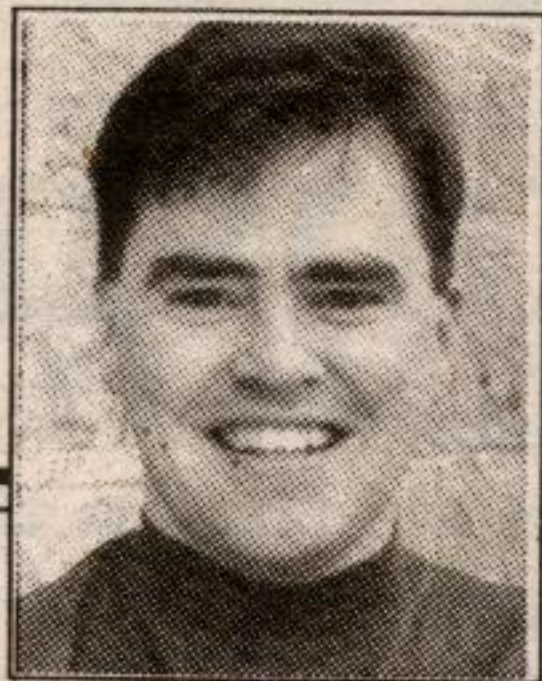


## EDITORIAL

With Paul Nolan



# Winter Wonderland

I'm not a "winter" person, that's for sure. (Not that I'm really a "summer person" either; I much prefer spring blooms and fall harvests to our *extreme* seasons.)

Our weather right now makes me unhappy, mostly, and I walk around with a sullen expression, much like Alistair Sim in *A Christmas Carol*.

We had a white Christmas, all right, and it was *nice*, but this snow and cold should be long gone by now ... after all, who really likes the stuff, and what purpose does it serve anyway?

Do you know what I hate most about winter weather? Cars and driving! Don't you hate getting into a cold car — then sitting and shivering while it takes forever to warm up. And is there a worse feeling than getting stuck in a snow drift (like I did in Guelph last week)? How about ice on your wiper blades? Doesn't it just drive you nuts?

You know that brown gunk that accumulates behind your tires? Well, don't ever try to kick it off if the temperature is minus 20 degrees Celsius. I think I broke my toe on Saturday.

What a weekend! On Sunday I got a flat-tire. Froze my fingers, so now I'm typing this column with my nose.

Anyway, I've been told that I'm not being fair — that I don't really understand the beauty that is hidden beneath the surface of a northern deep freeze. I've been told that I have to try harder.

So here goes. I've come up with a short list of things we can all do to help warm up this precious Canadian winter.

