

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Truck detour temporary?

It is one thing for a temporary truck route to be established along Wallace avenue from 7 Highway to 25 North but some residents fear it may become permanent. Over two decades ago that detour was proposed to ease congestion in the downtown. Is that a future possibility?

Moot question. One resident says they (the Town) have upgraded Wallace from McDonald to Highway 25. "If they aren't planning a permanent truck route why do we need a left turn lane at Commerce Court?" he asks. The problem of course, is that it now means the trucks are going through a residential area, not a pleasant prospect, for anyone living along the route.

The temporary detour has been established while Trafalgar Road is closed for reconstruction for four months from the Silvercreek/Highway 7 intersection north to Ballinafad. Heavy trucks heading north on Trafalgar Road will detour to Acton on Highway 7, turn on to Wallace Street at the CN tracks and follow Wallace to Regional Road 25 (formerly 25 Highway), then north on 25 to former Highway 24, turn right to follow 24 through to Trafalgar Road.

Local traffic meanwhile, will detour to the Eighth line between 27 Side Road and 32 Side Road. Why not trucks then? The roads just aren't built to handle heavy truck traffic. Hence, the long detour through Acton to 25.

Using Wallace Street as a permanent detour to alleviate downtown Acton congestion is a measure few would support. Trucks and residential areas just don't mix. A bypass around Acton using existing roads would require considerable upgrading but finding a suitable route would be more of a problem. Once Trafalgar Road improvements are complete the possibility of a route using the old York Road, the Town Line between Halton and Wellington, for a bypass could possibly surface. It runs from Ballinafad to Crewsons Corners, where it reconnects with Highway 7, both with a small railway underpass and a level crossing. It also connects with Halton Regional Road 25 and 125 Wellington. The road, typically rural, would need a lot of upgrades before it could be used.

In any event, as traffic woes increase, the need for a solution becomes imperative. Temporary truck routes through Acton may be necessary but permanent routes in town are not in anyone's best interests.



WINNING SERVICE: Michael Stock of RR 1, Limehouse gets a triple helping of customer service from Jo-Marie McAfee, Zollie Fogal and Carolyn Lashley, counter staff at the Acton Post Office. The ladies offered refreshments Friday to thank customers for voting service at the Acton Post Office the best in Canada. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Grief seminar outlines changes in Canadians' funeral practices

The trend away from funerals in favour of graveside committal services is more pronounced in other Canadian provinces, says the man behind Genesis Bereavement Resources. He spoke at a recent grief seminar at McKinnon's Family Funeral Home, Acton.

Part of that movement probably stems from the lack of a formal religious connection in the lives of many Canadians. But that attitude doesn't necessarily mean a lack of spirituality, says Rev. John Saynor.

Just as young people use expressions their elders find confusing, so those without a grounding in some church may feel traditional Biblical terminology is foreign and meaningless.

In a recent seminar for ministers, support workers and those involved in helping the bereaved, Rev. John Saynor suggested ministers may need to create their own terminology to express those traditional messages of comfort in ways "non-religious" people can understand. That could mean using poems or reading from sources other than the Bible. But it could also just require asking the mourners what they would like in the funeral service.

He pointed out that most people's

Petro Points

with Maggie Petrushevsky



aversion to funerals stems from their own bad experiences. Perhaps they dealt with a funeral director who dictated a specific type of service without regard for family preferences. Perhaps the minister dashed in, rhymed off an impersonal message, then rushed away again. Or maybe there was dissension in the family, which could have been - but wasn't - sorted out before the service.

He applauded families working out differences in advance. For instance, his own father died while he was a young child and his mother remarried. Later his mother and step-father divorced but so far as both he and his step-brothers are concerned, both adults were still parents to them and they are still a family. When his step-father was dying the brothers decided to attend the funeral as a family and put Saynor's mother in the family as though no divorce had occurred. While a funeral director might have

