

# Peoples Forum

## Acton Firefighters express thanks

Citizens of Acton and area:

The Acton Santa Claus Parade keeps getting bigger and better which is only made possible by the generous donations of many people.

On behalf of the Acton Firefighters Association I wish to express my sincere thanks, to all the businesses and industry who donated money towards the cost; to Steve Dawkins and the Olde Hide House for sponsoring Miss Dominion of Canada and the Guelph Royalaires for providing the float to bring Santa to town in such fine style; to Dave and Mike Manes of Acton IGA; Bill Dawkins, CJOY Radio Guelph; Dare Foods Ltd., Milton and the residents of Maria St. Apart-

ments for their generous donations of all the candy for the children along the parade route; to Capital Ford Sales Acton for supplying the vehicles for the dignitaries; to Halton Regional Police; to the Acton Free Press; to all who entered floats; to the float judges; to the clowns - and especially to all of you for your enthusiasm and fine turnout along the parade route. Without each and every one of you the parade would not be possible.

My congratulations to the float winners: Best Overall - Acton

Lions Club. Best School - MacKenzie-Smith Middle School. Best Service Club - Acton Optimist Club. Best Other - Rocky Lane Farms.

We are already planning next year's parade, to be held November 16, 1991 and I look forward to seeing you all again.

Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year.

Sincerely,  
Wm. R. Spielvogel,  
Chairman, Santa Claus Parade Committee, Acton Fire Fighters Association.

## Who is responsible?

Dear Editor:

Monday evening, November 19th, at the General Committee Meeting in Halton Hills, the subject once again was water!!

Mr. Gord Vandervalk of R.R.3, Milton, wished to address the committee on that issue. His concern for the water situation in Halton Hills is one which should concern us all. Whether we live in the rural areas or in a town condominium, we all rely on the same water supply - wells. Taxpayers deserve to know who takes the final responsibility to ensure an adequate quantity of this life-sustaining necessity.

Meeting after meeting this subject of availability of water is raised and the concerns are quickly passed over or ignored and no municipal or regional agency takes responsibility for

our future supply. Ignoring this thorny problem will not make it disappear. As long as this council continues to treat each development proposal on a site specific basis, without considering the overall impact of total development in the area, we all stand to suffer. The day you don't have water running from the tap, it is too late and the remedy is too costly, and we the taxpayers will have to foot the bill!

Who is responsible? Is it not time for a full hydrogeological assessment of the whole area? Where are the brave souls who will insist that this be done? Mr. Vandervalk, and others before him, have faced the council and asked these questions. When are we going to get an answer?

Sincerely,  
Hickory Falls  
Ratepayers Association.

## Auto club favors lower premiums

Dear Sir:

In the Ontario Government's Throne Speech, it was mentioned there is a need for an expanded transit system. Hamilton Automobile Club President, Richard Congdon says, "Better public transit is only a part of the program." There must be a balanced approach between public transit and the use of the automobile.

Road maintenance and construction must be given a higher priority to increase road capacity and improve the decline of roads and bridges.

Mr. Congdon says a paved road has a useful life span of about 25 years. Without repaving, it will last only about 15 years. Ill maintained roads cost 36 per cent more than a road that is regularly looked after. Ontario has a total of 21,271 kilometres of roads under provincial jurisdiction - many of which are at best in poor to fair condition.

The Club President emphasized the automobile as the most

favoured choice of people to transport themselves to and from work and for shopping, recreational and social activities.

Over the past few years, the Hamilton Automobile Club has been very active in making submissions on automobile insurance. The Club welcomes the opportunity to provide its expertise in the design of a better system through the Government's consultations.

The Hamilton Automobile Club is in favor of a system of insurance that will lower the cost of insurance premiums, or at the very least offer the promise of containing future increases in insurance premiums to modest levels. Whether the system is government-run or privately-run is not a concern of the Hamilton Automobile Club. The Club believes auto insurance should be affordable to all who drive and the risks assessed on a fair, impartial and non-discriminatory basis.

Thank you,  
Hamilton Automobile Club.

## No help from Turner

Editor's note: A copy of the following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Mr. Garth Turner M.P.  
Halton-Peel  
27 Main Street South  
Georgetown, Ont.

Dear Mr. Turner:  
In June 1990 I contacted your office to ask you, my M.P., to look into a tax matter. On July 12th I received your letter requesting me to sign an authorizing form in order for you to obtain personal information regarding my taxes, which I signed and returned to you.

Realizing this would take time, I waited. Not receiving a reply by the first part of November, I contacted your office again and was told this matter would be looked into. Again - nothing!

I have given you written authorization to obtain personal information about me - what have you done with it? I am feeling at risk!

