

# The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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## Change towing zones

Halton Police Commission sounded very receptive to Mayor Peter Pomeroy's suggestion last week that adjustments be made to the towing contract so Acton accident victims aren't inconvenienced or local body shop operators penalized.

When a driver is in an accident and a vehicle is disabled it must be moved off the roadway as promptly as possible. The region tenders a contract and the lowest qualified bidder then gets all the calls to tow vehicles unless the driver makes alternate arrangements on the scene.

The driver can have his vehicle towed to any body shop he or she wants, taken to their driveway if they wish. Or it can be towed to the tow truck operator's pound to be stored until repair arrangements are made.

Previously there was an official towing service and pound in Acton and another in Georgetown.

However, the last time the contract was tendered the towing zones were adjusted, there would be just one operator for all of north Halton north of 10 Sideroad. Undoubtedly this was done with the aim of improving service and reducing costs for drivers.

A Georgetown towing firm won the contract last time, an Acton firm had bid but lost. It's true that nobody in Acton would be complaining about the arrangements if an Acton firm had won the contract. In that case likely the complaints about unfairness would be coming justifiably from Georgetown.

While it's true that officers are supposed to advise drivers they can have their vehicle towed anywhere they wish; the mayor indicated to the commission this may not be be-

ing done. Also, even if officers informed drivers they could have their vehicle towed to an Acton autobody shop it's very possible the driver won't understand because of the shock and anxiety any accident is likely to produce.

We've heard from accident victims who say they didn't know they could avoid having their vehicle towed to Georgetown.

This hasn't been a bad winter, fortunately accidents are down so the impact of the towing area change hasn't been too severe on local autobody shops yet.

As long as vehicles are towed from Acton and area to Georgetown, insurance firms will naturally continue to encourage owners to have them repaired there rather than towed back to Acton at additional expense.

While the idea of giving drivers a printed note explaining the towing policy (pointing out drivers don't have to have their vehicle towed to Georgetown, etc.) has some merit, will it be understood by a distraught driver? We suspect not, in the majority of cases.

It would seem the best solution to this problem would be to come up with some kind of alternative arrangement for Acton until the contract is up. It would seem, from the mayor's comments at police commission, that the current contract holder may be willing to permit some accommodation.

Also, when the contract is up it would seem wise if the police and region revised the towing zones to either their former boundaries, or some other boundaries which reflect there are two urban areas in Halton north of 10 Sideroad.-G.M.

## Too darn expensive

When municipalities and their utilities started to deliver their bills by hand instead of using the post office there was some concern in the new crown corporation. To bring the utilities and municipalities into line without expensive court action, the post office has come up with cheaper bulk mail rates of 20 cents for a first class letter.

In Kitchener, where the city has been delivering utility bills by hand for years, council recently voted 9-2 to return delivery of all tax and utility bills to the post office.

Postal officials report there is a lively interest in the bulk rates for first class mail. As indeed there should be.

However, who gets stuck paying the 32 cents because they don't have an effective lobby?—the general public.

In effect we are subsidizing the people who send out bulk mail.

It is obvious the public does not squawk enough. If the public had an effective lobby or some other means of delivering the mail the post office might have been forced to rethink their latest two cents increase for first class mail.

Many people are delivering their bills and paying them by hand rather than through the mail. One Georgetown lady said she is so incensed by the new rates she delivered all her valentines by hand this year. We could relate many other instances.

If the post office wants to get the public back they obviously are going to have to consider a bulk rate for Joe Blow and Josephine because right now the cost of sending a letter is too darn expensive.

## Thanks for support

Dear Sir:  
On behalf of the Halton Regional Police Force I wish to extend my appreciation to the citizens of Acton who attended the Third Annual "AL RUELENS" Volleyball tournament at Acton District High School on February 25, 1983. The combined efforts of members of the Force and the citizens of Acton resulted in \$730 being raised for Cancer Research.

I would like to point out that the majority of the citizens who attended and contributed so generously were in the 16 to 30 year

age bracket. It is unfortunate that too often we fail to recognize the positive efforts made by our young adults.

I am confident that the "AL RUELENS MEMORIAL TROPHY" which was donated to Acton District High School by the Halton Police Association will encourage a high level of excellence for Acton students in years to come.

Sincerely,  
A. McQueen,  
Sergeant,  
Public Relations



## Some thoughts on St. Patrick

Catherine Graham of R.R. 1 Limehouse, continues the tradition of writing an article about Ireland or the Irish on the nearest publication to St. Patrick's Day, this year on Thursday (March 17). Her subject is the saint himself.

