

EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



Decades of service

It would be tantamount to indifference if we failed to recognize the part Acton Support Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) has played in making Acton a better and more caring place in the last two decades.

ASSIC celebrated 20 years of service to Acton and area at its annual general meeting last Wednesday in St. Alban's hall with a ringing endorsement from those who have actively participated in its success. Two of the most prominent backbones of the agency for the last 15 years were also honoured for their dedication and work in making ASSIC "Acton's 911." Both are moving over so others can have this most important service continue in the face of government cutbacks.

Reggie Balkind, who has been executive director of the agency for the last 15 years, spent the last days in the position on March 31 of this year, while Lorne Doberthien, who has been involved in almost every facet of ASSIC for the same length of time, resigned from the board of directors at the end of September, 1995. In the interim he has written an invaluable history of the organization, tracing it from its roots to the present organization, which has an annual budget of over \$400,000.

As this writer spent five years on the board of directors, among the 82 who have served over the last two decades, I have some idea of the countless hours these two people spent in their roles in making ASSIC work. Not just work, but work well, and not without critics and setbacks that would have fazed most of us. Assisted, of course, by the hundreds of volunteers and staff who number almost 200 this year.

Peggie started with ASSIC in 1981, and under her management it has grown from a small office at the back of the YMCA to its present quarters in the old town hall, doubling in staff and quarters and fired by her strong commitment and belief in the organization.

In a moving testimonial to the work she has done, the ASSIC newsletter contains a summary of her activities over the years going back to the significant contributions she made as a volunteer before joining the staff. She was a founding member and later held a staff position as a community legal worker with the legal clinic which opened in 1977. She was a volunteer with the Children's Aid Society and the Social Planning Council at both the local and regional level.

Peggie was a founding member and president of Halton Women's Place, a shelter for abused and battered women which opened in 1980. Her efforts there were rewarded when she was recognized by the Women of Halton Action Movement as Person of the Year in 1982. As if that wasn't enough, she served on the board of directors for the Halton Regional Housing Authority, for six years.

Through her efforts, her experience and ability to work with people of all stripes and personalities and liaise with government at all levels, ASSIC has become a true multi-service agency, which many other communities envy. There just isn't room here to list all the services provided by ASSIC. Thousands of people have been helped over some of the bumpy roads of life by the always concerned staff, aided by strong support from the board of directors and the many volunteers.

Lorne Doberthien's role in this success story has been one of constant support for Peggie and her endeavors to improve ASSIC's service. He has been chairman of the board and served on all or most of the board's committees over the 15 year span. The board is vital to the operation and is responsible for policy and planning of the agency, which means many hours at meetings as well as background work. In 1995-96 board members spent 750 recorded volunteer hours but it is likely only a fraction of the time really spent aiding ASSIC.

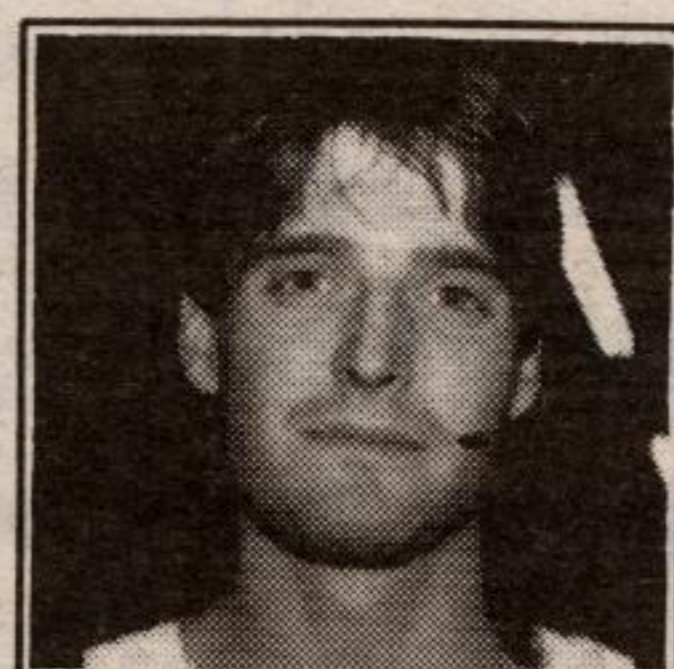
What can you say about people like this, who, often at considerable personal expense, spend a great deal of time helping others? Nothing much but thank you. I'm sure they enjoy at least some satisfaction in knowing this community appreciates their efforts and we can at least shower some honours on them.

