

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Get out and vote

When Canadians go to the polls on Tuesday, September 4 the campaign narrows down to the election of a suitable candidate in our own riding of Halton. Otto Jelinek, the incumbent, has represented us in the last three sessions of Parliament as a member of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

How effective has Mr. Jelinek been? Has he done much for Acton and area? These are all questions we must ask as he faces opposition from Liberal challenger Oriana Currie, candidate Kevin Flynn and Green Party candidate Chris Kowalchuk.

Unless there is a sudden change in the minds of thousands of voters the only candidate with the support to topple the incumbent is Mrs. Currie, a neophyte in the political world, who may strike the right note in many women's hearts.

Mrs. Currie also is a resident of a small village and so she understands the problems of rural and small town people, a big plus in the northern end of Halton. She also took over and operated her husband's business after his death which shows she knows her way around the business world.

Mr. Jelinek, on the other hand, is a professional politician with a wealth of experience behind him. He has been a member of the shadow cabinet as the small business critic and a member of various committees in the Commons.

He was one of the movers behind the ouster of Joe Clark as leader of the Tories and supported Brian Mulroney in his successful leadership drive. He has kept an active profile in this end of the riding buttressed, of course, by his appearances as the commentator on the CTV network in Skate Canada and other

competitions. Mr. Jelinek and his sister were pairs champions of the world before he entered politics.

There's no doubt that Otto Jelinek has an inside track for a cabinet minister's post should the Tories form the next government.

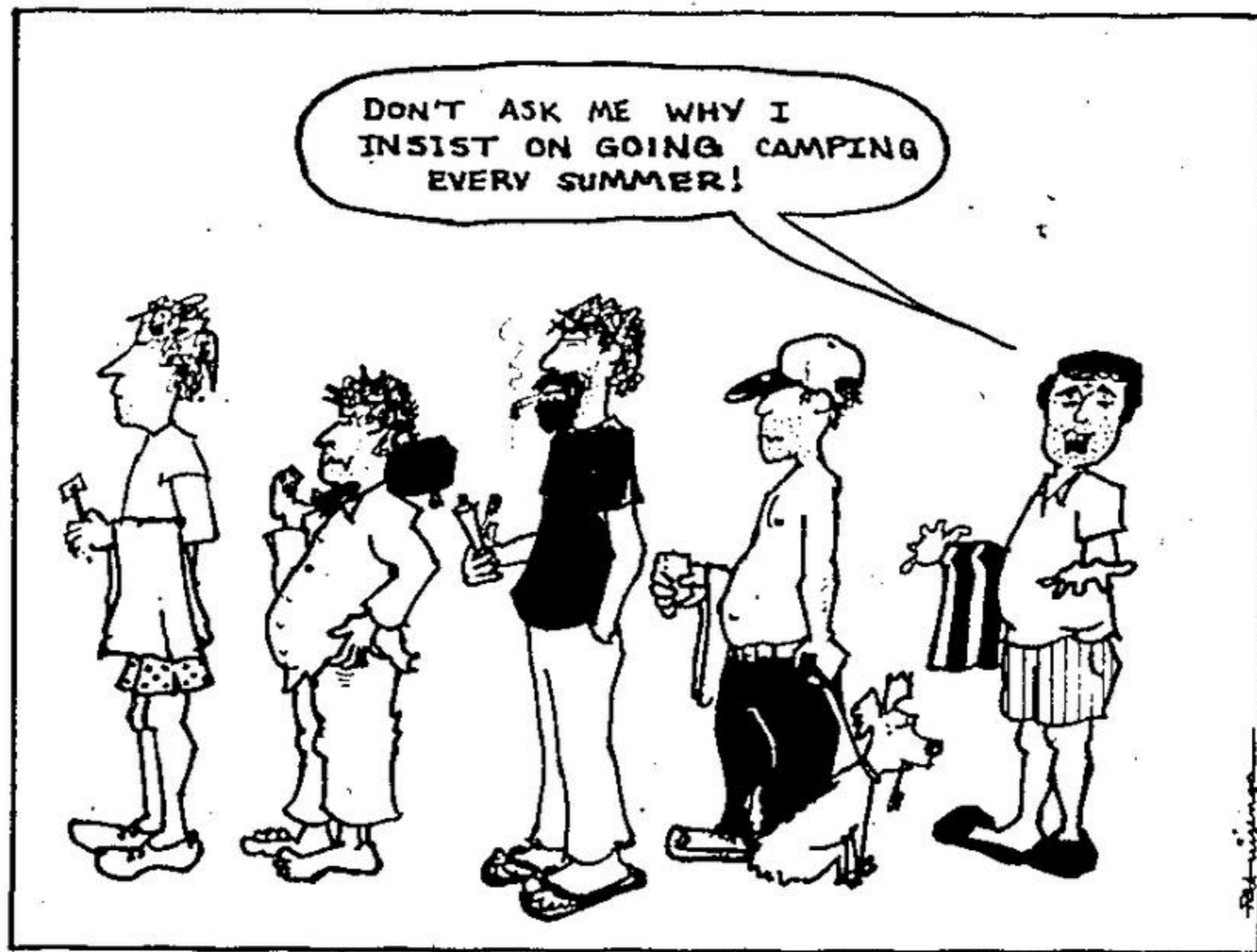
At this writing the Conservative Party has assumed it will form the next Government of Canada although the Liberal cause may be gaining as Mr. Turner recaptures some of the support he lost with foot-in-mouth performances early in the campaign.

