

The Acton Free Press

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Should have left Davis in minority position

We have to agree with newly re-elected Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed when he says the return of the Tories to a majority position doesn't auger well for the next four or five years of Ontario's life.

That's not to say we think Ontario voters elected the wrong government. Davis was really the only choice for Premier.

Nor are we displeased with the selection of Julian Reed as our MPP at Queen's Park. He's been an excellent MPP and deserved a third term.

But we're going to miss minority government.

Every time there's a troop to the polls the virtues of majority rule are trotted out by the ruling party.

We aren't convinced, especially where an outfit that's been in the driver's seat as long as the Ontario Tories have been is concerned.

After all, it's majority Tory governments that acted as the spawning ground of such momentous advancements as the hydro corridor and regional government, two good reasons why Halton-Burlington has been now in the opposition camp for three elections running.

While not every minority government could dissolve Davis and Company's resolve to keep Halton region afloat and push a power line through the middle of Halton Hills, we feel that generally Ontario has received good government for the past five years.

Minority government is sometimes plodding and doesn't result

in complete stability. However, it is more often than not also responsive to the views of both opposition parties and the public. In addition minority governments give their every move careful thought and consideration.

This was true of the two Tory minority governments. Further the premier and cabinet demonstrated a stomach for making tough and sometimes unpopular decisions for the good of the majority.

On the other hand majority governments can be heavy handed, brash, unresponsive and unfeeling. They can also be unwise and unhearing.

The good habits the Tories developed the last five years we fear will quickly be forgotten.

Now, more than even in the last five years, a strong effective opposition will be needed at Queen's Park.

Unfortunately we don't think it will materialize.

At least not if the two candidates for the premier's job voters rejected last week stay around another four years waiting to apply again.

A Tory majority government might well be much better for Ontario if it had to worry a little bit about new people at the top of the Liberals and New Democrats.

Should the Grits decide that after two kicks at the cat Dr. Stuart Smith isn't the answer, something the voters have already decided, then we would suggest they look in the direction of Norval for a replacement.

Praise quick municipal action on new IGA plaza

Halton Hills councillors and municipal staff have proved they are serious about the pledge to do everything reasonably possible to bring more commercial establishments to Acton.

The staff and then the councillors moved swiftly and decisively on rezoning approval for the new IGA plaza downtown.

They cut as much red tape as possible while still covering all the bases to ensure a quality project which will be a tremendous asset to the community and won't likely be rejected at higher government levels.

To say this project, containing a large supermarket and several retail outlets is essential to not just downtown but the whole of Acton is an understatement.

Breaking with policy and approving the rezoning without holding a public meeting was

