

Martha Jackson defends Neilson blasts Ballard for firing episode

By Helen Murray
Martha Jackson is hopping mad at Harold Ballard.

The 97-year-old resident of Maple View Lodge, R.R. 2, Acton, is an avid Toronto Maple Leaf fan, and has been for over 50 years. Last November, she enjoyed a visit to her favorite team's hockey practice and met some of her favorite players, including Darryl Sittler, Lanny McDonald, Tiger Williams and Mike Palmateer.

Mrs. Jackson has nothing but respect for the Leafs and their coach Roger Neilson. In an interview on her 96th birthday, shortly after Neilson had been hired, she predicted he would be the best coach the team ever had, a statement she stands behind.

With her team in a slump, Mrs. Jackson knew something would have to be done to bring them back to be the team she knew. However, she, like millions of others, could offer no solution, except to be faithful and give them the encouragement they needed. She claims she knew as soon as they got on the ice how well they would play. "They just skated around," she said. "There were no fancy moves, just skating." Even her idol Sittler, needed to improve, but she had confidence they would.

Mrs. Jackson felt the Leafs played a great game at Montreal when they lost to

the league's best team, 2-1. She had heard the rumors Neilson would be fired if they lost the game, and was outraged when the announcement came. "Ballard didn't even sit through the game," Mrs. Jackson strongly believes he knew he was going to fire the coach that night, no matter what happened. She said she was very upset to think he did not even stick around to see how well the team played.

"He used his team terribly," the hockey fan observed. "Mr. Ballard has no principles, and is not even a gentleman," Mrs. Jackson exclaimed.

The area woman feels Ballard should have talked things over with the team before making such a rash move as to fire the coach. "Roger is a very fine gentleman, and I have always liked him," she continued.

Mrs. Jackson was ecstatic with the news Neilson had been hired back. She knew the team could not play without him and could not even speculate as to who the coach would be. The only one she wanted to see on the bench besides Neilson, she said, was King Clancy.

"When he (Neilson) got that standing ovation, I was so happy," she smiled. "Now everyone appreciates him as much as I always did. He sure looked embarrassed though, didn't he..."

There was no way the Leaf episode was a hoax, Mrs. Jackson claims. Neilson is too honorable a man to be mixed up with something like that she elaborated. "I was dumbfounded and very upset to think he would even consider using that excuse."

According to Mrs. Jackson, Harold Ballard is a very lucky man she didn't see him face to face during the past few weeks. "I'd have told him what he could do. He would think twice about pulling a trick like that again by the time I was through with him."

Mrs. Jackson's main beef was the fact that Ballard didn't give the players a chance to give their opinions of the trouble the team had been having. "He showed them no respect whatsoever."

The snappy senior citizen is not surprised at the Leafs' latest winning streak. "I always knew they could do it. Never doubted them for a minute." However, in spite of her confidence, she does not think they will win the Stanley Cup. She expects them to go farther in the play-offs than they ever have, but she says they won't win the "big one."

"I'm afraid Montreal will win," she shakes her head. "I don't want them to mind you. I don't care who wins it as long as it not that team of arrogant people."

They deserve to be knocked down a few pegs." Mrs. Jackson pointed out Montreal was an excellent hockey team though, in spite of shortcomings. She thinks the New York Islanders will be facing them in the final series, but is afraid the Islanders won't be able to burst the Canadiens bubble.

With the Russia-NHL series, she blames Ken Dryden for the surrender of the Challenge Cup. "Everyone is blaming Gerry Cheevers. Not me."

Mrs. Jackson has a problem however. In the Lodge where she lives, she was guaranteed she could watch every hockey game on the television, when she first moved in a few years ago. That, she says is being honored, but all her friends leave as soon as the games come on. No one wants to watch with her.

The friendly woman has not missed a hockey game on either radio or television since the Leafs were first formed. She and her husband use to listen to the games every week.

"I can hardly wait until October," Mrs. Jackson giggles. When asked why, she smiled, "That's when hockey season starts all over again!" And this year's season isn't even over yet.



Martha Jackson would have been called for high sticking last week had Harold Ballard been around her during his firing and rehiring of Toronto Maple Leafs' coach Roger Neilson. Among other names, she labelled the team's owner as "rude," and "not at all a gentleman." Here she clutches a hockey stick given to her by Leaf player Tiger Williams on her 97th birthday last November, while she watches his team on television.

Widow loses suit against Halton Hills

A Halton Hills widow has had her \$12,000 suit against the town dismissed. Hilda Barrack of Five Sideroad was suing Halton Hills over problems arising out of town inspections of her \$76,000 custom home.

