

The Acton Free Press

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Need more candidates

There's lots of time left for people with a concern for the community and an interest in the work of council, school board or hydro commission to file their nomination papers and run in the November 8 election.

Even in this time of restraint the Ontario government is spending close to \$900,000 for commercials to promote voter turnout and candidates for the election.

This is an indication of the province's concern over the low voter turnout, an average across Ontario of just over 40 per cent through the 70s and for the 1980 vote, and the high number of acclamations, close to 50 per cent, for the council and school board seats in the last municipal elections across the province.

Councils and school boards spend about \$12 billion annually and Municipal Affairs Minister Claude Bennett is correct when he says it's about time many, many more people exercised their franchise and there were fewer acclamations.

Last time for a possible six

council and school board posts in Acton, and the same number for Esquesing, four were filled by acclamation in Acton and two the same way for ward two. There were separate school board, regional and area council votes in Acton.

So far this time the mayor's chair, regional council seat, hydro commission seat and separate school board post won't be filled by election in Acton. In Esquesing the separate school board seat, hydro commission, regional councillor and mayor's chair to date won't be filled by a vote.

This isn't intended as a slight against anyone who has been elected by acclamation or those who would win because they aren't opposed yet for this vote, but it is important that there be few, preferably no, acclamations this year, especially since there's now a three year term.

And if we are lucky enough to wind up with an election for every seat, then the least we can do is turn out and vote.—G.M.

Acton's not depressed

According to a business management consultant, Jerry Byers who spent some time the past spring and summer talking with local business people, Acton's in something of a depression.

He didn't mean an economic depression, though there can't be any doubt local business and industry are going through very tough times, but a mental depression.

The consultant was speaking at the wind-up dinner for the 25 firms which participated in the province's small business management program here which was sponsored by the Acton Chamber of Commerce.

Acton's in a depression he said, we have a defeatist attitude. We were left off the map, we feel we've lost our identity through regional government and Halton Hills, the town's not growing, in fact the population has shrunk a bit in recent years, we don't have a plaza like other towns in the area, there's an odor over Acton from time to time, Acton's not important, etc.

This isn't the first time we've heard this about ourselves, especially from outsiders who've spent some time here,

but not enough to really get to know the heart and soul of the community. At least one other consultant type has referred to it as Acton's inferiority complex. Yet those are the kinds of vibes some Actonians give off.

