

The Acton Free Press

Founded in 1875

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Applaud Black decision

Halton Board of Education trustees deserve a round of applause for their handling of the Keith Black matter.

Last week they rejected an administration call to strip Black of his department headship, teaching position at Acton High School and his teaching certificate following his December conviction in county court of what the judge termed a "technical theft."

The administration looked at the situation in a black and white way. They said since the man was convicted of a criminal offense he should be dismissed. They were dotting all the I's and crossing all the T's in the matter.

Trustees, however, took into account the circumstances of the case and the overwhelming support Black received from his fellow teachers, students at AHS and the community at large and then judged the case on its merits.

This was as it should be.

The paid staff outlined the options for action available and the politicians reviewed the situation and came to their decision.

Some will suggest this has set a precedent, a teacher convicted of a criminal offense has been allowed to return to his classroom with little punishment but a few weeks of anxiety.

We agree this is a precedent, but a precedent of a different kind.

The board has determined it will decide matters dealing with conduct of its teachers outside the classroom based on the merits and facts of the individual case. This isn't the first time the board

has faced an issue dealing with an employee's non-work conduct, nor will it be the last time.

The board's established a sensible way of handling these kinds of issues.

One other thing the Black case has demonstrated is that apathy isn't quite as solidly entrenched here as most thought.

Lack of public involvement in issues here is supposed to be a big problem, and in far too many cases it is.

It was nice to see Acton and Rockwood area could mobilize in such great numbers to fight what people felt was an injustice.

If only we saw over 200 people get together to let government bodies and other organizations know how we feel about things a little more often this would most certainly be an even better community in which to live.

But, it was tremendous to see a large group of people take a stand on an issue and back it up with a little action, even if it was just signing petitions and making a couple of trips to Burlington.

While this newspaper advocated the decision the board came to, we were aware of a small, unorganized group of people who wanted to see strong action, similar to that proposed by the administration, taken against Black.

From the standpoint that everyone's input is valuable and everyone has a right to voice his or her opinion even if their view is in the minority we find it regrettable that apparently a handful decided to keep their opinions pretty much to themselves.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Did you ever send in a postcard to appear on the television show Bowling for Dollars, and never hear back from them. Well, don't give up hope, you may be hearing from them yet.

Acton resident Tim Coles recently received a phone call from the staff asking if he would like to appear on the Kitchener television program. They had first tried to contact him at the home of his parents, the number he had given on the post card he sent to the station about seven years ago!

Tim turned them down, but not before asking the date on the postmark on the card. The woman revealed his card was pulled by someone down in the States, and she did not have the card with her. She was just as surprised as Tim when he told her he had mailed it seven years ago.

The incident says a lot for the longevity of the program, but little for the organization within the administrative end of the show.

The War Amputations of Canada is currently conducting their annual fund rais-

ing drive. By selling small, coded key chain size licence plates, the organization not only helps themselves, but the buyer as well. Each plate has a serial number on it which is recorded at the group's head office in Toronto. Should the keys be lost, the finder just has to drop the keys in any mail box. They are then forwarded on to the War Amputations of Canada, who return them to the owner.

Cost of the licence plate is \$2. They also sell address labels and wrist calendars. Technically the plate, labels and calendar are not for sale, but gifts should you donate a certain amount of money. Prices are suggestions only.

If you did not receive your package in the mail, write to The War Amputations of Canada, key tag service, 140 Merton Street, Toronto, M4S 1A5.

Well, I'm still here, which means I didn't run off with Patrick Duffy, who plays Bobby Ewing on TV's Dallas, when I met him in Toronto on Saturday. Of course that's not to say he didn't ask me to go away with him, but I really felt my lifestyle was too slow to withstand a Hollywood affair.

