

# EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

## Water, water everywhere ... but none to drink

Never in the endless political squabbles has the issue of clean drinking water been more important. The problems in Walkerton have magnified to the point where one official has declared all water that comes from deep wells is suspect, that we can no longer depend on them as a source for drinking.

But in testifying Monday at the official inquiry in to the Walkerton disaster, hydrogeology expert Ken Howard testified that was an "alarmist" attitude. He said groundwater is an excellent source and with a properly designed well, particularly one that goes into a deep aquifer, there's no cause for some of the alarmist views we've heard.

Howard is reported to have said he has a great deal of confidence in the majority of deep water we have in Ontario. "I think it would be a terrible shame if suddenly a lot of the municipalities that presently rely on groundwater were to suddenly put in big pipes into big lakes."

Since about 25 to 30 per cent of Canadians rely on groundwater and that includes 70 per cent of rural dwellers, Howard's statement should bring a huge sigh of relief to municipalities such as Halton Hills. Large urban centres, of course, usually spawn on or near lakes or rivers and rely on treated surface water.

The Walkerton inquiry is equally pertinent for communities like Acton where the reliance on springs and wells is paramount.

Recently, the Region of Halton noted that there was bacteria in untreated water from wells at the corner of Fourth Line and the Town Line with Erin and the Davidson well just south of Acton off Regional Road 25. However, the Region also noted it has been a fact since 1991 and once treated the water is perfectly safe to drink. They are considering some extra equipment at the well to remove the bacteria which it is felt comes from livestock.

Acton has had its problems before with water but mostly from officials' declaration there isn't enough of it. A crock, of course, but a reason to defer development. The Region has repeatedly maintained Acton water is safe to drink. And of good quality. There's no reason to question their integrity.

Halton Council recently approved the final Aquifer Management Plan which has the long term security of the groundwater and surface water resource in the region. The final plan includes a new provision that includes discussions with rural landowners on such things as options for management of manure storage, for keeping livestock away from water courses, and for planning vegetation along banks of rivers and streams to stop erosion.

It's a unique plan, one all water providers would well emulate. After all, good drinking water is not only an asset to a community. It's a necessity.

Canada, it's reported, has the world's second highest per capita consumption of water, estimated at 360 litres per person for household use alone. And yet we use only two per cent of its renewable supply. Surely we can manage our water resources to the point where polluters feel the full wrath of those affected.

## Practical decision

The Acton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society's (CCS) decision to join the Wellington County unit instead of toadying to the Society's wish they join with Oakville, is a clear declaration they are independent and practical under the CCS banner.

When CCS announced it was closing the Georgetown office which served Milton, Acton and Georgetown branches, it caused much consternation and a campaign to save the office. However, the campaign failed. Georgetown branch decided to form its own unit with an office and all the attendant expenses.

The Acton unit, however, decided it wanted to remain under the CCS banner and carry on, as usual, one of the best campaigns in the province per capita. They opted for Wellington where they received a very friendly reception. Since the Wellington office is only a little further away than Georgetown the difference will hardly be noticeable and funds will go to research instead of administration.



**SNIP:** The Acton Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library is open for business again. Library Board chair Jay Jackson and Chief Librarian Betsey Cornwell snipped the ribbon to officially mark the end to renovations at the branch. Assisting was Cindy Cooper, left, branch public services director. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

## C.W.'s 80th birthday celebration

Sometimes it looked like an old railwayman's congress when Charlie Perry celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday Sunday in Churchill Community Church hall. But they were there from all walks of life with best wishes for the former Actonian who now hangs his hat in the Grand Bend, Ontario.

Charlie was the last station agent in Acton before the Canadian National pulled the plug on the Acton station despite a fight from this community which had railroad brass grinding their teeth in exasperation. They had their way in the end, of course, but not before they knew they were in a good fight.

Charlie could have taken another agent's job somewhere in the CN system but he and Bruce Cargill were partners in Lakeview Flooring on Main Street North and that occupied his time for a few years before son Don took over. Charlie went into other interests such as travel guide and travelling before deciding it was time to retire in Grand Bend with wife Grace.

The whole family, widely dispersed now except for daughter Linda who resides in Acton with husband Vern Denny and family, was there to wish C.W. as they call him, many more years of activity. An orchestra composed of musical buddies Rino Braida (violin), Vern Denny (accordion), Earl Burt (guitar) and Ralph McKeown (mandolin) played old time favourites for the overflow crowd.

