

The Acton Free Press

TELEPHONE (519) 853-2010
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875

Published every Wednesday by Metroland Printing & Publishing Ltd. at 59 Welow Street, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. Telephone (519) 853-2010. Subscriptions: Single copies 30¢ each, \$17.00 per year in Canada, \$30.00 in all countries other than Canada.

Member of The Canadian Community Newspaper Association, and The Ontario Community Newspaper Association

Second class mail registration Number G-15

Ken Bellamy
Publisher
Don Ryder
Director of Advertising

Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

The Acton Free Press is one of the Metroland Printing and Publishing Ltd. group of suburban newspapers which includes The Ajax/Whitby/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, The Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlington Weekend Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, The Hamilton Wentworth Post, Markham/Thornhill Economist and Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Economist and Sun, The Milton-Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Friday Beaver, Oshawa This Week, Oshawa This Weekend, The Richmond Hill/Thornhill Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
Editor: Gord Murray
News Editor: Helen Murray
Sports: Robin Incoe, Paul Nolan, Charlie Payne
Darkroom: Nancy Pundack
ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT
Retail Advertising Manager: Bill Cook
Sales: Kirk Davy, Susan McKinnon, Sandra Wilson
Classified Advertising: Carolyn Artem, Debbie MacDougall
BUSINESS/ACCOUNTING OFFICE
Office Manager: Jean Shewell
Circulation: Dan McGiloway



Cultural centres growing problem

It could be a very long summer for Halton Hills councillors and some citizens living in the vicinity of some of our ethnic cultural centres.

We say some centres, because the Fourth Line Ukrainian Camp, which is the oldest in Halton Hills, has been really no trouble at all.

It has been the Croatian and Yugoslav camps which have caused councillors and some neighbors a lot of grief.

Last month two council meetings dragged on quite late as councillors were forced to hear arguments from lawyers for residents and the Croatian Camp. The Croatians say they aren't breaking any laws, the residents say they are and want the place closed down. The Town would like to solve the beefs revolving around noise, cooking odors, large crowds, etc. without any costly legal battles.

At both meetings by the time the delegations were done, council had a pile of regular business to wade through at an hour of the evening when nobody in the room was fresh.

And summer hasn't even started yet.

At times last summer, representatives of the Croatian and Yugoslav camps and their annoyed neighbors would take up a good chunk of the council meeting before the councillors even had a chance to tackle the issues at stake.

We hate to prejudge the new camp, but from everything officials of International Peace Camp told us recently we don't feel too secure that they will be good neighbors and won't be dropping a new headache in the lap of council and neighbors. They have shown little indication of knowing so far that procedures must be followed and there are channels which must be taken. Perhaps understandably, in the cases of working on the property,

putting a trailer there and burning without permits, the International Peace Camp people have shown they think once a person obtains property they can do just whatever they want to do regardless of impact on neighbors. Canada is a free country, but a long way from being that free.

Regular weekend picnics for large numbers of people with loud speakers pumping out entertainment appears to be an ominous warning for the future if the recent past is any indication.

