

The Acton Free Press

Don McDonald, Publisher

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875

Published every Wednesday by Inland Publishing Co. Limited at 69 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 25c each, \$13.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

The Acton Free Press is one of the Inland Publishing Co. Limited group of suburban newspapers which include The Ajax/Whitby/Pickering News Adviser, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, Burlington Weekend Post, Etobicoke Gazette, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist and Sun, The Milton Canadian Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket/Aurora Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, and The Stouffville Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

Member of The Audit Bureau of Circulation, The Canadian Community Newspaper Association, and The Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association.

Second class mail registration Number 0515.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

Editor: Gord Murray
District Editor: Eric Elstone
Sports: Diana Waltmann
Contributor: Jennifer Barr
Contributor: Helen Murray
Darkroom: Lynda Hill

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Manager: Bill Cook
Sales: Jennifer Barr
Classified Advertising: Pat Kentner
National Advertising Sales Rep: Dan Poyntz (416) 303-1051
BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE
Office Manager: Rhona Thornhill
Shirley Jocque, Carolyn Arsen, Marilyn McArthur

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Manager: Marilyn McArthur



Lock-step town budget reasonable but unfortunate

Until a method is found to keep the lid on spending at Halton Region and Halton Board of Education it would appear likely services at the Halton Hills level of local government won't make any great strides forward.

Monday night Halton Hills council gave final approval to its 1981 budget which will result in an average \$17.46 tax hike in Acton and \$15.51 in Esquesing.

We have to agree with town budget chairman Harry Levy when he calls the budget realistic. It is a reasonable spending plan when viewed in the context that the same people who pay the freight for the town must also fund the region and school board.

But it is a lock-step budget, the only kind Halton Hills has been able to produce for a few years now because of the other two levels of government. All Halton Hills is doing is covering what inflation has added to the cost of existing programs and services plus found ways to improve a few services.

Overall though the region hasn't set its budget and mill rate yet it looks like an average tax hike in Esquesing and Acton in the neighborhood of \$75, a tough pill to swallow.

The reason for the region increase, about \$35 for the average taxpayer here, is obvious. Two straight years of financial mismanagement. Deficit upon deficit. And there still hasn't been a final accounting.

We'll give regional councillors their due. They did try to make cuts. But there was just too much catching up to be done to keep this year's increase reasonable.

Halton Regional Police threw a monkey wrench into the process by planning to come in with a big budget jump. We hope the police budget doesn't get trimmed down. The force shouldn't be expected to hold the line for yet another year on such an essential service. We think people in this area are willing to pay for improved policing. Policing shouldn't be sacrificed just because the previous regional council blew it two years running.

As for the school board's budget, which will cost an average of over \$20 more, we acknowledge its tough to cut because such a huge chunk is tied up in wages. It's not impossible though.

Despite declining enrolments and the unpleasantness of the task there haven't been layoffs in Halton like there have been in so many other education jurisdictions. The pupil-teacher ratio is

negotiated down and programs added to keep teachers and other staff working. There haven't been needed big cuts in administrative staff. Layoffs or negotiating wages down are the only ways to make meaningful cuts in the board's biggest costs. Neither appear likely to happen and trustees must take the blame.

But more distressing is spending increases in other areas, including for new programs.

No matter how worthy new programs may be there is just no excuse for adding any costs to the existing school system when enrolment is declining. Also the board hasn't made strides at making cuts so they could make additions in other areas.

So Halton Hills winds up marking time because the other two levels aren't doing a good enough job.

The town winds up trying to protect the wallets of its citizens from three levels of government. Since they only control one level they hold the line the only place they can.

And that's wrong.

If any level of government has proved it can respond to the needs of local taxpayers and provide cost efficient services its Halton Hills.

While it might not result in lower taxes we do feel it is time each level of local government was forced to bill the ratepayers on their own.