Charlie and Grace keep in touch with Acton and activities here and

### Coles' Slaw

with Hartley Coles



are frequent visitors.

★★★

After all the ink thrown at the illness and death of the late Pierre Trudeau it ill behooves this scribbler to add to it. However, outside of public appearances which I covered as a reporter, the lone opportunity to interview Trudeau was at a newspaper convention, along with two or three other community newspapermen.

We were warned beforehand that he could be pretty feisty and had no time for foolish question. So we approached him with some deference and tried to ask intelligent questions.

To our surprise he was completely at ease with us, answered our questions quietly and with the competence that comes with a grasp of his job. There was no trace of arrogance or ill temper. He displayed the warm, good manners of a gentleman, which he could be outside of politics.

★★★

There are three people running for the Halton Canadian Alliance nomination this Thursday (tonight) at the Optimist Club in Milton. One of them

is Guiseppe Gori of RR 2, Acton. The other two are from Milton and Georgetown, respectively, Stan Lazarski and Clay Downes.

The Alliance Party had a booth at Acton Fall Fair where they distributed literature and garnered much interest but little else has been heard from them in this neck of the woods. Gori we know, of course. He was a candidate for the Family Coalition Party in provincial politics several years ago and still heads it.

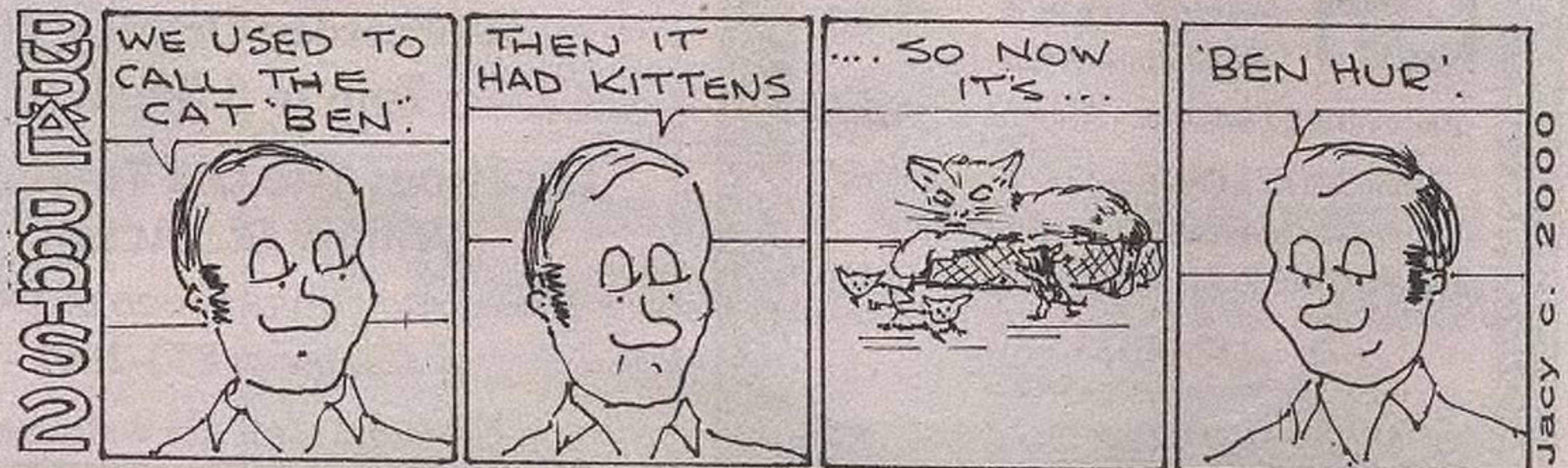
Originally the Alliance was going to hold three meet the candidate nights before holding a nomination but all the signs point to a November election so the nomination process had to be hurried up with the nomination Thursday.

★★★

Don't believe all the Purolator ads that proclaim their quick delivery. We had a parcel to send to Tillsonburg on Tuesday, contacted the company and they got it before noon Tuesday.

We asked for delivery by 9 a.m. on Wednesday which gave the company 21 hours to deliver our parcel. They phoned to say it was impossible. Both Acton and Tillsonburg were remote centres and had no depot so it would take at least to 5 p.m. on Wednesday before the parcel could be delivered, the company said, maybe even later.

So the parcel was delivered back and we delivered it ourselves - To Tillsonburg the same night.



# THE NEW TANNER

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