On Friday after a two day trial, Judge Thomas Quinlan dismissed her case in an oral decision.

Lawyers for both sides said they are awaiting Judge Quinlan's written decision.

"I'm just so tired of it," Mrs. Barrack said in an interview Monday. "God, I'm glad it's all over."

Ever since she moved into her three bedroom dream home in November, 1974, Mrs. Barrack has been plagued with a variety of problems that have left her with an only partially complete but deteriorating house.

She claimed that Halton Hills building department had issued an occupancy permit before she moved in and so therefore the town had some responsibility.

She also claimed that the town's building inspector approved the wrong plans and ignored infractions of fire and safety regulations.

In an earlier suit, Mrs. Barrack got about \$8,000 from the builder of her home for deficiencies in the building.

Mrs. Barrack said she has been the circuit of government and private agencies in her quest to get the problems of the house righted.

She has invited the entire Halton Hills council to view her home but "Not one councillor ever came to see the house," she said. She is planning to invite Mayor Peter Pomeroy to view the house.

She said if she had to do it all over again she "would make absolutely certain of the builder." As well she would get the building and other permits herself and just generally get more involved in the venture.

Mrs. Barrack's lawyer, Lorne Jackson of Mississauga, said any decision on an appeal won't be made until after Judge Quinlan's written decision is received in about a month.

No determination has been made as to court costs.

Lawyer Al Kogan, who represented Halton Hills, said the case was unusual only in that the town was a party. It is common however, for owners of a house to come after the builder, Kogan said.

"But this is one of the few cases where she's trying to say a building inspector was the cause of the problems."

Generally, a municipality is not held responsible to see that a first rate job of construction is done on a home, Kogan said.

Ma Bell drops Acton schools

Let your fingers do the walking through the yellow pages or the white pages but you'll never find any numbers for Acton public schools in the new Bell Canada telephone book.

The only listing under Halton Board of Education is the new direct line to the central administration office at Burlington. Board superintendent of plant operations Harley Lishman said in a telephone interview all board listings were to remain the same as last year with the exception of the direct line which is to replace the old Zenith number. Last year's edition listed all the school's numbers under Halton Board of Education.

Bell Canada's Guelph manager Bill Salmon went "Hmmm" into the phone when he first learned of the omission yesterday morning. He checked the white pages in the new book under Halton Board of Education, then the yellow pages. No luck. The white pages are the customary place for school listings.

"It's entirely possible we've made an error," acknowledged Mr. Salmon and at press time Bell Canada and the school board had not sorted out the matter though board is sure it's clean of blame.

The error originated in Bell's office at Guelph. They are investigating, but there are no answers yet, Lorie Paddock, a spokesman in Mr. Lishman's office said.

Bell's Mr. Salmon indicated that if fault en-

tirely lay with the company, the way the school board views the omission would guide the company's action. "We could put them on information," said Mr. Salmon. It is not as if a company was losing money, he said.

"I'll be darned... that's curious," was the reaction of board Director of Education Em Lavender. He indicated, as did his staff, that a newsletter will be sent home from schools with the missing phone numbers.

"I suspect, even with the listing, there would be a disproportionate number of people calling information," Mr. Salmon said.

St. Joseph's School, of the Separate School Board, is listed under the Saints.

The omission of the public school numbers effects mainly subscribers who have no connection with the schools or people who are moving into town.

If subscribers are going to do it by the book, here for their information are the Halton Board of Education listings for Acton.

Central administration 878-8451.
Education centre north 878-4154.
Bennett NZ 853-0530
McKenzie-Smith Middle School 853-3800
Robert Little 853-2540
Speyside 853-0438

Acton High School 853-2920
School for the trainable retarded 878-9572



Rotarians were kept busy last Tuesday evening at their regular meeting stuffing Easter Seal envelopes. Some 4000 envelopes went out in the mail for the Acton area alone. Donations may also be made at the Bank of Nova Scotia. Clockwise are Dave Swetman, Bill Scott, Ross Dickson and Doug Freed.

Ex-cop to whip Halton police force into shape

The implementation of Ontario Police Commission (OPC) recommendations on the restructuring of Halton's police force will be carried out by a former Peel region deputy police chief.

Stan Raika, 56, was appointed last week by Halton Police Commission to reorganize the Halton police force and carry out recommendations aimed at improving the force.

Raika, who joined OPC as a special advisor on police services, March 1, will report directly to Halton police commissioners. He was deputy chief for five years in Peel region and now is a civilian consultant.

