

# The Acton Free Press

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## Need broad front to fight aggregate

A broad front is needed to fight the provincial government on the aggregate menace.

Citizens' groups in Halton must join with similar organizations around Ontario dedicated to the same fight to stop Queen's Park in its tracks. It may also disturb some to mention dollars and cents, but in all likelihood people here will have to raise funds to hire lawyers and researchers to battle the provincial government and aggregate industry.

In addition the region, Halton Hills and Milton must touch base and work with other municipal jurisdictions like Cambridge and Caledon to push for more policy and legislation concessions from the government solicit more help in pressuring the Tories from the Liberals and NDP.

This battle can't be left to umbrella organizations like the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, local councils representing the people around Toronto who will bear the brunt of quarry and pit development must present a united voice of protest. Sort of an Association of Municipalities of Ontario against aggregate is needed.

We can't allow the province to employ its old tactic of divide and conquer to wear us down on this issue. We can't allow petty politics, differences in opinions or personality conflicts to prevent us from working together in Halton and working with citizens and municipalities across Ontario to stop the government.

Groups from Bruce to Milton united a few years back in an organization called the Interested Citizens Group, or ICG, to battle the province on another of its

grand designs, the hydro corridor.

Some will point to the towers just outside town and say they failed just as forces against aggregate will fail.

But the ICG didn't fail. If anyone thought they'd stop the corridor totally, they were probably dreaming.

What the ICG did accomplish was to delay Ontario Hydro, make the government branch dot all the I's and cross all the T's. The ICG made powerful Hydro listen to them at hearings and meetings. They forced Hydro into concessions. It cost them money, but they exhausted every legal avenue in slowing Hydro and making the inevitable corridor much more tolerable and safer.

People here are fooling themselves if they think there isn't going to be some kind of protection of aggregate lands in North Halton. They are also fooling themselves if they think there won't be some new pits and quarries up here in the future. It would be foolish too to leave organizing and protesting until the blasting starts and the mining equipment is moved in.

The time to stop this threat is now, before the legitimizing policies, directives and legislation are in place.

The goal in this fight will have to be to delay the government, force it to make many more concessions, make Queen's Park listen to us—make the aggregate policy and legislation more palatable and minimize its impact as much as possible.

There's no time to waste in joining forces and getting down to work. The government isn't taking its time, neither can we.—G.M.

