

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Look at sex education, renaissance vice-chairman says

To the editor of the Herald:

It appears that trustee Bill Priestner of the Halton Board of Education needs a report on what is going on in the sex education classes in Halton and some assurances that the incidents related in the Canadian Magazine are exceptions.

found out that incident... those described in the magazine were happening in Halton.

It is indeed a sorry situation when the Superintendent of Programs and the trustees cannot be sure of what is going on in their classrooms.

The curious phenomenon occurs whereby the teachers who are guilty of overstepping the mark are defended by the principal the administration,

the Board and possibly the OSSTF. Everyone concerned falls over backwards to assure the teacher that censure will not be used against him/her to the detriment of his/her career.

However, in defence of Kathleen Gow whom Bruce Mather accused of writing poor journalism because she did not document the incidents, I would like to offer the following.

The people who gave the information to Kathleen Gow would no doubt back up their

stories but it is obvious that Miss Gow did not want to identify the people or the schools for the sake of propriety, their propriety which is the wrong standard.

When I took questionable literature to the Halton Board of Education as an example of the type being used I happened

to mention Blakelock High School in connection with it as my child was affected I went to see his principal, Mr. Paul Walsh. He defended the literature without reservation in my presence, yet he added, "Why did you have to mention my school Mrs. Hansford?"

I replied, "Why not. Are you ashamed of being connected with this type of literature?"

Another incident: At Queen Elizabeth Park School, Oak-

ville, a couple of years ago a teacher gave a grade eight class a sex quiz that was put out for Queen's University students. Many parents phoned in protest and the trustee Len Crossier, in his own words said "I have attended to it without publicity." He told me the teacher was reprimanded but he would not show me the quiz, a fact left me with the impression that it was pretty hot stuff for grade eight students.

Another documented case concerns the sex quiz that Kathleen Gow mentioned. It is without doubt the most distasteful piece I have ever seen, and if anyone has kept the first page of the article it can be seen as an inverted triangle, printed in its entirety.

to walk away from this kind of talk in the playground. At least I had a choice. I wasn't a captive audience. But let me quote a documented remark in the Oakville Journal Record from a student, Cindy Burt, of Blakelock High School, Oakville.

Reader dismayed over decision, urges public forum on library

Editor's note: This is a copy of a letter sent to The Herald for publication.

Town of Halton Hills
At: Mr. T. Hill, Mayor
Dear Sirs:

It was with some incredulity and dismay that I read the Halton Hills Town Council had decided to proceed with the Library in Cedarvale Park.

The Mayor and Councilors have a great many decisions to make in the course of a year. They must consider those which will most benefit the town as a whole. I think that most people would agree that improved library facilities are desirable. The Council has had access to expert advice in this matter. They have made, apparently, in the light of this advice, the best choice possible.

However, in so doing, they have chosen to ignore the fears and doubts of over 3000 petitioners who, mainly for environmental reasons, object to the Cedarvale location as a site for the library. There are, no doubt, many more persons of the same mind who, for security reasons or another, did not get to sign the petition.

Without re-stating the specific objections to the Cedarvale plan, it seems that, because of the considerable feeling against it, the Council should have a public meeting at which

the architect's projections for this area are revealed so that their probable effect can be assessed.

At this meeting, it would be useful and informative to detail modification plans for the present library which were superseded by the Cedarvale project. In this manner, the

public might obtain a better chance to assess the pros and cons of both plans.

It would seem the Council and the Library Board owe the public at least that opportunity.

Yours truly,
Betty A. Hansford
Vice-Chairman for Oakville
Halton Renaissance Committee

A former library board member concerned over town's 'Cedargate'

To the editor of The Herald:

I was a member of the Georgetown Library Board from 1962-68 and have been following with increasing concern the actions of the Library Board and Council with respect to the proposed new library.

It was disappointing at the meeting of Council, Board and dissidents on June 21st, to find most councillors and the whole of the board ignoring the Council resolution 3, carried 7-4 on May 16th. We had the pathetic spectacle of councillors who had voted "that the Library Board be advised council and the public at large are opposed to location of the new library at the chosen site and request the Board to re-approach Council for resolution of this matter" saying that they never really meant it. The Board showed no sign of reaction in response to the last part of the resolution.

