

Non-smoking by-law hot topic

BY WENDY LONG

The Acton Tanner

Despite the intensity of Acton development issues, a proposed commercial non-smoking by-law proved to be one of the most contentious items at Monday night's Town Council meeting.

The Halton Regional Health Department forwarded a report based on an investigation of other municipalities' by-laws (over 100) already in effect, with the note that they hope a by-law will be effective here by September.

Under the proposed by-law, smoking would be prohibited completely in retail stores, shopping

mall concourses, service lines, reception areas and health care facilities — save for a designated area.

As well, among the recommendations was that a minimum of 50 per cent of the floor area of a restaurant be designated as non-smoking, with restaurants of under 30 seats exempt.

Councillors expressed concern about the classification of restaurant and whether that includes pubs, taverns, and the like, which attract an evening clientele with different needs.

Acton councillor Gerald Rennie stressed that in a small pub of 32

seats, having 16 designated smoking and 16 non-smoking seats wouldn't make much difference.

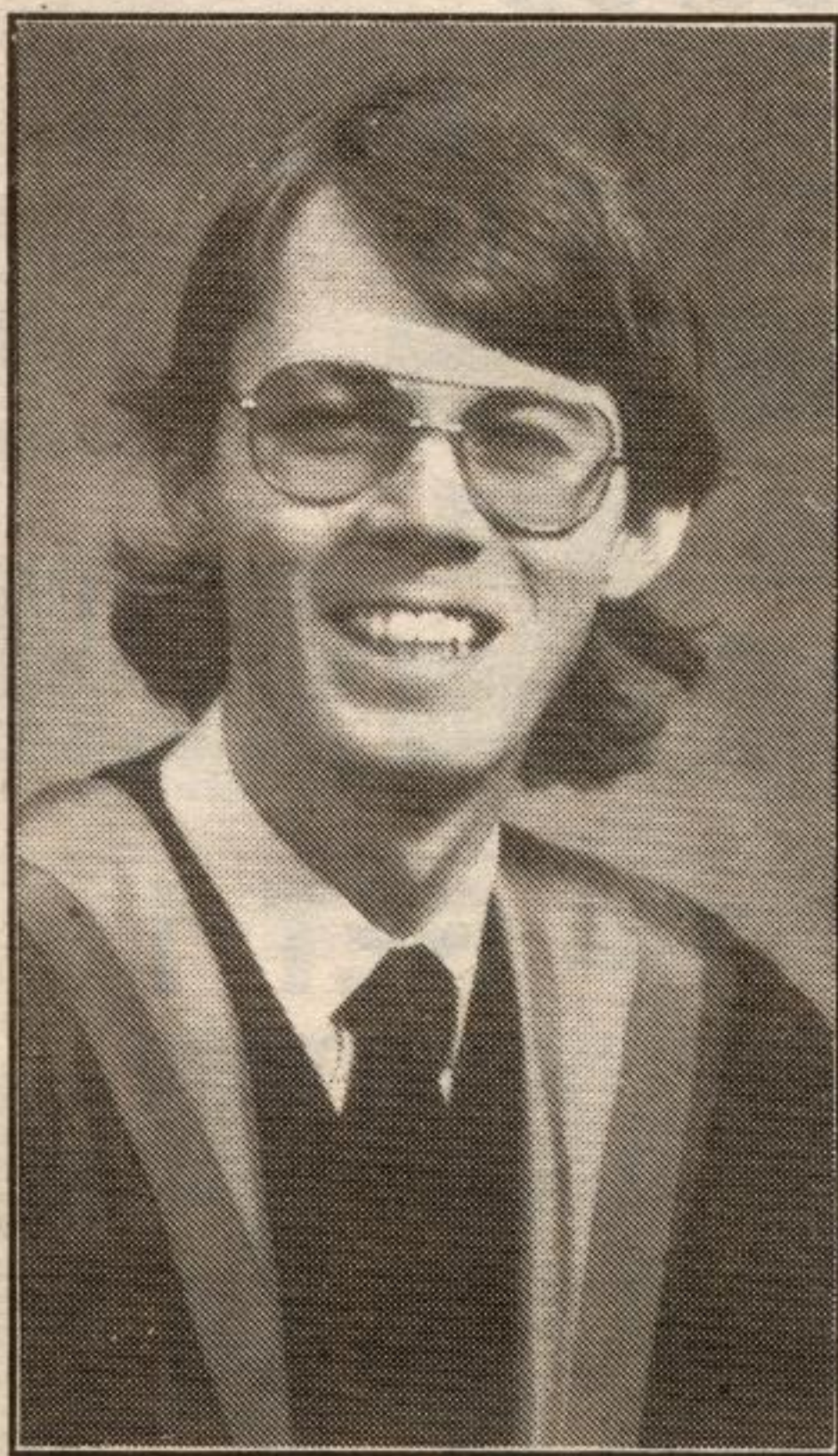
"It seems that it would be such a small area that I cannot see how it would be effective," Rennie said. He proposed raising the exempt number from 30 seats to 40. Councillor Anne Currie further suggested raising the minimum number of seats to 50.