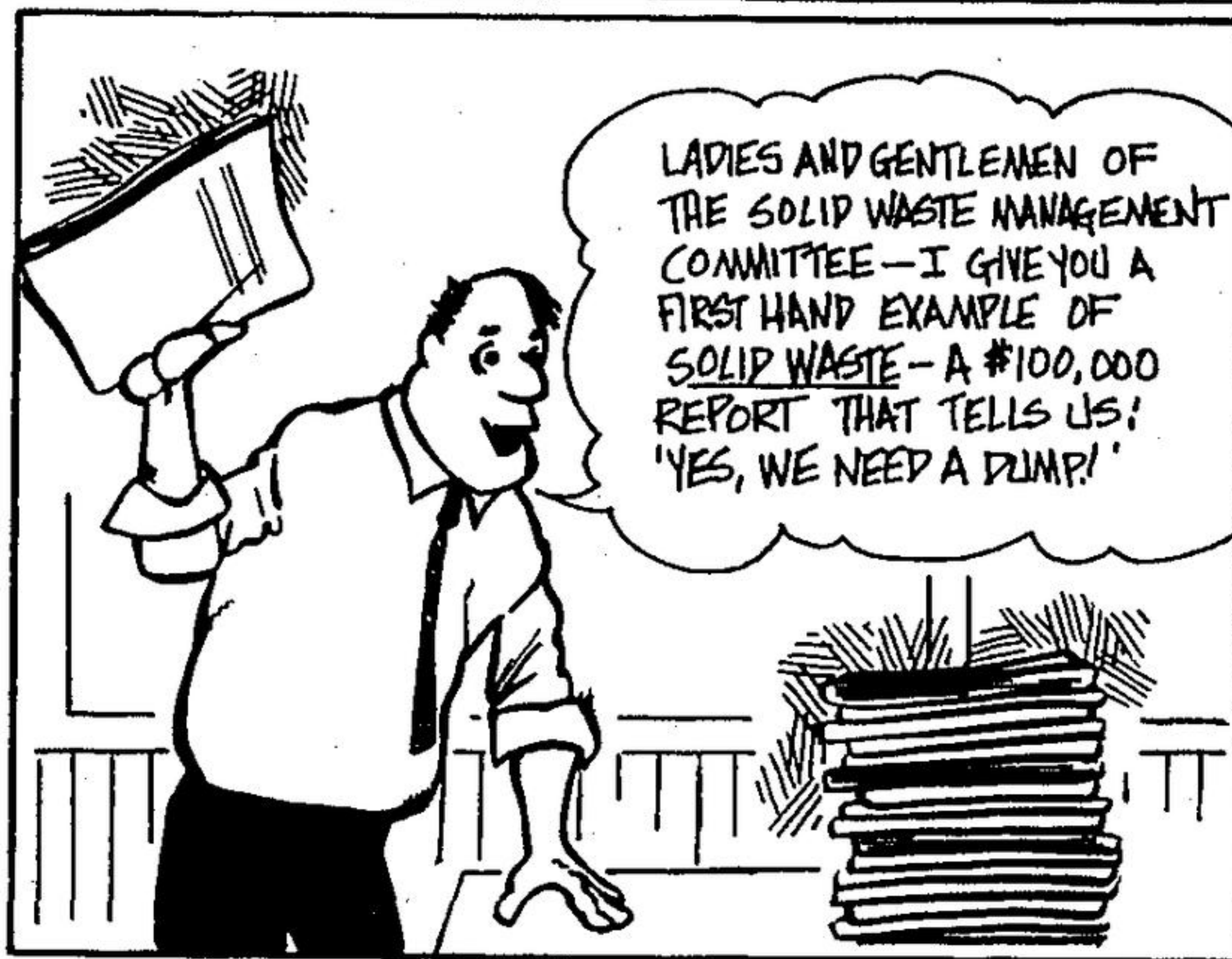
### Our readers write

#### Drivers not stopping

Dear Sir:  
Recently I have been doing some crossing guard duty at the Willow and Mill Streets corner. I was there five times and out of the five times seven cars did not stop when I was in the centre of the highway with the stop sign up, and not because they didn't have the time to stop. I'm sure if one is not exceeding the speed limit one should be able to stop in 50 feet.  
Very fortunately the children remained on the sidewalk until I told them to cross or there would have been a tragedy.

I have heard complaints about this problem a number of times, but until one does duty as a crossing guard one does not realize how bad this problem is.  
I do not know if all the crossing guards have this problem, but I don't know how some drivers keep their operator's licences.  
The seniors and disabled also use these crossings, especially at the corners that are marked as crosswalks.

I am yours sincerely  
a very concerned citizen.  
(Name withheld on request)



## Back Issues

### 10 years ago

April 25, 1973

Studies indicate there may be drinkable water under Fairy Lake. Workmen from Snider Drilling began searching this week near the western point of the park in hopes of striking water.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197 will purchase a parcel of land on the west side of Cameron St. for the construction of a new Legion Hall. The land belongs to Cecil Nelles.

Six members of Acton Sabres Junior Hockey Club were honored at an end-of-season dinner. They were John Snow, Bill McGilgouy, John Sheppard, Ted Harmer, Randy Weldon and Gary Turkoz.

Jennifer Rowe was top speaker at M.Z. Bennett's annual public speaking contest. Stella Bridgen placed second, David Drinkwater third.

Citizen of the Year George Elliott was honored Saturday evening at a gala dinner and dance in the music centre.

### 20 years ago

April 25, 1963

The new \$3 million Mohawk Raceway is scheduled to open this Friday. Thousands of harness-racing fans are expected to make the new elegant race track their regular Mecca once racing season gets underway.

Acton's Women's Institute hosted more than 100 people at the institute's 60th Anniversary celebration held at Knox Presbyterian Church. Current president Mrs. Cecil Maplesden presided over the gathering. Mrs. George Lantz, oldest member present, cut the anniversary cake.

Chester Anderson was chosen president of Acton Curling Club during the annual dinner and dance Friday night. Anderson succeeds Wes Beatty. Vice-president is Gordon Cooper and secretary, Jim Inglis.

### 50 years ago

April 27, 1933

At the meeting of Acton Welfare Board it was announced that the sum of \$660.45 was raised through the recent canvas, lower than expected. Acton has enjoyed a unique experience in being able to finance the relief work thus far without calling on the municipal treasury for one cent.

Fire Chief McDonald requested from council five pair of rubber boots, a rubber coat and a rubber hat.

Business men presented council with a petition asking that the services of a night watchmen be retained. The efficiency of Mr. Harrop in the fulfillment of these duties was appreciated.