The study of the Halton police force was carried out by OPC over three months at the request of the Halton police commissioners after the force had been criticized by the crown attorney and the police association.

The OPC study said the Halton force lacked leadership, was fragmented and had an inadequate record system, among other things.

Halton police commission is also looking for a second deputy chief to work directly under Raika, who will be in charge of all operations in Halton.

Deputy Chief Fred Oliver who used to be in charge of operations will be reappointed to a new role when the reorganization is complete, according to police commission spokesmen. OPC recommends that there should be a civil

ian in charge of operations and administration.

Raika served 19 years with the Toronto police force, was chief for eight years of Brampton police and deputy chief of Peel region for five. He is currently president of the Canadian Association of police chiefs.

Superior Glove hearing postponed

The Ontario Relations Board hearing into charges at Superior Glove, Acton, has been postponed from March 20 to April 3, 4 and 6.

The three charges laid against the Acton plant are: the company fired some employees in an effort to chill attempts to bring in a union; intimidation of employees; and interrogation of employees. Co-owner of the plant, Frank Geng denies all charges.

The hearing will be held at 400 University Ave. Toronto, each morning beginning at 9:30.

Wrecking yards licensed

Wrecking yard licences for 1979 will be renewed for Halton Hills Collision, Lee's Auto Wreckers, Fred Tolton, Brown's Wrecking Yard, York Auto Wreckers, and Watson Auto Parts.

A licence to G. Johnson, Lot 32, Con. 6 has been held up, until cars parked in front of the fence are moved inside.

The licences are renewed each year if inspection shows the yard is in satisfactory condition.

STAMP TIP
Salvage those stuck-together postage stamps by leaving them in the freezer until they separate.

Councillors toss central number

Despite objections about expense, Halton Regional Council agreed to table correspondence considering an emergency telephone number for the region.

Debate at the meeting... several councillors outline the cost and impracticality of a regional emergency number while others advocated it is something many municipalities in Europe and the United States as well as Canada are implementing.

Oakville Councillor Ron Plache proposed the idea.

Main St. store window broken

There are no suspects in a window breaking episode at Browne's Store, Main St. last week.

Halton Regional Police report the window was broken after someone threw a rock through it. Damage is set at \$25.

A Main St. N. house was ransacked, but nothing taken recently. Entry was gained, police say, by forcing a door. The investigation is continuing.

A stolen pick-up truck was recovered behind A and P Green on Wallace St. The 1978 truck was stolen from a Main St. residence. Police report no damage or fingerprints. No entry was gained, and no damage was done last week at an R.R. 1, Acton home, after someone removed several screen windows.

Police have three suspects in the theft of a dining room table and six matching chairs from a rural Limehouse home last week.

A neighbor reported to police that while checking the house for a friend, he noticed the items gone. One suspect is in late 30s, the other two are in their 20s. Both are former tenants, police say. The stolen items are valued at \$1000.

Investigation is continuing into a rubber cheque worth some \$42, given to Foodland Ltd., last week.



Jeanette Fernandes, of Jeanette's Rest Home, takes time to dance with Bert Davidson at the resident's St. Patrick's Day party on Monday. Music for the event was supplied by Willie T. Noble and Sons. Jeanette and her entire staff were on hand for the festivities.

261 fire calls

Fire damage in Halton Hills during 1978 totalled an estimated \$13.4 per capita, according to fire chief Mick Holmes.

The fire chief explained that in 261 calls, in both Acton and Georgetown, there was \$456,304 in estimated damages. Total population of Halton Hills for 1978 was 34,051, he said.

Although total fire calls were up over 1977, the chief could not say by how much.

There were 71 residential fires in both communities last year, with 57 outdoor grass and brush blazes. Three calls were to fires in the Erin coverage area, and eight to Milton. In return, the Milton department replied to 14 Halton Hills calls in the lower extremities of the town. Mr. Holmes said. There were 34 calls for all types of transportation, including trucks and cars. The chief does not include accidents, he said.

Some of the fires were suspected arson, mechanical electrical failures, misuse of materials, including grease fires, and construction design. A number of fires were officially listed as undetermined causes, the chief said.

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The following are my reasons for nomination... _____

Signature _____

The event is sponsored by the Acton Chamber of Commerce with a view to honoring a citizen or group each year for outstanding service to the community. The winner will be honored at the Citizen of the Year Banquet at the Acton Music Centre.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS MARCH 26, 1979

Mail Your Entries To:
The Acton Chamber of Commerce
Box 415, Acton, Ontario L7J 2M7

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