

## Do we need a new town building?

Do we need a new municipal building?

That's the million dollar question (600,000?) that faces our town councillors.

If we do need one, is it more important than a new library? a new arena? a new auditorium?

Which should come first?

From our vantage point we believe that to construct a new municipal building simply because some town facilities are becoming, if not already, over-crowded is an unwise move at this point in Halton Hills' history.

Make no mistake about it, regional government is here to stay. If it's going to change at all it's going to grow stronger, combining more and more services that local municipalities have to this point been handling. A central, super-government, with the prodding of the provincial government, is growing before our eyes.

One tier government is still not beyond the realm of possibility particularly when the provincial policy-makers are fully convinced that that is the direction we must take.

With that future in mind the regional government—with the blessing of the provincial government—has approved spending \$2 million on new regional headquarters.

To have Halton Hills going ahead with its plans to build a new municipal centre at the same time is questionable.

Politicians know well that old saw about testing the current before

jumping in, why are they not using that same cautious approach in deciding either way about the new town hall?

We certainly can't predict the hazy future of regional government but there is that possibility that town services may have peaked and that from this point on the amount of staff and facilities needed to operate Halton Hills will decrease.

Any businessman considering expanding a branch plant while his head office is also planning a major expansion will take his time to see whether both expansions are necessary.

In the meantime there certainly may be some inconvenience and confusion, but when you weigh that against costs it should be obvious that haste could indeed make waste.

If there is such a dire need for more facilities for town personnel then perhaps council's entire idea of what is needed should change.

Has a complete town hall-arena-library complex been considered?

Consolidation of facilities saves a considerable amount of money both in capital and in operating costs. Our councillors are well aware of that so perhaps they could start thinking in those terms when facing the immediate problems before them.

Those problems, when they're all whittled down, come down to whether our limited tax dollars go into providing facilities for a great number of people or a limited number.

Somehow, somewhere there could be grounds for a compromise.



### On The Home Front

## Shut up Violet

by Susan DeFacendis

Gardening appears to have become the latest craze in our daily lives and enough green thumbs have proliferated amongst the population to propel seedhouses, nursery gardens and flower shops into a brand new blooming, booming business era.

Vegetable gardens are springing up in every back garden; summertime balconies are radiant with tomatoes and petunias; and cascades of lush greenery, overflow from a variety of macrame pot holders, dangling from every ceiling across the nation.

As with every other passion that catches our fancy however, we are sometimes inclined to go just a little too far. Living rooms, kitchens and even bathrooms, now resemble tropical jungles that have to be heated, not for people comfort, but to provide the right humidity level for the plants.

The ultimate in indoor gardening gadgetry though, has to be the emergence of a 'plant communicator', a device that is inserted into the soil and closely resembles a telephone receiver. For an outlay of ap-

proximately \$22, you will actually enable your plants to talk back to you. A series of soft clicking noises will inform you that your plant is happy, draught-free, fed and watered sufficiently.

As with any other innovative idea however, I can visualise certain drawbacks.

Presumably, if they can communicate, plants must also possess personalities. Supposing you were unfortunate enough to adopt a bed-tempered Philodendron? It could, quite conceivably, proceed to click-click you right out of your mind.

Could plants, suddenly caught up in the excitement of expressing themselves, rapidly progress from mere clicking to actual verbalizing?

How would you handle the corruptive influence of a talkative, over-sexed ivy? Would you cover your children's ears, or cut off her speaking device? Would she then possibly retaliate against the gagging measure, by strangling the poor African Violet?

Can you imagine the sounds emitted by a

Venus Fly Trap as it masticates and digests its unfortunate victims? Would it even be likely to take a bite out of the hand that feeds it, if you were foolish enough to chide its table manners some day?

Have you ever stopped to consider that it may be no accident, when the top of your head constantly comes into painful contact with that hanging, Mexican style pot? Maybe it's occupant is merely trying to start up a meaningful relationship with you.

I assume one would have to converse with a plant at some length before purchasing it, in an effort to determine its personality. What guarantee would you have though, that the two-stemmed thing wasn't lying in its leaves to only show it's true, petulant nature, once you arrived home with it?

