

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Trustees should delay Black termination decision

Tomorrow night Halton Board of Education is slated to discuss the administration recommendation that the teaching contract of Keith Black be terminated following his recent conviction for theft.

A group of concerned Acton citizens hope to persuade trustees to defer any decision until they have an opportunity to plead the community's case that termination of Black's teaching contract is a harsh and totally unnecessary action.

We join these citizens in calling for the board to exercise restraint, caution and common sense in dealing with this matter until they have heard the entire case.

Since no trustees, or administrators attended the trial or sentencing they couldn't possibly know the entire case.

County Court Judge J.D. Sutherland made it clear in rendering his decision, a three-year probation term and a suspended sentence, that it was an unpleasant task. He wished the subject

had never reached his court, but instead had been completely settled in civil court.

He didn't call Black's offense a criminal theft, but a technical theft.

The judge was impressed with the support he saw for Black from this community.

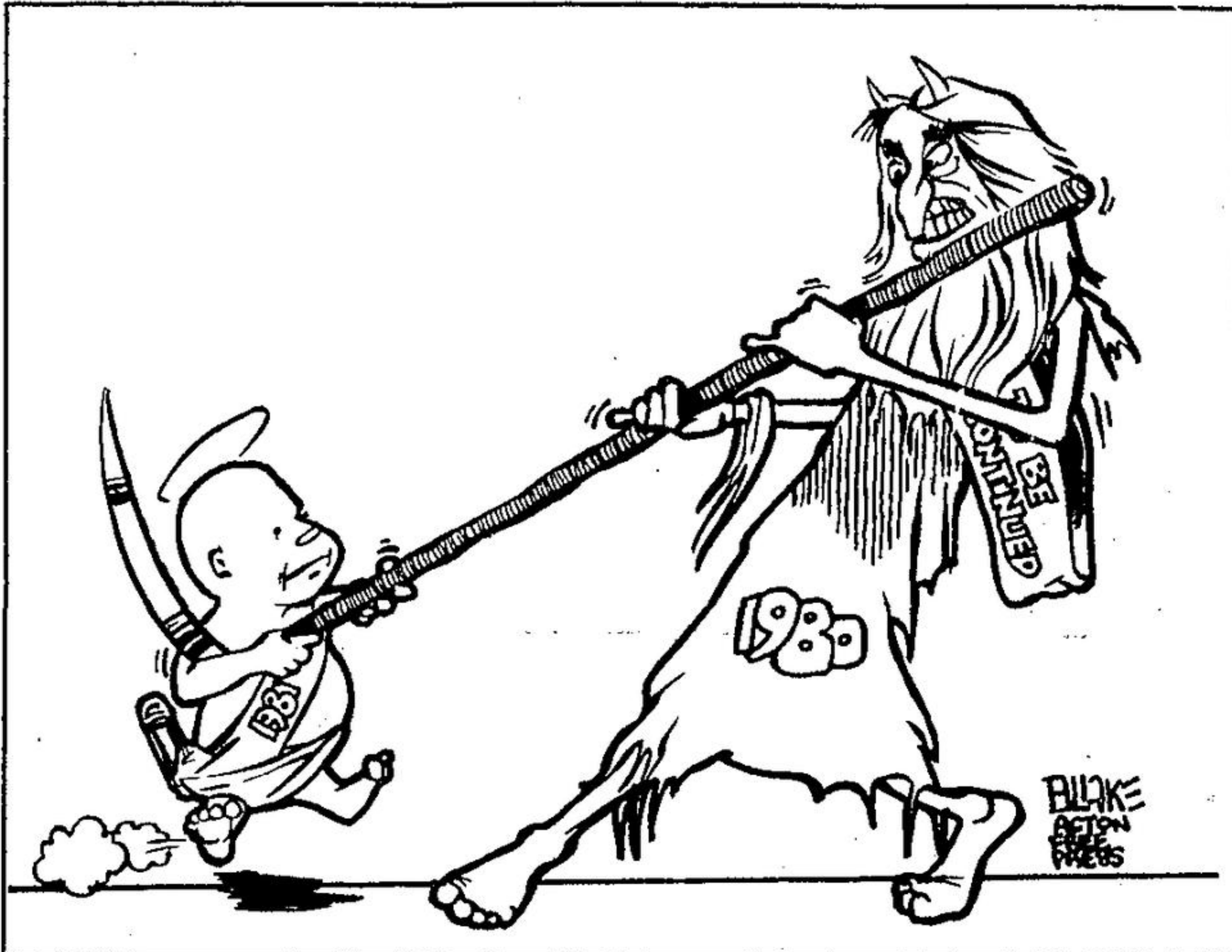
We think the trustees would be equally impressed, that is if they decide to hold off taking any action and allow residents here to voice their views.

