

# Booth tries to force the library issue

We are disturbed by comments made by Ward Three Regional Councillor Roy Booth the day after last week's municipal elections, regarding the Georgetown library.

In a post-election interview with The Herald, Coun. Booth said he will recommend that the town council not pass the library board's budget until "some decision" is made relating to the controversial facility.

Coun. Booth went on to say "the library board has proven itself completely irresponsible by virtue of its failure to do anything at all to solve this problem."

Certainly no one would dispute that the controversy surrounding the Georgetown library has been dragging on long enough, we would guess that even library board members would agree with this sentiment. However, just because the issue has been with us for too long does not mean that council should now force the board's and and possibly pressure them into making a hasty decision.

Before making his inflammatory and exasperated statements, Coun. Booth should have investigated the state of the library board's deliberations.

The library board is currently in the process of defining the goals, objectives and purpose of the library. While this may sound a little lofty, it's a process well worth the effort. How can the board determine whether they need renovations or a new building, or the size and shape of any structure until the purpose of the library is clearly defined?

A library providing space for children's theatre workshops will

have very different space requirements than one that is just a book depository.

At that same time as the library board is trying to define its goals, a new element has been introduced to the equation with the recent election of a new town council and a new mayor.

We think—optimistically perhaps—that the new ideas and input from the new councillors should help speed up the resolution of the library issue. Halton Hills' mayor-elect Pete Pomeroy has also pledged to play a role in the resolution of the issue and even suggested that he may take the council seat on the library board. Considering the importance of the library issue, we think he must take over the council's library board seat. And we are again hopeful that the mayor's direct input will also help speed the resolution of this drawn out controversy.

Halton Hills' Chief Librarian Betsy Cornwell says that the board's "self-definition" process should be wrapped up sometime in the early spring. We think that the board is at least entitled until then to try and resolve the Georgetown library issue. We also think the new council and mayor are entitled to make their input into the dispute before a confrontation approach is taken by the council by forcing their hand by blocking the budget.

And let's face it, if Coun. Booth thought the library board's budget should be frozen, why didn't he mention it during his re-election campaign? It seems that would have been a good time to solicit voter response to his scheme.

# GO bus needed in downtown

Georgetown's Business Improvement Area Board of Management are correct in their efforts to have the GO buses re-routed back through the town's downtown core.

The recent GO decision to drop the downtown route in favour of a longer stop at the town's shopping mall is just one more regressive step that directs people away from Georgetown's downtown. If a major bus route ignores a town's downtown core, it helps reinforce an attitude among local people to also ignore the downtown.

A healthy downtown is vital to

preserving the 'unique' character of any Ontario town. The local BIA have declared their determination to ensure that Georgetown residents and shoppers are provided with an interesting and economical downtown area. The Ontario government has given many municipalities grants and loans to help them preserve their downtown areas. Although neither Georgetown nor Acton were given government funding for this purpose.

At least the provincial government could help the Georgetown downtown by not pulling their government bus line out of the downtown core.



# Stephen Lewis will be missed, showed his human side



**Queen's Park Report**  
By Derek Nelson

**Queen's Park Bureau**  
OF THE HERALD

TORONTO — Stephen Lewis is gone. The best orator in the Ontario legislature, maybe in the whole country, has retired to new endeavors and novel careers at the tender age of 41.

For 15 years he's been an MPP, for eight years New Democratic Party Leader. He leaves behind a few conquests, including a hero-worshipping press who often counted on Lewis' wit and analysis for their stories.

"It was to use a Lewisism delicious irony that one NDP campaign bus, on which the press rode, carried a side sign "Stephen Lewis and friends."

His influence on legislation and public attitudes in matters such as environmental and occupational health, as well as children's rights, were more than might be expected of an opposition leader.

**SHED TEARS**

In 1975 in a canny election campaign he single-handedly forced rent control on his province.

