The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

Publiched every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 59 Willow Street, Actor Outano, 17J 2M2 Telephone (519) 853 2010. Subscriptions. Single copies 20' each, \$12.00 per year in Capada, \$30.00 or all countoes other than Canada.

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Second class mail Registration Number 0515.

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Council meeting worthwhile

Last week's Halton Hills council/public meeting was very worthwhile and an exercise worth repeating in the future.

Residents had the opportunity to air their views about market value assessment, police protection, drugs in schools and other issues of interest here.

Had there been more time mosquitos and speeding on residential streets would likely have also been discussed.

Councillors and staff were afforded the chance to hear the views of Acton residents and also learned the depth of concern about high assessment and soaring taxes in the Bovis area.

The regular council meeting prior to the public meeting was valuable to residents who gained insight into the workings of the municipality. This will prove valuable to them the next time they have to approach council.

Presentations by town staff were informative, though a little complicated possibly for some people. Valuable information was also gleaned from the presentations by Halton Board of Education, Halton Region and Halton Regional Police.

While nothing was settled at the meeting it was significant because it gave ratepayers a chance to voice their concerns and it brought local government to the people of Acton.

Council should seriously consider coming back and repeating the council/public meeting format at least every six months in future years.

Heed Teplitsky's warning

Mediator-arbitrator Martin Teplitsky has painted a grim future for Halton if both high school teachers and trustees don't sharpen up their contract negotiating act.

Teplitsky recently closed the books on over a year of lagging bargaining by ruling on a new two year pact. This year's negotiations took Halton the closest it has been ever to a teachers' strike.

In the wake of his binding ruling, which means teachers and trustees won't have to return to the bargaining table until next winter to start work on a 81-82 deal, Teplitsky has predicted "the public will be the victim of a long and difficult strike in Halton if the board fails to heed the responsible and able professional advice which is available to it and if the teachers fail to develop greater sensitivity for the impact of their tactical choices on the relationship."

Both sides must not forget the past months of conflict and

thoughtfully examine their own positions during talks or else Teplitsky's disturbing prediction will come true, our schools will someday be closed by a strike.

They have lots of time now to sit back and let wounds heal and come up with ways to bargain more amicably.

Trustees may have taken an important step towards improving relations with their teachers. They have set up a steering committee to find a better way to reach negotiated settlements with teachers. If the committee looks for ways to improve relations between the two sides and make bargaining easier then it might be one of the most worthwhile committees ever established by the board.

However, if the committee just maps out new negotiating tactics or examines ways to get a better deal with the teachers next time around then it will only succeed in taking Halton steps closer to a strike.

Sensible plan for hydro

Halton Hills council has managed to come up with the best of both worlds for forming future Halton Hills Hydro Commissions.

Council has decided to make appointments one more time, fora two year term, and then for 1982 and beyond the members of the commission will be elected.

Fortunately the province approved this most sensible plan.

The commission is new and a lot of bugs must still be worked out. The people best equipped to iron

the wrinkles out of the new municipal power utility are the men running it now.

However, once the new commission is operating smoothly the electors should be deciding who runs the utility. Council shouldn't continue making appointments because the appointees aren't responsible to council or the public. The commission has a hefty budget and council doesn't even approve it.

Our readers write

Bovis should pay more

I would like to take this opportunity to express some views and opinions with respect to the remarks made by residents of Bovis Subdivision at the Council / Public Meeting held at Acton High School on Monday, June 16.

