The ugly side of life in Halton Hills

Gerry Landshorough

This week Viewpoint takes you to the ugly side of life in Halton Hills and surrounding communities.

Many of you reading this column have been blessed with cirumstances that will never see you having to confront the following situations face to face. But what you are about to read is also reality. A reality that often turns up where you would be at expect to find it.

The following exceptioning and in Halton Hills. Names and sign its gallege been altered to protect the privacy of mose involved.

Mary K, is a high school atudert whose grades have dropped sharply in the past two years. She drinks an a regular the asterial with her friends and by herself.

Her mother doesn't know when the turn, or why this has happened to No. v. Mary's mother has remarried and the beginning her new husband dearly.

Mary's stepfather of the line of the drinks on the way home, to unwind from his high pressure, executive proflem in a traces he has too many drinks

Mary's stepfather as an sexually

assaulting her for sometime, and will probably continue. He told Mary not too bother telling anyone because no one would believe her anyway.

Each day of her life is an emotional hell for Mary. She is confused, bitter and, most of all scared. A worker suspects the heart of

Mary's problems. The problem? Mary is only 14, and has to her home. remain at home because there is no other place to send her. Drinking for Mary is one way of escaping--her way. Maybe one day soon she will be lucky enough to land in an emergency situation through her drinking that will force a change in her circumstances. How many Mary's are there? More than most agencies would care to admit, but there

Bill T is an alcoholic. He often takes his frustration with himself and with his life out on his family. He abuses his wife on a regular basis. He sometimes beats up on the kids. He is not a skilled worker and he can't meet his family's (mancial needs. He loves them but

are just not enough beds to accomodate the

he can't give them the things he wants too. When he gets drunk he takes his hate of the world and of himself out on his family; the

most available target for his frustration. When times are bad at home Bill's wife and family have no place to go, so they take it.

They continue to live on a merry-goround of hurt and shame. Bill's teens are often in trouble. His daughter OD toverdosed) but the hospital didn't have any place to send her when she recovered, so they sent

Ginny B. has been on her own since she was 12. She has three children, the youngest is two and she is expecting agin. There is never enough money and sometimes the kids seem to cry almost without stopping. Ginny loves her bables but the crying bothers her so much.

Not too long ago she hit the baby to make him stop and he didn't so she kept on hitting. Soon he didn't cry at all but just looked up blankly from a face covered in angry red welts. Ginny knew he had to go to the hospital. "He fell down" she told the doctor. "He just fell down."

The "battered baby syndrome" is seen everyday in doctor's offices and hospitals. These children are usually sent back home. Beatings, drug abuse, sexaul abuse, and alcoholism are often related. Families are

often caught in a revolving door of tragedy, not because they are "bad people" but because they are people in trouble; people who can't cope; people whose behaviour is a

sign of the hurt and pain in their lives. The klds who live in these troubled homes - the kids who are called "bad", "dope freaks", "drunken burns" are victims of life's circumstances. Some of them will make it in spite of their problems. Most of them will become statistics in family court, criminial court, social agencies, etc.

If you lived Mary K's life as she lives it. how would you handle it? Incest is a word most of us don't like to think about. But it exists. Because of the circumstances involved-the gullt and the shame of familiesthere are no hard and fast statistics. But tonight somewhere in Halton a young girl is scared stiff wondering if good old Uncle Bill, her step-dad, her natural father, or a drunken brother will corner her again.

If she called someone for help, chances are there might not be a place forher to go to The need is greater than the facilities that are available.

It is easy to pass judgement. Call certain adolescents "no good bums." refer to certain individuals as "not our kind". That part is

It is harder to open up cars and eyes and hearts to understand that not everyone in life starts even. How you start is a good indica" ... of how you'll finish.

And what about you dear reader, can you help some kid in trouble with a better start? What resources do you have available?

Maybe you can offer a temporary room, for a girl who lives each day in an emotional hell? Maybe your family is grown and your experience and time might be part of the answer for someone who didn't have the breaks your youngsters did?

