

EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



What do they think?

What thoughts must go through the minds of those who stand before the war memorial this Sunday as we again observe Remembrance Day in the time-honoured way.

The martial music, the colour parties with their flags blowing briskly, marching veterans of two world wars, bereted, medals gleaming in the thin November light, and community organizations all filing in parade to stand before this monument of grief.

An honour guard of kilted warriors stands at its corners as the ceremony begins. Wreaths are laid, the names of those who died are read in stentorian tones for a hushed assembly, the words caught by the wind and carried beyond the reach of men.

The trumpeter blows the Last Post and the flag, symbol of our nation, is lowered into a minute of hushed silence, broken only by the sounds of distant traffic or the muted barking of a dog.

What thoughts must go through the minds of those veterans standing there during that moment of silence. Do they think of the comrades they knew who never came back to this little town in the heart of Ontario? Do they think of the horrors they witnessed during five years of war?

As the silence deepens do they think of the difference war made in their lives, of the loneliness they felt during those years far from home? Do they wonder why they survived and some of their friends never came back?

Do some think of it as the Great Adventure and remember the good times as well as the bad, the comradeship they enjoyed before they dispersed into civilian life again? Perhaps some say a silent prayer that it will never again be necessary for men to leave home and hearth in the cause of peace.

As the notes of Reveille sound and the flag once more is raised to fly over this park of remembrance, tension eases. The band plays the traditional hymn, the parade reassembles, the sombre setting changes as the band leads the parade briskly to a service of praise.

The ceremonies never change, repeated across this land. Let us hope it never will. It is not only a remembrance of those who paid the supreme sacrifice but a wake-up call that we must be ever vigilant to preserve our way of life.

My grandfather, Wilfred Coles, a veteran of two wars, perhaps said it succinctly in these words, penned after World War II:

*In known and unknown graves they rest,
The young, the bravest and the best,
They, too, loved well what life could give,
Yet they died that we might live.*

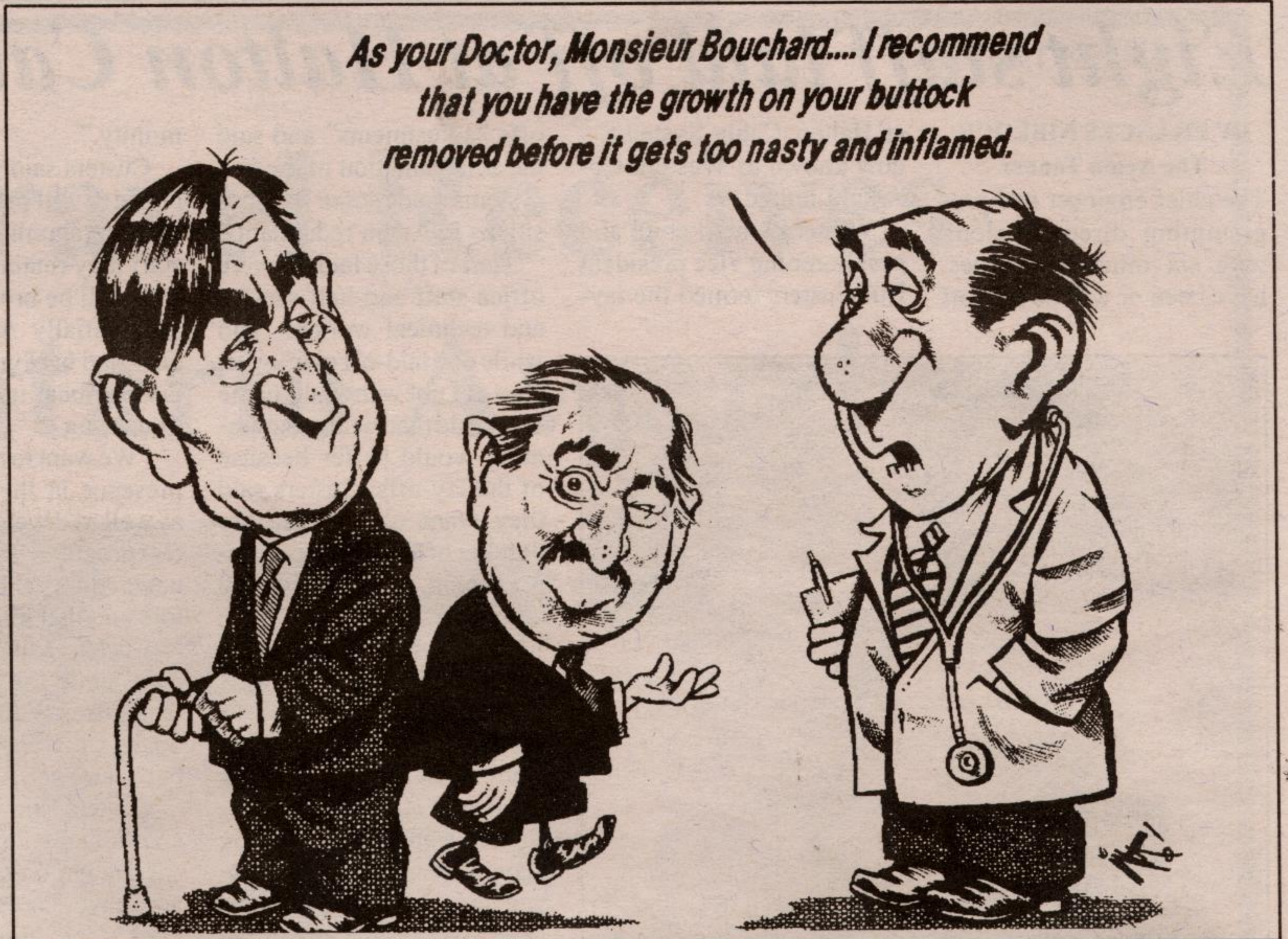
*Twice in half a hundred years
We have tasted blood and tears,
Twice we faced the enemy threat,
Twice the challenge has been met
At a great and grievous price—
Of heroic sacrifice.*