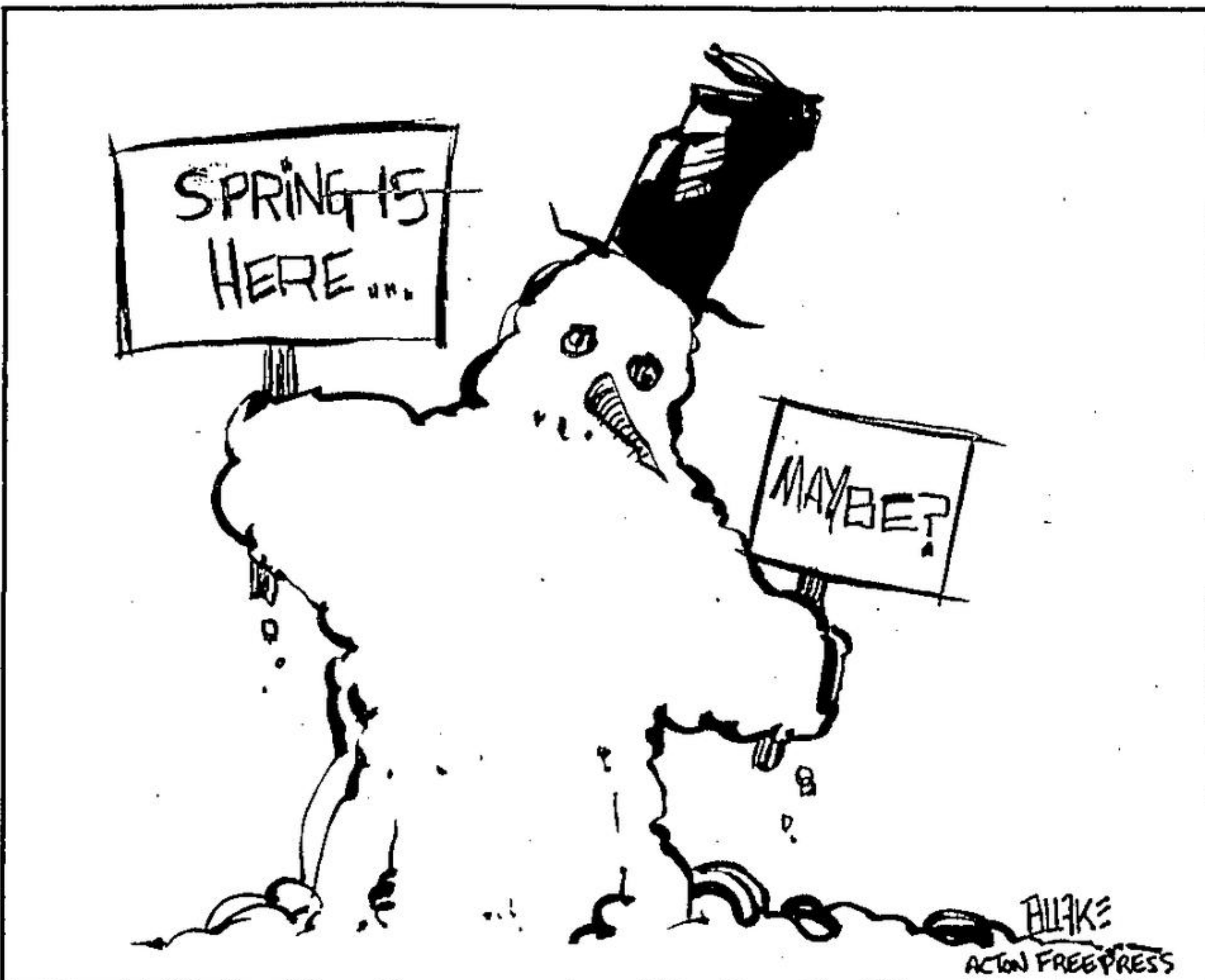
eminently sensible, especially since not a single discouraging word has been heard about the proposal.

Ever since they turned down a plaza proposal for the east side of Acton based on excellent planning reasons, but evidently against the wishes of a large number of residents who want a supermarket and a larger retail sector here, councillors have been saying they want to encourage more commercial development downtown.

They haven't had much of a chance to prove they were sincere.

But the first real chance they got staff and councillors conclusively proved their goal really is to develop Acton commercially.

They showed they are sensitive to the wishes of Acton.



On the Leavell

With Heien

Having trouble looking up an Acton name in the new telephone book? Well, you're not alone.

When the new books came out last month, Acton found itself in the Peel-Halton book, instead of with Guelph. If that wasn't enough to prey on old habits, we are now found under the 'H's' for Halton Hills, not nearly as convenient as being at the very first of the book.

However, I bring relief to those who are going crazy thumbing through the book. Why not put a paper clip on the side of the first page of Acton names. That way, when you go to use the book, you can instantly go to the proper town.

Or for those more energetic, a small piece of paper can be taped to the side of top of the page for the same effect as the paper clip.

If anyone else has any other suggestions, drop me a line. The problem may seem trivial, but it has been gnawing on the nerves of Actonians for several weeks now.

A big hello goes out to Cecil Nelles, the husband of Grace Nelles, who's been a good friend since I first came to Acton. Mrs. Nelles told me Cecil reads the Free Press from front to back each week and never misses a thing. I've never met him, but I think that kind of dedication deserves a hello.

Although Actonians greatly helped vote in a Liberal in last week's provincial election, they also have a soft spot for one very Conservative family—Premier William Davis's.