At that same meeting on May 16th, Resolution 4, carried 9-2, proposed the joint meeting with 5 representatives of the petitioners "to discuss the location or re-location of a new library or the addition to the old one". When this meeting, on June 21st, opened, the Mayor ruled that only one representative from the petitioners, and one from the Board, would be allowed to speak. Some councillors then declared their unequivocal support for the Cedarvale proposal before anybody else spoke. It was clear very shortly after the meeting began that the majority of Council had already closed their minds, and that

the meeting was to be a token sop to the petitioners. There was no discussion. The plans for the alternative proposals in the possession of the Board were not available, but the plans for the new library, which had arrived that afternoon and consisted of half a dozen architectural sketches and a handsome model which conveniently left out any ugly parking area, were enough to convince council to approve them and order a building permit to be issued as soon as the detailed plans were available. It was no wonder the taxpayers felt thwarted by this failure to allow the effective discussion they had been promised, and reacted accordingly.

The majority who voted for the Cedarvale location apparently decided way before the meeting that the petitioners' protest against the misuse of parkland must yield to the concern for saving public money. This majority, which included only one Georgetown resident, have a confidence in the judgment and managerial competence of the Library Board which I cannot share, and which I do not find supported by any factual evidence. The following are culled from the Herald files, and from the official annual reports filed at the Treasurer's office. All figures except those marked x are firm figures, and those marked x have been obtained by reasonable interpolation. Comparison of the figures is made on a percentage basis, with 1973 figures as

the base level.

Whatever one chooses to deduce from these figures they are not an outstanding testimonial to the efficiency of the Halton Hills Board, which took over responsibility in 1974. Action people are complaining about regional government: it seems that Georgetown Library users have some complaints too. It is astounding that an overall increase of 7 per cent in circulation since 1973 should call for a 78 per cent increase in staff, and even in

this inflationary period, a 230 per cent increase in costs. A substantial part of the 1976 cost (\$42,571) was for interest charges on the unused debt.

A Board with this track record can hardly expect the public to accept its proposals without question, even if a majority of council does. The Council has authorised the Board to spend \$750,000 for 15,000 square feet of library in an objectionable location. Plans have existed since 1974 - detailed plans which were on

public exhibition in the library and attracted considerable interest and support - for an extension to the existing building, giving 13,500 square feet for \$500,000. There must be cogent arguments to have persuaded Board and Council to go for the extra quarter of a million, but the taxpayer has not heard them yet. The secret must surely be in that confidential Zeegan report which we are never to know about. Can we reasonably be asked to cough up another \$250,000 for a library in a position 35000 people disapprove of, on the basis of a report too secret to trust to the taxpayer? Is the confidentiality of the report vital to the town's security, or does it rather concern the reputation of some of the individuals involved?

It has taken the U.S. 5 years to clean up Watergate: let us hope Halton Hills can clean up Cedargate a little more quickly.

Yours truly,
J.R. Bellamy.

Council 'blew it' on library issue

To the editor of The Herald:

Our elected representatives in Halton Hills Council, most notably Mayor Tom Hill, clearly "blew it" on the Library in the Park issue.

When the petition of 3100 names was presented to council by Mr. Don Long, spokesman for the Concerned Citizens, council voted in favour of two motions. The first motion in effect stated that the council of Halton Hills is opposed to the library in Cedarvale Park. However, in Tuesday's meeting with the Library Board and the representatives of the Citizens, several councillors expressed surprise that they had voted in favour of this motion. Surely I would hope that when our paid representatives vote on a motion, they would know just what they were voting for.

The second motion stated that council would meet with

the members of the Library Board and five representatives from the Citizens Group to resolve this problem. At the start of the meeting Mayor Hill dictated that council would hear only one representative each from the Library Board and the Citizens Group. Several councillors then expressed their agreement with the Cedarvale site and challenged the spokesman for the Citizens Group to present to council alternative site plans. In taking the above action, council ignored the intent of the motion. That motion did not even remotely indicate that alternative plans were to be presented to council.

As a member of the Citizens Committee, I feel that council's actions were irresponsible and unjust.