After 45 minutes of somewhat heated and confused discussion, a motion carried by Councillor Norm Elliott to lower the non-smoking percentage of restaurants to 25 per cent (and to separate them from completely non-smoking commercial establishments within the document) was lost.

Councillor Rennie's motion for the restaurant exemption to be increased to 40 seats was passed, but council rejected the entire motion, leaving the town without a commercial non-smoking by-law until the next time council tackles it.



PROUD GRAD: Acton resident Rose Larocque received her high school graduation diploma last week through her efforts at TEAM (Teen Education and Motherhood), located at the Acton Baptist Church through the school year. Her children, Amber, 2, and Brian, 10 months, were proud of Mom too. Rose would like to pursue a career in cartooning. (Wendy Long photo)



Mrs. Leslie Hotchen is pleased to announce the graduation of her grandson **Jim Timbers** from Sir Wilfred Laurier University with a degree in Business Administration. Jim plans to continue his education.

Kinnon, Bailey shine at festival

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Acton Tanner

Karolyn Kinnon and Matthew Bailey went to a recent short story festival at Aldershot High in Burlington just to have fun. They did, but for a real bonus, the Acton High students left as two of the top 20 writers in Halton.

They were surprised they finished so high in the standings, "but it was nice," they both agree.

It was the inaugural year for the event, sponsored by Holt-Rhinart-Winston, as 64 entries were turned in to Moe Leeking,

head of English at Aldershot.

Kinnon's short story, titled *Tiny Imperfections* was written about a friend who is in the hospital. Bailey's effort, *Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep*, revolved around his work at a funeral home.

"If you enjoy writing, get involved," encourages Bailey. "I wanted to go and see what it was like. I never expected to do as well as I did."

"Everyone who enters gets something in return (small books about writing)," adds Kinnon, a Grade 11 student. "I've written a lot of stories, but never really fin-

ished something."

The stories originated from an in-class assignment based on a true story.

"We've had a creative writing program at the school for quite some time and I've told the kids that their stuff is good material, but they have a tendency to not believe it because of their lack of writing experience," explains English teacher Geoff Sansom, who has taught at the Acton High since 1977.

"I look at their work and think I wish I could write like that," he continues. "It's genuine writing with a lot of insight and genuine feeling."

Sansom says there are a lot of students at Acton High and other Halton schools who like to write and have lots of talent. He figures over 100 people will enter the contest next year.

He also said that often a student will be told by parents that they are a good writer, but will respond by saying, "Of course you say that; you're my parents." Then, they'll get the same speech from their teachers and reply, "Of course you say that; you're a nice guy."

