

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010
 Business and Editorial Office

Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing & Publishing Ltd. at 59 Willow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 30¢ each, \$15.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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Tell trustees we can't afford ever soaring education taxes

Acton has a golden opportunity this Friday to send a loud message, not just for ourselves, but all Halton residents, to Halton Board of Education that people just can't afford the staggering property tax hike that trustees have decided to inflict on homeowners.

From 1 to 3 p.m. at the ward one councillors' drop-in the top administrator at the public school, Director of Education Wally Beaver, will be on hand to hear presentations, complaints and questions. The drop-in is held at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre at the rear of the Y building on Mill St. East. Because she is recovering from her recent car accident Acton Trustee Arlene Bruce isn't sure if she too will be able to attend.

Of course the councillors will be on hand asking Beaver some pointed questions about the roughly \$15 million increase in the board budget and the resultant property tax increase which is expected to add \$90 or more to the average Acton and Esquimes homeowner's bill.

Since Halton Hills, and thus Halton Hills councillors, send out the tax bills the town fathers and mothers have an obvious duty and motive for attacking the board for its spending. Their desire to make sure voters and taxpayers aware that they "aren't" responsible for that bunch," to put some distance between themselves and the board, is not only politically necessary, but also is important if the municipality is ever to get out of the bind of having to severely curtail their spending in the interest of keeping the overall tax bill impact to the minimum.

But while the councillors can send a message to trustees, the most effective message to the board will come from the taxpayers.

The board has a whole slew of explanations for the staggering tax hike. Declining enrolment, provincial grant cutbacks, increasing wages and benefits for teachers and staff, inflation etc.

However, what seems to have been overlooked by trustees in their bid to maintain the high quality of education, the compliment of staff and most programs, is that the day has arrived that many Halton homeowners, business people and industrialists simply can't afford to maintain the school

system in the way we've become accustomed to.

The predicted education tax hike is about \$20 higher than the total increase for education, region and municipality last year. And the economy is in much worse shape than last year.

It is probably too late to reverse this year's board budget, but citizens here and elsewhere in Halton must send a message to trustees in this election year.

That message must be that until the economy improves drastically, we simply can't afford the school system as it is now.

There are many families, which are already strapped by high mortgage payments, galloping food prices, etc., can't afford this tax hike.

Money families must spend on school taxes won't be spent on consumer goods, hurting local business and industry further.

And what about the already beleaguered farmers and small businesses which are struggling to stay afloat and now must pay higher property taxes either indirectly or through rents.