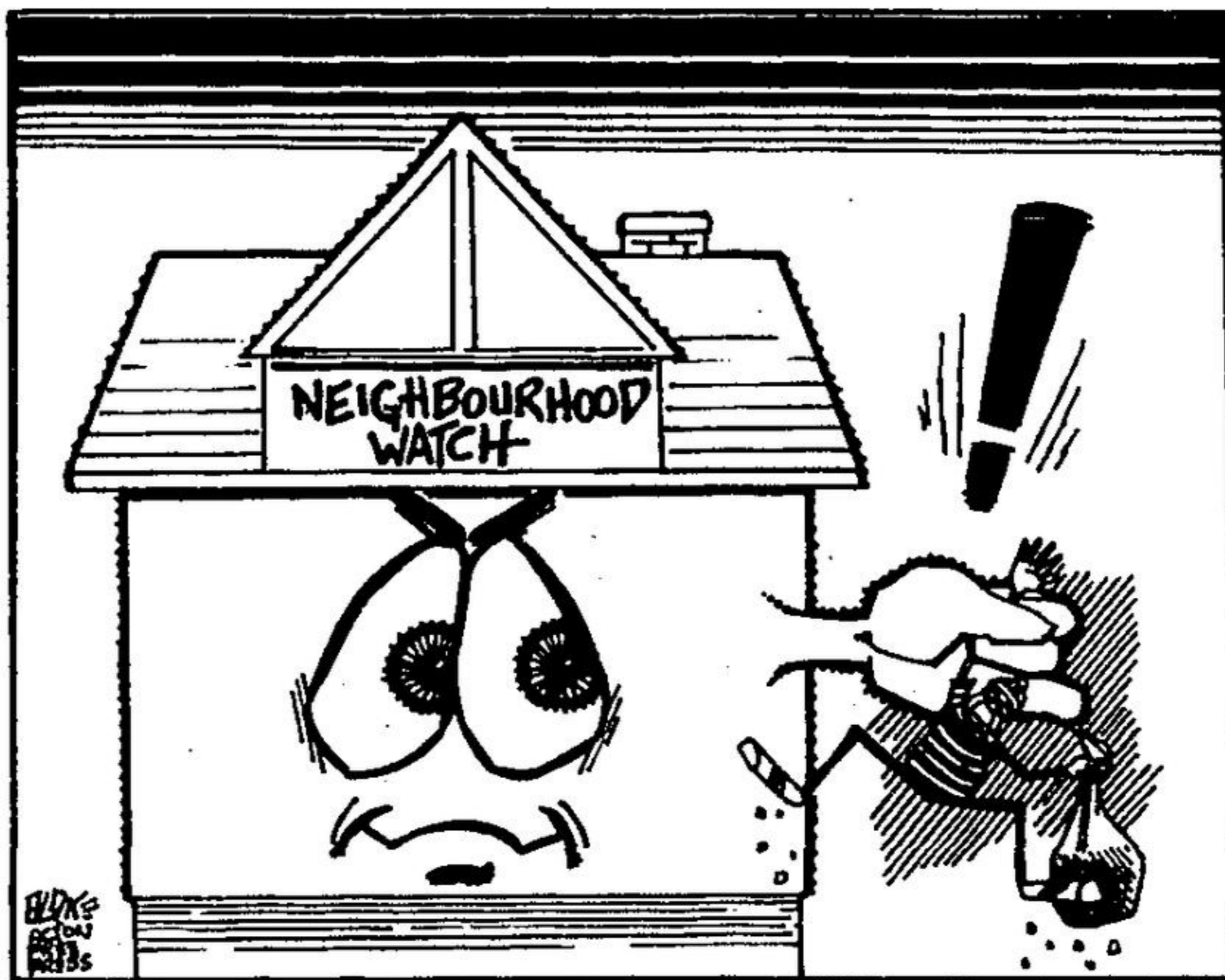
Fortunately the Niagara Escarpment Commission planners seem prepared to take a tough stand and try to institute controls which might minimize the impact of this new centre in Halton Hills compared to the Croatians and Yugoslavs. Also they seem prepared to give Halton Hills some control powers too, that is if the Town grabs the opportunity.

The NEC planners don't seem to be ready to let Halton Hills say control of this development rests completely with the NEC and have an easy scapegoat available, though that probably isn't what councillors would want to do anyway. We expect they'll push for every control possible of this development by the Commission and Town.

But, it will be tough to control activities and thus noise and other annoyances on this site, so unless the International Peace Camp truly wants to be a good neighbor there will be problems, behavior can't be legislated.

It is conceivable some council meetings this summer could be dominated by representatives of all three centres and neighbors of all three.

If that becomes the case, councillors should start keeping Tuesday nights open so they'll have time to meet a second time some weeks and take care of running the rest of the municipality G.M.



From the editor's desk

Brampton Billy future G.G.?

Here's a provincial, even national, scoop I didn't have to go through garbage to get. (At least I think it's a scoop, neither I nor the others who heard this news could recall hearing it before.)

Now that Bill Davis has decided not to try and snare Canada's top political post, opting instead to retain what many view as Canada's second most powerful political job, what can he really expect of the future?

Would you believe when Davis throws in the towel as head of Canada's longest running government that he'll take on our top ceremonial post? That's right, exclusively (I think) the Free Press is reporting that Bill Davis will someday be Canada's Governor General.

I'd love to say this is my own notion, particularly if it ever comes to pass, but alas I can't take credit for this little gem.

It was suggested to myself and a couple of others last week while a few of us were chewing the political fat.

I can't tell you who came up with the prediction, I didn't ask permission to use the person's name, mainly because at the time I wasn't thinking of using it in the paper, it seemed so preposterous.

But as I mulled it over, the more it made some sense. Never-the-less I don't think the person who posed this notion would want it attributed to them, so I won't even bother asking if I can reveal my source.

Suffice though to say I consider this man to be one of the most political, astute people I know, someone with a lot of years of watching the fascinating game behind them.

The source assured us they didn't have any inside information, they also suggested Davis hasn't even discussed this idea with anyone so it's not something that has been prearranged.

My "deep-throat" went on to say

since both the Liberals and Tories respect Premier Bill a lot, because Davis has been a fine Canadian and worked with people of both parties for the betterment of the nation, that it won't matter a bit who's in power when the time comes to appoint him to the post.

If it's a Liberal making the choice, well one Liberal already gave the job to an occasional ally from another party, an NDP'er at that.