Sincerely,
Wm. Wojcieszko

Limehouse Cubs hold closing camp

By MRS. HANNAH
Limehouse cubs held their closing camp June 17-19 at Wilcox Conservation Area - 100 acres near Orangeville - which is used solely for Scout camping. Fathers were invited to this camp which resulted in 15 Cubs, 10 fathers, 3 leaders and Steve Thompson and his son Gord attending. With the exception of rain Saturday morning, the weather was good and everyone had a good time.

The program included the Canada Fitness program, hikes and hunts for pirate treasure, rare exotic plants and 2 rapid boats, also log jousting, compliments of the Limehouse Scouts. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Cubs and Scouts wound up for the year on June 20 with a going up ceremony for the Cubs. Parents were invited for this meeting and everyone stayed for refreshments. Cubs

going up to Scouts were Christian Book, Ian Brown, Ron Beck, Tom Huggie, Brian Walton, Bruce Irvine and Eddie Galliford. We wish them good luck and success with their Scouting.

Cubs will begin again in September with registration on Wed. Sept. 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Scout Hut. For information call Elaine Hannah 877-7492.

The Group Committee held its last meeting at Galliford's in Limehouse with 10 members present. Approval was given for the Scouts to purchase 2 more lightweight tents and a lightweight camp stove.

The paper drives will be continued on the last Saturday of the month but the paper will not be accepted anymore unless tied in flat bundles and nothing but newspaper in them. Further renovations to the Scout Hut will be planned and hopefully carried out during the summer months.

Have a good and safe summer everyone.

Mix up cleared on walks

Repair work on uneven sidewalks and decaying curbs Acton pedestrians were forced to walk on was finally started last week at the expense of the company - not the town, works chairman Mike Armstrong says.

Mr. Armstrong said the supplier reported to King Paving the concrete was bad when poured in the fall, and sidewalks heaved due to frost during the winter.

Coun. Les Duby said Thursday the sidewalks are not fit to walk on. Construction of red inter-locking stones along Main Street had to be stopped because of the curb situation he said.

The inter-locking stones are part of the renovation to the Acton business district.

Farm group meets

By MARK J. LEAHY
Jim Coulson of the Milton Fire Department was guest speaker at the Halton Farm Safety Council Meeting June 14.

People are the biggest problem when it comes to fires. Many fires are caused by poor electrical connections on the farm. Other common dangers are octopus outlets, improvised wiring, faulty heat lamps, inadequate wiring, over-fusing, careless smoking, improper storage of flammable liquids, garbage accumulation, grass fires.



Nation of individuals

CANADA DAY... JULY 1, 1977
There are no average Canadians. Our greatest measure of freedom is that we are a nation of individuals. We are a nation of strong, individual personality. As you travel our great country from sea to sea, province to province and into the territories you will find us as different as our terrain.

It is in this difference we are trying to build a unified country. We may be new Canadians transplanted from a country rich in culture, or we may be fifth generation Canadians fiercely proud of our heritage. One thing we have in common is the individual freedom of choice to live in this great land. Our one goal is to realize our potential as a nation without losing our culture or character. OUR HERITAGE IS OUR STRENGTH. Early Canadian life may suggest to you the life of the pioneer, or if a newcomer to this country, it may be the day you stepped off the plane onto Canadian soil. Our individual roots must be transplanted to grow again in a common soil that is Canada.

Canadians know little if anything of each other. If our neighbour's eyes are slanted, or their skin is black, or they dress in clothing peculiar to our own, we presume they are recent immigrants. With roots dating back hundreds of years these Canadians are just as deeply entrenched in this country as the French and English. When we say with pride I AM A CANADIAN we say it in the full knowledge that we stand firm as individuals in a country big enough for us all. May we always be proud to be Canadian, and interested enough to learn of and appreciate our individual differences. We can still sing with one voice and in many languages of the "true north strong and free". This is a privilege, not a right.

Let's insure that privilege by learning more about where we've been so we can understand where we are and shape more humanely where we are going. During Canada Day celebrations this year I will stand erect and sing O Canada with pride. My version is, however, different than the one you will sing. O Canada, our home has been condemned. Clean air and water coming to an end. With saddened hearts we watch the rape of our far north by degree. So stand on guard all Canada. For Inuit and Cree. O oil and gas, water running free. Resources rip off a fait accompli? O Canada we must invest in these.