Sports writer Diana Waltmann and I went down to meet our favorite actor at Speedsport at the CNE's automotive building. Our hopes for interview never came off (which we expected would happen), but we did get pictures and I did get to speak to him. Decked out in his tight blue jeans, grey turtleneck sweater and black leather jacket, he made all the waiting women scream with delight when he came on stage. Diana and I didn't find the incident worth screaming about (honest) but we

sure weren't disappointed by what we saw on the stage. He's shorter than he looks on TV, but a lot better looking, if you can believe that.

The American actor signed autographs from noon to 10 p.m., both Saturday and Sunday. We got to him before his first half hour was up, so he was pretty fresh.

The nighttime soap star would not give out any secrets about upcoming episodes of Dallas, but did hint that if his TV sister in law's lover Dusty returned to the show "you may not recognize him. He was in a plane crash you know."

Flexing his muscles, he also answered a question about his TV wife's fidelity, by saying "why should she?" Mr. Duffy also presented Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey with a cowboy hat and quart of Ewing Oil.

Lots of outdoors people on the lake this past weekend. Besides cross-country skiers like myself, there were snowmobilers, skaters, motorcyclists (that's right motorcyclists), and on the shores tobagganists. There were even ice fishermen. The mild temperatures made it a perfect day for an outing.

The glamor and excitement of the fabulous 50s came to Stone Road Mall in Guelph Thursday. There's immaculate cars from the era on display as well as a bubble top juke box full of the music that made the 50s special. In addition visitors to the mall can enjoy seeing fashions of the time, view a newsreel recording some memorable news events of the decade and dig live entertainment on the weekends.

Congratulate Red Cross

Monday was an important night in the history of one of Acton's local service organizations.

This week Acton's very own branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society was officially born at the inaugural meeting held at the Christian Reformed Church.

In an era when more and more of our social and emergency services originate outside the community it was indeed heartening to see an Acton only organization born out of a service which used to operate on the Georgetown and District level.

When he was in Halton Hills last fall to deliver the letter of intent for the birth of the new Acton branch as of January 1, Ontario president Paul Richards noted it has been many, many years since a new branch was opened in this province.

The fact that in a time when bigger is deemed better an Acton Red Cross has been born is a tribute to the inexhaustible efforts of local Red Cross members to demonstrate they could exist on their own.

Several times in the past couple of years the birth of a separate Acton Red Cross has seemed imminent, but was always delayed.

But people like Henry Kroes, head of the old Acton unit of the Georgetown and district Red Cross and the first president of the Acton branch, never gave up.

Everyone involved in the birth of the Acton's new Red Cross Branch just kept working to make the dream come true. They proved themselves very ready for branch status.

Acton will continue working with the Georgetown Red Cross, they have a long history of co-operative effort and excellent relations. Co-operation will be especially important in the area of planning action and training volunteers for essential disaster response services.

But the Acton Red Cross will be on its own now to continue their fine efforts in the areas of blood donor clinics, individual aid and minor disaster response, the loan cupboard, water safety programs, etc.

We'd like to offer our congratulations and wish for continued success to Acton's new Red Cross.

They have taken an important step for not just their own organization, but also the community.