No, call me a chauvinist if you will, but quite frankly I believe plants should remain beautiful and dumb.

Three children are sufficient to provide me with a communicative overkill situation now. If a bunch of leaves and stems ever started making demands upon me, there would be no alternative but to get potted myself.

### On Parliament Hill

## Mr. Trudeau...Can we ask you...?

By Stewart MacLeod  
Ottawa Bureau  
Of The Herald

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Trudeau appears to be developing a remarkable interest in communications these days. And this is great news for those who criticize Mr. Trudeau for a generally unco-operative attitude toward the press.

The prime minister has survived without an official press secretary since last August, and many interpreted this as a lack of interest in communications. And others assumed it to be associated with his plan to trim his personal staff by 10 percent.

Everyone was obviously wrong. The prime minister now has decided that Richard O'Hagen, a former press secretary to Lester Pearson, will return to the East Block from his ministerial job at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. But Mr. O'Hagen won't be a mere press secretary. He will be special Adviser in Communications to Mr. Trudeau. His salary will be perilously close to \$45,000.

In other words, he will be earning about as much as Pierre Juneau, who was hired by Mr. Trudeau as "a special adviser" after his brief cabinet stint ended with his defeat in a Montreal by-election.

Mr. Juneau, former head of the Canadian

Radio Television Commission, has spent his entire life in communications, including films. So it was assumed this would be his speciality in the prime minister's office.

Other Duties

But he must be doing something else to earn his \$43,400 salary, because Mr. O'Hagen, a former public relations consultant is definitely in charge of communications.

And he says that one of his first jobs will be to hire a new Director Of Communications. And who ever heard of a director without an assistant director?

Please don't ask me any silly questions about what the director of communications is going to do. I don't even know what the Special Adviser on Communications is going to do. In fact I cheerfully admitted that I don't know what Mr. Juneau is doing.

I would normally hazard a guess that the director of communications would communicate with the press. But this can't be so, because Mr. O'Hagen announced that he'll be appointing a new press secretary.

This is not to be confused with the acting press secretary or the two assistant press secretaries.

Since the last press secretary, Pierre O'Neill, earned \$40,000, we can assume there are some attractive job openings in the making.

Incidentally, the only clue we have about Mr. O'Hagen's new responsibilities was when he said "I am there to ensure the public access to information is facilitated to the degree practicable and reasonable."

Mr. O'Hagen will be attending the prime minister's daily briefing sessions, so presumably he will know what's going on. But since his new press secretary will be the one dealing with the press, all this inside information might not do us much good.

It is encouraging that Mr. O'Hagen will facilitate all information that is practicable and reasonable - whatever that means - but the chain of command worries me. What if his new director of communications decides certain information is practicable but not reasonable, and then the press secretary decides it is reasonable but not practicable?

They could spend all day in committee. Anyway, with this new spate of high-powered hirings, a question was put to an official in the prime minister's office about their effect on the staff-reduction program. No problem, he replied. The staff of 94 had already been cut by 10.

"It's just a question of replacing a lot of privates with some generals," he said.

Now if we can just get the generals to agree on a bit of communicating...

### Queen's Park Commentary

## Provincial taxes going up

By Don O'Hearn  
Queen's Park Bureau  
Of The Herald

Toronto - We will be seeing tax increases in Ontario this year.

A short time ago Darcy McKeough in a speech said that if he had to raise taxes this year the new revenue would be applied to debt.

This was all the signal needed to tell us that tax increases are on the way.

No treasurer likes to have to increase taxes. And he doesn't even mouth a word about them unless they are inevitable.

Even though it will probably be an election year we can assume that boosts are on the way.

Health First

Naturally the prospect of increases leads to conjecture as to just where they may hit. And the most logical area would seem to

be in health insurance premiums.

It has been several years since health insurance rates were increased in the province.

In fact the last time they were adjusted there actually was a decrease.

This was in 1972 when the old separate premiums for hospital and medical insurance were combined.

The new single rate was less than the total of the new former rates.