As a politician he tended to show his human side more than most of his contemporaries. They still tell stories of his tears during a speech on occupational health in Elliot Lake.

In person he devastated you, not with warmth or charisma, but by intellect and a superb choice of words and timing. He had, in essence, a sense of the dramatic.

He fits Shakespear's description of "all the world's a stage, and all the men and women upon it merely players"—except Lewis was in the Olivier class.

**OTHER SIDE**

Which is not to give him only kudos.

Lewis was a man of his era, when the seemingly endless wealth of North American society could buy any and all social programs.

Neither through his (teaching) background nor by inclination did he pay much attention to the hard job of actually creating the wealth he wanted to spread around.

Economics was just not his forte. And, contrary to growing myth being propagated by the media, he is not the man who made the NDP a respectable force in Ontario politics.

That title belongs to his predecessor, Donald MacDonald.

The Lewis-led NDP took 38 per cent of the vote in 1977, 29 per cent in 1975, and 27 per cent in 1971.

In MacDonald's last campaign, 1967, the NDP took 26 per cent. In the campaign prior to that, in 1963, they won only 16 per cent.

Thus it took Lewis three tries to raise their popular vote by two per cent, to just about the same level of the old CCF (out of which the NDP grew) took back in 1948.

**ALL LOSE**

But what Lewis does leave is a style, foot-soldier-for-socialism, MacDonald never had.

He threw off the intemperate, scary Red image he projected in 1971, to become the cuddly, lovable Lewis of 1975 and 1977.

Whether it really made much difference to NDP voters, who'll support the party regardless of leader, is another question.

Still, Lewis won't be standing in the legislature any more. We all lose because of that.

# Letter to the Editor Junior 'B' hockey leaves a bad taste

To the editor of The Herald:  
Attention: Mr. Ken (Crowbar) Fendley

After reading your plea for support for the local Junior "B" Gems, my eight-year-old son and I decided to attend their game vs. Oakville Blades.

I'm not much of a hockey fan but my son, who plays Navice House League, is quite keen. With the exception of a visit to the Gardens, he has never seen much hockey action other than the first period of Hockey Night in Canada. A visit to the Alcott Arena to see the big guys was something to look

forward to.

For the price of admission, he was given a Gemini puck, a good seat at centre ice, and we settled down to see a good game of Junior 'B' hockey.

The good game of hockey turned out to be no more than a disgusting display of tripping, charging, elbowing and just about every other penalty in the book. For about 5 minutes we watched a six side hockey, for the other 15 minutes one of the teams was a man short, sometimes 2, mostly Gemini.

To top it all, a real Donnybrook erupted after the end of the period, players going out of their way to pick a fight, not to mention a few fans who would have loved to have been in the middle of it all.

Needless to say, that was enough for me. On the way out I asked my son what he thought of that rubbish, he replied, "We were ripped off!" How true!

So Ken, if the Gems are looking for fans, they want to clean up their act.

Sign me  
A Novice Hockey Fan  
Bill Innes

# Canada's fly-by-night government: Lang's 'Nanny-gate' and Warren Allmand's Bermuda



**Ottawa Report**  
By Stewart MacLeod

Ottawa Bureau OF THE HERALD

Having cheerfully confessed that Warren Allmand's rather expensive flight to Bermuda didn't particularly bother me — only the alleged justifications did — I was somewhat taken aback to encounter a Liberal MP who was in a rather over the whole business.

Usually, Liberal MPs are quick to rise to the defence of high-flying cabinet ministers. In case you missed this particular travesty, Allmand, who is our minister of consumer affairs, recently went to Bermuda to attend the annual meeting of the Patent and Trademark Institute of Canada. And to get there, he took a government Jetstar. With him went some aides and three personal friends.

Questions were asked because it isn't usual for ministers to attend these meetings which, until this year, have always been held in Canada. But it is usual for some 200 government officials to attend. This time, the minister not only flew all the way to Bermuda to take in the discussions, but the government's total deliberation because of spending restrictions, was held down to four.