*Let not memory's lamp burn low,
As generations come and go.
The debt recall, the flame renew;
Remember them—they died for you!*

*And we will pray as they once prayed
For hate and strife to cease;
Oh Lord, look down and help mankind
To seek and find world peace.*

Same time last year ...

Valedictorian Darrell Bridge addresses his fellow Acton High grads at commencement exercises ... The Acton Rotary Club commits to donating \$14,000 towards upgrading McKenzie-Smith Bennett's computer system ... Former Actonite Jamie Taras is nominated for the outstanding offensive lineman award by the CFL.



Your LETTERS

Trunk sale returning

To the Editor,

For 20 Saturdays the Acton Trunk Sale has been a place to go, a place to socialize, and has proven to be a better than average place to buy, sell or trade stuff – all kinds of stuff.

It had a bit of a carnival atmosphere, but it was simple and fun. Not too bad for an idea that started with a trial six-week period three years ago.

The Action for Acton Trunk Sale gang would like to thank all the people who supported the weekly event and helped make it grow.

This year a special thanks goes to Steve Dawkins and the olde Hide House, Tim and his staff at Foodland, Ernie Longo, Canadian National Railway, Nellis Construction and Tyler Transport for their very special contributions.

The Trunk Sale is scheduled to start again for its fourth year next May. It does have the potential to develop a market and crafts section if the interest is there. In the meantime, residents can see that the sale has been successful in grooming and maintaining that corner of town, as well as providing a facility for the summer months, and will be able to add flower boxes and hanging baskets to the entrance to town next year.

We certainly appreciate your support. Thanks a lot – see you in the spring!

*Jack Carpenter
Action for Acton, Trunk Sale*

Fair trial expected

To the Editor,

A question arises (on reading the Wilson accident report recently). No, a few questions arise.

Will both Mr. Ogden and Mr. Ambroziewicz expect and receive full legal protection and counsel? A fair and public trial?

Will both these men expect and receive full civil liberties considerations and all human and constitutional rights?

Will these men be free to assume they are protected from physical

and mental abuse and torture? Harassment? Swarming? Degradation? Public humiliation?

Or will they suffer the new vigilante justice that Georgetown and Halton/Peel have not only so delightfully accepted and condoned, but whole-heartedly participated in?

I don't think so... Ontario's radical experiment needs a psychopath to administer and control the terrorism and sadism, and hopefully neither Mr. Ogden nor Mr. Ambroziewicz have someone in their lives with that much hate!

Heather Marchment

Great spirit!

To the Editor,

On Saturday and Sunday Oct. 19 and 20, the Acton Junior YMCA hosted a ball tournament. It was put together by four individuals – Tracy Hagan, Robin Keeler, Dave Deforest and Mike Brookes. I appreciate all their hard work to make this a success.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the following people and businesses: Tim Horton's Donuts, Acton IGA, Hillsburgh

IGA, Ethel Martin, Janice Foot, Helen Kirkwood, Charlene Sheppard, Lois Matton, Laurie Thomson and Kathy Keeler.

I would also like to thank the following teams: Renegades, Ball Bashers, Acton Ice, Tribe, Dave Frost, Misfits and Just One of the Guys. Thanks also to Jim Bailey for the use of the Ballinafad diamonds. The weather wasn't the greatest, but the spirit was great!

*Brenda Quinn
Acton Junior YMCA*

THE ACTON Tanner

Hometown Paper - Neighbourhood News

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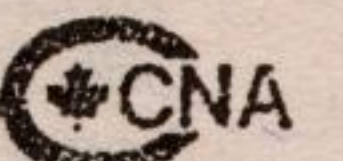
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THE ACTON TANNER is published weekly on Wednesdays by Wicklow Hills Publishing Co. Inc. at 12 Church St., E., Acton, Ont. L7J 1K4. Mailing address: P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M3. Phone: 519-853-5100. Fax: 853-5040. Reproduction without permission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

Publications Mail Registration
Number 10457

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