

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Fence is needed

We're 100 per cent behind Trustee Irene McCauley and St. Joseph's School parents who think not having a fence between the back of the new school site and Fairy Lake is a danger which must be remedied before the building opens for business next month.

We followed the battle to get provincial funds, the planning for the new school, and this spring and summer the building of this school, closely and with interest.

Like the trustee and parents it has always been our impression that there would be a fence across the back of the property.

The reasons given by board staff for a fence not being planned aren't very strong.

Sure there are hazards presented to children every day that nothing is done about. That's no reason to add one more.

Sure there is going to be quite a distance between the playground at the back of the school and the lake. That doesn't mean that a child won't walk that distance and accidentally fall in the lake.

It's true that a child who really wants to get to the lake will climb a fence. But it's equally true a fence will discourage more children than

it will encourage. And a fence is more of a discouragement than a field.

A child climbing the fence will also be more noticeable to teachers or other children in the playground than a solitary youngster crossing the 200 to 300 feet to the lake.

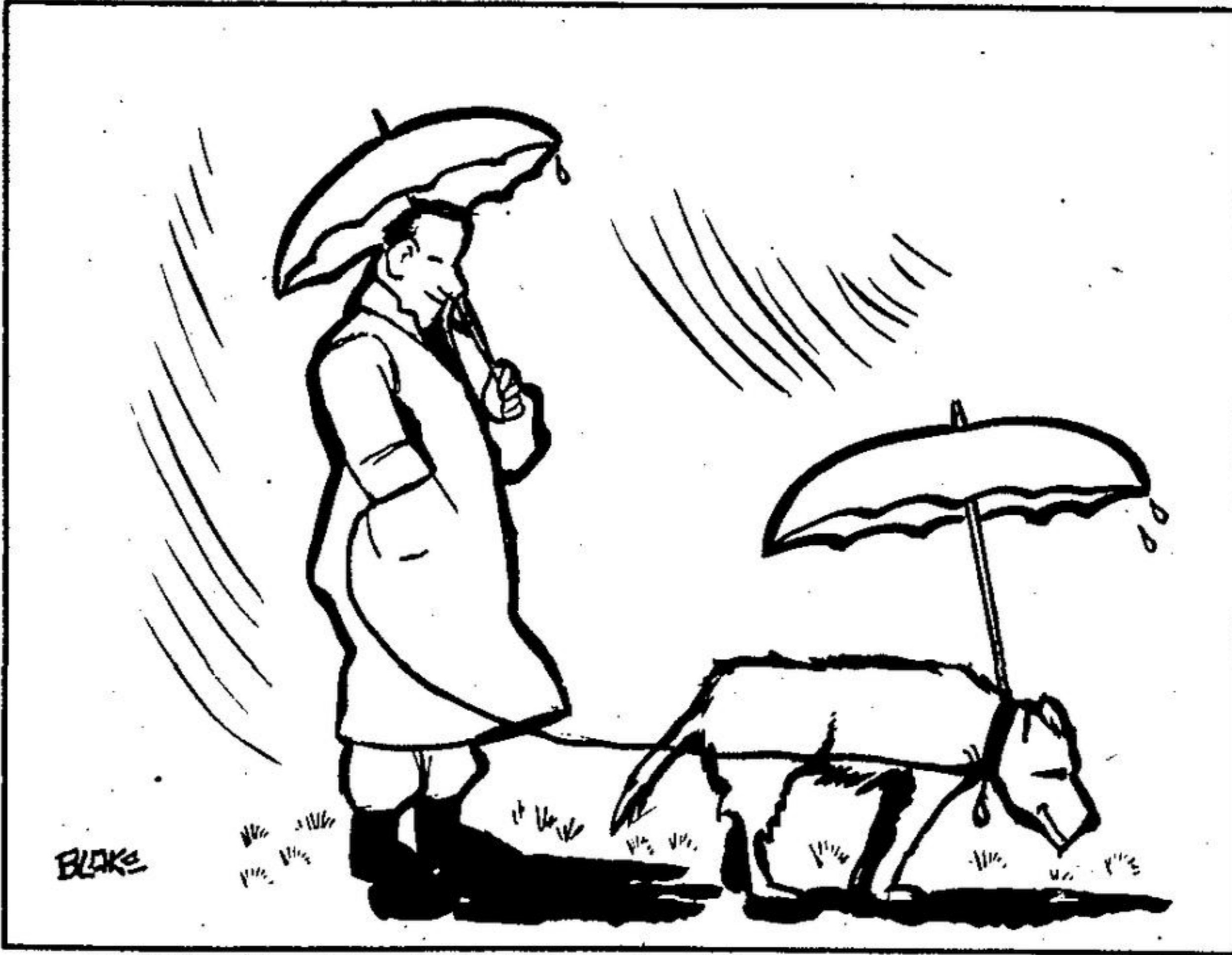
As for board policy not to fence open space, well technically the back of the school property is open space, but hardly in the sense people usually connect with the term open space. Also a child won't know where playground ends and open space begins.

