

# A happy ending for Joanna and Ziggy

Joanna Paarski, who last week reunited with her husband Ziggy after a forced separation of 34 months, turned to her husband in the tiny kitchen of their Georgetown apartment and said:

"Where are the cups?" It was a remark that seemed to distill all that has happened to the young couple upon Joanna's return to Canada. It has been a week of visiting old friends, receiving old friends, exploring Georgetown and, of course, getting re-acquainted with each other.

The Paarskis met each other in the seventh grade in Warsaw, Poland. After marrying in 1971 they went to England for two years before becoming landed immigrants in Canada. Upon hearing of her father's death in June of 1973, Joanna decided to risk a trip back to Warsaw to attend his funeral.

She said that when living before in Poland, travel within and without the country "was much more relaxed."

"This time I took a chance," she told the Herald in an interview. "I took a chance and I lost my illusions."

Ziggy looked over to his wife in the first of a number of glances the young couple shared throughout the evening. Each glance seemed to contain volumes of meaning.

"She never lost her hope," he said, his quiet voice firm with pride.

"You too," Joanna said to him, their eyes locked together. "It was you who got me out."

Polish authorities require that passports of returning Poles be surrendered which Joanna did. When she went to get it back in order to return to Ziggy, "the man said it would be difficult. Your husband should come back," Joanna said.

She was told that if she was persistent and submitted new documents there was a

possibility a passport could be granted to her. It was a 34-month struggle, she said.

"I just can't tell you," she said. "You're living on one application to another, having hopes." Life was measured out in two-week or two-month periods as applications, appeals, more applications and more appeals ate away at time.

While in Warsaw, where she lived with her mother, Joanna supplemented the money her husband was sending to her with private French lessons. She has a degree in French Literature from the University of Warsaw and says her French is better than her English, which is faultless.

But she never gave classes or did anything else between the hours of noon and two o'clock, she said, except wait for the postman to bring either the passport approval or a letter from Ziggy.

Over and over she used the word "struggle" to describe her situation in Warsaw. Trying to get the correct documents to allow her to rejoin her husband was almost a full time job, she said.

However, life in Warsaw, a city more than 1000 years old, did have its cultural attractions, Joanna said, although there were no good restaurants to eat at.

She recalled with pleasure a concert by Canadian pianist Jimmy Henderickson who had received a critic's award at a Chopin competition in Warsaw. She said that the pianist was greatly admired by the young people in Warsaw and that after the competition "I went to his concert."

Joanna laughed at the memory of pleasure. "We kept him for hours, she said. "We wouldn't let him go."

She also recalls with pleasure watching the CBC production on Polish television of "Jalna".

"Cultural life in Warsaw is not as good as it used to be," Joanna said. It was with pleasure that she learned of an upcoming little theatre event in Georgetown.

"I saw 'Billy Liar' in Warsaw," Joanna said, referring to the production Georgetown Little Theatre will be presenting at the end of this month. "I'd certainly like to compare the performances," she said.

But uppermost was the struggle to return to Canada and when they describe the effort it took and the officials who had to be met, the Paarski's caution that one thing after another could not be said or printed for fear that things could be made difficult for others who may be trying to emigrate from Poland or other Eastern Bloc countries.

"You have to be very delicate," Joanna said. In referring to the Polish government, "If you made them feel they lost something it might get harder for others."

Joanna said she admires Canadians for risking our relationship with Poland for an "ordinary case."

"So many people got involved," she said. "It was very effective." Joanna could not stop bubbling over with thanks at the amount of help she was receiving from Canada in her struggle. Most of the help she was unaware of until after she and Ziggy met at Toronto International Airport on April 12.

She commented that the Canadian press had given much support and Ziggy credited Toronto Sun staff writer David Somerville with first making his story known publicly. But at the airport there were no cameras or reporters.

"It was a very quiet hello," Joanna said.

