

Writer likes Acton as it is now!

Dear editor,

The articles in the paper in the recent weeks regarding the proposed Magna industrial development; the response of giddy delight by the town councillors and the anticipation of Acton residents leaves me in dismay. Am I the only one who thinks that this anticipated development is not the most fortuitous and desirable thing to happen for Acton? Am I the only one who dreads what will happen to our own when and if this proposal comes to fruition?

One of the main reasons for our move to this town was because of "small town Ontario" - it has its roots in the agriculture tradition - the tradition that built this land. The flavour of the town has been maintained for years. The old frame homes still grace the streets. Most of the town is made up of the original habitants and even though

some are in need of repair, each of these houses gives the town its essence. It always seemed to me that this was a town that in which my grandmother lived and that is a town in which I would like to live.

As the town exists now, I can walk anywhere I wish to go; I know the shop keepers by name; I can wave at friends as they drive by my house; I know my neighbours; the principal at the school knows my daughter by name, sight and accomplishment; if I wish to go for a drive in the country, I am only two minutes away from beautiful fields and tree-lined roads; and I have a lovely little lake on which I can go boating right in the middle of the town.

What will happen to our town once we have enticed/allowed industry into our parameters? What will happen when we become desirable real estate? Will the old homes

which grace our streets be bought and torn down to be replaced by characterless monsters? Will we lose the homes that give us our connection to our history? If this were to happen, it would be inevitable that these new homes will increase the cost of the real estate and end up precluding our blue-collar population from affording housing in the area and driving them out. We will become a middle class/upper middle class town and we will lose our blue-collar identity, the identity on which this town was built. We will thus lose ourselves to the relentless on-rush of progress.

What will happen to our beautiful Fairy Lake when the demand for her resources is doubled? Will there be a loss of the wildlife which now makes its home there and will the wetlands be affected or reduced? Will access to the lake be hindered? Have we

considered the environmental impact on the lake if we allow more development, both industrial and residential, in the town?

The streets of Acton are narrow - particularly Mill Street in the downtown core. How will we support more traffic when we are already seeking ways to accommodate the traffic we already have? If the road is to be widened, then it would be necessitate the destruction of already existing stores. A solution which will guarantee simultaneously the loss of the structures and the loss of our history, our essence. Already, we do not have parking facilities for our shops in the downtown area. What will we destroy in order to make the parking space so that the shops can enjoy the benefit of the influx of population.

Although we have difficulty in maintaining businesses in the downtown core

and we see too many shops open and close in quick succession, I don't believe that more population is the solution to this problem. There are several successful businesses in Acton. There are the businesses which, no doubt, have been devised and launched with common sense and a good business plan. If any business is to succeed, a good business plan is essential. Perhaps our thinking should be to offer services that assist an individual with their prospective business, by helping devise a good business plan rather than believing that we need a greater population to sustain existing and potential businesses.

We have, as it presently exists, a gem of a town. There are few towns such as ours left. Do we want to risk losing this gem? If we succumb to the temptation of additional tax dollars/employment that we will garner from expansion,

we may find that all we become is just another facet of Toronto. Inevitably the town will change with addition of industry and subdivisions. Once the development is in progress, it will be impossible to reverse the trend and accommodate any altering of our views. Now, before any development progresses in Acton, we must determine what we wish to preserve about our town. We must also ask ourselves what it is that the town really needs and determine what we are willing to compromise our town for any of the things that we may merely want.

Our town has a wonderful peaceful feeling to it and I would be heartbroken were we to lose this peace. Personally, I wish to be buried at the Fairview Cemetery that herkens to the rustling of pines - not the swishing of car tires on concrete.

Joy Lippai,
Acton

Pet killed on 25 by hit and run

To the editor,

On Thursday, Feb 8, at approximately 6:40 a.m., somebody killed my dog and didn't even stop.

Mickey was found on Hwy 25, south of Acton, right in front of my house. He was a victim of a hit and run, the person didn't even have the decency to stop.

My heart is broken and aching. Along with my family, Mikey was the love of my life. He was always happy to see me. He was a fun-loving Pomeranian who always seemed to know when I needed attention. He was my best friend of 7 1/2 years and

now he is gone. He helped me through the roughest of times.

I think Mickey deserved for his killer to stop. Just a couple of minutes of this person's life he deserved because HIS and MINE have been changed forever.

If you are a person who has accidentally hit a dog or a cat on the road, please stop and report it. You can be assured that somebody loves this animal very much. Some of us have no better friend than their dog. And some of us will be very lonely without him.

Irene Stobodian
Hwy 25, Acton



Free swims, skates are appreciated

To the editor,

This past holiday season many families in Halton Hills enjoys the free swimming and skating opportunities in our community facilities. The Recreation and Parks Department would like to thank the Optimist Club of Georgetown and the Acton Rotary Club for their generosity in sponsoring these recreational skating and swimming opportunities.

This is only one of the many community programs supported by our local service clubs that help to improve the quality of life for Halton Hills' residents. The Acton

Rotary Club and the Georgetown Optimist Club continue to ensure all residents have access to recreational opportunities regardless of their financial circumstances. They know first hand the many benefits recreation and sport experience contribute to the healthy development of children, families and our community.

Many participants expressed their thanks, so it is with pleasure and appreciation that we express ours! Thank you.

