

OUR READERS WRITE:

Downgrading water

124 Tidey Ave.,
Halton Hills, Acton, Ont.
L7J 1V6

Oct. 17, 1978

The Editor,
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ont.

Dear Mrs. Dills:
This letter is being written in response to your request in the last issue of the Free Press for opinions re the matter of the treatment of our local supply of water with fluoride.

I, personally, agree with your own stand on this matter. It seems to me that, along with fluoride in our toothpaste, we receive enough fluoride from our food intake to provide all that we need for our physical welfare.

On the other hand, I regret very much the

downgrading of Acton's water supply by the present strong taste of iron in it. Surely, there is some way by which this can be neutralized by treatment at the source of supply. Why should we have to resort to treatment of it in our homes?

Through past years, we have lived in nine different communities, running all the way from Allenford to Toronto. In that time, we listed Mount Forest, Elmira and Acton as the places favoured with good water. Among the worst were Hanover and Mount Hope. Now we have to class Acton with the two last-named communities. Is this another penalty we have to suffer, along with regional government?

A wholesome drink of water is a priceless thing. We find that the taste of iron stays with us now even in our tea, which we used to enjoy so much.

Respectfully yours,
A. Walter Fosbury.

An autumn scene

by Mrs. Annie Gates

As I look out my window
On the warmer side, you guessed,
The beauty is stupendous—
We in Ontario are blessed.

With the landscape that is
Beyond the words of man,
Only the eye can absorb The intricacy of
mother nature's plan.

The gold and bronze and scarlet
Enhanced by evergreen,
It takes all manner of species
To complete this wondrous scene.

A silvery frost has touched the grass
That's been so verdant green,
September's rain gave back the life
To an arid land we had seen.

October is a fickle time.
The golden sunlight gleams.
And dances round in and out
Long shadows from the trees.

One day comes rain and adds
A weight to autumn's glory gown.
A breeze arrives to tease the leaves
And sends them fluttering down.

Where the corn so stately stood
In this late summer past,
A mellow brown the soil now lies
Ploughed by the four furrowed fast.

Yesterday the stubble showed
Today it's furrowed brown,
The leaves are skipping with the wind
Caught in the ridges down.

We must have a voice

The Acton Free Press,
Letter to the Editor:

It seems that we in Acton have grown apathetic, believing that regional council will make its decision whether we are in agreement or not. But not so—we must still have a voice in something that concerns us directly. I refer to the proposal to fluoride Acton's water supply.

If the majority here do not want this, then we should protest vigorously.

The dentists applaud fluoridation, but surely our bodies are made up of more than teeth. Why should we all, including many

who wear dentures, have to ingest this possibly harmful substance, when children can have the treatment given in a dentist's office?

Perhaps because some of us are troubled with gout, we could have the medication for that added to the water for all—it would make as much sense.

Let us have some letters, pro and con, on this matter. If some interest is shown, we can at least have a plebiscite, and a chance to refuse this costly foolishness.

J. Masales
16 Scene St.



A story of God's love

Dear God:

Twenty-four years ago Your plan for me and my family began to unfold and You really tested us.

That cold January night in 1955 our third child was born just three days after my husband had been laid off work. Because I had inadvertently thrown out his job reclassification slip from Avro he had no proof that he was not in the work category being let go. The Personnel Department refused to open his file to verify his standing even though his foreman and work mates testified to his status. His job was at an end.

So began the great change in our lives. During my stay in hospital with the new baby, the furnace in our rented house exploded and my husband, who was alone, was overcome by coal gas. Not once, but three times, he regained consciousness. The third time he was able to phone for help. You intervened on that night and showed Your power and love. He survived when biologically he shouldn't have.

Shortly after baby arrived home we discovered that he had a milk allergy. We had no money at all. No job. Nothing. We couldn't afford to buy a milk substitute so we used crushed calcium tablets, boiled water and sugar. Thank you Lord, for our beautiful baby survived.

During that terrible time I woke up, often, wondering what would turn up for our evening meal—and someone would appear during the day with food. We never went hungry. Again Lord, Thank You.

Jobs were really hard to get. Over a thousand men were laid off from the plant at the same time as my husband. His grade thirteen education put him in the "over educated" category. So often he heard: "You're not a good risk." "Sorry."