Mr. Mulroney, on the other hand, has performed almost flawlessly in a role patterned after President Ronald Reagan. He's done the right things at the right time and wooed the discontented with a mixture of platitudes and promises, never disclosing what they would cost the taxpayers.

The star of the TV debates has not been Mr. Mulroney or Mr. Turner but Ed Broadbent, leader of the New Democratic Party. In the event of a minority government the NDP could very well be the power that sways government opinion but have little hopes of forming a government. Through the years many of their policies have been adopted by both the Liberals and the Conservatives. A vote for their candidate in Halton may only be a gesture of disapproval of the two old parties or an endorsement of their policies.

In any event this newspaper feels voters should rely on their own knowledge of the candidates and their policies to vote knowledgeably on September 4. We think it is important every one does exercise their franchise.

Vote for the candidate and party of your choice next Tuesday.



Our readers write

Caboosesless trains pose threat

Following is a letter to the mayor and council of Halton Hills re the removal of cabooses from CN and CP trains. It was filed with this newspaper for publication.

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

I hope that you will do everything possible to stop an unsafe condition from happening in our community and in other municipalities. The subject matter concerns itself with something that would estimate 90 per cent of the people living in Canada take for granted—trains.

Trains are a part of our lives and our heritage and it is time we started to think about them because the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways intend to run trains all across Canada without cabooses. Action of this sort will leave the public exposed to an unsafe and hazardous condition 365 days of the year.

On an average, trains are 6800 feet and longer with most but not all carrying dangerous commodities. These trains run at any given time because train time is any time.

At this point I would like to jog council's memory. In 1983 CN Rail, from what I understand, presented to councillors, fire chiefs and the police of our community a film clip on dangerous commodities. If you saw this clip you will get an even better understanding of what I am trying to explain. In the film clip it showed that full documentation can be had from the conductor in the caboose on any train carrying dangerous commodities to be given to those when required if a train was derailed.

At this point let us look at a hypothetical but quite possible situation if a derailment took place on a train in our community without a caboose and all the crew on the head of the train. If this crew were injured where would those people (fire fighters, police and rail clean up crews) get the required information readily enough as not to endanger the public? Who would be able to tell you if there was or was not dangerous commodities involved? By the time the rail company got involved, and if dangerous commodities were present, it would be too late.

