

# Children being used by teachers.— McAuliffe

Allegations of biased union propaganda being distributed at board of education expense, and the teachers using children as pawns to get what they want were levelled by Milton's Gerry McAuliffe at the Halton Board of Education meeting Thursday evening.

McAuliffe spoke to the board members about the current salary negotiations between the Halton Elementary Teachers Association (HETA) and the board.

At the same meeting, Carol Lonsbury also addressed the board making a plea for more teachers to be hired to lower class room sizes.

McAuliffe emphasized to the board, and the parents in the audience, that HETA is nothing more than a union representing the 1,200 elementary teachers and principals. He contended the dispute over the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is nothing more than a labor dispute, and a way for the teachers to reduce their work load.

He noted that six years ago, parents of students in a few Milton schools were outraged at the conditions of some of the schools, i.e. overcrowding, lack of facilities, unsafe equipment, etc. The parents got together and petitioned for these items to be rectified. However, they were not allowed to distribute written material on school property because it was considered to be a political campaign by the school principals.

However, McAuliffe noted, a few weeks ago, attached to a school newsletter, he received a notice to all concerned parents informing them of a meeting between teachers, HETA and parents to discuss the PTR. Included in the notice were charges that the school board was not listening to the teachers.

Further investigation by McAuliffe revealed the notice was typed by a board of education staff member, on a board typewriter on board time and distributed within the school. It outraged McAuliffe to think

that he was not allowed to hand out notices of his actions six years ago, which was only to help better the situation, yet now the teachers and HETA are using the board to distribute "biased union propaganda."

McAuliffe challenged that the teachers are only fighting for better working conditions now because they cannot fight for a sizable financial settlement.

"The pupil-teacher ratio became a disposable issue at the bargaining table (in the past). But this year, because their salary increase is restricted by the provincial guidelines, they decided the route now is 'smaller classes and less work'. And they have the bold faced arrogance to tell us that they are fighting this issue on behalf of our children. What absolute balderdash," McAuliffe spewed.

McAuliffe suggested that "the Halton Elementary teachers are a very privileged group. While millions of Canadians have been forced to make great sacrifices in the

last three years, the teachers' union have distinguished themselves by demanding more."

McAuliffe contends HETA is using the children as innocent pawns in a public campaign aimed only at strengthening their bargaining position against the board. He also said it was an inexcusable breach of board policy by both the principals and teachers that the school's administrative system would be used to further their own political ends.

Oakville trustee Jim Clelland said he was incensed that the principals would take the liberty to spend the taxpayers' money to spread biased propaganda.

Carol Lonsbury attended the meeting on behalf of parents concerned about the large classes.

With a budget increase of 7.66, she noted there was certainly room for the board to add more teachers.

She commended the board for their small

7.66 per cent budget hike however, as parents, she noted, they are concerned that there is no provision which will allow large class sizes to be addressed.

Large classes, Lonsbury said, have a negative effect on the children, such as in work habits, safety in the gym, etc.

She pointed out classes of 35 are not unusual in Halton and stated this must change. Bill 82, giving all children regardless of learning ability the right to an education, will only aggravate the situation, and make the regular classes larger.

Bill 82, Lonsbury said guarantees parents of learning or physically disabled children the right to request special programs. However, parents of average children do not feel they have this same right, she hinted.

With the 7.66 per cent budget increase, Lonsbury said, she feels there is room in the budget to take the first steps to reducing the class sizes.

(Continued on Page 8)

# The Acton Free Press



A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

One Hundred and Eighth Year—Issue 37

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1983

Forty Pages—Thirty Cents

## Lakeview first for a Watch program

The first area of Acton where Neighborhood Watch will hopefully be born will be Lakeview subdivision.

Tuesday morning prime movers behind bringing this crime prevention program to Acton, Councillor Rick Bonnette, Pat Little of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre and Acton's representative on the Halton Safety Council, and Halton Regional Police Crime Prevention officer Constable Scott Pringle met with three concerned citizens to discuss plans for a future public meeting and flyers which will be sent to Lakeview homes announcing the program and meeting.