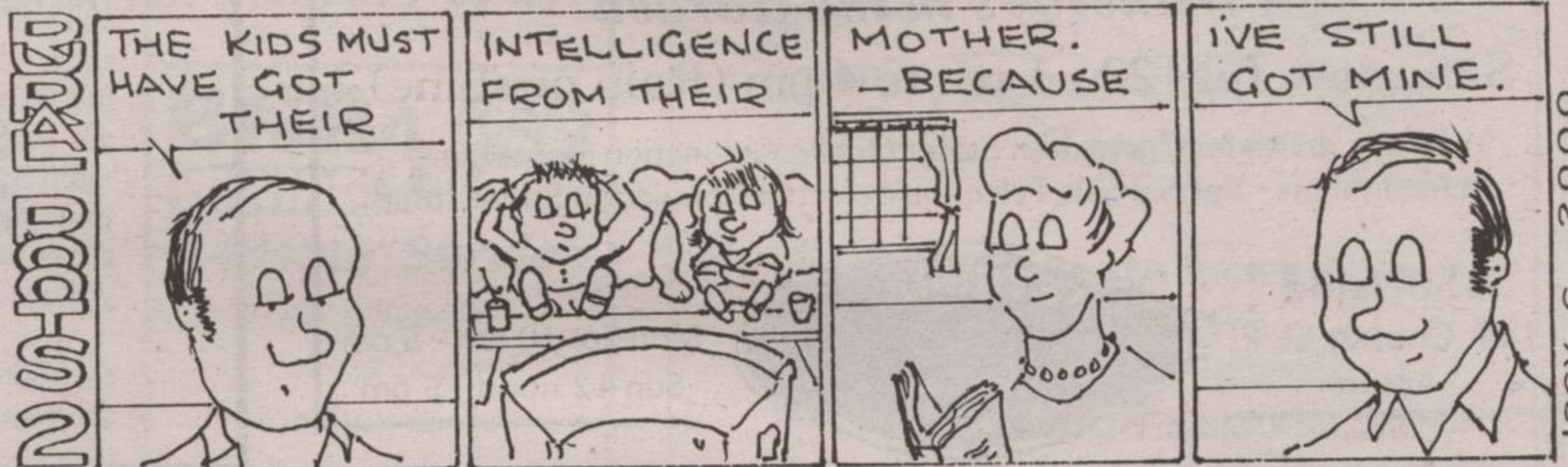
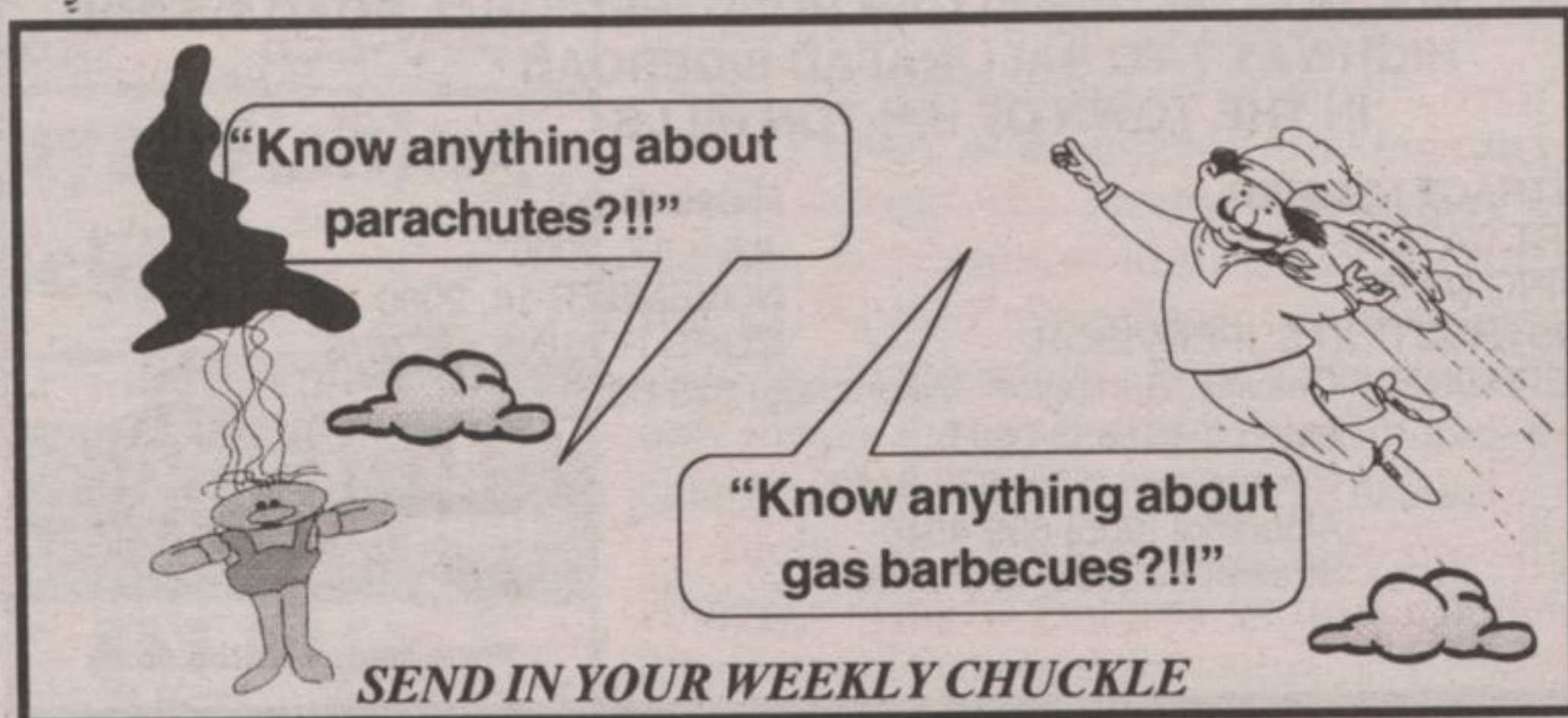
questioned whether to separate the two sides or make one family of them, it was really up to the family to make the decision. Having the issue resolved in advance made it easier for everyone concerned, even his mother, Saynor said.

There is a new openness about formerly taboo issues, like AIDS, suicide, and homosexuality, he said. Even the fact a deceased spouse might have been difficult to live with or even abusive, no longer has to be hidden to retain the family's good name.

He suggested mourners need to have their grief validated, time to grieve, a willing listener and support from someone who is patient, non-judgemental and empathetic. They also need permission and encouragement to recreate their life.

Since minister's often have too many tasks to juggle, training is being set up for a new type of support worker to help the bereaved.

Saynor is a licenced funeral director and entered the Anglican ministry in 1989. The author of several books on death, he established the first Genesis Bereavement Resource Centre in Toronto in 1993. MacKinnon's Family Funeral Home is a member of the group.



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

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