

The Acton Free Press

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Muzzle the MOH

The assumptions of Halton MOH Dr. Peter Cole that a survey will find a lower health level in Acton than Georgetown and there would be a higher incidence of smoking and drinking in Acton are highly suspect.

Obviously Dr. Cole is putting the cart before the horse, suggesting the answers before the survey. And by so doing he has managed to convey the impression that the north of Halton and particularly Acton is an unsavory place in which few people would want to live.

We object to this especially from a public servant whom, we hope, the regional councillors of this area will suitably chastise.

As one Acton doctor commented, "Dr. Cole has prejudiced the survey with his assumptions and rendered any survey invalid."

Funded with a grant of \$38,000 by the Ministry of Health the survey purportedly is designed to evaluate the level of health of Halton people by way of surveys which will reach homes in the fall. The MOH has said the number of elderly people in Halton has risen "dramatically" in the past few years making a study like this a necessity. He notes that such a survey

has never been done before in Halton, to his knowledge.

We would ask then how he could possibly assume health levels in the south of Halton are superior to those in the north of Halton if there are no previous records on which to base the assumptions. Does Dr. Cole then base his assumptions on his knowledge of the north or is he grandstanding for the press?

Since appointed medical officer of health, Dr. Cole has maintained a high profile and his often controversial statements have engendered criticism but he goes too far in his public assumptions about Acton.

Surveys, especially when there are assumptions made public ahead of time, prove nothing. They can be tailored to fit the assumptions especially the one about the elite of Halton are domiciled in the affluent south, where believe it or not there are plenty of people struggling to make a living.

We would suggest that before Dr. Cole spouts off again about conditions here and in the rest of the north he thinks before his tongue wags. Far better for him to have said nothing about his assumptions and let the survey speak for itself.

-H.C.

Why hydro bills high

One reason why hydro bills are going higher and higher was amply demonstrated last week when a senior official at Ontario Hydro said the utility may walk away from one of two heavy water plants built at a cost of 1.1 billion.

According to testimony before the Ontario Energy Board the reason for the shutdown is there is hardly enough work for one of the plants and engineers are unsure whether it is feasible to reserve and protect the other one for future use.

Most likely Hydro will close down the older of the two plants, called Bruce Heavy Water Plant A, which cost \$235 million and first went into service 10 years ago. The newer facility, Plant B, was one of three Hydro decided to build in 1974 during a world-wide

shortage of heavy water and at a time when demand for electricity was growing so fast some experts estimated it would quadruple by the end of the century.

The evidence is continuing to pile in that Ontario Hydro vastly overestimated the future demand for electrical power. Officials of the utility try to explain it all by showing they were not the only ones, that the slowdown was reflected across the country. However, Hydro's expectations were being continuously challenged by reputable people at the time they decided to expand. The utility's intractability compounded the error and the consumer will have to foot the bill, whereas in the private sector the cost was borne by the companies involved.

-H.C.



Coles' slaw

Musings in the heat

Aren't you glad we have an efficient, well trained volunteer fire department? They proved again Sunday night they can handle the most difficult fires under extremely trying conditions of heat and smoke. Their prompt action probably saved an extra downtown business block from turning into a raging inferno.

Sunday was the kind of day most people would have preferred being immersed in Fairy Lake or in someone's back yard pool rather than donning heavy firefighting equipment. Sunday's heat was already exhausting and with the added encumbrance of equipment think how uncomfortable the firefighters must have been.

This hat is off to the chief, his staff, and all the volunteers who literally knocked themselves out while they fought that stubborn blaze. I happened to be in Milton at a barbecue for some touring American publishers when the fire was at its height. A phone call about 9 p.m. from an editor who passed through Acton, saw hundreds of people congregated, the fire trucks and ambulances and assumed the whole business block was being consumed.

My wife and I rushed home. By the time we arrived the worst was over but there were still many people downtown watching firefighters and helpers quell the flames. Perhaps some were there to watch the fireworks which had to be postponed until Monday night since the sponsoring firefighters were busy with more important things. So what if we celebrated Canada Day on the U.S. national holiday July 4.

As I told you we were at a barbecue for newspaper publishers from the United States. One of them happened to be from Hartley, Iowa, a coincidence that caused

some merriment when we saw one another's name tags. Hartley is not a common name in this country although I have seen hotels in both this country and England called Hartley House.

