

# The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 863-2010  
 Business and Editorial Office: **Founded in 1875**  
 Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing & Publishing Ltd. at 59 Wilton Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 863-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 30¢ each, \$15.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

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Second class mail registration Number 0515.

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### From the editor's desk

## I'm an Expos' fan

by Gord Murray  
 It could only happen in Canada, eh! Only here could the Expos be in the midst of the pennant (well they were last week) race and the only game on television that's in English is the last place Blue Jays.  
 This is my favorite time of year, not because of the crisp autumn days, colorful trees or the fall fair, though I like all those things, but because I relish pennant drives, playoffs and the World Series.  
 I don't watch much ball until the season comes down to the crunch. I'm a fan, not a fanatic. During the summer I'll watch part of the odd contest on a Saturday afternoon or a bit of a week-night Blue Jays contest. I even take in a few games at Exhibition stadium on hot summer evenings.  
 Come the fall, though, or in spring training when things are shaping up for the season and we have a look at all the new faces on different teams, now that's a different story.  
 Last year I scheduled my vacation for early October so I'd be sure and have time off to watch the playoffs and series, as well as visit the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown New York. This March I hope to finally be in Florida to see spring training.  
 I like the Jays just fine, and I'm pleased to see them improve so much this season. But down deep I'm with the Expos and have been cheering them since they were born.  
 The past three campaigns, as well as this one, have been real emotional roller coasters for the players and their supporters. Two near misses, and then half a year of glory and an inning away from the World Series last year.  
 And if you don't think there's a lot of people right here in Acton keeping an eye on Montreal these last dwindling weeks of the season you haven't been in any local watering hole when the sports comes on. There's a hush as everyone listens to find out how they've done that afternoon or night and how far out they are now.  
 Anyway, I hadn't consulted the TV guide before I accepted invitation to another fan's house last Wednesday night to watch the Expos play the Mets, as well as a few (what's baseball without a beer?)  
 My buddy neglected to mention the game was on cable 12, in French. There were two channels carrying the Jays versus the Oakland Athletics, neither of them contenders, in English though.  
 I'm all for bilingualism and have no problem with the Expos being in French on a television located in a home in a predominantly English speaking part of Canada.  
 What griped me was CBC not carrying the Expos on the English language stations opposite the Jays on CTV. Oh, I know all about clubs having exclusive rights to broadcast their games in their own markets, and all that jazz. But you'd think they'd consider the fans and viewers and at this stage of the season use a little judgement and broadcast the game which means something, a game which has a little drama to it.  
 I read recently writers in the Peterborough area are writing the network, Expos and major league baseball's head honchos, all at the urging of CHECK-TV, to have the Expos games on. I was raised in that area of Ontario and as a kid, had a choice every Saturday night of taking in the Leafs or Canadiens, and that's the way it should

be with ball too. Other parts of Canada got to see the Expos in English last Wednesday night, why, sensibly couldn't we. It's enough to make you wish the Jays hadn't been hatched when the penalty is to miss a pennant race game.  
 Anyway we watched the Expos, with the sound off, and it wasn't too bad, though you really had to pay attention. When you go to a game you don't get a play-by-play, but you do get some announcements of who's up, and there's a board to follow the count.  
 A lot of play-by-play announcers are frankly pretty bad. Often you want to turn off the sound, especially if it's baseball on ABC with Howard Cosell doing the talking.  
 But you never realize how much information you have to be given which is essential to following a game until you sit and watch for more than three hours with only your sounds to break the silence.  
 There were a number of errors in the contest, including one which we couldn't figure out if it was the first or second base men's fault. Who was it credited to? How many outs are there? What's the count? Twice my friend (I dubbed him sarcastically coach) hollered at Tim Raines to steal, only to discover there were already two out.  
 By the way, 11 innings after the start the Expos won on an Andre Dawson solo homer, so I went home happy at least. To this writing it's also the last contest they won.  
 While I'm on the subject of the Expos, a lot of people have their own theories why Montreal isn't running away with it all. It's manager Jim Fanning's fault, they shouldn't have gotten rid of Rodney Scott at second, Raines is on drugs, they don't get timely hits, they score 15 runs in the first half of a double header and have nothing left for the second half, etc. All these are valid reasons for their struggling, their failure not to have put together a good prolonged, lead building winning streak all season.  
 We were talking about it the other night, and my friend reminded me of my ominous warnings back in April about the pitching.  
 Fanning had gotten rid of Elias Sosa and Stan Bahansen from the bullpen and decided to go with just nine hurlers. I thought this was the worst possible move, even worse than dispatching good field-no hit Scott when they had no quality replacement. I thought the acquisition of Al Oliver and sending Warren Cromartie back to the outfield was an astute move, but tinkering with the mound crew was just too many changes for a top club.  
 Well the changes to the staff have continued. Spaceman Bill Lee is gone, rookies haven't filled the departed hurlers' shoes, David Palmer hasn't recovered from his arm troubles and to make matters worse with the exceptions of Steve Rogers and Jeff Reardon, no pitchers have lived up to these expectations. Ray Burris has, not surprisingly, been a disaster. I say not surprisingly because until last year, his first in Montreal, he hadn't done much so they shouldn't have depended on him so heavily. Randy Lerch from the Brewers won't turn the rotation around either.  
 Anyway toying with the pitching staff is my theory for all their trouble. Now, I just wish I hadn't prophesied it back in the spring.

