

# The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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## Back to those basics

Family Court Judge James Fuller was invited to speak at the inaugural meeting of the Halton board of Education but we doubt trustees expected such a frank assessment of education.

He congratulated the board on the return to structured education in Halton to guide students over periods where too much freedom without responsibility can result in inconsistency, instability and result in loss of respect for teachers.

However, the judge also urged the board to improve the identification of learning disabilities, using one Burlington school as an example where it was reported 25 per cent of the students were two years behind in their reading abilities. He thought this should have been identified earlier and corrected along with a return to the basics.

The judge, relying on his personal experience, asked why he saw so few people from the separate school system and private schools in the courtroom. As a family court judge he faces problem children each day. His message is based not on assumptions but on the realities of what he sees each day in the courtroom.

The experiments of the 60s and 70s did little to enhance the education of students but he

could have also included the family, the church and the law in his assessment.

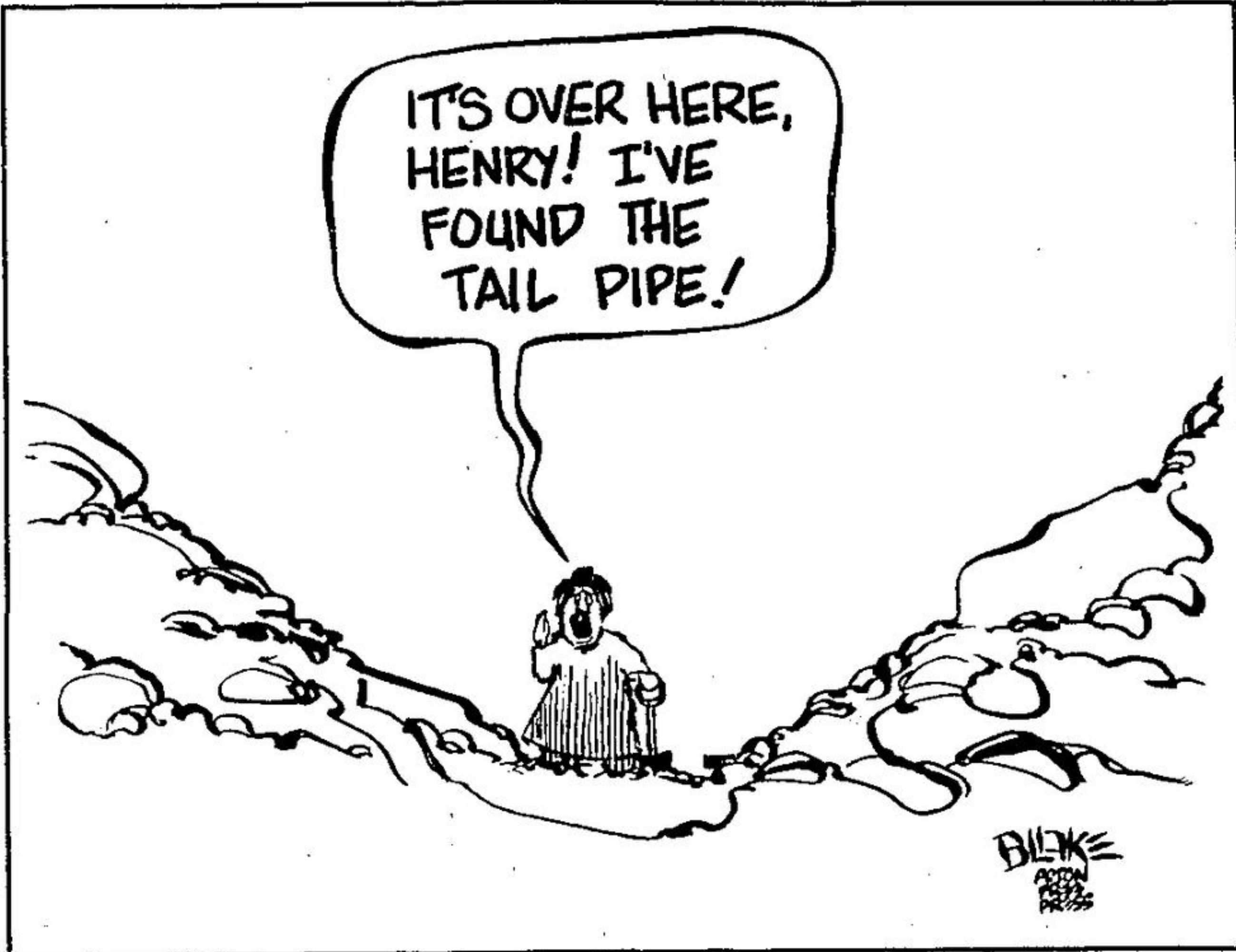
It was a coincidence that Bill Smiley, a department head in English at Midland high school, should also pick that week to deliver a diatribe against the teaching profession, of which he is a part. Smiley thinks the profession needs fresh blood, new ideas and someone to weed out undersirables. However, he also took a swipe at students who are not giving their best either.