Residents of long standing in Acton will recall that Mr. Davis's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. McCleary lived in Acton over 40 years ago. They came to town when Hewetson's Shoe Factory was in operation. The building was later owned by Force Electric Company and was recently torn down. The site itself is still vacant.

Mrs. McCleary was a Hewetson, and her sister was Bill Davis's mother. Their mother, Mrs. Hewetson Sr., lived with them for a while.

The Hewetson Shoe Factory was a branch of the Brampton company. The plant ceased operations here about 40 years ago.

But that's not where Davis's ties to Acton stop. Another of the premier's Hewetson aunts was the mother of Frank Prouse. Frank and Nora Prouse lived on Knox Ave. and he operated Franklin Prouse Motors (now L and L Ford).

Long time Actonians have been recalling the connection this week after seeing the premier's 88-year-old mother with him on television the night of the election. A Hewetson, she married the late Grenville Davis.

Well, they may not have placed too high in the standings, but the thought and team spirit were there for two teams with local connections in the Samsonite Downhill Sultcase Races recently.

The two teams were: the Milton Champion, featuring Acton resident Don McDonald, (and Free Press publisher), and Champion publisher Herb Crowther; and the Georgetown Independent, with Mark and Paul Dills, of Milton. Mark and Paul are the grandsons of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Elliott, Bower Ave. and nephews of Dave and Kay Dills, John St.

The race took place on a ski hill in Milton, but instead of skis, participants used sultcases. The event was won by the crew of CITY-TV. The fun was taped and will be shown on the Wide World of Sports.

I can think of easier ways of getting on television.

This past Saturday marked a big day in the lives of two local anglers who made their way up to Owen Sound for a day of fishing. John Arnold caught his limit (for

those less versed than I in the sport of fishing, the limit is three). He was mighty proud of his catch. Three gorgeous splake (a cross between lake and speckled trout). But, not to overshadow John's accomplishment, hubby Gord was estatic when he caught his first-ever fish, also a splake, and it was the biggest catch of the day, to that point. The guys celebrated, but they won't tell me how.

Fellow fishermen Bill Cook and Keith Andrews caught two apiece, while John Goy Jr. was the only one to come home empty handed, a rare occurrence.

When I encouraged Gord to take up fishing as an outlet away from the rigors of newspapers, I never dreamed he would actually catch anything. I had earlier warned him I would not be cleaning any of them. And I stuck to my guns. However, somehow, I got stuck watching Keith Andrews clean them in my sink, which made me just as queasy, as if I was doing the actual work myself.

I think I'll stick to Captain Highliner specials.

A big raspberry goes out to the lady who didn't bat an eye when she almost gunned down a senior citizen with her big green car last week. The old guy was crossing with the lights and I guess he was a bit too slow for this lady who was in a hurry to turn left onto Main St. (the nerve of the guy being on the road when she wanted to turn). Instead of waiting another few seconds for the man to get safely to the curb, she nosed in behind him, practically knocking his cane out from under him. I sure do hope that lady got to where she was going, because the senior almost didn't thanks to her.

Want to help beat Cancer? April is certainly the month to do it. April is Cancer month in Canada, so when someone comes to your door, please give generously. I don't know one person who hasn't lost a loved one to the dreaded disease. Let's declare war and fight back, just like Terry Fox did last summer.

Daffodils are once again being sold for \$2 a bunch. If you want some and don't know how to get on the list, call Cathy McGillivray at 853-2806.

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, March 24, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. Mel McCullough have received word one of their Guernseys is a Canadian class leader for all Canada.

Deputy-clerk Grant Usher says snow removal so far cost \$16,000 for the three month period when snow fell deep and often.

Lucky winner of a car in the Tri-County hockey draw is Claude Couture.

The St. Patrick's Day opening of the Swap Shop in the Y was successful beyond expectations. Already 30 volunteers are lined up to work there.

The Irish Stew night was held at Rockwood United Church.

The Free Press staff held a farewell party for Doris and Murray Scayne. He has bought the newspaper business in Ridgeway.

The Northern Stag bonspiel was one of the best of the season, guided by Bob Armstrong.

