

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Travesty for Acton

The surprising development last week concerning the proposed demolition of the old arena in Prospect Park by the Town were not unexpected but they have all been in vain. Council's decision to demolish the arena despite the wishes of a large portion of the people of Acton was not only high handed action, it has set back the whole notion of Halton Hills as a partnership.

It was not surprising that the Fair Board and Heritage Acton should consider legal action to save the structure unless council made some concessions. The fact MPP Ted Chudleigh also jumped into the fray to protect the interests of the people is an indication that the issue won't go away even though the arena is down. We've got long memories.

It's obvious the Georgetown and area councillors who comprise the majority vote on council were looking forward to the establishment of a leisure centre in that community rather than saving the old Acton arena. Consultants have already been engaged to study the need of Halton Hills for a "major indoor facility." One can only speculate but it's pretty obvious where council is headed.

Monday night the Fair Board abandoned their threat of legal action against the Town and agreed to accept a measly \$20,000 in Town money to construct a new building in Prospect Park for use of the Fall Fair. Under duress, of course. But now they want to raise \$300,000 towards a new building.

Does it all make sense when a building already existed that could have been renovated for a little more than that? It would cost a couple of million dollars to replace what was already there? What a travesty.

We suspect the entire situation will lead to more demand for a separate Acton and area, an idea already being broached by some community leaders. In any event this whole episode has left a bad taste in this community for the arbitrary way in which the decision to tear the old arena down was engineered by staff and council from the other wards.

If this is the way they want Halton Hills to operate then maybe those who want to investigate the possibility of separating the Town have a lot going for them.

Attractive site for redevelopment

The report from the consultant hired by Maple Leaf Foods to decommission the 380-acre site formerly occupied by the Beardmore tannery contends the property is not the environmental hot spot some feared.

Despite heavy use for 154 years of tanning, consultant Frank Rovers said the site was not nearly as contaminated as "many of us suspected" and attributes the condition to the stewardship of the owners, Beardmore and Canada Packers.

Even trout are finding their way back through the Black Creek which runs through the property.

Final grading and capping of the property is slated for the year 2001 and will be continually monitored. Then the property will be free for whatever use is contemplated. According to Mr. Rovers encouraging report there are no plans for that at the present time.

Residents have speculated that the extensive works on the site indicated there were future plans of some magnitude. However, Mr. Rovers statement makes it clear there are no immediate plans. However, given the condition the property is in now and the future work planned it will be an attractive place for many enterprises, industrial or residential.

One day what was once the workshop of Acton may well be so again.



DO YOU KNOW THEM? The first Grade One classes to occupy the new addition to Acton Public School in 1952 had their class photo taken with their teacher in this case Kathleen (Kay) Alger. There were three grade ones then, Room 103 taught by Mrs. Grace Reed, Room 104 by Mrs. Alger and Room 105 taught by Mrs. Jane Gamble. Kay Alger, who now resides in Nanaimo, British Columbia, sent this photo to The New Tanner with her class in 104. She has identified eight of her pupils but can anyone name them all?

Small Town Quirks — by Angela Tyler

How not to cure your ills

It's November again... wet, dreary, cold and very little sun. It's the perfect weather to feel miserable. The New Tanner is like most of the businesses lately. When the phone is answered it sounds like we have a new receptionist. This low, sultry voice that sounds like Veronica Lake answers, "Good Afternoon, The New Tanner". After trying to determine who this is, I respond, "Maggie, is that you?" Sure enough it was. Poor Maggie has been battling that flu/cold combo thing and in return has a new voice.

I was thinking when people are sick with colds, flu or small aches and pains, two things usually happen. First, they go into denial. In this process they avoid the doctor. Then after suffering and inflicting their germs on others, they start taking health advice from anybody who offers it. I know there are many great alternative medicines and remedies many swear by. Is it starve a cold, feed a fever or is it flat ginger ale and dry toast? There is vitamin C for colds, copper bracelets for arthritis and herbal teas for aches and pains. Then again there are probably even more 'cure-alls' that are old family remedies/cures. Some of these may very well be things that work, however, some really make me wonder.

A while back, a friend of the family said she heard that if your legs ached at night, the cure for that was to put a potato in your bed. I don't get this. The only way I can think of a potato curing leg ailments if you put the potato where your upper torso would lay. Then during the night when you rolled around in bed, the potato would make your back hurt and you would soon forget about your leg.

Now how about vinegar? At almost every grocery store check out, there is at least one magazine proclaiming it as the newest 'cure-all'. My father swears by it for everything from weight loss to aiding that football injury from

high school. When people ask how he takes it, he tells them they need to start with a small amount mixed with juice and drink it in the morning and when you get really good, you can drink it straight. UGH! I only take my vinegar one way...with french fries.

In my quest for cures, I was fortunate to be loaned a 100 year-old book from Isabel Murray. The Everyday Cookbook by Miss E. Neil, published 1892, has some very interesting cures. Please keep in mind, these 'cures' now are for amusement purposes only.

For a toothache, it suggests applying a bit of cotton soaked with ammonia directly on the tooth. Although they do note that you might have momentary laughter with the application (also can be confused with screams of agonizing pain). Don't fret, they confirm the pain will go away.

I was amazed to find vinegar ingredients in this book. I'm going to see if Maggie will try this one. A sore throat can be easily cured by

simmering salt pork or fat bacon in vinegar then applying to the throat as hot as possible. Now if you have any skin left on your throat wrap it with a soft flannel then gargle with equal parts of borax and alum. If it doesn't cure your throat, try cleaning your sink with it.

For fevers, this book recommends four ounces of galangal root (a ginger like spice) in a quart of gin, steeped in a warm place then take often. If it doesn't get rid of your fever, don't worry, you probably won't notice after drinking all that gin.

For us girls, who have been trained that slim and hairless is the way to be, thankfully Miss Neil has the cure for that, too. To keep lean you need lots of sleep, as much water as you can drink in the morning, exercise in the open air (forget the gym), a tasty diet of oatmeal, cracked wheat, Graham mush, baked sweet apples, broiled beef and don't forget to bathe daily.

As mothers for centuries have preached to their teenage daughters, Miss Neil agrees that you need to leave those legs alone. Shaving only increases the strength of hairs she states. However, if you need to remove it the only sure plan, "severe but effective," is to spread a piece of leather with equal parts of garbanum and pitch plaster, lay it on the hair and wait until it dries. Then pull it off and watch it rip out the hair, root and branch (what a surprise). I guess it was one of the predecessors to waxing. If this doesn't work, she has a back up...kerosene oil will also work. I think I'll keep my Lady Bic.

After the horror, shock and amusement of these cures I have only two thoughts...no wonder people years ago didn't live as long as we do now and if I can't keep dodging the flu/cold bug, I think I'll choose the doctor over Miss E. Neil.



We're not going to Florida this year, same reason we didn't go to Arizona last year.

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