

# EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

## Interaction a big plus

If you've driven down Kingham Road at night or on the weekends you can understand the concern residents have over traffic. Vehicles parking on the south side of the road between Greenore Crescent to the west to Campbell Court on the east, create a problem. There is hardly enough room for two other vehicles to pass on the remaining strip. When that vehicle is a truck or bus the problem is compounded.

Motorists proceeding in either direction also have to watch carefully in case a child darts out from behind the line of parked cars. It's a problem that has been festering for years. Earlier attempts at solving the traffic problem eight years ago with parking bays for cars would have alleviated the situation but the cost then (\$25,000) made it prohibitive.



**Traffic on Kingham Road parks on the south side, creating a problem in the evenings and weekends when vehicles are bumper to bumper.**

The Town has addressed the situation again at the urging of Councillor Norm Elliott who had been contacted by Kingham resident Steve Grasby. A meeting last week came up with several suggestions including one from Councillor Elliott to move the curb back. It would cut back on the grassy boulevards on both sides of the road but just might create enough room to make the road safer.

Unfortunately, it would not solve the blind spots that occur from the bumper to bumper parking on the south side. Other measures may have to be introduced as suggested at the meeting between the Town and residents last week. But we think they are on the right track.

When the townhouses on Kingham were built most residents had only one vehicle and only a few extra parking spaces were provided for visitors. Of course, families now often have two vehicles, or more, and it has created the parking problem.

There's also a winter problem with cleaning of sidewalks of snow. Residents would like to see Kingham included in the list of walks to be cleared by the town and the discussion generated some recommendations. But that's another matter.

Although all the problems might not have been solved the fact both the Town and residents got together to discuss them is a big plus. Interaction between the two parties is more apt to resolve the problems to everyone's satisfaction. Besides it speaks well of our representatives when we know they are listening. Now, hopefully, the discussion will lead to action.

## Houses

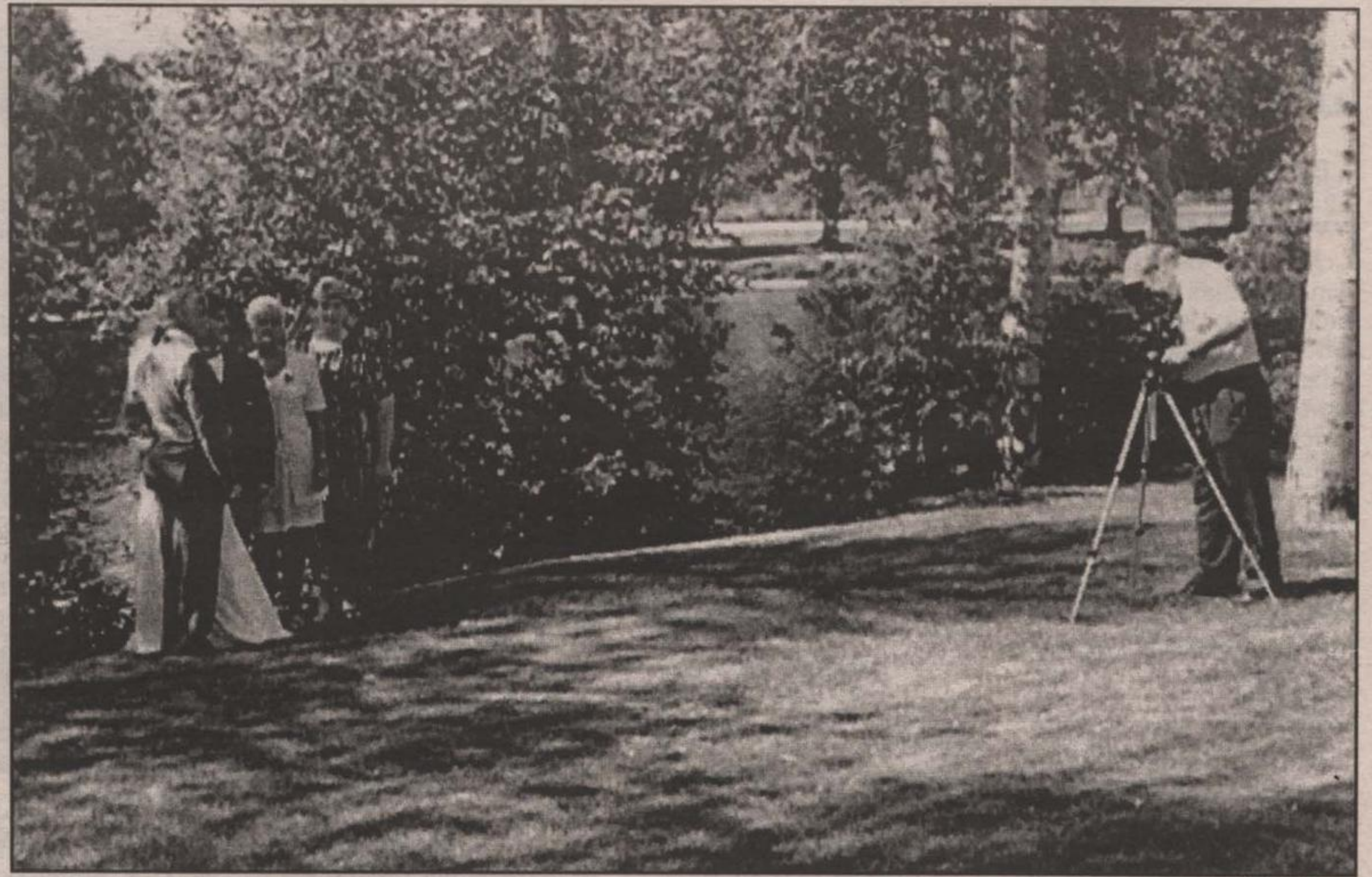
Houses take on the personalities of their owners. Have you ever noticed that? People who are stiff and formal seem to have houses which make visitors uncomfortable, while friendly outgoing people have the kind which seem to wrap their arms around you and say, relax and stay awhile, we're glad you came.