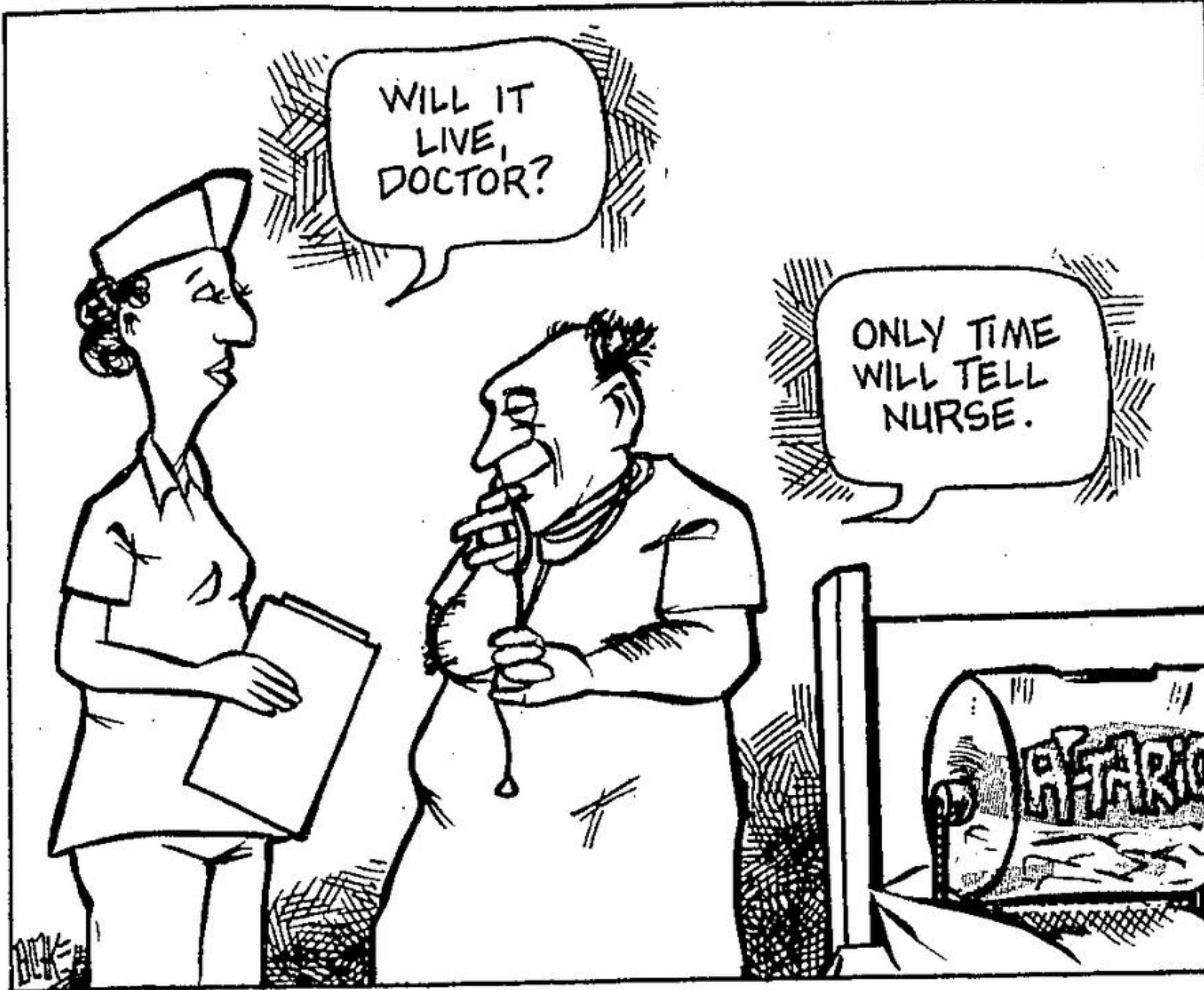
The town must send out tax bills for all three levels. The municipality does send out an explanation showing it's the region and school board that are the big spender. Unfortunately few taxpayers read the material.

They just look at the bottom line, see \$75, and complain to the people they know best, their local councillor.

But if both the region and school board had to send out their own tax bills throughout Halton we think the bulk of councillors and trustees in the south would then exercise more care with the public purse. They'd have to be because they'd hear from taxpayers more often.

And Halton Hills might not be so prone to pinch pennies and more receptive to bring in new programs in the areas of recreation, works, social services etc.