Readers have asked me how I got the name, assuming it was a family heirloom or something. I was curious about it myself one time and asked my mother.

"How come you called me Hartley instead of Bob, Jim, George or Horace?" I said.

"Oh, your father wanted to call you that," she said, "But don't ask me why. Ask him."

So I went to my father and asked him the same question.

"Why did you call me Hartley. Am I named after someone famous in the family?"

"Nope," he replied. "Don't ask me. Ask your mother. She wanted to call you that."

So that solved that question. No one wanted to call me Hartley so it was a mistake. Never rectified, I've been stuck with it for good or bad for decades. It has had its embarrassing moments as well as its high points.

For instance, during my stretch in the old Acton public school we were asked to exchange letters with pupils in Stettler, Alberta. My pen pal, by return mail, asked me whether I was a boy or a girl, the ultimate insult at that age and time. I was so piqued I never wrote back. Let him or her guess.

But what's in a name, anyway. Who cares whether you're Jim, Charlie or Don? Except maybe if you're called Pierre or Ronnie. Then you might be in trouble as I surmised from remarks from other newspaper people at that barbecue on Jim Dills' shady lawns. American publishers had little good to say about Ronnie Reagan.



by Hartley Coles
Managing Editor

Canadian publishers were even less friendly towards Pierre.

It's always the way. The government in power is the goat while the opposition looks good while they're in opposition. When the roles are reversed we still gripe. I've never been a Conservative, a member of the NDP or a Liberal, as Gord Murray suggests in his column some weeks, but I have done a lot of reading and travelling. The more I see the more convinced I am this is one of the best countries in the world, despite all the griping.

Those who complain about Trudeau are often myopic with no appreciation of how complex this country's problems are and how easy it is to say someone else could handle them better.

Probably the prime minister outside of Sir Wilfrid Laurier who is most honored is the first one, Sir John A. MacDonald. He was a real rogue at times, consistently at odds with public opinion. His determination to build a railroad across the country was never really appreciated by his foes, who only emphasized the scandals and any other dirt they could dig up. Sir John A. is now portrayed as the father of this country. The railroad is portrayed as the savior of British North America.

Trudeau recently appeared on TV in what some people described as a monologue with himself. Proof (Continued on Page 13)

Back issues

10 years ago

July 4, 1973

Acton High School has nine Ontario Scholars this year. They are Doline DeHaies, Jo-Anne Vlietstra, John Hamilton, Anita Braida, Corinne Maxwell, Laurie Machan, Antonia Mubar, Irene Fiedler and Loraine McDonald.

Hundreds of Acton residents lined the CN tracks last week in hopes of glimpsing a smile and a wave from a royal personage who was just passing through the town. The Royal train came... and thundered through, leaving bystanders disgruntled and disappointed. No sign could be seen of the Queen and the Duke.

Public meetings are underway to determine the route of a 500 kv hydro corridor through southern Ontario from Middleport to Pickering.

Acton Reeve G.W. McKenzie says he will contest the Acton regional representative seat in the upcoming municipal elections for the new regional government.

Opening day of bass season was an event for eight-year-old Paul Phelan. Paul latched onto a 15-inch largemouth bass in Fairy Lake.

20 years ago

July 4, 1963

Residents are objecting to the rezoning and sale of parkland on Mill St. East in a letter to the Ontario Department of Planning and Development.

Ron Lewis recently took over as president of Acton Rotary Club.

Trinity United Church will sell the church's present parsonage at Bower Ave. and Willow Street. Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Hansen celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Sunday.

Acton High School students will see six new high school teachers next fall. They are Marilyn Way, Dianne McConnell, John Davidson, Ronald Holmes, Edward Curtis and Patrick Sullivan.

50 years ago

June 29, 1933

The pupils of Miss Vita E. Stephenson, A.T.C.M. held a very successful recital on Monday evening. The following pupils took part: Jean Fraser, Donald Ryder, George Williams, Jimmie Jones, Mary Young, Phyllis Mackie, Paddy Harrison, Patricia Harrop and Margaret Arnold.