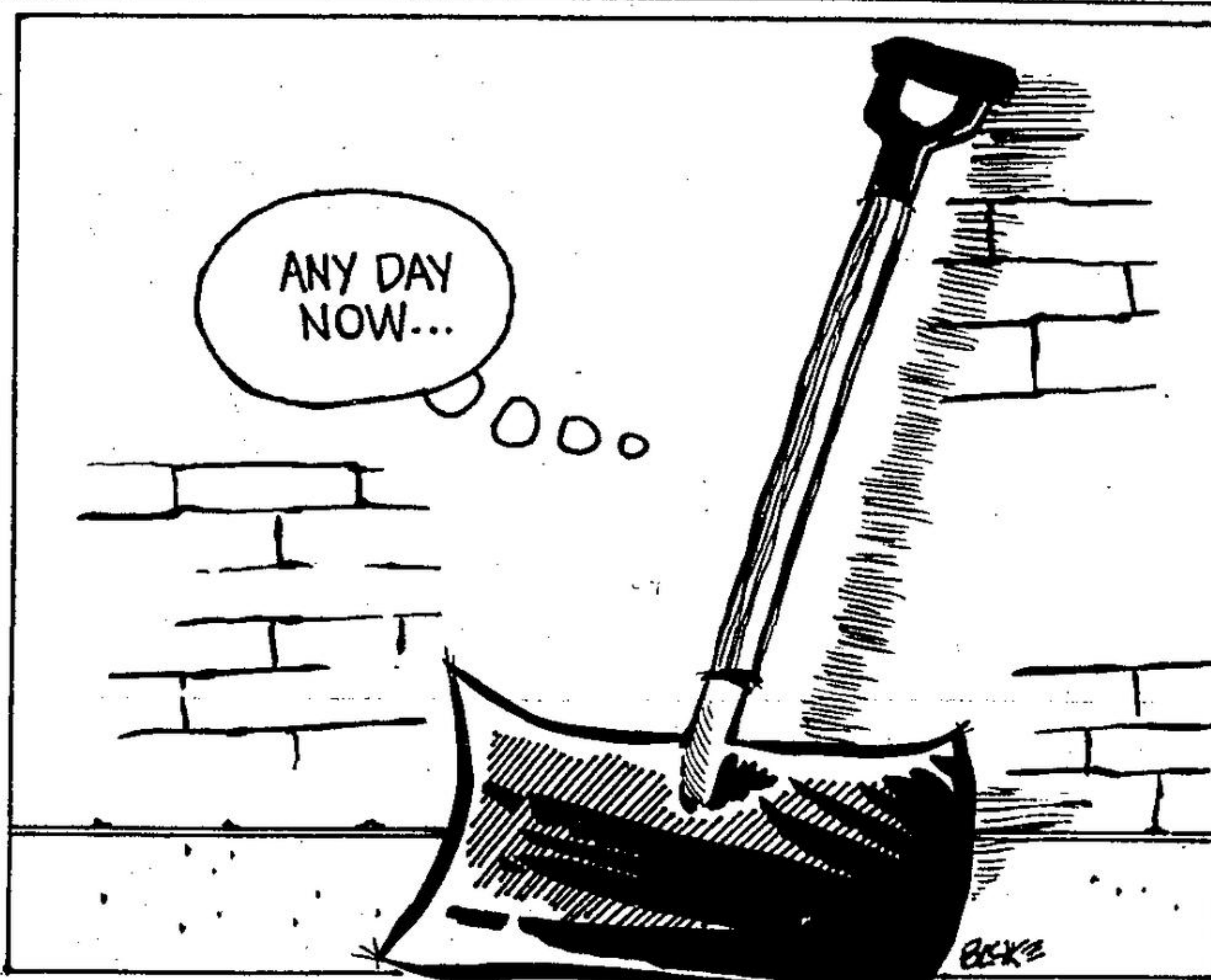
Well, it's true, Acton's taken some kicks in the teeth, especially since regional government.

But, as Byers also said, there's also a strong, vibrant spirit here. There are many, many people in Acton who are enthusiastic about the community and its future.

All is not perfect here, but we have a lot to be proud of and cheer about in Acton.

The consultant's comments seemed timely coming last week just a few days after two outstanding community events. We've already praised them to the hilt, but a couple extra pats on the back never hurt anyone.

Simply stated, any community which can stage the outstanding fair our fair is, or can raise the kinds of dollars Acton does for cancer research by running around a track or giving to a canvasser at the front door, isn't in a depression or suffering from an inferiority complex.—G.M.



From the editor's desk

Former smokers are too much

by Gord Murray

It's not easy these days being a smoker, especially when eating in a public place at the same table as Bill Cook.

Thursday night I covered the wind-up dinner and presentation by consultants who helped 25 local firms by giving them an introduction to small business management during the spring and summer. (See story elsewhere in today's paper.)

Anyway there was Bill and I sitting across from each other, with Bill's wife Monika, Don Perry and Don and Doreen Lindsay also at the table.

After we'd enjoyed our salad and rolls, and after stealing a glance around the room to see if anyone else was puffing (and there was) I decided to light up rather than go climb a wall of the Legion hall while we awaited the main course.

Now there's nothing worse than a reformed smoker in my book. They are much more of a pain than people who never smoked. Ex-smokers are so pious and saintly about having kicked the weed.

Bill never misses an opportunity to give me a dig about smoking. I can't really blame him, sitting in an office near mine he hears me hacking and wheezing all day long.