The services of Mr. Jas. McIntosh, who has been church treasurer for 43 years, were highly spoken of at the enthusiastic annual meeting of Acton Baptist church.

### 75 years ago

April 23, 1908

Who is responsible for the bills incurred for by the family quarantined for smallpox? Council has declined to pay them and the Board of Health has resigned as a consequence. Members are A.T. Brown, James McIntosh and Thomas Gamble.

Since Billy Mitchell of Rockwood received a legacy from the old country he has shown a disposition to have many others enjoy his good fortune with him. One of his latest exploits was to provide a social evening for the congregation of the Methodist church in the town hall.

Mr. Isaac Francis' fine red brick house on Willow St. has been purchased by the Methodist church for a parsonage. It was a Methodist who purchased this land from the Crown.

A dead horse was buried in the park the other day without permission.

### 100 years ago

May 3, 1883

Council regrets the frequent violations of the by-law prohibiting cows and other animals from running at large in this municipality.

During the past few months the band became disorganized by the removal of several of the members. At a meeting in Matthews hall all the vacant instruments were taken up. Under the careful leadership of Mr. J.C. Hill the band will sustain their previous high reputation. There are 16 musicians.

Neither of Acton's new police cells have been occupied, although they have been completed for three or four months.

It is said that snakes are numerous in the cemetery.

## From the editor's desk

### To print names, or not

Part two  
So, some of you think we should publish photographs of burglars. Well, it simply can't be done. How are we going to get the photos?

Just to make sure, we checked with the police last week. They can't give us the mug shots.

Mug shots often aren't taken at the time of arrest. Besides what law gives the police the right to release a person's photograph and humiliate them before they're even found guilty?

If we can't use mug shots, how do we get these pictures? Invite the accused in to have their pictures taken? Hardly likely many will show up.

Do we observe their homes until we can take their picture with a long lens once they are on the sidewalk or other public property? Hardly a wise use of our news staff, and it could be dangerous if the accused takes offense.

We can't take pictures in court rooms, photographs are illegal, and many judges extend the ban to the entire building and grounds. This scribbler took a photograph in a corridor in the Milton court house a few years back and was almost charged with contempt of court. The film was seized. The law says no cameras in court, but the judge has discretion of where his jurisdiction extends. This judge decided it included the building.

Now for the question of printing names to embarrass the parents and teenager.

You're right, it likely will embarrass the parents to see their teenager's name printed in the paper as charged with a crime.

But, parents can't always, even often it appears these days, change the youngster's behavior. Let's face it, no matter what parents do some kids are bad apples. That's why our courts are so crowded.

Does it change behavior embarrassing the parents of an offspring who isn't living at home anymore, who is, say, in his or her 20s. Not much good I'd say. Do you want to be responsible and subjected to public ridicule for some-

thing your son or daughter does in their 20s.

Will printing the names of children in the 13, 14 or 15, age groups responsible for some of the break-ins in Acton, do any good? The parents may or may not be able to prevent such actions from being repeated.

But there's one other big problem. It is against the law to print the name of a juvenile as being charged, convicted, sentenced or anything.

So, we're talking about a small group, those 16 and 17 if you figure parents are responsible until voting age, or 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 if you really want to stretch the time parents have influence over their offspring.

OK, so you've embarrassed the parents.

But I doubt you've embarrassed many teens by printing the names for all charges.

The kind of kids who break into your home, except in rare instances, aren't embarrassed about being charged and going to court.

I've seen them in court. It's disgusting. Dressed in an old thing, standing or sitting in a gait which doesn't reflect fear of the consequences or respect for the law and court. What they say when spoken to doesn't indicate they care much either. And usually they have along an entourage of friends.

It's almost as big a badge of honor to be caught as it is to get away with a burglary. You're still a big shot, especially when you get away with it with nothing more than a slap on the wrist, probation, even a community service order.

I frankly can't understand these parents who say if their kid was charged and the name was printed they'd make sure it never happened again.

Tell me what more you're going to do after the child's name has been printed, that you wouldn't do anyway after learning your teenager has been charged.

As for potential crime worried victims, what are you going to do if you see a person on your street whose picture you've seen in the



By Gord Murray  
Free Press editor

paper or whose name you've read in connection with a charge.

Call the police, right. But if the person isn't breaking the law what can the police do? A person can walk on the street anywhere anytime all they want. A person who has been charged with a crime can stand on the sidewalk and stare at your house for hours and the police can't do much about it until they trespass.

