

## EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



# Bylaw bedlam

Is there any point in having bylaws if the Town can't enforce them?

Moot question, especially since the latest report from the Town's building department shows there are 559 outstanding complaints to be investigated.

Ward 1 Councillor Norm Elliott suggested Halton Hills should look at the possibility of hiring more staff to enforce the Town's bylaws. Elliott, along with his two ward colleagues, experienced plenty of heat recently over the length of time it took to deal with bylaw infractions in their jurisdiction.

"Obviously our staff can't cope with this thing," Elliott reportedly told Council at a recent meeting. He noted that a whole list of infractions was wiped off the books last year to bring outstanding complaints to a more reasonable level.

So if you wonder why your complaint about an infraction was never addressed, it could have been one of those wiped out. Sad.

Henry Tse, director of Building, Zoning and Enforcement Services, acknowledges some of the complaints are minor irritations, disputes between neighbours, when it was suggested they be broken down to major and minor. However, he also told councillors that his staff can only attend health and safety issues. There just isn't time for anything else.

Tse told Council that one bylaw officer handles about 200 cases a year. But to catch up on the backlog it would take two and a half more staff a year.

Hire more-staff? Whoa! said Town Administrator Ray King. Where's the money coming from? Remember, he told Council, the province is cutting back hundreds of thousands of dollars in transfer payments to Halton Hills. Don't look at bylaw enforcement in isolation, he urged, but balanced with basic services such as plowing snow and fighting fires.

Sage advice from the administrator. But surely the Town should have the staff to enforce its own bylaws. If the minor complaints can't be enforced, you can bet it will lead, or has already done so, to disregard for the major concerns.

We believe Elliott's suggestion should be looked at seriously, not swept under the rug, because it will get worse as the town grows. Some method must be devised to find the money to fund enforcement as well as balancing the basic services.

## Fiddling with the CBC

First it was the railways, now it is the CBC – the two national ties that help bind this huge country together – being dismantled in the name of economic reality.

This writer holds no brief for the CBC, whose often left-leaning policies fly in the mood of neo-conservatism that dominates politics these days. But the savage cuts in grants threaten to cut the heart right out of the broadcasting giant.

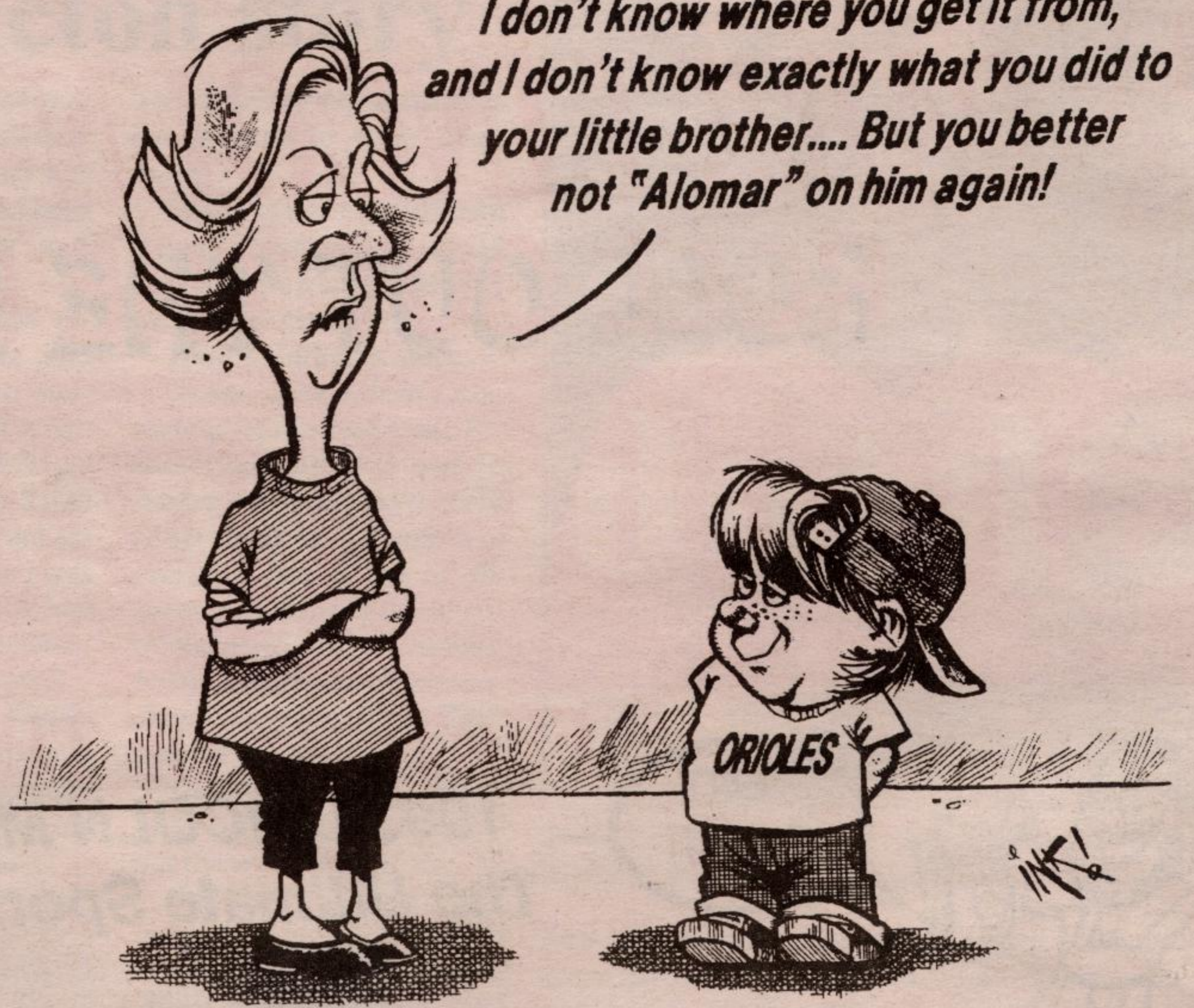
Obviously, there is fat in the organization that could be trimmed to make it more cost efficient. But it seems the government wants to throw the baby out with the bath water with the latest announced round of cuts.