### St. Patrick

St. Patrick was the first person who had any real success in spreading the faith in Ireland. Those that went before him made little progress.

It was his destiny to be captured and carried as a slave to Ireland, many years before he became a missionary. Thus he learned the language at an early age, when others would be laying the foundation for future scholastic pursuits.

He spent this time tending sheep on the cold hillsides of Slernish. He was well on in years when he became a missionary. He confronted the pagan king Laoghaire, and the Druids on the eve of Easter, on the hill of Slane. There he lit the Pascal fire.

To kindle a fire at this particular time was an offence punishable by death. The Druids were well aware that the new faith brought by the stranger would triumph over theirs and so bring an end to their power. For that reason, they were anxious to destroy him.

Laoghaire, the King, ordered the men to bring Patrick before him, while the Druids waited in ambush. As the soldiers with Patrick and his men passed they appeared as a harmless herd of deer and so escaped danger.

Patrick had many contests with the powers of darkness but he always emerged as the victor.

In learning about St. Patrick we must separate fact from fancy as much highly imaginative material does exist. We are assured from his confessions and from his stern letter to Coroticus, that he was a man of powerful character, steadfast and fearless. He made Ireland his own and in so doing placed us forever in his debt.

I will close by a verse from a poem on St. Patrick.

Our hope is in St. Patrick,  
Apostle Saint of Ireland,  
Resplendent as compatriot,  
The beacon of our siredland,  
He who crushed the Druids,  
So obdurate & mighty  
Overcame their moods  
By the power of God Almighty

Catherine Graham  
R.R. 1 Limehouse

## Our readers write

### PTR, class division worries parents

The following was submitted to the Free Press for publication.  
To: Mr. Bill Harrison  
Trustee: Halton Board of Education

Dear Sir:  
Although my husband and I have other commitments this evening, (Milton Family of Schools Meeting, March 1) we feel that it is imperative that we express our concern to the board at this meeting. We are expressing our concerns in this letter.

Alan and I were shocked to learn that the pupil/teacher ratio in Halton is the highest of any board in Ontario. As a former teacher I recognize the enormity of the task of trying to teach a class anywhere near the size of the classes in this region. The class size average is 31.3 and as this is the average size it stands to reason that a large number of these classes will exceed that size. Indeed three of our four children are in classes that number 35 or more.

How many parents are aware of

how the pupil/teacher ratio figure is arrived at? Do parents realize that the librarian, who has no class of his own, is included in the teacher count. How many others are included in this group that gives us the pupil/teacher ratio number?

Another area of concern must also be the division of the classes. Each class now has children with a varying range of abilities, from those children with tremendous capabilities right through to those children who have specific needs and problems.

It is ludicrous to suggest that any teacher can possibly cope with this range of abilities in such large numbers!

Who suffers? The teachers, who must feel the frustration of not being able to serve the children's needs adequately, suffer; the children, who are being deprived of the education that they deserve, suffer; and finally the parents, who will be faced with children who are inadequately prepared to

deal with their future, through no fault of their own, suffer.

This board must deal with these issues! As parents we are totally dissatisfied with the attitude of this board. The Halton Board of Education has an obligation to provide our children with the best education possible. Our board should be concerned with the needs of the children and not only with the "almighty dollar".

If other boards are able to restrict the size of their classes then the Halton Board of Education should be able to do likewise.

When we are faced with the alternative of paying a minor tax increase or pulling our children out of the system and paying \$20,000 in private school fees to ensure a good education for them, the choice is obvious. We need more teachers! It is up to the board to supply this need!

We remain,  
very concerned parents  
Alan & Marilyn Picard

## It's income tax time again!

It's income tax time again. One reader found this poetic expression of displeasure and passed it along to help us swallow our tax bill:

Sit down my friend and just relax  
It's time to pay your income tax,  
For whether we are great or small  
They tax us one, and they tax us all.

They tax the hobo and the King,  
They tax the bull and tax his ring,  
They tax the ear tag on the cow,  
An even tax the cat's meow.

They tax the collar on the dog  
And tax the nose-ring on the hog,  
They tax the wing badge on the hen,  
And tax the feeder in her pen.

They tax the glasses on your nose  
And tax the garters on your hose,  
They tax the gas that runs your car  
And even tax the big cigar.

They tax the lowly cigarette,  
And that's as low as you can get,  
They tax your whisky and home-brew,  
And tax the Bible in your pew.