If a Tory is making the choice, well the party does owe Davis a lot for the Big Blue Machine and keeping the PC string going over a decade longer in Ontario.

And, I suspect it's a job that when Davis is tired of politics he and his family might relish. All that pomp and ceremony still in the public eye, no tough decisions to make any longer.

He'd make a fine G.G. too, in my view. Considering my distaste for many things the Davis Conservatives have done in this province the past 10 years I could easily wind up deciding that was the job Brampton Billy should have had all along.

In conclusion, should this little prediction come to pass be sure to remember the Free Press had it first (I believe) without opening one green bag or spying any papers with a long lens.

One nice aspect of the Davis candidacy for leader of the national Conservatives, had he won, would have been a provincial leadership campaign to have some fun with.

I was reading the other day in the Star that guys like Dennis Timbrell, Gord Walker, Larry Grossman and Frank Miller will now have to cool their heels longer waiting for a shot at the top job since Davis intends to stay a while longer.

The article also listed some of the other contenders for the post,



by Gord Murray
Free Press editor

sort of the second bench or second string team.

There was Bette Stephenson, Roy McMurtry and one Alan Pope. He was described as a Davis protege and bright young light of the party.

After seeing this same bright light in Acton not too long ago look pretty dull, I found it difficult to believe he could be considered by anyone as premier material.

True, this might not have been a vintage Pope performance, though you'd wonder why he wouldn't come up with his best shot in a riding which hasn't gone Tory in three elections.

Heck, Pope didn't even come in uniform. A number of us who had never seen his photo tried to spot him coming into the high school that night. We were looking for a man in a tailored blue pinstripe or plain dark blue suit. An entourage would be trailing.

We saw this guy sitting outside the cafeteria in a beige corduroy suit looking at papers, and never gave the man a second look, we took him for a citizen. This guy was all by his lonesome.

That was Pope. Milt Farrow looked more like a cabinet minister than this guy from Timmins.

In fact Farrow handled himself on the podium more like a cabinet minister too.

Anyway, the thought of Pope as Tory leader someday must cheer Ontario Liberals and NDP supporters. Surely Peterson and Rae could beat this chap.

Back issues

10 years ago

May 9, 1973

An Acton man has been charged with murder following the discovery of the body of a 21-year-old Churchill Rd. woman. Milton OPP arrested the man and laid charges early this morning.

Roger McEachern, Jim McNabb, Ian Campbell and Bruce Swift spent more than 200 hours designing and building an electrostatic precipitator, Acton High School's entry in the Hamilton District Schools Science Fair, held at McMaster University.

Eighty Robert Little School students took part in a run-a-thon over the weekend to raise money for team jackets, athletic awards and supplies, and a graduation class trip to Ottawa. More than \$900 was raised.

Nassagaweya farmer Ken Jensen is demanding better dog control since his sheep herd was ravaged by dogs, killing 84 sheep.

20 years ago

May 9, 1963

Five Acton High School athletes were record-breakers at a district track and field meet over the weekend. Don Price, a high jumper, runner Allan Hall, pole-vaulter John Goy Jr., runner Keith Ranney and Rick Whyte hope to repeat their performances in the Central West Ontario Secondary School Association track meet this weekend.

A proposed \$85,000 Christian Education extension for Knox Presbyterian Church has been shelved temporarily following a church congregational meeting last week.

Jack Reid is chairman of Acton High School board. Reid was chosen at a special meeting of the board to replace former chairman Edgar Force.

More than \$1,100 was collected during April's Cancer Campaign, according to campaign chairman Tom Shields.

50 years ago

May 11, 1933

Eramosa council considered the wisdom of granting further relief. It was decided to relieve emergent cases for two weeks, at a maximum of \$2.50 per family per week.

Chief McPherson was authorized to interview all dog owners in town that were in arrears for dog tax and if tax is not paid, court proceedings are to be initiated and the dog destroyed.

In the Halton Music Festival in Milton, Ethel Franklin won second place for piano solo. Victor Bristow first for boys' solo; Vernon Agnew and Charles Tyler second for duet. Acton choir took several firsts. When the final results were summed up it was found that Mrs. M.R. Moore and Mrs. W. Gowdy had led the pupils of Acton school to another championship winning permanent possession of the trophy. This is the fourth year Acton has won the top trophy since the festival was organized five years ago.

75 years ago

May 7, 1908

A new metallic ceiling is being put in the council chambers. An outside woodshed will be built. The chandeliers in the auditorium are being cleaned.