Our readers write

Black thanks supporters

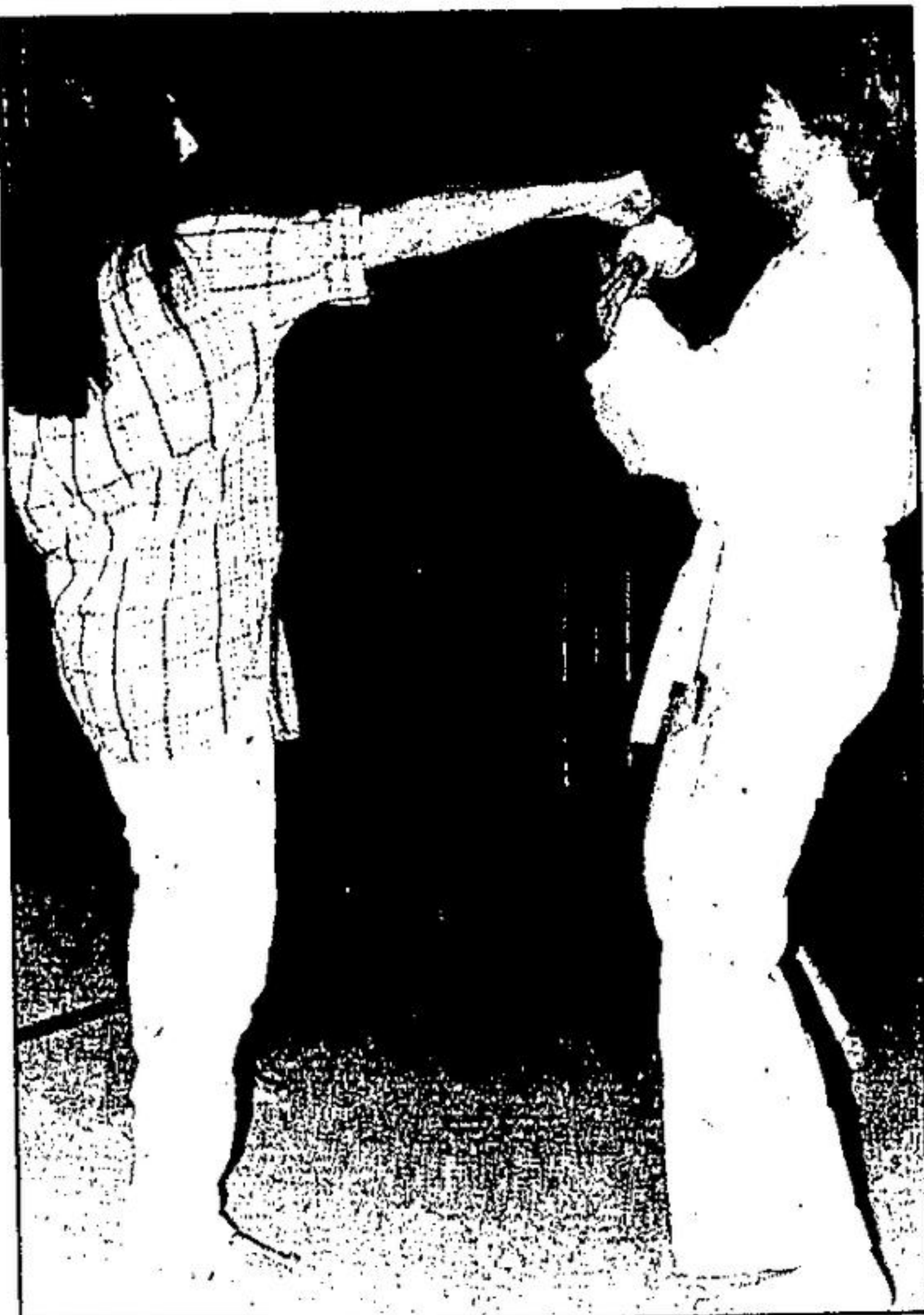
Dear Friends:

The energies, love and positive support of hundreds of people eased the personal pain and feeling of despair that I endured from January 5, 1981 to January 21, 1981. At the Halton Board of Education office in Burlington, on January 8 and January 21, 1981, the power of the people and the elected trustees resolved the issue by democratic justice.

My heart was filled with joy on Wednesday evening when I learned I would be

back at Acton High School the next day. On Thursday, I was immersed in an atmosphere of welcome—yellow ribbons on the school door, a welcome banner, and the warm fellowship of my friends. Thursday, was a unique day of love, thanksgiving, euphoria and spiritual wholeness. I express my gratitude and I send to each of you my love.

Yours sincerely,
Keith J. Black



Sharon Saad learns to block punches from Halton Hills recreation department Self Defence for Women instructor Blake Hancock.



Loel Harkins adopts a fighting stance in her self defence class.



Dawn Aldrich, Rosealee Dawkins and the rest of the recreation department's Women's Self Defence class work out Wednesday nights at Robert Little school.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, January 27, 1971
The high school will adopt the semester system next September.