But Thursday he was in rare form. He was slipping out of the office for a few minutes in the morning and another employee asked him to pick her up some cigs. When he returned he belted me in the shoulder and told me in no uncertain terms that I could buy a house again if I just quit smoking for a year. Bill was astounded he got so little

change from a \$2 bill for one deck.

Every time I coughed, that day, which if you've been around me much you'll know it's constant, he gave me shot about smoking.

When I lit up at the dinner in a loud voice (louder than usual for Bill) he proclaimed I was sitting at a non-smoking table. That set them all off.

I just puffed fast and blushed my way through it all. We desperate-type smokers are pretty hard to embarrass into butting out.

We all got talking about smoking and quitting and I soon learned Monika and Don had also smoked at one time, as did Bill, which I already knew.

They seemed to agree with me that ex-smokers can be pretty "pure" and nobody argued when I suggested heaven help all who know him if Bill adds beer to cigarettes as a vice he no longer needs. He'd be insufferable.

I think his most cutting remark was when after a delicious chicken dinner I got up to go to the washroom, excused myself, and Bill called after me "Going for a smoke, eh?" Not guilty that time though. It really was a nature call.

Bill's not really all that bad about me and my nasty smelly dirty habit. (I know it's all those things but haven't quit yet—more about that later.)

The one who's really a pain in the neck about it all is little Helen. Talk about Holier than Thou. She makes rude remarks about my smoking in front of anybody, anywhere, anytime. I think she's as rude about that as I am for smoking.

Helen's an ex-smoker, but of the little league variety. One to 1 1/2 packs a week, not a day, but a week, for a

couple of years. Makes her a real expert eh! And what was really silly was she started in her early 20s, when she was old enough to know better, especially since she'd already known me as a perfect example of what tobacco can do to a person for a few years.

I've been fortunate health wise so far. My wheezing and coughing actually sound a lot worse than they are. I think the coughing's become just an extra habit.

My doctor confirmed this at last year's physical. "Your lungs are in good shape," he told me. "More by good luck, than good planning, I'd say."

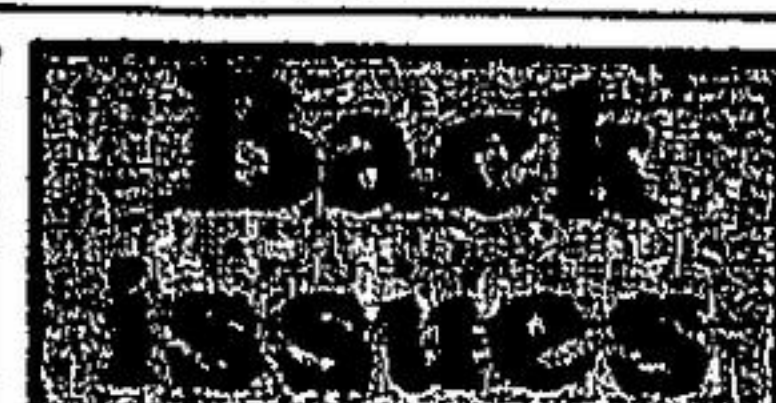
But how long will lady luck smile on my lungs. I don't want to even contemplate it.

I hate the taste of them. I smoke only about half of a regular cigarette before butting it, which may be why I can still breathe since the last half is supposed to be the most damaging.

I'd like to quit. I just haven't found the sure-fire easy way to do it. There's lots of methods I've read about, but they all require some willpower, which I don't believe I have when it comes to cigarettes.

I'm, well, the best way to put it is hyper. Always been too. I'm sure nobody could work with me and Helen would be packed and departed in a matter of days if I ever quit. And who could blame them.

I think my saving grace, if it comes in time, will be medical advancement. Maybe soon they can come up with a shot of something that just kills the desire for cigarettes and leaves no side effects. Or is that just wishful thinking?



10 years ago

September 27, 1972

Picketing of the Ajax Engineers Ltd. plant by 20 employees, all members of the United Steelworkers Local 7513 continues, as a strike against the company reached its fourth day.