"I doubt that without the help of the Canadian government," Joanna said and mentions the names of External Affairs Minister Alan MacEachen who went to

Warsaw last fall to press the Polish government with Joanna's case as well as those of other separated families, MP Tom Cossitt (PC-Leeds) and MP Stanley Haidasz (L-Parkdale), it could have happened."

After Mr. MacEachen's Warsaw visit the Canadian embassy there was able to initiate actions on her behalf, Joanna said, as well as continuing their encouragement of her case.

But as for the actual reason the Polish authorities allowed her release, "I don't really know what it depends on," Joanna said. Each case is entirely different from the others and has some unaccountable factors present in it. "No one knows what is the basis of the decision."

"It's really wonderful the way the Canadian government and people—ordinary people—thought of the case," Joanna said.

"It's nice to be back."

Although she has no firm plans for the future, Joanna thinks she will try for a job as a translator from English to French or Polish or any combination thereof.

Here Ziggy says they still not have thanked everyone who has helped them reunite.

Some of their walks around Georgetown have been very practical, Ziggy points out, like the location of the supermarkets.

They likely will need to get a few more cups, for one of the things this young couple brought with them from Poland was old world hospitality and a sense of welcome country-wide. Visitors to their tiny apartment are urged to stay until a late hour.

"It's all so incredible," said Joanna as she exchanged another glance with her husband. "We never could be sure there would be a happy ending."



"IT'S NICE TO BE BACK" says Joanna Paarski with her arm around husband Ziggy. Joanna returned Monday last week to Ziggy in Canada after 34 months of forced separation in Warsaw. Says Ziggy: "She never lost her hope."

# the HERALD

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## Walkathon planned for Saturday, May 1

## Halton Hills will never accept new riding MPP warns

Organizers of the annual spring walkathon between Georgetown and Brampton in aid of world relief have finalized details of their Saturday, May 1 walkathon. The total walk will take in 23.4 miles of roadway between Georgetown and Brampton and will see walkers begin simultaneously at both ends of the route; Holy Cross in Georgetown and at the

Rosalee Arena in Brampton. Georgetown walkers will start at 7 a.m. and follow a circuit that will take them along Highway 7 to Norval, down the Town Line, across to Huttonville and then, via Queen Street to Brampton.

They'll travel along Kennedy Road to the 17 Sideroad and then follow that route back to Georgetown. Which should

take about 9 or 10 hours of steady walking. Those who aren't finished by 7:30 will have to quit.

Pre-registration days have been organized to allow walkers to begin without checking in on May 1. Walkers can pre-register in

Georgetown between 4 and 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 29 at the YMCA on Wesleyan Street. Collection day will be Saturday, May 15 from 1 to

4:30 at the Y. Prizes will be awarded for the largest amount of money brought in on collection day.

Registration and sponsorship forms are available at a number of locations throughout town including at the Herald office.

## Son testifies to indirect death threat

by Paul Dorsey  
Horst Baron, 50, charged with the attempted murders of his wife, and two other persons, indirectly threatened his wife with death in a letter he wrote to his son, Manfred, 25, in September, 1975, an Ontario Supreme Court jury learned last week.

Manfred Baron told the jury at his father's trial, which began in Milton last Monday, that his father had complained to him in the letter that Manfred's mother, Hilda 58, insisted on selling their farm at RR2, Acton, despite rising land values, and suggested that if she did not change her mind, he would kill her.

Manfred Baron was the first witness in last Wednesday's session.

site and as a result, he said, "land values will go up."

Manfred told Halton Crown Attorney James Treleven that he had shown the letter to his mother during one of her regular visits to him in prison. He said that he advised her to contact the police.

He stated that the Baron's 112-acre farm became an "obsession" with his father after the family moved there from Toronto in 1969. Baron and his son sometimes hunted together on the farm during their leisure hours, using weapons which they both owned.

**DISCUSSED PARTNERSHIP**

Manfred said that he had assisted his father as a stonemason and that the two men had discussed entering



The Biggest Easter Egg—Members of the Georgetown Jayettes had their hands full delivering this giant egg to students at Sunshine School.