It's true children attended classes at the end of School lane for many, many years with a small lake close by without much in the way of incidents.

Children could conceivably attend St. Joseph's School too without an incident at the lake.

However, why take the chance? Why risk a tragedy and then have parents pointing the finger of blame at the board?

For the cost of a six or eight foot chain link fence a little extra protection could be afforded and it would go a long way towards making parents feel more secure about sending their children to the long awaited new facility.—G.M.



From the editor's desk

Parking at intersections annoying

by Gord Murray

Council issues come and go and for the most part few touch the lives of the general population.

There are however some which impact in one way or another on all of us. Taxes, major road closures for reconstruction, snow removal—to name a few—are council matters which affect us all.

Another is parking. Think about it—off street parking downtown, restricting parking to certain time lengths, overnight parking, allowing parking on just one side or neither side of the street, etc.—at one time or another these council enacted laws affect every citizen.

And their enforcement, or lack of, can lead to real frustration to say nothing of annoyance.

One of my few beefs about life in Acton is a downtown Acton parking situation.

It drives me to distraction to see cars, and more often than not trucks or vans, parked right up to the corner of intersections.

If you've tried to turn into Mill St. from a side street, especially from a north side street, then you know what I mean.

Downtown signs clearly show parking isn't allowed for a short distance on either side of intersections. But just about every time I seem to be turning onto Mill from any of the side streets, it doesn't matter if it's Willow, John, Wilbur, Elgin or Frederick, there's some kind of vehicle parked right up to the corner so you can't see traffic. Turning left onto Mill is a nightmare.

You sneak out a bit, just enough to see by the van which is blocking your view of the travelled portion of the road. Of course by that time, unless you drive a very small car, you are half way into the road and straddling the crosswalk.

And once you are out there with your nose protruding into traffic there's generally a half dozen or more cars coming so you can't turn for a while. More often than not you can't back up a bit either because someone has come

up behind you. To make matters worse pedestrians are giving you some real looks too because they have to detour around you.

All this because someone won't obey the law and not park right up to the corner of the intersection. The driving dilemma I've outlined above is the very reason why parking isn't allowed close to corners.

I know a lot of the people who park in these spots are there for only a short time, making a delivery or a quick stop at a shop. That's no consolation though in my book when I'm heading to take a photo somewhere or do an interview (frequently running a few minutes behind) or chasing the fire truck.

What's the answer? Well there's two. Either more police enforcement of the law or else more considerate drivers.

Knowing the cost of policing, I'd much prefer to see the local cops going after vandals, loiterers and burglars than running around giving out parking tickets.

The easiest, cheapest solution is to have people just obey the law voluntarily, but I'm not going to hold my breath on that one.

I think the ultimate solution is to either grin and bear this situation or start going places in a round about way, say going to Peel St. via Main St. north, the industrial park and McDonald Blvd. and Acton Blvd. A lengthy detour is probably less time consuming than waiting to get out on Mill St. anyway.

Of course brighter days on this situation are ahead. When there's eventually more off-street parking downtown cars won't be able to park anywhere on the north side of Mill St. from Main to John.

Did you ever wonder if real people are contacted for political, consumer and television polls?

I sure have. I don't think I've ever known anyone who was contacted by Nielsen for television or Gallup for politics. At least if they were they didn't mention it to me.

Helen and I once did a beer tasting

test for some friends who would receive money and free drinking glass for doing the survey several years back. It turned out the testing was being done by one of the big Canadian breweries before they introduced low cal suds.