With regard to the statement that dwellings are pegged at a substantially higher assessment value than houses in older areas of town; I for one, and I'm sure that I am not alone, agree whole-heartedly that this is the way it should be. Upon checking with the Assessment Department as to what determines the assessment value of a house, it is easy to see why the Bovis Subdivision units are higher. When you take into consideration such items as: 1. total square footage (including gar-

2. basements (full and / or finished) 3. heating and air conditioning systems

(fireplaces). 4. number of bathrooms ... 5. additional structures (wooden decking, swimming pools, etc.

it is only logical to conclude that the units having these assessment variable factors are going to have the higher assessment, and in turn higher taxes. The same holds

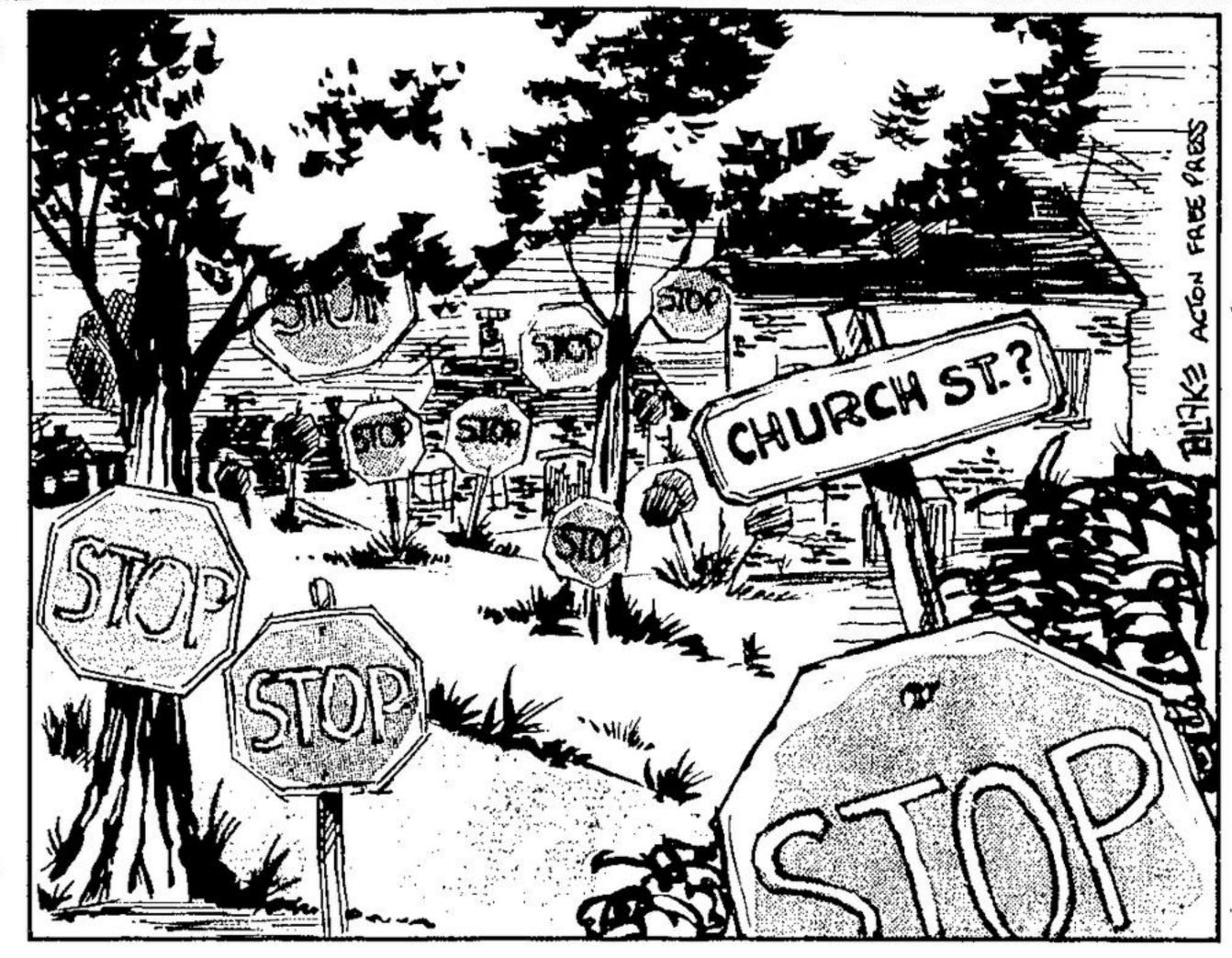
true for their market value. No matter what form of assessment the

Council for the Town of Halton Hills adopts, 'X' number of dollars have to be collected and those people living and in and enjoying the biggest and best houses are going to have to pay for that privilege.

