

EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

Errors happen

When a Toronto blogger discovered that NASA had made an error in its data calculations of climate change showing 1934, not 1998 was the hottest year on record in the U.S.A. people in this area who lived through 1934 and 1998 surely nodded in agreement. At a time when few air conditioners existed here, the summer of 1934 was a fiery furnace here with almost no from the blazing sun for almost three weeks.

People put up blankets over their windows to keep out the oppressive sun. In the evenings many slept outside in makeshift tents. The beach in Fairy Lake was swarming with swimmers and every bit of shade available crowded.

However, the error also suggested that one mustn't accept all the information about climate change as gospel. There must be a few red faces in circles, which used 1998 as proof that recent years were the hottest on record. A new list published by NASA shows that four of the top 10 hottest years were in the 1930s.

It has become a political football in the U.S. where radio host Rush Limbaugh has said the error is evidence that climate change evidence is unsound. Tell that to David Suzuki.

It is evidence that errors are made even in the best scientific circles. The Toronto blogger who discovered NASA's blunder had challenged "hockey stick" graphs in 2003 which showed a spike in world temperatures. This time NASA ordered a data review and released another "hockey stick" measure.

Hottest years: before		Hottest years: now	
YEAR	TEMPERATURE DEVIATION	YEAR	TEMPERATURE DEVIATION
1998	1.24C	1934	1.25C
1934	1.23	1998	1.23
2006	1.23	1921	1.15
1921	1.12	2006	1.13
1931	1.08	1931	1.08
1999	0.94	1999	0.93
1953	0.91	1953	0.90
2001	0.90	1990	0.87
1990	0.88	1938	0.86
1938	0.85	1939	0.85

Consoling crack addicts

Why, a reader asks, can the Region consider paying for drug addicts' crack kits when Off the Wall, Acton's youth centre, has no permanent funding when their aim is to keep youth off drugs.

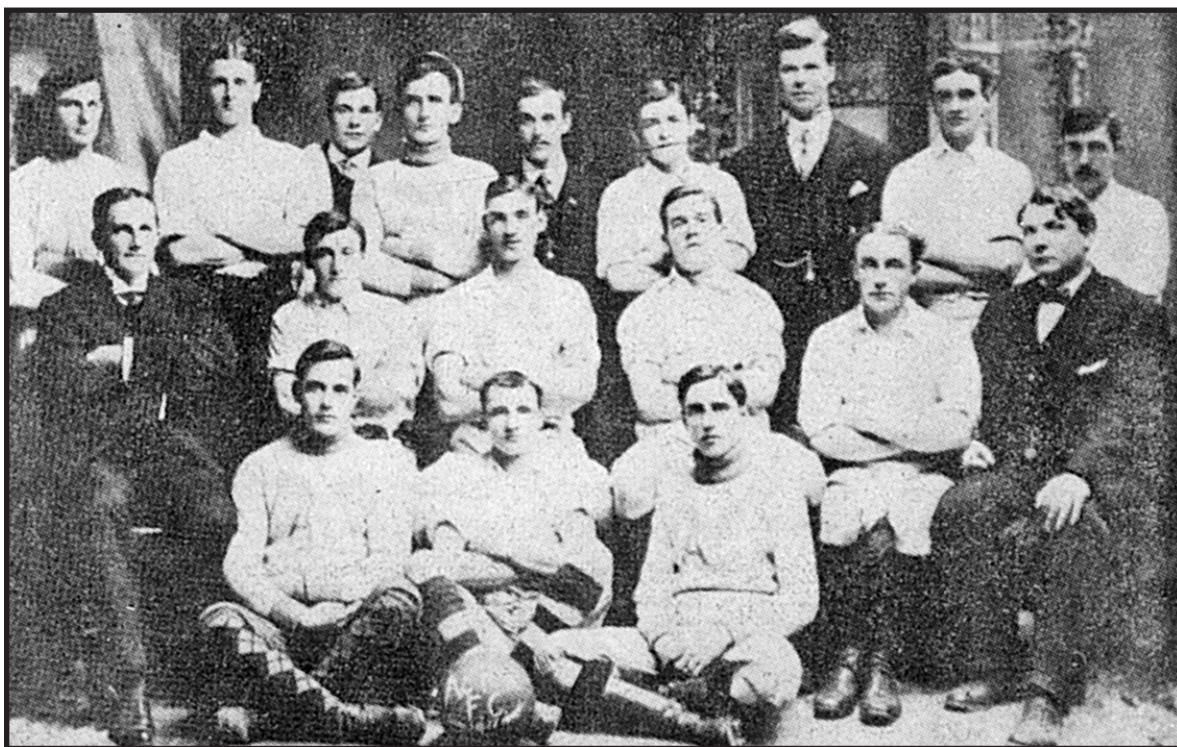
The latest report on Halton's needle exchange program showed needles were provided to clients on 462 occasions last year.