Another strong reason for increasing health premiums is that the share of benefits that these pay for has been dropping sharply.

At the end of 1973 premiums paid for 25.5 percent of these benefits. It is estimated that the same figure for this year will be 19 percent.

Also if a new scale of fees is imposed it would not be surprising if a new approach is taken.

Health Minister Frank Miller has said more than once that he would like to see some system which might cut down on the frivolous use of health facilities.

The proposal for deterrent payments has been coming from other directions.

So that perhaps we might expect a deterrent principle to be written into the new schedule.

Energy Too

One other natural field for increases would be gasoline and other forms of energy.

Conservation of energy is becoming more and more important, and taxation, of course, is a conservation measure.

However, there are two negative factors. One is that a basic argument of the province in energy talks is that high-cost energy hits the economy. And taxes, of course, add to cost.

The other is that energy might be very hard to defend in an election.

### Viewpoint

## Oh bless you money

by Gerry Landsborough

This week Viewpoint takes a look at "cults" and the magnetism of their leaders who attract millions of followers.

There is a church or so-called church in Los Angeles, called the United Christian Evangelistic Assn. Church, where a strange service takes place several times per week. The preacher, a former Baptist minister, is Rev. Frederick Eikerenkoetter 11, better known to his millions of followers as "Rev. Ike."

His church owns, and he makes use of 16 Rolls-Royces and an undisclosed number of Mercedes-Benz, Bentleys and lesser makes. His personal wardrobe, according to Rev. Ike, "is nothing but the best."

According to Rev. Ike, "each man makes his own God". "A mean man has a mean God, a poor man has a poor God, my God is a God who loves money. Have it all now."

From one of his sermons came the following: "Money loves me. Money loves to fill my pockets. Oh bless you money, your wonderful stuff."

Already, thanks to his millions of followers who buy lock, stock and barrel Rev. Ike's "if you want me, remember I'm expensive" philosophy, Rev. Ike is a multi-millionaire. His personal salary is \$40,000 per year with expenses (remember his 16 Rolls) on top of that.

In 1972 the U.S. tax department said that the church (Rev. Ike's) took in \$6.5 million and the church's holdings exceeded \$6 million. In the fire and brimstone manner comes, "Heaven is here and now, no pie in the sky tomorrow. Get it all now." All done to the tune of gospel music. The strange thing is that people are listening and paying to keep Rev. Ike in Rolls up to his ears. His congregation is mostly black but well-dressed people who have no use for a "Poor God."

Why is Rev. Ike a success? Your guess is as good as mine. People like Rev. Ike emit a personal magnetism that draws followers by the millions. His church appears to be a mockery of traditional religion and possibly his followers are those who are "bored" with the traditional way. I don't know what you would call it but in my book you can't call "Bless you money, your wonderful stuff" a religion.

Another so-called church that is presently drawing millions of followers is the Unification Church. Its main indoctrination centre is in New York, but small bands of followers are turning up everywhere.

It was founded by Korean-born Sun Myung Moon. His followers are called "Moonies". Court battles are presently going on in the States by parents, whose sons and daughters have been claimed by the Church, and have brought charges of brainwashing and programming and mind control techniques.

These techniques, according to the parents of these young people, hold them in training centres against their will. The cult's leader Sun Myung Moon says, "I am you brain, I am the vine, you are the branches."

A program called CERF was formed by parents and members of various church sects in New York. It stands for Citizens Engaged in Re-uniting Families. The main objective of the group is to "de-program" young people whose parents have managed to get them away from the main training centres. There is a strong fear that these groups have political undertones and when the time is right these young people will be used in political movements.

The young people being claimed by the Unification Church are often university students who drop out of university to "witness" on the street for Sun Myung Moon. The doctrine is dogmatic and cited by rote by the Moonies.

Another cult that has found its way to Toronto is the Hare Krishna movement. It claims people mainly between the ages of 19 to 23. It was founded in New York in 1966 and is found throughout hundreds of countries around the world. The cult originated in India and is an offshoot of Hinduism.