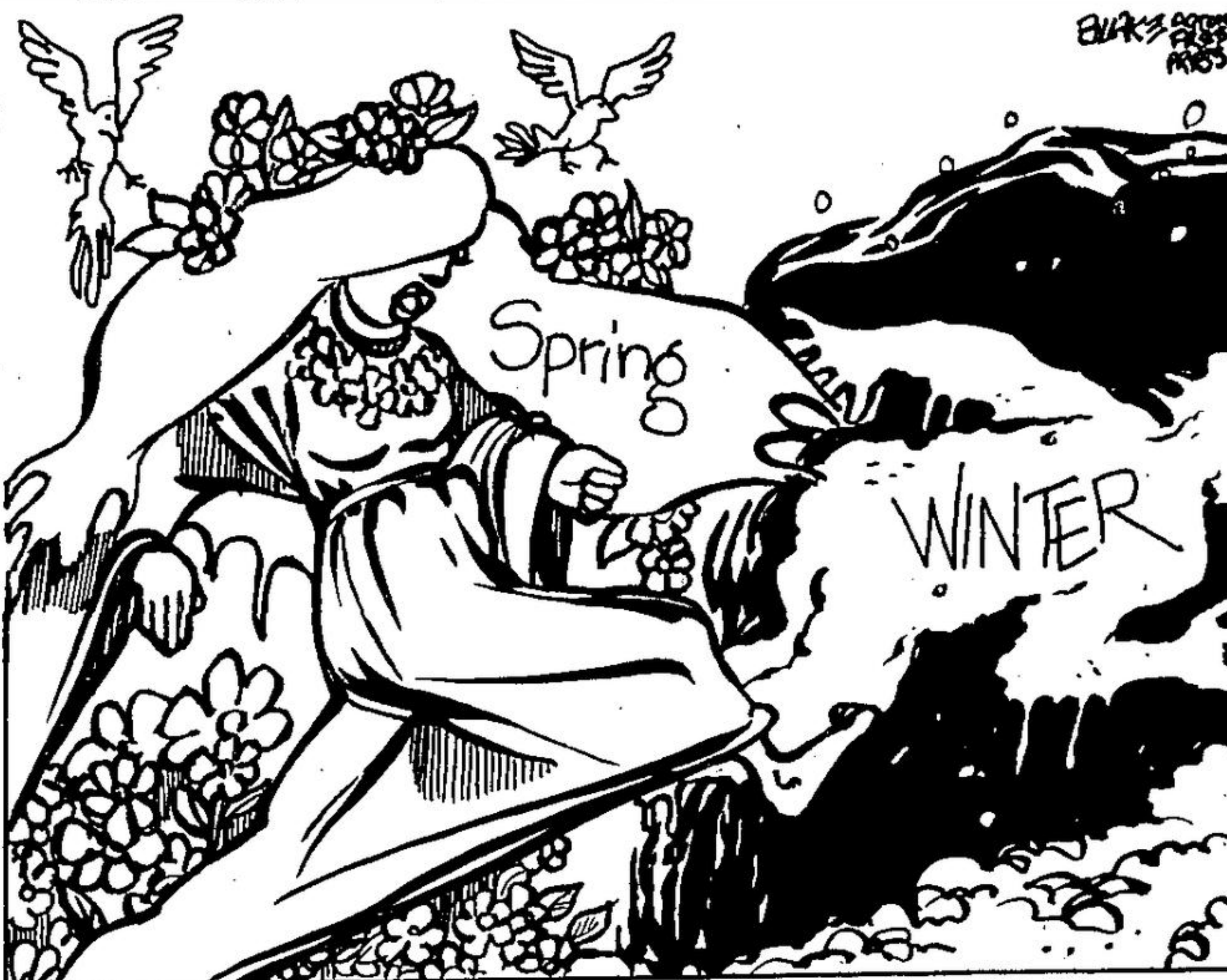
Education taxes likely won't cost people's jobs or families their homes, but it sure isn't going to make it easier for people to hang on.

Education has long been a motherhood issue. After all the spending is for our future through our children.

But many are wondering about the costs of our future and the results of the ever increasing spending for education, especially the growing number of families which either don't have any children in the system anymore, or never have had children in the system, or those who never will have children in the school system.

In the past the drop-in has been an excellent vehicle for sending messages to other levels of government.

This Friday is the time to start telling trustees enough is enough. The school system must, out of economic necessity, start running like any other business in these tough times, complete with, unfortunately, distasteful quality and quantity cutbacks in the education product and layoffs of employees.



On the Leavell

With Helen

Australian Rotary Exchange student Jodie McFarlane got her first taste of ice fishing recently and may just have started a new successful hobby for herself. Jodie went with host John Arnold and caught two herring at Lake Simcoe. Pal John took home three.

Jodie was also a special guest of the Acton Rotary Club for a Rotary banquet at the Guelph Curling Club on Friday. Rotarians John Arnold, Don McDonald, Dave Swetnam, Dave Whiting and Dave Manes and other guests Bill Cook and Gord Murray all showed Jodie the finer points of curling. Somehow I bet there were a lot more players than Jodie learning the game.

Arnold's Acton B team lost both their matches, but came close to a stunning upset (I'm a sports writer now) in their first contest against Lindsay. The A squad, skipped by Whiting, came home with a one win and one loss record beating a Toronto team in their second outing. So what you may ask?—rumor has it that one win was the only one in the history of the Acton teams.

500 Club winners this week were 389, Bruce Swift and 436, Bob Robinson.

The 500 Club wraps up its season this Saturday night at the arena with the final draw—with the lucky winner taking home a 1982 DL Spirit from American Motors. Refreshments and game tables will be available from 8 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

There will be 10 cash winners in the elimination draw, with the final ticket in the drum the lucky winner. The car is valued at \$8,900.

Saturday night is the culmination of 26 weekly draws for two prizes of \$50 each. There are still 30 tickets left which can be bought right up to the night of the draw. All proceeds go to Acton Minor Hockey.

A free breast examination clinic for all women will be held Saturday April 17 at the Acton Glen Lea Clinic from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is being sponsored by the XI Epsilon Chi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority. Examinations will be conducted in a private cubicle by a local doctor and a short film on breast self-examination will be shown. Transportation will be provided if needed and babysitting will be available downstairs at Honey Pot Nursery.