Bryan Shynal,
Director of Recreation
and Parks Department

Political debate at new low

To the editor,

I would like to respond to the attack on John Hansen on his observation concerning the failure of the provincial government to attend to the interests of all Ontarians. Dave Dawkins' inflammatory rhetoric that so typically ridicules anyone who in any way calls into question the agenda of the so-called Common Sense Revolution is one contribution I can attribute to the last six years under Mike Harris. The civility and respect that marked political debate during the era of Conservative premiers John Roberts and Bill Davis is increasingly non-existent, having sunk to an all-time low in a polarized atmosphere that has pitted us one against the other.

Hostility, meanness, and vindictiveness are the order-of-the-day in a partisan environment to which the victor go the spoils, where 'schoolyard bullies' practise intimidation and character assassination. In Mike Harris'

Ontario any serious opponents are deemed to represent 'special interest groups,' or worse yet (as in the case of Comrade Hansen) discredited as a 'red menace.' Faith groups and their leaders who would dare to express a social conscience are patronized and dismissed as naive idealists who should mind their own business in tending to spiritual matters.

As justification for neo-conservative values that have elevated self-interest at the expense of the least fortunate and most vulnerable on our society, Mr. Dawkins and others of his ilk will undoubtedly quote me that well-worn phrase that "God helps those who help themselves." Yet I would counter by suggesting that they - who seek to criminalize poverty and make

scapegoats with it's regard for the weakest and poorest. Further, I would cite as relevant for today's 'dog-eat-dog' world that well known radical Jesus of Nazareth who had the audacity to counsel his followers to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

In closing, I would suggest some remedial reading for those who regard the writings of Ayn Rand and David Frum as their gospel. If you regard the writings of Karl Marx as outdated or otherwise not appealing, from the Judoe-Christian perspective perhaps you might consider the writings of the prophets; particularly Amos 8:4-14 and Isaiah 61: 1-2, the latter of which is cited by Jesus at the onset of his ministry. Finally, as my personal favourite, I would highly recommend Jesus' prophetic description of the Last Judgement as found in Matthew 25:31-46.

Yours in Christ's service
The Rev. (Comrade)
Robert Matton

Seniors tour success

To the editor,

Acton's first Christmas lights tour was a success! Acton Seniors Recreation Centre sponsored a trip with Tyler buses (both regular and handicapped) and two great drivers to see the lights in Glen Williams, Norval, Georgetown and, of course, Acton. They were then taken to the Seniors Centre (Acton) and treated to special hot drinks and Christmas goodies.

Next year we hope to have many more people join us for this special evening and fill those buses.

Please note that this trip is for any senior in Acton area to participate in as guests of the Acton Seniors Recreation Centre. See you then!

(Pick-ups will be at different locations in Acton.)

Donna M. Rowley
President

Fully supports 74

Dear Editor,

(Re: Intent of letter was protest against Bill 74)

I fully understand that the main target of Mr. Hansen's attack was Bill 74. There are numerous reasons why I should not and will not engage in a public debate on labour issues with him and his militant rhetoric. Suffice it to say that I am in full support of the intent of the legislation. However, I specifically take issue with the continued references Hansen makes to Walkerton and the tainted water scandal.

I suppose in Hansen's perfect world there would be countless layers of bureaucracy, each employed for the sole purpose of ensuring that the level beneath not be staffed with morons falsifying documents in a drunken stupor at the risk of the very lives of the people they are being exceptionally well paid to protect. Bigger government - that's exactly what we need.

And damn the cost. The corporations can pay for it all I suppose, eh John?

Anyone who continues to blame Harris for Walkerton

despite the recent illuminating and shocking testimony of the pathetic Brothers Koebel is either:

a) desperately grasping at straws in order to justify their initial Pavlovian response to attack Harris;

b) convinced that Harris is responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs;

c) pretty sure they can make out the fuzzy but distinct outline of Mike Harris on the grassy knoll in the Zapruder film;

d) a die-hard Toronto Star enthusiast; or

e) all of the above.

I caution Hansen not to interpret the lack of opposing letters as evidence of overwhelming support for his radical views. The silent majority is by definition a mute bunch - quietly appreciative of Harris' efforts to wrestle control from those whom have corrupted our province long enough.

Sincerely,
Dave Dawkins

P.S. I promised my lovely wife that this would be my last letter.

Ciao for now.

Bill 117 penalizes honest men

Dear Editor,

I wish to respond to the disabled women who has been abused by her spouse and believes Bill 117 is needed.

As I am female and disabled, a mother, trained social worker, and wife who believes in respect from a partner, my heart does go out to this lady. It is not right for humans to threaten, intimidate or use physical force (unless to discipline children fairly).

Unfortunately, stressed emotions, and lack of control seem to precipitate violence in domestic disputes. This, I believe, has been compounded by injustices within the courts, the laws and even the law enforcement agencies.

I recognize that there are

women who are not justly treated just as there are men being abused. It was hard for me to determine from the letter whether court action was taken and whether sources of income were provided.

Nevertheless, I do contend that Bill 117 will create more conflict and will be open to abuse by those who rush to do so. When one can be arrested, thrown in jail and have children and possessions confiscated with no proof of wrongdoing then the law is open to a court challenge. My research into family law leads me to conclude that honest men are experiencing greater injustice, as a result, and there are children losing in the process.

Sincerely,
Pat Woode