

Board wary of changes

In its continuing efforts to "cover all bases" in planning an expansion to the Georgetown library, the Halton Hills library board will meet with representatives of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Esqueving Historical Society to discuss an opinion shared by some area residents that the Church Street building should remain unaltered in its original state.

Board member Norm Elliott explained at last Wednesday's meeting that he wants to be sure the board is not irreversibly reducing the library's historical value by adding a modern extension, as has been proposed.

"I think all of us here would like to see the expansion get started this fall," Mr. Elliott said, "but I'm continually haunted by the idea of our existing site in Georgetown as the future location for all library facilities. There is an element of people in this town who want to preserve it as an historical building, but the proposed expansion would detract greatly from its appearance. The style of architecture would not be enhanced by a physical addition at the rear."

Mr. Elliott pointed out that the Ontario Heritage Foundation was hesitant to help finance the renovation of Acton's old town hall after construction of the firehall expansion next door was undertaken using brickwork of an incompatible style.

Chief librarian Betsy Cornwell informed the board that a representative of the ministry of culture and recreation is interested in addressing the board with regard to the proposed expansion and could provide essential contacts with other helpful agencies.

The board agreed to invite the ministry official to its Sept. 13 meeting. Board member Doug Magwood agreed with the suggestion, pointing out that the board must cover all bases in terms of the expansion, in much the same way it did so by approaching town council to first make sure there were no additional sites available for a new facility.

Georgetown featured

Paintings of Georgetown landmarks will be included in a one-man show at the Dunker-Burton Gallery in Toronto from September 9 to 20.

Brampton psychiatrist Dr. Z.R. Mech, says there are "four or five paintings of Georgetown" among the 60 or so water colors he is exhibiting at the show.

Burwick Hall and the Georgetown library will be on display, along with historic buildings from Toronto, Brampton, Orangeville and several other locations in southern Ontario.

Dr. Mech says he is interested in preserving old Ontario and his work is both realistic and "very historically correct."

Dr. Mech says when he sees an old building he wants to paint, he often talks to the owner about it before he begins.

"Sometimes they tell me the place had a balcony or gingerbread trim, or something like that before they fixed it up," he says. "Then when I do the painting, I'll put back what they changed."

Dr. Mech had a showing of his work at Georgetown's Gallery House of Sol several years ago, he says.



A REAL COOL CAT

Jamie Harris, 4, sported a real greaser hair cut and proper attire for a greaser dance Friday at Cedarvale to wind up the playground programs for the summer. His partner is leader Linda Wilde.

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Program showed need for thinking ahead

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

This Sunday past the CBC showed a startling documentary entitled *The Other Child*.

The program began with a warning to parents that children might find some of the scenes too horribly vivid. What followed was a depiction of the aftermath from a few moments of carelessness. The program dealt with the care of burn victims.

Burns are perhaps the most disfiguring of all accidents. To watch the painful reconstructive surgery that takes place over a period of years on children without eyebrows or eyelids, without lips or ears, without a nose; to watch with vivid closeups the result of accidental burns that could have been prevented was an experience that I will remember throughout my lifetime.

The show was filmed in the burn unit of the Isak Walton Killam Hospital in Halifax. Its title, *The Other Child*, is, in my estimation, inspired, conveying the idea that such accidents happen to someone else's child, never your own.

I disagree with the warning that preceded the show. A warning is necessary so that a parent can explain to a young child what they are about to see, but what I disagree with is the idea that the scenes are too vivid for young children.

We are a strange breed, we human beings. We consider it a kindness to hide the ugly side of life. We hide away our crippled, our scarred, our disfigured. We create an artificial world filled with only the so-called "beautiful people" and it is such a tragic mistake.

I remember a year or so ago after a tragic accident in Peel involving teenagers that the police or some other authority wanted to put the accident vehicle on display at Mayfield High School. The school trustees found the idea repulsive, yet the death or disfigurement of a teenager who has yet to taste life is not even considered in the same breath. The accident involved alcohol and the real-life scene of that crushed car complete with blood-stained seats would have done more than our culture could estimate at this point in time. We will never gain control over accidents (although most are preventable) until we come face to face with the aftermath.

My feelings are the same for the showing of *The Other Child*. Every parent should make sure he watches it with his offspring. To tell a toddler, "Matches burn, don't touch" has nowhere near the impact carried by a close-up of an eight-year old's neck, lip and shoulder area fused together in dense scar tissue, in a mass of angry, welts and twisted, scorched flesh that was once a pretty little chin and a neck with full mobility. Certainly it is terrifying, but what parent would like to look upon their own children in such a tragic condition when they know it could have been preventable?

How many parents reading this column keep their dish detergent under the sink? How many have a toddler in the house? Dish detergent has corrosive agents in it which, if swallowed, cause burns.

A cigarette lighter kept on a coffee table or matches left in a desk drawer or on top of the dresser. Do we really believe

that "No, no, mustn't touch" is good enough?

The *Other Child* is definitely an inspired title. A series entitled *The Other Man*, *The Other Woman* would well be in order. When tragedy strikes, it always happens to the "other one". Us? No, never, for we can drive after a drink or two and our child never touches anything he's told not to. Heartache is what happens to someone else until we discover too late, that we were wrong.

I believe it was Stalin who said, "One death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic". The psychology there is that we can comprehend one death, yet a million deaths is mind-boggling. With the horror of burns and the result of scarred and disfigured flesh, can we comprehend the personal heartache if such tragedy occurs in OUR house?