## Still convinced cable TV should pay own way

A recent editorial in this newspaper and a letter dealing with taxpayers paying for lights in the board room so Halton's cable companies can broadcast proceedings of Halton Board of Education has produced fresh comments from Acton Trustee Arlene Bruce, as well as teachers in Acton. In addition, it has raised some new questions in our minds.  
 In his letter (September 15) Halton Cable program director John Ollivier takes issue with an editorial (September 8) in which it was stated taxpayers shouldn't pay for the lights, and equipment, costing \$2,000 to \$5,600. We compared paying for this from taxpayer's money to the board also buying notebooks and copy paper for print journalists on tapes for radio reporters.  
 Mr. Ollivier responded "simply stated, it is not true to say that a cable television system will benefit from coverage of the meetings." He noted cable can't support community television by selling advertising, cable must spend 10 per cent of its revenue under federal regulations on community television and people buy cable not for community television, but superior reception on other channels.  
 Mr. Ollivier obviously puts

little stock in the business value of goodwill, community service and good public relations. How can he say people don't subscribe to cable for the community channel and then include it as one of 19 channels offered. He says people like TV and watch the community channel, a fact of which we are also well aware. We suspect while the community channel isn't a primary reason for subscribing to cable, it could well be a secondary reason especially in Acton where many people receive excellent antenna reception because of our location on top of the Niagara Escarpment.  
 Mr. Ollivier describes the community channel as non-profit, which it is. However, Cable isn't unique in operating part of a business which produces no direct revenue, yet is needed either to meet government regulations or to produce a better and thus more saleable product. A research and development department in industry, or a newsroom at a paper don't produce direct revenue. They could be split from the rest of the business and called non-profit, too.  
 The Halton Cable official says "the tax revenue is there." Parents who have seen their children's programs

trimmed wouldn't agree, nor would any taxpayers who were hit with the staggering education tax jump this year.  
 Certainly the teacher who told the Free Press this week if there's money for anything in the board budget it should be spent on more math textbooks for her class.  
 Mr. Ollivier notes people who have had no children or whose children are now out of school must pay education taxes. He compares this situation with all taxpayers paying for lights so those with cable can see the board meetings. All of society must be responsible for educating society's children. All taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill so those subscribing to cable can watch the board meetings if they wish.  
 Trustee Bruce said the cost may be minimal but it is "unnecessary." She says she'd support the plan if she felt there were sufficient numbers watching the community channel and everyone had access to it, but that's not the case.  
 She agreed with the editorial, that there is no intent for trustees to hide from the public, but while television coverage of meetings isn't edited it also doesn't explain what is going on at meetings or explain the considerable background

material trustees use to make decisions.  
 Newspapers, while they don't report meetings verbatim, give the taxpayers an understanding of the reasons behind decisions, she noted.  
 Mrs. Bruce is also concerned about trustees politically grandstanding for the cameras and fears "trustees will feel called upon to provide their particular, but not always pertinent, focus on an issue." She feels action items are bogged down in tedious enough debate now without bringing cameras into the room.  
 Lastly, she says all three cable firms won't have cameras and lights in the board room, just Cablenet which serves Oakville and Burlington. Halton Cable will hook its recorder into the Cablenet equipment and have one person at the meetings to assist with camera angles, etc.  
 While Mr. Ollivier's letter raised some interesting points and shed some new light on the issue, we must still urge trustees reject this proposal (which we suspect they will) until such time as either there is surplus funding or cable firms feel they can pay for the lights out of revenues from subscriber fees.—G.M.