They tax the asphalt in the road  
And tax the warts upon the toad,  
They tax the movies and Tee Vee—  
So what the hell is left for me.

They tax the wrist watch on your arm,  
And tax the rat trap on the farm,  
They tax the ski-tows on the hill  
And tax the slacks the go-girls fill

They tax the baby in his crib  
And tax his shirt and tax his bib,  
They tax the diaper on his seat  
And tax the booties on his feet.

They tax the mattress in his bed,  
And tax the bonnet on his head,  
Thank God he cannot comprehend  
That they have taxed him end to end.

When'er you leave this world behind,  
They will be there to steal you blind,  
Before you reach the golden gate  
They'll alap a tax on your estate.

They tax the hearse on your last ride,  
And shed some tears because you died,  
The reason for their deep distress  
Is that you left them no address.

They tax the coffin where you sleep,  
That's enough to make the angels weep,  
They tax the grave where you are laid,  
And make darn sure the tax is paid.

They tax the flowers friends sent for you,  
Because they need the revenue,  
They tax you all the way through life,  
When you are gone they tax your wife

To all taxmen I wish you well,  
May each of you wind up in hell,  
Down there no doubt you can relax,  
For the devil pays no income tax.

—Anon

## Back Issues

### 10 years ago

March 14, 1973  
Robert Little Vikings were the basketball champions for North Halton Schools, winning a close 21-20 decision over Georgetown's Centennial School last week. Coach was John Kavanaugh.

GUARD, a group formed to fight Indusmin's proposal to fill old quarries with Toronto garbage, has chosen William Johnson, a Nassagaweya resident, to be its head. Committee members are Casey Bos, Fred Brooks, Rick Sales, and Mrs. Andy Stull.

Vic Morris and Marion Patterson of Acton Badminton Club won individual singles championships in an exhibition match with Acton High students. Doubles champs were Owen Coultrup and Marion Patterson. The high school team is practising up for the Halton County School tournament in April.

### 20 years ago

March 14, 1953  
Several high school students plan to walk home from Markham, an estimated 50 mile trek. The students will be driven to Markham at midnight Friday and are expected to arrive home Saturday evening. As Halton riding gears up for a federal election April 8, enumerators declare there are 59,341 eligible voters in Halton County.

Incidentally, three of the federal candidates feel an MP should earn more than the present \$10,000 annual salary.

Ballinafad's \$21,000 community hall was jammed to the doors Friday evening as crowds attended the hall's official opening. John Handcock was chairman of the evening. Dignitaries present included Esquering Reeve George Leslie and council members, members from Erin Township, MPs and Agricultural Society representatives.

### 50 years ago

March 16, 1933  
The cemetery board was legally formed. Reeve Thetford and councillor W.A. Lasby were named to the board.

The Acton hockey team played in Bracebridge. Greer and Arbie, who play good hockey for Acton, are both ex-Bracebridge players. The score was Bracebridge 5, Acton 2.

County council recommended substantial cuts of between 30 and 40 percent in salaries of school-teachers and inspectors. No grants will be given to local fall fairs. The road superintendent's salary was cut from \$2,400 to \$2,000. Councilors will receive \$5 per day and mileage.

### 75 years ago

March 12, 1908  
The fall fair in October will be held in Acton this year. For the past 10 or 12 years it has been held alternately for two years at Acton and Georgetown. A spring stallion show will be held at Georgetown.

Miss Amy Doty, the experienced and successful directress of Sunday School entertainments, will commence rehearsals on the 31st inst. for the Methodist School Easter concert.

Why will people persist in calling this busy little town Acton West? The G.T.R. for their shipping convenience have appended west. All true Actonians will refuse to use the railway's nickname.

Mr. D.M. Henderson will move into his handsome new residence at the corner of Bower and Elgin.

Few of the concession roads and sideroads in this vicinity are open.

### 100 years ago

March 22, 1883  
A Council of the Royal Templers of Temperance was organized in Rockwood with a very large membership.

A meeting was held in the Canada Methodist Church, Rockwood, to give expression to the prevailing feeling in the community that the morals of society are injured by the Grand Trunk violating the Sabbath by running trains on that day.

Messrs. Beardmore and Co., Toronto, who own the large stone tannery on Main street which is about to be vacated, are considering the advisability of resuming operations here on their own account. The principal drawback is the scarcity of hemlock bark. It is their intention to transact a much larger business here than formerly and employ more workmen. They propose spending \$6000 or \$7000 on improvements to the building, machinery etc. All the firm asks is exemption from property tax for a term of years. We do not expect any citizen will object.