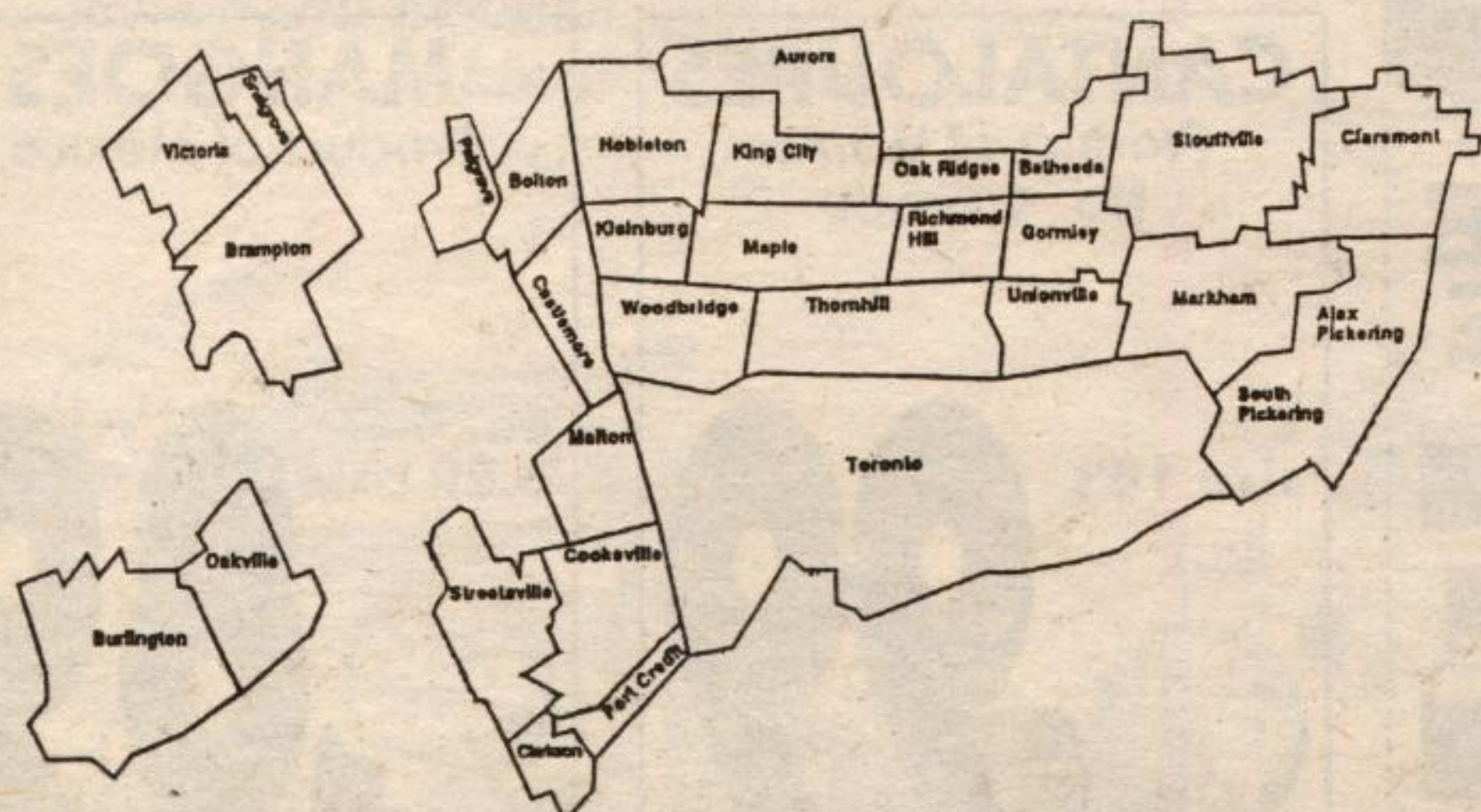
"With competitions like this, kids can't brush off that compliment of doing well because they don't know the judges."