If you see *The Other Child* DRG contract

From the Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

DRG Stationery Co. in Georgetown has won a \$65,353 federal contract to provide the government with folders, the department of supply and services has announced.

At the same time the department announced the award of a \$41,488 contract to Imont Pressite Ltd., also of Georgetown, which has agreed to provide the defence department with sealing compounds.

They were among 382 unclassified contracts worth \$10,000 or more that were awarded by the department to Canadians during the week ended August 11. Total value of the contracts amounted to \$30,808,120.

scheduled again for television, make it a must for the entire family. After reading this column make a check of your home. Move those dangerous products that are under the sink into a top cupboard and place all possible sources of fire well out of reach and sight.

Did you know that the plug of an unplugged television set can cause a disfiguring burn for up to 24 hours when placed in a toddler's mouth? An unplugged set?

Safeguard our little ones. We have enough tragedy in life with the unpreventable without these sudden but tragic accidents that can almost all be eliminated.

Scalds are another type of preventable burn. Don't leave toddlers unattended in the bathroom. It only takes a few seconds.

Watching a ten-month old baby undergo the painful process of having dead skin tissue removed from its body is something, once seen, you won't forget. Please check your house now. It counts for you too, grandma and grandpa wherever toddlers are to be found.

A few minutes of really caring, of thinking ahead, of safe-guarding your little one against a lifetime of heartache and guilt.

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In Acton Friday, September 1, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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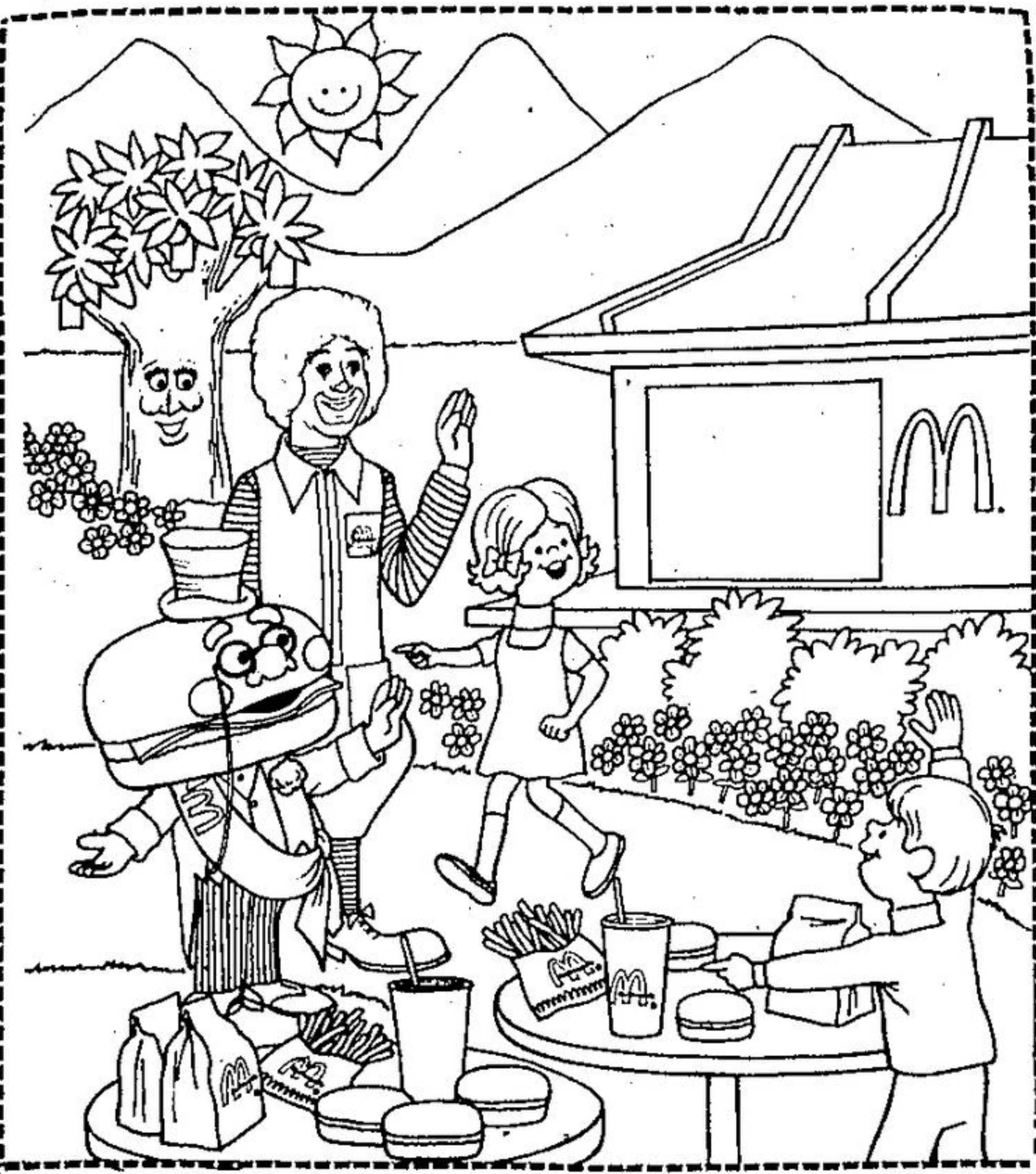


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