In Acton staff had a total of eight contacts, including three who exchanged needles used for intramuscular injections of steroids, and five who exchanged needles used for intravenous injections of illicit drugs.

The program in Acton, Georgetown and Milton costs about \$120,000 annually. To expand Region wide would require a budget of \$360,000. The program is unique to North Halton.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville, vice-chair of Halton's Health and Social Services Committee, says "I've never had a problem with needle exchanges or harm reduction programs because if you prevent one case of AIDS or HIV you can literally save the public health system millions of dollars," Somerville says, however, he would have difficulty with safe injection sites.

It still doesn't answer the reader's original question and we would like to know why, too.



1911 SOCCER TEAM: Soccer is big and becoming bigger in this area with new pitches and inside facilities. But it's not a recent fad here. This photo of Acton's 1911 soccer club include such luminaries as John Wood, Charles Holmes, Nels Gardiner, Murray McDonald, Sidney Gunton and Neil McDonald, all long since passed away but remembered.

Acton just won't go away

If you have lived in Acton long enough, you have come to learn a few things. The main thing is that you may leave Acton at some point, but Acton will never leave you.

I first learned this when my sister moved to Toronto back in the early '90s. She was there however; she spent a lot of time still at our parent's place and spent more time commuting than she did living in Toronto. Finally, she moved back to Acton.

Over the years, I've seen this more and more. Several times when I, or I and my family have been in Tampa, Florida, we regularly see many Actonites at the local flea market. It's just odd when you think about it. Here we are thousands of miles away from Acton and we run into people who are basically our neighbours, totally unplanned.

This past weekend I found myself along with my sister in Southern Alberta. As I rode shot gun reading the map I saw a name on the map. It said High River. Suddenly I had a brain flash. I knew somebody in High River. It was a young woman who had worked for our business probably 20 years ago just after she



By
Angela Tyler

graduated from college.

She usually pops every year or so when she comes back to visit her folks. Again, you never leave Acton. I remembered she worked for the local paper. Luckily, my sister had had a copy of our paper with her. We came into the newspaper office and I asked to speak to her. When she came out she was devastated. We were her third visitors from Acton and the first that were non-family. She almost ripped our paper from our hands looking for Acton news.

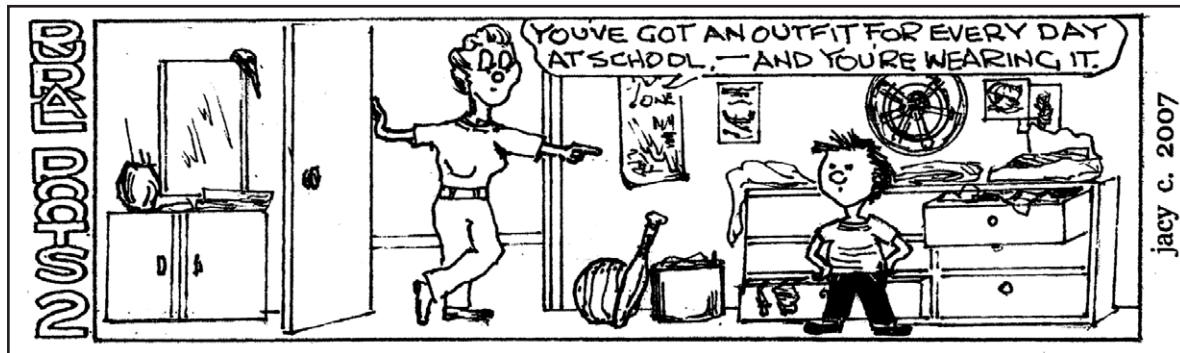
This past week, I attended a trade show. As I was talking with one of the vendors, he looked at my name tag and asked me "Are you really from Acton?" With that he looked at me oddly and said, he's from Acton and reads my column. I thanked him then we discovered he was living in Bert Hinton's house. For those who are new to town he was the proprietor of the local five and dime

store eons ago.

As I wandered through the trade show, I wanted to go to a certain booth. I was being selfish and greedy. I knew they had water bottles and mine had recently broke. I figured if I could go there and seemed interested in their product, I could get a new bottle. Instead, I was asked the same question. "Are you really from Acton?" It was starting to get old at this point. I told them I was expecting the "Is it really worth the drive" comments. Instead I was greeted with something different.

"I went to Robert Little and MSB" The woman told me. She used to live in Acton. She asked me if I went to MSB. I told her, I was a M.Z. Bennett graduate. She, apparently was younger than me as M.Z. Bennett was the predecessor to MSB.

As I was leaving, I gave her my words of wisdom. "Just remember...you may leave Acton, but Acton never leaves you...." It's true. You maybe in the remote corners of the earth but Acton will always be with you and there seems to be a little bit of Acton in all of us.



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