They'll hear the same thing the judge heard, that Acton feels Black is a "dedicated teacher, committed to the betterment of others, highly regarded in his community."

Black didn't profit by the technical theft. He has lost a great deal already in terms of personal and family suffering, as well as considerable financial loss.

He paid his debt the day he pleaded guilty.

Depriving Acton of his teaching services and in fact attempting to strip him of his teaching certificate, his livelihood, will serve no useful purpose.



Cheer up, Smiley has not gone out of business

by

Bill

Smiley



Leathertown good idea

Acton Chamber of Commerce has hit upon a great idea to further boost the economy of the community, promoting Acton as Leathertown.

However, they will need lots of help to pull it off, not to mention time.

1980 was an encouraging year from a business standpoint in Acton. There seemed to be more industrial-commercial success stories than failures.

On the leather front there were ups and downs.

Heller's finally got moved to Disston giving rise to an exciting commercial development, the old Hide House. Early indications are it is bringing business in from out of town, money is coming into, instead of constantly flowing out.

There's a mall downtown now, with a second shoe store for Acton, very appropriate, and it is named Leathertown.

At the same time there were some temporary lay-offs in the leather industry and a planned expansion at Superior Glove was shelved until brighter economic times.

But, there was some encouraging news for the future from Ottawa regarding import quotas and the promise of a policy, following study, which might prove beneficial.

Overall, considering the sad state of the economy, Acton's leather industry did pretty well.

More importantly, the leather heritage was extended somewhat

to the commercial side of the local economy too.

Enthusiasm seems to be running high for promotion of the town and talking proud about our history is leather.

The accomplishments of 1980 can be built upon. If the town became known far and wide as leathertown then there'd be a better chance of major commercial development on the sites of the old Force Electric plant and Dominion Hotel.

What is needed now is a larger, and more particularly a much more active, Chamber membership to get this project off the ground.

But the Chamber can't do the job of promoting Acton as Leathertown alone.

They'll need lots of help.

The municipality, BIA, local industry, business outside the core area, and the concerned citizens will have to get behind the ideas of making Acton Leathertown. The Chamber needs more ideas and many more hands on deck. This would seem a perfect project for our schools and community groups like the Acton Beautification Committee to support.

The Chamber has tossed out the ball.

Now if the rest of Acton helps them run with it then there's a good chance someday soon Acton will be talking proud of our community.

Been one of those weeks. The first snow. School buses going into the ditch. A great screaming of summer tires just outside our door. A stately elderly gentleman with a cigar walked past me as I was warming up the car. Went flat on his keester at the corner, but retained his cigar.

Before I could get out and help him somebody else was there. Got him to his feet, and off he went, probably to get his morning paper, badly shaken, but completely unshaken, cigar still going.

Went to work around the sage way, no hills, despite the iniquitous lie of the car salesman that with radial belted tires you didn't need snow tires. Poppycock. This ain't Florida.

Tried to climb a tiny hill, did a 180 degree turn, and went the long, long way around, arriving at work ten minutes late, sweating, scrambled, and me with the 'flu that's lasted only six weeks. There's nothing like a 'flu fever, along with a fear of sweat, to make you have to change all your clothes every fifth day, instead of every two weeks.

Oh, well. We dang near got the lawn-mower away last weekend. And we'll get it into the tool shed one of these days, as soon as I can find somebody who realizes how valuable those 12 twelve-foot windows (storm) are, for the glass in them. Must be fifty bucks worth of glass there, and a good Saturday night's worth of firewood, once the glass is removed. Yep. We went for the aluminum jobs this year.

My wife thinks we could cut the glass out ourselves. She bought a "genuine" glass-cutter from one of those television shows. I can just see the two of us in the tool shed, leaking blood from every limb, framed in fine old Georgian wooden window-frames. And the lawn-mower still out in the snow.

But it wasn't all bad. We had our own South American guru home for a few days, and he fixed me up with a potion called Devil's Claw, supposed to cure arthritis. You drink about two pints a day for three weeks, and it tastes just like balled lumberjack socks. I had one treatment, and my pains vanished. He was quite annoyed. He'd got a special on it, only \$2.99 for a six-dollar bottle of the blank.

Despite a week of supervising examinations, and realizing the only people dumber than kids are teachers, I kept my spirits up. Spiritually. With spirits.

And along came a few more items to make me refuse to hope that the ski resort operators all go broke this year because there won't be any snow. I couldn't do this. I hope there's just enough snow so they can stay alive, and go broke next year.