### Coles' Slaw

## How about a good rub with horse liniment

by Hartley Coles  
 Managing Editor  
 TV Ontario has started a series offering viewers the perfect prescription for coping with the fast-moving, stressful modern world. It is called "Where There's Life."  
 It suggests that one of the main features of social health today is that in many cases a spoonful of medicine is no longer adequate. People are beginning to question the traditional role and attitudes of doctors, and this having a profound effect on how medicine is practiced.  
 Well, TV Ontario may think this is something new but evidently they have not heard of many of the ancient nostrums and patent medicine cures. Many people still swear by and use them to cure their aches and pains. Just the other day Wes Brown, the motorcycle champ of The Breezes, stopped in for a talk. He brought along his favorite cure for arthritis a bottle of veterinary liniment.  
 Wes is afflicted with a hearing impairment so sometimes the dialogue was one-sided, but he claims Super K Veterinary Liniment, in its original iodine base, raised him from his bed when all medical help had failed.  
 I've been using it for 50 years, he said, and have told countless other people with arthritis about it. I always offered to pay for the bottle if it didn't help.  
 "I've never yet had to pay for one bottle," he states waving the bottle in front of my startled nose.

Wes, a 75 year old hellion, rides around on his motorcycle like a knight on his charger. Said he was told he would never walk again by doctors at the compensation hospital. Three treatments from his liniment bottle and he was walking around again as spry as Aunt Matilda.  
 He tells of the time he was injured in a quarry and they had to carry him into a Milton chiropractor's office on a stretcher. He took the treatment but it didn't help. Home, he reached for the old familiar liniment bottle again. The next day, he claims, he walked in the chiropractor's office and did a jig.  
 "He couldn't believe it," Wes said. "The day before I had to be carried in and the next day I'm ready to fight a lion."  
 Wes inherited his love of the liniment bottle from his father whom, he says, was severely injured moving a printing press out in Saskatoon. His father told the press proprietor the second floor wouldn't hold the heavy press, Wes said, but he insisted on moving it in. As a result the floor collapsed and both father and printing press were deposited on the store below.  
 The father received some painful injuries. All the treatments he received from the medical fraternity didn't help.  
 The only treatment that worked, says Wes, was the veterinary liniment. It put Dad back on his feet again.  
 "Look," he said, uncapping the bottle. "You can rub it on and it doesn't

burn. But it takes three or four treatments before it has an effect."  
 One druggist in the West, Wes claims, got five gallons of it. When someone came in with aches and pains he ladled some into a small bottle and sold them to rub it on.  
 "Best medicine he ever had," Wes maintains.  
 Since he is continually lending his bottle of liniment out he says one of his problems is getting the bottle back again. "They won't give it back," he says.  
 Wes has had other medical advice for me at times, one being the use of a magnet to cure leg cramps. I've always been leery of using some of the old nostrums so I enquired around the plant if anyone else had ever used veterinary liniment, such as Wes advised.  
 Sure, said one gal in the back shop. "Was it the white stuff?" "Didn't look white to me," I replied, "but it looked clear."  
 Well, our family has been using veterinary liniment for aches and pains for years, she said. We used to get it from Milton veterinarian "Doc" Heslop. He mixed his own. Since he died it hasn't been available. Damn it.  
 Relax, I said, Wes Brown knows where you can get some liniment and all your aches and pains will disappear. The conversation attracted two or three other people who also confided they had heard tales in their families about using

horse liniment for arthritis and other ailments.  
 So there you are. If you're aching and your doctor or your chiropractor can't help you, then maybe veterinary liniment can do the job. But don't take my word for it. Better ask your doctor or your chiropractor first.  
 And remember, the stuff isn't meant for drinking, even if you have stressful innards.  
 Still on stress, TV Ontario notes that one of Britain's best known TV doctors, Rob Buckman, travelled to Los Angeles to test the effectiveness of one of the latest fads for reducing stress—the tranquility tank. The doctor crept into the tank filled with 10 inches of warm water and 800 pounds of Epsom salts. Then he "floated like a cork" in total darkness for 60 minutes.  
 Afterwards Dr. Buckman concluded that he missed his rubber duckie. No one asked if he had swallowed any of the warm water. It could certainly have been a drain on his constitution.  
 + + +  
 I never knew so many people had trouble with their beds until I wrote last week's column explaining the problems I had with ours. Apparently beds which fall apart are part of many marriages. The perils are forced by benedicts and single girls as well.  
 The week's word to the wise: Better for beds to fall apart than marriages, or words to that effect.