Joyce Beaton is the editor of EARLY CANADIAN LIFE, a magazine on Canada's history, artists and craftspeople. It's available from Goldenglow Publications, 181 Main St. Milton, Ont. at a yearly subscription rate of \$3.

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Writer begs to point out library facts

To the editor of The Herald:
Re the Proposed Public Library Building Site at Cedarvale

To date, all "Letters To The Editor" have registered disapproval of the proposed changes in the library site. We would like to take this opportunity to bring certain information to the attention of the citizens of Georgetown.

The following facts should receive consideration:
1. The Library Board holds title deeds to the property (Cedarvale location) - in short-owns the property on which they propose to build the new library. The land was deeded to the Public Library Board in 1976 by the Town Council.

question has been considered unsuitable by the local recreation committee and that body has plans to relocate the toboggan hill.

2. Regardless of where the library will finally be placed, the town has decided to build a new and safer entrance to Cedarvale Park.

3. If it is desirable to maintain the Congregational Church as a historical building, then to expand the present Library facilities by building to or onto the present church structure would unavoidably change the appearance and character of the Congregational Church building.

4. The financial aspect of the project is already well in hand,

the Library Board having \$400,000.00 in its account and the remaining monies would be derived from lot levies.

Georgetown does need a good Public Library - one which can cater to the needs of this growing community. Such a building needs to be accessible to the majority - not stuck to one end of the town.

In closing, may we emphasize the suitability of the Cedarvale site as one that is nearer to the centre of the complete town than any other available site; as one that will permit future expansion without fear of trespass; as one that will not "rob Peter to pay Paul."

Yours truly,
Wm. Kinrade

HALTON HILLS RECREATION and PARKS NEWS & VIEWS

This year's Halton Hills Summer Aquatic Programme begins on Monday, July 4th at the Indoor Outdoor Pools and also at Prospect Park. The following people have been hired to provide supervision and instruction at the pools and the beach area: Cathy Ashley, Susan Anker, Leslie Graham, Debbie Hippon, Cheryl Martindale, David Hannah, Helen Vadeika, John Thompson, Craig Gordon, Al Rowles, Judie Paterson, Theresa Callaghan, Lynn Virag, Karen Wickson, Lois Gummer, Blair Thompson, Pauline Heaton, Paula Stewart, Cathy Masson, John McFarlane, Alison Taylor, Cathy DeLuack, Heather Clarke.

Registration for the Instruction Programme, for the first summer session will be on Wednesday, June 29th from 7 - 9 p.m. This summer we will be providing our regular Red Cross, Royal Life Saving Society and Town Awards as well as Synchronized Swimming and Swim Tea. For the first time Dive Level 1 (only) will be provided. Another new programme being offered is called Water Sports. This programme will include a wide range of activities including Water Polo, Synchronized, Diving, Volleyball, Basketball and Skin Diving. For those who would like to be exposed to a wide range of activities rather than specializing in one area, this program would be ideal. For more information on any program please call Liz Binsfeld at Acton Lions Pool 853-3140, or Mr. Vic Stoddart at the Georgetown Indoor Pool (877-7721).

Fairy Lake is quite a busy place during the summer months. This can cause concern for parents with small children. However, there is some comfort in knowing that the lake is not a total hazard, there is a beach area which is guarded in the afternoons and a wading pool for the smaller children.