Earlier this month Bonnette, Mrs. Little and Pringle met (along with Councillor Ross Knechtel who was absent at Tuesday's meeting) to announce the program and their efforts to launch it here. Citizens were invited to contact Bonnette or the Social Services and Information Centre if they were interested in Neighborhood Watch.

So far most of the interest has come from Lakeview. However, there has also been some interest in establishing Neighborhood Watch in the Glenlea, Bovis and Peel St. areas of town.

At the meeting it was decided it would be best to start one neighborhood at a time on

Neighborhood Watch. Since the most interest has come from Lakeview, that's where the first efforts will be concentrated, though residents of other areas are also invited to get involved now.

Pringle is expected to leave his post as crime prevention officer for the north in the next few weeks, but he anticipates his replacement will just pick up where he leaves off in efforts in Acton.

A few interested citizens have been talking about the program's aims and benefits up in the Lakeview area and found positive response, though by no means have all residents of the area been approached yet.

One citizen suggested there is widespread concern in Acton about burglaries, vandalism and other crimes, but it remains to be seen if they are concerned enough to get involved in Neighborhood Watch.

Bonnette observed in the past few weeks there have been a number of break and enters and attempted burglaries in town and people should realize as nice spring and summer weather looms the situation will only get worse.

Pringle hopes to book Robert Little school for a meeting sometime in the next two or three weeks. At the initial meeting Neighborhood Watch will be explained to citizens, they'll be shown the National Crime Test and see a home security presentation.

The interested citizens and police will work together now to develop a letter or notice which will go out to the 200 to 250 homes in Lakeview. The citizens delivering them around the subdivision will discuss the program with their neighbors and try to talk up the program to build interest. The police will have the notices printed. The meeting will likely be held on a Wednesday night.

The date of the meeting will be published in this newspaper so residents in other areas of town interested in the program can attend to learn more and hopefully get the Neighborhood Watch ball rolling in their areas. For further information on the program or to express an interest in becoming involved call Bonnette at Acton Travel 853-3580, the Social Services and Information Centre at 853-3310 or the Halton Regional Police at 878-5511 extension 92.

Lakeview is probably too big for one Neighborhood Watch organization with 200 to 250 homes, Pringle observed. The concerned citizens suggested after the initial meeting Lakeview could be divided in two.

(Continued on Page 8)



They call it Spring?

Spring swept into Town, Monday, bringing 13 to 15 centimetres of snow, freezing rain, and long lines of slithering cars.

The snowplows came out of hiding where the mild winter had kept them and worked day and night to clear the first snowfall in approximately three months.

Highway 7 between Acton and Georgetown was the worst in at least ten years, ac-

ording to commuters, who said the surface was glare ice.

According to the weather office at Malton between 13 and 15 centimetres of snow accompanied by winds gusting to 50 kmh created the drifting and blowing conditions which made visibility poor for pedestrians and drivers alike. The weatherman said freezing rain and ice pellets also hit much of the area, but he pointed out the first day of Spring last year wasn't "so great" either.

He said it was a bit milder, but there was a millimetre of rain and traces of wet snow.

Muscles were put to the test Monday when most of Canada was struck by a snow storm. Hundreds of cars, just in Acton were stuck in a foot of snow that fell during the day, covering a layer of ice on roads and driveways which had formed during freezing rain in the early morning.

## Mae Robinson captures second in Quarterama

Mae Robinson of Orville Rd. is walking tall these days after winning her most coveted riding award ever.

The 17-year-old daughter of Frank and Pat Robinson recently chalked up a second prize ribbon in the pick-up event of the prestigious Quarterama in Toronto. She also took a ninth place in the Youth Stake Race.

