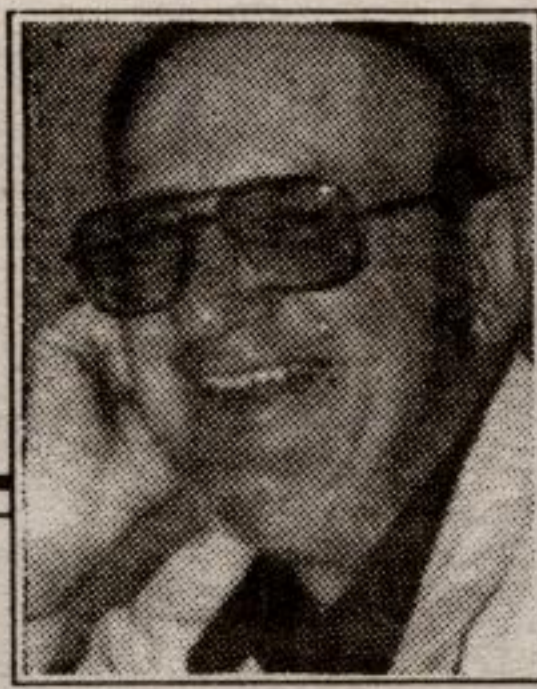


EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



A page from the past

For those of us long in tooth, it may seem like only yesterday, but 50 years ago last week, the Georgetown Raiders knocked off Acton Tanners in the Intermediate B hockey playoffs in front of an estimated 1,500 fans at the old ice box in Prospect Park.

The gloom that descended over this hockey-mad, post-war burgh could have been cut with that proverbial knife. It was the first time in 16 years of trying that a Georgetown team had been able to knock off the Tanners in the group playoffs. It rankled because the best Raiders were players from the Toronto Mercantile League, with a few local boys thrown in to add Georgetown content.

In those palmy post-war years, hockey was king in small towns during the long winters. There was fierce rivalry between the two towns that now comprise Halton Hills.

Most places only had natural ice in arenas. Schedules were short to accommodate the weather's vagaries. Nevertheless, 10- to 12-game schedules were usually managed, enough to have home games with each team in the league. Then, teams like the Tanners, mainly home-brew, were forced to play playoff games in places such as the old Galt arena, which had the luxury of artificial ice.

Acton was usually grouped with Georgetown, Milton, Fergus, Elora and Orangeville, with variations when teams from places such as Oakville or Guelph iced an intermediate squad. But for two decades the powerful Acton squad, fed by young players graduating from filter bed shinny, were group winners and eligible to pursue the coveted Ontario championship. Acton was successful in 1939 after many seasons of being knocked out on the threshold.

This success really rankled the sports fraternity in Georgetown, which usually iced a pretty strong junior team but couldn't get past Acton in intermediate hockey. They plotted for years to upset the champion Tanners, importing players and coaches, and clamouring for rule changes to allow them to use more than two imports. Although players were supposed to be strictly amateur, there was a well-known custom of paying imports under the table or seeing they had comfortable jobs in an era when good jobs were scarce.

It changed after World War II. Hockey was only a skeleton of itself during the war years. When the boys shed their uniforms and came home to play hockey again, it was a sports-mad populace that welcomed them. Those old arenas were crammed for almost every game. Admission was two bits and a hot dog cost you 10 cents.

Before each game and between periods, the Acton Citizens' Band, from their perch in the old ice palace, kept spirits up with Sousa marches and rousing music designed to not only fan the flames of support for the locals but help keep the fans, huddled in blankets and parkas, warm. Those old ice boxes were not heated.

When the Tanners and the Raiders faced each other in the OHA group finals it was a promoter's dream. First game of the two game total-point series was played in the Georgetown arena, where you couldn't have squeezed in a shoehorn. It ended in a 2-2 deadlock, so the deciding game was in Acton where the Georgetown club had been unsuccessful for two decades. Odds favoured the Tanners.

That game was like a tong war between two clubs, who were tied going into the final minutes of the third period. Strong goal keeping from Lorne "Dooney" Evans, who migrated to Georgetown from Milton, kept the Raiders in the game until they got a big break from referee Pat Patterson. He sentenced defenceman "Porge" Riddall, a Tanner who migrated from Georgetown, to two minutes for high sticking with less than five minutes to play.

Opportunists, the Raiders banged in the go-ahead goal past Acton netminder Herb Woods in the dying minutes. It cast a dark pall over the bulging Acton ice palace. Time ran out before the Tanners could knot the count.