20 years ago

Thursday, March 23, 1961

The committee appointed to consider an arena renovation and artificial ice installation program met, thoroughly examining all factors. The men agreed to institute a public subscription campaign to raise \$60,000. Heading the committee are chairman Mayor Johnny Goy, Alec Johnson in charge of organizations, Joe Hurst, house to house canvasser, Gord Beatty, business and industry and Jim Ledger publicist.

Mrs. Jack Creighton was elected chairman of the night school committee. Vice chairman is George Bowman. Fifteen courses were held this year.

The band, no longer able to practise in the arena, has been offered a room in the stone building at the Robert Little School.

The Legion team took the cribbage championship at Hamilton—Hughie O'Rourke, George Higgins, Hector Lambert, Mel Jordan, Bob Marlingell, Norm Cunningham, Jack Bultough, Hughie Smith.

50 years ago

Thursday, March 26, 1931

The Cook property has been purchased for \$600 and added to the property of Fairview cemetery.

The Acton Branch of the Legion is taking an active part in the campaign throughout Ontario to add 10,000 members.

At a meeting of Legion executive, Mr. J. M. McDonald, manager of Beardmore Leathers Limited, kindly donated for the use of the Legion here, the magnificent club rooms at the old rink. This makes a very fine contribution to the work of the local branch, and is appreciated sincerely.

An addition to Rockwood United Church will be erected for Sunday School and Young People's Society activities, also a vestry and kitchenette.

They up your premises for spring, and give some jobless man the job of helping you.

George Beardmore, master of the Eglington Hunt, was injured in an automobile accident in South Carolina.

75 years ago

Thursday, March 22, 1906

About six weeks ago James Clark, an employee in Beardmore and Co.'s sole leather tannery, slipped into a hot leech and both legs were badly scalded. Last week his fellow employees took up a generous subscription to aid him.

An itinerant spectacle vendor duped dozens of people in Acton and vicinity. General sympathy is felt for Mr. Thomas Bugg, whose young wife died suddenly. A dear little baby daughter is left.

There has been passable sleighing the last two days. Scores of loads of wood, logs and timber have come in on sleighs.

There is a fine opening here for a good, lively miller. R. J. Moshier has discontinued the operation of the chopping mill on Mill St.

100 years ago

Thursday, March 24, 1881

Village Council approved paying the sum of ten dollars to James Campbell for disbursing the funeral expenses of (name given), any surplus to be given to his wife.

The village council talk about replanting Bower Ave. with maples.

There are only 24 ratepayers in Acton who do not take The Free Press, and they borrow their neighbor's.

Owing to the large volume of water passing over Messrs. Speight and Son's dam on Monday, it gave way at one end. All hands went to work and with the use of straw, shavings etc., the leak was stopped before any particular damage had taken place.

Take the decayed vegetables out of your cellar.

Our readers write

Reader claims Optimists won't help local Scout

Dear Sir:
I have a fifteen-year-old son, who is a member of the 1st Acton Scout Troop. My son has been trying to get his Chief Scout Award, one of the highest awards you can get as a scout. In order to complete the requirements for this award, he is required to do a talk to a service club in the community, on scouting in the community. My son contacted the club in Acton that sponsored scouting, but they have had a scout present his talk recently. After contacting this club, he contacted the President of the Optimist Club of Acton. The Optimist Club is supposed to be a youth oriented group. After waiting for six weeks, he still got no response. My son was ready to give up, very disappointed. Despite help of another member of the Optimist Club, who has also been trying to

help my son do his presentation to this club, they were forced to go elsewhere. With a telephone call to the Optimist Club of Georgetown, my son will finally be able to do his presentation. The Georgetown Club is more than willing to help him to further his scouting. The Georgetown Club has just had a similar presentation from a Georgetown scout. I think it is disgusting that our kids are discouraged by our local clubs, and therefore are forced to go out of ACTON for help. I feel the Scouting movement is a very useful organization for the kids, and feel the community should give it more support.

Mrs. J. Robinson
R.R. 1, Acton



The Schneider Male Chorus performed favorites for an appreciative crowd last Wednesday evening at the Christian Reformed Church. The Chorus is sponsored by Schneider's meats.