



JOHAN McMILLAN, Gord Chapman and Michael Heller discussed the legal aspects of marriage breakdown at a seminar last Wednesday at Knox Hall.

Marriage break-up is subject of seminar

A separation agreement is very useful when the marriage is breaking up because it not only settles issues but also eliminates much of the hostility and confrontation situations for the couple, Acton and Brampton lawyer, Michael Heller, told a seminar last Wednesday night.

Johan McMillan of Georgetown and Gord Chapman of Acton also spoke at the seminar sponsored by the Halton Hills Community Legal Clinic.

Heller said a separation agreement isn't mandatory but since it is a contract between spouses it permits the couple to avoid possible future court action.

Separation agreements settle issues such as child custody, division of real property, maintenance, child visitation and payment of debts, Heller explained.

Not only does a separation agreement eliminate confrontations but it also ends the uncertainty and allows both the husband and wife to

go their own way, he pointed out.

He urged both parties to engage a lawyer to handle negotiations, adding the lawyers will make sure each side's demands are reasonable.

Heller said couples must be reasonable in their demands and not look for "rainbows." Another positive aspect of a separation agreement is it forms the basis of the eventual divorce settlement, he noted.

Chapman told the audience there is both federal and provincial legislation governing marriage breakdown. The new Family Law Reform Act generally deals with just property and support issues while the federal Divorce Act covers all issues.

Chapman explained the idea of family assets is one of the new aspects of the provincial legislation and the Act carries with it a philosophy of disclosure of assets.

He said each spouse can own what they want and put things in one another's name

as long as they are happily married but when they separate or divorce most property and valuables become family assets. The matrimonial home and anything else viewed as being "ours" is included in family assets.

Chapman said the law expects both spouses to be self-supporting, if possible, as soon as possible after the separation. This puts an end to the old concept of alimony forever.

Ms. McMillan said if there are no grounds for divorce a couple can't get one until three years after they separate. If there are grounds or fault can be determined then divorce can be applied for immediately.

In the case of desertion the innocent party can apply for divorce after three years while the deserter must wait five, she said.

The process of getting a divorce can take anywhere from two months to five years and is greatly dependent on whether there are any children

Rental firm 'singed' in appliance theft

Charges by Halton Regional Police are pending against a Brampton man in connection with the theft of a \$3,000 appliance from the Acton Rental outlet on Main Street North last week. Gone is a 3,000 watt Kohler gas generator burner. Two or three Black and

Decker drills were the loot taken during a weekend break-in at McKenzie Lumber, Church Street. The drills are each valued at about \$25. Entry was gained via a rear window.

Police also have a suspect in mind in connection with last week's break and entry of a Bower Avenue home. A brown colored suitcase valued at \$15 was taken. Entry was gained through a basement window.

A garden variety dwarf went missing sometime on the weekend from the front yard of Caroline Nurseries, Highway 7 west of town.

The statue of a dwarf, garbed in a red hat, disappeared before the snowfall so there are no tiny foot steps to follow. The dwarf stands about two-feet high and is valued at \$25.

Wolf attacks farm

What's believed to be the wolf or coyote that was shot on the Ninth Line last week may have visited two farms on the Sixth Line before it met its death.

"We saw it coming along the lane across the road," said Eileen Burt. She and her husband Lloyd watched the animal sometime between 10 and 11 p.m., she estimated, until it disappeared in their neighbors yard.

Their neighbor phoned them to say the wolf had gone through his horses and dogs and was headed their way, Mrs. Burt said.

They discovered the wolf fighting their own dog which hadn't barked, an unusual circumstance, Mrs. Burt said.

They had to have their dog destroyed after.

"Lloyd hollered at it and it went to the barn," she said. Her husband got out his shotgun but discovered there were no shells and by the time the neighbor arrived with a loaded weapon, the animal had vanished across the fields, she said.

She said it was the first time they'd seen a wolf on their property although they had heard them in the night a few weeks ago.

She noted that even though the animal was "definitely rabid, it was still able to run at a lot of speed."

\$3,500 damages

About \$3,000 in property damage stemmed from a two-vehicle collision on Queen Street at 11:30 a.m., Friday.

Halton Regional Police state both autos were travelling west on Queen Street when the mishap occurred.

Damage to a station wagon driven by Max Bogovic, R.R. 1 Georgetown, is estimated by police to be \$1,000. Damage on the other vehicle

is about twice that amount. The name of the driver of the second auto was not released by officers because the driver is of juvenile age.

A Kitching Road resident got a \$500 surprise when he returned to his parked car last week. The dollar figure was the Halton Police estimate of the damage to the left side of the car owned by David Stuckless, 48 Kitching Rd. The other driver left the scene of the mishap.

Turkey supply . . .

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Reports of stockpiling are just not the case, reports Gray. Turkeys presently in storage are actually being purchased by the chain stores already.

How about price?

Although turkeys are currently selling for a reported \$1.40 a pound in some areas, Gray predicts the price will come down to between 97 cents and \$1.27 per pound shortly before Christmas—still higher than last year but cheap compared to red meats and even chicken.

Gray attributes the rise in price of beef in the past six months to a higher demand for turkey and price rise. Yet the farmer is still making no profit, he says. The producer reaps an average of 51 cents a pound live weight, three cents higher than last year. That three cents represents food cost increases 90 per cent of the raiser and increased interest on money involved.

"In the same period, wholesale profit margin and retail profit escalated rapidly," Gray says.

The processor profit margin increased by 15 to 30 cents while the retailer margin went up 17 to 32 or 33 cents.

According to Gray, the growers refused extra profit margin knowing "this would happen" and they'd be blamed for any price hikes.

"A combination of the shortage of red meats and their increased price left the way open for other segments to increase their profit margin," he explains.

George Gray feels turkey has been underpriced for a long time.

Increased demand for turkey is often due to doctors' advice. Turkey, being an excellent source of protein with less cholesterol and fewer calories than most other meats, is often recommended by the medical profession.

Turkeys have a higher feed conversion rate, too, and produce a pound of protein cheaper than beef or pork. Gray predicts Canadian per capita consumption will be up to 15 pounds of turkey per year by 1981 from the present ten pounds.

"It's not a complicated story," summarizes the board president. A slight imbalance in supply and demand has created a situation blown up by the news media, he feels.

The whole story, says George Gray, is enough turkey for everyone at a reasonable price.

Anyone for chopped liver?

Assault charge against officer

A scuffle between a 22-year-old Brampton man and a Halton Regional Police officer at the Milton police precinct has resulted in a charge of assault against the Milton constable.

The incident occurred nearly two weeks ago when Bryan Aubin, of Brampton, was taken to the police station by Constable Arnold Vanclief. Aubin was arrested on charges of impaired driving, refusing to take a breathalyzer test and driving while under suspension, according to police.

A charge of assault causing bodily harm was laid against Constable Vanclief by Aubin, after a scuffle broke out between the two men, at the station.

Both Constable Vanclief and Aubin will appear in court Monday, Dec. 4 to set a date for their respective trials.

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