What ultimately kept my spirits as buoyant as an anvil in a swamp was the news and the pictures of our revered leader and Sacha freaking about in an Arab tent, mounting the Sphinx and climbing a camel. I'm sure it, or they, warmed the cockles of every Canadian heart.

In another incarnation, that man would be a Rain-Maker. Have you ever observed his technique? It's one that every husband in the land would love to emulate.

When there's a lot of heat in the kitchen, he tosses a few fragments of fat on the already burning oil and takes off for far places, there to don outlandish garb, and participate in exotic rites, and leave his sergeants at home to fight the war.

It's fool-proof. He gets a lot of headlines; distracts the country's attention from such trivialities as unemployment and inflation, and comes up with some stuff about Canada being the thirty-third best-loved

country in the third world.

I wish I could get away with it. If I went to Yemen, they'd probably be serving me up instead of sheep's eyes. And if I even tried to go to Egypt or Saudi Arabia, my wife would complain about the lack of air-conditioning, and I'd be sent home, slit open, filled with oil, and sewed up again. One half-barrel of oil for Canada. On the other hand, he has Margaret.

There's always something to cheer one up, of course, in the daily press. Just this morning, I read that Ronald Reagan had had two children by his first wife, and two children by his second wife. Not with. By. Zero in, you feminist head (or other parts)-hunters.

In the same edition, I learned from someone called Peregrine that, "We are the only couple in Canada who have done it." Out of context, of course, but it struck me funny. Bone.

And in yet the same issue of Canada's "leading newspaper" (leading what I do not know) I discovered in an advertisement that for \$19.95 I could purchase the latest copy of a book by Canada's "leading author" (leading what I again do not know, unless self-glorification and the ability to chew his cabbage twice, or thrice).

So. All these things cheer me up on a bad day. And then I read a few students' essays and I plunge once more into the pits. One guy says Hugh Garner is Canada's greatest writer, because he could understand his prose, and there was none of this symbolism and junk to cloud the meaning. Another tells me that Sylvia Fraser has remarkable insight into human character, and repeats it eight times.

Oh, well 1981's here. U-g-g-g-h!



On the Leavell

With Helen

Congratulations and good luck go out to Milt Skippon, a student minister who is leaving Acton for Orangeville. Mr. Skippon has become very well known in Acton in his 2 1/2 years here. He came east from British Columbia and homesteaded with Marguerite Taylor, the same lady who provided me with a roof over my head when I first came to town almost seven years ago. Mr. Skippon preached at the Trinity United Church recently.

Seems there were two Christmas babies for Acton this year. As reported last week, Cathy and Tim Coles became the parents of a spanking new son at around 4 a.m. December 23. However, not to be out-done Pat Peterson (nee Jordan) of Acton, gave

birth to Tineku Elizabeth at 8.30 that same morning. Tineka's dad Erik made us aware of the omission. Sister Tosha could hardly wait for the new baby to get home.

Any women interested in information about breastfeeding are welcome at the next series of meetings held by LaLeche of Acton, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization. The League offers mother-to-mother help in a series of four monthly meetings. The informal meeting discussions include the latest medical research as well as personal experience.

Other services include a lending library of books on childbirth, child care, breastfeeding and nutrition. The League manual, The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding is available for sale as well. Also, telephone help is available to any women in the community who have questions or breastfeeding problems whether they have attended League meetings or not.

The next series of meetings will be held at Sue Sead's home at 79 Churchill Rd. S. on Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9 and April 13. The meetings will begin at 8 p.m.

All women who are interested in nursing their babies are welcome, as are their babies. You need not be pregnant or even have a family to attend. If you hope someday to have children or if you are a grandmother or aunt or sister who wants to be able to help someone in your family who is breast-

feeding, if you are interested, you are welcome.

The League is celebrating its silver anniversary this year and its aim and approach are the same as when it was started by a group of seven mothers in a Chicago suburb in 1956.

For further information call Marilyn Coxie 878-4803 or Karen Gregory 878-3884.

Pictures of Rockwood were in a recent photo display in the new library in Drayton, Alberta. Former Free Press columnist Wendy Thomson was asked to set up an exhibit of her photo work and only had a few days to get it together. On such short notice she managed to scrounge up pictures taken around her Buck Creek Alberta home, and was forced to use pics of Rockwood. Naturally the display was a success.

We said our farewells to Free Press staffer Gwyn last a few weeks back as she joins the ranks of the retired.

Gwyn, formerly of Acton, now of Guelph, worked as a typesetter here for 12 years, before a more relaxed life lured her away from us.

In the six-and-a-half years I've known Gwyn, I've found her to be sincere and dedicated to her job and friends. She will be missed by everyone.

