

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Fair Board ignored

Here's a suggestion for Halton Hills Council: ask the people of Georgetown and area to raise the funds for the new leisure centre which has been proposed by the mayor and council.

Since council destroyed the Acton Fair Board's main facility - the old Acton arena - and gave only \$20,000 for a new building, it only seems fair that a similar fund raising should include the people of Georgetown and area, plus council's \$20,000, of course.

These mean thoughts were generated after reading an account of the reception council gave to an additional \$247,000 in money from the Ministry of Northern Development. It was unexpected money from the Province that no one applied for, but obviously had something to do with the imminence of a Provincial election.

The money came with suggestions from sitting MPP Ted Chudleigh that a portion of it go to an 8-inch watermain in Georgetown and another to the Acton Fair Board for their new building in Prospect Park. Council, however, taking umbrage at Mr. Chudleigh's effrontery to suggest where the money might be used, decided instead to earmark it for a new recreational facility in Georgetown.

Don't think for an instant that this corner wants to deprive the people of Georgetown and area of recreation facilities they need. However, it does seem mean and partisan for council to reject Mr. Chudleigh's suggestion to give some of the money to the Fair Board for their new building. After all, they voted to deprive the Fair Board of their old building. Now it appears they don't give a tinker's darn about the board's fundraising. All they seem to be concerned with is pushing the leisure centre concept.

The least they should have done was split the money since the recreation facility is still a concept while the Acton project is on stream.

The Fair Board's building is a necessity and one which will enhance Prospect Park. Surely that's worth more consideration than a rebuke to the MPP's consideration for a project.

Worthy recipient

Congratulations to Dorothy Allen who was named as one of four Halton Women of the Year at a ceremony at Oakville's Glen Abbey golf club, May 4.

Teacher, mother, foster mother, volunteer and an all round beautiful person, Dorothy is a worthy recipient of the award. She has quietly and efficiently contributed to society over decades without wanting any recognition outside of the satisfaction of helping others.

Dorothy has been a volunteer driver for the Children's Aid Society for 14 years and with husband Ken has organized and coordinated a five-step Tough Talk program to help families turn problem children around. They have also coordinated a similar program for adult males.

She became a part-time child care worker with the Acton Parent and Child Resource Centre. She's a driver for Halton Hills Community Support and Information, canvasser for United Way and "Junior Church" teacher.

Those who nominated Dorothy for the award said it succinctly... "to many families in Halton the name Dorothy Allen is synonymous with compassion, caring and willingness to serve others with 'love'."

Friends, realizing few could attend the ceremonies in Oakville, have arranged an open house to honour Dorothy at the Boat House in Prospect Park on Sunday, May 16, from 2 to 4 p.m.



BEAVERS, MOMS AND SLIME: Members of the Acton "B" Beaver colony took their moms to Blue Springs Scout Camp last Wednesday to hunt for slimey things. Much to the dismay of the Beavers and the delight of their mothers, all of the bugs, frogs and salamanders that were caught were set free at the end of the hunt. - Frances Niblock photo



Rural carriers have hard job

To the Editor,

We have been hearing a lot about postal workers on R.R. #2, Acton; well, I would like to tell you about a group of postal workers in Rockwood. They go to work every day of the year except for a few holidays that the government lets them have off. These rural route drivers are not a part of Canada Post. They put in a bid to get their contracts and they have had to take pay cuts with no real explanation. They do not have any real job security and it really makes me upset to see all these other companies go on strike and try to get more money and all the other benefits.

These workers will bend over backwards to make sure that people get their mail and that they get the best service that they can give. Every time their contracts are up for renewal they are afraid of losing jobs they have had for years.

In their contracts it states they cannot make any profit off the mail routes, so I'm wondering how this person can get these contracts and they try to get someone to do these routes and make a profit off it? How would any person feel that after three to five years you were out of a job? Why can't Canada Post offer these routes back to the carriers then if they don't want to do it any more then put them up for tender?

How would anyone up in the head office feel if they were out of their jobs in that time? I was also wondering why the United States looks after postal rural routes carriers better than Canada Post?

The group of workers at the Rockwood Post Office are a great group of people. People come and go though they will try to figure out where they live and if the address on

the letters are correct. These people are not mind readers so they take the flak that the customers give them with a smile. People are responsible to have names on their mail boxes or they have to have their fire numbers on it. But in reality how are they supposed to know what customers' names are?

When one family moves out and a new family moves in, if they do not notify the post office, how are they to know who they are. If more than one family moved in how are they to know? People are responsible for keeping mail boxes in good condition but if you went around and noticed what condition most are in then you could see what really makes the carriers upset. When there's a complaint something is missing or have not received mail for a month, they then come in complaining. When they are asked to fix, repair or replace the box they get upset with the carrier. There are customers who once they get the

notice they have it repaired within days.