I can go into an old house and feel the aura which surrounds it the very first minute I'm there and can tell if it has happy memories or unhappy ones. The house we are living in now, has a beautiful aura. Many years ago it was built by a local farmer to be a home for his family. And today when I speak to the descendants I remark to them that their old home has many happy memories and they always agree with me. I can "feel" happy spirits here. But a house to have fulfilled its purpose must have been the scene of births, marriages and deaths; all these human things have been a part of our home and have richly blessed it.

When you sit relaxed and in a dreamy mood in any old house, your mind travels back to the past and you wonder what the family was like and what dreams they had if these dreams were ever realized. I love new houses, too, because before long they will acquire the aura of their owners; that is why every house new or old is so fascinating and has a definite personality.

*Granny*

*Granny is Marion Jean Patterson who published her philosophy for her children and grandchildren in a booklet called Meditation from an Old Rocking Chair.*



**A KODAK MOMENT: The shores of Fairy Lake and adjacent grounds of the Acton Royal Canadian Legion Hall are popular places for wedding photos during the warm months. Here photographer Bill Stuckey records wedding personalities on film as the late afternoon sun shimmers on the water.**

## Fair without arena? – Ugh!

By MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner

The concept of Prospect Park without the arena somehow just doesn't fit. Like going to the fall fair without visiting the craft displays, I can't imagine one without the other.

I've never been a skater and my encounters with hockey won't win me any support from area sports enthusiasts. At the only game I attended when I wasn't taking pictures for a newspaper a wild slap shot bounced off the goalpost and wound up connecting with my wrist. It was my left wrist so it didn't interfere with my writing but it did nothing to heighten my interest in the game, let me tell you.

My first memories of the arena centre around the fall fair. My teacher was always collecting workbooks and art work and Lord only knows what else to enter in the school classes at the fair. She never told us what she was going to use. We found that out by visiting the displays.

The next memory is of setting up 4-H Homemaking Club displays at the fair. A couple of us would always get together in late August or early September and decide what we could put together to earn the award for entering a display. Participating clubs didn't get prizes, really. They just received a flat rate (\$5, I think) and we always needed the money for supplies for our next club. Can you imagine that being enough money to cover the costs for meetings with a group of 10 to 15 teenagers for a whole season? I'm not

sure I can image that any more.

One year we went overboard with a display on home safety. We took it to Milton, Georgetown and Acton fairs and wound up picking up a real award for that one, best entry for the county, I believe they called it. We also made something like \$25 or \$30. We had a cooking club that fall so Bannockburn Women's Institute weren't stuck with our expenses after all.

Later on Mom was with the Ladies' Fair Board as we always called it. Properly I believe it was the Ladies' Division of the fair board, but who ever worried about proper. By that time I'd come to appreciate all the handwork displayed in the hall. Knitting, sewing and crochet were always of interest but I still can't get terribly enthusiastic about pies, cakes and pickles. I always plan to get some entries ready but I never get