Mae explained the pick-up event involves a barrel and a man at the end of the arena. The rider races down the arena, goes around the barrel (completing a full circle), and the man jumps on the back of the horse, behind the saddle. The horse then runs back to the finish line. The rider with the fastest time wins.

Mae's time in this event was 9.7 seconds. She was one of about 20 participants in the pick-up. There were over 100 entries in the Youth Stake Race.

Other contests Mae entered this year were the open pole bending, the open flag race, and the Youth Barrel Race. In the latter race, Mae placed in the top 25 out of about 100 entries.

This was Mae's second trip to the Quarterama. Last year she placed ninth in the Youth Stake Race.

Mae's success started five years ago when she started riding a pony owned by Donna McCloud. She made the club show circuits and worked her way up to Quarterhorse and Western Horse Association (WHA) Shows. She visits a lot of fall fairs, and never comes home empty-handed.

Four years ago, she got her own horse, Angie Badger. She trained the animal herself with the help of Donna.

A few months ago, Mae says, she acquired Linda Rowley as her new trainer, and the two of them plan to take the show world by storm this year.

Mae reveals she plans to attend many more shows this year than she has in the past, hopefully adding to her collection of 25 trophies and hundreds of ribbons. She says

she is a more consistent rider now and is looking forward to using her new found skills.

Mae isn't the only Robinson interested in horses. Brother Egan has gone on pony trail rides, but as yet hasn't taken his sister's lead and entered too many competitions.

A grade 12 student at Acton High School, Mae has already set her sights on being a veterinarian when she is finished school. If a love of horses, and an ability to handle them are any prerequisite, Mae should do very well in her chosen career.

### inside

An Acton teen has been arrested for bank robbery. Page 2

On the Leavell. Page 2

Help for families. Page 7

Police beat. Page 7

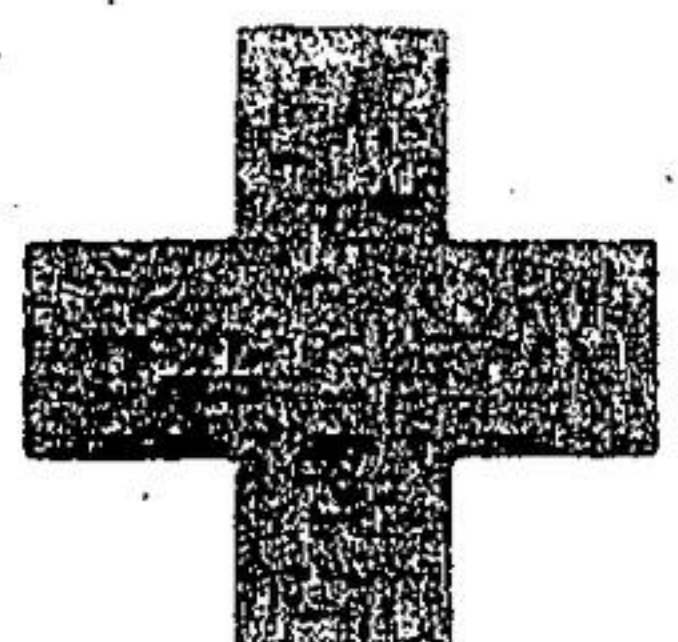
The region budget has been revealed. Page 8

The Heart Fund surpassed expectations. Page 8

Pigeons and Actonians go together. Page 9.

Indusmin and neighbors meet. Page B1

Dr. Cole threatens to quit over birth control debate. Page B1



## Blood Clinic Tuesday

Red Cross Blood Clinic time is here again next Tuesday, March 29.

Now that the clinic has afternoon hours of 2 to 3:30 along with evening hours 5 to 8:30 the staff hopes more donors will attend. Remember that blood is always needed urgently. Someday, a member of your own family or friends may need it.

For further information phone Alice Schreiber 853-0681.



Mae Robinson and her Quarterhorse Annie Badger are becoming known across Ontario for the show triumphs. She recently won second place in the pick-up event at the Quarterama in Toronto.