The same sorority will also be having a personalized Easter Egg service at Stedman's this Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3, April 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and April 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Anniversary greetings go out to Harry and Isabel Murray, RR 3, Acton who celebrated 40 years of marriage March 28. A celebration party was held March 27 at the Knox Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Mary DeVries turns 84 years old today (Wednesday). Mrs. DeVries used to live on Bower Avenue before moving to RR 2 Acton where she lives with her daughter and son-in-law. Birthday wishes go out to her.

And Dale Hemsley has made all the city newspapers recently with this amazing win at Greenwood last Monday. The 22-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hemsley, now of Creemore, rode both ends of the \$779.60 daily double on opening day. He was riding Boonoonoonos and Norbrook's Count. Proud pop Lawrence, who works at Tyler Transport, said he couldn't make it to the races that day, but says a \$100 bet paid off \$40,000.

Dale, formerly of RR 3 Acton, attended Ospringe School.

Budding model Kelly MacDonald, of 115 Kingham Rd., is modelling in a fashion show at Shopper's World April 1, 2 and 3 (that's this week). She will be modelling two dresses and two pairs of knickers. Even though Kelly is only six-years-old she is already a seasoned model.

Halton MP Otto Jelinek and his sister Maria are donning the blades for the first time together in 14 years to skate at the Oakville Figure Skating Club's 25th annual carnival this weekend. The pair skated at the first ever carnival.

And coincidentally enough, it is 20 years ago this weekend the Jelineks won first place in the World Figure Skating Pairs.

Next Wednesday is the third concert put on by the Halton Hills Arts Council in the 1981-82 Trillight Series. The London "Sinfonia" will be performing with great classical guitarist Norbert Kraft. The concert is being held at the Cultural Centre in Georgetown.

Rev. Bernard Warren is the luncheon speaker at Acton Baptist Church today

(Wednesday), next Wednesday, and April 14.

An open house was held at Ebenezer United Church Sunday for Horace and Anne Blyth who recently celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary.

MEANDERING KITCHEN CAPERS

We all make blunders in the kitchen and sometimes it seems tragic at the moment. But time seems to turn them into amusing episodes.

I can imagine as you read this you are smiling at some of the silly mistakes you have made. When I was a child I made a chocolate cake for company and put in two heaping teaspoons of baking soda instead of one. My aunt tried valiantly to eat her piece but we eventually gave the cake to the dog, who refused it too.

Last Christmas I made some cream puffs which refused to puff up—just flattened out. Undaunted, I added them to the bird seed and tried again with good results.

One time I covered a grapefruit with toothpicks and put little hors d'oeuvres on each end—such as small pickled pearl onions, little radishes, etc. When I went to serve it, it rolled right off the tray!

My friend served some tasty meatballs with sauce in a scooped out round crusty loaf. Someone moved his elbow and the whole thing landed upside down on the porch.

Luckily she had a large dog to clean up the mess in a hurry. I could go on and on. Have a big laugh over your blunders. It will soon by April Fool's Day!

Back issues

10 years ago

March 29, 1972
 A Cobblehill Road couple, Bob and Barbara Ashby, will be taking a free trip to Nassau sometime between now and September, courtesy of Acton merchants. The Ashbys who have lived here only two years, were the grand prize winners in the merchants 20 week shopping contest.

Twenty potential 4-H members met at the Acton Community Centre on March 21 for the organizational meeting of the Acton 4-H Calf Club and the Acton 4-H Field Crop Club.

Club leader, Nino Braida, welcomed those present and introduced the other leaders, Russell Murray, Bill Lasby, and Vern Butchers.

Acton A-B Novices won the grand championship at the Port Colbourne Novice Golden Puck Tournament, defeating Syracuse N.Y. 3-2. The team was coached by Barry Insoce and Gus Holmes was the manager.

20 years ago

March 29, 1962
 Kathy McKenzie, 13-year-old grade eight Robert Little Public School pupil was presented with the B.D. Rachlin public speaking trophy when she topped six other speakers Monday morning. She also received from Gordon Beatty a pen and pencil set presented by Acton Hydro Commission, co-sponsors of the contest.

Throughout Halton County elementary school students are getting down to serious practice in preparation for the 31st annual Halton County Music Festival, coming in early April.

A 21-year-old Belgian mare named Neil, who has been hauling milk over Acton's seven miles of street for the past 16 years, will make her final run Saturday morning. She will be sent out to pasture and given an extra portion of oats for her retirement.

The new fire radio system in the fire truck was used for the first time when the men at the fire reported back to the hall. They also heard on the radio the Georgetown firemen calling back to their fire hall for more men to help battle a blaze in Stewarttown.

