

EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



A 'Mega' week

It would be remiss indeed to let this week pass without comment on the astonishing and widespread announcements emanating from Queen's Park last week.

Maybe we're astonished because here at last is a government which is doing what it said it would – and more. Maybe it's because we were jerked from the left wing policies of the NDP to a right wing Tory agenda so abruptly. Maybe it is also too much to absorb in such a short time.

In any event, *this* jury is still out on the practicality of the changes. How will they affect Halton Hills, Acton, Rockwood and areas? There are just too many questions to be answered before we can get a grasp on the overall effect of the changes.

Some of the decisions have left the impression we will be governed partly by trustees appointed by the government instead of elected representatives. And the government seems to think the fewer the better. Worrying indeed.

Most of us would probably concur that something had to be done to escape the fiscal bondage we were in. But, I suspect, many of us would have preferred less precipitous action with more thought of the consequences.

The speed at which the government is making-over Ontario has raised the suspicion they want change for the sake of change rather than for benefits, if any. Their opposition to a referendum in Metro Toronto, for instance, has raised the spectre of another version of the Family Compact installed in office.

On the other hand, Ontarians elected the Tories to change the direction the province was going. And they are doing it. We won't know until the next election whether their approval rating will suffer. It may then be too late to undo the damage... if any.

Shooting the Arrow

Almost 38 years after it was dealt a death blow by John Diefenbaker's federal government, the media is resurrecting the memory of the Avro Arrow. Those of us a little long in the tooth recall that Friday, Feb. 20, 1959, when work on the Arrow was stopped and all seven of the supersonic jets already built were scrapped.

Many of us had neighbours and friends who worked at the Malton plant, envied by some for their well-paid jobs, who were suddenly – all 13,000 of them – out of work. Many lived here, had bought homes and settled in for the long term. Bereft of any future work, they left houses with mortgages that would seem paltry now – only a few thousand dollars – but out of their reach. Some simply walked away from them. Others got what they could in sell-offs.

Some went to the U.S. to jobs in the aircraft and space industry, others back to Britain for jobs with the parent A.V. Roe Co. Some stayed and braved the lean job market or pursued business ambitions subordinated to the security of well-paid permanent work.

Naturally, the housing market here plunged steeply. But often, where there is hardship there is also opportunity. Housing was bought by entrepreneurs and local residents who found them affordable, or took a flyer on a future expanding market despite the pessimistic outlook of the time. They were rewarded when the market recovered and prices took off like the Arrow never could.

The government's decision to pull the plug on the Arrow is still being debated 38 years later, stimulated by a CBC-TV drama. Mr. Diefenbaker said the country could not afford to continue with the project, that fighter planes, despite their advanced technology and speed, would be superseded by missiles such as the Bomarc.

It was a Black Friday for A.V. Roe employees. It changed the complexion of the aircraft industry and made a strong impact on communities such as this one where people just pulled up stakes. It's a chapter in history few of us would want repeated.

Same time last year ...

Pat Hatch resigns as Acton FoodShare co-ordinator, making the position a shared one among board members ... Sixth Line resident **Art Hawes** asks Council that proposed improvements to the road be done sooner than 2001 as proposed by the Town ... **Halton Flour Milling** win the first company bowling challenge at Acton Lanes.

I hope the P.M. got all of his booster shots before he went on his Team Canada Trade Mission to Asia.

Uh oh.... It looks like they may have missed giving him that shot for "foot in mouth" disease.



Your LETTERS

Campaign begun for new arena

To the Editor,

As the chair of the fundraising committee for the new Acton Arena and Community Centre, it is a real honour to be able to thank individuals and groups who are supporting this project. Town Council has set a budget of \$5.1 million for this much-needed facility – however, additional funds are required to ensure the best facility and equipment possible.

The Acton Proud Campaign has set a goal of \$230,000, which, with the support of this community, is obtainable. The Acton Arena and Community Centre will also house a seniors' centre. It will be a facility that will benefit children, adults and seniors alike for many years to come.

A successful seat sale campaign is underway with a total of 408 seat

sponsorships available at \$200 each.

On Dec. 5, the Acton High hockey team, coached by Dave Boycott, played a benefit game against a Dallas midget team. Donations were collected at the door and seat sponsorships were available. Mike Manes of Acton IGA donated hot dogs and pop to everyone who made a financial contribution. All in all, a very successful evening – with the Acton team winning, and \$1,300 raised for the new Acton arena and community centre.

This is just the beginning. The fundraising committee has events and activities planned for the upcoming year, and we are counting on the whole community to participate and get involved. New ideas and committee members are always welcome. If anyone is interested, they can contact John Archibald, Facility Supervisor, at 853-0020.

Many thanks to the groups, individuals and businesses who have agreed to support this project. I look forward to a very successful campaign and the opening of the beautiful new Acton Arena and Community Centre later this year.

*Kathrin Andersen, Chair
Acton Proud Campaign*

WANTED!

(temporarily)

Any old photos (10 years and older) of:

- people from Acton
- Acton buildings or scenery
- Acton school functions/class pictures

We'd like to use your photos weekly for a "Peek at the Past," a sometime feature on Page 7 of *The Tanner*.

You can drop your photos off at our office at 12 Church St. E. Monday to Friday from 9 am - 5 pm – or call if you need to have them picked up. All photos can be picked up at the office once they've been used.

Please include whatever information you have regarding the photos, such as the names of the people in them, the date the photo was taken, etc. And include your name and phone number to ensure you get them back.

Thank you Acton!!

From your community newspaper:

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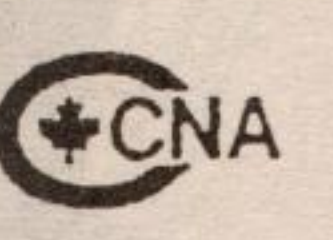
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