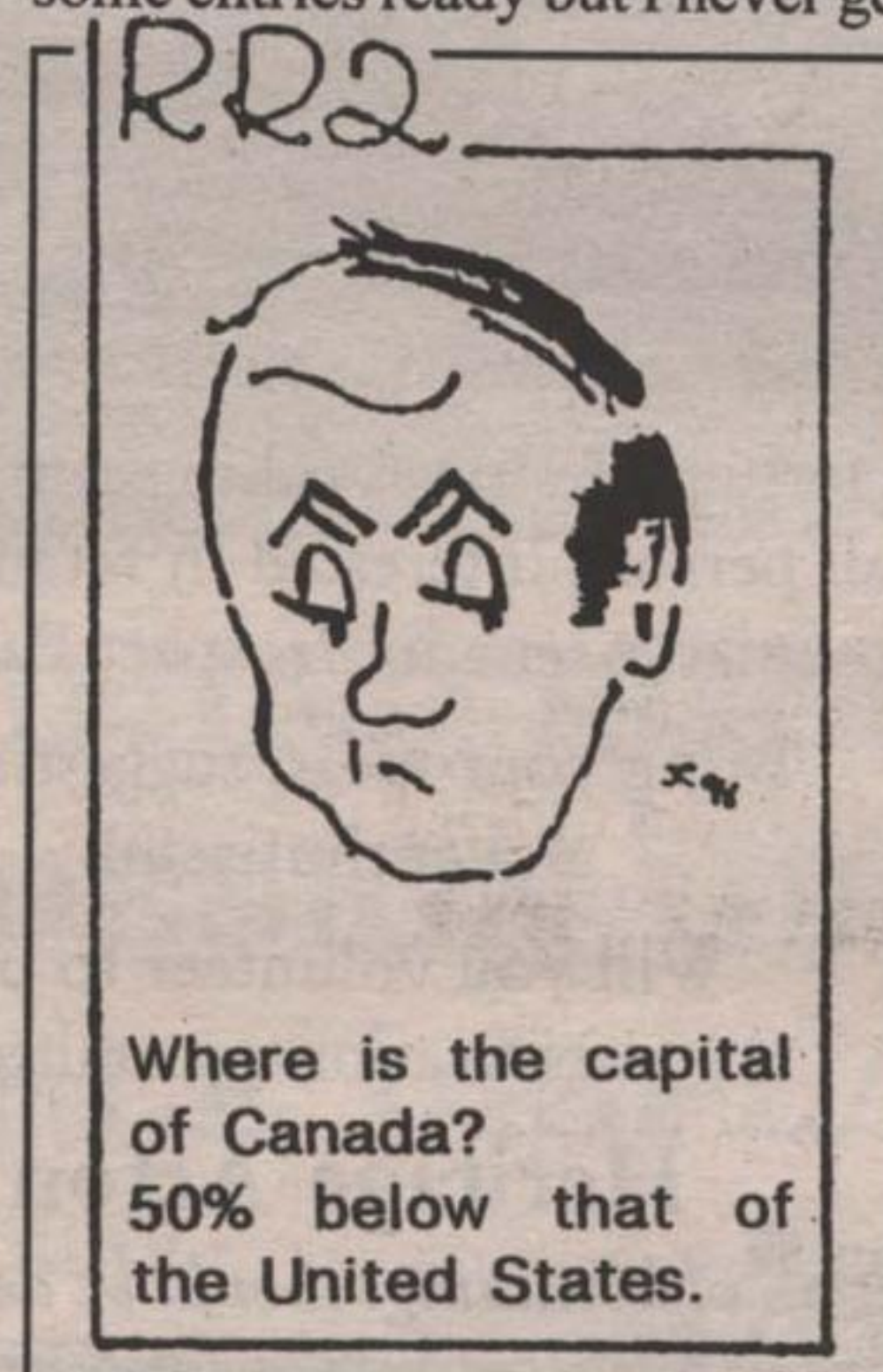
around to it.

Then recent talk about plans to demolish the arena started Dad talking about its early days. I never knew about all those crazy things he did with his horse. I grew up on stories about the bronco he bought as a young man and how she loved to buck, etcetera. What I don't remember hearing before was how they used to hold potato races, barrel races and other riding competitions as the Friday night entertainment before the fair. I remember the stage events and the Miss Acton Fair pageants, but apparently this other stuff was before my time.

From what he tell me it sounds like Dad and Frank Thompson are the only ones left in the area from those early rides.

They were rough too. The stick used to spear the potatoes out of the barrel was a sharpened piece of lath and some of the riders didn't have any compunction about a bit of "high sticking" just like in hockey. If you couldn't beat your opponent to the finish line with more potatoes, you could always knock his potato off his stick or spook his horse. Only Dad's old Lil being half cowpony and whole contrary and mean, didn't spook easy. Someone took a swing at her or the potato and caught Dad across the side of the head instead. Riders didn't wear helmets but I gather Dad did wear a black eye for a week.

Nope, Prospect Park without the arena just won't be the same place. And Acton fair without the craft displays just won't suit me at all.



Where is the capital of Canada?  
50% below that of the United States.

**THE NEW TANNER**

59 Willow Street North  
Acton, Ontario  
L7J 1Z8

(519) 853-0051 Fax: 853-0052

**Publisher** Ted Tyler

**Editorial** Hartley Coles

Frances Niblock Ellen Piehl  
Mike O'Leary Angela Tyler

**Advertising Sales** Maggie Petrushevsky

**Circulation** Marie Shadbolt

**Composing** Christine O'Leary  
Karen Wetmore

Distributed to every home  
in Acton and area as well as  
adjoining communities.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

Every effort will be made to see advertising copy, neatly presented, is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided a claim is made within five days of publication.