

## EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



### Toilet training needed

It's a familiar story in the north end of Halton Region. There's a shortage of water for future development in Halton Hills, notably Georgetown at this juncture. In fact, according to the Region, the Town has committed more water to development than it has on tap.

Alarmed at the town's commitments, the Region had decided not to approve any more draft development plans until the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) decided to allow one large Georgetown development to proceed, despite the real or alleged water shortage. The Region, realizing the futility of fighting the OMB, reversed its decision. Now they are going to rectify the water situation in Georgetown by improving existing wells and bringing in test wells, relying on ground water to make up any deficit.

\*Same old problems. Same solutions to enable Georgetown to reach that magic 40,000 population target. Hardly the imaginative project the city of Barrie exhibited when it faced a similar situation.

Faced with the expensive proposition of constructing a multi-million dollar water treatment plant to service new development the authorities there came up with another logical solution. They decided, instead, to replace all the old heavy water-using toilets in the city with new water saving models, to save millions of gallons of H<sub>2</sub>O. The cost was only a fraction of what they would have had to pay for a new water treatment plant.

The old toilet models? They were ground up and used for road construction, or some other esoteric use. There was no waste and the toilet manufacturers undoubtedly had a boom.

Would that be possible here? If not, why not? If that is too difficult to implement, maybe the Region could just provide a brick or two for all the old toilet tanks in Halton Hills to reduce the volume of water used daily. It would benefit both Georgetown and Acton.

It worked in Barrie. Why not anywhere else?

### Park is hidden beauty

Improvements made around Acton this summer and fall by the Town have been appreciated by local residents. Rebuilding of roads, new sidewalks and street signs have certainly not gone unnoticed. In fact, we are even astonished at plans to rehabilitate Prospect Park and embellish the old dam site on Mill Street.

There's a meeting tonight (Wednesday) at the high school to hear residents' ideas on the future of Prospect Park. Town staff feels the park is under-used and with the old arena slated to be demolished next year the opportunity for change is there.

The park has certainly become athletically-oriented over the years and perhaps the more genteel aspects have been subordinated to ball, soccer, tennis and horseshoes. Undoubtedly there are other uses that would appeal to more people so this is a good time to consult people on what they would like to see done.

There is also a plan to make a beauty spot out of the old dam site where the Black Creek leaves Fairy Lake on its way to the Credit River. Little has changed there since the Adams brothers first dammed the site to power flour and shingle mills on the spot. There is the same potential for beauty at the School Creek as it runs from the CN tracks past Halton Hills Hydro, the library and under the highway before emptying into Fairy Lake. Plans to create a beauty spot there have never materialized because of a lack of funds.

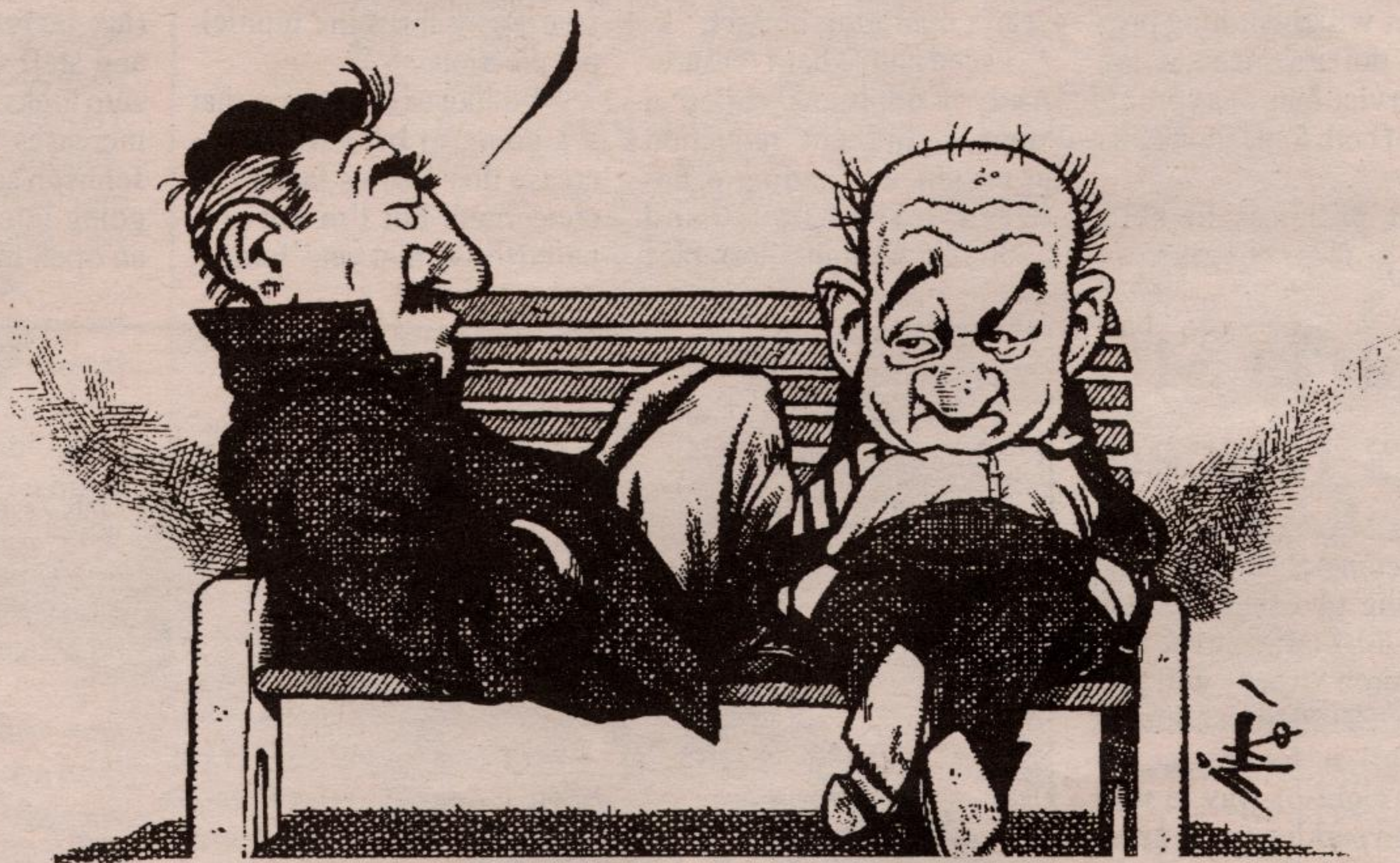
That's not a problem for the dam site. This year's Town capital budget includes \$100,000 to reconstruct parts of the dam and, if the money stretches, to include a parkette on the site which would take advantage of the natural beauty around the spillway and provide a splendid view of that arm of Fairy Lake.