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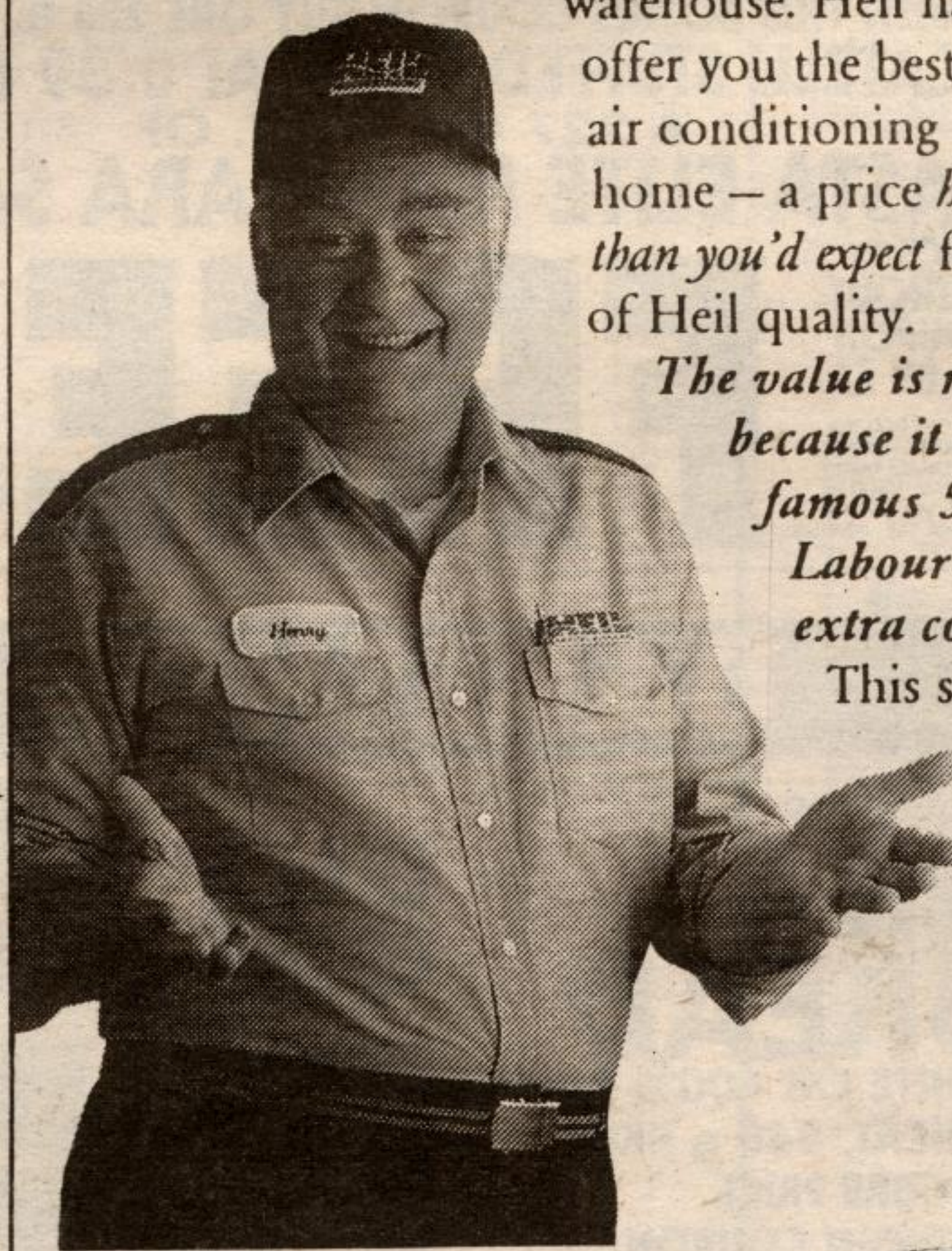
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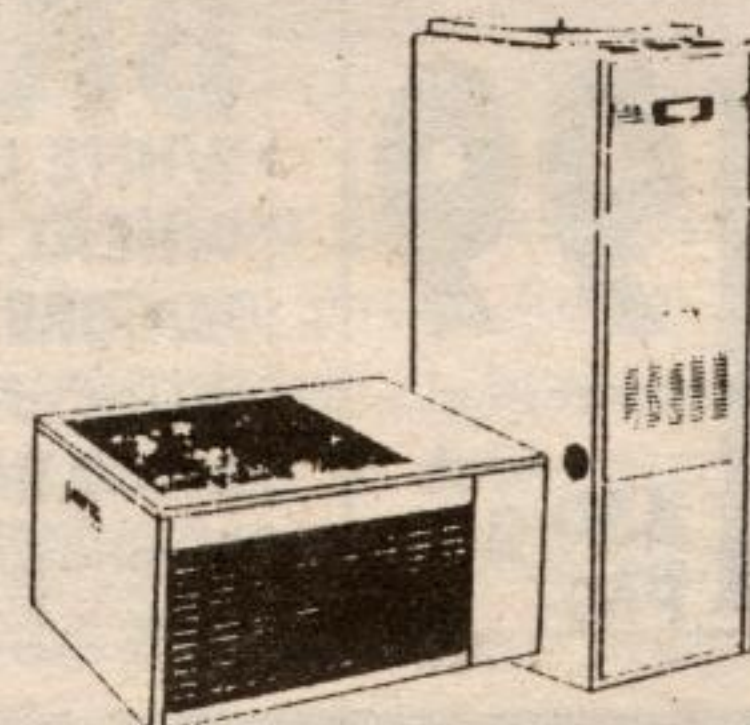
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