

Michael Hollett

Herald editor



Snow storm? So what

Monday's snow storm didn't bother me. Sure it was a little rough negotiating some of Halton's slipperiest hills, but basically I greeted the Monday snowfall with relief.

At last the dreaded November wait is over and we can get down to Canada's number one occupation — surviving the winter.

Remember last week's grey, frozen, rainy weather? At the time someone sighed and said to me, "At least it's not snow."

I don't go along with that kind of thinking anymore. I used to look on every bleak, damp, snow-free November day as a gift from the gods but now I see them for what they really are, just a little more torture before the inevitable arrival of the snow.

NO PLEASURE

Why not get it over with rather than endure the long painful wait? There's no pleasure in enduring the rotten weather just to avoid the snow.

Have you ever noticed how people behave during those last few snow free days? Everyone is a little tense, they act as if they are living on borrowed time. There may be no snow on the ground but everyone lives in fear of its arrival.

Even if last week's weather had been good it would have been difficult to enjoy it. There always would have been that overriding feeling of living on borrowed time, of being toyed with until the first big snowstorm hit.

Now that the snow is here I'm readier than ever. In previous years this weather would have me thinking longingly (desperately) of California. I would try to think of a way to convince my publisher to send me to Jamaica to research a local angle on the southern tourist trade. Not anymore. I spent last winter in the Orangeville area, 20 miles north of here and smack in the middle of the snow belt. While living in Orangeville I learned the key lesson in coping with Canada's lousy winter — don't fight it.

IGNORE WINTER

I used to try and ignore winter. I would refuse to make accommodations for the rotten weather because the thought of spending five months looking like someone from the moon, wrapped in snowmobile suits, mitts and a toque was more than I could handle.

Needless to say I got a lot of colds. This year I'm surrendering to winter. I'm giving in to its weather demands and wearing the kind of clothes it requires. I'm abandoning the young executive leather coat look for an old fashioned parka. How many eskimos have you seen wearing leather jackets?

And that's only the beginning. My next step in coping with winter is to go beyond simply enduring it and actually try to enjoy it. Cross-country skiing, outdoor skating and even tobogganing are all part of the 'joys' of winter. So this year I plan on giving these winter activities a try.

Since we're stuck with this weather anyway, there must be a way to enjoy it. Who knows if I keep telling myself that I might even start to believe it.

Ask me about it the next time you see me sitting in my car, jammed in a snowdrift and waiting for a boost.

Armstrong wants position on Commission

Halton Hills councillor Mike Armstrong hopes to be a member of the Halton Police Commission next year.

Mr. Armstrong told The Herald he'll put his name up for the job at a meeting of the new regional council "probably the first meeting in January."

At present Oakville mayor Harry Barrett and Burlington councillor Dave Coons sit on the commission as regional council representatives but Mr. Armstrong hopes this time council will appoint one member from the north rather than two from the south.

"I presume Harry will want the job again," he said, "but I don't know anyone else interested in it."

Since Mr. Coons lost out in his bid to become mayor of Burlington he can't be reappointed, but the complete change of regional representatives in Milton might bring him some competition, Mr. Armstrong speculates.

"I won't be surprised if the next appointment is from Milton," he said, and adds that it will all depend on the interest Milton's new councillors show in the job.

POOR ATTENDANCE

Asked how he justified his intention of getting on the commission when he has been charged with such poor attendance at regional council Mr. Armstrong explained that since he took Mr. Morrow's place when Mr. Morrow became chairman he also assumed his duties on the various boards to which Mr. Morrow was appointed. He was only on planning board and council therefore his attendance looked pretty small compared to councillors who sat on a number of boards and committees as well as council.

Mr. Armstrong said, "It takes a different kind of individual to want to be on the commission because the police commission is just one of those commissions that has no money involved. People keep saying that we don't have the protection we need and I feel there's a general need so far as the region is concerned. But I recognize the need of the police too. I don't have an axe to grind."

Mr. Armstrong's father, John T. Armstrong, was Halton's Hills first representative



SANTA AND CHIEF

The grand old man of Christmas himself was on hand for the Georgetown Legion Ladies' annual bazaar and crafts sale Saturday. Among the ladies and volunteers giving their best to help Santa make this another successful Christmas were Mary

Brown (in Indian headdress), Mary Cooper and Santa's helper Peggy Sue Caldwell.

(Herald photo)

Terra Cotta W.I.

Agricultural meeting theme

Mrs. Clarence Lyons was hostess to the Terra Cotta W.I. for their November meeting on Agriculture. Mrs. Fred Sharpe president welcomed guests

and members. The minutes were read by Mrs. Art Dowds Mrs. Fred Sharpe thanked all those who had contributed to the meeting. Mrs. Wilfred

and Mrs. Jack McDonald, secretary and the business followed. A dessert luncheon and afternoon of cards is being arranged for Nov. 30th at the Blue Flame Room. Roll call, Whats new in agriculture was answered and proved most interesting.

