton Free Press and

Once more the proposed quarry near Spessy's rears its ugly head.

Once more we are given slide shows of how beautiful the proposed lakes will be, how peaceful, and recreational oriented the surroundings could be once the 120 million tons of high grade dolomite has been extracted.

Think of the trucks on Highway 25.
Think of the Noise.
Think of the Pollution.
Think of the rape of the Escarpment.

Why do we need slides of what could be only 5 years hence when it is there today. The dam, the trails, the stands of trees - all so close to Canada's major urban core.

It is the last remaining piece of the Escarpment edge between Acton and Milton that does not have quarry operations on it. The area should be purchased by the Ontario government and left as it for the use of the public as an unstructured natural recreational park. Enough environmental damage-quarries, power lines, garbage dumps, etc. If the urban core needs crushed stone let them ship it in by rail from northern Ontario and pay the increase in price.

For once the politicians, planners, and decision makers must equate the increase in price of crushed stone due to transportation and compare that to the value of retaining the last 600 acre stand of mature trees so close to the urban core.

Lloyd P. Sankey,
RR 4 Acton, Ontario

Tips for our writers

It's always with delight that editors of weeklies look to the readers for information of things on in the community.

Many people voluntarily do write ups of events and meetings to have run in the paper and your weekly paper is grateful to them.

But many call the paper, disappointed when the news item submitted is not printed exactly as originally written.

Here are a few tips to remember when writing copy for this paper:

When you report your meeting for the paper to bear in mind that readers want to read an objective report of what happened whether it was at the last Ladies' Aid meeting or at the big fire. There's no place for opinion in a news story. Avoid using "we, our, and I" unless the news is in the form of a letter to the editor or an editorial comment.

Many writeups that come into the news office concern meetings where a hymn and prayer are sung. The problem that arises here is that people who attended the meeting already know the hymn title and the prayer recited. Those who did not go, are not interested in those details—a newspaper can't print stories that are like minutes of a meeting. Therefore that detail is likely to be cut out of the meeting report.

What is important is that maybe your

group donated some money to a worthy cause. Now that is important to the community, and to the general reader. The readers know what groups you support and in turn support you for your efforts.

Every group hears the minutes of the last meeting and dutifully passes the resolution to adopt them as read. That is important but it's not news.

Now if the president stands up and says the minutes are slander on her or his good name, that would be news and by all means should be included in the report for the newspaper.

When writing up your news for the paper please print all names. They're familiar to you but probably not to the typesetter or proofreader.

A slight error may cause some hard feelings among friends and that kind of headache no one needs whether they are in the newspaper trade or not.

If you have complaints please call the editor and talk things over. Your hard work is appreciated.

Writing for your local paper is very satisfying. If you follow a few ground rules you can see your work in type just as you have presented it. Remember your paper is for your news and the more you participate the more you can enjoy the newspaper as well as your community.

Share a letter

Would you like to share in the Prime Minister's personal correspondence with a beautiful woman? Wouldn't you like to know just what he said to Brigitte Bardot? Of course you would.

A copy of his letter came in the mail, so here it is. Only one difference. He wrote to Brigitte in French, and it sounded a lot more romantic that way.

But even in English, it's interesting.

Madame,
Thank you for your open letter of December 13 concerning the seal hunt. I, too, am sorry that we could not meet last year, for if I had had the opportunity to speak with you and provide you with more accurate information, perhaps you would not have written such a letter.

When we are examining questions which involve so many psychological, zoological, economic, social and even cultural factors, it is necessary to consult the specialists. The outward appearance of a phenomenon may often elicit emotions which bear little relation to the hard facts. We must be careful, for what we may see on the surface is not necessarily a true indication of the situation.

Just what do scientists tell us about the harp seal and the hunt? The animal pathologists, biologists and veterinarians who go to the hunt unanimously agree that the seals are killed in a more humane manner than most domestic animals in any civilized country. The method used renders the seal insensitive to pain instantly. Fisheries officials are present to guarantee humane practices, and these officials are accompanied by independent veterinarians and humane society representatives who help them ensure that the prescribed method of slaughter is followed.

Naturally, the scene on the ice floes is not pretty but we must remember that neither is the scene in slaughterhouses for farmyards. The fact that mainly young seals are involved is upsetting for it is seldom that we are not deeply touched by the sight of nearly all young animals in their natural habitat.

Those who are opposed to the harp seal hunt maintain that the species is in danger of extinction. There is no truth to this argument: the species is the second most numerous of the seal family and currently numbers approximately 1,250,000 animals, giving it a very wide margin for survival. Even Jacques Cousteau, a world authority if there ever was one, acknowledges this fact. Furthermore, it has been scientifically established that, at present catch levels, the harp seal population is actually increasing in number over previous years.

What attitude should the authorities take in view of these incontestable facts? The government knows that the economic situation is very bad in the regions where

fishermen hunt seals. The skins, meat and fat obtained from the hunt are a vital means of supplementing their extremely low income. Of course, I do not want to reduce the entire issue to a matter of money. Nevertheless, the much-deplored hunt relieves a great deal of poverty, is carried out humanely, and does not endanger the species. This being the case, what possible reason could the government invoke to ban the seal hunt?

