

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Closed meeting

To the editor of The Herald:
The Halton-Peel section of the Toronto Star on Thursday, April 6, 1978 carried an announcement by Betsy Cornwell that a special meeting will be held by the Halton Hills Public Library Board to discuss the situation facing them. This meeting is destined to affect the lives of the majority of people in Halton Hills; however, according to this article, it will probably be held in private.

I contend that the public should be involved in this meeting and, subsequently, the future of their library. The numerous library users should begin working towards a progressive library with the Library Board members who generously volunteered their services. Heightened communications between the populace and the Library Board is required; but, for this to occur public must be allowed attendance at the meeting. There are many interested people who should not be excluded from it, for if they cannot hear the discussion they cannot express their ideas and concerns, producing a Library Board which is unaware of the users' wishes. If they are allowed to be present and do express their feelings, the Library Board members will know what the public wants and expects of them. This increased communication will engender improved facilities and better staff-patron relations. Hopefully this issue will be settled quickly so that Halton Hills may have something to show for the debenture it has and is paying for.

There has been some speculation that Richard Howitt, Library Board chairman, lawyer, and past councillor, will be running for Council in the next election. Let us hope he is intelligent enough to realize that open meetings are a must for a healthy community and the more secrecy that exists, the more trouble arises. For example, the Council has lost the last three OMB hearings, creating heavier taxes and richer town lawyers. Perhaps with councillors like Richard Howitt, who should realize the importance of openness and public involvement, Halton Hills will blossom into a prosperous and auspicious municipality.

Why a baptismal certificate?

To the editor of The Herald:
My ancestors came to this country searching for freedom, specifically religious freedom. Having recently incorporated a business, I have experienced first hand the mindless bureaucracy that is slowly destroying our beloved country. I have been trying since last September to get a name for my Corporation, been hassled by newly established "import specialists" and can identify with the articles in a recent Business Week interviewing entrepreneurs (who create jobs) who simply moved their operations south of the border in frustration.

As any successful businessman can testify, if they ran their business like the government runs the country they wouldn't last two years. It is a universal complaint as all countries accelerate down the road to socialism but since Trudeau took over Canada has become the most stifling bureaucracy in any so-called democratic nation in the world, if you doubt it read Lubor Zink's new book, Viva Chairman Pierre.

What triggered this letter was a relatively small incident, but typical. My 16-year-old son signed up for a drivers education course in high school and yesterday we went to get him his learner's permit. I was

asked to sign as his parent giving my permission that he was asked for a BAPTISMAL certificate. Now what in the world has baptism got to do with a driving license? Ever since I thought we had separation of church and state in this country, I don't happen to believe in infant baptism and I resent the idea that our government has the right to ask for a baptismal certificate before granting a drivers license. The next was, well then a birth certificate, now I believe in birth, I was there when my son was born but what good is my signature as a parent if they won't even believe me when I sign the application that my son is 16-years-old.

My son will now have to miss his in-car training because who knows how long it will take after spending our \$3 to Ottawa for "proof that he was born" particularly with the lousy mail service we have.

With an election coming up, I am reminded of the famous words of Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Or perhaps, the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Certainly our free enterprise system is being rap-

iduously eroded as we are manipulated, controlled, regulated and computerized to where we will soon need a license to breathe if it is still safe. I suppose I should be thankful that I still have the freedom to voice my complaints but then in the "police state" we are rapidly becoming if I signed my name I would probably end up in an RCMP file or perhaps as seems to be becoming the favourite trick of U.S. presidents on an audit file of the internal revenue dept. to harass critics of the regime. Solzmitzyn we are soul brothers.

Yours very truly,
Myron Martin
R.R. 2 Acton, Ont.

The time has come for the public and all elected or appointed representatives to operate as one to further the community of Halton Hills. A good way to commence is to hold open meetings, involve the public, and stop conducting public business behind closed doors.

Sincerely,
Margaret Breckenridge
(Editor's note: While we can fully appreciate the comments made by the letter writer, the

Volunteers sought

To the editor of The Herald:
We at the Contact Centre would be grateful if you would include this letter, or its main points, in your means of communication over the next two weeks. We are conducting a training session beginning on Tuesday, the 18th of April in Norval United Church, Norval. Volunteers are needed to help us help others to help themselves. We are a non-profit distress and public information service to the community. The line which we leave open for general information, crisis intervention and befriending is completely confidential.

This channel of communication was opened four and one half years ago and during that time our phone has never gone unanswered, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Those of us at the Centre are proud of our record, and of our volunteers.

The Centre could not exist without people such as yourself, someone who is willing to put together your own experience and concerns with our training programme which is comprised of seven two hour sessions each Tuesday evening until the 30th of May.