We are indeed fortunate to be part of such a caring community, as the newsletter concludes.

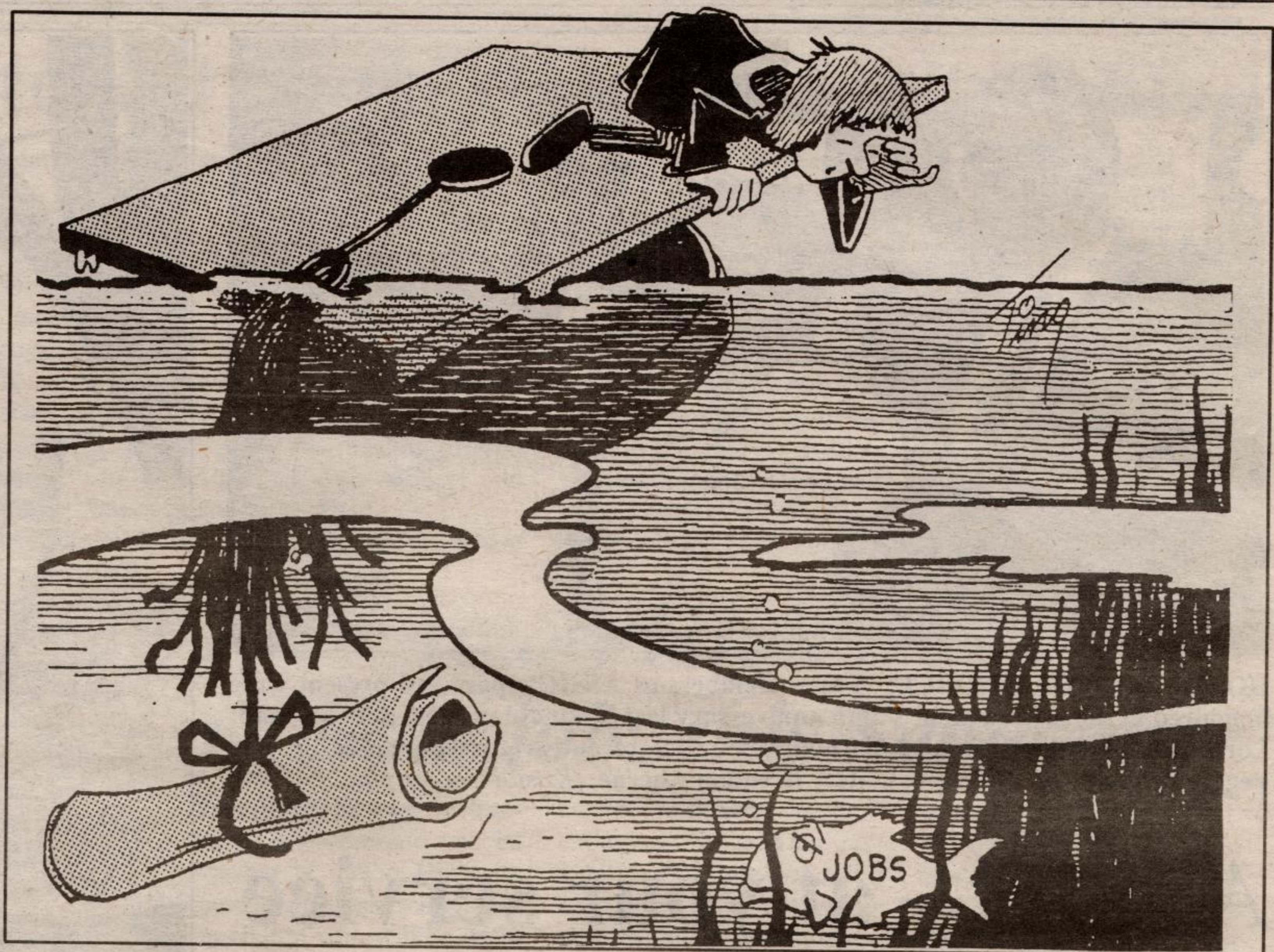
HEY! Will reducing the speed limit on Main Street make it safer?