More pics on page 17.

### More testimony on page 2.

The jury was told that Manfred was convicted in March, 1976, for conspiring to murder the husband of a friend.

Horst Baron is charged with attempting to murder his wife and two boarders at the Baron farmhouse Oct. 27. Mrs. Baron, Gunter Mayer, 45, and Mr. Mayer's nine-year-old son, Wayne were all wounded in the chest by shots fired from a handgun.

**MANFRED TESTIFIED**

Manfred testified that his parent's relationship had begun to deteriorate soon after his arrest in 1974, when his father had "disowned" him. He stated that his father's letter, mailed to him at Collins Bay Penitentiary, represented the only contact that the two men had had since the trial.

"I just wrote because I have to," Baron had written his son. "Your mother has the farm up for sale. She wants to take half the money and go live it up."

Baron wrote that he believed houses would be built on the nearby abandoned dragstrip

into a partnership in developing a portion of the farm for residences.

Manfred said that his father had provided him with \$2,500 for the down payments on two bulldozers, as well as subsequent monthly payments on one of the machines, in an attempt to get the business started.

He agreed with Baron's attorney, Louis Silver, that his father had always stressed the need for hard work and was interested in "insinuating in him a deep work ethic."

Manfred told Mr. Silver that he had purchased a pick-up truck and paid off the bulldozers with a \$10,000 bank loan for which his mother co-signed. He stated that his father had no knowledge of the loan until after his trial.

Halton regional police Sgt. Keith Robertson, an investigator with the Georgetown detachment, listed for the court the many weapons and rounds of am-

Cont'd page 11.

## Hydro decision questions Ombudsman's power

The provincial government's decision to go ahead with the Bradley-Georgetown Hydro corridor has put the powers of the province's Ombudsman into jeopardy, Liberal leader Stuart Smith claims.

Speaking to the Wellington-Dufferin-Peel Liberal Association last week in Ferris Dr. Smith stated the Cabinet's decision to proceed with the Hydro line had actually been made in the spring of 1974.

"We only found out about this two-year-old decision early this month because the government is using it as an excuse to prevent the Ombudsman from participating in the case.

"The government proved how insensitive

it is to the people's needs by not holding an independent study to start with. Now it has shown it is also dishonest by letting so many people spend their effort and money trying to influence a decision that has already been made.

"Preventing the Ombudsman from getting involved in this case," said Dr. Smith, "is another confirmation that the conservative government is not responding to the needs of the people."

"This brings into question the office of the provincial Ombudsman itself." The Cabinet's decision, he said, showed "all of the public hearings and presentations made by the Interested Citizens Group over the last two years were totally disregarded."

"Gouging Georgetown out of Halton would be like tearing off a man's right arm," said Halton MP Dr. Frank Philbrook in parliament on April 6 in reference to the proposed new electoral boundaries.

Philbrook emphasized the fact that Georgetown has always had stronger ties—culturally, socially, economically and politically—with Halton than with Brampton. Consequently, he believes that amalgamating the section of Halton north of lot 10 and east of the 7th Concession with Brampton for political purposes would not be in the best interests of the people in his constituency.

"The people of Halton Hills will never accept in their hearts being separated from each other, even just in federal matters," Philbrook explained.

"Picture two different MP's representing two different halves of the same small town, perhaps on the same local issue at the same time. How rational and efficient is that? What if the mayor and the town council are in the other MP's half of town? Can I still approach them directly or does protocol oblige me to approach the other MP first?"

Halton Hills must remain united, not split in half. Picture one small town council having to deal with two MP's instead of one."

After illustrating how the proposed rezoning would adversely affect local politics in Georgetown, Philbrook pointed out how such changes would also negatively influence Brampton in the long range.

"What of this sole concern of the commission for riding population limits?" he argued. "According to the 1971 census, Halton had a count of only 82,679, well within the upper limit of about 102,000 even before losing a few thousand people from the Erin area. By contrast, the Brampton electoral district now has a greater population of 91,897

people, over 9,000 or 11 percent more than Halton, with Brampton growing even faster than Halton."