## Back issues

- 10 years ago**  
 September 28, 1972  
 A grade 11 student at Acton High School, Valerie Mitchell was crowned Friday night, Miss Acton Acton Fall Fair 1972.  
 Grand Champion bird in a flock of over 4,000 entered in this year's Canadian National Exhibition poultry show was a White Leghorn belonging to Fred Kentner Jr. of Acton. Fred also had the grand champion Hen and grand champion female of the show.  
 This week's specials at your A-B Supermarket Store are: shoulder roasts 59¢ a lb., but chops 75¢ a lb., 2 lb. pkg. of beef patties \$1.79, 3-12 oz. jars of sweet relish 89¢ and Allens 48 oz. tins of fruit drinks 3 for \$1.  
 While some youngsters thought they did well by winning a couple of stuffed animals on the midway, nobody could beat seven-year-old Paul Nolan, who won two draws. One of them the Y's Men's Club draw for \$360 and the other

- 20 years ago**  
 September 29, 1962  
 The Acton Fall Fair had good weather and record crowds of over 7,000 over Friday and Saturday at Prospect Park.  
 Halton's new \$1,225,000 Court House, Registry Office and Administration Building at Milton is to be officially opened on Saturday, November 17.  
 This week's specials at the A-B Supermarket Store are: two 14 oz. tins of corn for 35¢, 4 in 1 pack of toilet paper 45¢, all roasts and all steaks 79¢ a lb., and red raspberries 15¢ oz. for 25¢.  
 John O'Rourke, 18, Tuesday was welcomed as the 122nd member of the Gladhatter's Club during a unique presentation at his home here.  
 Over 170 adults went back to school this week. Night school classes began Tuesday and Wednesday, most of them in the High School.  
**50 years ago**  
 September 15, 1932  
 Miss Jeanette Russell attended the National Hairdressers' and Cosmetologists' Association of U.S.A. convention, in Toronto, on Monday.

- Specials this week at Patterson's Meat Shop are: side bacon 18¢ a lb., fresh side pork 11¢ a lb., fresh ham 14¢ a lb., rib roasts 15¢ a lb., shoulder roasts 13¢ a lb. and 2 lbs of lard 22¢.  
 Playing this week at the Gregory Theatre, on Friday, "The West Parade", on Saturday, "The Silent Witness" starring Greta Nissen and on Monday, "Huddle" starring Ramon Navarro and Madge Evans.  
 Graced with fine weather, Acton-Fair will be the feature of the country-side next Tuesday and Wednesday.  
 Mr. George Soper brought into the Free Press office a couple of pretty fine specimens of potatoes. The pair tipped the scales at 3 3/4 lbs.  
**75 years ago**  
 September 19, 1907  
 Mr. Robert Brown, Sr., has had the old barn at his residence on Bower Avenue removed. A new modern structure is taking its place.  
 Toronto milk dealers have increased the price of milk to 9¢ a quart. Acton dealers announce that they will increase the price here to 6¢ on the 1st October.  
 Miss Maggie McDonald is taking a course at the Central Business College, Toronto. She went to the city on Monday.

- Mr. John Marshall, foreman of the Times, North Bay, who is visiting his father in Limehouse, visited the Free Press on Tuesday.  
 Mrs. Thos. W. Shaw, Agnes Street, arrived home from her three months visit to her old home in England last week.  
 Mr. D.D. Christie, of Guelph, was in town on Friday attending the monthly meeting of the W.H. Storey & Son board.  
**100 years ago**  
 September 21, 1882  
 The brickwork on the first pair of the Building Association's houses on Bower Avenue has been completed, and the appearance is very fine.  
 Last week Messrs. Daniel and Duncan Robertson, of Nassagawways near this village, left here on a trip to the North-west. The object of this trip was to see the land, probably with a view to taking up land.  
 The directors of the Western Fair have decided to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor on the exhibition grounds during the fair.  
 The brick work of the Town Hall has been completed and the building is now being roofed. The building will not be completed by the 1st of October, as called for by the contract.