Newly-elected parks and recreation vice-chairman Gil Malcolm has climbed aboard councillor Bill Coats' bandwagon, advocating an early start on plans for Acton's centennial in 1973.

Robert Warne was elected president of the Golden Age club with others on the executive Joe Fuller, R.L. Davidson, Mrs. Don Reed, Miss Annie Akins, Mrs. Jack Cosar. Council's new agreement with the police will cost \$18,000 and add a seventh man to the Acton detachment.

New appointments to planning board are councillor Norman Elliott and Dave Muckie. Sid Saltz is again named chairman.

Charles Heard has been elected a vice-president of Beardmore and Co. Ltd. Bert Hinton was elected vice-chairman of the Sheridan College board of governors.

20 years ago

Thursday, January 26, 1961

Acton Rotary Club has decided to accept sponsorship of the Scout and Guide movement. Rotarians Jim Ledger, Frank Prouse, William Pendleton and Gordon McKeown will join board members George Haggitt, Sid Newton and W. Middleton.

Ted Tyler Jr. and Julian Zajac, a delegation from Acton Citizens' Band, displayed to Parks Board a scale model from their proposed new band hall. They requested the board's approval of a site in the park near the wading pool. Mayor Goy and Councillor Barbeau said renovation of the arena was being considered and there might be accommodation there.

Anne Bennett placed first in the public school public speaking competitions, with Mary Grischow second.

Nino Braida was elected fair board president. He has been a director eight years, taking a keen interest in the cattle show. Pensions will now be provided for employees of the town.

The youngest competitor in her class, Linda Braida placed third in novice ladies in the sectional figure skating championships.

50 years ago

Thursday, January 29, 1931

The remaining members of the former Rockwood band met and discussed funds they have on hand. They decided to use the money on a radio outfit, which they presented to Mr. John Wood, Valley Road who has been particularly enjoying hearing Billy Sunday's sermons from Buffalo, N.Y.

Reeve Amos Mason of Acton was the unanimous choice as warden of Halton county. He took the oath of office before Judge H.P. Moore of Acton.

The first reunion banquet for all ex-servicemen in Halton county has held at the Brant Inn, Burlington. Over 400 attended. Col. G.O. Brown, sheriff of Halton county, acted as toastmaster.

A new Legion Post was proposed Acton at a conference in Port Credit.

Mr. W. Middleton, the station agent, showed the Girl Guides how a real expert signals the Morse code.

75 years ago

Thursday, January 25, 1906

The anniversary tea-meeting of Church Hill Congregational Church was held Friday evening, the only night this winter that good sleighing has prevailed. As a result the church was crowded to the doors and the good ladies had a difficult task in superintending the culinary section of the proceedings.

Mr. Robert Sprowl of the third line, Esquesing, has won another award for his superior grain, \$5 from Rochester N.Y. for Mammoth cluster oats.

The new home of the Glasgow House is about completed, and Messrs. Henderson and Co. have now one of the most handsome, commodious and conveniently arranged mercantile houses in the county. The renewed building has a front of 48 feet. (The Bank of Montreal is now on the site.) The walls and ceiling are covered with embossed metal. The millinery and house furnishings are on the second floor.

100 years ago

Thursday, January 27, 1881

Mr. James Wilds, who has been employed as a cutter in the Canada Glove Works, during the past eight years, is about to remove from Acton to Listowel, where he will engage in the manufacture of Gloves, Mitts, etc. in partnership with Mr. C. Selwood. His fellow-workmen entertained him at an oyster supper at Agnew's Hotel and presented him with a large photograph of the glove cutters in the works, eight in number.

About 600 persons attended the debate on Baptism on Thursday and 650 on Monday. Due to the snowstorm only 300 attended Friday evening. The discussion has been the best thing to draw a crowd that Acton ever had.

Upsets are of frequent occurrence on the roads now.

Since the close of the Baptism discussion the rink has been largely attended.