

The Independent

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF NEWS COVERAGE AT ITS BEST



It's been OUR pleasure bringing you the news

The day the first edition of *The Georgetown Independent* rolled off the presses I undoubtedly marked the occasion by skipping a high school French class, listening to a Deep Purple eight-track tape and playing billiards at a buddy's house.

As a 15-year-old living in a southwestern Ontario town, the launch of a newspaper in Georgetown on Oct. 17, 1973 had as much bearing on my life then as a political debate in Denmark. How things change.

The Independent & Free Press has been my second home since 1996 when then-publisher Ken Nugent asked me if I wanted to go to Georgetown "for six weeks".

Having been the managing editor at the *Brampton Guardian*-

ian under Nugent for nearly four years, and eager to try new things, I agreed to an "editor switch" with then-*Independent* managing editor Robin Inscoc. Figuratively (and literally) we switched chairs.

That six-week trial turned into six months before we all agreed to make the switch permanent.

I've now enjoyed 17 years of watching the Georgetown landscape change—almost as many years (18) as I spent at other daily and weekly newspapers before joining *The Independent*.

It was news editor Cynthia Gamble (a fixture here since 1984) who pointed out that I've had the privilege of being the longest-serving managing editor at *The Independent*,



JOHN MCGHIE

following in the steps of Hartley Coles and Mr. Inscoc.

I can honestly say it has been our pleasure to help bring the local news that matters to our readers.

We've been there for countless fundraisers, tragedies, openings, closings, announcements and pronouncements. We've reported on elections, resignations, blackouts, storms and

crime. There have been heartbreaking and heart-warming stories, tales of triumph and tragedy, wins and losses—all aspects that make up the life of a community.

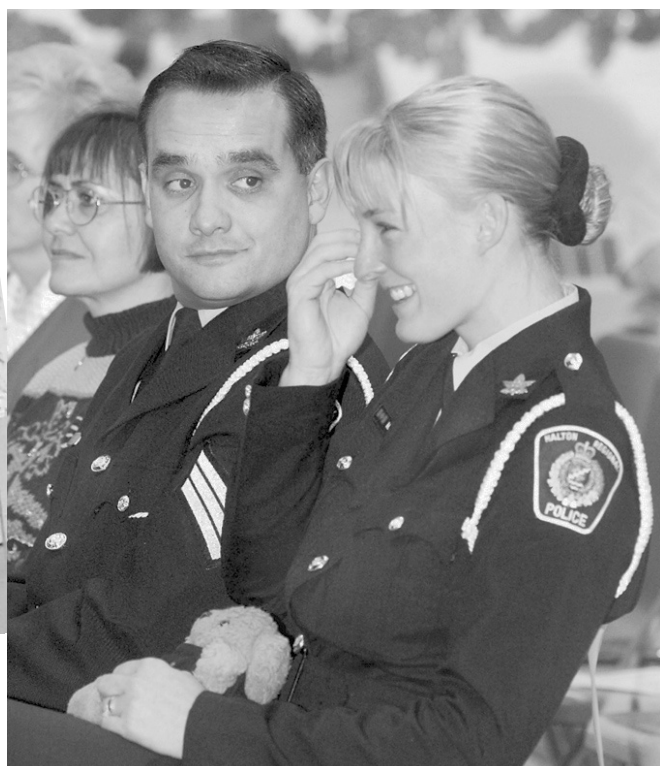
The mandate of any newspaper should be to inform, educate and

entertain. But a newspaper is also the chronicler of history for the community it covers.

In this special edition our four-person editorial team spent hours scanning more than 100 books of back issues of *The Independent*, digital archives and negatives pulling news items and photos of interest to document the past 40 years.

Staff photographer Ted Brown covered 1973-82, news editor Cynthia Gamble handled 1983-92, news reporter Lisa Tallyn highlighted 1993-2002 while sports writer Eamonn Maher chronicled 2003-2013.

As it was for them, we hope you find this section an interesting stroll down memory lane.



Who was responsible for The Independent in 1973...

(This article was reprinted from the Oct. 17, 1973 inaugural edition of the *Georgetown Independent*).

The company name is Dills Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. Members of the firm are Dave and Jim Dills. They're second generation printers and publishers with more than 25 years experience in publishing prize-winning community newspapers in Acton and Milton.

Those responsible for *The Independent*, however, are many. They represent a group of professional reporters, photographers, editors and technicians. Hartley Coles, a one-time resident of Georgetown is the editor. Ann Currie, a well-known reporter in Georgetown, is news editor, Advertising Manager is

Don Ryder, already known to many local businessmen. Kay Biggar is office manager with a number of years experience on Dills' publications. Denis Gibbons, well-known in sports circles, will be contributing in that field.

Reporting for *The Independent* from the county and regional level will be Bob Burt and Roy Downs, both located in Milton, and familiar with county and regional affairs.

Technically the paper will be put together and printed in a modern central printing plant at Acton where another group of skilled professionals stream through the thousands of words that make up today's modern newspaper.

The *Independent* is a co-ordinated team effort. You'll never find all these

people in one place at one time. That's because their spheres are varied and their travels on different paths but each

will be contributing in a special way to the news and advertising package called *The Independent*.

... and how we operate today

The Independent & Free Press is an amalgamation of the *Georgetown Independent* and *Acton Free Press* and is part of the Metroland Media Group which is owned by Torstar, the Toronto Star's parent company.

The newspaper, part of the Metroland South group of papers (which includes the *Mississauga News* and *Brampton Guardian* among others), is published every Thursday and is distributed to roughly 22,500 homes in Halton Hills and the rural area.

Dana Robbins is the publisher for Metroland South, while Steve Foreman is *The Independent's* general manager.

We are located at 280 Guelph St. Unit 77 (in the Georgetown Market Place) and can be reached at 905-873-0301. Our website is www.theifp.ca.

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