The question has to be examined in the broader context of the evolutionary process. Hunting is a normal and essential function of all creatures in the animal kingdom, and human beings are the supreme hunters. It is an infinitely more complex function for people than it is for other animals, and it, of necessity, reflects the enormous and terrible dangers inherent in human life and evolution. Is not our very planet subject to such fundamental hazards? Hunting, fishing and rearing and killing animals are necessary for our existence, and these activities involve many and diverse risks. Our duty in every case is to meet these needs as intelligently and humanely as possible in a manner that safeguards the balance of nature's resources and does not reduce human dignity, despite what appearances might indicate.

This is exactly what we are doing in the case of the seal hunt. The harp seal could have been endangered, but we are protecting it. We are also enforcing a method of slaughter which eliminates any unnecessary cruelty and degrading treatment. The blow delivered with a club on an ice floe or by a cleaver in the slaughterhouse is certainly not a tender gesture, but in both cases the animal is made completely and instantly insensitive to pain.

It would be a fine world if we did not have to kill at all—not even painlessly—in order to survive, but then we would be discussing a different evolutionary process, a different universe and a different reality.

Yours sincerely
Pierre Trudeau

Although spring is about two weeks late, the weather this week is finally behaving as it should. People have laid their white skin in the weak sunshine and emerged red. You can almost hear the buds bursting. The smell of barbecue fluid fills the air. Some people have been swimming in the lake. It all spells Happiness.

Co-ordinator appointed

Tony Smith is a professional Engineer specializing in hydrology and hydrologic engineering. As such, he has been employed with M.M. Dillon Ltd. of Toronto as deputy manager of Water Resources Engineering, Canadian International Development Agency in charge of Trinidad Water Resources Survey, and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Authorities Branch, as hydraulic engineer.

Such a wide variety of previous responsibilities in the water engineering field has enabled Tony to be selected as the co-ordinator for the Grand River Basin Water Management Study now in progress.

This study, funded by the Ministry of the Environment, is a direct result of the 1971 Treasury Board Report and the 1974 Inquiry into the Grand River Flood. Both these reports stated that a comprehensive water management plan be evolved for the Grand River basin, taking into account all related agencies.

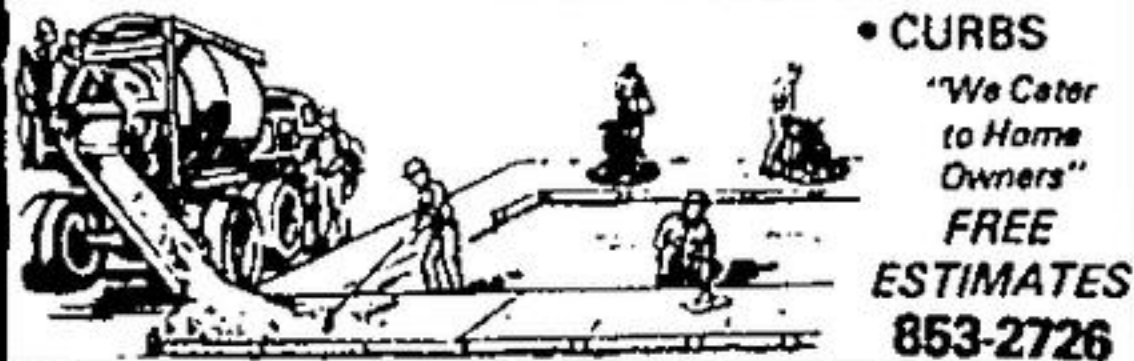
Conservation Authorities are concerned with erosion and flooding aspects, the Ministry of Natural Resources deals with water quality as it relates to fisheries and wildlife, while the Ministry of the Environment monitors pollution levels as they relate to domestic and industrial use.

In light of this, the Grand River Implementation Committee was formed to produce a Basin Management plan that would examine and involve all provincial organizations as a whole rather than in isolation. To aid in the supply of information to the report, the Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Management Board of Cabinet are also involved.

In 1977, funds totalling \$500,000 were approved with which to hire full time staff and resources to undertake the study. Tony Smith's job will be to co-ordinate the efforts of this staff and those of the Ministries involved with a view to completion of the final report by the target date of September 1980.

To date a number of Technical reports have been prepared by Activity Groups within the study, primarily dealing with immediate water quality and quantity concerns. The co-ordinator will now be responsible for overseeing the compiling of these reports into a final document, complete with recommendations for the better management of the Grand River's water resources.

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Driver hurt

Niagara-on-the-lake driver was taken to Guelph General Hospital with minor injuries after the car he was driving veered into a ditch on the Guelph Line Saturday night.

Jary Dyke, the driver, was taken to Guelph. His car has about \$1,500 in damage.

Mail box reported hit

A rural Acton man reported to Halton Regional Police that someone damaged his mailbox sometime during the week of May 13-14.

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