Again in New York, parents formed a group called Parents Fighting Religious Communism by Retaking Their Children. They claimed that some of these sects were more dangerous than the notorious Manson sect. Hare Krishnas have the young devotee denounce parents and family background and adopt a new psychology, sociology, politics and a new culture. A devotee can be lost forever to his or her parents by the change in name and physical appearance and perhaps a move to a distant temple.

Iskcon is a tax exempt religion. Iskcon stands for the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. The group appears to destroy the individual's sense of personality, leaving only a blind, dogmatic devotee.

The eyes of movements listed above are finding the core of their followers in young people who are searching for something. The greatest danger of these cults is the loss of the individual personality. If used in a political move these young people are walking zombies with minds controlled to an unbelievable degree. Churches that make claims as such seem to be far removed from our Judeo-Christian culture and tradition—are piling up tax free dollars.

Freedom to worship is a basic right we all hold dear, yet this freedom is being abused and perverted with these so called "cults."

Rights and freedoms are made of funny stuff. A parent should have the right to send a son or daughter off to university without fear of brainwashing or programming by these strange groups. Freedom of worship is being abused when anyone can come along and decide to start a church. It presents a complex problem for our legislatures, yet if left to grow, the "vine and the branches" of these so-called cults may, in a short period of time, strangle us all.

## Lights are all right, if...

Lights at the intersection of Guelph Street and Sinclair Avenue? Good idea, if...

If the second entrance to the Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena goes ahead.

If a pedestrian bridge or tunnel is put in.

If a No Left Turn is put up at the Guelph Street exit from the plaza.

If a turning lane is put in on Guelph.

Otherwise, forget it.

### Years Ago

## Zellers construction to begin in near future

From The Files Of The Herald:

FIVE YEARS AGO

George Miehme - in honour of his revitalization of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce - was presented a framed citation by past president Irwin Noble at the recent dinner meeting of the chamber held at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

This year's Georgetown high school blood donor clinic topped last term's initial effort by 13 blood packs. The clinic, held last Wednesday afternoon in the school's cafeteria, was attended by 152 students and 10 staff members of which 30 were rejected.

Dave Hastings was presented a gift from the 1st Georgetown Scouts Group Committee this week in recognition of his long service as leader of 1st Georgetown Cubs and Scouts. Mr. Hastings has been an active leader for over 14 years.

The long-awaited Zellers move into town is now officially confirmed said Mayor Bill Smith at this week's council meeting. Construction of the 60,000-sq. ft. store in the Georgetown Market Plaza will begin in May.

TEN YEARS AGO

John Riley of 22 Moultriey Cres. and Jim Freeman of RR1 Limehouse both with the 5th Georgetown Scout Troop, have reached the top step of the Scouting ladder and were presented with Queen's Scout badges this week.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Taylor of 35 King St. E. celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday. The Taylors have been town residents for the past 20 years. They entertained members of their family

and friends last Sunday.

Georgetown Kinsmen, Harry Levy has been named the new Deputy Governor of Zone A District 1 of Kinsmen Clubs. Mr. Levy was named to the position at an all-day zone conference in Kitchener on Saturday.

As a centennial project the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario will erect "Century Farm Signs" on farms that have been operated for over one hundred years, a letter sent to town council explained. Clerk K.C. Lindsay has been asked to check old maps and send names of eligible farmers to the association.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Marty Wheeler of Glen Williams Public School who recently won the township public speaking contest was the top speaker last Wednesday in the school Area 1 competition which includes Esquesing, Georgetown, Oakville, and Nassagaweya.

A \$1,000 cheque was handed over by the Georgetown Kinsmen Club to the Georgetown Memorial Hospital Fund Monday at a regular meeting of the Kinsmen Club.

Spencer Church, perhaps the oldest man in Canada, who died a few weeks ago had a few relatives in this area. Mr. Church was an uncle to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Brown of 27 Victoria Street and to Mrs. Clifford Boughner of Terra Cotta. Mr. Church was 110 years old.

Total losses at the Meadowglen Growers plant in Glen Williams which was hit by fire twice on the weekend may climb as high as \$30,000, Fire Chief Bob Bonfield announced yesterday.