The older areas of town have been paying taxes for a good number of years (50 or better) and are the backbone of Acton. Many of the residences house people who have helped make Acton what it is today (physically as well as financially). Citizens who no longer have a need for the recreational and educational facilties that their tax dollar is collected for. Why should these people be forced to have their taxes increased on their homes in order to pay for the additional services required by the new developments such as Boyls subdivision, with respect to increasing sewage sewage disposal and water works systems, erection of new schools and arenas, maintenance of additional roads, parkland, etc.

With respect of market value assessment being the end to all evils, take a look at the problems our neighbours in Milton are having since implementing Section 86. They are no further ahead-as a matter of fact, they are plagued with so many problems they probably wish they had never heard of market value assessment.

Mrs. E.F. Lambert



Smiley's fantasies on the last days of school

I'd like to be able to say that the end of year for a teacher is fraught with sadness, as the delicate flowers you have nurtured during the year (and most of whom have turned to weeds), leave you.

Not so. Hather is it a lifting of several stones from a man who is being "pressed" to con'ess. The pressing was an old-fashioned method in which ever-heavier stones were placed on a man's chest until he said "uncle", or "Yeah, I sald God didn't exist," or, "Yup, I know where the jewels are."

Not so. On the last day of school a teacher walks out of the shoe factory. which most schools resemble, and is beholden to no man.

Except his wife, kids, dog, car, boat, bank manager, garden. But it's better than being beholden to a lot of gobbling young turkeys whose chief aim in life is to destroy your emotional equilibrium, and a gaggle of administrators whose chief alms in life are discipline, attendance, dress, drugs, and the entire mid-Victorian world that is crumbling around them.

Things have changed quite a bit in the 20 years I've been teaching. In my first year, my home form gave me a present at Christmas and another at the end of the

This went on for some time. They may have thought I was a dull old tool, but we parted with mutual respect and good wishes for a happy summer. There was always a gift: one year a bottle of wine and three golf balls, another year a table lighter that didn't work: another year a pen and pencil set with thermometer that still works.

By golly, in those first years, there was a little sadness. Joe had turned from a gorilla into a decent lad, hiding his better instincts behind a mop of hair. Bridget had turned from a four-eyed eager beaver into a bra-less sex symbol. I wished them well, unreservedly.

Nowadays, if my home form gave me a present on the last day, the first thing I would do would be to send it to the local bomb squad. If they cleared it, I would open it with tweezers and a mask. They might put an icepick in my tires,

set a thumb tack on my chair when I

wasn't looking, write the odd obscenity in

their textbooks, two words, with my last name the second one, but they wouldn't really do anything obnoxious. Just because I thumped Barney three times this year with my arthritic right fist

doesn't mean that we both believe in corporal punisshment. We're buddies, and I'm going to keep an eye on my cat this summer in case it's strangled. And little Michelle doesn't really hate my guts, even though she deliberately stabbed herself in the wrist with a pen on

the last day of school, came up to my desk, looked me straight in the eye, sprinkled blood all over my desk and pants, and asked, "Are you sure I have to write the final exam?" I'm kidding, of course. Those kids in my home form look on me as a father. Not exactly as a father confessor, mind you, or a

kindly old father. More the type of father

whom you put the boots to when he comes home drunk and falls at your eager feet. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if they give me a present on our last day. Perhaps a cane, possibly a hearing aid. Presented by Robin, an angelic-looking little blonde who kicks Steve, just ahead of her, right behind the kneecaps in the middle of the

national anthem, and makes him fall for-

ward, kicking backward. The more I think of them the more nostalgic I get for the year we've spent together. At least, I am spent. They're not.

Smiley

They haven't invested anything, so there's nothing to spend.