The most accountability and expertise is at the Halton Hills level. And that's where the spending should be.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Twenty-five grade six students at Speyside school and their teacher Anne Armstrong were pretty excited Friday when the mail came in. Amongst the usual school-type mail was a letter from Lady Diana Spencer, soon to be the wife of Prince Charles.

The letter was on Buckingham Palace stationery, with "Dear Children:" and her signature "Lady Diana" in her own handwriting. The typewritten context of the letter was thanking the children for the 25 individual letters of congratulations they sent to her on her recent engagement.

The letters were all sent air mail in one big envelope at a cost of 80 cents. Lady Diana's reply will be framed and locked in the school's showcase to be shared with the entire student body.

The mystery has been solved. Pop Maine is alive and well and living in Vancouver. Last week I questioned if the rumor was true that Pop had moved to Calgary. Well the "Gossip Department" of the Acton Optimist Club newsletter recently bid a farewell to Pop who took up residence in Vancouver.

But that's only one mystery solved. Mrs. Bert Benton is on Ted Tyler's side in the Where-was-Frank-Prouse's-GM-dealership-business-located controversy.

Mrs. Benton called me the other day to say that she came to Acton in 1968 and Prouse's business was located at the

corner of Highway 7 and Churchill Rd. North. That is the only place it was located as far as she is concerned. She is positive because her father bought a car there and she remembers going there to pick it up.

Regular readers of my column will recall the last few weeks have been preoccupied with the whereabouts of the now defunct dealership. Kay Dills, and her long-time Acton friends say it was where L and L Ford is now located. Ted Tyler, also a very credible witness, says it was where Achilles Motors is now. Some people say it was at both sites, with Mr. Prouse relocating his business over the years.

The great disappearing socks mystery! After nearly five years of marriage, I still find myself trying to solve the mystery of the clothes dryer. You know the type—it eats socks, but never pairs—just one of each color.

I spent Saturday trying to match up odd socks that were overflowing my dresser drawer. I ran into moderate success. I have now reunited four pairs of mine and nine pairs of Gord's socks. However, I still have five brown socks belonging to me that are similar, but not the same, and three navy socks that almost match, but are a shade off, or a different pattern.

And then there's Gord's. In spite of the valiant attempt at refilling his sock drawer, I still find myself with many socks that don't have partners. There's one sock with a rather unusual design, that is exactly the same design as another sock. Unfortunately, they are different colors. There's a nice pair of socks that look like they were made for each other—but one is a short sock while the other is a good three or four inches higher.

About once a year I take my hopeless "odd sock drawer" to and try to match up my loners with my mother's loners. Her dryer is just as sock crazy as mine. Once in a while we manage to match up a few pairs, but then have the problem of wondering whether they are my father's or Gord's.

My younger sister hasn't been married long enough to accumulate a drawer full of socks to match up. I'll give her a couple of years and then invade.

If there is anyone who isn't plagued with a sock eating dryer, I'd love to know your secret. And I'll bet there are hundreds of other people who would like to know too. Let me know and I'll relay the message.

"Are there foods I should avoid if I breastfeed my baby?" This and many other questions will be answered with the latest medical research

Back issues

10 years ago

Wednesday, April 7, 1971

A grocery store from well before the turn of the century, Marks' store no longer stores staples. The building will become part of the Georgetown Animal Clinic. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Marks have operated the store for 24 years. Benjamin Haslett, a merchant from Limehouse, built the store about 1880. Nelson and Co. operated the business for many years. John Wood bought the business about 1938, and John Kingshott had the store for a short time. (Now Gal's Pals)

With a record cast of 130 the Skating Carnival was a showcase for improving talents. Some of the skaters have had lessons for six years now. This is the fifth year with the club for Nancy Skuce and Sally Leatherland. Featured skaters were George McPhail, Lori DeBruyn, Norman Charette, Kim McCristall, Gerda Seiz, Debbie Drinkwater, Susan Schupp, Marilyn DeBruyn, Robin Marshall, Diane Baginski, Cindy McGiloway, Diane Charette and Sharon Barber. Rumors are rife about the location of the new international jetport.

20 years ago

Thursday, April 6, 1961

Esquesing has approved a new \$120,000 school for Limehouse. No site has been suggested.