Recently you sent around a pamphlet asking "what do you think?" Obviously you don't care what I think. I asked you for help 5 months ago and I haven't heard from you yet!

Sincerely,  
Jan Quirk, Acton.

## Offensive column

Editor's note: In the Letter to the Editor which appeared in the Halton Hills Herald, Nov. 28th under the headline 'Snobbery', quotation marks were inadvertently left out, possibly leading readers to misconstrue the letter writer's point. The Herald regrets the typographical error. The corrected letter is reprinted below.

Dear editor,

Smokers can do without John Sommer's help. His ideas wreak of snobbery. He states, "Today, only the poor smoke and those who disregard their health."

"If smoking would still be a habit of the upper classes nobody would dare to attack them!"

How offensive! I can't believe this is the voice of "ideas and the arts" in Halton Hills.

Jane Gadoutsis,  
Glen Williams.

## Opinion

# Global warming issue neglected by media

By JIM FULTON  
M.P. Skeena

NDP Environment Spokesman  
Canada's media has turned a blind eye to the surest threat facing our species. Certainly the threat of War in the Persian Gulf deserves covering. Certainly the explosion of world population from 5 billion to 10 billion or more over the next 60 years deserves coverage. The death of 40,000 youngsters every day from preventable disease and starvation deserves coverage. Nuclear War, pollution - the list goes on.

The question I raise is why the dismal coverage given to the 2nd World Climate Conference held in Geneva this month? One Canadian reporter, Anne McIlroy of Southam capably covered the event and the reality of Global Warming; the surest threat to our survival.

The World Scientific Community reached consensus that there will be warming of 2 to 5 degrees Centigrade and a sea level rise of 300-100 cm. during the next century. All other consequences aside it is estimated that the costs to protect Canadian property alone from a one meter sea-rise is 9.5 billion dollars!

Scientists concluded that a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions over the next 15 years is technically and economically feasible for all countries.

To stabilize concentrations of Greenhouse Gases at about 50 per cent above pre-industrial concentrations by the middle of the next century will require worldwide reductions of net CO2 emissions by 1 to 2 per cent per year.

Canada proceeded in Geneva to endorse the conclusions of the scientists and then to propose

that Canada will only stabilize CO2 emissions by the year 2000. This position flies in the face of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment Report; "No Time To Lose". This unanimous All-Party report concluded (after hearing over 60 witnesses and over 200 submissions in the past year) that Canada must at minimum reduce CO2 emissions 20 per cent from 1988 levels by 2005 A.D.

Why? Because the Committee believes that the threat of Global Warming is serious and steps must be taken now. Canadians are the fifth largest per capita emitters of Carbon Dioxide on Earth. Only nations like Bahrain or the United Arab Emirates are larger than our 4.5 tons per capita per year!

So, one might ask, why, when the scientific community of the world has reached consensus on the steps necessary to protect the Earth's atmosphere does a wealthy country like Canada say "forget it"?

Why would Canada's media give so little attention to such an important issue?

The only answer I can come up with is that certain key sectors feel threatened. The forest industry (Canada's largest industry, employer and source of balance of trade) know that recent scientific discoveries have concluded that northern temperate forests are a vital carbon sink. 143 countries concluded at the World Climate Conference that all countries must reduce the rate of deforestation. With 10 per cent of the world's forests; Canada's lumber and pulp barons do not want that discussed; let alone debated in Canada.

The fossil fuel sector, primarily

located in Western Canada, know that the best reduction in carbon dioxide come from conservation, energy efficiency and fuel switching. Each and every one of these is seen as a threat to the profits of the pump-it-out, dig-it-up, sell-it-cheap mentality of Canada's fossil fuel barons.

Did you know, or for that matter has it ever been discussed in Canada's media, that the burning of 1 gallon of gasoline (weight about 8 pounds) releases 20 pounds of carbon dioxide? It takes a healthy large tree a whole

year to remove 20 pounds of carbon back out of the atmosphere. It requires about 2 acres of healthy natural forest to remove the CO2 release of each Canadian (4.5 tons per year).

The connection is clear. Canada's most powerful and well connected resource-consuming industries are threatened on their bottom line. They are frightened at the prospects of change.

I am ashamed of Canada's media for not covering this issue. Is the cross-industry ownership and lobbying so strong that this

issue deserves no coverage?

Global warming is real. It is more of a threat than nuclear war. So far it is silent. The world community listened last week to the pleas of the tiny island nations that will cease to exist with a 1 meter sea rise.

If Canada's media had covered the conference, global warming would be headline news. Survival matters more than "business as usual". We must cut our carbon dioxide emission and Canadians deserve to know why.