Toronto International Dragway property on the Fifth Line east of Acton, has been sold to a group of Georgetown area men who may turn the land into an estate subdivision.

Specials this week at your local I.G.A. Store are: 3 cantaloupe for 88¢, pork shoulder roasts 49¢ a lb., spare ribs 88¢ a lb., fresh chicken leg or breasts 69¢ a lb., oranges 4 lb. bag 59¢, and 2 lbs. of sausage for 88¢.

Acton Council has approved the appointment of Bank of Montreal manager Ted Pratt as a member of Acton Parks and Recreation Committee.

Harry Hibbs and the Shrimp Cocktail, the popular musical group will return to Acton Community Centre, Saturday night for an encore performance.

20 years ago

September 27, 1952

On Sunday there will be a farewell service at the Acton Pentecostal Tabernacle for Rev. Kenneth Reid and his family, who have been here seven and a half years.

Specials this week at your I.G.A. Store are: loin roast O'pork 45¢ a lb., tea bags pkg. of 60 for 75¢, 1 1/2 lb. pkg. of breakfast prunes 39¢, margarine 2-1 lb. pkg. for 45¢ and Cohoe Salmon 2 1/2 size tins for 85¢.

With a minimum of 40 boys and girls, new recreation director Jim Casburn says he can start a figure skating club here.

Michael Bennett, son of Mrs. Michael Bennett and the late Mr. Bennett, has returned to St. Peter's Seminary, London, to start his second year studies for the priesthood.

Playing this week at the Jem Drive-In Theatre is "Breakfast at Tiffany's" starring Audrey Hepburn and Mickey Rooney and also playing, "Shaggy" starring Brenda Joyce and Shaggy the Dog.

50 years ago

September 22, 1922

Acton's Nineteenth Annual Fall Fair set a new high record in 1922, when 7,400 people saw the shows and the exhibits.

Rev. and Mrs. J. Culp, a former beloved pastor and his wife of the United Church, Acton, has been visiting this week with friends in the former parish.

Specials this week at your Red & White Store are: 6 bunches of grapes for 30¢, Brookfield Cheese 25¢ a lb., Heinz Mayonnaise for 20¢, large Heinz Catsup for 19¢, 3 celery bunches for 25¢ and 2 lbs. of cookies for 25¢.

Playing this week at the Gregory Theatre, on Friday, "The Trial of Vivian Ware" starring Joan Bennett and Zasu Pitts and on Saturday, "The Carnival Boat" starring Bill Boyd and Ginger Rogers.

Nelson & Co. won third prize in the window display of Lux Soap. This is the third year in succession this store has won.

75 years ago

September 26, 1907

Mr. Edward Tweedale and his daughter, Miss Phoebe, arrived this week from Rochdale, England, and Mr. Tweedale says they will now settle permanently in Canada.

Farms for sale—\$4,200 a one hundred acre good farmland, lot 24, on second line, one mile from Acton and for \$6,000 a good farm adjoining Acton, 140 acres, with brick house and good barn.

At Tuesday's meeting of the County Council the following grants, equivalent to those from the Government, were made to public schools for continuation classes: Milton, Acton and Burlington, \$380 each.

Miss Ida McNab returned on Friday from a pleasant visit with friends at Midland.

Mr. W. Coles left this week on a trip to his old home at Ilminster, Somerset, England.

100 years ago

September 28, 1882

Dr. M. Forster is erecting a new building between his drug store and Mr. G. Hynds Jewellery store. It will be used for surgical work.

Mr. James Goodall has made arrangements to open a coal and wood yard in Acton, and will supply all with coal and wood at reasonable prices.

A 16 foot flagstaff will be placed on top of the town hall and the council will likely procure a neat flag for use on special occasions.

Messrs. Thos. T. Moore and J.E. McGarrin came across a flock of ducks last week at Nicklin's pond in this village and each hunter secured two speck.