The Cancer Society canvass objective is \$1,500, says chairman Ray Arbie. A Trend of the Town tea will be held in the Legion hall before the teams canvass the town Monday and Tuesday evenings. \$6700 was raised last year.

Principal McKenzie has offered to conduct morning classes at the public school during the Easter vacation. This is a real public-spirited effort.

The school pupils will participate in the current drive to raise money for a new community centre.

Beardmore firemen feted Chief Jack Newton and presented him with a desk pen and clock set. At council, Chief Newton accepted an award from the National Fire Prevention Bureau in recognition of the brigade's third place entry in their contest.

50 years ago

Thursday, April 9, 1931

The play What Happened to Harry, sponsored by the U.F.W.P.O. club, drew crowds to the town hall. Churchill orchestra played and Mr. J.J. Stewart was chairman. In the cast were Arthur McKewon, Roy McKewon, Harry McCullough, Fred Anthony, Melvin McCullough, Bob Kingsbury, Ethel Graff, Velma Murray, Margaret Leslie and Pearl Foster. Mrs. J. C. Matthews superintended the play.

Hell's Angels, the film-drama which cost 25-year-old Howard Hughes \$4,000,000 to make, is at the Gregory Theatre tonight. It shatters all records for money spent on a single picture.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tyler Sr. celebrated their silver anniversary. They came from England, and he is foreman of the warehouses of Beardmore Leathers Limited.

It was welcome news that the men have been called back to work at the Dolly at Limehouse after many months of idleness.

75 years ago

Thursday, April 5, 1906

The millinery openings were favored with spring-like weather and the ladies in large numbers embraced the opportunity of inspecting the displays made by Acton merchants.

At Henderson and Co.'s Miss Gray's hats represented leading ideas dictated by fashion and were very wearable. The department is plentifully stocked with a large array of pretty straw braids, colored chiffons and tulle.

At R.B. Scott's busy store high-class fashionable millinery goods at reasonable prices were conspicuously shown. The spacious showroom on the second floor was crowded throughout the day. Ribbons, flowers and lace in all colors will have a great vogue. Lilies will be popular colors. This house makes a specialty of hats of its own make. Miss Sweet is again in charge. Dennis Foy was injured when carrying leather into the freight sheds at the station. He was taken to Toronto General Hospital.

100 years ago

Thursday, April 7, 1881

One of our village hotel keepers refused to allow men who are in favor of the Scott Act to put their teams in the hotel sheds, on the day of Adams' estate sale. The several church sheds did service after the above action had been taken. The sale of stock and chattels was largely attended.

A number of the ratepayers of the rural portion of Acton School Division intend to build a school house and employ a teacher of their own.

The carpets now receive their semi-annual beating.

Persons using the new automatic pencils are reminded that the purple lead used is deadly poison. It is said that a piece the size of a pea will cause the death of a robust man.

Vote for the Scott Act Tuesday and lessen pauperism.

Our readers write

Praise Holiday Hi-Lites

Dear Sir:
As well as being parents of a participant in the Acton Figure Skating Club (Holiday Hi-Lites carnival) we are interested in community affairs.

We believe the executive, the

organizers, the skaters and all helpers for this event deserve a high degree of credit. It was real family entertainment. A job well done!

Joyce Freha

Americans in El Salvador concern Eldon Comfort

Hon. Mark MacGulgan
Sec. State for Ext. Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Bldg.
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Dear Sir:
This open letter to the Acton Free Press is to express concern for the situation in El Salvador and alarm with respect to American intervention there.

As you must be well aware, all the ingredients for another Vietnam are there in Central America and American reaction to date is typically inappropriate. We must face the fact (painful for some) that the

support of undemocratic police states is in the short run immoral because it keeps the rich on the backs of the poor and in the long run self-defeating because oppressed majorities will eventually liberate themselves. The Canadian Government should discourage American intervention in El Salvador and give humanitarian and significant economic assistance to the popular governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Yours Sincerely,
Eldon Comfort, Chairman,
TEN DAYS for World Development
Acton Ontario



Richard Vanderwal digs into his pancakes at the Calvinist Cadet Corps breakfast Saturday.



Bob Andrews helps his two-year-old son Michael with his pancakes at Saturday's Calvinist Cadet Corps breakfast at Acton's Christian Reformed Church.