50 years ago

March 24, 1932
 On Thursday evening an Irish social was held in St. Joseph's Church, which was well attended. The event was held in the basement of the church. The prizes for euchre were won by Miss Mary Gibbons and Mr. Archie Papillon. The lucky prizes of a set of dishes was won by Mrs. Wm. Arnold. A delightful lunch was served and a pleasant social evening spent.

The Lakeside Chapter of the IODE spent an enjoyable evening at the home of Mrs. Wm. Middleton on Wednesday evening.

On Saturday morning the milk delivery wagon of the Maple Grove Dairy upset on the highway, when the horses ran away. The delivery of milk was strewn about the road and a number of bottles broken.

Smith's furniture store in Guelph was badly damaged by fire on Saturday morning.

The regular meeting of the Acton Relief Committee is to be held in the Council Chamber this evening at 8 o'clock. Every member is urged to be present at this meeting to deal with matters pertaining to this work.

75 years ago

March 28, 1907
 The hearts of the ladies are surely gladdened by the variety of Easter millinery on display in town. Miss McMillan has a display of dainty creations at Unsworth's. Messrs. Henderson and C. had their parlours in attractive array for the show by Miss Waance. Miss Annie Smith fully sustained her reputation at her opening. Miss Florence Murray has opened showrooms at the family residence and will exhibit her attractive designs today.

Dr. E.D. Adult has given the contract to have his barn on Frederick St. converted into two dwellings.

The Gun Club was reorganized for the year. The first shoot will be on Easter weekend.

The new Lord's Day Act will secure Sunday rest for thousands. The printing and sale of newspapers is forbidden. Only medicine for the relief of sickness may be sold on Sunday.

100 years ago

March 23, 1882
 The subject for debate this evening at the Young Men's Club is: Resolved that Napoleon was a greater general than Wellington.

Medical authorities advise people to clear their cellars of decaying vegetable matter as a precaution against disease.

The merchants of this village will soon allow only 20 cents for the British shilling, for which 24 cents has been given.

Messrs. A.E. Nicklin, Wm. Snyder, E. Matthews and J. and R. Watson have arrived in the North West, but two of the horses died on the road. Fifteen tickets for Manitoba were sold here this week. Vaccination against Small Pox has become popular.



Those crazy boaters

Rick Henderson and Jim Cooney were among a number of Actonians who braved Saturday's cold and the ugly Credit River to participate in the annual Crazy Boat Race held near Georgetown.

Outdoors

BY LORNE FLETCHER

I had to dig out the (ugh) snow shovel again last week, but I just had to make it down to Exhibition Place to give the annual Sportsmen's Show a good once over.

After paying first for parking approximately one mile Canadian away from the park, we had one cold walk both ways. The wind sure was blowing along the lake front, it would freeze the ears off the proverbial statue.

The Sportsmen's Show sure stood out this year as a giant of retailing. Even manufacturers and large jobbers were flogging their left over and in many cases obsolete goods.

It has become very hard for the average sportsman to find a booth with good, solid, current models of tackle without some salesperson trying the hard sell. I suppose it is a sign of the times.

When a store the size of Collegiate Sports sets up a complete supermarket for the short time of the show you can bet that not too many bargains will be found. The rent alone negates any real discounts.

Fly fishing and fly tying have staged a real comeback this spring, many anglers who previously had used only spinning equipment are turning to fly fishing.

It is a real thrill to take a fish on a fly one has produced. Fly tying is a real art that just about any person can get into with a very modest out-

lay of cash. Few tools other than a good vice and hackle pliers are needed to get going.

As for tying materials, many bits of fur and feather can be collected for virtually nothing as time goes by. Even the family dog can contribute.

It certainly looks like it will be a late spring break-up in most Ontario areas this year. This can have a decided advantage for future fish populations.

A late spring run-off means high, dirty water, and makes for difficult conditions for the netters and snaggers, thus giving adult fish time to spawn without being otherwise molested.

The Ganaraska River at Port Hope is producing some good fishing, however be prepared to fish shoulder to shoulder.

Cold weather has stopped anglers in more exposed areas and ice conditions on Georgian Bay are very poor.

I just received a tip from my source at Owen Sound that some good fishing is to be had at the river mouth in Lieth just east of Owen Sound.

Maple syrup production has come to a standstill because of the cold snap. This gives one a break from that hard job of collecting, wood cutting etc. Just smile, spring is on its way.