Is our financial picture really so bleak that we have to fiddle with our national institutions? Here's one who doesn't believe it.

Sure, get rid of the deadwood, the endless bureaucracy and restore balanced programming, but leave us with a CBC that has the resources to attract viewers and listeners. We desperately need it in the face of private broadcasting which has, in many cases, turned into computerized music boxes.

## Same time last year ...

The Town expands sewer and water main replacement to **Lake Avenue residents** who were noticing rust in their tap water ... Rural mail carrier **Eleada Thomson** retires, ending a 63-year family tradition ... **Joan Waldie** is honoured with a Provincial Seniors' Achievement Award and a plaque from the Town.



## Your LETTERS

### Fox Run raises \$\$

To the Editor,

On Sunday, Sept. 22, the 16th Annual Terry Fox Run was held at the Acton High School track, where participants, volunteers and supporters joined together to continue their commitment and dedication to Terry's dream of finding a cure for cancer. The continual rain throughout the day certainly didn't dampen their spirits and enthusiasm, as total pledges and donations for the day exceeded \$20,000.

We would like to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to:

- Acton High for the use of their facilities.
- Acton's Citizen of the Year, George Henderson, along with Miss Acton Fall Fair Sonya Tonkovich and runners-up Angel Ivany and Mandie Schmuki, for braving the wet weather and officially opening the day.

- The businesses – Acton Discount Variety, Acton Foodland, Acton IGA, Acton Variety and Grocery, Al and Al's Meats, Becker's, Freezer Frenzy, Leathertown Lumber, MacMillan's Frozen Foods, Maple Leaf Pork, Mr. Muggs, Sub-

way, Super Sub, Village Variety, and the individuals – Bill Hollings, Lindsay, Melissa and Bruce Rogers, Jean McPhail and Peggy Height, for donating supplies for the food booth.

- To Blue Springs Flower Shop, Entertainment Tonight, Mulligan's Grill, Mohawk Raceway, Toronto Blue Jays, and Tuitman's Garden Centre for supplying prizes.

- To Acton Pharmacy, Ross Ballantine and Leathertown Feed for displaying signs, and to all residents who showed their support with lawn signs.

- To all businesses who provided space for pledge sheets and posters; to Eagle Ottawa Canada for office supplies and postage, and to Speyside Welding for the use of their motor home.

- To all banks for processing donations.

- To all volunteers who helped throughout the day; to all who sponsored participants or donated directly to the run; and to all participants who collected pledges and participated in the run.

Thanks to everyone for your efforts in our ongoing battle against cancer. We are also thankful for the memory of Terry Fox, and the example he set for us all – that people should follow their dreams, and that together we can make a difference.

**George McPhail, Nan Hurst, Wally Ella, Marlene Bogart, Jennifer Murr, Janice Morrow and Jon Hurst**  
Acton Terry Fox Run Committee

### Special coaches deserve special thanks

To the Editor,

Congratulations to the Acton Soccer Club! Again this summer we had two children registered, and must thank all the volunteers who run the club and coached the teams.

Special thanks go to coaches Ted Ellis (Under-9 girls) and Roy Martin and Paul Jordan (Under-11 boys). These men have provided encouragement, discipline, generosity and

teaching to many children this summer. They helped mold a bunch of kids into teams that went on to win their divisions.

God has blessed our community with many leaders of character and integrity such as Ted, Roy and Paul. Take the time to thank the men and women who give of themselves to our children and our community, and help make the town of Acton a great place to live.

**Phil Moddle**  
Knox Street

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Jennifer Flesch  
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Mike O'Leary

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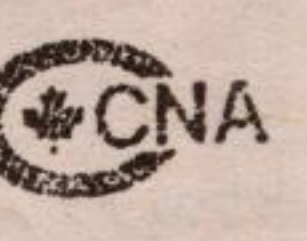
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PHONE:

**519-853-5100**

FAX:

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