On second thought, I'm not a father figure to them. I'm a grandfather figure. In the last few weeks of school, before it was decided who would be recommended, and who would have to write the final, I noticed a definite increase in solicitude and kind-

If I dropped my book from senile hands, they would pick it up, and instead of throwing it out the window, would hand it to me gravely. nd they became nicer to each other,

probably out of consideration for my increasing sensibility. Instead of tripping the girls as they went to their seats, the huge boys would pick them up and carry

Instead of throwing a pen like a dart when someone wanted to borrow one, they would take off their boot, put the pen in it, and throw the boot, so the pen wouldn't be lost in the scuffle.

And speaking of scuffles, there have been very few of late. Oh, the other day, there was a little one, when Tami, fivefeet-minus, grabbed Todd, six-feet-plus, and shoved him out the window, secondstorey. No harm done. He was able to grasp the sill, and when she stomped on his fingers, managed to land on his feet, some distance below, in the middle of a spruce

Maybe it's all been worth it. They haven't learned much, but education is all about.

Three years from now, I'll meet them somewhere, on the street, in a pub, in jail. The boys will have Isotlost their 14-yearold ebullience and the girls will be pregnant, and we'll smile and love each other.

The firefighters don't know it yet, but they're up against some stiff competition this Sunday at the Back to Acton Days Waterball contest at Prospect Park at 2

Here at the Free Press, we boast an excellent softball team, winning almost all our games in the past three years (we even have "Inkspot" t-shirts). We branched out to hockey once, and beat the Milton councillors by 12 goal (it's a long story). Now, this Sunday, we tackle waterball.

Herb Dodds, a well known firefighter is our "main man". I don't know which side he's going to play on, but I hope it's ours. He's the only one with experience.

those ball teams we've beaten the past few years, it may be a chance to see the Inkspots go down to defeat-on the other hand, we may see where our real talents

Member of Provincial Parliament Julian Reed has once again shown up on a new commercial. This time it's for Bumper-to-Bumper Stores. There's a set of three or four commercials, each pushing a different product.

Back **ISSUES**

10 years ago

June 30, 1970 This year's Ontario scholars are Marie Timbers, Mark Hurst, Cheryl Lee and

Nancy Morris. Rotating strikes called by the postal union have hit Acton again. The 48-hour strike caused a huge backlog of mail.

Decision on whether to allow O.H.C. housing on Cobblehill Road was reserved by the O.M.B. The council chamber was packed for the hearing. Nearby ratepayers opposed the rezoning. The town defended the choice of site saying it was the only one

available. The newly-formed First Limehouse scout troop did well in competitions at the Camporee. Scouters are Ed Ryan and Mark Hay-

Ram coach Howard Dwyer was jubilant after the team's first win, a 13-12 thriller over Elora. Gary Kelly netted the game

At the Robert Little grade 8 banquet, Bert Venema and Donna Drew made presentations to Doug Copeland, who is leaving for Caledonia. Top Award winners were Roger Warboys and Janet Allen. Susan Shoemaker was chairman and Debra Bousfield reviewed the students' years together. Mayor Les Duby led a singsong.

Due to the expansion of Acton Pharmacy. Simpsons-Sears is moving to the former Shortill quarters next door to Dills Stat-

20 years ago

June 23, 1960 Peter Wolfe, Robert Parker and Andrew Knox received special awards at St. Andrew's College graduation.

The Rev. James Rudd has accepted the call to Acton Baptist Church.

Champions of the Acton Open golf tournament are Rev. A.H. McKenzie, Andy Nolan, Tuck Cochrane and Gord Beatty.

Eramosa property owners rejected the establishment of a central school.

Five Counties Art Association members converged on Acton, painting at the Robert Little school grounds, mill, and an old frame home on Queen St. George Bowman was in charge.

Piano pupils of Mrs. Scull and Helen Landsborough held their recital in the Baptist Church. Special awards went to Kathryn Sinclair, Marlee McSwain, Carol Patterson, Jean Hart, Decle Cochrane. About 150 attended St. Alban's congre-

gational picnic at Waterloo park. About 15 ham operators sent and received messages over a 24-hour period from a field near Churchill church. Dennis O'Brien is an Acton club member.