Money today is scarce. Social agencies are facing cutbacks, cutbacks that will seriously effect the already overburdened need. Maybe you have \$2 to send for a special purpose: a battered child, a scared teen or just to help?

If you can't help with a room either temporary or permanent, or if you don't have the funds thre is still ummething vital you can do. Get informed. Don't pass hasty general judgements.

For instance, at Sheridan College (Oakville campus) on March 4 at 7:15 there is an

open forum free to the public on Alcohol and Youth. The people on the panel are professional and informed. They see each day what you don't. They have some of the answers. Discussion of the drinking age, drunk drivers and adolescents, need your input.

The following people need your resources. If you have something to offer in funds, accomodation, time or experience, please get in touch. They need your help. They need

"you". Contact Centre, call Rev Walter Riddley

The Halton Region Human Services Counsel, 878-5571, ask for Ms. Nancy Mac-Pherson or her secretary, Ms. Virginia Young.

The Halton Children's Aid Society, ask for Mrs. Heather Golden at 878-2375. Halton Hills is our community, in our province, in our country. Our most valuable resource is "our people". Let's not waste

You can help and your little bit of help will make the difference. Life is never "boring" if you feel you are doing your share. Remember, if your not part of the cure you're part of the problem. Think about it.

Home New repaper of Halton Hills

1 * 11: WI DNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1976

Allows are a series of Sewspapers Company Limited

gos Mar. St. s. on Georgetown L7G 3E5, Ontario

" IT THE M EVDOKIMORE, Publisher

41.1 JOHNSTON, Editor 1910NE...877-2201

See and Class Mail Registered Number -- 0943

Was anyone is ening?

We can only wood a just how much weight last as decoday's. meeting in Burlington to near submissions on the propo-of sites for the new regional dump is really going to carry.

Not much, we're atract If the attitude of the chairman of the technical econd-patting of a mittee, Jack Raft J. 1 and berve be a signal of just how to rely lab committee truly wanted to bear the public's viewpoints that the entire four-hour meetage at the more more than a waste of everyone come

At times Raftis was more interested in side crance. There he was carrying on with on a mulittee members than with the the entations being made to dim.

Fortunately other committee My sweep a members and the little more into the that were being to read up and hopefully they w points will be dis-Some of the 5. 2010 2013

-- The area actions that the area of the Burling .

points include:

would be a much preferred location for the new dump over any of the alternatives suggested. Have the coordinating committee and their consultants really looked into all the ways that the Burlington dump could be enlarged?

-The fact that all the hydrogeological data on the four alternative sites may not be known yet. Core drillings, we realize, are expensive but should they not be carried out on at least the Hornby and Britannia-Tremaine sites prior to any final decisions?

-That often hear but rarely considered suggestion that the garbage problem be tackled right at the source-the homeowner-was again brought up but again was neatly passed over. It may, in fact, be the province's domain but who has to landle the daily chore of picking up all those green garbage bags each day? The region, of course.

Promoting a garbage bag per week per household campaign is : omething that could best be done on a regional basis.

We can only hope that Wed-

nesday's play to public opinion will not fall on totally deaf ears.

Was laycees

Very brestly, so congratulate that any and tay one tremendous but it's something that for their fine house and does a nor Georgetown1

" at to went into it must have been residents will no doubt be keeping brindy for quite some time to come.

Years Agos Town Town

The 'Y' may be coming

From the Files of the Here'd Ten Years Ago

Ten grade 12 and 15 tudents from Georgetown District Hat a tool are going over the prospects of to ir forthcoming summer vacation abroad The group will be away for five weeks tomers' Britain, Spain and Portugal.

Three Georgetown day, e papits, Linda Fraser, Anne Melcombe and some Lay and their teacher Mrs. Vick: 1 attended a special day in Toronto arranged by the Canadian Dance Teachers Association, for the young dancers of Ontario. The girls met and spoke with many television dancers who were present.

Council on Monday endorsed the sale of a 2% acre tract of land in the park a ca to the Kinsmen Club of Georgetown who are planning to build a senior citizens apartment on the site.