On Monday Mr. George W. Beardmore, celebrated his 82nd birthday. Mr. Beardmore is president of Beardmore Leathers Ltd. which is Acton's largest industry.

The school board has found it necessary to make a change in the personnel of the Continuation School staff recently engaged. Miss Dorothy Kidd, BA asked to be allowed to accept another position which suited her better and the board agreed to the cancellation of her engagement. Miss Marian E. Mortimer BA of Auburn, Ontario has been engaged at a salary of \$950, which is a further saving to the board of \$250.

75 years ago

August 13, 1908

Those who passed their Normal Entrance are Mabel Chapman, Winnie Grindell, Annie Harvey and Annie Henderson; Matriculation: Warren Brown, Mr. Ray Watson, who is at Brown's Drug Store, was successful in the matriculation examination at Georgetown.

The erection of Mr. John Cameron's fine new brick house on Main St. has necessitated the removing of part of his planing mill. The building was erected by Mr. Thos. Ebbage for a pump factory 47 years ago.

Over 300 from here took the Firemen's Excursion to Niagara Falls, accompanied by the band.

100 years ago

July 12, 1883

The heavy wind Monday completely demolished the big willow tree which stood on Messrs. Christie and Henderson's property at the corner of Willow and Bower Ave. This tree originated the name of Willow St.

One of our villagers living at the head of Mill St. was mowing hay in the public streets on Sunday, much to the annoyance of those present. The new fast train between Chicago and Boston will pass through Acton. It makes only two or three stoppages.

Last week Messrs. W.H. Storey and Son shipped to Winnipeg 14 cases of gloves, invoiced at \$4,500. Two new travellers were put on the road this week.

The lecture in the Presbyterian church, "Baptism-Immersion vs. Sprinkling," was largely attended. Mr. R. Little was chairman.



Gotcha!

Kids will be kids the world over. Helen Murray caught this one up to small boys' tricks at the opening of the Yugoslav Cultural Centre on Highway 25, Sandav afternoon.

noon. Perhaps the girls appreciated the cooling water in Sunday's 90 degree Fahrenheit temperatures.

Fed up with cats

Dear Sir:
May I be permitted a few comments on the recent articles over nuisance dogs, barking dogs and the stoop and scoop bylaw. First let me say that I am a dog owner and I know there can be little as infuriating as seeing an uncaring, selfish and disrespectful dog owner walking his pet and permitting it to leave its droppings on public and private property, not only should the owner clean it up but he should also be fined. Perhaps in addition to the stoop and scoop bylaw, consideration should be given to a bylaw limiting the number of dogs and/or cats allowed per household.

This now brings me to the point of my letter: CATS! In this neighborhood, causing bad feelings towards neighbors is not a problem unique to dog owners. Cats also do their fair share of causing problems. Why do cat owners feel their feline pets have some divine right which permits it to roam unmolested throughout the neighborhood doing whatever, whenever and wherever it so chooses? What odor can be more objectionable than that of a Tomcat as he marks out his territory which may and does include bushes, verandahs, doors, etc.? I am infuriated when a cat casually but arrogantly strolls through my garden leaving its paw prints and neat little mounds in the soft sandy soil which he seems to feel is his own personal "litter

box". What can be as disturbing than to be jolted out of a deep sleep by the howl, wail, snarl and spitting of two cats in a fight?

How is one to react at the sight of garbage strewn about the floor of the garage?

Cat owners, I am fed up with cats leaving their paw prints and droppings in my gardens, I am sick and tired at the sight of garbage strewn about and hearing cats in my garage, in spite of buying a garbage can and making a concerted effort at keeping the garage door closed. This is to say nothing of the paw prints found on car hoods, rooves and trunks.

The nuisance dog and the nuisance cat have one thing in common, a selfish, uncaring, disrespectful and ignorant owner. However, not all cat owners fall into this category, some of my cat owning neighbors are quite the opposite. To these cat owners who do see yourself in this criticism, i.e. putting the cat or cats out at night, letting him come and go as he pleases, leaving them to roam freely while away on weekends or vacation, etc., why not take time-out to recognize your neighbors rights and respect his property as you would wish to have the stoop and scoop bylaw enforced? Let's not let pets become a nuisance and cause ill feelings between neighbors.

Respectfully,
Bill Johnson
Rosemary Rd.