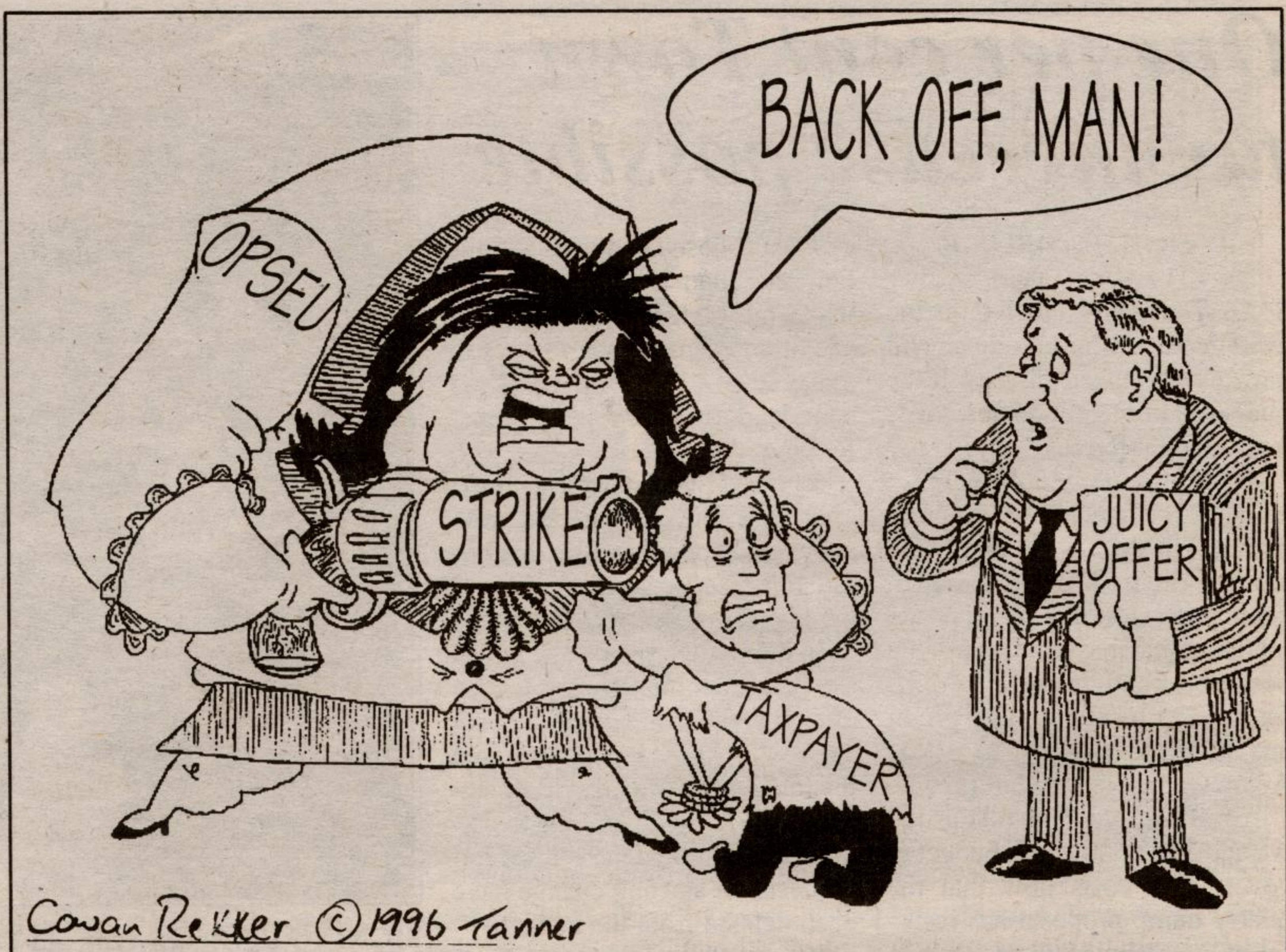
Fans in Acton suspected skullduggery about that penalty. It was rumoured the ref, who was buddy-buddy with the Toronto Mercantile players in the Raider line-up, had actually rode up from Toronto with them for the game, a charge never substantiated.

The elated Georgetown club, having removed the jinx that had hampered their play-off hopes for decades, went on to bigger and better things after being taught some hockey lessons from Bucko McDonald's Sundridge Beavers. They captured the OHA championship in both Intermediate B and A before venturing into the Senior OHA brand of shinny in the ensuing seasons.

The Tanners had some good years after that too, but increasing commercial intrusions into the game and wholesale importing led to fan disinterest. The calibre of hockey also slipped badly.

Only centre Ilio Marzo and defenceman Ben Bayliss, who played on Acton's 1946 team, are still with us and enjoying retirement.

Those were palmy days in Acton before the advent of television. Hockey was the substance of almost every cold winter for young and old alike. There was a real pride in the Acton team and it led to pride about the town and its people. Hopefully, one day we will see a time like it again.



Town's logo contest nets winner \$1,000

A contest has been set up to provide the Town of Halton Hills with a new corporate logo.

The competition is open to anyone of any age and the winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, which has been donated by local businesses. Joining with the Town's new slogan, "Working Together... Working for You," the logo will be used for promotional

and tourism purposes. The logo should also compliment the tourism slogan, "Head for the hills... Halton Hills."

"It's a positive thing, something we're really excited about," said Joy Thompson, superintendent of recreation services.

Thompson added the new logo will not replace the Town's coat of arms, which will remain in use for legal and official purposes.

"Currently many departments such as the fire department, libraries and recreation and parks have their own logo," she said. "The new logo will represent every department in the Town."

While it hasn't been decided to what extent the new logo will be implemented, it will be phased in

over time.

"When old business cards run out, the new ones will start and so

on, in order to save economically," said Thompson.

You can enter the contest as many times as you wish, but each entry must follow these guidelines:

- it must be mounted on an 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of paper

- it must be in colour (maximum of three, in-

cluding black) and include a black and white version

- it must be reproducible and recognizable in all sizes

- it must include a description of the design and how it relates to the Town

- it must be original.

Include your name, address and phone number and send your entries, marked "Design Competition" to the Town Clerk, Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Dr., Georgetown, L7G 5G2. Call 873-2600, ext. 263 with any questions.

The Town's logo selection committee will accept submissions until April 26 at 4:30 pm. A winning logo will be chosen in June and it is expected to be in use by the fall.



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