Fifteen Years Ago Ten honour graduates of Georgetown High School received their diplomas at Commencement 11 ... 2. 111 week. The contract of Elizabeth . ! Poulstruy

the same of the sa

Margaret 1:

Marilyn Caral and Adams and a second Carolyn Blehn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Premier William Davis.

Walter Biebn, 26 Queen St., received the Hyman Silver Memorial Award of \$150, an Ontario Scholarship valued at \$400 and a \$100 scholarship from the University of Western Ontario at commencement ceremonics held at the Corgetown High School this past

A group of citizens, whose purpose is to serve Georgetown by encouraging recreational and cultural programmes, is examing the possibility of bringing the YM-YWCA organization to town. Don Parker is acting chairman of the group who presently call themselves "Interested Citizen Group."

Five Years Ago

Halton County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has given final approval to construction of St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School in town. Total cost of the project will be \$343,374. The sc' ol is scheduled to open in September of the year.

The Concerned Citizens of Georgetown held their first public meeting this week and attracted over 100 interested persons. C.C.O.G. is a organization whose aims are improving and enriching the environment through citizen participation. Hen Dedokin is the a ting chamman of the group.

169, Snow of RR2 Georgetown, Halton East MPP, was one of seven new faces named Monday to the Ontario Cabinet by



© On The Home Front ■

What do you say to a naked neighbour?

by Susan De Facendla There are certain times when life and

fate appear to form a conspiracy, in order to keep one's ego in a permanently fractured condition.

I shall never understand why, after a session of picking up scattered belongings. vacuuming, waxing and polishing, no one ever drops in for a visit, but on the day you defiantly decide to let the fallen socks lay where they are, the world beats a path to your

For instance, that old school classmate you haven't thought about in years? The one you never really liked who married the Bay St. tycoon. What malignant combination of planets could possibly have occurred, to make her ring your chimes on the day you decided to clean out five months accumulation of ashes from the fireplace? As you stand there, sooty and

dishevelled, taking in her mink coat and sporty European car, you wonder uneasily if she also heard your lustily singing'l Feel Pretty', up the chimney flue, You recognise instantly that you are now

about to become immortalised as an anecdote amongst the cocktait party set. Or the occasion when, having read of the

intoxicating joys of doing your housework in the buff, one decides to give it a try. Having just entered into the swing of it, you unthinkingly answer a knock at the door. completely starkers.

You later learn that the distinguished looking gentleman beating a hosty retreat dwon your driveway, has crossed your name off a list of 'Citizen of the Year' nominees.

Then of course the time, when on that first heady, warm spring day, one dons a pair of husband's old workpants (the ones with the knee ripped out), pull on his winter overboots,

size 12 EEE and start digging up the soil in the vegetable garden.

Happily flinging wet drit in all directions, one suddenly becomes aware of a gorgeous looking male peering over the backfence, who is staring in fascinated wonder at the sight of

Well, you unhappily know right away it's not your Chanel No. 5 that has attracted him. As he introduces himself as your new neighbour, you are torn between attempting to sink your oversize feet into the soil, brushing the manure out of your eyelashes and lighting an overwheliming desire to inform him you are merely the hired gardener.

Funny, how you never dld see him again. I was obviously born under a totally inauspicious star, But-that's LIFE,

Queen's Park Commentary

We finally get to see Dr. Smith

By Don O'Rearn Queen's Park Bureau Of The Hernld

Toronto -- When the house opens on the 9th we will finally begin to get that long, hard look at Stuart Smith which so many people have been waiting for.

As it is now very few people know just what the new Liberal leader is or stands for. At the leadership convention which he won there really wasn't too much of a reflection of the man.

Leadership tends to be decided on perconslities and broad positions and out of the Liberal englest there was little illustration of the real Stuart Smith

And there has been little amplification alnce then. In the weeks following the convention the new leader has been travelling a hit about the province, reorganizing his office

and trying out his new desk for size. But he has been little occupied with nitty-gritty. Firing Line

With the sessions that will change. As his party leader Smith will be on the firing line every day, and will have to take and state positions, make quick decisions and match wits with the other leaders of the

In other words we will have our first chance to see Stuart Smith politician as he really is.