One can understand why Allmand would be expected to explain his mode of transport. And he did explain it — or at least he tried — by saying that his department was billed only \$94 for the jet and therefore it was cheaper than flying via Air Canada.

**POOR EXCUSE**

He said if he and three aides flew commercially, the bill would be \$1,360 — considerably more than the \$94 for the four engine government jet. And since the government plane was going anyway, with empty seats, it didn't cost anything to take along personal guests.

It was this explanation that rubbed people the wrong way. Everyone knows that it costs more than \$94 to take a jet aircraft to Bermuda for three days. The bare operating

costs for a Jetstar comes to \$400 on four and this doesn't begin to cover the over-all expenses. The transport department later came up with a figure of \$3,296 for the trip, but officials said that this was just another form of bookkeeping. As one said, "you can make it as high as you want or as low as you want — it's all within the government."

Since the government insists on maintaining a fleet of planes, largely for the benefit of travelling VIPs, it can be argued that they shouldn't sit idle. And, as I said earlier, there is probably nothing wrong with a trip to Bermuda providing we don't have to listen to those ludicrous justifications.

Which brings us back to that lathered Liberal MP. "You're damned right there is something wrong with it," he was saying. "And if I am lucky enough to get into cabinet, one of the first things I'll do is try and eliminate that VIP fleet in the transport department."

The department operates three Jetstars, two Viscounts and a King Air.

**FLEET UNNECESSARY**

The MP says the defence department could easily handle legitimate VIP requirements, and perhaps cabinet ministers would

learn to enjoy their free passes on Canada's commercial airlines.

Here, roughly, is his reasoning. "It's okay for us to take a light hearted view of the abuse of government planes. The cartoonists had a great time with Transport Minister Otto Lang's heavy use of Jetstars, and we all laughed at the Nannygate business. But in parts of this country, particularly in rural Quebec, these are not isolated incidents.

"The Parti Quebecois people talk constantly about corruption in Ottawa, and how federal MPs behave when we get here. The people pick up newspapers every day and there is some reference to a dredging scandal, or a phone call to a judge, or some girlfriend travelling on an MP's pass, or a girlfriend in a Jetstar, or RCMP break-ins or forgeries — you name it.

"After all the time the PQ government is keeping its nose absolutely clean. After two years of trying, opposition parties in Quebec haven't even come up with a questionable tax receipt.

"And don't kid yourself, comparisons are being made all the time."

I must admit that this MP gave me something to think about. I sort of hope he makes it into cabinet.

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**ESQUEQUING TRIBUTE**  
**THIRTY YEARS AGO** — The annual Georgetown nomination meeting will be held this Friday evening at 7:30 in the public library. In addition to the usual nominations for Council and for one member of the Hydro Commission, there will be first nominations for the new board of education, which will take office for the first time in January.

Residents of Ward 3, Esqueving Township, paid tribute to the men and women who had served in Canada's armed forces last night, when they held an evening in their honor in the Community Hall at Stewarttown. Funds had been raised some time ago for the presentation, but because there was no suitable public hall in the ward, the event was postponed until the new hall was opened.

From October 25 to 29, a free mass chest x-ray survey was held in the rural areas of Halton County. Last year this service was carried out in all the towns and this year the same opportunity was offered to residents in rural areas. There were clinics in ten centres. A total of 1594 people were x-rayed.

**STEWARTTOWN SCHOOL**  
**TWENTY YEARS AGO** — Stan Hall MPP, officiated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday evening to mark the official opening of the five-room Stewarttown Public School. The white ribbon, held by two schoolgirls, Janice Carter and Carol McClean was cut by Mr. Hall, following a speech in which he spoke of the progress of this area, formerly served by a "little red schoolhouse" now abandoned for the completely modern structure on the 7th Line which was built on part of the Herb Reid farm.