"Yes. It will make it safer for my son and for other children."
Catherine and Ryan Kritschgau,
Churchill Road



"It depends by how much. It's hard to see the pedestrians sometimes at the cross-walks because of parked cars."
Kent Draycott, Third Line



Your LETTERS

Softball tournament a winner for Lions

To the Editor,

The Acton Lions Club held its 8th annual Charity Softball Tournament over the weekend at the Prospect Park and McKenzie-Smith Bennett diamonds.

Once again we were blessed with excellent weather, and even at this early stage, it appears that funds raised are significantly higher this year than in the past.

Funds raised will be spent locally on programs such as FoodShare, Acton High math award, firefighters fireworks, minor ball, lacrosse, synchronized swimming, figure skating and helping the less fortunate and the physically disabled.

The Lions Club is pleased that the participating teams from Acton, Rockwood, Milton, Georgetown and Brampton support our efforts to serve others.

This year, the Acton Grape Smugglers emerged as champions over last year's consolation winners, the Rockwood Grey Sox. And last year's champs, the Georgetown Kinsmen, edged the Brampton Lions to take the Consolation crown.

Gary Plowman was the tournament's most valuable player and Troy McDougall was selected most sportsmanlike.

The Club once again enjoyed the donated service of the Acton umpires under the direction of Rick Coe and the umpiring families of Rogerson and Reynolds, from



"Slowing things down will give the kids and bicyclists a better chance and for motorists too."
John Reeve, Maria Street

"With the new subdivision and more industry coming in, a 'Children Playing Ahead' sign and a '60 km/h' sign at the entrance of town by the 'Acton' sign would be a good start."
Rick Coe, R.R.#3, Acton



Mississauga. Their generous donation is greatly appreciated and allows the club to better serve the community.

The club is very fortunate to have captured a very friendly and special relationship with the teams and their families. This very friendship continues the event fun, lively and incident-free.

The Acton Lions Club expresses its deepest thanks to all local businesses and individuals who have helped to make the event a continued success. They include:

A&S Trophies, Acton IGA, Acton Motors, Acton Pharmacy, Acton Precision Millwrights, Bank of Montreal, Bruce Hood Travel, Carpet Barn, Dolphin Desktop Publishers, Ed's In 'N Out, Freezer Frenzy, Frenchies Fries, Galvcast Mfg., Halton Credit Union, Halton Hills Furniture, Herrington Printers, Labatt's Breweries, Leathertown Lumber, London Life, M&M Pro Sports, MacMillan's Foods, Molson Breweries, the Olde Hide House, Peter Zions Construction, Red Dog Cafe, Remax (Blue Springs Realty), Royal LePage, Scanner Drum Service, Subway (Acton), Tim Hortons, and the Town of Halton Hills

The list wouldn't be complete without thanks to Councillor Rick Bonnette, John Scrace, Jason Wells and friends and family of the Club.

After the trophy presentation, the Club raffled off various prizes. Prize winners are as follows:

Scott Withers - weekend for two; Bob Still - balloon ride for two; Ken Gibson - Blue Jays tickets; Kelly Stuttard - Frenchies Fries certificate; Barbara Mahar - Red Dog T-shirts.

Thank you to all at *The Tanner* for your support as well.

Jim Glatt
Acton Lions Club

THE ACTON Tanner

'Neighbourhood News' from Acton's Award-Winning Hometown Newspaper

Publisher & Editor
Paul Nolan

General Manager
Hartley Coles

Advertising Manager
Elaine Petkoff

Advertising Sales
Lynne Buscher

Editorial Staff
Karen Wetmore
Frances Niblock

Copy Editor
Joanne Stevenson

Office Assistant
Linda Hayes

Distribution Manager
Irene Birrell

Regular Contributors
Eve Martin
Mike O'Leary

THE ACTON TANNER is published weekly on Wednesdays by Wicklow Hills Publishing Co. Inc. at 12 Church St., E., Acton, Ontario, L7J 1K4. Mailing address: P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M3. Telephone: 519-853-5100. Fax: 853-5040. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Ideas expressed herein are those of the author only.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Rates: \$28.80 for one year (50 issues for price of 48); \$4.80 for two months (eight issues).

AD SALES: Publisher is responsible for errors in advertisements to extent of cost of that portion of the space occupied by erroneous item.

Publications Mail Registration
Number 10457

PHONE:
519-853-5100

FAX:
519-853-5040



Member of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association and of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association