



PLAY, SING FOR SCOUT, GUIDE FOLK MASS

A group of teens from the Holy Cross parish supplied the music for an interdenominational folk mass at that church Sunday afternoon which concluded Scout and Guide week. Over 500 Scouts, Venturers, Cubs, Guides, Rangers and Brownies attended the Georgetown District service. They assembled in the auditorium and then marched upstairs to church. Four local clergymen, Father Gerald Craig of Holy Cross; Reverend Bob Scrivens of St. John's United, Reverend Calvin Johnson of St. Andrew's United and Reverend Robert Ruggles, of Glen and Norval Anglican Churches, took part in the service.

IN THE MAIL BAG

Wants More Police - Herald Cooperation, News Facts

Dear Sirs:
I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have recently sent to the Chief of Police and I would appreciate it if you would reprint it in a forthcoming issue of the Herald.

You may choose as well to reprint this letter and I have no objection to that.

I have become increasingly disturbed by what I read in your newspaper and more properly what I do not read in your newspaper. There are a great many events taking place constantly around us which will very directly and materially affect everyone living in this Town. They have to do with local government and that local government's involvement with other bodies, both Provincial and Federal. There are decisions being made with respect to the education of our children, the form of municipal government which we will either suffer or prosper in and the many services that will or will not be available to us.

They are probably being made without a great majority of the people in this town knowing that they are being made and, of course, that is deliberate because people asking questions and wanting to know what's happening merely slow up the bureaucratic process. It involves, however, our lives and our money and newspapers have had a historical and honorable tradition of letting people know what's going on. We are all living in the now and the decisions that are being made for us will affect us in the future and unless we know whether those decisions are being made sensibly and properly we cannot hope to improve upon the quality of life. The Federal government has appeared to recognize the fact in the publication of their White Paper on tax reform. It has generated a good deal of criticism and some support and hopefully if it finally appears as legislation it will be in a form that most people will consider tolerable & just. Your obligations as a local newspaper are no less great. I do not for a minute think that your role is to seek out sensational news but I do think your role is to report to us all of the things that are going on around us particularly with respect to local government.

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I hope you will receive this correspondence in the spirit with which it was sent and recognize the singular opportunity that you have to inform, educate and enlighten your readers.

Yours very truly,
R. H. Dodokin

Dear Sir:
It has been brought to the writer's attention that recently a kindergarten pupil at Park School and two of his companions while on their way home through the park were approached by an adult male in an automobile and asked if they would enter the vehicle with him. The purpose of the advance by that unidentified person to those three school children was never made clear to them but as a parent one is led to some rather unpleasant speculations. I took the trouble of speaking with the parent of the child and the parent confirms that the event was related to him promptly after its occurrence and was confirmed by the two companions of the child. He then notified the child's teacher who generally dismissed the matter with the children the next day in class and warned them of the dangers of entering strangers' automobiles. It appears as well that your Department was notified and that you responded by sending an officer to investigate the matter.

Another similar event has also been brought to my attention and I have not had the opportunity to corroborate it, but it involves another young child who was a student at Park School who was actually placed in an automobile by a stranger and when the person walked around the vehicle to enter it

himself the child managed to fully and factually the occurrence from the passenger door and leave unharmed. This event apparently took place last year week, notwithstanding the fact and again your Department investigated the matter.

What is particularly troubling is that the information arising out of these events is not publicly made available and usually reaches a parent through the child's recounting the story as he or she heard or witnessed it. A not very reliable guide at best.

What I would like to know is if the Department maintains any surveillance over the Park area which seems to be rather a natural location for this event to take place both because of its seclusion from public view and because of the frequency with which children use it as a route to and from school. If there is no continuing surveillance then it seems to me that your Department is not providing the protection which the situation demands.

I think the second and equally most serious deficiency is the lack of publicity given to these events. Part of that responsibility may lie with your Department if you have taken no steps to inform the public at large when these situations occur so they may take the necessary steps to inform and warn their children against such occurrences. The other and more major part of the responsibility must I think lie with the local newspaper. We have been treated to a considerable amount of anonymity with respect to the reporting of news, not only with respect to persons but it appears with respect to events which happen around us. There is a very real and serious obligation on the part of the newspaper to report what is happening around us and not to make a unilateral act of protection on our behalf by sparing us from the realities of life.

I urge therefore that you and our local newspaper form a closer alliance. The one partner acting in the protective interests of the people in this town, and the other partner reporting

Board Member Raps College Car Rally

A car rally which was run through the Brampton-Georgetown area two weeks ago by Sheridan College could damage that school's image according to a member of the board of governors.

To win the rally the navigator in each car had to drink a pint of beer at seven different stops. H. H. Hinton of Acton, a board member, said other colleges in Ontario have organized car rallies which are more dignified.

Defending the event, Paul Donoghue, president of Sheridan's student union, said 46 teams entered the rally and 40 completed it "without incident."

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Halton Within Limit On Per Pupil Costs

A plan by which a joint committee of Halton public and separate school trustees could decide types of sharing between the two systems would be welcomed by the county separate school board, chairman Peter Walters, said this week.

He was commenting on one of the proposals contained in a five point plan for extension of separate schools, which have been prepared by the Ontario Separate School Trustees Association.

The plan foresees a joint committee of public and separate school trustees in each county area to decide types of sharing between the two systems.

Walters said this type of co-operation has been mentioned in general discussion by both Halton boards, but nothing specific has been done.

BRING SAVINGS
He said he could see many areas of cooperation which would bring savings to taxpayers. For instance, he said, the two boards could use joint land areas for schools and share such expensive facilities as libraries and gymnasiums.

The Association proposes the extension of separate school classes to Grade 13 by bringing privately-financed Catholic high schools into the system.

HIGH SCHOOL
The group says that additional facilities would be built

only where strong population growth indicates the need.

Walters said there are no privately-financed Catholic High Schools in Halton at present. But he pointed out that if the department of education approves extension of separate school classes to Grade 13, it would not necessarily mean a new high school would be built in the county.

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