About five weeks after the lay off I visited a very dear friend. Someone else who was there at the same time asked how we were getting along. I told them my husband was driving a taxi and added: "But he'd really like to teach school." And our conversation rolled on to other things.

Again Lord, You intervened, for our conversation was related to someone whom we knew in education and within a few days my husband was in a classroom doing supply work. He was considered a natural. He was bringing home the princely sum of \$7.50 a day; not enough to live on but it was a start.

You sustained us, Lord, for we knew that You would not allow this to happen unless

there was something important in Your grand design for us.

Two years later he went to Teachers' College, studying and working at two part time jobs. I worked too. Life was a pressure cooker affair. Although You were taking charge, I kept trying to speed up Your timing, short-circuiting Your help.

We became angry people in a hurry. We got sick with ulcers and nerves. A nightmare of years jumbled by.

When my husband graduated from University the press covered "The Wonder Man". He got a principalship. So, even though we slowly put You on the Sunday Shelf and started looking for You in all the wrong places. You never turned away from us.

Always, You guided my husband in his career and because of that there are countless young people who were influenced for good. They have told him so, many times.

Eighteen months ago I found You again in a new way. As a middle aged person is suddenly able to see their beloved with new eyes and renew their commitment, so it has been with me, Lord.

Very gently You are removing my intellectual pride. I've stopped using You as a convenience to supply my never ending "Gimmees". No more bargaining prayers that start "If You do this, then I'll do that." I've learned that love has no strings attached.

Lord, You lifted us from poverty and despair. You have given me so much, personally. The greatest gifts of all are the peace and serenity which cluded me for so long. No more fear. No more anxiety. No more pills. I'm free!!!

Like St. Francis I try to be an instrument of Your peace.

Thank You Lord for being the most beautiful four letter word in the world—LOVE.

Devotedly,
Mary McGovern
Toronto, Ontario

This letter is shared with you for there are so many people who do not know that God's guidance and love is never ending, daily experience. Please share with us and others what God has done for you.

Write to: SHARING,
P.O. Box 57,
ACTON, Ontario
L7J 2M2

Job counselling program underway three months

A program to help welfare recipients who have trouble finding work get a job should show some good results by the end of March, Rennie Vivian, administrator of regional social and family services, said last week.

"Other municipalities are getting good results. There's no reason why we shouldn't."

An employment counsellor to carry out the program was hired in June. In a report on the first three months of the project to Regional Health and Social Services Committee, Mr. Vivian said 10 individuals had been placed in jobs out of 53 who had been referred to the counsellor. Out of 107 Halton employers contacted, 19 indicated interest.

Five negative responses were received. Arrangements have been made for the counsellor to spend part of each week in manpower offices, enabling her to have a first-hand knowledge of employment opportunities and to conduct interviews there.

Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth said he didn't consider 10 placements out of 53 a good track record, but Mr. Vivian said some of the people referred to the counsellor were not yet ready to work and were put in a job readiness program.

He said the counsellor's first two months were spent mainly in doing the spade work needed to get the program moving and that the program itself has really been operative only since August.

"It's a hard game," Mr. Vivian commented, saying the worker has received, figuratively speaking, many "staps in the face" from both employers and clients.

Noting that saving money was the reason for hiring the counsellor, Milton Councillor Jim Kerr asked how much the program had saved. Mr. Vivian estimated approximately \$4,000 would have been paid out in a month had the 10 people remained on general welfare assistance. He said there is no way of knowing whether any of the individuals placed would have found jobs anyway.

currently receiving general welfare assistance should be referred to the employment counsellor, Mr. Booth said. But Mr. Vivian pointed out one counsellor would be overwhelmed by this number and indicated those recipients capable of finding their own jobs didn't need the special service.

looking for work. "That's right," Mr. Vivian replied. "We cut them off."

"Obviously we can't check with each and every employer, but we do spot checks. We have had numerous appeals made to the review board because we've terminated people," he continued, noting the action has been upheld in most cases.

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A BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN DAY, and what could be more fitting than a shiny black horse hitched up to an antique carriage? The scene is not from a book, but rather from the back lane on the farm of Jack Pemberton. As this year's president of the Royal Winter Fair, Mr. Pemberton offered the facilities of his farm to Royal staff as a promotion for the 50th year of the Royal. This year's program will include a daily carriage parade, and press representatives were invited to his farm near Acton to get a preview of what it will be all about.

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