But nobody had ever come to my door or called me to ask what I watch on television or what I thought of Trudeau. Since I didn't know of anyone who'd ever participated in these polls either I could only conclude nobody I know was an average Canadian.

That was until last week. And wouldn't you know it, the pollster contacted a politician.

Terry Grubbe, one of Acton's three councilors, was telling me at the Halton Hills playground finale Thursday night that she was visited on August 13 by someone doing a poll. She saw his name badge and identification and thinks he was with Gallup.

It took about 20 minutes to answer all the questions and while they covered a wide range of topics, Terry says she's pretty sure it was a political poll. She also suspects it was a poll for the Progressive Conservatives.

He asked if she thought income controls should be extended to the private sector or limited to civil servants; what party she'd vote for if there was a federal election; what she thought were the three main causes of inflation; 10 reasons why there's high unemployment; does she think there should be an election; what did she think of the new budget; etc.

She was also asked about what brands of beer and liquor she and Ken buy and if they take any continuing education courses, etc.

So now I know real people are polled. It's probably just as well I've never been polled. What I really think of on a poll sheet and while I watch a lot of television, having a video cassette recorder I watch very few programs at the time they are aired. Can you imagine what the Nielsen people would think when they found out I watch Hill Street Blues at 7 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Back issues

10 years ago

August 23, 1972

Acton Bowling Lane received an estimated \$10,000 damage Friday when a sanding machine operated by 32-year-old Denis Maurice of Toronto exploded. Mr. Maurice received third degree burns to 80 per cent of his body. He died in Hamilton General Hospital.

Specials this week at A-B Supermarket are: ground chuck 85 cents a lb.; 10 oz. jar of coffee, \$2.39; 2 tins of tuna for 89 cents; 20 oz. bottle of barbecue sauce for 39 cents; one lb. pkg. of Weiner for 69 cents; and stewing beef at 85 cents a lb.

Royal Cafe held a grant re-opening after the premises were completely renovated and they now offer Chinese cuisine.

Miss Brenda Bruce, as Miss Acton Fair, competed with 51 other fair beauties from all over Ontario, at the Canadian National Exhibition, in Toronto, on Wednesday.

20 years ago

August 23, 1962

Mr. and Mrs. G. McPhail held an open house on Saturday afternoon and evening. Tea was served to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of the couple who were married on August 16, 1912.

Miss Minnie Somerville and Mrs. Pearl Kennedy have been enjoying a holiday with relatives at Halleybury.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred McEachern, Gary and Barbara are back after a week's holiday when they camped in Algonquin Park and Craigleith near Collingwood.

Specials this week at your IGA store are: 6 qt. basket of pears for 79 cents; two doz. oranges for 69 cents; 25 lb. bag of potatoes for 89 cents; margarine 2 lbs for 45 cents; side bacon, 79 cents a lb.; and fresh chicken cuts, legs or breasts, 55 cents lb.

50 years ago

August 18, 1932

The Arrow Bus Lines which operate through Acton, have inaugurated a new direct service to Sarnia, via Parkhill and Warwick.

This week's specials at Paterson's Meat Shop are: 2 lbs. of home-made sausage for 25 cents; porterhouse roasts, 18 cents and 20 cents a lb.; fresh ham 13 cents a lb.; side bacon 17 cents a lb.; and sirloin roasts 18 cents a lb.

Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Denny and Mrs. Fred Cooper spent the weekend with friends in Meaford.

Playing this week at the Gregory Theatre on Friday "Winner Take All" starring James Cagney, Saturday, "Rainbow Trail" starring George O'Brien and on Monday "When a Felier Needs a Friend" starring Jackie Cooper.

75 years ago

August 22, 1907

Last Friday while in a condition of mental aberration resulting no doubt from poor health, Joseph McLaughlin took a quantity of paris green, and he passed away from the effects in a couple of hours. He had been outside and when he came in it was noticeable his moustache and beard bore manifest traces of paris greens and members of the family ascertained that he had taken a large quantity. Medical aid was at once sent for but the Dr. arrived too late to be effective in saving his life.