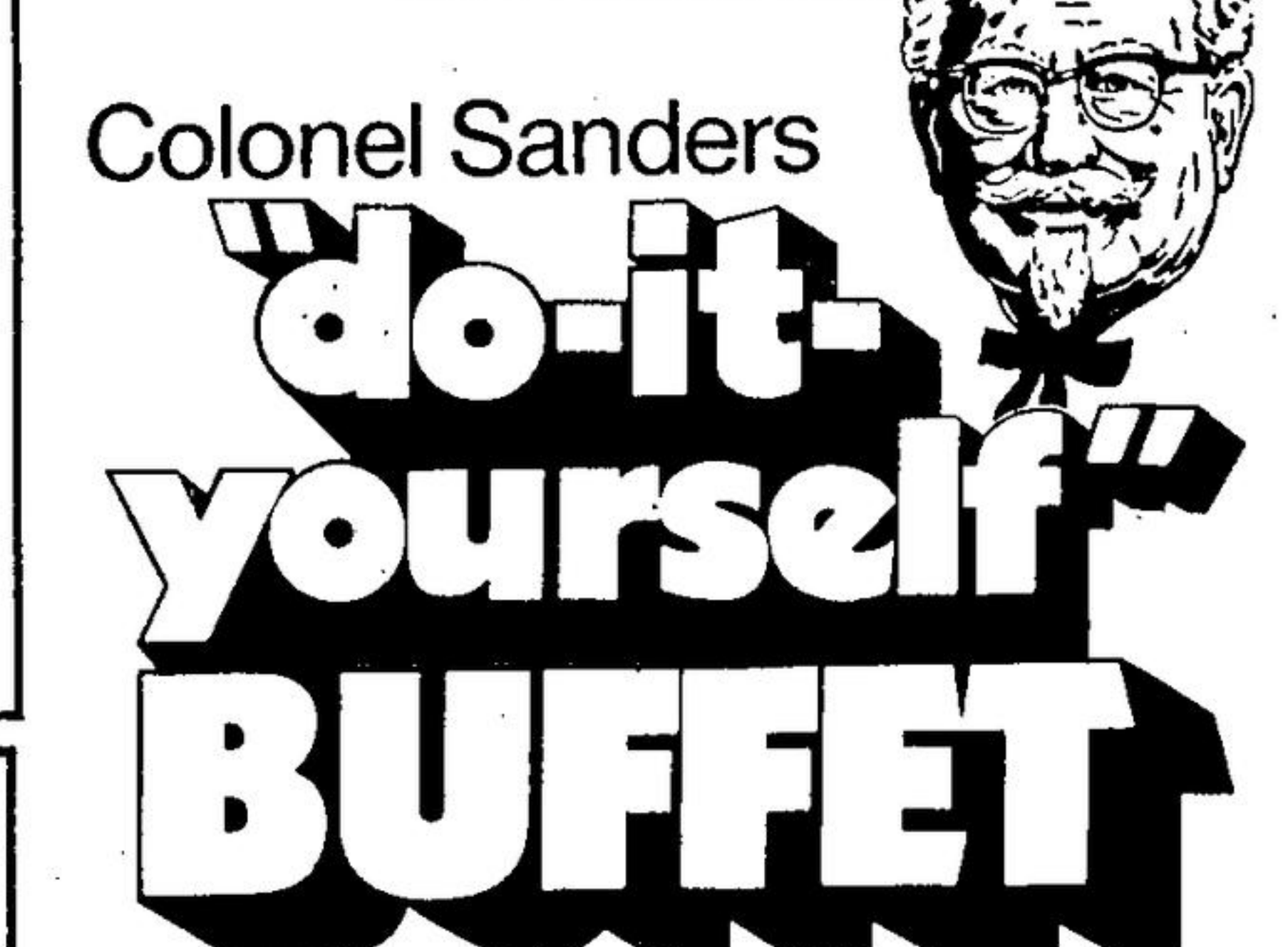
There are many other areas which have been used in the past as swimming areas, some of which are quite dangerous and I would like to point out some of these areas in hopes of preventing water accidents this summer.

This area near the wading pool is used by a lot of teenagers. This area is not guarded and there is a large drop off just a few feet from shore. As a result, people mistake this as a good diving area - diving from the edge, or stumps and even picnic tables. However, the water is very murky and many obstacles besides the seaweed, such as rocks, logs and bottles etc are found there. These obstacles could be very dangerous and should be avoided.

Sudden drop offs in the lake could be dangerous for non-swimmers. One is located across from the wading pool in Lakeview Subdivision and another at the end of Elmore Drive. If you are going to swim at your own risk in these areas, may we suggest that you supervise your children and perhaps mark the drop off areas with a javex bottle.

The beach area and the Wading Pool will be open with supervision starting on July 1st from 1:30 - 4:30 daily.

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