No Program From what little evidence we have had to date it seems that what we may principally see is a man playing a waiting game,

Smith has left the impression that, at this stage at least, he is principally interested in fumbles by other parties than in making any particular long gains of his own

Both from his few public positions and from personal conversations he gives the thought that he is still working his way on any positive program.

He is for a restrained, a moderate, redistribution of wealth and he is for the encouragement of small business.

But he hasn't worked out any detailed program of steps he would take which would be different than those of other parties.

He still tends to think out loud, and one gathers will continue to do so. Doing so in the belief that this will stimulate public thinking,

and that in the meantime the public is intelligent enough to separate ideas from

policies. One can see that there are trouble spots ahead for him. But one also can see that he could prove to be stimulating.

On Parliament Hill

of Joe Clark's kingmakers

By Stewart MacLeod Ottowo Bureau Of The Herald

Ottawa-When at the Tory leadership convention, the stop-Wagner movement polarized around Joe Clark, all the candidates who openly transferred their support to the young Alberta MP automatically became King-makers.

James Gillie, who attracted 87 first-ballot votes, slapped on a Clark button. John Fraser, with 127 votes, did the same thing, And even Sinclair Stevens, who had 182 supporters, and is regarded to be far right of Mr. Clark began sporting a yellow scarf. And later Flora MacDonald was to follow suit. In the final ballot, as everyone knows.

Mr. Clark defeated Claude Wagner. And all the defeated candidates supporting him were immediately hailed as king makers, despite the fact their followers went in all directions. There was another king-maker whom no

one seemed to notice. Steve Paproski is not regarded as an ideological strong man within the Tory caucus, tending to be broad in mind as well as girth. And as a member of the convention's regulations committee he had to remain officailly neutral during all the planning

But the 47-year-old MP from Edmonton Centre has an immense personal popularity. His quiet opinions are usually respected, and frequently sought.

Many Friends As a former member of the Edmonton Eskimos football team, and as a former. professional wrestler and a semiprofessional singer, he knows a lot of people. His telephone rang constantly for weeks prior to the convention.

"As you know I have to remain neutral," he was heard saying. "But personally I like Claude Wagner. I think he would be good for

It's difficult to say how much influence this had on callers-just as it's difficult to say how much influence a candidate has on his supporters-but it was probably substantial. Dozens of people knew that Steve Paproski, after a good deal of consideration, would likely be voting for Mr. Wagner. And Mr. Paproski is an experienced MP who has never been identified with any right or left

Still wearing his official convention badge, Mr. Paproski listened to all the speeches Saturday. "My God, Joe is coming across well," he remarked. He thought about it all of Saturday night.

Sunday morning, Mr. Paproski and his wife entered the convention. "I looked at Joe and saw only one or two guys from caucus supporting him.

"Here was a young guy who fought one hell of a campaign, and he was a clear underdog."

Changes Mind

into Mr. Clark's box to shake hands.

Steve turned to his wife. "Dear, I was going to keep out of this thing, but today is the day I change may mind. I just can't do this to He took off his official badge and climbed

"I am coming with you," said Mrs. Paproski, as she left the VIP section of the Civic Centre. Decorated with some Clark buttons, Mr. Paproski began rounding up his friends. "We have to make this guy look good on the first

few ballots," he said, passing out more One delegate asked whether the chunky MP thought other drop-out candidates would come over to Mr. Clark. "Don't worry," was

the reply from the ex-football player, "It's the linemen who make the quarterback look And as the voting progressed, Mr. Paproski turned his charm on wavering

delegates. He was dishing out Clark buttons like waffles. On the final ballot, Joe Clark defeated

Claude Wagner by 65 votes-a shift of 33 did the trick. "Me a king-maker," said blg Steve.

"Hell, no, I am just an old football player."