The calls we receive have increased in number from approximately 100 per month in 1973 to over 700 per month as of late. The mere numbers, as well as their variety, indicate to us the increasing need for the service we can provide.

If you can give twelve hours per month of your time, which is three "four hour" shifts, and if you are concerned about the problems of loneliness, or "that nobody seems to care," don't be afraid to volunteer. We

library board has every right at this time to meet privately to discuss the recent OMB decision. There is a question of not just being open in this matter, but also one of being fair: The Municipal Act protects council's discussions and correspondence with its solicitors from the need for total public disclosure. This special library board meeting will be dealing with matters of law and discuss options available to the board. Once a resolution of action is approved, it must be reviewed publicly.

don't have all of the answers; in fact, it is a constant learning process for all of us at the Centre. One of the greatest resources is the fresh insight which new volunteers can provide. Application forms can be obtained by phoning the Contact Centre directly at 877-4211. We hope to hear from you!

Yours sincerely,
T.J. Clark
Public Relations Committee,
North Halton Contact Centre

Thank you

To the Editor of The Herald:
The Georgetown Agricultural Society held its FIRST Annual Dance on April 1, 1978 at Holy Cross Church Auditorium.

The dance was held as a fund-raising project in order to defray the 1977 loss of \$5,000.00 caused by last year's rain-out. The net profit on the dance was \$27.00, considerably lower than anticipated due to other dances held in the area.

Mrs. Mary Robinson of Norval won the door prize of a market hog which was donated by Maple Leaf Mills Research Farm.

The co-chairpersons, Mona Milne and Barry Timleck wish to express their thanks to all those who attended the dance, with a special thank you to Bob Simpson who provided equipment, music and along with George Cozens donated their time to make the dance a success.

Yours very truly,
Mona Milne
Barry Timleck

Norval district news

By DOLOTHY McLEAN
Herald correspondent

The annual meeting of Norval Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. May Cleave on Thursday evening, April 6th, with Mrs. Edna Murray presiding.

The roll call was answered with the payment of fees followed by reports of the various conveners and the treasurer, indicating a good year for the WI.

It was decided to give a donation to the North Halton Music Festival which is celebrating its 50th year this year. It was also decided to purchase a new Tweedsmuir History Book as the first book of Norval area history is full.

The bus trip in place of May meeting was discussed and suggestions made of places to see. Final plans will be made soon.

Mrs. Gladys Chester reported on an executive meeting held recently to discuss Bill 59, the new law relating to women's rights in marriage. All present at that meeting agreed to obtain by phoning the Contact Centre directly at 877-4211.

We hope to hear from you!

Yours sincerely,
T.J. Clark
Public Relations Committee,
North Halton Contact Centre

especially the law regarding widows. Most had received replies to their letters.

A discussion on the new bill that came into effect on March 31st followed. The general feeling of those present was that the woman who divorced her husband or the woman who lived common law for a few years and then left will end up better off financially than the woman who remains married for life and this is unfair to the women who try to make a good thing better and keep a home together.

It was decided to have a public meeting for all interested with informative speakers on this subject in the fall after women have had a chance to study the bill better and so be able to ask intelligent questions. At the present time much of the new bill is not clearly understood by most women.

Achievement Day for the 4H Clubs will be held on Saturday, April 22nd, at the E.C. Library School, and the W.I. District Annual meeting will be held in Devon Church on May 16th.

Mrs. Ina Terry gave the nominating committee report for the year, remain the same - Mrs. Edna Murray, president, Mrs. Jean May,

first vice president, Mrs. Kay Wilson, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Amy Burk, district director. There were a few changes made in some of the various conveners.

Mrs. Grace Crawford assisted the hostess in serving lunch and a social time ended the evening.

The Norval Euchre Club had tables of players who enjoyed the evening of cards on Thursday evening, April 6th, at the Norval School Community Centre. Ladies high score prizes were won by Mae Toast, first and Clara Switzer, second and the men's high score prizes were won by George Burt, first, and Doug MacMillan, second. The prize for the most

one hands was won by Jamie Cummingham, and the lucky draw prize of a plant donated by Webb's Greenhouses was won by Mrs. McGilvray.

During the social hour that followed the game of cards, Mrs. Shirley Davis was surprised by being presented with a birthday cake which was shared with those present to help celebrate her birthday.

The next Norval Euchre Night will be held on Thursday evening April 20th. All are welcome.

The 2nd Norval Brownie pack and the 1st Lanehouse Brownie pack held a Pow Wow at the Norval School Community Centre all day Friday, April 7th, with 32 Brownies participating.

During the day the girls enjoyed crafts, games, sing songs and stories. They had hot dogs for lunch and continued the Pow Wow in the afternoon.

The Pinevalley Squares modern square dancing group had two sets dancing at Zeller's Georgetown, on Saturday, April 8, as part of the store celebration for Pioneer Days.

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