When Canada Packers gave the lake deed to the Town it also handed over the expense of the upkeep. No matter. The advantage of ownership far outweighs the expense of upkeep and permits the Town and its residents to plan for the future.

### Same time last year ...

Organizers of the Leathertown Festival say the 1996 event will be cancelled, due to a lack of interested volunteers ... Councillor Norm Elliott describes a plan for a computer reserve fund for the Town as a way to "enshrine" computers ... A power failure cuts short an AHS junior girls' basketball overtime game with just six seconds left.

*I've been laid off before... I'm being laid off now... And I'll be laid off again... It's what we in Canada now call the "Circle of Life".*



### Your LETTERS

#### Public library helps to fight illiteracy

To the Editor,

The Halton Hills Public Library would like to thank all of those who attended the Ghanaian Dance presentation at the John Elliott Theatre on Oct. 6. All of the money from this benefit performance and from donations made has been sent to OSU Children's Library Fund.

This fund is monitored by Kathy Knowles, a former Acton resident, who has been instrumental in the

development of libraries in Accra, Ghana.

This benefit could not have been possible without the contributions of the Flaming Dono Drum and Dance Ensemble of Toronto, for their incredible performance. Thank you to the First Ospringle Girl Guide company for assisting with donations, seating and the refreshments.

We applaud Kathy and her work in the fight against illiteracy and again thank all who supported this event. The library is happy to accept and forward any additional donations received to the OSU Children's Library Fund. Cheques should be made payable to OSU Children's Library Fund, and Kathy will issue income tax receipts for donations of \$10 and over.

Help the fight. Kids can't wait!

Cindy Cooper  
Public Services Librarian

#### MSB goes green

To the Editor,

This year the parent group of McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School tried something different for their annual fundraiser. Instead of selling chocolate bars we had the students participate in one hour of environmental activity. The Kindergarten students planted bulbs, Grades 1 and 2 raked leaves, the 3s, 4s, and 5s planted and fertilized trees, the 6s raked leaves for seniors and the 7s and 8s painted yellow fish on the storm sewers in Acton, to make people aware that the water from these sewers goes right back into the ground untreated.

No large prizes were awarded for individual achievement, but random draws were made with the prizes donated by local businesses. Many people thought that not having the incentive of large prizes such as bikes or trips to Wonderland, would dampen the enthusiasm of our students in getting sponsors. But the success of the Green-a-thon speaks for itself. The students of MSB raised over \$6,500 and 100 per cent is profit! It was wonderful to see the school, community and parental support the students received.

I would like to thank all the stu-

dents, parents and teachers who participated in this fundraiser to make it such a success. Thanks to our celebrity volunteers: Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson and Trustee Ethel Gardiner, who raked leaves with Grade 1s and 2s; Regional Councillor Rick Bonnette, who helped Grade 7s with the Yellow Fish program; and Robert Piece from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, who sponsored the yellow fish activity.

Special thanks to the following Acton businesses who, through their donations, have shown their support for MSB school: Acton Foodland, Avon (Susan Freeland), Blooms Away, Blue Springs Flowers, Canada Post - Acton Branch, Country Reflections, Doll Emporium, Freezer Frenzy, Glenlea Drug Mart, Godfather's Pizza, Home Hardware, Acton IGA, Just Because Children's Clothing, MacMillans, McIntyre Fuels, the olde Hide House, Paintin' Friends, Power Entertainment, Red Dog Cafe, Tim Horton's, Wetherby's, and Willow Lane Natural Foods.

Many thanks again Acton, and remember, when you shop in town, you support the businesses that so generously support our school!

Susan McPhail Job  
Fundraising Chair, PEP

## THE ACTON Tanner

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#### PHONE:

519-853-5100

#### FAX:

519-853-5040



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