Smiley says the older students are too comfortable, the younger ones have no manners, self discipline, are unruly, mouthy, foul-tongued and generally obstreperous.

Parents didn't escape his wrath either. Too tired to give their children some idea of decency, fair play, good manners, or other virtues. Smiley says they have to take responsibility for their children's attitudes from which stems vandalism, retreat into dope or booze and all the rest of the sad story.

It's a pretty harsh indictment from a judge and a teacher. It should give all of us pause to reflect on both the quality of education and the atmosphere of the home. The evidence in now suggests it should be back to basics in both areas and the quicker the better.

from The Georgetown Independent



## Our readers write

### Reader puts rap on judge

Dear Sir:  
I am writing in response to the article of a speech given by a certain judge at the inaugural of the school board.  
I think his views are in very bad taste and to say such things about public schools is an insult.  
Sure they have faults as do separate and private schools. Where does this judge get off saying most pupils in public schools belong in a detention centre or they come out of these schools. That's real rubbish. I'd sure hate to be tried by that judge after being in the public school system. I don't believe there is a difference in the outcome of these people after being separated.

There is good and bad in both.  
I wonder if the judge went to a separate school? If so he sure isn't showing his stuff putting down another system. A heck of a lot of model citizens came from the public school system.  
I believe this judge owes all of us model citizens from a plain "public school system" a great big apology or else a medal.  
It's not fair to blame the schools for today's young. I believe it's their homelife and the judicial system itself.  
Thank you,  
Mary Hepburn



## On the Leavell

With Helen

Boy, are articles from this newspaper ever receiving a lot of mileage lately.  
Last week I mentioned an article by Jennifer Barr which appeared in a diabetic magazine. This week I found out we were on Kitchener's CKCO television station.  
According to former Free Press staffer Alex Chidley, an issue of some weeks ago was featured on a program dedicated to community newspapers. It was the one with a picture of a car which had slipped out of gear and backed into the bank of Montreal front door. Art Carr, commentator of the show warned of the dangers of leaving a car running while unattended.

There's still time to enter the Free Press's Christmas Colouring Contest. Entries can be found in last week's paper. Deadline is this Friday at 4.30 p.m. Entries will not be accepted after this time!  
Doesn't happen very often, and I really hate to admit it, but I was wrong.  
A few weeks ago I made an appeal for grocery tapes for Zehrs and Miracole Mart for the Friends-in-Deed handicapped group. Zehrs was right, but the other store is Dominion not Miracole Mart. Sorry about that!  
Letters are pouring into Santa's mailbox and he is busy answering them all. All that is, except for the ones without a return address. Any mother who doesn't think her child put his or her address on the letter, let me know, and I'll pass on the message to Santa.  
Time is running out. Only seven more shopping days left until Christmas. Only one more weekend!  
Christmas is without a doubt the happiest time of the year for most. However it

sure does mess up work schedules. Here at the Free Press, we're open Wednesday December 24, then stay closed until the next Monday.  
I was snowbound in Collingwood Sunday. All the roads, according to the local radio station, were closed to Orangeville. Even after the high winds died down in town, police still kept the roads closed.  
The winds eventually died down in town, but Hwy. 24 remained impassable. I decided I was stuck for the day and night.  
Somehow, I ended up outside showing my visiting niece from Calgary how to make snow angels. Then we made a snow man (with me doing all the work of course). Our hard work helped us forget the cold. That is until we started to make a snowman's head warm (by special request from a cute five-year-old). Without a hat I was soon reminded just how cold that wind was blowing. We headed into the house snowy from head to toe, rosy cheeks, cold ears and wind blown hair. I'm now deciding who had the most fun—Mandy or I.  
I got back to Acton at 7.00 a.m. Monday. Not being an early riser, it was quite an experience to see the world wake up as I drove south.

## Back issues 10 years ago

Wednesday, December 16, 1970  
Three families with nine children are safe but homeless following a fire which swept through a 75-year-old farmhouse at R.R. 2, Rockwood. The Calzavara, Foster and Genau families evacuated Honey Locust Farm.  
Most councillors report having received complaints about snowmobilers, some operating after 2 a.m. on sidewalks and private property, and sometimes with no lights.  
Rockwood Trail Riders wound up the season with a glittering awards banquet. Incoming president Moe McGinnis and secretary Gord Coxie presented top awards to Dave Taylor, Harvey Pettit, Dave Rowe, Buz Ellis, Babs Ellis, Wendy Klein, Greg Dales, Anne Dales and Pat Dales.  
Acton is publicized in the Caribbean, through scrap books sent to twinned schools. Presentations of the books was arranged by teacher, Mrs. June Doberthien.