During the swimming races in Fairy Lake on Saturday evening last, J. Teherniac, one of the contestants narrowly escaped drowning. He was taken with cramps and had gone down a second time. Fortunately those in the boat following the swimmer noticed his condition and he was taken in and rowed to the terra firma.

100 years ago

August 17, 1882

Now that farmers are willing to pay from two to two and a half dollars a day for labor, the impetuous tramp showeth not himself but abideth in the land where bread and brow-sweat do not mingle.

A young man evidently anxious to gain a little cheap notoriety in the role of a whiskey detective, was badly scared in one of our hotels here on Monday night. He certainly is out of his element in the detective business.

The billage registrar informs us that the number of births, marriages and deaths in this municipality for the year ending June 30th are as follows: births, 11; marriages, 3; deaths 2.

Coles' slaw

by Hartley Coles

Just a little pot pourri this week as summer fades gracefully into fall.

I received a note from former Free Press sports editor Denis Gibbons recently which enclosed a clipping from the Hamilton Spectator about a Senior Intercity baseball game between the Brantford Red Sox and an opponent in which pitching coach 42-year-old John Mowat, filled in on the mound when the rest of the Sox hurlers had been sent to the showers. Mowat stemmed the tide over two or three innings, I forget which, and gave the team a big lift.

Is that the same John Mowat who used to pitch for the Acton baseball intermediates when they played in the old Halton County League? Denis asked. I didn't know but a few inquiries turned out the fact it was indeed the righthander who turned the Halton league on its ear one hot summer when Acton had a real contender.

It seem Danny Arbic, the peripatetic

ball player who trundles the mall during the day in Acton, also played in Brantford livery this year. He informed Robin Incoe, sports editor of The Georgetown Independent, that both he and Mowat toiled for the Sox, since eliminated, this season.

I remember when John Mowat broke into the ranks of intermediate hardball, a raw righthander from Rockwood, with a curve that could break your back. He played some junior and juvenile baseball in Acton and Galt. I think, before suiting up with Acton. He fitted right into the team and one night under the candlesticks in Oakville, manager Matt Tyler gave him the job of felling the mighty Oaks, class of the old Halton County League and coached by Al Yarnell, formerly of the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League.

The Oaks saw the raw Mowat on the mound and thought they were going to cake walk to a win in front of their

partisan crowd. Mowat wound up and for nine innings he handuffed the Oaks with one of the mostback bending curve balls in the league. I think somewhere in that game lanky Jack Hough, walloped a towering home run so far out of sight the Oaks turned into saplings.

Mowat had some professional offers after that and I lost track of him but he was an all-round athlete, playing hockey in the same style he played ball.

So it was him, Denis, the big raw boned kid from Rockwood who can still take his turn on the mound when the occasion warrants.

Denis? He's news editor of the Burlington Post, a Metroland newspaper, now and looking forward to a trip to Russia this fall for an international hockey tournament.

"The Gibbs" is something of an expert in international hockey and can rhyeme off the names of the Russian team as easily as if he had been born in

Smolensk. He recognized the calibre of the European brand of the game while the rest of us Canucks still thought the Toronto Marlboros could lick them with one hand behind their backs.

Some of the better memos circulated have been collected by a business editor and here are some of the front runners:

How would you like to get this memo on a blue Monday morning? "Don't worry unduly about this, but how much seniority do you have, not counting tomorrow? See me regarding this today." Have some strong coffee.

Here's a goody from the head of the maintenance staff in a hospital: "The new elevator at the west end of the building will be placed in service starting Jan. 31. This unit is complete and operable except the car floor." Going d-o-w-n-o-n.

Syntax, or lack of it, gives some memos their punch, consider this: "Please furnish this office with a list of all employees over 50 years of age, broken down by sex."

"Attached is the compensation cheque from the XYZ Insurance Co. for our employee Mr. Blank, who was injured per your instructions in your letter of July 8," said another libellous concoction.

Brings to mind a memo once posted in a large publishing house: "Salesmen who do not have their own secretaries may take advantage of the girls in the steno pool."

And here's a final one from what has to be the world's most security-minded junior executive: "Please let this serve as a final reminder of my retirement on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2011. Please forward any forms to me so that I may complete them and finish cleaning out my desk and files."

Some pot pourri to think about as summer fades