Leslie thanked our host and hostess Mr. and Mrs. Lyons. Our hostess assisted by Mrs. Art McKane and Mrs. Howard Laidlaw served lunch and a social time was spent.

Letter to the editor

Need funds

To the Editor of The Herald:

When the postal service shut down on October 16th of this year, there were some 800,000 envelopes containing CHRISTMAS STICKERS from the War Amps sitting in Canadian homes.

Past experience would lead us to believe that most of these would have resulted in a donation being sent to us, in a pre-addressed, return envelope. In the two week period which intervened, many of the envelopes were presumably filed away or ignored, possibly on the grounds that the donation would never reach us.

As a result we find that our receipts for the current year are down by some \$300,000. — a sum which we badly need to finance our Child Amputee Program and other projects.

May we, through the pages of your paper, bring to the attention of the public the serious effect of the postal shutdown, upon our charitable operations.

Yours sincerely,
H.C. Chadderton, CM, CAE,
National Secretary.

Miss Dianne Clarkson our Dairy Princess was introduced by Mrs. George Frazer. She told us of her plans for her term as Princess and of some of the activities she has participated in already. We wish Dianne every success.

The motto "Agriculture is like a wheelbarrow. It stands still unless you push it," was well prepared and given by Mrs. John Lyons.

A skit prepared by Mrs. George Frazer "Agriculture is big business was given by Mrs. Frazer assisted by Mrs. John Lyons and Mrs. Owens MacDonald.

Reports of the Area Convention held at the Royal York Toronto were given by our delegates Mrs. Norman News

-Letter to the editor Councillor is blasted

To the editor of The Herald: Responsive representation was never more important than it is now in the face of one tier government becoming a reality. Knowing that a councillor really cares about the concerns of the people who take time to come to meetings is of paramount importance to every constituent.

Consider the following situation which took place at a recent "Meet the Candidates" meeting at Fairview School, ward 2 councillor J.N. Raftis was on the defensive in fielding a number of questions concerning the centralized landfill facilities at Site "F."

In the hallway, after the question period, Mr. Raftis displayed some behaviour typical of the sort that has not exactly endeared him to the people north of Hwy. 5 and, in fact, has made him something of a target when he emphatically assured 33 year old Miss Bessie Smith, whose house and land the proposed dump surrounds on three sides, that indeed it will go there. Beginning and end of discussion. But even at 11 o'clock at night, after sitting for several hours in the stuffy gymnasium indomitable Miss Smith, who was born and raised on the very property

which is threatened, was not about to be intimidated. Looking Mr. Raftis squarely in the eye she replied, "we'll see."

All of us in the area share a very special concern for Miss Smith regarding the garbage dump. Having owned and farmed the land until she was 89, she strikes one as being the sort of admirable person who has made this country what it is and somehow does not deserve the dictatorial postings of councillors obsessed with getting their way in spite of the people.

Mr. Raftis has requested rather heatedly a number of times that the people north of Hwy. 5 stop bothering him, but when one sees first hand how insensitive he can be to a person who, at 93, deserves some peace of mind, one is hard pressed to offer him much of the same.

Let us all hope that the preceding is not indicative of the type of responsiveness we can expect in the next two years. But if it is what we do encounter, we can optimistically reflect in only 24 months into the future until we have a chance to do something about it at the polls.

Hope for the future is one of life's best gifts and anyone who knows Miss Bessie Smith, knows that at 93 she possesses it. We in the area do not plan to let anyone rob her of it, especially unresponsive councillors.

Signed,
Mrs. Sally Laing
Ward 3
Burlington

Board appoints superintendent

The Halton board of education has appointed Dr. Robert Dixon as its new superintendent of program, effective January 1, 1979.

Dr. Dixon will replace Bruce Mather, the former superintendent, who resigned to accept a position as director of education with the Hastings County board of education.

Halton director of education Em Lavender said the board received twenty applications for the position, and a committee of three senior administration officials, trustees Fred Armitage and John Bradley, chairman Gary Morton and he interviewed seven of the applicants.

After detailing some of Dr. Dixon's credentials, Mr. Lavender said, "He's a scholar, he's an administrator, he's a leader and he's a gentleman."

"In addition to all the other attributes the director mentioned, Dr. Dixon has shown the ability to balance cost against the quality of education," Mr. Armitage said.

Dr. Dixon has a B.A., an M.Ed., an M.A., and an E.D. from the University of Toronto. He taught at elementary

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