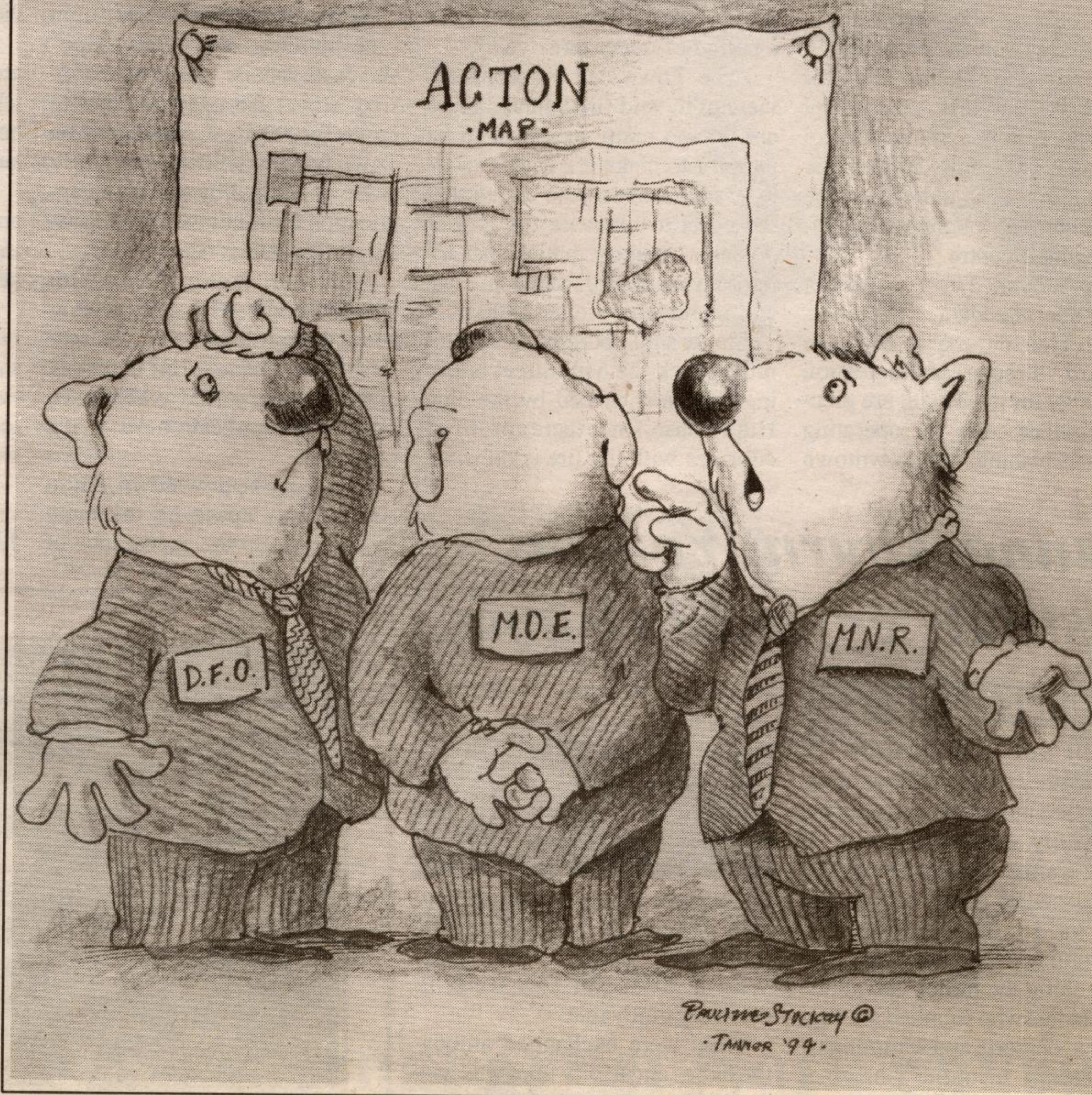
- Take a plane to Bermuda.
- Get outside and walk five miles each day. You'll be in Hilton Head by Feb. 28.
- Listen to the weather reports for Kapuskasing and Kenora. And remember: things could always be worse!
- Get yourself a down comforter and a bottle of wine. Set your alarm clock for St. Patrick's Day.
- Take a plane to Miami.

That's all I can come up with for now. My nose is getting tired.



**ICE-CAPADES:** Jennifer Voisin (left), Jessica Wright (right) and Shawna Holmes (centre) ham it up during a recent public skating session at the Acton arena. (Tony Rouse photo)

## 'BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD' AT THE O.M.B. HEARINGS



## LETTERS

### Whiting wants to wait on Jr. Kindergarten

The following text is taken from a letter recently sent to David Cooke, Provincial Minister of Education and Training, from Acton's Dave Whiting, Chair of the Halton Board of Education.

To the Editor,

The Ministry of Education memorandum of Nov. 19, 1993 finally clarified the position of the Ministry of Education and training on the issue of Junior Kindergarten. We used this memorandum to put in place our plans for this school year and the years ahead.

Now, much to our dismay, we are hearing rumours of an impending new memorandum from the Ministry of Education and Training on this issue. This is simply not acceptable to me as Chair of the Halton Board of Education. Another memo, which would undoubtedly contain new information and possibly alter the assumption we have used in planning for JK in 1997, would do little other

than muddy an already muddled situation.

Our Board, like most Ontario School Boards, is reeling under the double impact of the social contract and the need for severe fiscal restraint. There is simply no money for any new programs, particularly one for which there has been absolutely no demand in our region. As a Board, we have to plan responsibly to use our very limited resources in the best way to serve students while trying to respond to the desires of the members of our community. If you now change the ground rules on JK, you might seriously impair our ability to do both.

Also, I want to make it crystal clear that our Board does not want, and would find it very difficult, to move even partial implementation up to September 1994. We are proceeding to develop a plan that will see full implementation by 1997.

I want to let you know that I am in complete opposition to any new memorandum that changes the dates of implementation. I am asking you to allow us to continue to plan based on the information contained in the memorandum of Nov. 19, 1993. That is the correct, responsible and prudent thing to do.

*Dave Whiting, Chair,  
Halton Board of Education*

## TAKE A STAND!

Write a letter to the Editor letting us know where you stand on issues such as education, development, community policing — anything that is important to you!

You can drop your letter off at our 12 Church St. E. offices, mail it to P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 1K4, or FAX it to 853-5040.

Let us know how you feel — we want your opinion!

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