By the way, Gwyn, Happy Birthday.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, January 6, 1971

New Year's baby is Janene Michelle McMullen. Mac Sprowl, deputy sheriff since 1964, is now the sheriff of Halton County, replacing Andy Frank.

The S. Lennard and Sons Limited of Dundas and Mason Knitting Ltd. will consolidate into one Acton plant, creating 25 to 30 new jobs, according to owner B.H. Dorfman of Toronto.

Affable Free Press foreman Murray Scoyne has bought his hometown weekly newspaper and printing plant in Ridgeway.

The old Rockwood Town Hall was bursting at the seams when 30 saw in the New Year. Betty and Ray Death and Winnie and Ron Hills were the organizers.

One of the few remaining original members of the Rockwood fire brigade, Frank Schneider has retired.

20 years ago

Thursday, January 5, 1951

Herb Helwig, local freight shed operator, retired officially today. Friends gathered at the station to bid him farewell.

Over 200 teenagers celebrated New Year's when they enjoyed the Lions Teen Town dance in the Legion. Chaperones were Lions Syd Lamb, Jack Doherty, Fred Briggs and Jack Blundell. Music was supplied by two bands, Premiers and The Consuls.

For the first time Acton will have a March of Dimes campaign, sparked by the Rotarians. Mrs. Jim Ledger has been chosen Chief Marching Mother.

Council passed a \$150,000 waterworks extension bylaw to get the year off to a flying start. Mayor Goy said the project will not effect the 1961 tax rate.

Kenneth Mann took over the ownership of Pallant's Ladies' Wear. His mother Mrs. Mann had been an employee.

50 years ago

Thursday, January 8, 1921

This is the third year that Acton council has taken office without one change in personnel. It was decided a regular meeting will be held every Tuesday.

Thelma Gamble and John Matthew Greer had a New Year wedding.

Miss Thelma Lamb of Nassagaweya who played with the Acton Ladies' Softball Team has been offered a position in Montreal if she will remove to that city and play ball there.

The curlers got in their first game on New Year's Day.

A health unit is being urged for the county.

Mr. A.W. Thompson is now in charge of the Hewitson Shoe plants in Acton and Brampton.

75 years ago

Thursday, January 4, 1906

The friends of local option who have been anxious to ban the bars and save the boys and purify the town regret the result of Monday's vote, but they are not despondent nor ready to give up their fight for right. The majority of communities which had the vote gave more encouraging results than Acton, and over 130 bars in Ontario must close.

The defeat of Reeve Hynds at the polls ends five years of praiseworthy service. His defeat is the result of forces representing distinctly outside interests. H. Swackhamer is reeve, and councillors are C.R. McIntosh, Dr. Gray, J.M. Warren and James Lackey.

After the results of the poll were announced all the candidates spoke to the electors.

Tory, one of Beardmore and Co.'s best team of draught horses, fell on the icy street severing one of his arteries. New plays at the town hall this week.

100 years ago

Thursday, January 6, 1881

The skating rink is open four nights a week and closes each evening at 10 sharp. Our excellent village band attended on Monday and Thursday.

On Monday evening the businessmen and citizens of our village entertained Dr. McGarvin at an oyster supper at Agnew's Hotel, on the eve of his removal to Georgetown. Toasts, speeches and songs were the order of the evening. Dr. McGarvin came to Acton about 27 years ago. (Mr. J.B. Coates said he thought the ladies should be invited to gatherings of this nature.)

A shanty in the swamp on Mr. Hyde's property, which a family of colored people called home, was totally consumed by fire. By the light of the burning shanty, the occupants immediately went to work with a will, cut timber and erected a new one and had their stove in place in the new cabin before it had got cold after being burned in the old one.

It requires a large amount of money to publish a paper, and we would be happy if people in arrears would pay up at once.

Our readers write

Thanks from fair board

Dear Sir:

The Directors of the Acton Agricultural Society have asked me to write to you thanking the Acton Free Press for all of the time and effort that was put in by your staff in making the 1980 Acton Fall Fair the best that we have had so far.

I could not start by thanking each one by name, as I am sure to miss someone, and that would not be fair, as I am sure that each one did their part in covering the fair in his or her own way.

I am sorry for being so late with this letter, but I have been very busy in trying to

get all of the prize money out, and the bills all paid, and this has taken me a greater length of time than I had expected.

The Fair Board is very happy with the coverage that was given to us by the Acton Free Press this year, and we can only hope that you will continue to give us as great a coverage in the future.

Once again we would like to thank you all for the help that you gave in your own way to make our fair one of the best there is.

John B. Rowe
Secretary-Treasurer
Acton Agricultural Society