## 20 years ago

Wednesday, December 15, 1960  
E.J. Hassard, former Acton druggist, was presented with his 50 year Veterans Jewel by Herb Ritchie and D.G.M. Dr. A.J. Buchanan, on behalf of Walker Lodge.  
Young Bobby Bonnette wrote a letter congratulating John F. Kennedy on winning the U.S. presidency, and has received a prized reply.  
The Scottish Dance Club held a Family Christmas Party in the Y.  
Operating a 22-hour shift, post office employees G. McKewen, Mrs. C. Britton, Mrs. L. Masters, Mrs. J. Chapman, Dave Dodgson, Vic Bristow, and Dave Peal are joined for the Christmas rush by Mrs. K. Reid, Mrs. H. Cook, Mrs. H. Woods, Paul Elliott and Cam Leishman.

## 50 years ago

Thursday, December 18, 1930  
The play, Tea Toper Tavern, under the auspices of St. Alban's Church, drew a capacity house to the town hall.  
Mr. James Adamson was engaged as secretary-treasurer of the arena. The first hockey practice was held Monday night. New faces on the squad this year are Lorne Walters, Fred Kentner, Dawkins and Arlic. The first skating of the season was enjoyed last evening.  
Through the efforts of the teacher, Miss Jean Orr, a splendid Christmas concert was given at Bannockburn school.  
To mark the turning on of the Hydro in the first building in Crewsons Corner, Mr. Chas Tyler had quite a gathering at his tourist camp and filling station.  
184 signed a petition to Nassagaweya council, since industrial companies there are employing foreign-born laborers to the exclusion of the British born.

## 75 years ago

Thursday, December 14, 1905  
The Clark House in its new dress has been renamed by Mr. Roach "The Acton". (Note: this is the father of Mazo de la Roche).  
Christmas business is humming already. The public are cordially invited to attend the Christmas examinations at the school Dec. 22.  
The skating rink committee have learned that Mrs. C.S. Smith wishes the skating rink waiting rooms removed from their location. Unless satisfactory arrangements can be made they will move the rink to its old location between the two hotels. Mrs. Smith says the waiting rooms are too near the River St. entrance to her property. (Now St. Joseph's schools).  
Mr. John Coleman and family entertained the Methodist Sunday School orchestra at an oyster supper.  
The conduct of some who occupy the rear seats at entertainments in the town hall is most annoying.

## 100 years ago

Thursday, December 16, 1880  
An Xmas tree will be decorated by parents and friends of the Canada Methodist Sunday School children, in the church on Christmas Eve, the 24th inst. Any person wishing to put presents on the tree for others are at liberty to do so, whether in connection with the school or not. An entertainment will be given consisting of speeches, recitations and dialogues and music by the choir. Admission 25 cents, children free.  
Almost every person is visiting the shops in the village for the purpose of selecting articles for distribution among their friends during the holidays. We call the attention of our readers to J. F. McGarvin's drug store, where there are a thousand and one articles suitable for presents.  
Suspicious indeed are these times! Two of our single young men have just bought cooking stoves, and another a clock. The air is filled with Cupid's darts.



Garth Marks and Coby Leslie of the Second Acton (Trinity) Cubs help Lena Gunby decorate the Christmas tree at Acton Seniors' Residence. The cubs visited the rest home last Wednesday night and sang carols for the elderly.



The junior classes at Robert Little School presented Christmas concerts last Wednesday and Thursday evenings.



The Third Acton Guides visited Jeanette's Rest Home last Wednesday night to sing carols for the seniors.



The St. Alban's Sunday School junior choir, left to right, Angela Courline, Angela Hunter, Marnel Maddeau and David DeForest performed at Sunday's children's service.

## Actario winners

Wes Beatty, 88 Church St. East, was the winner Saturday of the weekly Actario draw for \$350.  
Helen Jocque, R.R. 4 Acton won a merchant bonus pouch containing vouchers from Jolliffe Shoes, Family Cleaners and rolls from Acton Deli. Vouchers from IGA, Stedmans, Acton Bowling Lanes and Chicken and Pizza Spot were in the pouch Tracey Tyler, 350 Peel St., won L. Sherry and Lynda Ruse, 10 Storey Dr., share a ticket that won vouchers from AB Foodland, J&T Sports and Acton Photo and Camera. June Hunter, RR2 Acton, was the winner of the super shopper pouch with vouchers from Nielsen's, Acton Family Restaurant, Family Cleaners, Acton Deli, Superior Shoe Repair, Jug City, Family Cleaners, 10 Lions draw tickets and two Optimist draw tickets.

## Acton lady wins quilt

Brenda Snow of Acton was the winner of the quilt draw held by the Blue Triangle Club on December 2.

## Hit, run investigation

Investigation continues of a hit and run accident in Acton which sent 13-year-old Claudia Krause to hospital. Halton Regional Police believe the car which struck the girl, was a 1965-68 Ford, but are looking for further clues to make a positive identification.