In the winter when no one else would be on the roads these people are. The mail has to get out. The rural route drivers don't get any holidays unless they hire someone else to do the job and that money comes out of their own pockets. They have to take the time to train these people to do the job and after these people are there for a while they get to know how frustrating the job begins to be. Some of the people don't even stay for more than one day.

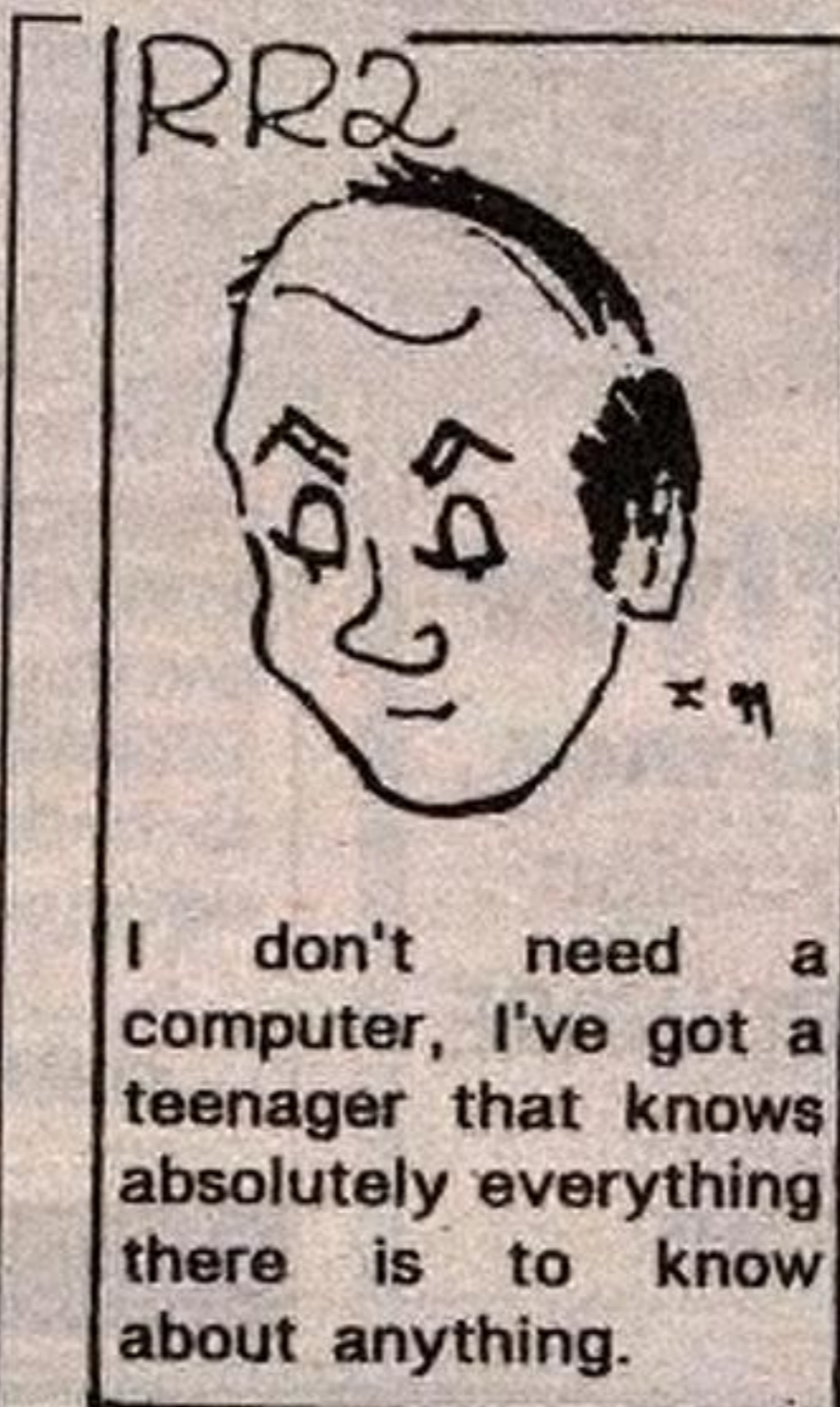
The rural route carriers have to supply their own vehicle and anything else they need. My sister-in-law has had her mail route in the family for almost 25 years but each time she has that fear that this is the last that she will have. On most jobs if you phone in sick you have someone that can take over your job and you probably have sick leave. These people don't.

I know of a couple that when they get sick and end up in hospital, the other one has to try and do both routes. Sometimes they are out till midnight or later trying to get the mail done.

I don't agree with what has happened on the Acton routes. I just wanted you to know that there are people out there that really need these jobs and that they are not the ones that can control what happens after they lose their jobs. The driver of RR #2, Acton had to find another job after serving her customers for a number of years all because some person has the right to take her job away.

We have to get the head people at Canada Post to try this job for one month and then tell them that they

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