A second United Church in Georgetown will come into being on Sunday, November 30, when St. Andrew's United Church will inaugurate church services and Sunday School in a temporary location in Harrison public school. The new congregation will be led by Mr. Alexander Blandford, BA, who is at present studying for the ministry.

A total of \$704.40 was donated this year to the Poppy Fund campaign, according to Mrs. Thomas Grieve, who is chairman of the fund. The money came from Tag Day receipts, schools and a number of organizations and businesses.

On Nov. 18, 1896, at the manse Ballinlad, Thomas Bird and Sarah McLean were married by Rev. D.L. Campbell. Mr. and Mrs. Bird now reside at 48 Maple Avenue W., and on Tuesday, 62 years later, celebrated their anniversary quietly at home.

Three points of action to combat rabies across Halton County were taken last Wednesday when the agricultural committee of County Council authorized payment of \$250 in prize money to organized clubs killing the largest number of foxes over a four-month period; increased the regular fox bounty from \$3 to \$4; and laid plans for a publicity campaign to acquaint the public with the disease of rabies.

A watch, emblematic of 25 years service as a school teacher in South Peel was presented to a local resident last week at a dinner at Lorne Park School Miss Marie Barbour, 6 John Street East, was honored by the board at the function.

**CLAY HILL BURNS**  
**TEN YEARS AGO** — An overflow audience of 1174 attended the final session of Jehovah's Witnesses circuit assembly in the Georgetown high school last weekend. In addition to filling the auditorium, hundreds were seated in the cafeteria, where sound and closed circuit television relayed the program.

An old landmark of the 10th Line was razed by fire Monday evening. The old stone schoolhouse SS15, or as many knew it, "Clay Hill" was completely destroyed. It had been closed since 1955 when the children of the community were taken by taxi to the Glen school. It had deteriorated until only the walls and roof remained of the 130-year-old building. Many local residents attended from the 9th and 10th Lines as well as Terra Cotta.

A provincial grant of \$2,350 to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for the preparation of a development plan for the Limehouse conservation area has been approved. The firm of Canadian Mitchell Associates has been retained to make the study, including the necessary mapping and preparation of a master plan of development for the 190-acre area south of the village of Limehouse.

A massive four volume report on education in Halton county has been completed. The report was given final approval last week by the county's Interim School Organization Committee, which prepared the report for the new Halton Board of Education. The regional board will be elected December 2, and when it takes office in January, it will replace all other boards operating in Halton County.

The Attorney-General's department is expected to announce shortly that Georgetown lawyer Douglas V. Laitimer, 39, will be appointed as the new resident Crown Attorney for Halton County.

**BACKHOE CUTS WIRES**  
**ONE YEAR AGO** — The contract for watermain in Norval has been awarded to a Thornhill firm, Accuron Ltd., the lowest of 11 bidders. Halton Region Wednesday approved the firm's tender in the amount of \$32,456.50 but subject to the work being done in 100 working days and receipt of the necessary approvals from the ministry of the environment, Halton Hills and the ministry of transportation and communications.

Halton Hills council decided Monday that Focal Properties won't get any sewage capacity which would allow the firm to build 1,800 homes south of Silver Creek. Allocation of sewage capacity, upon which all future industrial, commercial and residential development in Georgetown depends, was requested last week by the Ontario Municipal Board.

A Halton Hills works department employee escaped unhurt when a backhoe was operating cut a 4,000 volt power line serving the Acton Arena last Thursday morning. Hoe operator Kent Robinson was protected by the grounding factor of the machine's tires, according to works superintendent Frank Morette, but he added, Robinson was still "lucky."

An application to change rural zoning to institutional to permit an administrative complex being built north of Highway 7 on the west side of Georgetown was referred to the planner for a report at last week's meeting of the planning board. The Jehovah's Witnesses hope to move their national headquarters from its current location in Toronto to 64.3 acres opposite Moore Park off Halton Road 32.