Robert Agnew has died. He and his new wife left Scotland in 1856 and their trip to Canada, which took two months, was their wedding tour. They came directly to Esquevas and settled at Kennedy's saw mill where they conducted a boarding house. They came to Acton 40 years ago and became host and hostess of the old California Hotel and then took over the Royal Exchange. About 25 years ago Mr. Agnew bought the property on which the Dominion Hotel now stands and erected a commodious hotel. They disposed of the business to Mr. Lehman. Mr. Agnew was a hotel man far above average.

The young bachelors' ball in the town hall was very successful.

100 years ago

May 17, 1883

The first locomotive engine that ever ran in America passed through Acton en route to an exhibition in Chicago. It was built in 1830.

There was a snow storm May 16. We do not remember a spring with so many late frosts.

The fire bell rang forth its alarming peals and enquiry elicited the fact that the barn on the premises of the late Mrs. Samuel Speight, on Church and Willow Sts., was to flames. In a few minutes hundreds of our citizens were upon the scene, and finding that the building was beyond saving, directed their efforts to the adjoining buildings. The fire was originated by a son of Mrs. Robson playing with matches.

Coles' slaw

Strange lights, arc lights and demonstrators

Instinctively, when most people spot something strange in the night sky, they assume it is a plane or some other type of aircraft.

Monday was the kind of night when lights seemed brighter. A high pressure area numbed the senses. You could spot the lights of Toronto from Silvercreek hill. The cold wind made it inhospitable for humans outside. Most headed for the warmth and comfort of their homes. But one fellow, in Ballinacree, looked up—and saw something weird.

There only a few hundred feet in the air was a strange craft, with wings, gliding across the spring sky. It had lights, was clearly visible, but emitted no noise.

Curious as to whether his eyes were playing tricks on him, this young adult checked with other nearby people. Yes, they could see the thing, too. What was it?

The spotters saw it glide across the Fifth Line and across the Sixth, float over the Pad, and then head for Toronto.

A balloon? Nope, it had wings. A glider? At night and with power?

Obviously an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO), the type of thing no one likes to admit they saw.

A few years ago I saw strange sights in the skies, on nights similar to Monday, when even candles looked like 60 watt bulbs. Lights appeared over Fairy Lake, hovered there in the brisk wind. They pulsed.

Others saw them, too, and called me.

I never did find out what they were. And I suspect those who spotted the craft on Monday will never find out what they saw.

If you know and are not telling drop us a line at The Free Press. We're curious about what is floating around up there.

Just when it looked like Spring would never come, a warming trend started on Tuesday. The weatherman promises it could even make this weekend a delight to revel in. Spring flowers are blooming everywhere including the woods, and even the ducks on Fairy Lake are in the midst of their courting ritual.

Another sure sign of Spring? The lights on the baseball diamond and tennis courts in Prospect Park are encouraging dandelions in the park by staying on until close to the midnight hour.

A neighbor of mine said the lights make an illuminated landing strip for the wildfowl. However, when they turned them off at midnight he heard one duck make a crash landing... or maybe it was a quack landing. In any event we suspect the nocturnal habits of the ducks, geese and swans have changed because the lights stay on to show the rain where to fall, the stars where to shine and the night critters where to roam.

The old Town of Halton Hills must surely have grown up (we're ten years old this year) because we've got all kinds of money to spend on hydro.

Complaining? Me? Heck, no. The candlesticks light up my bedroom which faces onto the park. I can cut my lawn until midnight. Thieves and looters who might be lurking in the area are frightened off.

Maybe you noticed in Saturday's Toronto Star on Page 3, an interview with Kingston biologist Susan Clarke about the Mother's Day rally on Parliament Hill. What you may not have known is that Susan is the daughter of Lorna Clarke of Acton, who just recently retired

from the service of the Town after 22 years. Susan was raised here and lives in the Kingston area now with her husband and family.

Susan was one of the organizers of the demonstration which saw about 2,500 women and a handful of men brave bone chilling cold and a hail storm to link hands and form a human chain around the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings. Reason? They were protesting the production and testing of the Cruise missile in Canada, a hot potato if I ever saw one.

Women came from all over to participate in the demonstration carrying anti-nuclear banners and chanting.

"Put an end to the arms race. Not the human race."

Susan told a Star reporter they were following the example of women in Britain who about 30,000 strong, circled a missile base in England to protest Placement of missiles there. Mother's Day, they thought, would be a fitting time to protest.

One has to give Susan a lot of credit. She has the courage of her convictions, and isn't afraid to act on them. Ridiculous? I'm sure they get plenty especially from those



by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

who think they are agents of Moscow.

But, of course, they are right. If we do have that dreaded nuclear war there won't be many of us around to second-guess who was right or wrong. And those who are left aren't likely to be in very good shape either.

The question is—Do we avoid a nuclear disaster best by arming against an aggressor or appealing for everyone to lay down their arms and live in peace.

The latter, I hope, but the former I suspect.