Thanks for help

Dear Sir:
On behalf of the committee for The Acton Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, I would like to extend sincere thanks to the following:
Thanks to the merchants and banks who had pledge forms available for the participants;
Thanks to all who donated in so many ways to help defray expenses;
Thanks to The Acton Free Press for its excellent coverage leading up to and including the day;
Thanks to all the volunteers who

helped in so many ways throughout the day;
Thanks to all the participants, the organizations, clubs, and all others who donated to our cause.
We in Acton can proudly call our Terry Fox Day a success, and take pride in helping to keep The Dream of Terry Fox Alive.
Sincerely,
Jon Hurst
Chairman
Acton Terry Fox
Marathon of Hope Committee

Laws not enforced

Dear Sir:
Do we have two sets of rules in Acton depending on who we are?
This is the question I am asking after witnessing a car going through the stop sign on Churchill Rd. at approximately 5:45 p.m. on September 20.
Because I recognized the driver as a prominent local resident and government official, I watched to see if the driver of a police car which had been watching that corner for a

while previously would give him a ticket. He (the police officer) flashed his light and pulled the driver over, but never issued him a ticket.
I know quite a few people who have been given tickets and fines at this corner for rolling stops.
Maybe they would be interested in learning this rule does not apply apparently to everyone.
An irrate resident.
(Name withheld on request)

Our readers write

Teachers lose respect

Dear Sir:
In their response to Mr. Lamarche's letter, Mrs. Graham and Miss Gibson have completely missed the point. PD days are perceived by the public as "going off." It is not some kind wild-eyed claim. It is a fact.

Education costs have risen in some areas 400 per cent in the last ten years. Most of the increases had gone into teachers' salaries.

Teachers have become militant, they have, in some cases, gone on strike or withdrawn service.

When any profession employs the tactics of a common labor union it must expect that shots will be taken at it. Teachers have made tremendous gains in salaries and benefits, but not without a price. They have lost the respect of the public.

Universities are finding first year students who are barely literate. This, after 14 years in our precious and expensive school system. And these are the top 10 per cent of our students. Apparently, quality is down and costs is up. Must be inflation!

Public relations should be a required course for the teaching profession. The first day of school being a PD day could only have been a move calculated to enrage and alienate the parents, hardly likely to win the profession any points.

Miss Gibson asks that the parents support the teachers. Forgive the dreadful pun Miss Gibson, but they do, they certainly do.

Yours truly,
Pat Harris,
Rosemary Rd.

Great soccer tourney

Dear Sir:
Over the September 11-12 weekend, Acton Girls' Soccer League were hosts to the rural soccer tournament.

Hundreds of girls from squirt to bantams were involved in competition. The teams put on a fine display

of soccer and sportsmanship for all spectators.

Sincere thanks is extended to Carole Saxon for organizing such a well run event. Your time and effort put forth Carole is appreciated by many people.

Ann Thorpe
Soccer Mom

Preserve hall as landmark

Re: Acton town hall

Dear Sir:
I have just been informed of the intent to demolish the historic 1880s Acton Town Hall.

It saddens me to hear that "outside" groups are allowed to superimpose their actions upon the community. It appears they strive against the heart-felt wishes and best interests of pioneers and their families who served tirelessly to found, plan and develop their town and environs. Is it possible that Acton has no vote in a matter of this magnitude?

Cement, steel, glass, plastic parking lots, all have their place in our present society. However destruction of what is basically good seems to be a motivating factor peculiar to the human species.

I have great respect for the Landmark and Heritage Societies. Their function is to preserve the historical, cultural and architectural values while integrating the past with the present and hopefully the future. They earn our admiration and gratitude. Acton Town Hall is a landmark.

I lived my early years in Acton. I visit frequently. It will be with great regret should I not see it just where it should be—as an historic site, when next I visit. Sincerely yours,
Lynn M. Hamlin,
W.E. Hamlin,
Ottawa.

Letters to the editor are welcome but must be signed.

The name may be withheld from publication on request