Graduates of Lakeshore Teachers' College are Mary Jane Force, Valene Varey, Gary Dawkins, Shirley Mason, Nancy Skippen, Margaret Morrison and Diana

50 years ago

June 26, 1930

The tax rate will be the same as last year, 47 mills. Council also discussed the regulations concerning outhouses and the removal of these when a public nuisance. The choir and friends of St. Alban's church held their annual picnic at Hi Pot Lo

park, Rockwood. Mr. William Middleton, who has been agent at the G.T.R. station since the retirement of the veteran, Mr. H.S. Holmes, has been transferred to the station at Granton. During the few years residence of Mr. Middleton here, he made many friendships

and best wishes of all will follow him. An unually large class are writing their Entrance examinations this year, 32 pupils from Acton and 40 from the district. Mr. Lawrence and Miss M.Z. Bennett are pre-

Some individuals have a pour idea of common decency when they remove flowers from the plots in Falrview cemetery. Work commenced this week on an addition to Rockwood public school to cost

An important change of firm name has been made in connection with Acton's largest industry. Acton Tanning Co., dealing in light leathers, and Beardmore and Co., manufacturing sole leathers almost exclusively, will be now known as Beardmore Leathers Ltd.

100 years ago

June 24, 1880

Our village constable is earnestly requested to do his duty by prohibiting the congregating of unruly boys on Mrs. Secord's corner nightly, to the annoyance of

pedestrians. The new engine house at the Grand Trunk station is now almost completed.

The business men of Milton, by private subscription, have Main St. suitably watered dally. Would it not be wise for our merchants to follow their example? It would soon pay for itself, as a less quantity of goods would be destroyed by dust than is the case at present. It would make things much more comfortable as well.

Mr. Thomas Bell of Nassagaweya raised a new barn and stable which is said to be second to none in that township. It is constructed on the new plan running the purloin posts from the floor up to the plates, thus doing away with the cross beams. At . the raising everything went together without any trouble and no accident occurred. -



A club house sandwich for 50 cents, or how about a cheeseburger for 20 cents? If you really want to splurge, how about a tbone steak for \$1.20, or fish and chips for 35 cents. After your 30 cent banana split, how about coffee for 10 cents.

Sound like another world? Well, It almost is. It was prices at Watson's Restaurant in 1948.

Former owner of the restaurant (now Family Restaurant) Tom Watson discovered an old menu recently, and is proud to claim it was the first menu ever in Acton. Until that time, all other eating establishments put the days fare and prices up on a

blackboard, according to Tom. Some more samples from Acton's first menu: malted milk, 25 cents, sundaes, 25 cents, soup 20 cents; pork chops, 55 cents; omelete 35 cents; bacon and eggs, 50 cents,

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hot dog 20 cents, hamburger 15 cents. Cheapest morsel on the menu was toast at 10 cents with the \$1.15 t-bone at the other end of the scale. Tom points out the prices had just gone up when he had the menu printed, and did

people complain. He had half of Acton

that in just 32 years, the price of a cheeseburger would be five or six times the cost or a hamburger would zoom to six times its 1948 price. Not only is the price of food a sign of the times, but Tom says he was renting a wartime house for \$27 a month at the time. (Wouldn't they be almost brand new then?) Considering how difficult it is to get

a house to rent for under \$300 - \$400 a

month, the cost of renting a wartime now

has gone up 12 to 16 times the 1948 costs. Now that's inflation!! "It's the Acton celebration of confederation" this weekend. An entire year of planning culminates when the calithumpian parade meets downtown for Back to Acton Days. Of course there are plenty of things going on Friday night, and all day Saturday and Sunday, so make sure you drop by. It was terrific in the

pouring rain last year, and it will be even

better this year, rain or shine.

crabbing. They would never have dreamed

We'll see you in the park Sunday. For all

Rumour has it he has the most television exposure of all MPPs, even more then the Premier and cabinet ministers.