Another aspect of this hypothetical, but quite possible situation, is the length of the trains. If there was such a derailment too many streets might be blocked leaving a town cut in half and access to medical help may be impossible. If there wasn't a derailment but just a train breakdown, with the problem near the rear of the train, it would take twice as long to fix it with all the crew being at the head end of the train.

I would not want to be sick and in need of quick medical aid andulance at a crossing. It is a known fact in some areas a train can block two or three concession roads at once if stopped for any reason.

CN Rail Company intends to put the tail end crew up on the head of their trains to do a job which should be done from the rear of all trains. By doing this they will have to do away with a list of rules. (A code of rules to run trains by under the

Railway Act and company rules.) The rail companies seem to think saving money is better than the safety of the public by replacing the caboose with a little black computerized box.

The companies will probably get their way because the people who control the railroads (The Board of Transport) are all ex-railroad officials and it is not hard to see why so much comradeship goes on between them. The rail companies ask how and the Board of Transport shows them the way!

We will all suffer if the rail companies get their way. The Board of Transport have tentatively given CN Rail permission to test the running of caboosesless trains as of August 7, 1984. I hope the Town of Halton Hills, through its council, seek action to stop the testing of any trains through its municipality by any means that is possible.

We do not allow car companies to road test automobiles through our towns so why should we let the railroads? In this fight we need your support so that the people of our community and others can live in an environment to which they so readily deserve.

Yours truly,
J.A. Lepki
Concerned Ratepayer Halton Hills,
Trainman Canadian National Railways
Nortown and Washago Health and Safety Rep. Tail End U.T.U. 1130
Legislative Rep. Local U.T.U. 1130

Back issues

10 years ago

August 28, 1974

The seven new letter carriers will begin their duties at Acton Post Office this Friday. Six are men—one a female mail carrier. They are Gerald Lamarche, Stanley Eckstein, George Forrest, Lloyd Smallwood, Dan Arbic, Rodney McEachern and Margaret Bedard. Another Ontario Scholar from Acton high school is Debra Bousfield who completed her five years of high school in four by attending summer school. She received 87 per cent.

20 years ago

August 27, 1964

Members of the Acton Recreation Committee at their regular meeting Thursday appointed John Goy to fill the post of chairman for the balance of 1964 following the resignation of Jack Bullough.

About 340 tons of cement was poured at the arena Wednesday as a steady flow of cement trucks lined up at the rear of the building waiting to be unloaded as the new \$10,174 cement floor was installed.

Acton Mayor Les Duby and clerk administrator Jack McGeachie are attending the OMA conference in London. Reeve H.H. Hinton is there also as a representative of Halton County council.

50 years ago

August 23, 1934

A special meeting of the School Board was held on Monday evening to consider the applications for the position on the staff made vacant by the death of Mrs. M.R. Moore. There were a multitude of applications and Miss Teresa F. Hunt of Oakville was engaged. Miss Hunt has been on the Oakville staff for the past four years and has had some experience in teaching music in the schools.

A concert by the Acton Citizens' Band in Guelph on Sunday evening proved very popular with the city audience.

Secretary Wright has received word that Hon. Duncan Marshall, Ontario's new Minister of Agriculture, has accepted the invitation of the directors and will officially open the Acton Fair of 1934.

75 years ago

August 26, 1909

A well-remembered old-time landmark to old Speight saw mill at the dam on the pond at the tannery has during the past week been entirely removed. Messrs. Beardmore and Co. purchased from R.R. Sinclair, the owner, the remnants of this historic structure and removed it to permit some permanent improvement to the tannery walls and roadway adjacent.

If the street crossings were swept off again they would not be so muddy after a rain or when the street sprinklers passed.

Mr. John R. Watson is building a new cement block house on his lot on Main St.

100 years ago

August 28, 1884

We are pleased to notice that Rev. Eleazer W. Sibbald—an old Acton boy—now rector of Christ Church, Belleville, is engaged in the present Scott Act campaign in that county.