"Why, then, the urgency to rob Halton to pay Brampton?"

Ross Milne, MP for Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe, supported Philbrook. His statistics proved that if the eastern portion of Halton Hills was combined with Brampton, by 1978 the probable population of the new riding would be 183,000—1 1/2 times as large as the whole population of Prince Edward Island and the largest riding in Canada.

No wonder the people of Brampton are opposed to the recommendations of the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission, as are the people of Halton Hills, he said.

The answer? Alternatives.

Philbrook predicted, "One day the population spillover from Toronto and Hamilton into the Halton area might be great enough to let Oakville stand as a riding on its own, and perhaps Halton Hills to combine with Milton..."

Or, "leave Halton Hills including Acton intact and let it join Brampton in a new riding called Halton Hills, Brampton, leaving Oakville and Milton together..."

Or, as Ross Milne suggested, "It might be more acceptable to add the town of Caledon to the city of Brampton than it would be to add part of Halton Hills..."

The general consensus between constituents and politicians alike seems to be that nothing would be better than the commission's original proposal. Petitions, reports, briefs and editorials have all been submitted to the commission in opposition.

"The honourable member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)," said Philbrook, "states that the commission is there to guarantee the democratic wishes of Canadians. Halton feels it unfortunately does just the opposite."

## Dragstrip plans finally approved

At long last the estate residential housing subdivision planned for the Toronto International Dragstrip has received at least preliminary approval from the Halton Hills subsidiary planning board.

Planner Bob Clipham received the encouraging news last week. Mr. Clipham, on behalf of the property's developer Murray Gruson, has met on many occasions with the planning board to present his plans only to be turned away just as frequently because of many problems that the planning board could foresee developing with the major housing development in Esquesing.

Those problems that have been mentioned and subsequently solved ranged from too high a density of homes on the property, to incomplete information about the drainage pattern of the land to improper street layout.

The future of the entire property is yet unclear because the town is now investigating what it wants to do with a 16-acre parcel of land the developer has designated for town use.

The land was originally set aside in the plans for recreational use including tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and even a soccer pitch which would serve nearby Esquesing communities as well.

However councillors last week suggested that the need for recreational land in the township may not warrant the use of the full area. The land might be better used for housing councillors suggested.

The 16 acres, it was eventually decided by the board, will be designated for recreational use until the full needs of the town are determined.

Final total comes... ..this Thursday

## Education costs up \$8 M

The Halton Board of Education will spend over \$72 million this year which, despite attempts at maintaining a 10 percent increase, is up 14.13 percent over the board's expenditures last year.

That increase in one year has amounted to \$8,973,740.

With only the announcement of the board's revenues to come, the entire budget of the board is expected to be announced this Thursday night.

The third and final report of the board's anticipated expenditures was presented to the board last week. In it were the details of the board's \$52 million budget for instruction.

Salaries and wages for teachers, principals, co-ordinators, consultants and senior administration and supervision staff will amount to over \$45 million of the board's total 1976 expenditures of \$72,486,030.

A total of \$23,270,836 will be spent on instructing or supervising staff for Halton's elementary schools while secondary schools will require \$24,581,567.

In presenting the budget last week trustee Bill Priestner pointed out that the estimates for the staffing expenditures would only apply until September 1 at which time a new contract will have to take effect.

Counterbalancing a 21 percent increase in the cost of salaries and wages the board's finance committee took drastic cuts from other areas of the instruction budget which in the long run, warned Priestner, will have to be paid.

He pointed specifically to the area of the budget which provided for replacement of classroom furniture and equipment. Last year \$253,700 was spent on replacing worn out or broken equipment. This year's budget allows for only \$49,000.

In explaining the increase in the teachers' salaries which amounted to 17.2 percent in the secondary schools and 17.07 percent in the elementary schools Priestner stated that the total number remained relatively stable but a number of teachers had jumped from one level of competency to another.