And, if you're a good neighbor, involved in Neighborhood Watch or not, and you see someone who shouldn't be in your neighbor's yard or climbing through a window or inside a neighbor's car, aren't you going to call the police regardless if you've seen that person's picture in the paper or read their name?

No, I think the only value for running names of people charged and covering cases in court is for news value, as a possible though not probable deterrent to others in cases which are severely dealt with by the courts, and to give readers an indication of the court system and penalties being handed out.

Covering break-in cases in court will only satisfy the curiosity of readers, which isn't a bad thing. I'd vote for printing all the names since readers seem so interested if I didn't fear the paper would become the Police Gazette and if covering every case wasn't such a mammoth, almost impossible job, for a community newspaper.

And would covering burglary cases act as a deterrent? I hardly think so considering the majority of penalties involved probation, fines, community service orders and other penalties but rarely a jail (Continued on page 2)

### Coles' slaw

## May the school creek be a showplace

Here's a tip of the old editorial chapeau to the teacher and students of the Grade 12 environmental science class at Acton High School for their work on the School Creek. And to Indusmin for donating the rocks for their channelization project.

The work on the creek is expected to solve the unsightly problems during dry summer months when the channel of the creek is nearly dry and overrun with weeds. They expect to have achieved what has never been possible before, narrowing the channel so the water in the creek flows fairly swiftly and prevents the eyesores of former years.

It was only last fall that a make-work project received a grant to take the weeds out of the creek. It has been the subject for several beautification projects. Somehow they always seem to fall through and the area in front of the library looks like an overgrown jungle instead of the beauty spot it could be.

Since this area, with the Robert Little School grounds and the library, is almost in the front parlor

of Acton, it gets a lot of attention from motorists on 7 and 25 Highways. It would receive a lot more if it was developed more along the lines of a garden.

I've also mentioned before in this column that my admiration for things of beauty does not extend as far as creating them. As a gardener I'm a good fence viewer. My thumb has always been a little more flesh colored than green, as my wife will aver.

Confronted with the choice of two weeks in solitary or a fortnight in the garden I would take the solitary every time. I'd let someone else do the growing for me. This attitude has been with me all my life since the time I tried to grow a geranium in a pot ended in a tulip popping up through the soil. Frustrating, but it doesn't stop me from admiring anyone who can step into a garden or any other area and turn it into a showplace.

There's an old story about the man who labored for weeks to turn a neglected garden into a Garden of Eden, with blooms and plants growing in profusion. One night as he

hoed the potatoes his parish priest walked by, pointed at the garden, and said:

"Isn't it wonderful what God can do, Jimmy?"

The gardener scratched the itchy spot behind his ear, and replied: "No doubt, but you should have seen this place when He was looking after it."

There has always been a lot of significance about the growing of flowers. History bears it out. In England, for instance, they fought the War of the Roses. Lancastrians wore a red rose as their badge. The Yorkists wore a white rose.

Inspired by this rosy turn of events, the poet William Shakespeare wrote: *If this pale rose offends your sight, In your bosom wear; 'Twill blush to find itself less white, And turn Lancastrian there.*

And, of course, that master of the language, Bill Shakespeare, wrote: *What's in a name? that which we call a rose.*

By any other name would smell as sweet. The purpose of this piece is to show, of course, that flower power is

nothing new. It has been with us since our ancestors first emerged from the trees, caves or where ever scientists decide we came from next, and adorned themselves with petals.

So I say a toast to the gardeners of this world. May their thumbs be evergreen and the flowers and plants they nurture the envy of all us dolts who couldn't even grow hair if the good Lord had not provided the roots.

Will Bill Davis, the Brampton Billy of good old Ontario-ariooo, contest the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party?

According to our MPP Julian Reed, he will, and he'll announce his candidature soon.

According to Julian, Bill Davis was brought up to be the Prime Minister of Canada. He has never had any other real interest outside of politics. It was drilled into him from the time he was a small boy attending McHugh school in Brampton, that the mantle of the Conservative party would one day be his to take. Events over the last few weeks



By Hartley Coles  
Managing Editor

have given little credence to Julian's view but there is a groundswell of opinion that Mr. Davis is considering running this time, providing he can retain the premiership of this province. And I'm sure he could work that one out.

Could he beat Joe Clark, or even John Crosbie, the wit from Newfoundland? There's a lot of money out there says he could.

As the doctor said after he examined the patient, "I don't like the looks of your husband, Mrs. Brown. Mrs. Brown: "Neither do I, doctor, but he's good to the children."