The Free Press is read by 34,000 persons weekly.

Messrs. Beardmore and Co. have commenced a shipment of sole leather at their manufactory.

You forgot your lamps one or two nights this week, didn't you Mr. Lamplighter? Do not let it occur again if you please.

On Tuesday last Mr. Arch.T. Mann, on the farm of his father Mr. Peter Mann, near Acton cut and bound 16 acres of oats in nine and a half hours with a Brantford Binder.

Clergy comment:

Measure election decision on the words of Jesus

While I'm not counting down days until Sept. 4 I must confess that elections bring out the passionate fervor that is a part of me. Besides the Olympics, which occur only once every four years, I can't think of anything else that draws the attentions of Canadians into single focus.

As a proclaimer of the Christian life I would like to think that the political sphere reflects a genuine interest and untarnished concern for the welfare of all Canadian people. However I'm also enough of a realist to recognize that smooth oratory can contain sincere motives mixed with a little hunger for influential office. So, when election promises begin to flourish and statements of projected commitments are declared, my political blood begins to pump rapidly with concerns that reflect my bias toward Christian principles of justice and kindness.

Most Canadians, it seems, agree on the basics: economic recovery, deficit reduction, equality for women, jobs for youth, justice for the elderly and peace in our world. The arguments begin when methodologies and time-frames are discussed.

I want to know specifically about methods, costs and timing. To raise these kinds of questions is to take the first step toward caring and discerning the signs of the times in which we live. Are the proposed reforms compassionate? Are they getting at the root causes of inequality and oppression? Does this party care deeply enough to remain with hands at the plough even if the struggle gets messy, costly and controversial?

The morning after the night before it will be "back to business as usual". I hope simply that we will measure our decisions carefully and over against the words Jesus used for his time and ours:

"I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you took me in,
naked and you clothed me,
In prison and you visited me...
Whenever you did to one of the least of these
You did to me."

The Rev. M. Jean Stahs, M.A., B.A., M. Div.
Minister, Acton Baptist Church

Why delay?

Dear Editor,
I am a Canadian Citizen since 1955 when I immigrated from Poland. In 1983 I met my wife who is also an immigrant from Poland. I am finding impossible to comprehend the reasons why we have not been able to obtain status here in Canada for her.

In October, 1983, we called John McDermid and told him of our situation and received a reply February 16, 1984.

As per Mr. McDermid's suggestion we contacted the immigration department. That's when things really got rolling or so we thought, I was to bring my wife for an interview and I did. They wanted a second one with an interpreter so again we appeared. However, it turned out to be an interrogation rather than an interview with the RCMP and an officer of immigration as well as the interpreter present for three hours. A decision was to come in two to four weeks. Six weeks later we were informed there was to be a hearing on May 4, 1984.

At that time we decided to get a lawyer, so through a local office, McCarthy & McCarthy was suggested. Since attaining our attorney Mitchell Wine, the hearing for May 4, was moved ahead to June 12, which was also moved forward to August 10, 1984, and now been adjourned until November 9/84.

At this point the prolonging of this matter has only been upsetting and costly. Is it necessary for us to wonder if my wife will be deported each time a hearing comes up?

Ted Widmont
RR 1, Limehouse.



The quilt makers

One of the attractions along Mill St. during the Leather-town Ciderfest was the quilt made by the Lakeview Villa Tenants' Association. It featured the old Acton coat of arms, which was presented to this community by the Lord Mayor of Acton, England, back in antiquity and used to hang in the town hall council chambers.

Isabel Watson headed up the quilt makers who were meticulous in the detail, especially on the coat of arms, and the quilt is the prize for a lucky draw, proceeds of which will go towards a piano for the recreation room in Lakeview Villa, Acton's largest Senior Citizen residence.

Here, Jessie Roden and Gladys Davidson show off their handiwork.

Letters to the editor
are welcome

RR2



When you stop smoking
the stress can drive you
to drink.